

Democratic Republic of the Congo

UNHCR shelter assistance in 2019

January 2020



In 2019, UNHCR provided shelter assistance to **23,448** households in DRC



4,590 refugee households
18,858 internally displaced households

Total shelter budget
US\$ 7.4 million

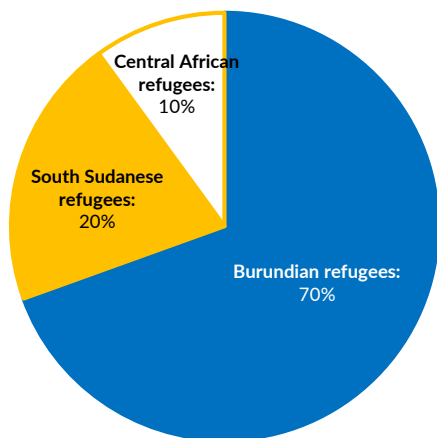
THE CONTEXT OF 2019: The year 2019 was marked by **new arrivals of South Sudanese refugees** in DRC's Haut-Uele and Ituri provinces, creating additional shelter needs, and leading to the establishment of the new **Bele settlement** in Haut Uele Province. Relocation of refugees to Bele is helping to decongest the overcrowded Meri settlement. In addition, refugees are being moved away from unsafe border areas.

From May 2019, a dramatic **upsurge of violence in Ituri and North Kivu provinces** led to massive new internal displacement. This in turn increased emergency shelter needs. UNHCR contributed to opening the new Kigonze displacement site in Bunia (Ituri Province) to decongest other overcrowded sites, and deployed significant means to provide shelter to the displaced and returnees. UNHCR declared an internal **L3 emergency** for North Kivu, South Kivu and Ituri in November 2019 as more than two million were newly-displaced in the provinces in the past 18 months. This declaration initiated increased response measures.

At the end of 2018 and in 2019, over **43,000** persons, including Congolese refugees, were **expelled from Angola**, creating shelter needs in the Kasai region. From August 2019, these needs were compounded by the **spontaneous return** of thousands of Congolese refugees from Angola. These population movements of refugees, internally displaced persons, returnees and refugee returnees in late 2018 and throughout 2019 created a bigger demand on shelter. UNHCR, together with its partners, led a response to these needs in 2019, which will be continued in 2020.

REFUGEES

Shelter assistance per refugee group
(in % of households assisted)



A Burundian refugee builds her own house with UNHCR's cash-for-shelter assistance in Mulongwe settlement, South Kivu Province. © UNHCR/Sanne Biesmans

Shelter assistance per type
(in % of total households assisted)



63% repair kits*



37% semi-durable shelters/local construction

In 2019, **93%** of the refugees who received UNHCR's shelter assistance lived inside refugee camps/settlements.

UNHCR started developing the new Bele settlement for South Sudanese refugees in Haut Uele Province.

Types of delivery of assistance
(in % of total households assisted)

Cash-for-shelter: **37%**

In-kind: **63%**

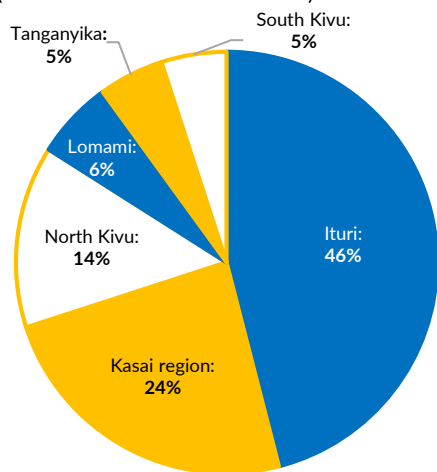
* In 2019, a majority of UNHCR's shelter assistance for refugees went to repairing shelters in Lusenda camp, home to over 30,000

Burundian refugees in South Kivu Province. New arrivals from South Sudan also accounted for a significant part of UNHCR's shelter assistance. Other Central African and South Sudanese refugees had received shelter assistance in recent years.

INTERNALLY DISPLACED PERSONS

Shelter assistance per area

(in % of total households assisted)



Shelter assistance per type

(in % of total households assisted)



53% emergency shelters

Emergency shelters in DRC are made of sticks and plastic tarpaulin. They look like tents, and offer a rapid solution for shelter.



42% semi-durable shelters

Semi-durable shelters in DRC are made using [local construction practices](#), typically with mud, metal or thatch roofs, and sometimes plastic tarpaulin. They have solid walls and are more resistant than emergency shelters.



5% communal shelters

Communal shelters in DRC are made of wooden structures and plastic tarpaulins, and host 12 families each. They form a rapid solution for shelter.

Types of delivery of assistance
(in % of total households assisted)

Cash-for-shelter: 39%

In-kind: 61%

INFRASTRUCTURE ASSISTANCE (for IDPs and refugees)



47 classrooms were either constructed or rehabilitated



15 transit centers
2 waystations
1 assembly point constructed or rehabilitated*

* These structures are used during refugees' arrival or repatriation. They offer a place to stay, and to carry out food distribution, registration and other activities.



15 bridges
7 roads
1 airstrip constructed, rehabilitated or maintained**

** Building, rehabilitating and/or maintaining transport infrastructures helps to access persons of concern in the most remote locations of DRC.



2 health centers reconstructed
2 health warehouses rehabilitated
1 health center enlarged



19 police accommodations/offices
4 civil registry offices

constructed to support the Government in ensuring security, and delivering birth certificates and civil status documentation

MAIN PARTNERS (for IDPs and refugees)



Caritas



NORWEGIAN
REFUGEE COUNCIL



TERRE
SANS
FRONTIÈRES

SHELTER NEEDS IN 2020

AT LEAST 10,500 REFUGEE HOUSEHOLDS NEED SHELTER ASSISTANCE IN 2020.

- Almost 4,000 South Sudanese households need shelter in 2020 due to overcrowding. In Meri and Biringi settlements, 3,420 households living in shared shelters need shelter assistance, while another 500 need shelter upon relocation to the new Bele settlement. According to the 2019-2020 [DRC Country Refugee Response Plan](#), 49% of the 94,000 South Sudanese refugees in DRC did not have access to decent shelter, as of September 2018.
- At least 3,000 extremely vulnerable Central African households need shelter in 2020, in and outside of camps. This is not counting the refugees who were hit by severe flooding in late 2019, following which many are in need of shelter assistance.
- 500 newly-arrived Burundian refugee households will need shelter upon their installation in Mulongwe settlement.
- 3,000 Burundian refugee households will need shelter reparation kits in Lusenda camp.
- Additional means are needed to bring assistance to remote, out-of-camp locations. 73% of refugees in DRC live outside camps/settlements, but they represented only 7% of those who received UNHCR shelter assistance in 2019.

4.1 MILLION PEOPLE NEED SHELTER IN DRC, according to the 2020 [Humanitarian Needs Overview](#) (HNO).

- 1.4 million are targeted for shelter assistance by the Shelter Cluster (led by UNHCR) in 2020. Half of them were displaced in the last six months and need emergency assistance, while others are returnees and need reconstruction assistance.

UNHCR SHELTER ASSISTANCE IN 2020

REFUGEES

UNHCR will continue to develop the new Bele settlement, and to reorganize the overcrowded Meri settlement for **South Sudanese refugees**. Relocations to Bele will help to decongest Meri settlement, and to move refugees away from unsafe border areas.

UNHCR will continue receiving new arrivals of **Burundian refugees** in Mulongwe settlement, and will need to decongest the overcrowded Transit Centers that are receiving them.

UNHCR will need additional funding to provide shelter to newly-arrived **Central African refugees**, who are crossing into DRC since late 2019. Extremely vulnerable households, both in camps and in host communities, will also need specific shelter assistance.

INTERNALLY DISPLACED PERSONS

In **Ituri and North Kivu provinces**, UNHCR will focus on emergency shelter assistance, given ongoing massive displacements. In **North Kivu Province**, shelter assistance will be provided to returnees too, as some have decided to return home.

In the **Kasai provinces and Tanganyika Province**, UNHCR will mainly provide shelter assistance to the growing numbers who are returning home. Some emergency assistance will also be provided where necessary.

In **South Kivu Province**, there will be a combination of emergency shelter assistance, to respond to the new displacements of late 2019, and of shelter assistance for returnees, as many are also going home and need new shelters.

INFRASTRUCTURES

UNHCR will support **community infrastructures** in the new Bele settlement and in the existing Mulongwe settlement, to ensure access to basic services for both refugees and the host population. Infrastructures will include schools, health centers, roads or bridges.

In areas where refugees are being repatriated to DRC, and where displaced persons are going home, such as Kasai and Tanganyika, UNHCR will support the **reconstruction** of community infrastructures to ensure durable reintegration.

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