

Canadian Humanitarian Assistance Fund (CHAF) Disaster Response Strategy

Livelihood support program to help households of the middle plateaus of Uvira (South Kivu Province), victims of the armed conflict, through the distribution of food and essential household items

Oxfam-Québec's intervention – CHAF – 2014

June 5, 2014

The Humanitarian Coalition (HC) Canadian Humanitarian Assistance Fund (CHAF) is funded by the Government of Canada Department of Foreign Affairs, Trade and Development (DFATD). It was created in 2014 to ensure that timely funding is available to fund lifesaving responses to smaller-scale disasters. The CHAF is a central feature of the Humanitarian Coalition disaster response system.



Summary: A sum of \$170,000 was transferred to Oxfam-Québec to meet the needs of at least 1,078 households displaced as a result of the fighting between the FNL (Burundian liberation forces) and the FARDC (armed forces of the Democratic Republic of Congo) in the middle plateaus of Uvira (Uvira, South Kivu Province).

Further strained over the last several months by the pressure brought to bear by the FNL on their means of subsistence—crops and food supplies stored in homes—the people appealed to the FARDC to put an end to the atrocities and looting.

On April 21, 2014, an FARDC contingent visited the area to assess the situation. The FNL were caught looting in the fields; armed confrontations ensued, causing the death of three FARDC members. FARDC reinforcements were sent in to contain the rebels.

Over the five days of confrontations, the local people were caught between the warring factions and forced to evacuate under live fire. In the process, they left behind, both in their homes and in transit, their food supplies and basic necessities, especially essential household items (EHI).

During the fighting, the FARDC prevailed over the FNL, who fled while continuing to loot and systematically destroying the local people's homes and agricultural fields. Following their victory, certain

FARDC members then appropriated what little food and goods had been left behind by the FNL.

Background on Disaster

Together, the middle and upper plateaus of Uvira make up one of Uvira Territory's most isolated regions, serving as a stronghold for national and foreign armed groups. Over the past few years, the region has been further destabilized by fallout from the FARDC's military operations (KIMIA II, AMANI LEO, AMANI KAMILIFU) against national (Mai Mai Masango, Mupekenya, FRF dissidents) and foreign (FNL, FDLR) armed groups.

Armed confrontations occurred among the self-defence militias and armed groups on the one hand and between these groups and the FARDC on the other. These clashes displaced populations and led to the systematic pillaging of basic necessities and food crops. The battles that raged from April 21 to 25 are indicative. The FARDC managed to drive the Burundian FNL rebels from their base. As a result, the security situation in the region has become relatively calm. The extremely dilapidated Runingu-Katobo-Marungu highway, weak phone network coverage and the ever-changing security situation mean that humanitarian stakeholders (in particular NGOs and other international organizations) are refraining from assisting the region's population.

Outline of Needs

Assessment: A needs assessment was performed between May 14 and 21, 2014, by Groupe Milima (GM) and Oxfam. During the assessment, the most vulnerable people were pre-identified from among displaced and returned people and the host households from Kasenga, in the middle plateaus of Uvira. In all, **1,078 households**—a total of 5,390 people—were given priority status¹.

Food security and nutrition	Emergency food supplies	There is an urgent need for food to meet the nutritional needs of displaced households that have lost their means of subsistence. The needs assessment showed that the local markets in the area remain functional and that the situation is stable enough to allow for safe access. However, the markets do not have enough basic foodstuffs to meet the needs of the over 1,000 displaced households. Assistance in the form of funds transferred directly to beneficiaries is not an option at this juncture. Firstly, no local money transfer structure exists. Secondly, given that FNL and FDLR members are sometimes spotted near the villages in question, it would be too risky to distribute money to over 1,000 homes. That is why assistance in the form of emergency food supplies seems most relevant.
------------------------------------	-------------------------	--

¹ Calculated using an estimate of five people per family.

Essential household items	Essential household items (EHI)	Displaced households have abandoned all their means of subsistence. Consequently, these beneficiaries need to be given the ability to prepare food in sufficiently hygienic conditions, which means providing them with essential household items (EHI). We will ensure that these households also receive hygiene kits, which are essential to displaced women and girls. <i>N.B. Thanks to a C\$15,635 matching contribution from Oxfam Novi, beneficiaries will also be provided with kitchen containers and utensils.</i>
Protection	Provide leaders and populations with advocacy training	The provision of advocacy training for people in humanitarian crisis situations will be bolstered among local leaders and the general population of the targeted villages. Strengthening their abilities will make direct and indirect beneficiaries less vulnerable once project activities are carried out, in particular during the process of distributing assistance. It will also have a positive long-term impact.
	Gender, HIV and AIDS awareness	Because of the need to inform local authorities, beneficiary populations and other project stakeholders of the importance of factoring gender and HIV/AIDS issues into agricultural revitalization activities, awareness/information sessions will be held.
Rehabilitation of the Runingu-Katobo road section	Support for rehabilitation of the road section	An advocacy campaign will be launched with <i>Coordination Humanitaire</i> in Uvira for the rehabilitation of this road section.

Organizational Capacity

Since 2009, Oxfam Novib has been running a program in eastern DRC to strengthen the humanitarian capacities of local partners (ONL and other Oxfam affiliates on the ground in North and South Kivu). Two specific objectives were set for the program: i) ensuring that local partners working in North and South Kivu have the abilities and skills needed to identify and quickly implement high-quality humanitarian interventions, and ii) responding to humanitarian crises in eastern DRC in conjunction with partner organizations while guaranteeing the relevance and quality of these interventions.

Consequently, a total of 201,378 people (33,536 households) were provided with assistance in the areas of food security, means of subsistence, essential household items, shelter, water, hygiene and waste management, as well as the reduction of risks from natural catastrophes.

With respect to middle and high plateaus of Uvira—the district where Groupe Milima is working—ONL has been present since 1997 through actions supported and carried out through Groupe Milima in the areas of education, health, protection, food security, means of subsistence, essential household items (EHI) and shelters. In the areas of food security, means of subsistence and EHI in particular, ONL and Groupe Milima have, since 2011, helped 26,652 people (4,442 households) out of the total of 201,378 people who have received assistance.

- A description of how the project fits into the humanitarian mandate of the member agency (specifically, whether the MAECD funding proposal is part of a larger project implemented by the member agency)

This project is part of the third phase (2013–2015) of the program for strengthening humanitarian abilities. It is also part of Oxfam’s overall contingency plan for the DRC and specifically part of the framework of operations to track down national and foreign armed groups in eastern DRC, which began in North Kivu with the defeat of M23 and the operations of the ADF Nalu, which are still underway in South Kivu.

The Proposed Response

General objective:

Help the women, girls, men and boys who have been forcibly displaced due to the actions of armed groups in the middle and upper Uvira plateaus in the province of South Kivu regain their means of subsistence.

Specific objectives:

By late September 2014, help 1,078 returned and displaced households, along with their host families, led by women, girls, men and boys, all of whom have been victimized by the clashes between the FNL and the FARDC in Kasenga that took place between April 21 and 25, through the distribution of foodstuffs and essential household items in order to reduce their vulnerability by meeting their basic needs and enabling them to live with dignity.

Results:

R1. One thousand seventy-eight (1,078) returned and displaced households, along with their host families, led by women, girls, men and boys, will be able to cover their nutritional needs for **one month** thanks to the **foodstuffs** received by late June 2014.

R2. One thousand seventy-eight (1,078) returned and displaced households, along with their host families, led by women, girls, men and boys, are able to prepare meals in acceptably hygienic conditions, protect themselves from inclement weather, and collect and store water thanks to **essential household items** received by late June 2014.

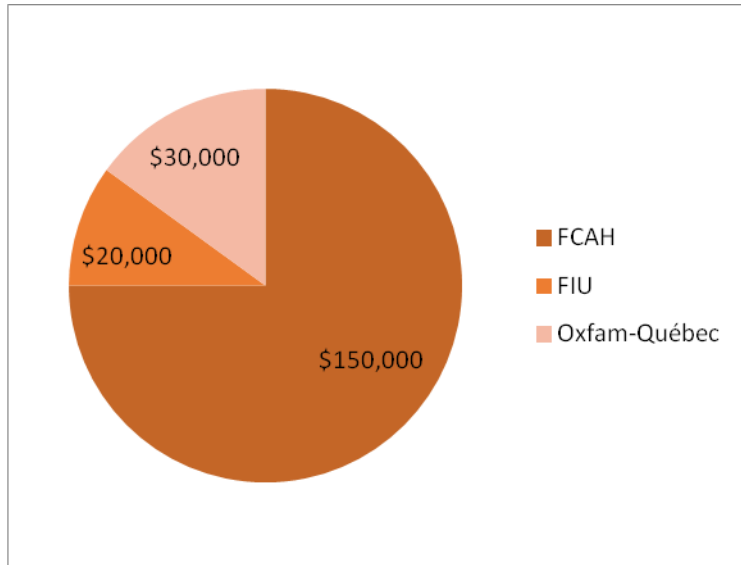
R3. Sixty percent (60%) of returned and displaced households, along with their host families, led by women, girls, men and boys, are able to improve their knowledge, attitudes and practices relating to gender, protection and the prevention of **HIV/AIDS** infection by August 2014.

Planned activities:

1. Organize a project launch workshop (Groupe Milima-Oxfam) at Groupe Milima’s head offices in Uvira.
2. Hold a project launch workshop in Kasenga.
3. Purchase and acquire inputs.
4. Validate the list of beneficiaries with the communities and local authorities.
5. Conduct an inquiry into the social conditions of the 1,078 households.
6. Hold awareness campaigns for beneficiaries on gender, HIV and AIDS.
7. Establish community protection structures on information-gathering and -analysis techniques, advocacy and the drafting of reports.
8. Assemble and distribute foodstuff kits and essential household items (EHI) to the 1,078 households.

9. Conduct a post-distribution inquiry and real-time evaluation (RTE).
10. Take part in meetings of the Food Security and Essential Household Items/Shelters Clusters.
11. Perform a follow-up and project evaluation (RTE).
12. Draft project reports.

Project Budget



Our interventions in response to localized disasters are supported by the CHAF (75%), the member agencies of Humanitarian Coalition (15%) and the Humanitarian Coalition Emergency Fund (10%).

Area Map

