

Democratic Republic of the Congo

1 - 31 August 2018

UNHCR and its partner, the Commission Nationale pour les Réfugiés (CNR), distributed **12,909 identity** cards to Central African Republic refugees over 12 year of age in Nord and Sud-Ubangi Provinces.

A major funding gap is affecting UNHCR's programme for Burundian refugees in DRC, with education, health and shelter being among the hardest-hit sectors.

On 14 August, UNHCR declared an **internal L2 emergency** in Nord-Kivu and Ituri Provinces, in view of the return situation in Ituri Province and ongoing displacement in Nord-Kivu Province.

Refugees

UNHCR implemented **Ebola prevention measures** in Nord-Kivu, Sud-Kivu, Ituri and Haut-Uélé Provinces. Burundian, Rwandan and South Sudanese refugees are targeted with chlorinated handwashing stations, weekly awareness-raising campaigns, and medical screenings.

Burundian refugees

Total in DRC	Newly registered in August	Repatriated in August	Repatriated in 2018
46,512	0	0	160

As of 31 August 2018

- A **major funding gap** is affecting UNHCR's response to the Burundian refugee situation, compromising health and education support, and refugees' transfer from transit centers. While an additional emergency allocation will allow UNHCR to provide essential drugs for a period of three months, the continuity of health and education services is not assured until the end of the year.
- UNHCR **transferred 269 refugees** from Monge Monge transit center to Mulongwe site, with support from partners CNR, AIRD and AIDES. However, over 1,300 refugees remained blocked in overcrowded transit centers as funds for their relocation to Mulongwe site were not available.
- **93 asylum seekers** arrived at UNHCR reception structures in August; 18 in Sange assembly point and 75 in Monge Monge transit centre.
- In August, 27 refugees expressed their intention to **return to Burundi**.
- On 27 August, UNHCR delivered **cash assistance** of a total of USD 65,569 to 1,052 Burundian refugee households to support them with shelter and latrine construction, and payment of school fees. The cash was distributed through mobile money accounts, which were opened for each household in Mulongwe, who also received mobile phones. Refugees can withdraw the cash in or outside the site when they need.
- 64 young Burundian refugees and Congolese citizens completed **professional trainings** in hairdressing and soap-making in Lusenda camp, enabling them to start their own small businesses. 225 refugees in Lusenda camp and Mulongwe sites also **harvested their first vegetables** from plots of land they were allocated by local authorities.

- **2 laundry points** were finalized at Mulongwe site, bringing the total number to 8, for almost 5,300 refugees living there. This is 662 people per laundry point. **75 latrine and shower kits** containing cash and materials to build WASH facilities were also distributed at the site, which now has 705 plots with functioning latrines and showers.
- UNHCR distributed **Non-Food Items (NFIs) to 373 refugees**; 113 women with specific needs living out of camps in Uvira and Kavimvira, and 260 refugees recently relocated to Mulongwe site.
- 285 refugees took part in 5 different **awareness-raising sessions on rape and other forms of sexual violence** organized by UNHCR's partner War Child, in Sange assembly point and Lusenda camp. During the reporting period, two young victims of rape, girls aged 3 and 6, received judicial support. One presumed perpetrator was arrested.

Central African refugees

Total in DRC	Newly registered in August	Repatriated in August	Repatriated in 2018
176,654	0	0	0

As of 31 August 2018

- UNHCR does not have access to **nutritional complements** in 4 CAR refugee camps in Nord-Ubangi, Sud-Ubangi and Bas-Uélé Provinces. To address **malnutrition problems**, which were confirmed by a preliminary nutrition screening in August, UNHCR ordered nutritional complements earlier this year to fill the gap, but they have not yet arrived in DRC.



UNHCR and CNR staff hand over an identity card to a refugee in Inke camp. © UNHCR 2018 / G. Nentobo

- UNHCR and partner ADES have started a **sensitization campaign against malnutrition** in an out-of-camp location in Bas-Uélé Province. It encourages refugee parents to adopt healthy nutritional practices and use nourishing local products, such as groundnuts, soy or caterpillars. The campaign will later be extended to refugee camps and more out-of-camps locations.
- UNHCR and partner CNR distributed **12,909 identity cards** to CAR refugees over 12 year of age in Nord and Sud-Ubangi Provinces, following a large-scale verification operation. These identity cards are valid for two years and facilitate refugees' free movement and access to banking services in the DRC.
- After the "Back to school" campaign led by UNHCR's partner Terre Sans Frontière (TSF) to encourage parents to send their children to school, UNHCR will **cover education fees for 1,000 primary and secondary school-age refugees** living outside of camps, for the 2018-19 school year. The children are currently being selected by UNHCR's partner TSF, based on their vulnerability.
- Two **boreholes** were completed in Monga town and Kanzawi village in Bas-Uélé Province in August. These two localities have been hosting almost 6,500 refugees since 2017, **none of whom have had access to clean water until now**. The boreholes serve the entire population of the two localities, both refugees and the local community.

Rwandan refugees

Total in DRC	Newly registered in August	Repatriations in August	Repatriations in 2018
217,766	0	234	2,460

As of 31 August 2018

- In August, **234 Rwandan refugees were voluntarily repatriated** from Nord-Kivu Province in safety and dignity, for a total of 2,460 in 2018. This figure is pending verification on the Rwandan side.
- Since May 2018, UNHCR has biometrically registered a total of **25,784 Rwandan refugees** in Nord-Kivu and Sud-Kivu provinces: 60% for the first time, while 40% renewed their registration. The total of biometrically registered Rwandan refugees in the two provinces has increased to 56,224.

South Sudanese refugees

Total in DRC	Newly registered in August	Repatriations in August	Repatriations in 2018
93,564	348	0	0

As of 31 August 2018

- There were **348 new arrivals** and **89 births** among DRC's South Sudanese refugees in August.
- There is an insufficient number of hygiene promoters at Biringi site. **Five more hygiene promoters are needed** for the site to reach the standard of one hygiene promoter per 500 people. Currently, one promoter is assisting over 1,000 people.
- UNHCR's partner ADES conducted **Ebola-related sensitization activities** in 4 refugee sites in Haut-Uélé and Ituri Provinces, reaching 10,991 refugees and host community members, and 109 health humanitarian workers. While the sites are not in territories affected by Ebola, preventative measures should be strengthened; there is a need for 300 hand washing devices, water chlorination and disinfectant products, as well as for the capacity-building of 60 humanitarian staff.
- UNHCR's partner COOPI distributed a total of 412 improved woodstoves. 8 bags of briquettes were also distributed to 146 vulnerable South Sudanese refugees at Biringi and Meri sites, including 23 survivors of Sexual and Gender-based Violence (SGBV). 6 farmer organisations composed of refugees and host community members received **Safe Access to Fuel and Energy (SAFE)** kits, which included 20l of petrol, 2.5l of gasoline, 2 bags of cement and concrete bars, among other key materials for their activities.
- In an effort to prevent statelessness and improve access to basic services, UNHCR's partner, the Danish Refugee Council, facilitated the **issuance of birth certificates** to 202 refugee newborns, for whom the deadline to obtain free birth certificates had passed.
- In view of reports of **alleged combatants** present in refugee-hosting areas, there is a continued need for training of authorities on safeguarding the civilian character of asylum.
- UNHCR has hired an **agro-forestry consultant** who, among other tasks, will develop a model for sustainable, income-generating agricultural and firewood production in areas hosting South Sudanese refugees. With over 90,000 South Sudanese refugees in the DRC, UNHCR wants to ensure that their integration into local agricultural activities is done in an environmentally-sustainable way.
- According to the Commission Nationale pour les Réfugiés (CNR), **25,958** South Sudanese refugees remain in **border areas in Ituri Province**, despite repeated calls from the authorities for them to relocate away from the

border. UNHCR thus assisted CNR in organizing a training for 32 members of local authorities and civil society on refugee protection. The workshops highlighted needs for border security reinforcement and continued sensitization of refugees on relocation.

Congolese returnees

- A UNHCR team visited Pweto Territory, Haut-Katanga Province, in late August to assess the situation of **Congolese returnees** who came back from Zambia. The authorities have reported the spontaneous return of 30,664 Congolese refugees between January and July 2018, some of whom held proof or registration as refugees in Zambia. A UNHCR verification mission is planned for September, while important needs in sectors such as education and shelter were observed.



A Congolese refugee who returned from Zambia, Village 25 (Pweto). © UNHCR 2018

Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs)

*On 14 August, UNHCR declared an internal **L2 emergency in Nord-Kivu and Ituri Provinces**. This will allow UNHCR to use emergency procedures and mobilize additional resources in view of the return situation in Ituri Province, and ongoing displacement in Nord-Kivu Province.*

Ituri Province

- Among 73 villages surveyed by a joint UNHCR and INTERSOS mission in Djugu Territory, **85% stated that some of their population was still displaced**. Although returns are underway, one major challenge for returnees is that **39% of shelters were destroyed** in areas visited (16,000 houses). UNHCR has launched a shelter programme for returnees – alongside protection and peaceful coexistence activities – but this will reach less than a third of those in need.
- **6,601 returnees** (1,323 households) were recorded in 6 villages in Djugu Territory and Dungu Territory (Haut-Uélé Province), by UNHCR's partner INTERSOS. They reportedly returned in April.
- **Peaceful coexistence** remains a challenge in Djugu Territory, including with regard to access to land. Over 100 cases of such tensions over access to land were reported by UNHCR's partner INTERSOS as families have been trying to return.
- **844 human rights violations** were recorded in August through UNHCR's protection monitoring: 116 violations of the right to life and physical integrity, 241 cases of Sexual and Gender-based Violence (SGBV), 325 violations of the right to property, and 162 violations of the right to liberty. However, there was a **45% decrease** in the number of protection incidents compared to July (1,523 incidents).
- UNHCR's partner INTERSOS initiated **242 responses to protection incidents**, including referrals and 159 advocacy interventions. As result, 58 SGBV survivors were referred for health care and 27 received PEPs kits within 72 hours. 27 arbitrarily-arrested people were released, 8 alleged perpetrators were arrested, and a case of serious child abuse was referred to UNICEF.

Nord-Kivu Province

- In the first half of August, clashes between armed groups caused the **displacement of an estimated 7,260 persons** from several villages in Nord-Kivu Province.
- **2,015 human rights violations and SGBV incidents** were recorded in August through UNHCR's protection monitoring, with a majority of extortions, physical assaults, and lootings. UNHCR and its partners conducted **347 responses**, with positive results obtained in 73% of cases.
- UNHCR issued return certificates for IDP families living in 8 sites in Nord-Kivu Province, enabling them to enroll their children to school wherever they return. This is part of an effort to ensure **durable solutions** to displacement. Plastic sheets were also distributed to the families.
- UNHCR and partners **trained 3 community-based structures** on protection monitoring, SGBV, community-based protection, and advocacy. These structures will contribute to protection monitoring in their respective areas in Nord-Kivu Province.

Sud-Kivu Province

- According to UNHCR's protection monitoring, **4,100 households remained displaced** in a locality in Kalehe Territory, due to inter-ethnic conflicts that occurred in the past year. UNHCR and partners found many unaccompanied minors, and registered significant numbers of protection incidents, including physical and sexual aggressions, rapes, and looting of agricultural products. The **need for peaceful coexistence** activities between IDPs and the host community is urgent.

Kasai region

- UNHCR's partner NRC will now be able to **reach 2,545 households with shelter assistance** by the end of 2018, in the Kasai region. This increase in target follows operational adjustments.
- In Kasai Central Province, UNHCR and its partner ActionAid started a distribution of **mobile phones to 1,800 IDP, returnee and host community households** in Kananga town and Dimbelenge Territory. They were selected according to vulnerability criteria set by UNHCR. So far, 1,000 households have been given a phone with a SIM card and a mobile money account. Each household will receive a cash transfer of \$100 once the phone distribution is complete.
- UNHCR's partner ActionAid sensitized 1,573 people on the **reduction and prevention of protection risks**, such as SGBV and child abuse, in Kasai Oriental and Kasai Central Provinces. People reached were IDPs, returnees, and host community members, including children, and community and religious leaders.
- UNHCR's partners War Child and CNR organized **peaceful coexistence workshops** in various locations in Kasai and Kasai Central Provinces. They reached 683 and 630 IDPs and host community members in each province.



A displaced woman receives a mobile phone in Kananga, Kasai Central. © UNHCR 2018 / R. Ross

Tanganyika / Haut-Katanga Provinces

- The Provincial Government of Tanganyika Province has informed humanitarian actors on 14 August 2018 that it **plans to close 19 IDP sites in or near Kalemie**. Three sites, namely Katanika, Moni and Lubuye, were closed in August by the authorities, who then transported IDPs towards their areas of origin. A dialogue between humanitarian actors and the authorities on the way ahead is ongoing.
- Following the site closures, UNHCR and its partner AIDES and CNR carried out missions with IOM in 3 villages in Kalemie Territory, to assess the **return situation**. Numerous returnee households were found coming from all three closed sites. The majority were staying in Taba village.

- IDPs reported **not having been informed** of the site closures, and some reported having been brutalized. Some of the returnees had received food assistance, while shelter and WASH conditions were inadequate.



IDPs transferred to Taba village, Tanganyika Province. © UNHCR 2018

- **670 human rights violations** were recorded in Haut-Katanga and Lualaba provinces through UNHCR's protection monitoring: 18 violations of the right to life and physical integrity, 17 cases of Sexual and Gender-based Violence (SGBV), and 635 violations of the right to liberty. In Lualaba Province, 189 pleas were made as a response, leading to the release of 98 persons and return of property to 78 persons. In addition, sensitization was carried out by UNHCR's partner Save Congo.

Clusters and Working Groups

Protection Cluster

- The Protection Cluster contributed to information-gathering and advocacy with regards to the **closure of three IDP sites in Kalemie**, Tanganyika Province, and their consequences in terms of the protection of IDPs.
- In Sud-Kivu Province, the Protection Cluster highlighted the **alarming situation in Bijombo**, as fighting resurged and the protection situation worsened. Limited resources and presence remain an important gap affecting the protection response.
- The National Protection Cluster shared its 3W mapping of DRC, which recorded **127 operational actors** and **228 projects** that benefitted **1,142,655 IDPs, refugees, returnees and host community members** during the first semester of 2018 – a majority being children.
- The **Housing, Land and Property (HLP) Sub-Cluster** has been reactivated in Bunia, Ituri Province, where increasing returns of IDPs to their areas of origin are likely to raise issues related to housing, land, and property.

Shelter Working Group

- The Shelter Working Group, led by UNHCR, shared that an estimated **19,000 shelters were destroyed** and another **33,000 damaged** in 8 Health Zones visited in Sud-Kivu and Maniema Provinces, during a joint assessment conducted with the WASH Cluster and the REACH Initiative.

Cash Working Group

- An initial **mapping of cash-based interventions** in the DRC, conducted by the Cash Working Group, found that over **\$1.2 million** had been distributed as multipurpose cash assistance in 2018. 75% consisted of unconditional cash transfers, and over 50% was transferred through agreements with banks.

Working in partnership

- UNHCR signed a grant agreement with the International Olympic Committee (IOC) in August, in view of implementing a **Sports for Protection** project to benefit South Sudanese, Burundian and Central African refugees at Meri, Lusenda, Inke, Boyabu and Bili refugee sites.
- Together with the DRC Government, through the National Commission for Refugees (CNR), UNHCR ensures international protection and delivery of multi-sectorial assistance to persons of concern. UNHCR closely collaborates with other UN Agencies and other humanitarian actors for a coordinated and effective response. UNHCR works with 15 implementing partners (ACTION AID, ACTED, ADES, ADSSE, AIDES, AIRD, ADRA, COOPI, CNR, DRC, INTERSOS, NRC, SAVE CONGO, TSF and WAR CHILD) and many operational partners in the DRC.
- UNHCR leads the Protection Cluster, which coordinates the protection actors in their support of IDPs and other vulnerable persons. UNHCR co-leads the Protection and Prevention component of the National Strategy on Sexual and Gender-Based Violence. UNHCR leads the Shelter Working Group within the Shelter/NFI Cluster. Jointly with IOM, UNHCR co-leads the Camp Coordination and Camp Management Working Group.

External / Donor Relations

As of 28 August 2018

Special thanks to donors for UNHCR operations in DRC in 2018

United States of America (22.7 M) | CERF (3.9 M) | Sweden (2.5 M) | European Union (2.4 M) | Canada (1.2 M) | France (1.2 M) | Private donors Australia (0.61 M) | UNIQLO (0.48 M) | UNAIDS (0.17 M) | Miscellaneous private donors (0.16 M)

Special thanks to donors of regional or sub-regional funds 2018

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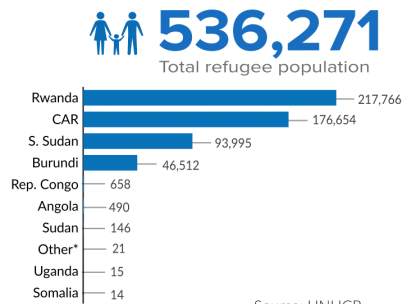
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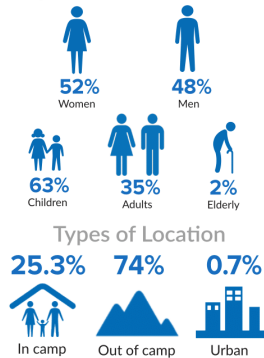
Refugee Population in DRC



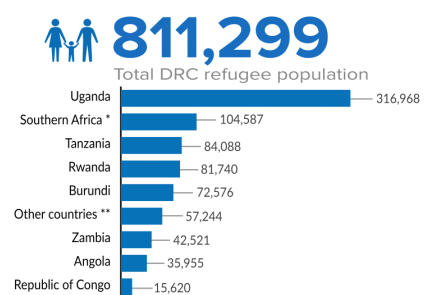
Source: UNHCR

*Other include Somalia, Ivory Coast, Eritrea, Liberia, Syria, Chad, etc.

Age and gender breakdown of refugee population in DRC



DRC Refugees in Africa



Source: UNHCR

*Southern Africa include Namibia, Botswana, Lesotho, Malawi, Zimbabwe, Mozambique, Madagascar, RSA and the Kingdom of Eswatini.

**Other Countries include South Sudan, Kenya, Central African Republic and Chad

