

Democratic Republic of the Congo

1 – 15 June 2019

This document provides a mid-month update on major developments between the publication of UNHCR's monthly Operational Updates.

Refugees

- UNHCR has been carrying out relocations as new waves of asylum seekers arrivals continued; **440 South Sudanese refugees were relocated to Biringi settlement during the reporting period**. At the same time, since February 2019, refugees who have been living in border areas started complying with the authorities' requests for them to move further inland.
- A cross-border meeting between the Governments of Burundi and the DRC, and UNHCR offices in Burundi and DRC was held on June 11 in Uvira, South Kivu Province. The meeting discussed the **preparation for the repatriation of Burundian refugees living in DRC**, pending the signing of a Tripartite Agreement. The meeting also served as a prelude to the upcoming voluntary repatriation of 130 refugees in Lusenda camp who confirmed their intention to return home.
- **The pace of repatriations of Rwandan refugees from South Kivu Province increased** during the first half of June, with 22 persons. In total, 77 were repatriated from DRC in the first half of June.
- **UNHCR partner AIRD constructed 80 new shelters for over 400 Central African Republic refugees** in Nord and Sud Ubangi Provinces, to replace emergency shelters. The new structures include 40 transitional shelters for persons with specific needs in Boyabu camp, and 40 semi-durable shelters in Bili camp.

Congolese returnees

- As of 15 June, UNHCR and its partners the National Refugee Commission (CNR), War Child UK, and the national migration authorities (DGM) had **profiled 38,726 Congolese people who were expelled and who returned from Angola (17,393 households)** in Kamako, Kasai Province since December 2018. Among them, **over 3,400 Congolese refugees were identified**, and nearly 15,000 vulnerable people. UNHCR shared a list of the vulnerable people with IOM, for transportation to Tshikapa. The data collected during the profiling provided a better understanding of the expellees' and returnees' needs, to guide humanitarian actors in responding to their expressed needs.

Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs)

- Since 6 June, UNHCR has been receiving reports of a **generalized flare-up in violence in Djugu Territory, Ituri Province, leading to massive new internal displacements**. UNHCR and IOM recorded **45,424 new arrivals in IDP sites** in the province between 6 and 18 June. **Over 20,000 people reached the provincial capital of Bunia**, overwhelming spontaneous sites, while many more were reportedly blocked from fleeing their villages and others sought safety in Uganda. **Over 300,000 displaced people** are estimated to be staying with host communities. As there is no humanitarian access to violence-affected areas due to severe insecurity, this number is purely a working estimation that cannot, so far, be verified.
- UNHCR received reports of **unusually high numbers of protection incidents**, mainly killings, kidnappings, arson, maiming, SGBV and theft. While it has not been possible to record all incidents, 64% of those reported by UNHCR's protection monitoring partner INTERSOS in early June, occurred in Djugu Territory, and some 24% in Irumu Territory. **One of the IDP sites which is managed by UNHCR was burnt down**, forcing all 1,139 IDPs who were living there to flee.
- **Food assistance was identified as an immediate need, as well as shelter, non-food items and healthcare**. The displacements are occurring in an Ebola-affected area that is also prone to other disease outbreaks, including measles. A near-total lack of humanitarian access is hindering needs assessments.
- Continuing violence in parts of Ituri Province is not **showing signs of slowing down**, and is resulting in internal displacement. UNHCR's response will focus on stepping up its coordination role, on the provision of **shelter**

and non-food items to the most vulnerable families, and on reinforcing **protection monitoring, profiling and site management**. UNHCR intends to work closely with IOM on the creation, management and coordination of a new IDP site in Bunia.

- In the first half of June, in and around Nobili (bordering Uganda in North Kivu Province), **UNHCR distributed non-food items to 2,500 vulnerable IDP families** (totaling 19,222 people). These activities were an effort to respond to the recent crisis that displaced almost 95,000 in the area. In addition, **5,880 vulnerable host community members (879 households) received non-food items** (NFIs). UNHCR's approach consists of prioritizing large families, and households staying in public buildings (schools, churches), so that these structures could be vacated, allowing for the resumption of classes.
- As of mid-June, the registration of IDP households by operational partners was complete. **They recorded 94,612 IDPs grouped into 15,991 households**.
- UNHCR continued to ensure the protection of IDPs through presence, coordination of activities, and the **creation of 10 IDP committees and two protection committees** in displacement-affected localities around Nobili. A multi-sectoral response by humanitarian partners is underway, with severe gaps persisting in health and WASH.
- In June, UNHCR participated in a joint mission to assess the humanitarian situation of displaced persons in Mikenge, Mwenga and Fizi territories, South Kivu Province. **In Fizi Territory, 55,405 people (9,852 households) were identified as displaced**, and 75 cases of SGBV were reported. In Mwenga Territory, out of the 64,000 IDPs estimated to have been displaced, some 19,000 had returned to their villages. **The main challenges identified were the destruction of shelters and health facilities, increased food prices, and children not being able to attend school**. Access restrictions and a lack of humanitarian presence remain major challenges to respond to.

Coordination activities

Shelter Working Group

- **The Shelter Working Group (SWG) set up a new monitoring system** called SIRAL-GTA, which is more in line with the SWG's strategy. It has 19 staff from 15 organizations who were trained in Kinshasa in June, following other field partner trainings in May. The SIRAL-GTA user guide is available [here](#).
- **Trainings on local construction culture continued** in Bunia, Ituri Province, and in Kalemie, Tanganyika Province. UNHCR mobilized the local NGO AMICOR and an international NGO CRATerre to put their expertise to the benefit of SWG partners.

Protection Cluster

- **The new Protection Cluster Coordination Officer, Minata Oulein Conde Bangoura, has taken up her functions**. She is hosted at UNHCR's Regional Representation in Kinshasa.

External / Donor Relations

As of 11 June 2019

Donors for UNHCR operations in DRC in 2019

United States of America (7 M) | CERF (3.7 M) | Japan (2.5 M) | Sweden (2.2 M) | Canada (0.76 M) | United Nations Foundation (0.43 M) | International Olympic Committee (0.27 M) | UNAIDS (0.03 M) | Private donors (0.08 M)

Major donors of regional or other funds with soft earmarking 2019

Germany (13.1 M) | United States of America (10 M) | Canada (4.6 M) | Sweden (4 M) | Private donors Australia (3.8 M)

Major donors of unearmarked funds in 2019

Sweden (90.4 M) | Norway (44.5 M) | Netherlands (37.5 M) | Private donors Spain (33 M) | United Kingdom (31.7 M) | Germany (26.7 M) | Denmark (24.4 M) | Private donors Republic of Korea (17.3 M) | Switzerland (15.1 M)

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