

## THE DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO SITUATION

This update concerns the situation of Congolese refugees and asylum-seekers in countries in the region.

As of 31 December 2019, **905,573 Congolese refugees were being hosted in African countries**. From 1 January to 31 December 2019 alone, some 93,410 Congolese fled to neighbouring countries, with a particularly **significant increase** in refugee flows to Uganda.

In 2019, UNHCR together with 63 humanitarian and development partners implemented the **revised 2019-2020 Regional Refugee Response Plan (RRRP) to help respond to the needs of Congolese refugees in Africa**.

### KEY INDICATORS

 **905,573\***

Total number of refugees and asylum-seekers from the DRC

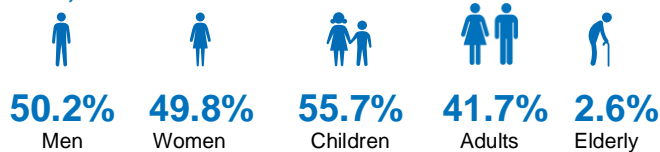
 **3,688**      **93,410\*\***

New arrivals in December 2019      Total of new arrivals in 2019

 **22,390**

Total number of Congolese refugees assisted to return in 2019

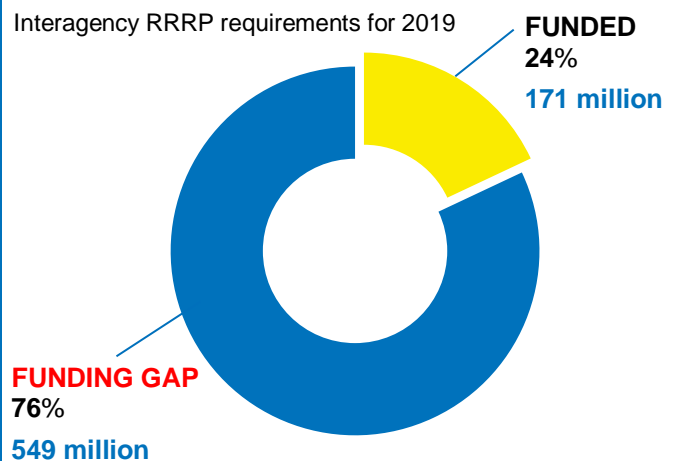
### AGE, GENDER BREAKDOWN \*\*\*



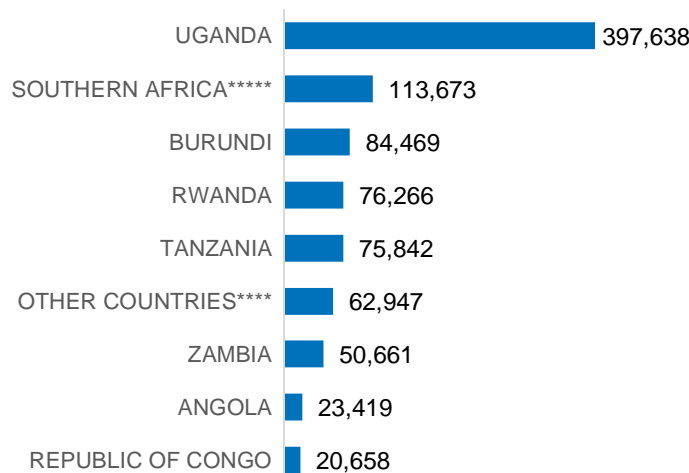
### FUNDING

**USD 720 million**

Interagency RRRP requirements for 2019



### POPULATION OF CONCERN IN HOST COUNTRIES



\* **Total number** includes figures from Angola, Botswana, Burundi, Central African Republic, Chad, Kenya, the Kingdom of Eswatini, Lesotho, Madagascar, Malawi, Mozambique, Namibia, Republic of the Congo, Rwanda, South Africa, South Sudan, Uganda, the United Republic of Tanzania, Zambia and Zimbabwe.

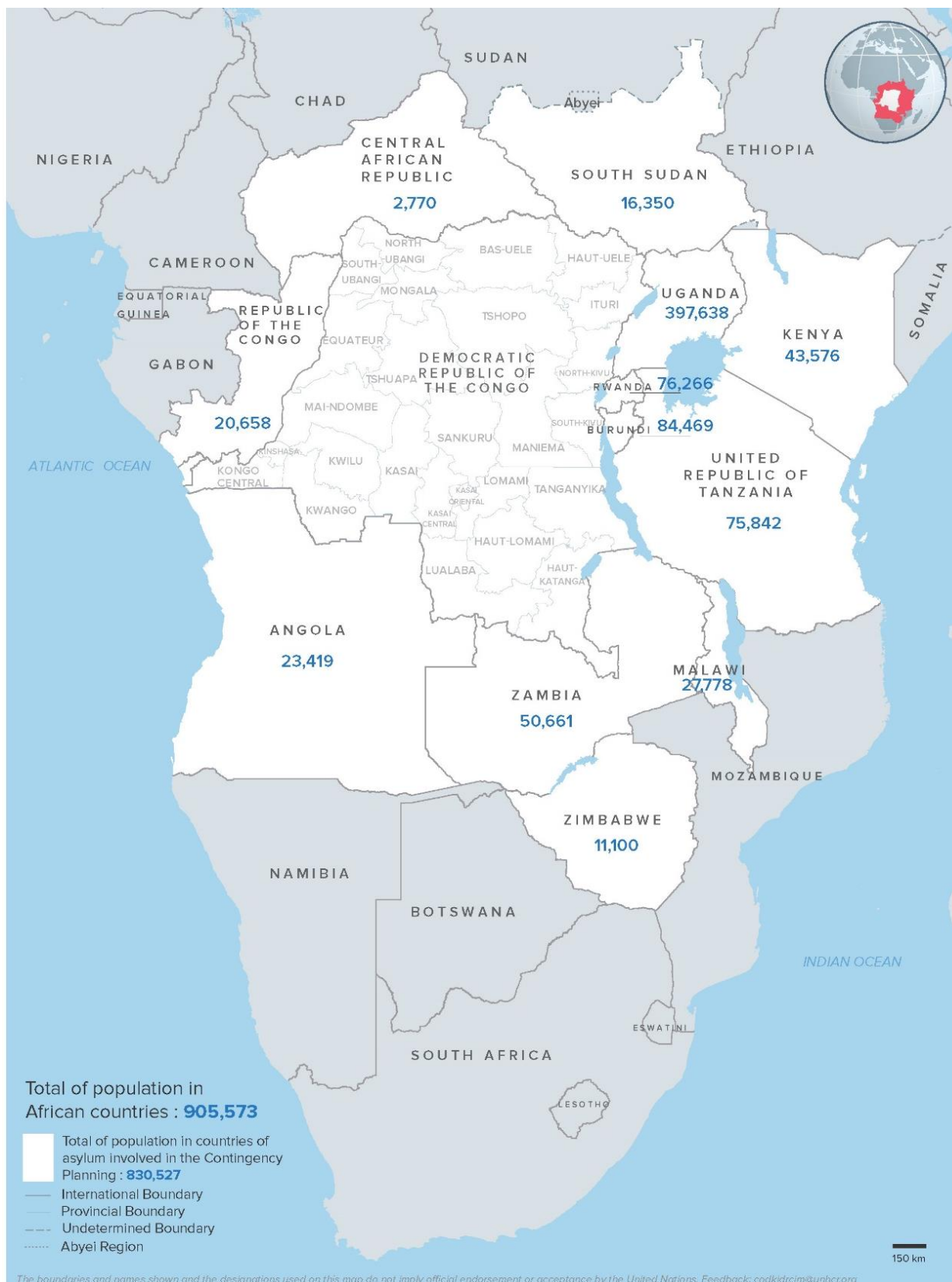
\*\* **New arrivals** include figures from Botswana, Burundi, Kenya, the Kingdom of Eswatini, Lesotho, Malawi, Republic of the Congo, Mozambique, Namibia, South Sudan, Uganda, Zambia and Zimbabwe.

\*\*\* **This age and gender breakdown** include figures from Angola, Botswana, Burundi, Central African Republic, Chad, Kenya, the Kingdom of Eswatini, Lesotho, Madagascar, Malawi, Mozambique, Namibia, Republic of the Congo, Rwanda, South Sudan, Uganda, the United Republic of Tanzania, Zambia and Zimbabwe.

\*\*\*\* **Other countries** include Central African Republic, Chad, Kenya and South Sudan.

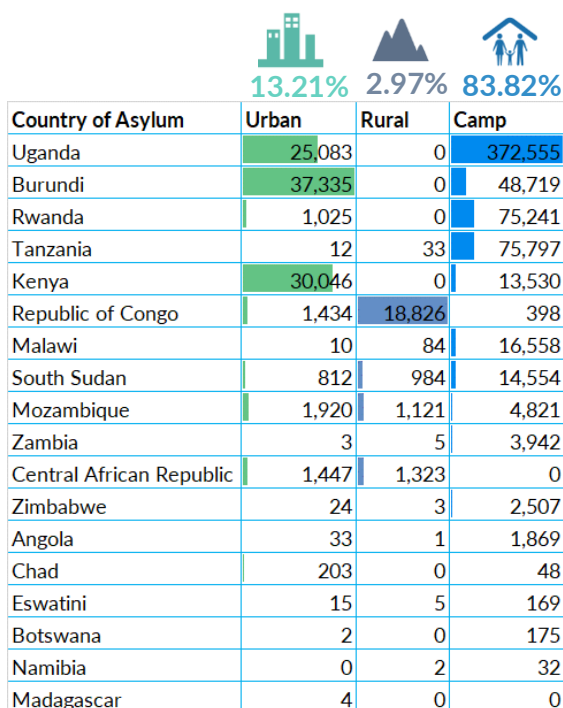
\*\*\*\*\* **Southern Africa** includes Botswana, Indian Ocean islands, the Kingdom of eSwatini, Lesotho, Madagascar, Malawi, Mozambique, Namibia, South Africa and Zimbabwe.

**NUMBER OF REFUGEES & ASYLUM-SEEKERS in countries of asylum as of the end of December 2019**

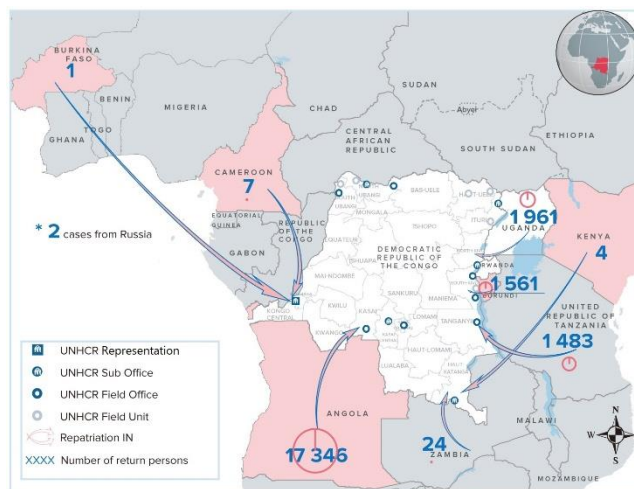


Creation date: 31 December 2019 Sources: UNHCR Feedback: codkidrcim@unhcr.org

## Operational Context



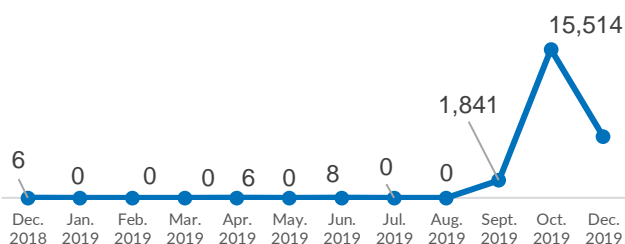
## RETURNEES from January to December 2019



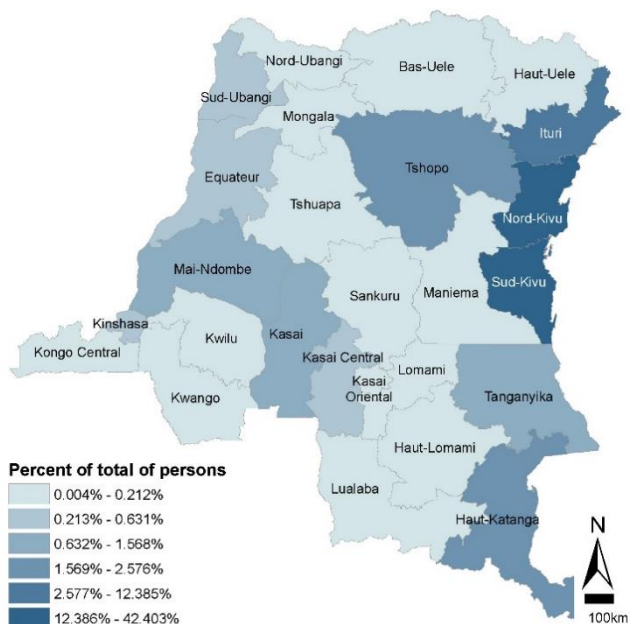
11 received cases in RO of Kinshasa  
 28 received cases in Lubumbashi  
 0 received cases in Kisangani

Proportion of return per country of provenance

## MONTHLY RETURNEES TREND Since December 2018

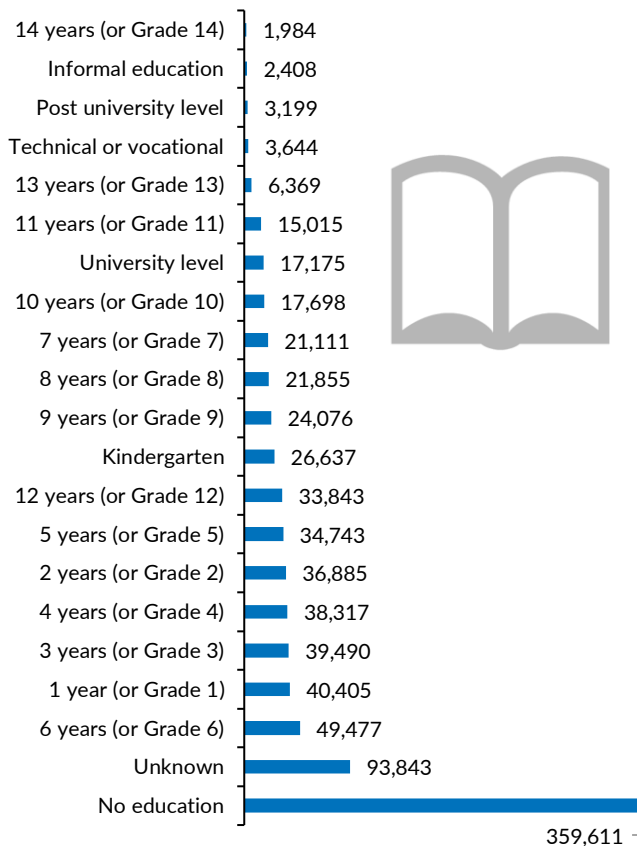


## PROVINCES OF ORIGIN of Congolese Refugees



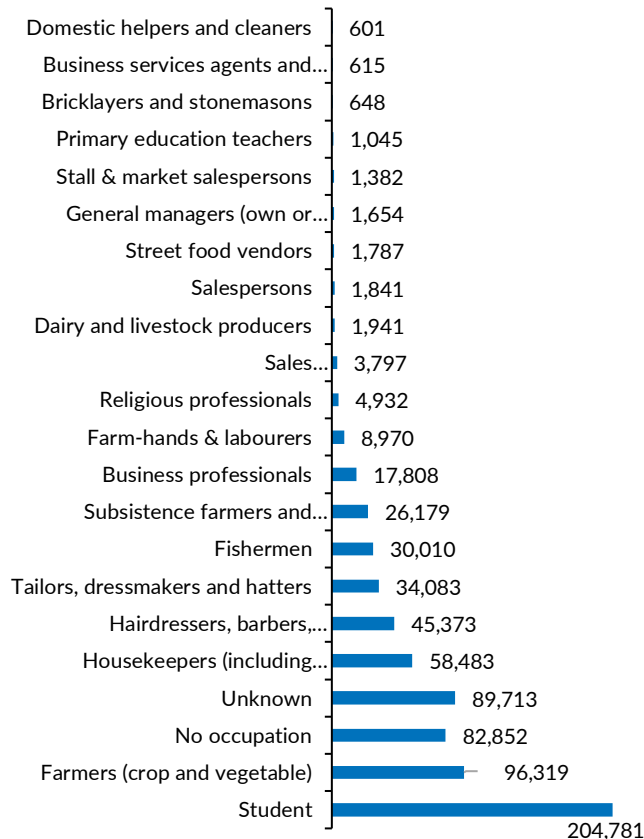
### EDUCATION LEVEL OF REFUGEES

Number of persons per level of education



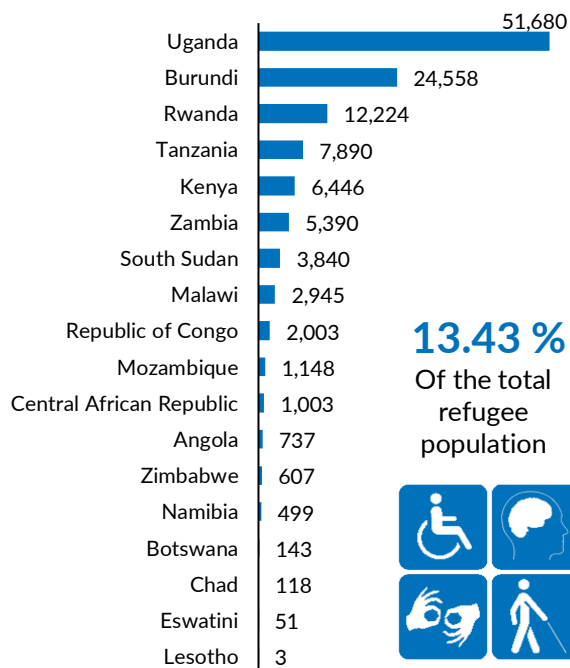
### OCCUPATION OF REFUGEES

Number of persons by type of occupation



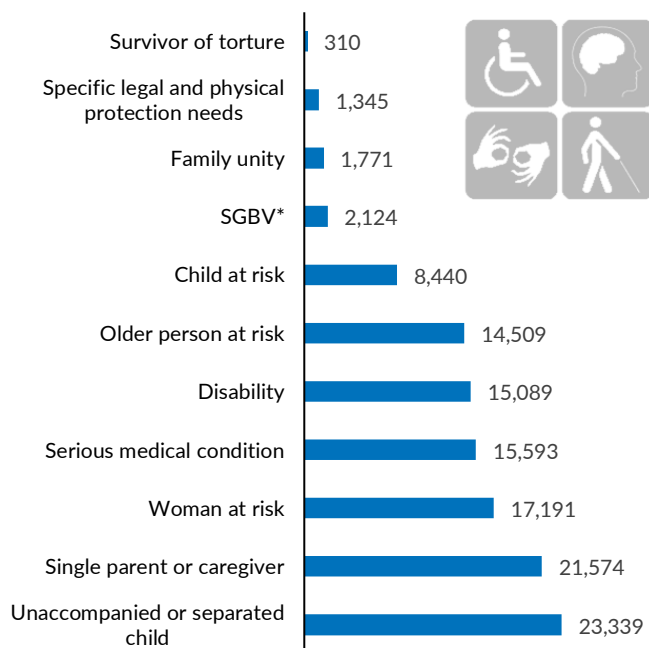
### NUMBER OF PERSONS WITH SPECIFIC NEEDS

Per country of asylum



### NUMBER OF PERSONS WITH SPECIFIC NEEDS

Per category of concern



\* Sexual and Gender Based Violence (SGBV)

The above charts include figures from Angola, Botswana, Burundi, Central African Republic, Chad, Kenya, the Kingdom of Eswatini, Lesotho, Malawi, Mozambique, Namibia, Republic of the Congo, Rwanda, South Sudan, Uganda, the United Republic of Tanzania, Zambia and Zimbabwe.

## Achievements during the reporting period

### ANGOLA



#### PROTECTION

- During the pre-registration of Congolese candidates for Voluntary Repatriation, UNHCR, jointly with the Ministry of the Interior's Service for Migration and Foreigners (SME) and the Ministry of Social Action, Family and Women's Empowerment (MASFAMU), conducted a family reunification exercise. 59 individuals were reunified with their family members before being repatriated to their country of origin.
- Due to bad roads and harsh weather conditions, the repatriation of remaining Congolese refugees who had opted for repatriation from Lóvua settlement in Angola was suspended in December. The voluntary repatriation operation is scheduled to restart in February 2020.
- At the end of December, UNHCR and partners were able to repatriate 2,589 Congolese refugees through organized convoys. 14,757 Congolese returned spontaneously since August 2019.



#### SITE PLANNING, SHELTER & CRIs

- During the reporting period, UNHCR constructed an additional way point in Casonzolo near Dundo, which will be used for the voluntary repatriation operation.



#### FOOD SECURITY & NUTRITION

- Food entitlements were distributed in November and December at Lóvua settlement to improve the immediate food security and health and nutritional well-being of refugees.
- Refugees choosing to voluntarily return to DRC received four-month food rations at the departure centre.



#### EDUCATION

- There was a significant decrease in the number of children attending primary schools in Lóvua settlement in November and December, mainly because of spontaneous returns and facilitated repatriation of refugee children to DRC. In the last three convoys, 153 children were provided school certificates as a proof of their attendance and academic performance. 1,360 children are currently attending primary schools, 336 children are in pre-schools and 472 students take part in literacy courses.



#### WASH

- Water trucking continued in Lóvua settlement, providing refugees with access to life-saving quantities of safe drinking water. Water trucking operations will be reduced in the coming month as two boreholes are now functional in the camp.



#### HEALTH

- During registrations for voluntary repatriation in November, UNHCR's health partner conducted a general health screening. Chronic patients received a three-month supply of medicines.
- Medical escort to the border area by an ambulance was provided for each repatriation convoy. The staffing of the escort team included: one clinical officer, one nurse equipped with first aid and delivery kits, and one psychosocial worker.
- The delivery of the drugs order for November and December is still pending and is creating a shortage. Currently most concerning is the lack of malnutrition treatment, PlumpyNut and PlumpySoup.
- In close collaboration with the Ministry of Health, partners are preparing the implementation of Ebola preparedness activities in Lunda Norte province, focusing on capacity building, improving hygiene facilities and supplying material support.

**BURUNDI****PROTECTION**

- UNHCR's biometric identity management system (BIMS) was introduced in November in Burundi. By the end of December 2019, UNHCR was able to verify the identity of more than 90 per cent of refugees and asylum-seekers in Burundi. The exercise will be completed in January 2020 throughout the country.
- During the reporting period, 549 Congolese newcomers were registered as refugees.
- During the last three months of the year, 308 Congolese refugees departed to a resettlement country.

**HEALTH**

- UNHCR continued to provide transit centres and refugee camps with relevant infection prevention and control measures against Ebola.
- Measles cases were diagnosed in Cishemere Transit Centre. 38 confirmed cases were referred to the Cibitoke hospital for treatment.
- Vaccination of children between 9 months and 15 years old is ongoing with the support of the Government and Médecins Sans Frontières. 15,000 measles vaccines are needed to vaccinate children in all refugee camps and the hosting community around refugee camps.

**FOOD SECURITY & NUTRITION**

- UNHCR's partner the World Food Programme (WFP) distributed food rations in all five camps.
- Nutrition support/supplementation assistance targets only pregnant women, lactating mothers, and persons living with HIV. The diet of the persons with specific needs has yet to be improved.

**SITE PLANNING, SHELTER & CRIs**

- Roads to Kavumu and Bwagiriza refugee camps were rehabilitated, including a small bridge on the road to Bwagiriza, improving humanitarian access.
- Heavy rains are continually destroying refugees' individual houses in eastern refugee camps and are creating erosion around refugee camps.
- There is a lack of budget to protect camps from erosion.
- Individual shelters need rehabilitation amidst ongoing heavy rains.

**REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO****PROTECTION**

- 235 individuals attended sensitization sessions on sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV) at Betou and Bouemba.
- 10 cases of SGBV were recorded at Bouemba and Betou. They were all referred to appropriate services.

**HEALTH**

- 2,728 Congolese refugees and asylum-seekers benefitted from medical consultations at Makotimpoko, Bouemba and Betou integrated health centres and at the hospital in Impfondo. Moreover, 478 Congolese refugee women benefitted from prenatal consultations. UNHCR recorded 72 safe births attended by skilled personnel.
- 413 individuals participated in an awareness session on HIV prevention in Bouemba.

**FOOD SECURITY & NUTRITION**

- 568 Congolese refugee households benefitted from cash assistance from WFP, which helps them access the food market.

**WASH**

- UNHCR finalized the construction of 143 latrines at Bouemba site.

**SITE PLANNING, SHELTER & CRIs**

- The relocation of refugees to Bouemba site was ongoing. The site currently hosts 2,067 individuals.
- Two Refugee Housing Units (RHU) were installed in November 2019, bringing the total number of RHUs at Bouemba site to 79.

**LIVELIHOODS**

- 323 Congolese refugees received fishing equipment, while 67 received agricultural materials.

**UNITED REPUBLIC OF TANZANIA****PROTECTION**

- 83 Congolese refugees were resettled in December, with most departing to the USA (71), Australia (10) and Canada (2). Resettlement is a life-saving tool to ensure the protection of those most at risk or with specific needs that cannot be addressed in the country where they have sought protection.
- The Individual Case Management Protection Desk received 10 cases in Nyarugusu camp. All cases were assessed and referred to relevant services or counselled and advised accordingly.

**EDUCATION**

- Over 800 Congolese teachers participated in a two-day training workshop in December, led by UNHCR's partner the International Rescue Committee (IRC), on Kolibri, an offline self-paced education learning platform.
- 11 Congolese refugees from Nyarugusu camp were selected for UNHCR's higher education scholarship programme, Albert Einstein German Academic Refugee Initiative (DAFI), which plays an integral role in enabling refugees to access higher education.
- Due to funding challenges, there is a persistent lack of educational supplies.

**HEALTH**

- 12,000 medical consultations were conducted at various health facilities serving Congolese refugees. The leading cause of morbidity during the reporting period was upper respiratory tract infection, followed by lower respiratory tract infection and malaria. 256 live births were conducted, with 98 percent of total births occurring at the health facility and assisted by skilled medical personnel.
- In collaboration with UNICEF, UNHCR conducted a Vitamin A supplementation, deworming and mass acute malnutrition screening campaign at Nyarugusu camp. The Vitamin A supplementation campaign targeted children aged between 6 and 59 months while the deworming campaign targeted children aged between 12 and 59 months.

**FOOD SECURITY & NUTRITION**

- Food entitlements were distributed at 100 per cent of the full ration, with refugees receiving cereals, pulses, vegetable oil, corn-soy blend and salt entitlements.
- Refugees remain unable to supplement their food entitlements with other goods or produce following the closure of common markets in February 2019 reportedly on security grounds. These markets were situated at the periphery of refugee camps and provided refugees and host communities the opportunity to buy and sell food and goods. They were also instrumental in fostering peaceful co-existence.

**WASH**

- Water supply in Nyarugusu camp stood at 28.3 liters per person per day, exceeding the Sphere minimum standards. The crude latrine coverage stood at 6 people per latrine, which is also above the Sphere minimum standards.
- 1,495 latrines out of a planned 1,500 were completed at Nyarugusu camp. These interventions will help improve hygiene levels and reduce the risk of disease outbreaks.

**SITE PLANNING, SHELTER & CRIs**

- Close to 700 people with specific needs, and refugee community leaders, received blankets, jerry cans, mosquito nets, sleeping mats and buckets as part of targeted distributions at Nyarugusu camp. In addition, over 80 shelters were rehabilitated in December following heavy rainfall.

**LIVELIHOODS**

- 200 Congolese refugees benefited from a training provided by UNHCR's partner Good Neighbours Tanzania (GNTZ) on good agronomic practices. Refugees also received kitchen gardening inputs (seeds and tools).
- 50 refugees graduated from vocational skills training courses led by GNTZ in hairdressing, tailoring, cooking and baking. Graduates received start-up tool kits to help them start their own businesses.
- There is a lack of sustainable livelihoods opportunities following the closure of the common markets.

**UGANDA****PROTECTION**

- During the reporting period, 6,126 new arrivals from the DRC sought safety in Uganda, citing inter-ethnic violence in Ituri, as well as fighting and attacks on civilians in North Kivu as reasons for fleeing. Most of the newcomer refugees arrived from Ituri province across Lake Albert and were transferred to Kyangwali settlement. Those arriving at the transit centres and collection points through Nyakabande and Matanda came from Rutshuru, Goma, Uvira, Masisi, Biriza, Bukoma, and Buanza; those passing through Ntoroko mainly came from Ituri and North Kivu, Tchoma, Kasenyi, Boga, Beni, and Nyamamba.
- A total of 1,726 cases were received through the inter-agency Feedback, Referral and Resolution Mechanism, which allows refugees to report urgent protection and assistance-related problems. 751 cases were followed-up on, while 975 case were referred to appropriate service providers. Most of the cases were about general queries; community-based protection, durable solutions and health and nutrition.

**EDUCATION**

- There has been an increase of eight percent (21,317 students) in primary school enrolment between 2018 and 2019, and an increase of 695 students in secondary school enrolment. The increase in primary education enrolment can be attributed to a better coordination of activities of the Ministry of Education and Sports (MoES) Education Response Plan.
- With the increase in enrolment comes additional strain on existing resources, such as classrooms, desks and latrines. Overcrowding is even more pronounced and risky for children and teachers, and the capacity for effective teaching and learning is reduced. In overcrowded classrooms (with an average of 100 children per class), teachers' ability to know the learning and support needs of their individual students is extremely challenging.
- There is an urgent and critical gap to cover core education activities. This shortfall will have real and urgent consequences for keeping schools open in the second school term of 2020.

**HEALTH**

- There was inadequate storage space for medicines and medical supplies at the central warehouse and in the field and health facilities.



**WASH**

- Per-capita access to water remains above 17 litres per person per day. Measures are being taken to ensure refugees' access to water.
- Roll out of dome slab latrines continued in several settlements, shifting from the use of plastic slabs for household latrine construction. However, ongoing rains continue to affect sanitation coverage as latrines fill up and are decommissioned.

**SITE PLANNING, SHELTER & CRIs**

- In November and December, 1,900 household plots (30m x 30m combined shelter and agriculture) were demarcated for newly arrived refugees in Kyaka II settlement. This continues to ease the strain on transit and reception facilities, as refugees from DRC continue to flee to Uganda.

**ZAMBIA****PROTECTION**

- 737 new arrivals were registered in Zambia during the reporting period.
- UNHCR continued conducting home visits at Mantapala settlement to encourage parents and guardians to identify solutions for children in need.

**EDUCATION**

- UNHCR's partner World Vision constructed a water borehole at Mantapala-A school, bringing the total number of boreholes in the school to three. Pupils and teachers now have access to sufficient water for drinking and personal hygiene.
- Limited furniture and school requisites, such as textbooks, continues to hinder education.

**FOOD SECURITY & NUTRITION**

- Food entitlements were distributed in November and December at Mantapala settlement to improve refugees' immediate food security.

**WASH**

- 51 boreholes were disinfected by UNHCR's partner World Vision at Mantapala settlement, to prevent any contamination that may occur during the rainy season.
- Community hygiene promotion was intensified in the settlement to raise awareness on good hygiene practices.

**SITE PLANNING, SHELTER & CRIs**

- In the last quarter of 2019, UNHCR's partner Care International trained 60 households in brick making in Mantapala settlement. Households are now producing and selling bricks to contractors to earn money.
- Households at Mantapala settlement continue to live in temporary shelters made of plastic tarpaulin sheeting. UNHCR is replacing broken tarpaulins to protect refugees against leaks during the rainy season.

**LIVELIHOODS**

- UNHCR's partner Caritas Czech Republic provided maize seeds to 24 lead farmers at Mantapala settlement.
- Only 10 per cent of the population at Mantapala settlement is benefiting from livelihoods support. Advocacy is ongoing to include additional beneficiaries into livelihoods projects.

## Financial Information

UNHCR is grateful for the financial support provided by donors who have contributed to our activities with unearmarked and broadly earmarked funds, as well as for those who have contributed directly to the situation or operations.

- Allocation of unearmarked / broadly earmarked funding 125 million
- European Union 20 million
- United States of America 11 million
- Private donors 5 million
- Denmark 2 million
- Sweden 2 million
- Japan 2 million
- CERF 1 million
- Norway 1 million
- Germany 1 million
- Czech Republic 0.5 million
- Finland 0.4 million
- The Netherlands 0.3 million
- France 0.3 million
- Belgium 0.2 million
- Others 0.2 million
- Spain 0.1 million



For more information: <http://reporting.unhcr.org>

## Working in Partnership

Partners in the 2019-2020 Regional Refugee Response Plan (RRRP) for the DRC include:

Action Africa Help | Action Against Hunger | Adventist Development and Relief Agency | African Initiative for Relief and Development | Agency for Technical Cooperation and Development | American Refugee Committee | Building Resources Across Communities | CARE International | Caritas | Danish Refugee Council | Fédération Luthérienne Mondiale | Finn Church Aid | Food and Agriculture Organisation | Good Neighbours International - Tanzania | Gruppo di Volontariato Civile | Help Age International | Humanitarian Open Street Map Team | Humanity and Inclusion | International Aid Services | International Organisation for Migration | International Rescue Committee | Jesuit Refugee Service | Johanniter | Kabarole Research and Resource Center | Lutheran World Federation | Médecins du Monde | Medical Teams International | Norwegian Church Aid | Norwegian Refugee Council | OXFAM | People in Need | Plan International | Save the Children International | Tutapona | Uganda Red Cross Society | United Nations Children's Fund | United Nations Department of Safety and Security | United Nations Development Programme | United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees | United Nations Population Fund | United Nations Resident Coordinator's Office | World Food Programme | World Health Organisation