

EU provide humanitarian aid to DRC

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BRUSSELS, Aug. 14 (Xinhua) -- The European Commission (EC), the executive arm of the European Union (EU), has approved a 4-million- euro (4.5 million US dollars) humanitarian aid package for the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC). The aid will be used to support food and nutrition programs for the vulnerable groups affected by the ongoing conflict in the vast African country, said a press release issued by the EC here Thursday. The fund will contribute to the World Food Program Emergency Operation, launched in June in response to the deterioration of the situation in eastern DRC. Despite successful peace negotiations that resulted in a transitional government in June, localized conflict has intensified in eastern DRC with serious humanitarian consequences. Fighting and looting have prompted mass population displacement.

People who have fled their homes suffer high malnutrition and mortality rates, the release said. This latest funding decision will benefit half a million most vulnerable people there. It said that new supplementary feeding centers will be created and food parcels distributed to the targeted families. The EU has been providing humanitarian aid to the DRC since the outbreak of the civil war in 1998. So far it has provided more than 162 million euros (181 million dollars) in humanitarian aid to the country.