

**Question for written answer E-001462/2023/rev.1
to the Commission**

Rule 138

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Subject: Humanitarian response to the security crisis in the east of the Democratic Republic of the Congo and other provinces of the country

In the eastern provinces of the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), the military advances of the M23 Movement have created waves of displacement. An estimated 1.1 million people have fled within North Kivu. Moreover, hundreds of people have died following floods in the Kalehe territory.

In the district of Rutshuru, emergency funding granted in December 2022 and January 2023 by the Commission's Directorate-General for European Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid Operations to establish free healthcare prompted a massive influx of patients, showing that the need was enormous. The funding was then withdrawn overnight, leaving no start-up budget (to rehabilitate looted clinics) and no overview of payments or time frames for the patients who had already been treated.

In Mai-Ndombe province, in western DRC, inter-community violence has left thousands in need and has displaced 50 000 people since June 2022. The humanitarian response is currently very weak because of access problems and the limited number of actors present on the ground.

1. What are the priorities for the Commission's response to the urgent humanitarian needs of Congolese communities in 2023 and, more specifically, how will the Commission rapidly and massively scale up its humanitarian response in eastern DRC?
2. How does the Commission view the humanitarian situation in Mai-Ndombe province and how could it respond to this forgotten crisis?
3. How is the Commission supporting flood victims in the Kalehe region?

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