THE SITUATION

The humanitarian situation in DRC has deteriorated dramatically in 2018 and into 2019, and the country thus continues to face a complex and protracted crisis of massive proportions.

Violence has been intensifying and the possibility of further escalation remains extremely high with dire consequences for the country (especially in the Eastern Provinces) and the Great Lakes Region. Consequently, mass displacement continues to intensify. Returning populations (especially from Angola) also place increase strain in terms of the country’s population movements.

As of January 2019, the DRC began transitioning, holding first presidential and now parliamentary/legislative elections. While violence and movements related to such changes was less than initially expected, the country is still in transition with this new government.

Beyond the country’s largest EVD outbreak in the East and concern over security and physical access, the single biggest impediment to the humanitarian response in the DRC currently remains the shortage of funding (only 27% of required funding has been met).

WHAT CARE IS DOING...

In DRC, CARE implements integrated programming in the most fragile parts of the country, including activities within: sexual and reproductive health (SRH), (prevention of & response to) gender-based violence (GBV), food security, livelihoods, WASH, women’s economic empowerment (WEE), and access to primary health care all through community engagement/mobilization. Such an integrated assistance strategy promotes good governance and remains conflict-sensitive by working through local community groups and leaders as well as promotes the capacity of local actors and organizations to build long-term solutions improving resilience to shocks (such as prolonged conflict & displacement). At present, in North & South Kivu Provinces, CARE’s activities aim primarily to reduce the mortality/morbidity among conflict-affected people, strengthen local governance efforts, respond to protection risks and needs, and promote livelihoods and improved food security and gender equality. In the Kasais Region, CARE’s programming is currently focused on emergency food production and food assistance activities to reach displaced/conflict-affected populations and their host communities across Lomami Province. Across all activities and areas of intervention, the CARE DRC team works closely with an existing, strong network of local (and other International NGO) partners. Overall, gender justice and a life free of violence remains at the core of CARE strategy in DRC.

LATEST CO FIGURES (FY2019)...

Thanks to activities carried out by CARE in DRC during the previous fiscal year (July 2018—June 2019):
275,921 poor and vulnerable people increased their food and nutrition security and resilience to climate change;
16,110 women experienced greater access to and control over economic resources;
142,649 women & girls exercised their rights to sexual, reproductive and maternal health and a life free from violence (with more to be reached through ongoing advocacy campaign activities); and
813,650 people affected by humanitarian crises received quality, life-saving humanitarian assistance.

COUNTRY OVERVIEW - OCT 2019

12.8 million Congolese are currently in need of urgent humanitarian assistance; 52% are women and 60.5% are under the age of 18.

15.92 million (26% of the total population) are facing severe acute food insecurity (IPC Phase 3+).

Almost 5 million Congolese are currently displaced (IDPs) and almost 900,000 have sought refuge in neighboring countries (refugees).

The country’s deadliest Ebola Virus Disease (EVD) outbreak (which began on August 1, 2018) in the eastern North Kivu, Ituri, and South Kivu provinces currently has 3,081 confirmed and probable cases (with 2,070 confirmed and probable deaths); over 66% of cases consists of women and children.

FUNDING NEEDS – 2019

USD $1.65 Billion (HRP)

Nadej, 19, has been cured from EDV. However, Nadej struggles to make ends meet for her 2.5 year old daughter and 19-month-old son, as her husband abandoned her as soon as he realized that she was ill.