

Democratic Republic of the Congo

July 2020

During the COVID-19 pandemic, UNHCR DRC is producing a condensed monthly Operational Update. Specific information about UNHCR's response to COVID-19 in DRC can be found [here](#).

Refugees



PROTECTION

- Between 1 and 3 July, Uganda temporarily re-opened two border crossing points, at Guladjo and Mount Zeu in Zombo district, to provide a safe haven to thousands of refugees fleeing escalating violence in the eastern Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC). They were stranded in a remote, inaccessible area in Mahagi Territory since late May. The new arrivals were previously part of a larger group of approximately 45,000 people, as reported by local DRC authorities, who had fled after deadly militia attacks targeting civilians in Ituri Province on 17 and 18 May. While some had been able to return to their area of origin, thousands remained close to the border. UNHCR and partners, in coordination with the Office of the Prime Minister (OPM), Ministry of Health and the district local government, have strengthen reception capacities at the border, including quarantine facilities, and to ensure adequate levels of emergency assistance are available.
- As COVID-19 continues to spread across the DRC, UNHCR continues to raise awareness about the disease and prevention measures. In Bele and Meri settlements in Haut-Uele Province and in Biringi settlement, Ituri Province, UNHCR reinforced specific awareness-raising to almost 8,000 South Sudanese refugee children and parents, including messages on SGBV prevention.
- Due to the closure of the borders to limit the spread of COVID-19, UNHCR had to put on hold all voluntary repatriation operations. In North and South Kivu Provinces, 119 Rwanda refugees are waiting to be voluntary repatriated to their country. In preparation of the eventual opening of the borders and resumption of the voluntary repatriation, UNHCR is working with the local authorities to facilitate COVID-19 testing which need to be taken before crossing borders.



SHELTER AND CORE RELIEF ITEMS (CRIs)

- UNHCR and its partner Action et Intervention pour le Développement Social (AIDES) distributed second-hand clothes to 2,248 Burundian refugees living in the Kavimvira and Sange transit centres, South Kivu Province. The clothing items from private Japanese donor UNIQLO are vital support for many refugees who fled their homes with nothing and are living in difficult conditions.
- In Bas-Uele Province, UNHCR and its partner Terre Sans Frontière (TSF) provided cash for shelter assistance to 31 refugee households from the Central African Republic. A total of 102 refugee households will benefit from this assistance that allows them to build their own homes.



LIVELIHOODS AND FOOD SECURITY

- UNHCR, together with the World Food Programme (WFP) and AIDES continued distributing mobile phones and SIM cards to Burundian refugees at Mulongwe settlement and Lusenda camp in South Kivu Province. So far, over 5,500 refugees received cash for food assistance via electronic payments.
- UNHCR is working with refugees on programmes promoting socio-economic inclusion. In Goma, North Kivu Province, refugees have been identified to produce over 1,000 protective masks to curb the spread of COVID-19. In Meri settlements in Haut-Uele Province and in Biringi settlement, Ituri Province, 32 South

Sudanese refugees were trained and since have produced 8,700 masks for other refugees and host community members.

- In North and South Ubangi Provinces, an agriculture initiative is helping 160 refugee households from the Central African Republic and locals alike to become self-reliant. To date, almost 100 hectares have been cultivated and 9,500 kg of vegetables have been harvested.
- In Biringi settlement, Ituri Province, a fish farming established with the help of UNHCR allows 16 South Sudanese refugee households to earn a living.



WATER, SANITATION AND HYGIENE (WASH)

- AtBili camp, in Bosobolo Territory, Nord Ubangi Province, UNHCR and partner ACTED finalized the construction of 50 sanitary blocks, each comprising a latrine and washing room, for persons with disabilities.
- As schools will reopened on 10 August, UNHCR and partners conducted an assessment in 31 primary and secondary schools hosting refugees from the Central African Republic in Nord Ubangi Province. Findings showed a lack of basic hand washing facilities which puts students at increased risk of COVID-19 and other transmittable diseases. UNHCR will intensify awareness raising on COVID-19 and advocate for more handwashing facilities.

Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs)



PROTECTION

- The UNHCR-supported community-based protection group in Djugu Territory, Ituri Province successfully advocated with local authorities to improve the security along the road between Lenga and Bule. This allows Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) in the Fataki Health Zone to safely access and cultivate their fields to harvest crops and sustain themselves.
- In Ituri Province, UNHCR and partners Caritas, Intersos, AVSI and the Danish Refugee Council in collaboration with the governmental agency *Protection Civile* have conducted participatory evaluations with 472 persons representing different genders, age groups and diversity criteria such as physical handicaps or pregnant women. Some of the needs brought forward by IDPs were more access to livelihood opportunities in their area of displacement and improved housing.
- UNHCR is supporting the Kasai and Kasai Central provincial authorities in holding mobile court hearings that will allow for the issuance of birth certificates to 9,000 Kasaian children in 2020. A total of 1000 additional judgments were handed down by the Peace Tribunal, 500 of which were in Kamwasha and 500 in Kamonia.
- A total of 479 protection incidents were recorded in July in the Kasai Province. This included 177 people whose of property rights, were violated, of whom 68 benefited from counseling referral and advocacy with various State services. Of 124 people who suffered violations of rights to liberty, 103 have benefited from follow-up actions with the police, FARDC and security services. Out of 90 victims of violations of the right to physical integrity, 51 received counselling and were referred to police stations as well as to the public prosecutor's office of the tribunal de grande instance and the military court to lodge a complaint.
- During the reporting period, 36 cases of sexual and gender-based violence were recorded in Tanganyika Province by UNHCR's protection monitoring partner Intersos. All survivors were referred to appropriate service providers.
- Following the deteriorating security and human rights situation close to Pinga, North Kivu Province, UNHCR and its protection monitoring partner AHCOPDI have undertaken a mission in the area to assess the humanitarian needs of the IDPs between 27 and 30 July. About 13,000 have reportedly moved towards Pinga

due to clashes between the Nduma Defense of Congo-Renové (NDC/R) splinter groups. No humanitarian assistance has been provided so far. A joint Cluster mission is underway.

- Community-based protection groups supported by UNHCR in Kayna, Kanyabayonga and Kasindi in North Kivu Province referred 11 rape survivors to available services, including medical care within 72 hours.



SHELTER AND CORE RELIEF ITEMS (CRIs)

- In Bandera, Kalemie Territory, thousands of displaced were able to return to their areas of origin and are trying to restart their lives in Tanganyika Province. UNHCR distributed household items such as blankets, mosquito nets and kitchen sets to over 7,000 vulnerable individuals.
- UNHCR and its partner Caritas organised a distribution of Core Relief Items (CRIs) for IDPs living in Kigonze displacement site in Bunia, Ituri Province. A total of 201 households who were previously relocated to reduce congestion in the nearby displacement site of the Higher Pedagogical Institute (ISP) received basic household items such as blankets, mats, jerrycans and dignity kits for women and girls.
- UNHCR partner AIDES continues the construction of 21 community hangars in Mangina, Kyanzaba and Oicha in Beni Territory, North Kivu Province to accommodate IDP families.
- In South Kivu Province, UNHCR and its partner AIDES have started the construction of 600 shelters and latrines in Kaniola. Families receive either materials to produce baked brick or adobe bricks, as well as metal sheets for roofing.

\$ CASH-BASED INTERVENTIONS (CBI)

- In Kananga, Kasai Central Province, UNHCR provided 132 Congolese returnees from Angola with transport, as well as cash assistance to help them reintegrate. Returnees also benefited from cash-for-food assistance from the World Food Programme.



LIVELIHOODS AND FOOD SECURITY

- UNHCR and partner Caritas organized a three-month agricultural project targeting 35 IDP women in Nobili and Kamango, North Kivu Province. To date, over 9,500 kg of vegetables have been harvested.

Clusters and Working Groups

- Shelter actors reported the following activities during the month of July 2020. 6,572 households were provided with shelter during the month of July 2020, including 1,662 households in emergency shelters, 210 households were sheltered in a collective center, 2,550 households benefited from land assistance and 2,550 households were provided assistance with construction in the provinces of Ituri and North Kivu. Insecurity and logistical constraints limit interventions in certain regions, mainly the provinces of Tanganyika, North Kivu, South Kivu and Ituri. The main shelter needs are reported in the following provinces: Haut Uélé, Tanganyika, South Kivu, North Kivu, and Ituri.

External / Donor Relations

Funding received as of 4 August 2020

Donors for UNHCR operations in DRC in 2020

United States of America (41.5 M) | CERF (10 M) | Sweden (3.1 M) | European Union (1.6 M) | Denmark (1.5 M) | France (1.1 M) | Canada (0.73 M) | Japan (0.57 M) | United Nations Foundation (0.32 M) | International Olympic Committee (0.23 M) | Country-Based Pooled Funds (0.20 M) | UNAIDS (0.20 M) | UPS Corporate (0.17)

Major donors of regional or other funds with soft earmarking 2020

Germany (47.6 M) | United States of America (46.8 M) | United Kingdom (24.8 M) | Denmark (14.6 M) | Canada (10.2 M) | Private donors USA (7.4 M) | Private donors Germany (7.1 M) | Sweden (6.9 M) | Private donors Australia (5.6 M) | Private donors Japan (4.1 M) | Spain (3.4 M) | Ireland (3.3 M) | Finland (3.3 M) | France (2.8 M) | Norway (2.4 M) | Private Donors United Kingdom (2.1 M) |

Major donors of un-earmarked funds in 2020

Sweden (76.4 M) | Norway (41.4 M) | Private donors Spain (39.8 M) | Netherlands (36.1 M) | Denmark (34.6 M) | United Kingdom (31.7 M) | Germany (25.9 M) | Private donors Republic of Korea (20.5 M) | Switzerland (16.4 M) | Private Donors Japan (15.2 M) | France (14 M)

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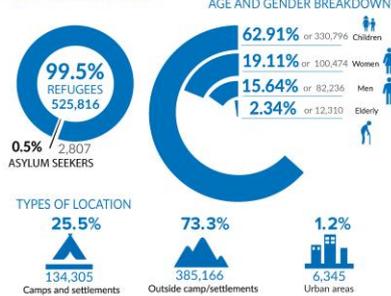
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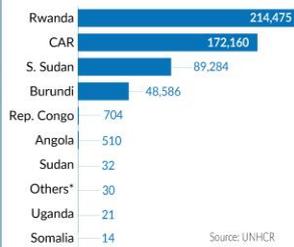
528,623

TOTAL NUMBER OF REFUGEES AND ASYLUM SEEKERS

KEY STATISTICS



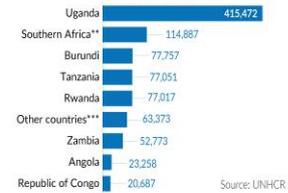
REFUGEE POPULATION BY COUNTRY OF ORIGIN



REFUGEES FROM DRC IN AFRICA

922,275

TOTAL DRC REFUGEE POPULATION



**Southern Africa includes Namibia, Botswana, Lesotho, Malawi, Zimbabwe, Mozambique, Madagascar, South Africa and the Kingdom of Eswatini.
***Other countries include: South Sudan, Kenya, Central African Republic and Chad.

