D R Congo: Earthquake in Great Lakes region
Issued on 3 Feb 2008

6.1 magnitude earthquake 20 km north of Bukavu at 0743 GMT
Multiple replication tremors throughout the day
200 injured and 5 deaths in the DRC

Situation Overview
An earthquake of magnitude 6.1 on the Richter’s scale stroke the province of South Kivu, in Eastern Democratic Republic of Congo on Sunday 6 February 2008 at 0743 GMT (0943 local time). The epicentre of the earthquake lies approximately 20 km north of the provincial capital, Bukavu, near the shores of Lake Kivu, and a short distance from the airstrip of Kavumu. A series of successive replications were felt throughout the day in Bukavu and its vicinity. The Governor of South Kivu has made public radio announcements instructing the population to remain in open spaces, outside buildings and houses until further notice. The population has been requested to spend the night outdoors.

Response
1. The Governor of South Kivu established a crisis committee composed of the FARDC 10th Military Region, the National Police (PNC), the mayor of the city, the provincial Health Minister, the UN (UNICEF, WHO, MONUC and OCHA) and NGOs (IRC, MSF/H). The committee has met twice today.
2. In Bukavu, UNICEF, WHO, the ICRC and MSF/Holland are providing emergency assistance (emergency health and surgical kits, and additional health personnel) to the Bukavu general hospital and Panzi Hospital where injured are being referred to. Health stocks have been reviewed and they are reported sufficient for meeting needs.
3. UNICEF/RRM (Rapid Response Mechanism) are conducting rapid needs assessments and confirm that shelter/NFI and emergency water stocks are available. An estimated 500 tents are needed immediately, UNDP will avail tents from other programmes.
4. A team of the Volcano Observatory from Goma has travelled to Bukavu to evaluate potential replication and recommend actions and conduct sensitization messages for the population.

Safety/Security
1. School and churches will be closed for 48 hours until Tuesday 8.
2. MONUC engineers will inspect and evaluate safety of buildings.
3. Non-essential UN missions to Bukavu are suspended. Operational missions will proceed normally.
4. The border with neighbouring Rwanda remains open.

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