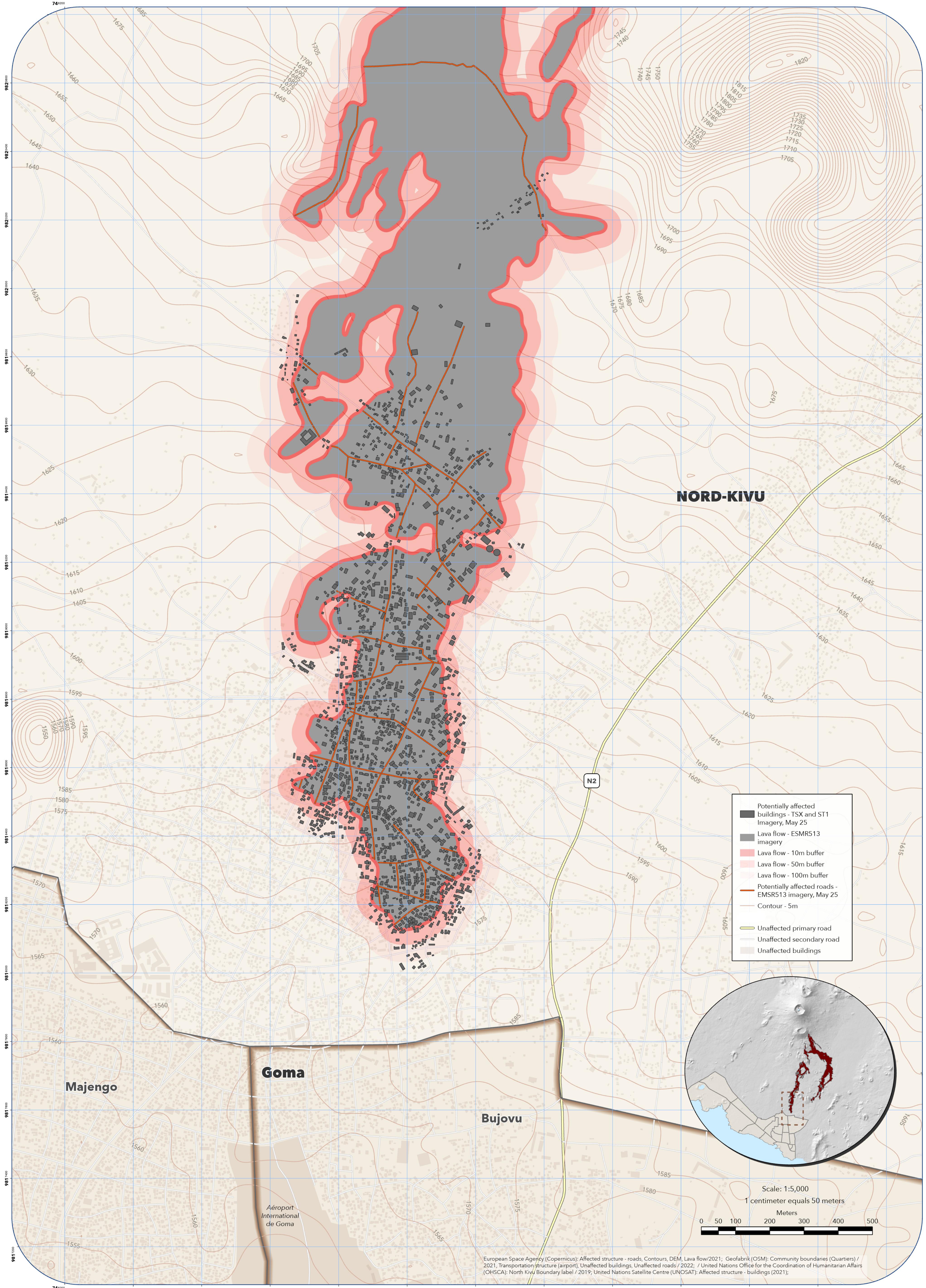


# Mt. Nyiragongo Eruption

**Impact Site #1: Goma North Perimeter - May 25, 2021 Lava Flow, Nord-Kivu Province**



## Nyiragongo Eruption

At approximately 19:00 HRS on May 22nd, 2021, Mount Nyiragongo erupted. Nyiragongo is located in the North-Kivu province of the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), 11 km north of the city of Goma, a city with around 1.5 million residents. Approximately 30,000 fled through the night and were displaced within North Kivu, South Kivu and Rwanda (IFRC, 2021). By May 25th, multiple earthquakes had also occurred, and power losses experienced throughout the area, as lava flows approached the border of Goma's north perimeter. On May 27, the government requested the evacuation of ten neighborhoods within Goma, containing 400,000 - 500,000 thousand people. (IFRC, 2021) (IMC, 2021).

288,404 people were reported as affected in the immediate aftermath of the eruption; including 32 deaths and 590 missing persons (IFRC 2021). Reports later increased to 2,400 residential buildings destroyed, 450,000 displaced people, and 2,261 ha of agricultural land affected (IFRC 2021). Lava flows have been an ongoing hazard for the area, with Mount Nyiragongo classified as active since at least 1971 (Beniss, 2022), and notable eruptions also taking place in 1977 and 2002. These two eruptions killed an estimated 500 people combined. In 2002, approximately 15,000 households were destroyed and 400,000 people were displaced (USAID, 2002).

Report citations: Global Volcanism Program. 2022. Report on Nyiragongo (DR Congo) (Beniss, K.L., and Venzke, E., eds.). Bulletin of the Global Volcanism Network, 47:7. Smithsonian Institution

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