

HUMANITARIAN RELIEF & ADVOCACY FOR THE BANYAMULENGE

REPORT SEND TO WORLDVIEW MISSION

Shechem Global Ministries Kampala Uganda

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WHO ARE THE BANYAMULENGE

Banyamulenge (**literally 'those who live in Mulenge'**) is the name that describes a community in the southern part of Kivu, Democratic Republic of the Congo. It is generally agreed among various historians that the banyamulenge has been living in what is known as Democratic republic of Congo since 17th century (DRC) most precisely in the Higher and lower plateaus of SOUTHERN KIVU PROVINCE.

WHAT ARE THE MAIN CAUSES OF THIS CONFLICT?

This violence does not have any single cause. Within the complex setting of the violence conflicts in Eastern DRC, targeted killings of Banyamulenge people rest on the claim by their neighboring ethnic groups that they are “[Rwandan invaders](#)” who should be eliminated.

As a minority group, Banyamulenge people were portrayed in Belgian colonial archives post- independence political rhetoric as “Newcomers” and “Foreign immigrants”, despite the fact that they had lived in what is now Eastern DRC for centuries.

Banyamulenge people’s collective status as Congolese citizens is hotly contested by most other ethnic groups in south kivu, who consider themselves “Natives” Congolese.

The Banyamulenge were attacked across DRC in 1996 and 1998, and in 2004 they were also massacred in a refugee camp in Burundi. Such repeated cycles of violence are exacerbated by calls from political figures and military officers and militia groups to “wipe out “The Banyamulenge and so called “Rwanda descendants “in general.

CURRENT CONFLITUAL SITUATION IN DRC.

Eastern DRC has had few periods of peace for decades. Violence today is concentrated in North Kivu, South Kivu and Ituri. In South Kivu, Violence against the Banyamulenge moved into a new phase in mid-2017. When economic warfare and siege have been added to the arsenal of what appears to be long term plan to wipe out Banyamulenge people from the DRC altogether.

Banyamulenge Civilians have been victims of repeated attacks perpetrated by local and foreign armed militia groups, sometimes supported by the national army (FARDC). From 2017 to 2021 as we speak, more than three hundred Banyamulenge Villages were reduced to ashes.



Banyamulenge men held hostage when their villages where being looted and burned.



Ruins of burned houses in the banyamulenge villages



children separated from their parents



Men imprisoned into holes



severely injured old woman during an attack



Villages on fire during militia group attacks



severely injured man during attacks



Displaced families in remote areas

Bodies of raped and murdered women



Mourning women after losing their families

An escalation of systematic killings, looting and sexual violence since mid-2017 has resulted in more than 5000 people fleeing their homes to other remote areas of south kivu and neighboring countries. Whilst land and cattle once ensured Banyamulenge a decent living, now both sources of income are decimated.

Recently, the militia groups in question have launched simultaneous attacks on multiple banyamulenge villages in BIBOGOBOGO locality all villages were burnt to ashes, people were killed and women raped and other were abducted few of them have been ransomed by their relatives have returned but the rest of them were executed, these recent atrocities has forced additional hundreds of families to free their homes in the bushes.

Not even in mikenke, where a considerable number of the people is supposedly under UN peace keepers (MONUSCO) Protection, civilians are still vulnerable targets for the attacks, kidnappings, Sexual violence, and Killings.



Most recent internally displaced women and children in remote areas.

HUMANITARIAN CONDITIONS, ASPERITY AND PEOPLE IN NEED.

These atrocities are not only affecting people's physical welfare but also their mental wellbeing, people have been severely traumatized by the horrible experiences they had in previous and recent mass killings and unfortunately the current situation is not believed to improve anytime soon.

The overwhelming majority of internally displaced persons are women and children who are especially at risk of abuse of their basic rights.

The increase in needs is largely driven by the rising food insecurity. When consulted, food insecurity or lack of food was identified as the primary challenge or one of the primary challenges faced by the majority of affected people across sex and age groups.

Needs do not exist in a vacuum, however, as food insecurity weakens people's health and nutritional status and exposes them to greater protection risks. Similarly, lack of access to clean water increases the likelihood of waterborne diseases and malnutrition.

Poor living conditions, especially for the displaced, weaken people's health and security and affect their dignity. Among the most vulnerable people are newly displaced families; communities hosting large numbers of displaced and/or recently displaced people; and households that are headed by a single parent or looking after older people or people with disabilities.

WHAT ARE MOST URGENT NEEDS FOR THE DISPLACED FAMILIES

The most urgent lifesaving aid most recent displaced people need is as follows:

1. Food
2. Clean water
3. Temporary shelter (tents)
4. Hygiene kits (Diapers, Masks, Menstrual kits for women and toilet papers and Soap.
5. Providing health care through mobile clinic
6. Plastic portable toilets
7. Providing clean water
8. Clothing
9. Mattresses

We encourage everyone both individuals and Charity organizations to donate for the sake of these displaced women and children in need, your donation will save lives, it will allow them to recover their sense of dignity until they return to their respective homes.

HOW TO SUPPORT ADVOCACY EFFORTS

The crisis facing the Banyamulenge is a political issue, and hence the solution is also political. Without political change, the dire humanitarian crisis will not be solved.

It is therefore throughout this context we encourage individuals, International activist groups and movements to put much efforts in raising awareness and persuade the government of DRC to put to an end the atrocities that are being perpetrated against the Banyamulenge innocent civilians.



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