

In a critical intervention aimed at alleviating a growing health crisis in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the Global Fund have delivered 23 tonnes of essential medication to the conflict-ravaged provinces of North Kivu and South Kivu. The shipment includes antiretroviral drugs, tuberculosis treatments, and testing kits, offering a vital lifeline to thousands of patients cut off from care due to months of supply shortages.

The delivery follows a prolonged period of instability in the region, where armed conflict, particularly the M23 rebellion, has displaced many. Reportedly, more than 7,000 people have lost their lives, over 375,000 children have been forced out of school, and daily reports of sexual violence exceed 60 cases. Looting and the destruction of infrastructure have further exacerbated an already dire humanitarian situation.

“This is more than medicine; it’s a message of solidarity and dignity,” said Damien Mama, UNDP Resident Representative in the DRC. “With this delivery, we are not just treating disease; we are restoring hope, trust, and resilience in communities that have suffered for too long.”

The medical supplies are part of the Global Fund’s Grant Cycle 7, implemented by UNDP to support the national response to HIV and tuberculosis from 2024 to 2026. The program seeks to reduce new infections and disease-related deaths while tackling stigma and discrimination faced by those living with HIV and TB.

The delivery also supports the UNDP Crisis Response Plan for Eastern DRC, which outlines a \$25.6 million package of interventions over six months. These include restoring essential services, rebuilding health infrastructure, assisting returnees, and protecting survivors of gender-based violence. While \$14.6 million has been secured, an \$11 million funding gap remains.

“This delivery is a critical first step, but we need sustained support to rebuild systems, protect lives, and restore dignity,” Mama emphasized.