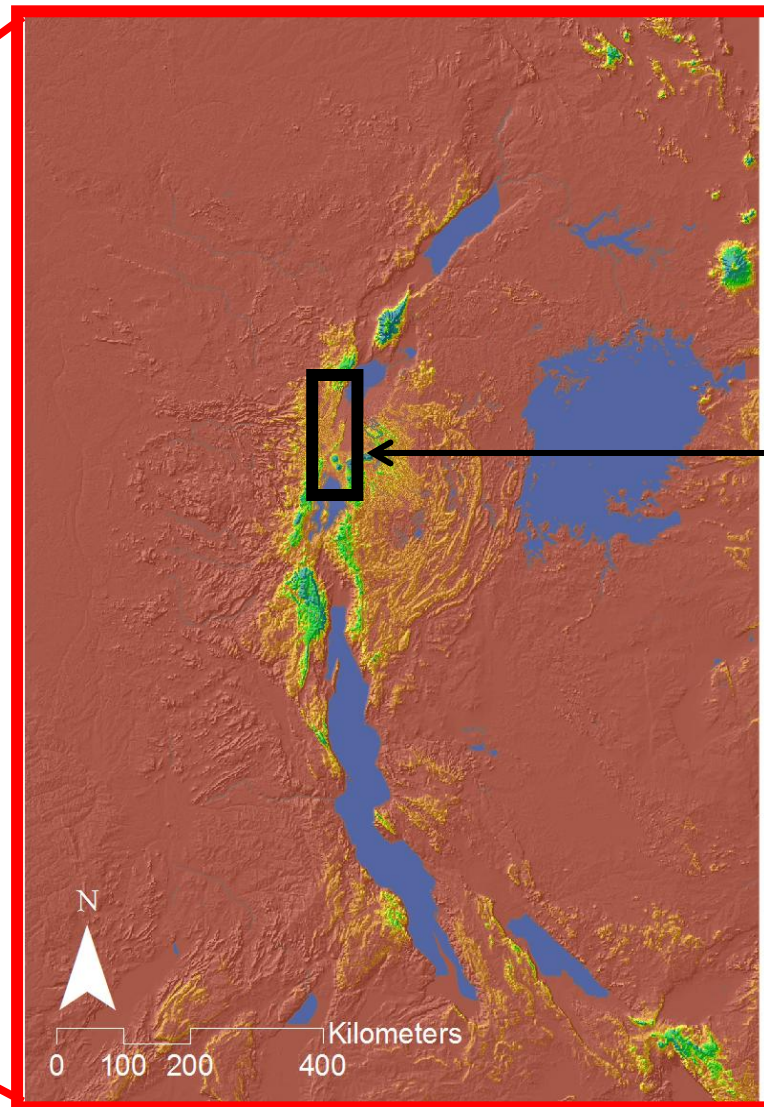
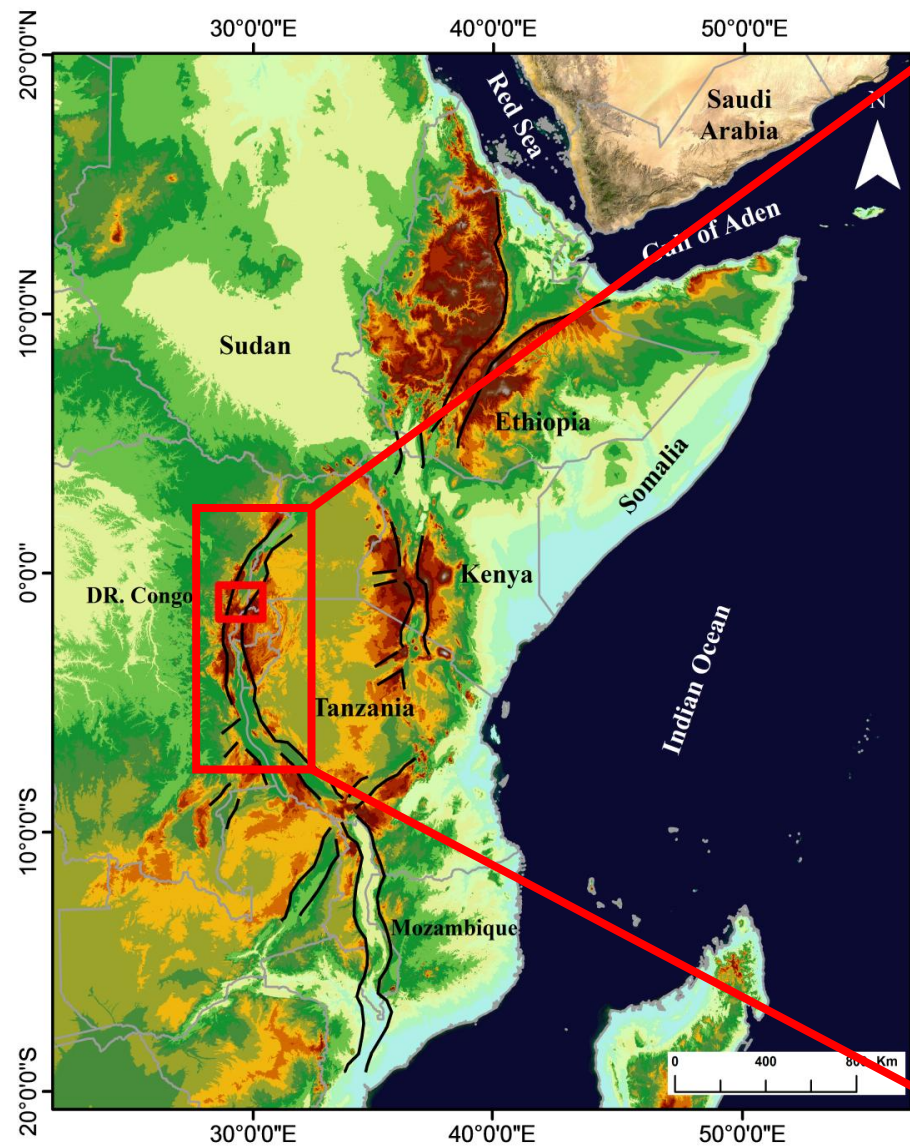


Risk assessment and stakeholder requirement in Goma, DR Congo(East Africa)

Charles Balagizi
Goma Volcano Observatory

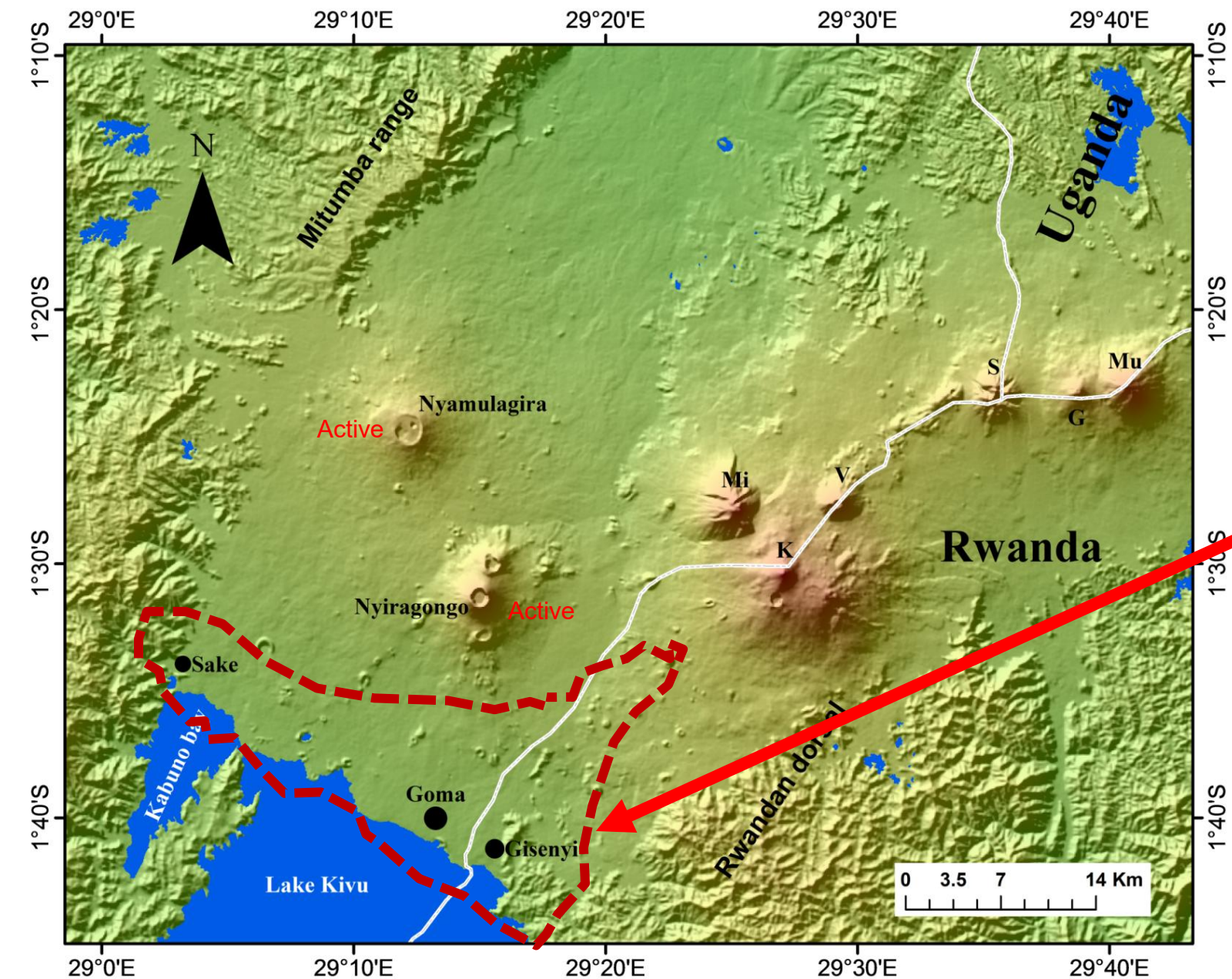
Advancing Volcanic Hazards in Early Warning For All Workshop 2025 —Geneva July 7-9, 2025

1. Location of the Virunga Volcanoes and lake Kivu basin



The Virunga Volcanic Province is located in the western branch of the East African Rift, on the borders between DR Congo, Rwanda and Uganda

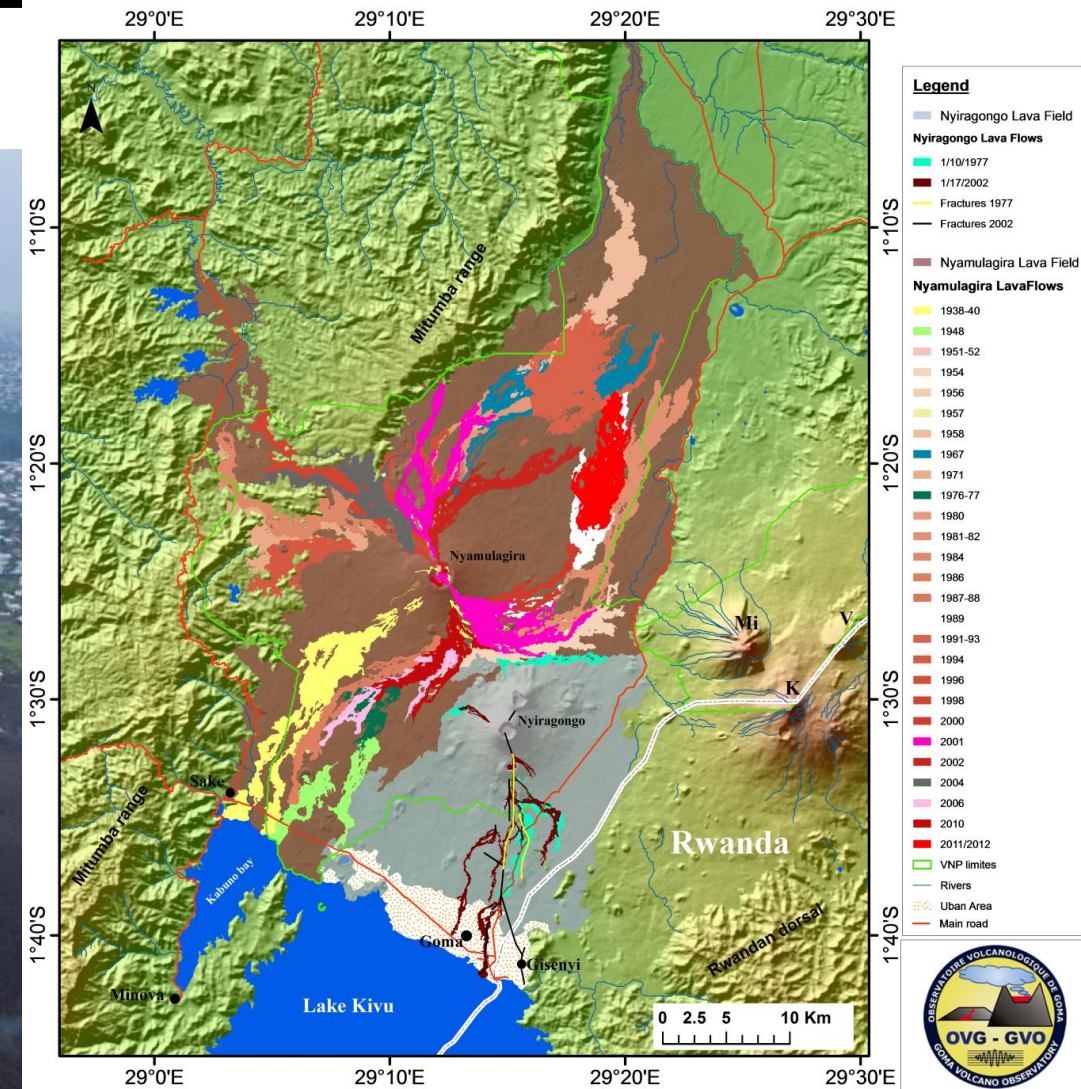
Virunga Volcanic Province and Lake Kivu basin



The volcanic field is a highly populated with cities and villages built on active volcanoes and are home for more than 2.5 millions on both Rwandan and DRC sides

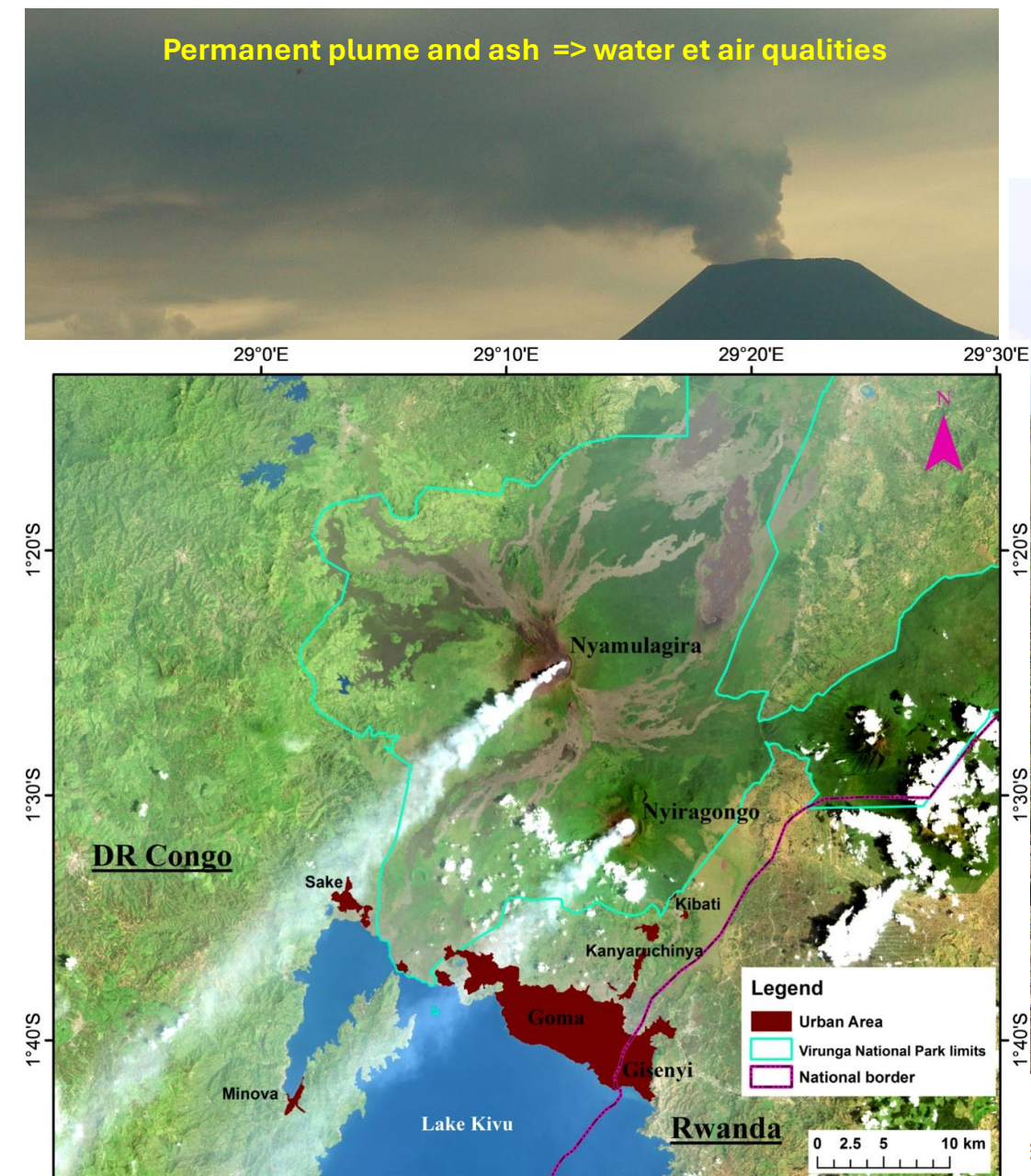
2. The Virunga is a multiple natural hazards zone

(i) Volcanic hazards: lava flows



(i) Volcanic hazards: Gas and ash hazards

Permanent plume and ash => water et air qualities



Mazuku, CO₂, diffuse



(i) Volcanic hazards: reduced water quality (rain, surface and groundwater)

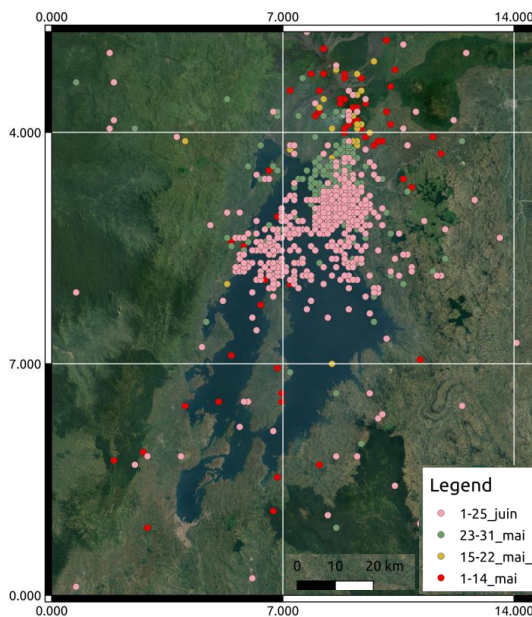
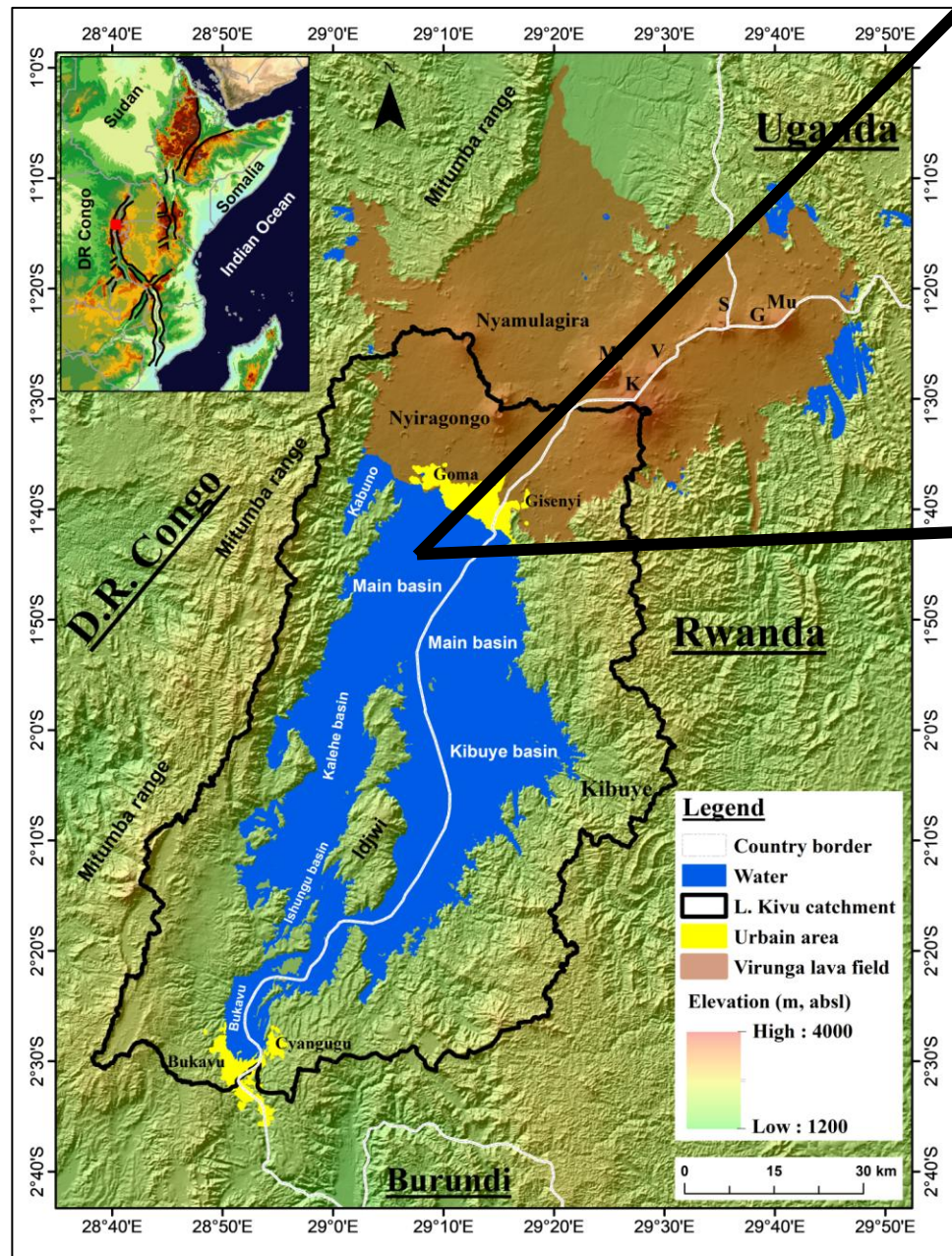


Example of water pollution impacts on human health (dental fluorosis)



(ii) Gases dissolved in lake Kivu

CO₂ and CH₄-rich deep waters



Strong seismicity during the 2021 eruption, and that gave fear for eruptive vents to open inside the lake



(iii) Earthquake hazard, as a tectonically active region



(iv) Landslides and floodings as a mountainous et tropical region with earthquakes



3. Institutions involved in Risk management in the DR Congo

National Strategy for Disaster Risk Reduction

The specific case of volcanic Risk Management in DR Congo

REPUBLICQUE DEMOCRATIQUE DU CONGO



MINISTERE DE L'INTERIEUR, SECURITE ET AFFAIRES COUMIERES

National contingency plan for potential volcanic eruptions in the democratic republic of the Congo

PLAN NATIONAL DE CONTINGENCE EN PREVISION DES EVENTUELLES ERUPTIONS VOLCANIQUES EN REPUBLIQUE DEMOCRATIQUE DU CONGO



2016-2020

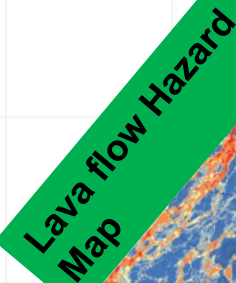
Plate-forme Nationale de Réduction des Risques et Gestion des Catastrophes

Etapes de la Préparation suite à une alerte crédible d'éruption Possible			
N°	Activités	Par qui?	Quand ?
	Renforcer l'Observatoire Volcanologique de Goma en équipements de surveillance	Ministre de la Recherche Scientifique et partenaires	Toutes les phases
1	Identifier, évaluer et préparer les sites d'accueil, points de rassemblement en cas d'imminence d'une éruption	Gouverneur de Province, Protection civile, Croix-Rouge, la PNC, CNR, UNHCR, Cluster Logistique, OIM	En phase Jaune et Orange
2	Faire un mapping de stock d'urgence disponible	Ministère sectoriel, Clusters humanitaires	En phase jaune et orange
3	Sensibiliser les populations sur les précautions à prendre en cas d'une éruption et organiser des exercices de simulations	Ministère de l'intérieur, Gouverneur de Province, Protection Civile, Croix-Rouge, MONUSCO, PNC et FARDC, Société Civile	En phase Jaune et Orange

Premières semaine		
1	Déployer une mission conjointe d'évaluation rapide des besoins humanitaires dans les zones de crise	1 ^{er} Ministre : Ministre de l'intérieur, Ministres en charge des affaires humanitaires, Santé, Genre, économie, plan,
2	Apporter de l'assistance d'urgence aux sinistrés	1 ^{er} Ministre : Ministres en charge des affaires humanitaires, Santé, Genre, économie, plan, partenaires
4	Réviser si besoin, le plan d'urgence.	Ministère de l'intérieur, Ministre de la recherche scientifique et Ministre des affaires humanitaires
5	Réquisionner et Déployer le personnel additionnel requis en cas de besoins	1 ^{er} Ministre, Gouverneur de Province et chaque organisation

Premières 24h		
1	Informers les autorités nationales sur l'imminence de l'éruption volcanique	Ministre de la Recherche Scientifique, OVG et Gouverneur de Province
2	Déclarer l'urgence, activer les sirènes d'alertes pour autoriser l'évacuation de la population.	Ministère de l'intérieur et Goupro NK
3	Mise en place de la cellule de crise au niveau national et provincial	1 ^{er} Ministre et Gouverneur
4	Mobiliser et déployer les équipes de secours et de gestion de l'évacuation de la population	Ministère de l'intérieur, de la défense, de la santé et le Gouverneur
5	Alerter les partenaires et les pays voisins de la RDC concernés par l'éruption volcanique et ses impacts	Président de la République, Ministre des Affaires étrangères et Gouverneur de Province

4.1. Hazard assessments — hazard maps





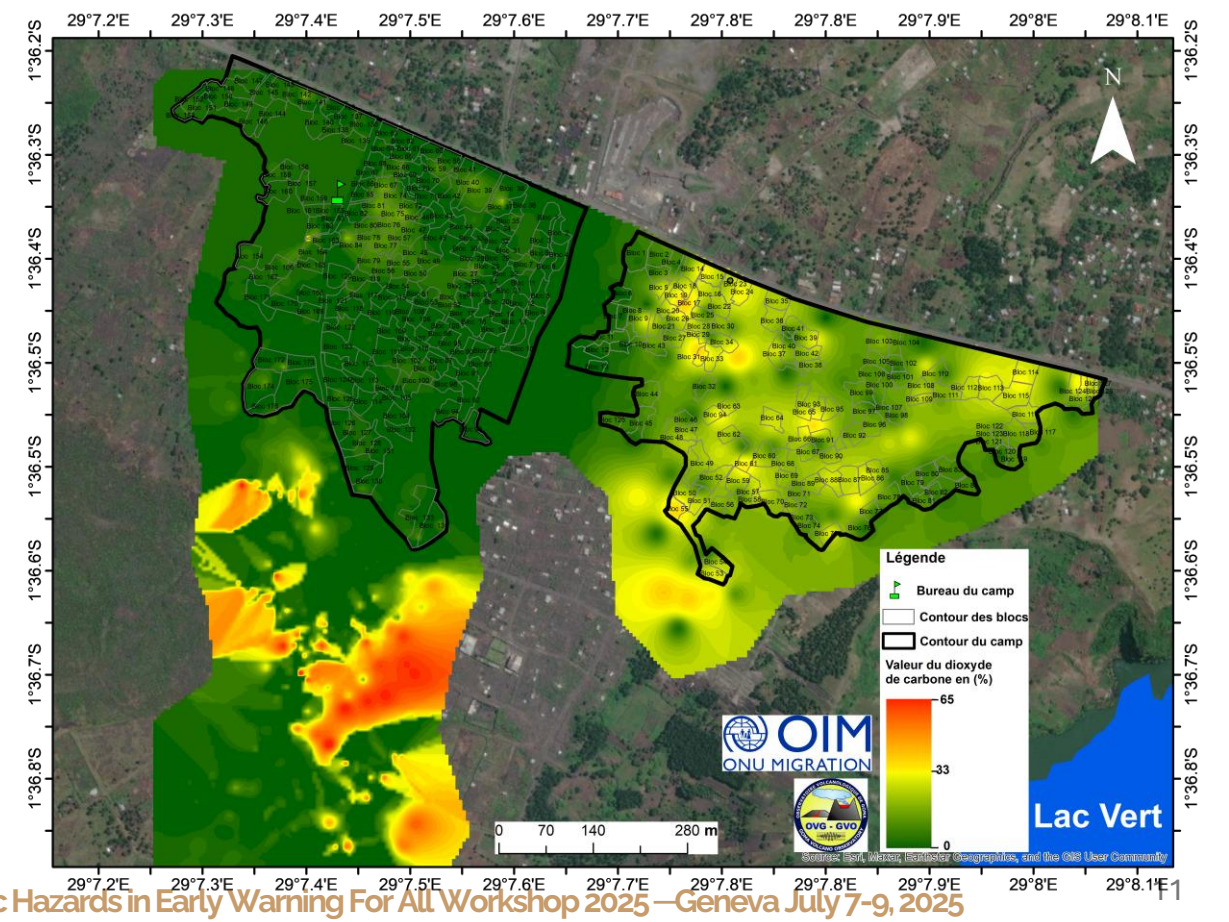
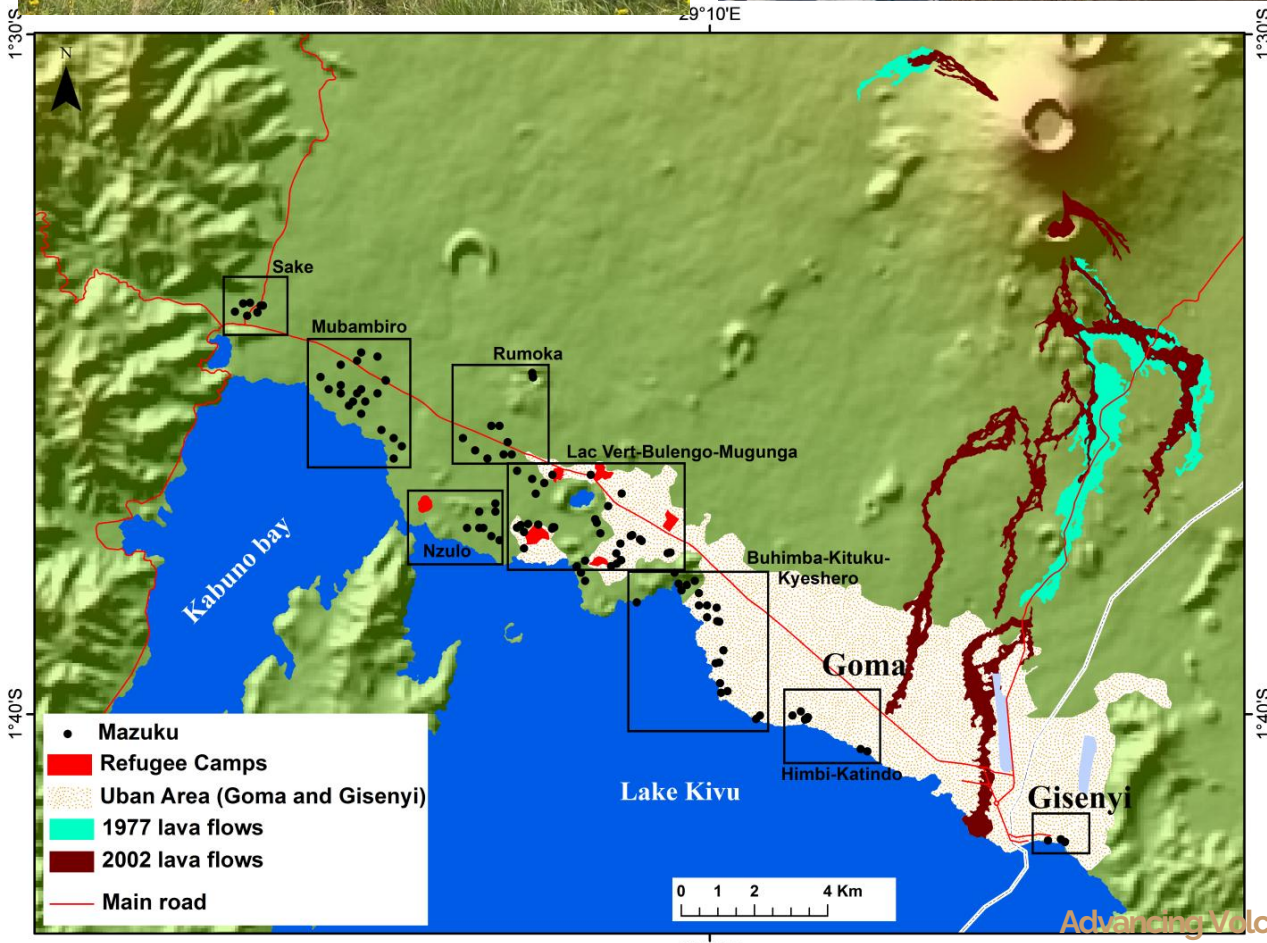
UNIVERSITÉ DE GENÈVE
FACULTÉ DES SCIENCES



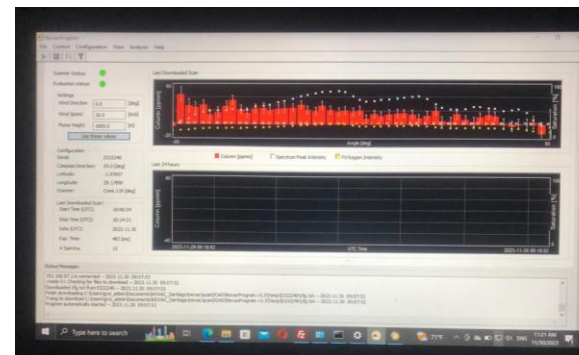
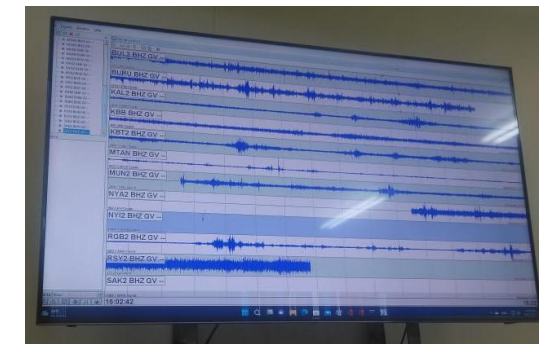
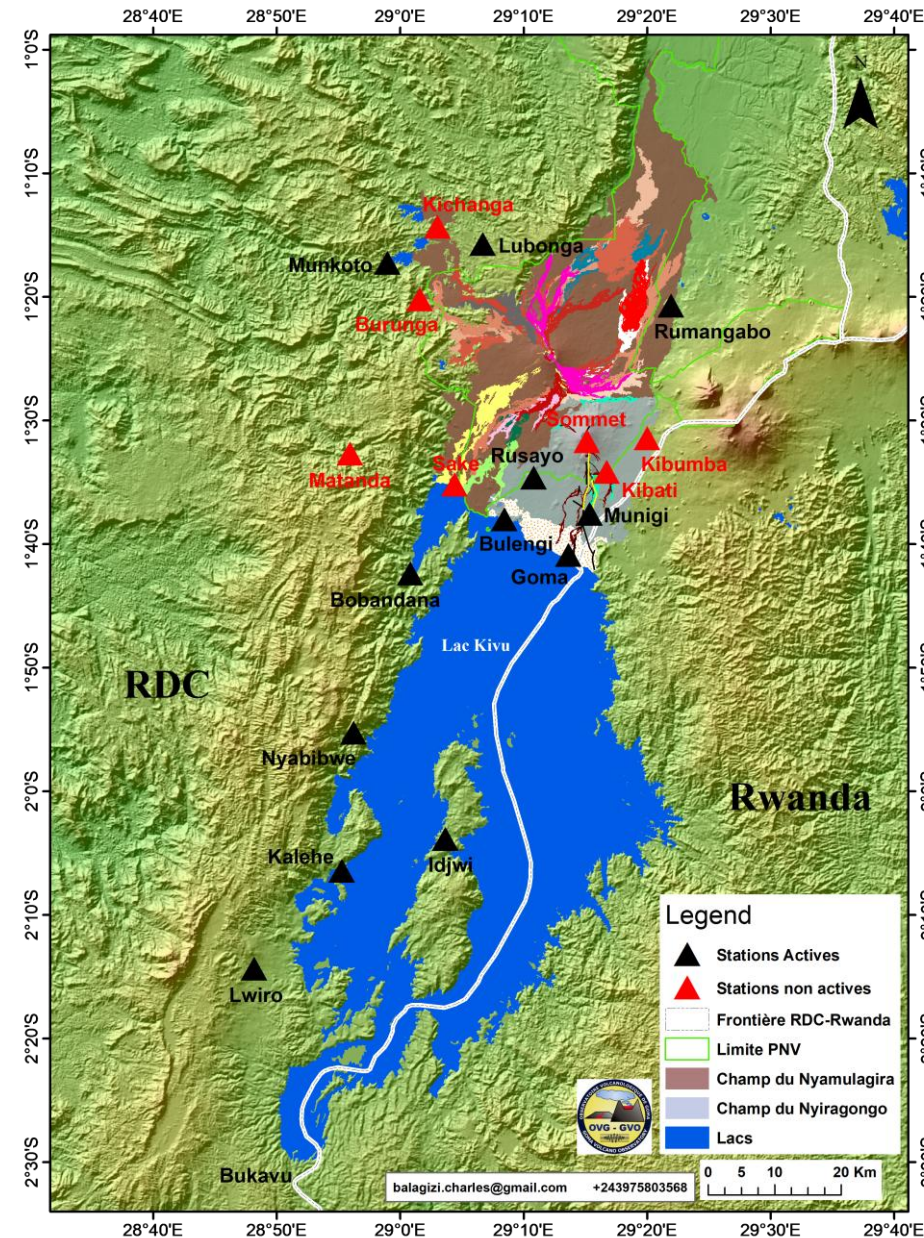
CLIMATE RISK & EARLY
WARNING SYSTEMS



Mazuku hazards in Goma and surroundings



4.2. Monitoring of volcanoes and lake Kivu: seismic, geodesic and geochemical

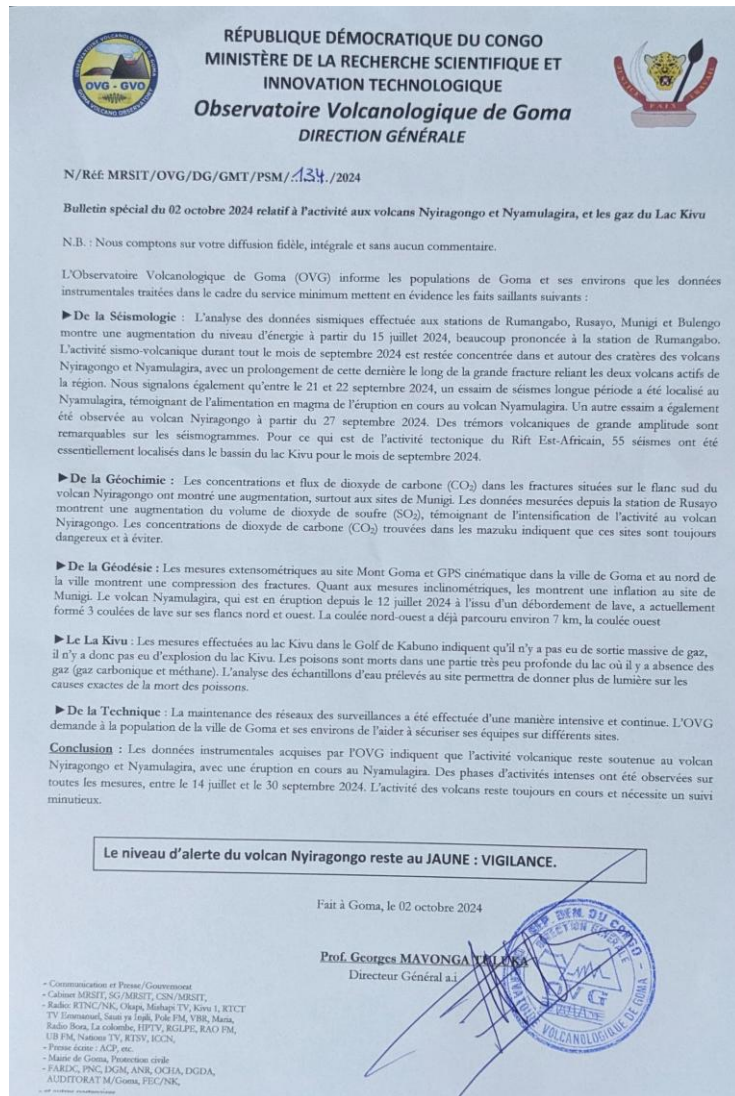


□ Network of 13 seismics stations

□ Geodesy: 10 GNSS + Kinematic, EDM, Extensio

□ Geochemical: DOAS, MultiGAS, T°, Lab

4.3. Communication: hazards information and early warning dissemination



Weekly report / alert

Training of community leaders on early warning

volcanic eruption alert siren

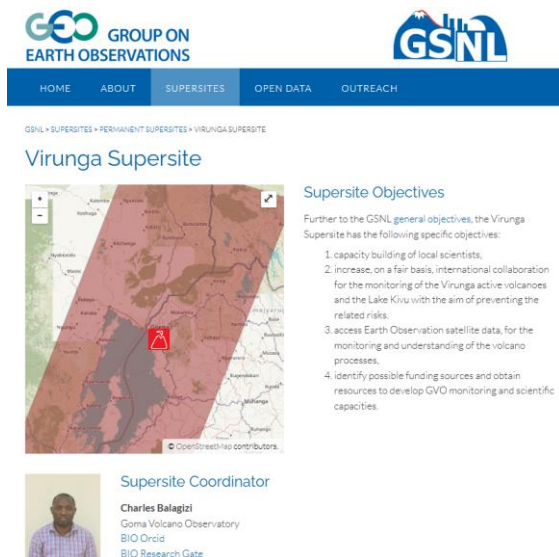


Volcanic hazards and warning signs

5. Importance of collaboration and partnership



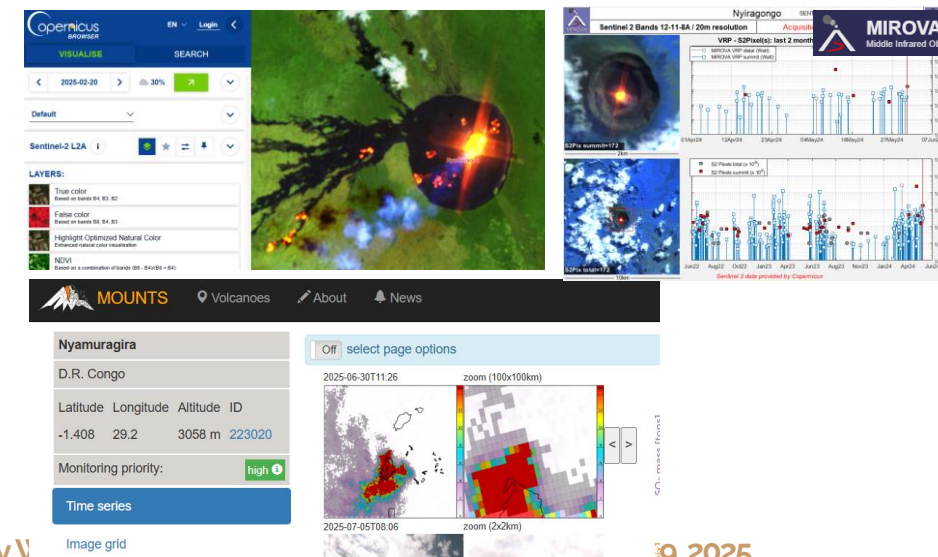
VDAP and INGV are of great support, they have been providing support to the GVO: equipment dotation and training of GVO scientists and technicians, support in data processing and interpretation



The CEOS space agencies



Virunga Supersite, a GEO-GSNL initiative provides access, free of charge, to Multi Temporal of satellite imagery and processing to support volcanic hazards and volcano monitoring + equipment donation



6. Operational challenges & needs— future perspectives

- ❑ The Goma Volcano Observatory plays a central role in the Early Warning System for all in Goma and around, going from disaster assessment, monitoring as well as warning dissemination and communication
- ❑ The Virunga is conflict-laden zone in the past 3 decades, this has strongly affected our operational capacities.
- ❑ There is strong need for capacity development of local scientists
- ❑ There is strong need for infrastructures development for ground-based data collection, processing and storage
- ❑ Funding is needed to finance our daily activities





Thanks for your attention
Aksanti sana!





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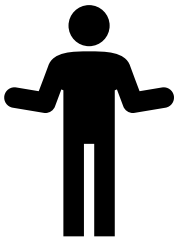


UN Office for Disaster Risk Reduction

Early
Warnings
for
All

Living on the Edge of an Active Volcano:

Enhancing Warning Dissemination & Preparedness —
Lessons from Goma's Volcanic Risk Initiatives



Mafuko Nyandwi B and al.

INTRODUCTION



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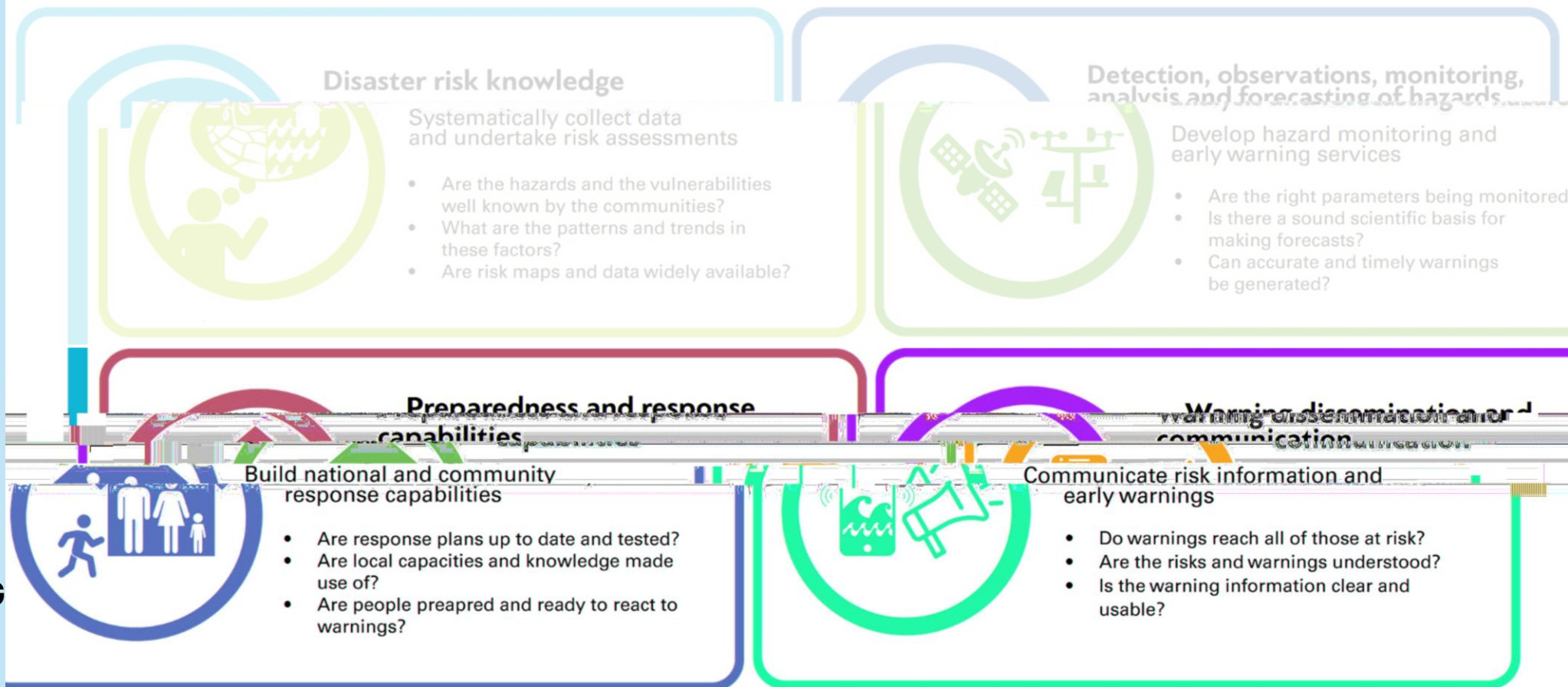
ACCESS

UNDERSTANDING

ACTION

KEY NOTES

Why this talk?



INTRODUCTION



➔ PLAN

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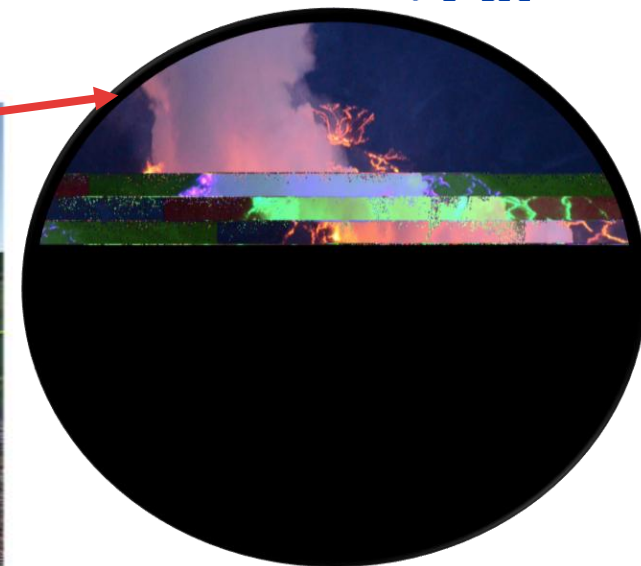
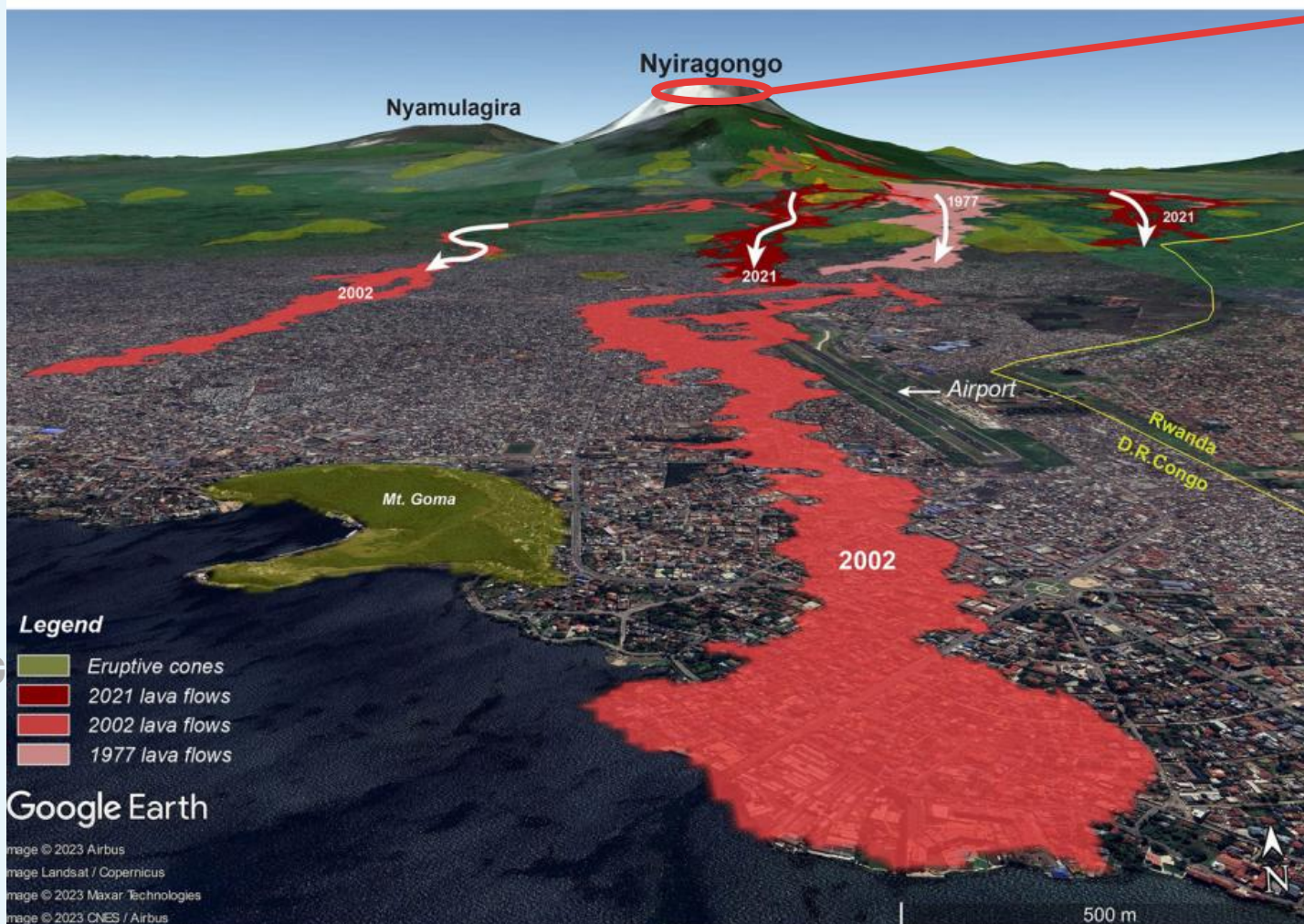
➔ ACCESS

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KEY NOTES

Goma...



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INTRODUCTION



- ➔ PLAN
- ➔ PRACTICE
- ➔ RESSOURCES



- ➔ ACCESS
- ➔ UNDERSTANDING
- ➔ ACTION

KEY NOTES

Goma...

- More than 1 million inhabitants



- Humanitarian HUB
- Affected by armed conflict in the last 3 decades
- Data scarcity
- Poor risk communication
- Low trust in DRM actors

INTRODUCTION



➔ PLAN

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➔ ACCESS

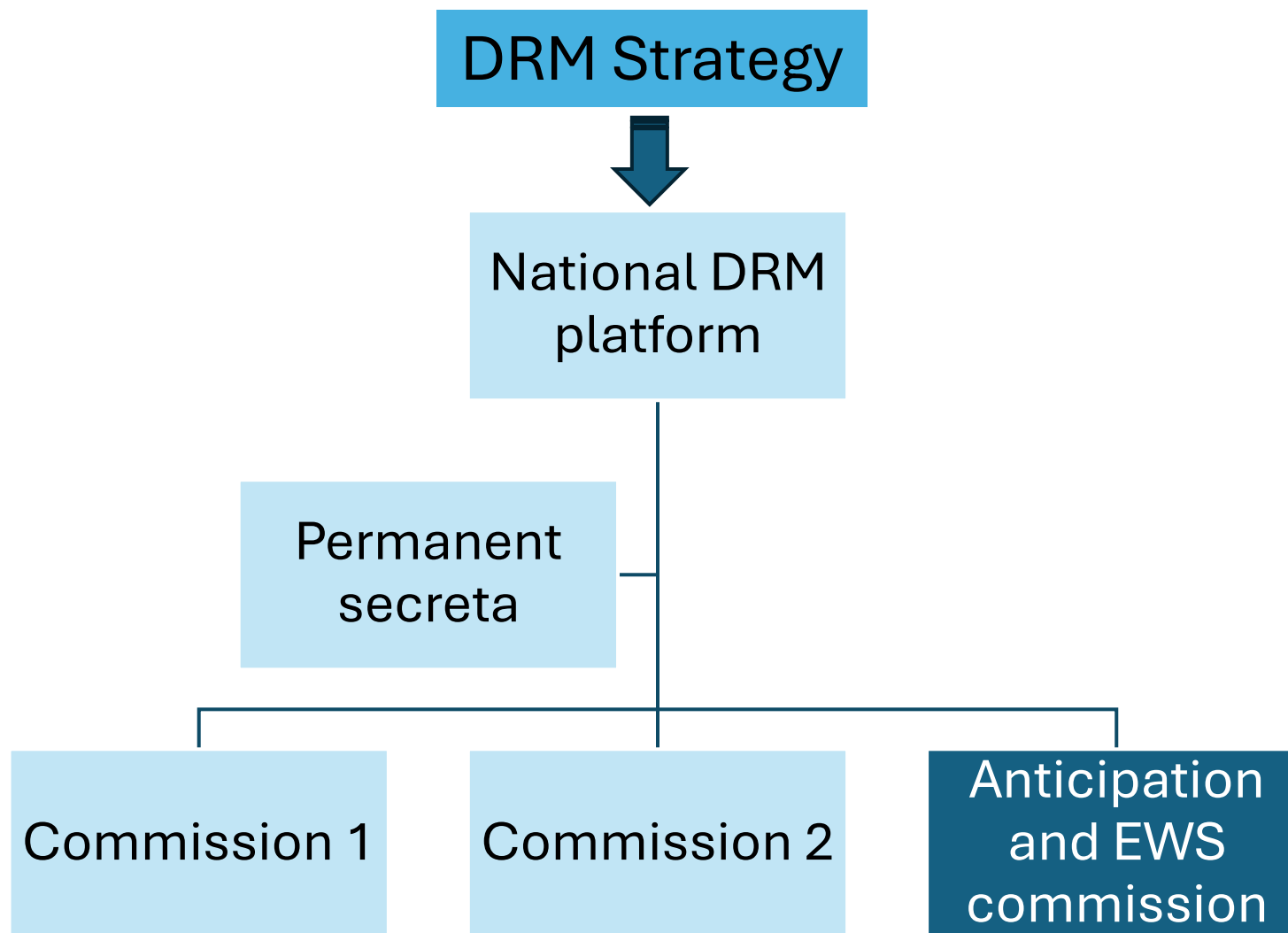
➔ UNDERSTANDING

➔ ACTION

KEY NOTES

Plans...

1. At the national level



in progress of implementation



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Plans...

2. At district level

The 2021 eruption occurred without an **updated contingency plan** & No well-disseminated **evacuation** and **hazard maps**

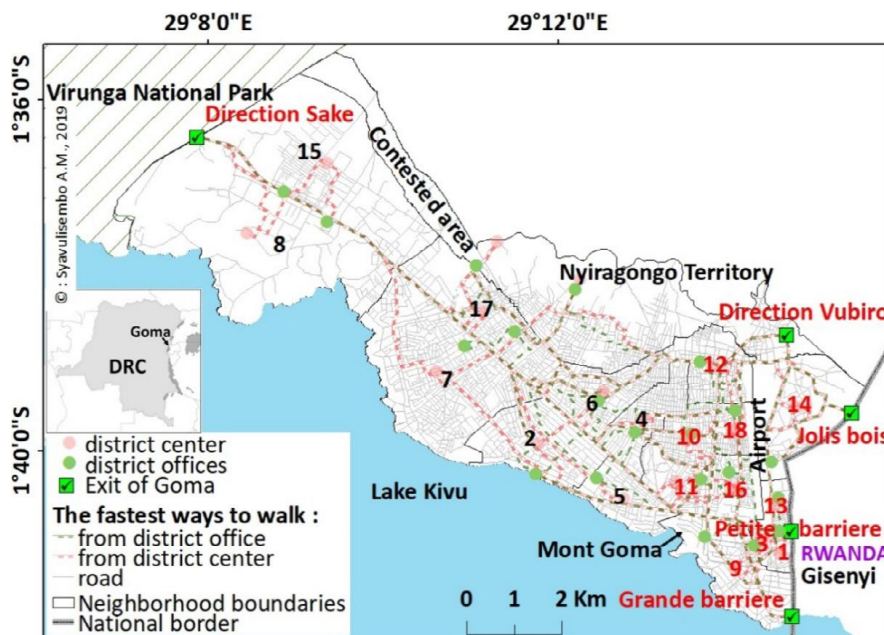


➡ ACCESS

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KEY NOTES



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REPUBLIQUE DEMOCRATIQUE DU CONGO
MINISTRE DE L'INTERIEUR, SECURITE ET
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2016-2020

PLAN NATIONAL DE CONTINGENCE EN PREVISION
DES EVENTUELLES ERUPTIONS VOLCANIQUES EN
REPUBLIQUE DEMOCRATIQUE DU CONGO



Plate-forme Nationale de
Réduction des Risques et
Gestion des Catastrophes

Carte de probabilité d'invasion de coulées de lave pour la région de Goma lors de la prochaine éruption du Nyiragongo



Syavulisembo & al.
2025

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INTRODUCTION



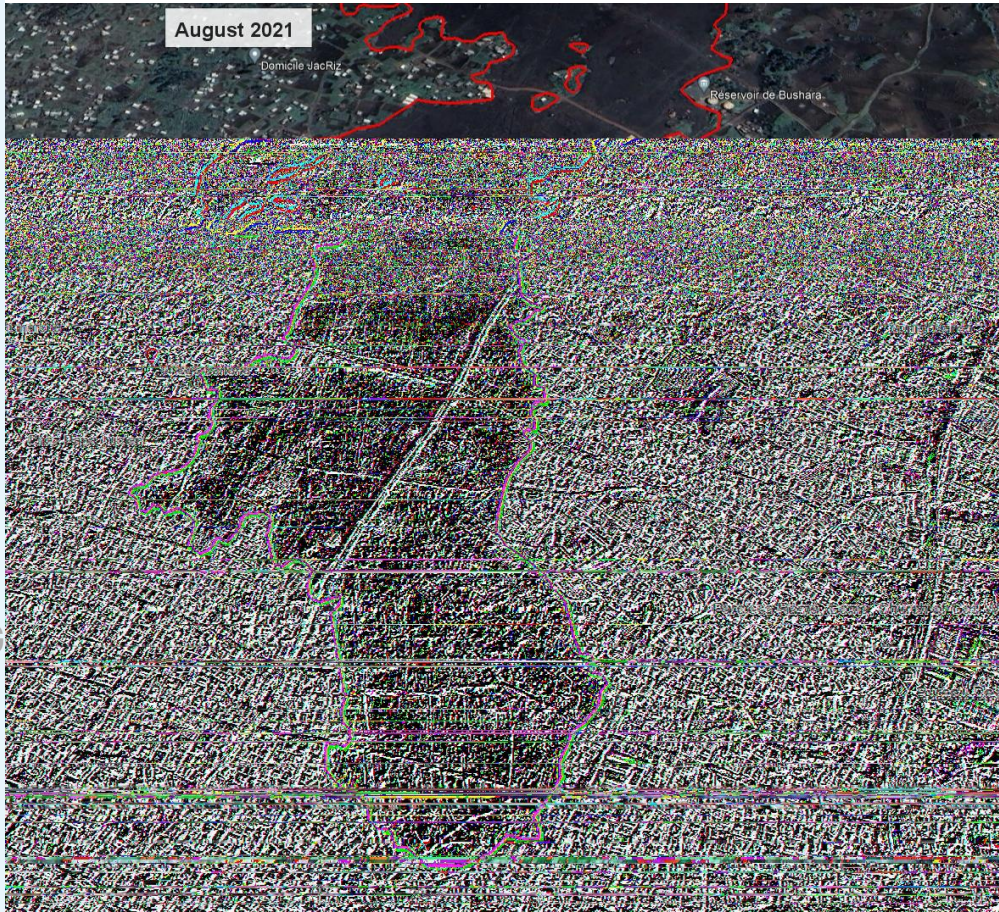
- ➡ PLAN
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- ➡ ACCESS
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- ➡ ACTION

KEY NOTES

PRACTICE: Are local capacities and knowledge made of use?



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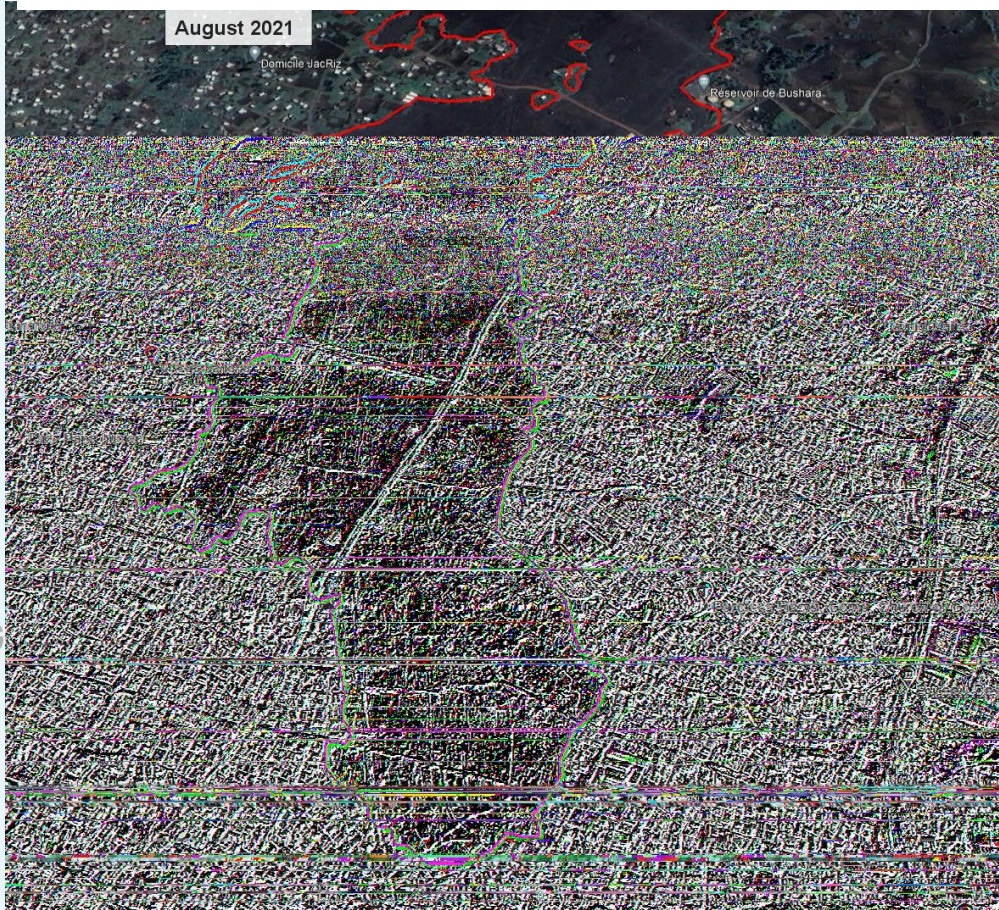


- ACCESS
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KEY NOTES

PRACTICE: Are local capacities and knowledge made of use?

Preservation of the community ties was a priority than risk assessment: Effective EWS practices need to consider local context practices



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PLAN

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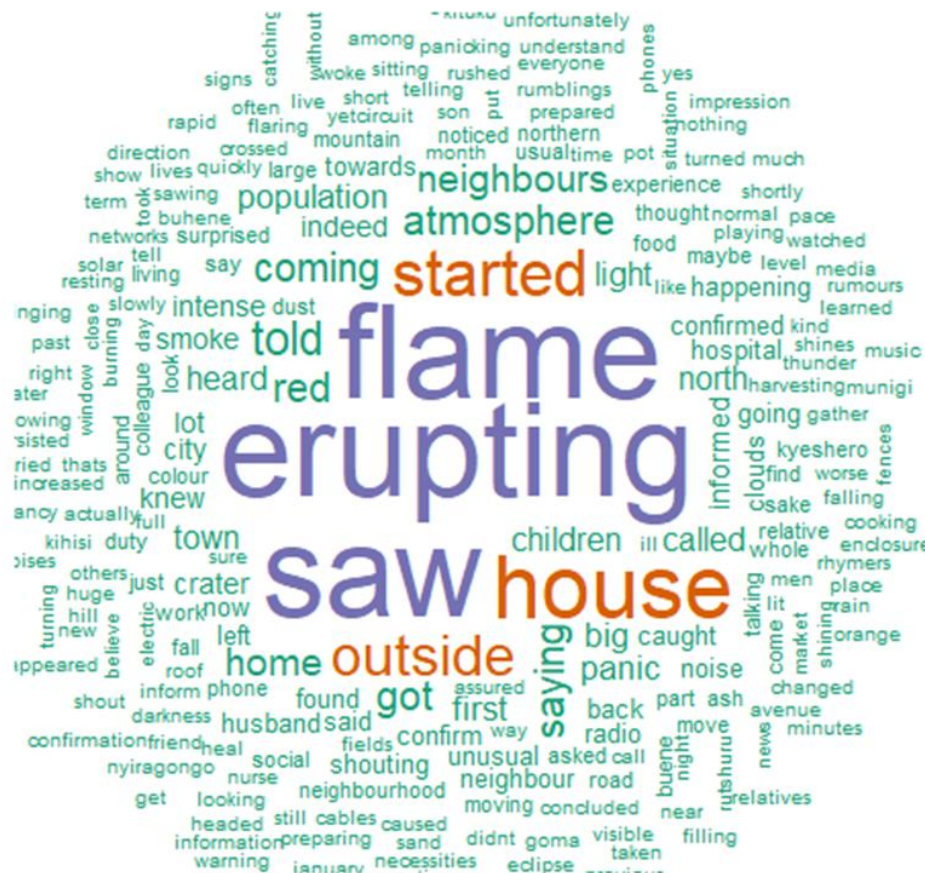
ACCESS

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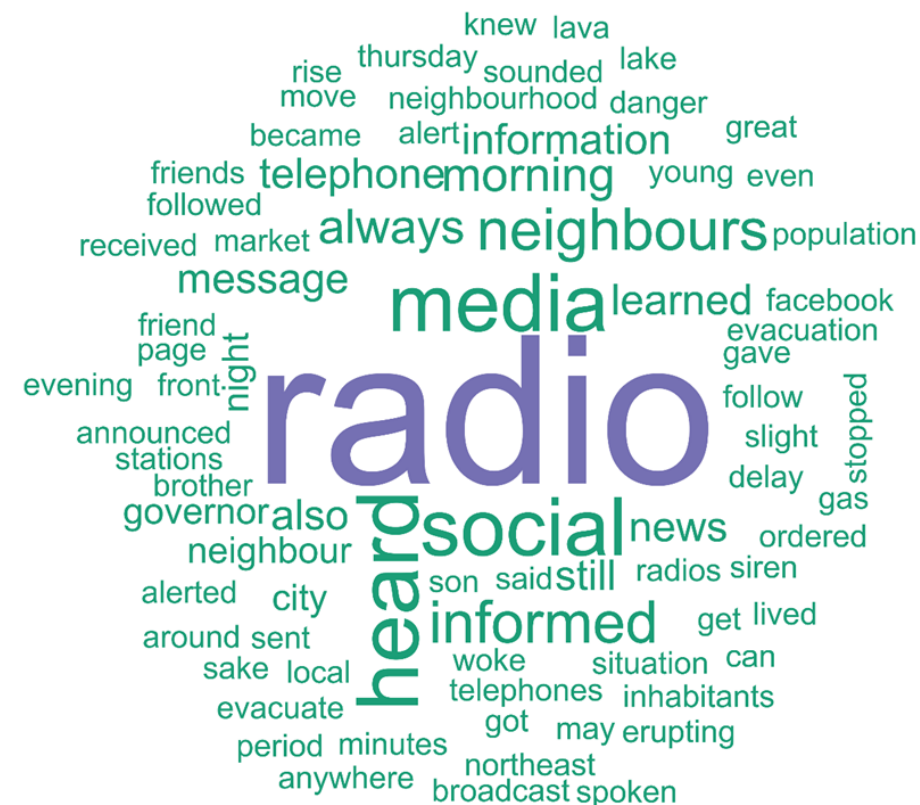
ACTION

ACCESS: Do warning reach all of those at risk?

Without warnings : **self-evacuation**



With warnings :
Mandatory-evacuation



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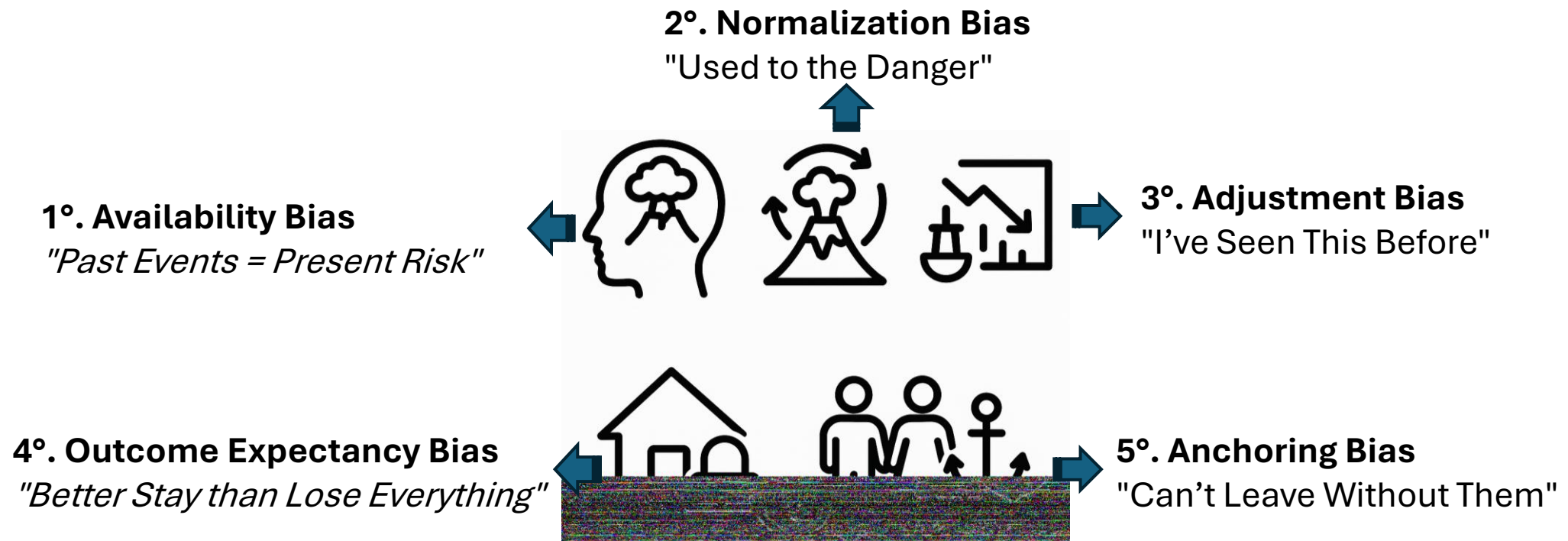
KEY NOTES

ACCESS: Are the risks and warnings understood?



Is not the information per se that determines whether people act to address their risk. Rather, decisions to act are determined by how people interpret the information. (Paton et al. (20208)

Heuristics guide judgment when risk information is scarce



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INTRODUCTION



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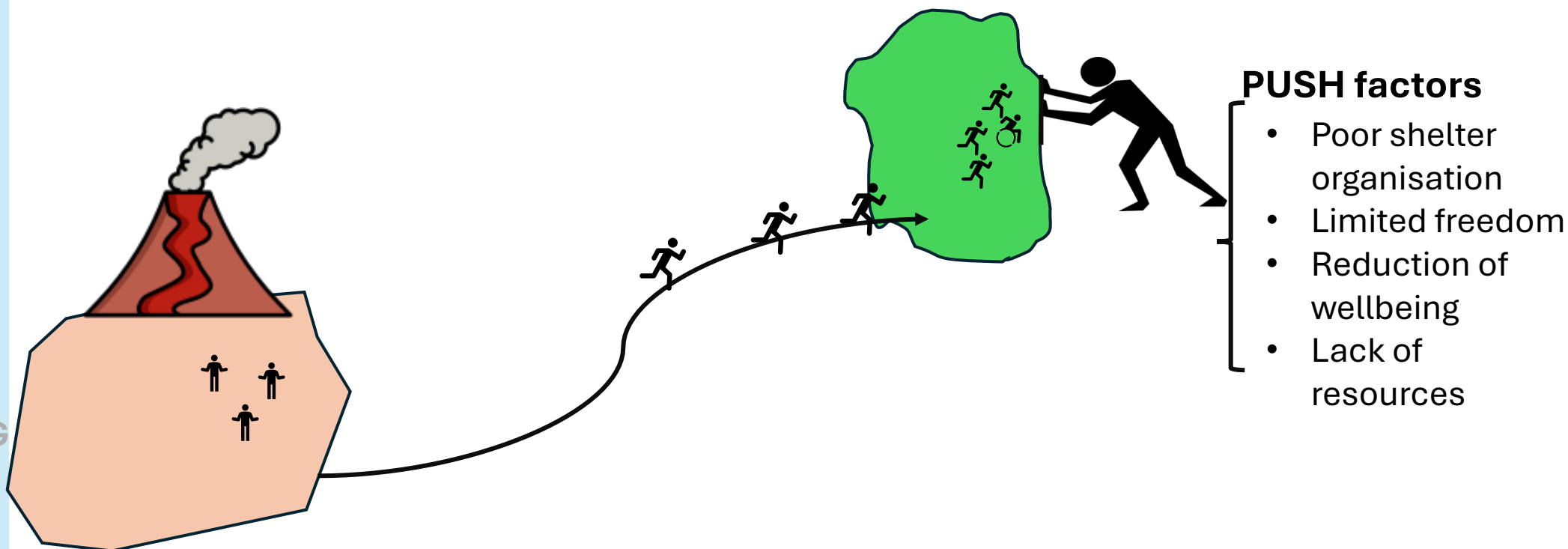
ACCESS

UNDERSTANDING

ACTION

ACTION: Is the warning information clear and usable?

(a) Reasons for returning early to Goma



*Mafuko Nyandwi. B, & al, (2023)
in JVGR*

KEY NOTES



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INTRODUCTION

ACTION: Is the warning information clear and usable?



PLAN

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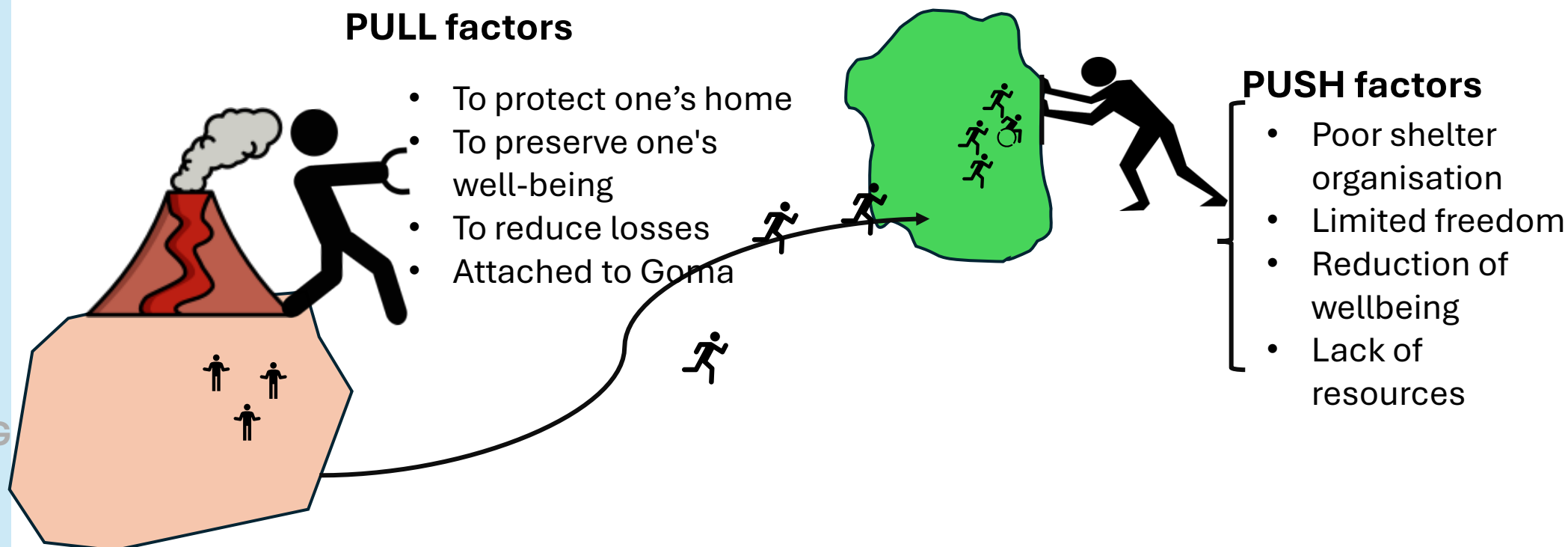
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KEY NOTES

(a) Reasons for returning early to Goma



Mafuko Nyandwi. B, & al, (2023)
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ACTION: Is the warning information clear and usable?

INTRODUCTION



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Goma



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➔ ACTION

KEY NOTES

(a) Reasons for returning early to Goma

PULL factors

- To protect one's home
- To preserve one's well-being
- To reduce losses
- Attached to Goma

PUSH factors

- Poor shelter organisation
- Limited freedom
- Reduction of wellbeing
- Lack of resources

(b) Reasons of not evacuating

- To evacuate was riskier than staying
- Lack of resources (money and information)
- To preserve wellbeing of family members

*Mafuko Nyandwi. B, & al, (2023)
in JVGR*



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Take-aways

- **Need to improve risk knowledge among locals:** Natural processes are not well understood by the community
- **Effectiveness requires preparation:** Various materials (e.g., hazard maps, alert protocols) need regular updating and proactive dissemination
- **Co-created solutions are essential:** Effective early warning implementation must consider local context and local informal warning dissemination

Thank you very much!



More details:
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