

Key messages for the WASH response in DRC

A complex context: L3 activation, Cholera outbreak, and nutritional crisis

There is an urgent need to scale up the activities of the WASH cluster to respond to the multiple humanitarian crisis in DRC. This requires:

- **Increasing emergency funding:** As of October, **only 9.5%** has been received of the 92.5 million USD requested under the 2017 WASH Cluster appeal. The scale-up of life-saving WASH interventions will not be feasible unless new funding is committed to balance the enormous deficit.
- **Increasing operational capacity and presence** of emergency WASH actors is urgently required to respond to the humanitarian crisis, above all in the Great Kasai where only 6 WASH actors are providing assistance to 280,000 people and in Kalemie where more than 80% of the IDP's do not have access to safe drinking water. Violence in Kasai, Tanganyika and South Kivu has displaced more than 2.5 million people over the past year.
- **WASH partners to identify new synergistic opportunities between humanitarian and development actors** working to strengthen resilience and develop longer term strategies, above all to accompany the most vulnerable communities to return back home.
- **The WASH Cluster and its partners to focus on a collective improvement in needs assessments and information management capacity** in order to better prioritize the life-saving WASH response to the most vulnerable populations affected by the crisis.
- **WASH partners should** rapidly strengthen the collaboration with health, nutrition, food security and protection actors in order to address key inter-sectoral challenges specific to each crisis. Remember, 43% of all households in IPC Phases 3 and 4 across the country are in the Kasai and Tanganyika provinces

| Crisis | Specific requirement |
|------------------------------|--|
| Nutritional crisis | The nutrition situation in DRC is deteriorating with an increase of nutritional alerts from the last 6 months (11), included 350,000 children affected by acute malnutrition in the Great Kasai. There is a need to scale up the WASH'nutrition strategy , including distribution of WASH package to malnourished children, capacity building of WASH' partners to integrate nutrition dimension, support and use the health system. |
| Fight against cholera | DRC is experiencing one of the worst cholera outbreaks in the past 15 years, with 43,852 suspected cases and 871 related deaths being reported since the start of this year and 21 provinces affected over 26. Fears are growing in Kasai where new cases of cholera have recently been reported, a region where over 1.3 million displaced people have limited access to safe water and sanitation. This risk is only further compounded by the fact that Kasai has not experienced a cholera outbreak in the past 10 years. There is an urgent need of immediate WASH actions to block cholera transmission, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increasing the emergency WASH response in the key hot spots (Lubumbashi, Uvira, Fizi...) with new partners and funding • Immediate key actions to be better prepared and respond in the Great Kasai • Investing in key areas to increase water and sanitation coverage, and case management in endemic areas (Ex: Uvira) |
| Kasai crisis | 762,000 IDP's in the Great Kasai are in immediate need of lifesaving WASH interventions. Only 26,000 have been reached with WASH assistance and there is an urgent need to strengthen the supply chain to distribute essential WASH items in parallel with the implementation of hygiene promotion campaign, and continue basic WASH services in IDP's settlements. With more than 710,000 returnees to the Kasai Central, Lomami and Kasai Oriental provinces, the WASH partners should work closely with other sectors – including livelihood and protection - to accompany the most vulnerable communities. |
| Tanganyika crisis | More than half a million people have fled violence in Tanganyika province in the last 15 months and more than 80% do not have access to safe drinking water . There is an urgent need to scale up lifesaving WASH interventions including in IDPs settlement to reduce public health risks. |
| South Kivu crisis | In general, the number of displaced persons steadily increase in the province of South Kivu. It has nearly 600, 000 as of 31 st of October 31. Only 2 WASH actors are present currently in this geographical area. |