

Urgent needs in the East of the Democratic Republic of the Congo

The eastern provinces of the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) are facing a humanitarian crisis that has lasted for decades. In 2024, some 6,917,478 people were internally displaced (IDPs) and 5,433,548 returnees were living in camps and host communities in the provinces of North Kivu, South Kivu, Ituri and Tanganyika (IOM, Oct. 2024).

More than 8 million people in eastern DRC (30% of the population) are acutely food insecure (IPC, Oct. 2024).

A coordinated response to complex needs

EAST is a £28 million, 28-month livelihoods, health and nutrition, protection and inclusion programme, funded by FCDO and implemented from 1 December 2023 by a consortium of five international and national humanitarian NGOs: Concern Worldwide (lead partner), Acted, Première Urgence Internationale (PUI), Danish Refugee Council (DRC) and Congo Handicap.

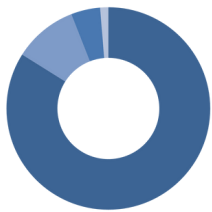
In total, the project will provide support to more than 430,000 people, including 65,000 people with disabilities.

Responding to critical livelihood needs

The project provides vocational, entrepreneurial and literacy training, and support for the creation and growth of IGAs, including monthly transfers and start-up kits for their SMEs and the development of business plans.

In the cash-for-work component, community members take part in manual labour aimed at rehabilitating community infrastructure, such as roads. The creation and support of Village Savings and Credit Associations (VSCAs) to improve access to local financial services and encourage regular, secure savings.

Key figures



Health/Nutrition	Protection	Livelihood	Inclusion
372 000 People	45 000 People	21 000 People	5 700 People

Improving household nutrition

The approach includes training community health volunteers, health committees and women leaders.

The partners ensure the supply of nutritional inputs and essential medicines for nutrition and integrated management of childhood illness (IMCI) to health centres in the target areas. The partners are also providing pre- and post-natal consultations and deliveries accompanied by acouchehment kits. The partners are rehabilitating the sanitation structures of the health centres according to needs and distributing infection prevention and control kits.



Protecting vulnerable households

Under the leadership of the DRC, the project addresses protection risks for vulnerable households affected by conflict.

To respond to the risks of GBV, the partners are building people's capacity through awareness-raising and community dialogue, in order to influence behavioural change. Safe spaces for women and girls are also being built in the community.

Case management systems and individual protection assistance are available for survivors of GBV and other protection violations.

The partners also provide specialist support for children with group sessions in child-friendly spaces. The project also offers life skills sessions for adolescents and positive parenting.

Inclusive programming

Under the leadership of Congo Handicap, the partners ensure an inclusive approach to the implementation of projects for the most marginalised populations by training partners on the inclusion of people with disabilities in the programme, guiding people with disabilities in protection activities and distributing mobility aids.

Consortium partners

