Democratic Republic of the Congo

DRC Emergency: Update 17 – 30 July 2023

Thanks to the humanitarian bridge organized by ECHO, UNHCR and other humanitarian agencies have benefited from hundreds of tons of relief items and medical kits to meet the growing needs of IDPs in spontaneous and official sites in North Kivu. ©UNHCR/Blaise Sanyila

Additional 342 shelters built
for a total 4,642 at Rusayo II site

85,000 people displaced
in Masisi territory over two week reporting period.

OVERVIEW

In North Kivu Province, clashes between non-state armed groups erupted on 12 July in the localities of Butale, Karunda, Gomba and Kitega, resulting in six civilian deaths, 32 abductions, the looting of 32 homes, and subsequently generated the displacement of around 2,499 households. This population is sheltering at the Mukoto and Kahe sites and with host families in Mokoto, Kahe and Kahe. Given the number of armed elements on the Butale-Kahira-Kirumbu road, in the Bashali-Mukoto locality, further clashes are highly likely, generating risks of prolonged population displacement and affiliated risks on gender-based violence and health.

Since the massacre of schoolchildren in Uganda by a non-state armed group on the night of 16-17 June, government forces in collaboration with Uganda's Uganda People's Defence Forces have intensified military operations in the eastern part of Virunga National Park (Mutwanga and Kyondo health zones). However, abductions and killings perpetrated by non-state armed groups continue to be reported. Some civilian hostages, recently rescued, report having been held for between 6 months to a year. The presence of non-state armed groups also continues on the peripheries of Kanyaruchinya and Kibati, leading to human rights abuses in and around spontaneous sites.

Displaced people attempting to return to their areas of origin in Kibumba are facing alleged abuses by armed actors in the area. On 17 July three displaced men were abducted in Kibumba by armed elements and small livestock belonging to these victims looted.

SECTOR RESPONSE

As part of the coordinated response to the situation led by UNOCHA, UNHCR is coordinating the provision of Protection, Shelter and Camp Coordination and Camp Management (CCCM) Clusters in collaboration with UN agencies, international and local NGOs, and government partners.

Protection Cluster

- UNHCR and partner INTERSOS held a technical training session on protection monitoring in Goma from 25-29 July 2023. As many as 34 participants, including 5 women, were trained in data collection and analysis techniques to inform the humanitarian response in North and South Kivu.
- A total of 1,658 protection incidents were recorded in North Kivu, with the most affected areas being Masisi (666 incidents), Rutshuru (288), Beni (408). These incidents included 103 rapes as well as 27 abductions and forced disappearances. UNHCR and other humanitarian actors continue to provide assistance to these victims, in particular through cash for protection initiatives.

CHALLENGES AND GAPS: Humanitarian access remains restricted in the region due to poor road conditions and insecurity | Renewed clashes between non-state armed groups generate new displacement | High rates of rape and kidnappings are driving up the need for assistance.

Shelter and Non-Food Items (NFI) Cluster

- From 21-23 July 2023, UNHCR and its partners AIDES and AIRD distributed Non-Food Item Kits to 992 households (7,378 people) returning to Mavivi village in Beni territory. The number of returnees in this locality is estimated at 15% of the local population. The kits distributed included: blankets, mats, bars of laundry soap, mosquito nets, jerry cans, 4x5m tarpaulins, kitchen kits and solar lamps for each household.
- UNHCR and other humanitarian partners continue to build shelters on the Rusayo II site. In total, 4,642 out of now 6,100 planned shelters have been constructed, including 2,642 by UNHCR, 850 by IOM and 1,250 by AIDES.

CHALLENGES AND GAPS: Access to land dedicated to site construction has been impacted as contributing landowners' express dissatisfaction at the reimbursement rate for the provision of land.

Camp Coordination and Camp Management (CCCM) Cluster

- UNHCR and its partners trained 50 interviewers on needs assessments in the Lushagala site. They are now conducting a needs assessment in the site, which has an estimated population of 65,000 individuals. The assessments will run until August 15 with the data being used to improve the humanitarian response.

CHALLENGES AND GAPS: The transfer of families from the Bulengo/Lac Vert site to the Rusayo II site has been placed on hold, pending an enhancement of the latrine and shower infrastructure. Advocacy efforts to engage more actors in the WASH sector have been successful as World Vision have joined to accelerate the construction of facilities | A lack of available resources continues to impede CCCM activities as risks in spontaneous sites continue to multiply making transfers to planned sites all the more urgent.

INTERAGENCY BUDGET NEEDS

In the context of the Humanitarian Response Plan 2023, which identifies more than 26.4 million people in need in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, UN Agencies and partners are calling for $2.25 billion, to target ten million people in need.

UNHCR requires $233 million to respond to the needs of displaced people in DRC in 2023. To date, the plan has received just 34% of the required funds.

DONATE NOW
To donate now please click below to visit UNHCR.org/drc

LINKS: UNHCR Global Focus | UNHCR DRC Data Portal | UNHCR DRC Website | UNHCR DRC Twitter @UNHCR_DRC| UNHCR DRC Facebook

For more information, please contact
Nathalie Mbenoun, Reporting Officer, UNHCR Goma,
mbenoun@unhcr.org, Tel: +243 253 40522
Joel Smith, Communications Officer, UNHCR Kinshasa,
smithj@unhcr.org Tel: +243 253 40522.