

Democratic Republic of the Congo

1 - 31 March 2018

Cash-based Interventions were launched in Mulongwe site, through provider Vodacash. **711 households received SIM cards** (out of 850 households planned) which will allow them to receive multi-purpose cash for shelter, education and to start income-generating activities.

On 15th March, 78 recently arrived **vulnerable refugees from CAR** staying with host families in Gbadolite area, **were relocated to Inke camp**, to ensure better access to assistance.

From 14th to 18th March, **UNHCR provided 2,139 non-food items kits** to internally displaced persons in Katanika II site near the town of Kalemie (Tanganyika province).

KEY INDICATORS

541,359

Refugees in DRC as of 31 March 2018

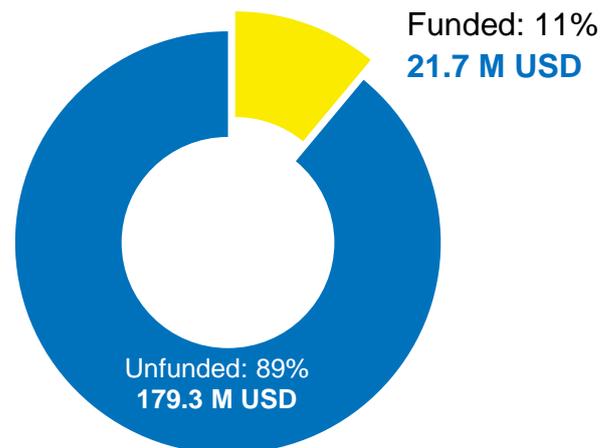
4.49 Million*

Internally Displaced People in DRC as of 31 December 2017

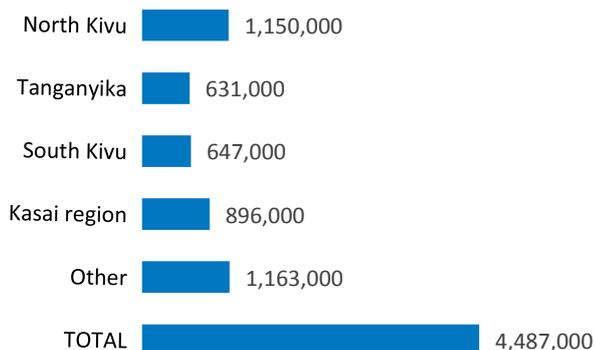
FUNDING 2018 (AS OF 4 APRIL 2018)

USD 202.4 M

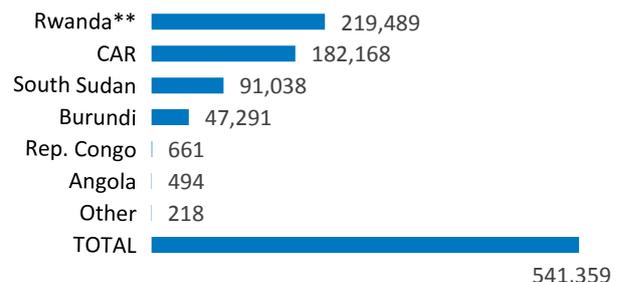
requested for the DRC (including special situations)



Internally Displaced People by Province *



Refugees by country of origin



* Source: OCHA (31 December 2017)

**This figure is based on a pre-registration exercise conducted by the National Commission for Refugees in 2014-2015. Biometric registration is ongoing. So far, 42,132 refugees were registered.

Update on Achievements

Burundian refugees

- 562 Burundian refugees were transferred to Mulongwe site from transit centers during the month, bringing the total number of refugees accommodated on the site to 3,230. Moreover, construction works continued, with 51 common dorms completed and other 12 under construction.
- Three unaccompanied refugee children were reunited with their families in Burundi after evaluation of the security situation and since the family environment was deemed favorable to the psychosocial development of the children.
- Six cases of sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV) were reported in Mulongwe and Lusenda sites, including four cases of physical aggression and two cases of rape of minors. The survivors were referred for medical treatment and received psycho-social support.
- UNHCR partner ActionAid distributed cash vouchers to refugees in Mulongwe site to let them pay school fees to cover the second term for their children. The cash-based approach was judged to have a strong impact as 74% of households who received the voucher paid school fees for their children. ActionAid will continue to conduct sensitization activities to encourage parents to pay the fees with the money received. In Lusenda camp, refugees were to receive cash vouchers in April.
- UNHCR partner ActionAid distributed 102 school kits from Education Cluster stock to primary school children in Kasese School, near Mulongwe site.
- The 1st of March, the Katalukulu Health Center was inaugurated after rehabilitation by operational partner AFPDE (*Association des Femmes pour la Promotion du Développement Endogene*). The Center is integrated in the national public health system and will be managed by UNHCR medical partner ADES. Refugees will receive free healthcare and locals will benefit from reduced fees. Four shower blocs were also completed for the center to ensure better hygiene for patients.
- Health partner ADES started to provide HIV patients in Lusenda camp with antiretroviral treatments at Lusenda Health Post. Therefore, patients do no longer have to go to Nundu General Hospital for the treatments.
- Cash distribution for food purchase was organized by UNHCR and WFP between 9th and 15th March in Lusenda camp. The amount of the WFP cash voucher has been reduced by 20% (from 15 \$ to 12\$ per person), due to funding shortages.
- UNHCR acquired a drilling machine for wells. 12 UNHCR and partner staff were trained on its use. The drilling machine will significantly improve the access to drinking water in refugee hosting structures.
- 8,557 women and girls in reproductive age received hygiene kits, including underwear, a 3 liters bucket, 300 gr of soap and 3 packs of absorbent cotton.
- Cash-based Interventions were launched in Mulongwe site, through provider Vodacash. 711 households received SIM cards (out of 850 households planned) that will allow them to receive multi-purpose cash for shelter, education and to start income-generating activities. The plan is to reach 2,000 households by the end of the year.
- 16 new biomass briquette production associations were created in Lusenda camp and 15 others in Mulongwe site bringing up to 40 the number of production associations.

The aim is to cover the needs of all refugees in the camps and reduce the environmental impact from harvesting wood.

- On 7th March, an estimated 2,580 Burundians (asylum seekers and others who had not claimed asylum) hosted in a makeshift site close to Kamanyola (Walungu Territory, South Kivu Province) left DRC to Rwanda on their own initiative.

Central African refugees

- Continued clashes in Rafai area, 150 km east of Bangassou in the Central African Republic, pushed new asylum seekers to cross into DRC throughout March, using dugout canoes to reach Ndu and Nganya (Bas-Uele Province), after long journeys on foot. Migration authorities did not give figures yet but reported significant arrivals since 10th March. The refugee committee in Ndu reported to have welcomed 500 people, but believed that more have arrived.
- From 13th to 23th March, a vulnerability survey, carried out jointly by UNHCR and WFP, was conducted in the four camps of North and South Ubangi Province. The survey, carried using Kobo Toolbox software, aimed at identifying vulnerable refugee households in order to better target the assistance. It reached 90% of the registered households. The same activity will be carried out in the other CAR refugee camps where interviewers were already trained.
- On 15th March, 78 recently arrived vulnerable refugees staying with hosting families in Gbadolite area, were relocated to Inke camp, where they will more easily receive the assistance they need. The new arrivals were greeted warmly by their compatriots.
- In Inke camp, on 9th March, dance classes resumed for the second phase of the project "Refugees on the move". The project, funded by directly by French NGO African Artist for Development (AAD) with choreographers from Kongo Drama Company (Kinshasa), aims at reducing conflict and violence, contributing to restoring self-confidence and promoting dialogue and peaceful coexistence through dance and body expression. More than 450 participants of all ages (refugees and locals) were attending different classes and feedback from refugees was positive (Watch the video: Congo dance project helps refugees take steps towards rebuilding lives).
- UNHCR partner TSF (*Terre Sans Frontières*) launched the construction of a listening center near the village of Ndu (Bondo Territory, Bas Uele Province), where high numbers of Central African refugees are located.
- Partner TSF was also preparing an area near Ndu where 500 transitional shelters will be constructed for the refugees using community-based approach.



Construction of a listening center near Ndu, Bondo Territory, Bas-Uele Province © UNHCR/N. Gergely



Clearing of the area where transitional shelters for refugees in Ndu will be constructed, Bondo Territory, Bas-Uele Province © UNHCR/N. Gergely

Rwandan refugees

- A pilot exercise on data collection for Rwandan refugees using Kobo Toolbox software was launched in the two Kivu provinces on 8th March. This exercise aims to better understand numbers and locations of Rwandan refugees as well as their intentions regarding return or other durable solutions. By the end of the month, 21,733 refugees were recorded in South and North Kivu provinces, and intentions of voluntary returns were also collected. 49% of the Rwandan refugees indicated that they are interested in returning to Rwanda, whilst 38% indicated that they do not have the intention to return back to their country of origin. 13% were undecided with regards to voluntary repatriation. In parallel, a biometric registration exercise was ongoing in transit centers in both Kivu provinces. By end March, 874 refugees were biometrically registered. Of these, 51% were new registrations and 49% refugees that came to renew their refugee certificates.

- Repatriation numbers in March continued to be low. In North Kivu, 240 Rwandan refugees returned voluntarily to their home country during March (continuing the trend of January and February), while in South Kivu there were no candidates for the month of March. In order to counter the belief that the assistance upon return to Rwanda has been halted or reduced, actions were being implemented to inform refugees appropriately and to increase the trends for the coming weeks. Since the beginning of the year, 870 Rwandan refugees returned voluntarily to Rwanda from DRC (preliminary figures, pending confirmation from Rwandan Authorities).

South Sudanese refugees

- 500 households in Doruma, Dungu, Meri and Biringi refugee sites received farming tools and seedlings for the upcoming agricultural season. In Biringi, a bakery was opened by an association of ten refugees supported by UNHCR partner ADSSE which provided a stove, construction material, baking tools, ingredients and training. Promotion of self-reliance activities is of utmost importance for refugee households, also due to the reduction of 20% of WFP cash grants for food provision.
- A borehole was drilled in the newest part of Biringi site, bringing water availability to 20 liters per person per day. Two others were already drilled in Aru Transit Center after UNHCR acquired a water drilling machine. UNHCR partner ADES in collaboration with Biringi Health Zone trained the newly formed water management committee on several issues related to water management, sanitation and hygiene.
- Health and nutrition committees were established at the new Kaka site (Haut-Uele Province). The committees are composed by refugee women and men who support medical partner ADES in identification and referral of sick refugees and in carrying out sensitization campaigns on disease prevention and nutritional screening. UNHCR supports community implication by the refugees in all areas, including health, sexual and gender-based violence, nutrition, education and water.
- Since the beginning of the year, UNHCR partner COOPI, in collaboration with the dedicated refugee committee, identified and referred for medical and/or psychosocial assistance six sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV) cases in Meri site and eight in Biringi site. Survivors were also supported with legal assistance and socio-economic reintegration.
- UNHCR handed over two police cars to the local authorities in Faradje (Haut-Uélé Province) to facilitate patrols and thereby improve the security of the population in general and the refugees at Meri site in particular.
- UNHCR distributed non-food items to 5,490 refugees at Meri site, including sleeping mats, blankets, mosquito nets and soap. Moreover, 4,542 households received jerry cans. In Biringi site, UNHCR distributed hygiene kits (sanitary pads, underwear, soap and bucket) to 808 women and girls. Nevertheless, UNHCR cannot provide enough relief items due to funding shortages. Over 10,000 South Sudanese refugees are still in need of non-food items.
- 15,000 refugees living with the local communities in Dungu Territory (Haut-Uele Province) received their monthly ration of corn flour, pulse and vegetable oil from WFP. UNHCR's new implementing partner AJEDEC, supported WFP with this undertaking. In Meri and Biringi site, 2,500 refugees who did not yet receive cash grants because they were not on the list yet, received food rations.

Internally Displaced People (IDPs)

Ituri

- Since mid-December 2017, clashes and attacks in Djugu Territory have displaced an estimated 343,140 people as of 25th March (according to Provincial Commission on Population Movements) and forced over 43,000 to cross into Uganda.
- Presence of security forces was reinforced in Djugu Territory. Nevertheless, since beginning of March, a new wave of violence was recorded, with dozen of villages completely destroyed. The violence was spreading towards Irumu Territory and the town of Bunia, with heavy casualties among civilians, including children. Nevertheless, according to UNHCR protection monitoring partner INTERSOS, in late March, some returns were observed from the city of Bunia toward different locations in Djugu Territory.
- UNHCR provided 1,360 hygienic kits for distribution to women and girls in reproductive age. They were distributed in March to IDPs in partnership with the RRMP Project (*Reponse Rapide aux Mouvements de Populations*). They are part of 6,000 non-food items provided by UNHCR, including plastic sheets, blankets, mosquito nets as well as dignity kits, which were transported to Bunia.



Spontaneous IDP site in the town of Bunia. © INTERSOS/March 2018

Kasai

- UNHCR partner ActionAid, carried out a two-days training on data collection about Gender-Based Violence cases using Android mobile phones for 78 community protection volunteers and paralegals from Miabi, Kabeya Kamenga and Lupatapata territories of Kasai Oriental Province as well as from Dimbelenge Territory of Kasai Central Province. This was the second training of this type.
- 157 boxes of drugs (over 1.6 tons) were received in Kananga with the support of Logistic Cluster. This was the first batch of the three tons of medicines that UNHCR will donate to CARITAS, for distribution in the health centers of Kasai Central Province. Moreover, other 320 boxes were handed over to CARITAS for distribution in health centers and hospitals of the Kasai Oriental Province.
- In Bulungu Sector (Kazumba Territory, Kasai Central Province), UNHCR partner NRC supported 197 households (displaced, returnees and host community) to build their own

shelters under a community- and cash-based approach. The project was launched in October 2017 and all beneficiaries have now moved into their new houses.

Tanganyika / Haut-Katanga

- From 6th to 8th March, UNHCR organized a training on protection monitoring and on use of tablets with Kobo Toolbox software for data collection. 36 UNHCR and partner staff were trained.
- From 14th to 18th March, UNHCR contributed with 2,139 non-food items kits to a distribution targeting 4,219 households in Katanika II site, conducted in collaboration with RRMP mechanism (*Reponse Rapide aux Mouvements de Population*) and Implementing Partners.
- On 23rd March, UNHCR started distribution of non-food items in Pweto Center (Haut-Katanga Province), targeting 1,000 households.

North Kivu / South Kivu

- UNHCR Protection teams from South Kivu held a first in a series of training of trainers for INTERSOS protection staff (monitors, supervisors, psychosocial agents, database assistants). Subjects included the key elements of protection monitoring, community-based protection, accountability to affected populations and Prevention on Sexual Exploitation and Abuse.
- On the 20th of March, an advocacy event to promote women's access to land in Rutshuru Territory, supported by UNHCR and its protection partner INTERSOS, gathered women's organizations, civil society, local authorities, Army and Police to reflect on solutions to challenges women face to access land. Certain commitments were made including granting of temporary access to land, sensitizations and improving security in agricultural zones.

Cluster Activities (all provinces)

- In Tshikapa (Kasai Province), the Protection Cluster with members of the Health Cluster established a mapping of free healthcare providers and a system for monitoring the effectiveness of free healthcare. This is to follow up on concerns expressed by IDPs concerning access to free healthcare.
- The Protection Cluster in South Kivu, with the support of CARITAS and UNHCR, facilitated a workshop on 6th and 7th March for 20 of its members with the aim to harmonize community-based approaches and improve coordination in the support work to community structures.

Critical Needs and Priorities

- The biometric registration of CAR refugees (older and new arrivals alike) in Bas-Uele Province remained a major concern for humanitarians. It is vital for obtaining reliable statistics and for refugee protection. UNHCR Gbadolite was working to launch a new registration exercise in the coming month.
- In Bas-Uele Province, refugees in both Monga and Ndu voiced concerns about the lack of access to medical care. The health centers of the region are very poorly equipped and procuring supplies remains a challenge. In Ndu, the situation was aggravated by the recent departure of MSF (*Médecins Sans Frontières*). According to UNHCR medical partner ADES, there is an urgent need to strengthen the Ndu Health Center.
- 85 additional police officers are needed for Meri site (Bas-Uele province) in order to ensure the safety of the refugees and host population, given the short distance of the site from the South Sudanese border and frequent cross-border incursions by armed elements.
- The Nyalanya Health Center, close to Meri site, which serves both the refugee and local population, was carrying out 650 consultations per week, which is twice its actual capacity, with serious implications on the quality of health care. At least one additional health center is required, as Meri site now hosts 31,000 refugees.
- More boreholes are needed in Meri site where water availability is below 9 liters per person per day, i.e. less than half of the standard 20 liters.
- The funding currently available for the Burundian situation will not allow school fees to be covered for the upcoming school year starting in September 2018.
- Stocks of non-food items are running out for Burundian refugees in Lusenda camp, as well as hygiene kits for women and girls. Funding is lacking to renew those stocks.

Working in partnership

- 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 collaborate with other UN Agencies and other humanitarian actors for a coordinated and effective response. UNHCR works with 16 implementing partners (ACTION AID, ACTED, ADES, ADSSE, AIDES, AIRD, AJEDEC, ADRA, COOPI, CNR, DRC, INTERSOS, NRC, SAVE CONGO, TSF and WAR CHILD) and many operational partners.
- UNHCR leads the Protection Cluster, which coordinate the protection actors in their support of IDPs and other vulnerable. UNHCR co-leads the Protection and Prevention component of the National Strategy on Sexual and Gender-Based Violence in DRC.

External / Donors Relations

Special thanks to donors for UNHCR operations in DRC in 2018

United States of America (12.7 M) | CERF (3.9 M) | Sweden (2.5 M) | European Union (2.5 M) | Canada (1.1 M) | UNAIDS (0.05M)| Vodafone Foundation (0.04 M)

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

United States of America (56.2 M) | Germany (5.1 M) | Private Donors Australia (3.8 M) | Canada (3.3 M)

Thanks to the major donors of unrestricted contributions 2018

Sweden (98 M) | Norway (43 M) | Netherlands (39 M) | United Kingdom (32 M) | Denmark (25 M) | Private Donors Spain (19 M) | Australia (19 M) | Switzerland (15 M) | Italy (11 M)

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LINKS

[DR Congo Emergency page](#) – [UNHCR DRC operation page](#) - [DRC Facebook page](#) – [UNHCR Chief meets urban refugees on Congo visit](#)

