



Women receive food during a distribution operation in Beni, Congo. With a United Methodist Committee on Relief grant, more than 125 tons of food rations, hygiene products and other supplies were distributed to families who fled their homes due to unrest in the country. Photo courtesy of the East Congo Episcopal Area disaster management office.



The Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) is a country located in Central Africa with a short Atlantic Ocean coastline. Neighboring countries include Angola, Burundi, Central African Republic, Republic of the Congo, Rwanda, South Sudan, Tanzania, Uganda, and Zambia.

Report from UMCOR in Jan, 2025:

Church responds to humanitarian crisis in Congo

By Chadrack Tambwe Londe

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The United Methodist Church is serving as a beacon of hope for people displaced by longtime conflict in the North Kivu province.

With financial support from the United Methodist Committee on Relief, the East Congo Episcopal Area responded to the humanitarian crisis in Beni, assisting more than 12,000 people. The \$150,000 grant funded the distribution of 125 tons of food rations, non-food items and hygiene products to 1,750 households.

According to **Jean Tshomba**, coordinator of UMCOR's disaster management office in eastern Congo, recurring clashes between armed groups in the region have forced tens of thousands of people to flee their homes, particularly in Kanyabayonga, which recently fell to the March 23 (M23) Movement, a Congolese-Tutsi-led rebel military group.

“Recent attacks attributed to the ADF (Allied Democratic Forces), CODECO (Cooperative for the Development of the Congo) and M23 armed groups have forced over 70,000 people to leave their homes, including those in the recently captured Kanyabayonga,” Tshomba said. These displaced people, flocking to Beni, find themselves in desperate need of food, drinking water and hygiene products.

Tshomba said that the food rations the church distributed were calculated to cover a household's nutritional needs for a month. Items such as basins and fuel containers also were distributed.

Each household received 66 pounds of rice, 66 pounds of maize flour, one gallon of vegetable oil, two pounds of salt and nine pounds of beans, as well as six bars of laundry soap, six toothbrushes and six tubes of toothpaste.

Tshomba noted that surveys conducted with the displaced population identified priority needs. Following strict compliance with health protocols, the distribution was done in close collaboration with local authorities and humanitarian organizations.

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