

## ITURI AND NORTH KIVU PROVINCES DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO

27 January – 3 February 2020

### Operational context and protection situation



*The lack of schools for displaced children in the surroundings of Nobili, North Kivu Province, forces pupils to attend school in the open. © UNHCR/Sakouvogi*

#### Ituri Province

In the territories of Djugu, Mahagi and Irumu, armed groups continued incursions against the local population. Ongoing military operations against armed groups have significantly restricted humanitarian access to people in need in the south of Irumu Territory. Crime-related incidents, such as kidnappings, ambushes and looting, continue to pose security problems along the highway in the three territories.

**Background:** Since 6 June 2019, generalized violence led to massive new displacements in Ituri Province. 230,357 persons fled their homes between June and November 2019; bringing the total to 1.1 million IDPs in the Province, according to the Commission de Mouvement de Population (CMP), a commission made up of Government and humanitarian agencies. The majority reside in host communities (80%), while 220,000 have fled towards 87 IDPs sites. 87,577 IDPs live in 12 displacement sites coordinated by UNHCR, 53,552 IDPs reside in 39 sites coordinated by IOM, and the remaining are staying in spontaneous sites.

#### North Kivu Province

Congolese troops continued their military operation against the ADF armed group in Beni Territory, who have responded by a series of killings of residents in and around the major agglomerations of Beni, Oicha and Eringeti. Several attacks took place on the road connecting Beni, Mangina and Biakato, and the incursions are seemingly intensifying in areas closest to the city. 36 people were reported to have been killed, while hundreds have died due to violence since November 2019. The main attack took place on 28 January in Manzingi, a village 20 kilometers from Oicha. Consequently, population movements intensified, notably towards Oicha, Beni town and Nobili. In Rutshuru Territory, 15 students were kidnapped by members of an armed group and in Masisi Territory, several killings and kidnappings took place.

**Background:** Over 1.6 million IDPs are located in North Kivu Province as January 2020 according to the Commission de Mouvement de Population, a commission made up of Government and humanitarian agencies. As reported by OCHA, an estimated 436,000 persons fled their homes between September 2019 and January 2020. The vast majority of IDPs in North Kivu (94%) live with host communities, while some 67,903 reside in 13 IDP sites coordinated by UNHCR and 22,500 displaced persons reside in 9 sites coordinated by IOM.

## Immediate needs

- Protection from violence and conflict for women, men and children.
- Child protection, with unaccompanied children, risks of child recruitment and SGBV against minors.
- Birth registration, as 95% of IDP children in host families and IDP sites do not have birth certificates.
- Response to Sexual and Gender-Based Violence (SGBV) against women and girls.
- Shelter support is needed for the displaced and host families.
- Non-Food Items (NFIs) are still needed for many IDP families, especially clothes and kitchen sets.
- Menstrual hygiene kits for women and girls.
- Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) needs are urgent, especially in Nibili where over 100,000 IDPs are gathered with barely any water infrastructure.
- Access to education, as the majority of children in living in Djugu, Irumu and Mahagi territories are out of school, including those residing in UNHCR-coordinated IDP sites.

## UNHCR's response

### Ituri Province

 **PROTECTION** As part of its annual participatory assessment, UNHCR conducted 24 focus group discussions with 237 representatives of IDP and host communities. The discussions were organized separately with women, men, girls, and boys. The most urgent issues reported by participants included the lack of security, of access to food, of access to shelter, of livelihoods, and of access to education.

Amidst ongoing hostilities in Djugu Territory, which has caused many civilian casualties and population movements, UNHCR and OCHA organized a joint rapid needs assessment mission from 18 to 21 January in the areas of Drodro, Rho and Bule, where an estimated 32,000 newly-arrived IDPs had been hosted. UNHCR's partner INTERSOS and Government actor *Protection Civile* also accompanied the mission.

 **SHELTER AND NFIs** 96 emergency shelters were built at the new Kigonze IDP site (in Bunia) by UNHCR's partner Caritas, bringing the total to 1,655 shelters built so far. UNHCR relocated 133 IDP households to the newly-established site during the reporting period, while about 1,200 families are still located at the General Hospital site. UNHCR also distributed NFI kits to 131 of the IDP households who were relocated to Kigonze.

### North Kivu Province

 **PROTECTION** Following mass displacements from the Watalinga chiefdom (Beni Territory) to Nibili in December 2019, UNHCR lead the design of a harmonized data collection tool to set up a common database for all actors on the ground. 70 data collectors affiliated with humanitarian agencies, including three community-based protection structures, were trained by UNHCR and NGO Samaritan's Purse on how to identify IDPs and people with specific needs. UNHCR, OCHA, Caritas and other actors have so far recorded 100,000 IDPs.

UNHCR held a working session with 43 members of the IDP committees (seven women and 36 men) to support their planning and response to the current crisis in Nibili.

 **SHELTER AND NFIs** Due to the lack of accommodation for displaced persons in Nibili, many sought shelter in public places including churches, classrooms and in the open air. UNHCR has started to provide emergency shelters, targeting the most vulnerable first. During the reporting week, 362 households (2,280 individuals) received tarpaulins with the aim of decongesting land, schools and churches and help IDPs settle within the community.

Due to the lack of classroom space, some classes are taking place in the open air, without any roof or benches. With the fast-approaching rainy season, UNHCR is identifying schools with sufficient space in view of providing hangars to serve as temporary classrooms.

## UNHCR's presence

UNHCR's Sub-Office in Goma covers North Kivu and Ituri Provinces and supervises operations in South Kivu Province. The Goma Sub-Office oversees all North Kivu, while a smaller Field Unit in Bunia manages operations for Ituri. To meet growing needs in the northern part of North Kivu – including Ebola preparedness needs and emergency response – the operation has opened a Field Unit in Beni in October 2019, and the Goma Sub-Office is being reinforced with permanent and temporary staff.

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## External Relations

As of 6 February 2020

### Donors for UNHCR operations in DRC in 2020

United Nations Foundation (0.32 M) | International Olympic Committee (0.23 M) | European Union (0.17 M)

### Major donors of regional or other funds with soft earmarking 2020

Germany (8.4 M) | Canada (2.3 M)

### Major donors of un-earmarked funds in 2020

Sweden (76.4 M) | Norway (41.4 M) | Netherlands (36.1 M) | Denmark (34.6 M) | United Kingdom (31.7 M) | Germany (26.4 M) | Switzerland (16.4 M)

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