

THE DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO SITUATION

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

As of 31 August 2018, 811,299 Congolese refugees are being hosted in African countries. From 1 January to 31 August 2018 alone, some 133,719 Congolese fled to neighboring countries, with a particularly **significant increase** in refugee flows to Burundi, Uganda and Zambia.

UNHCR together with 43 humanitarian and development partners launched on 17 July 2018, the revised Regional Refugee Response Plan (RRRP) for \$547 million to help respond to the needs of Congolese refugees in neighboring countries.

KEY INDICATORS



Total of refugees and asylum-seekers from the DRC



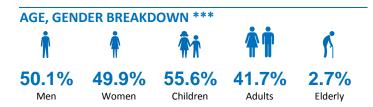
133.719 **

New arrivals in 2018

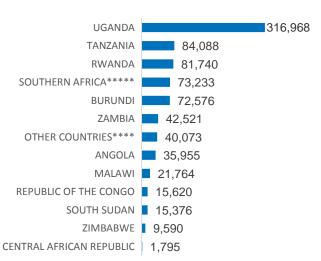


10,669

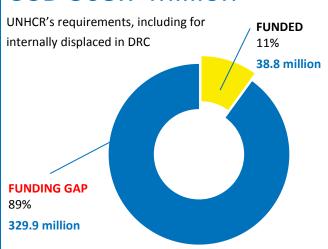
New arrivals in August 2018



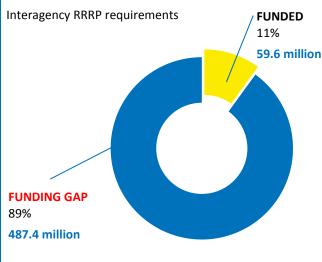
POPULATION OF CONCERN IN HOST COUNTRIES



FUNDING USD 368.7 million



USD 547 million



^{*} 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 Angola, Botswana Burundi Chad, Central African Republic, Kenya, the Kingdom of Eswatini Madagascar, Malawi, Mozambique, Republic of the Congo, Rwanda, South Sudan, Uganda, the United Republic of Tanzania and Zimbabwe.

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

**** Other countries include Chad and Kenya.

^{*****} Southern Africa includes Botswana, the Kingdom of Eswatini, Lesotho, Madagascar, Mozambique, Namibia and South Africa.



NUMBER OF REFUGEES & ASYLUM-SEEKERS in countries of asylum as of the end of August 2018

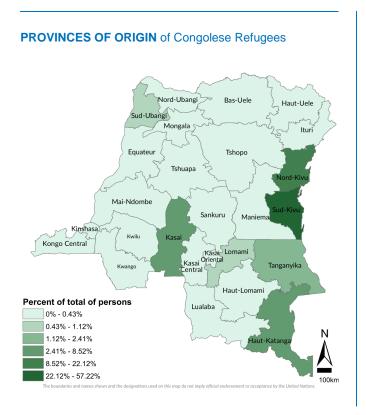


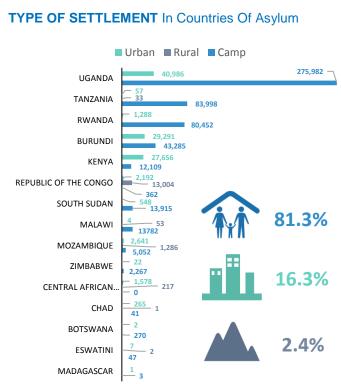
Creation date: 31 August 2018 Sources: UNHCR - Kinshasa Feedback: codkidrcim@unhcr.org



Regional Highlights and Operational Context

- A total of **811,299 Congolese refugees and asylum-seekers** are being hosted in countries in Africa, which have generously maintained an open door policy in granting asylum to old and new asylum seekers.
- The security conditions in the DRC, especially in the eastern and central provinces, remains volatile with sporadic outbreaks of violence leading to displacement of civilians within the country, and across borders to neighboring countries. This has placed the DRC refugee population among the ten largest in the world.
- UNHCR received \$38.8 million for the DRC situation, representing only 11 per cent of the total requirements for 2018.
- The interagency Regional Refugee Response Plan for the DRC situation has received \$59.6 million, representing only 11 per cent of the total requirements for 2018.



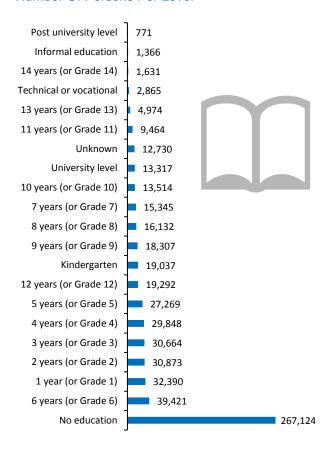


The above map includes figures from Angola, Botswana, Burundi, Chad, Central African Republic, Kenya, the Kingdom of Eswatini, Madagascar, Malawi, Mozambique, Republic of the Congo, Rwanda, South Sudan, the United Republic of Tanzania, Zambia and Zimbabwe.



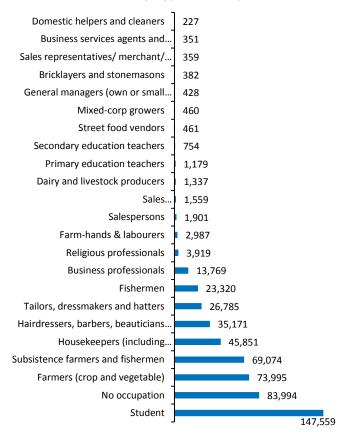
EDUCATION LEVEL OF REFUGEES

Number Of Persons Per Level

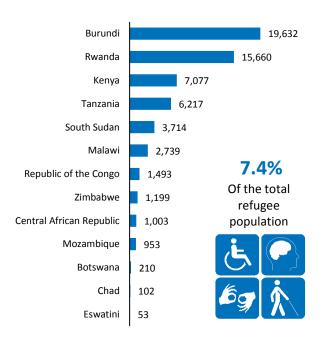


OCCUPATION OF REFUGEES

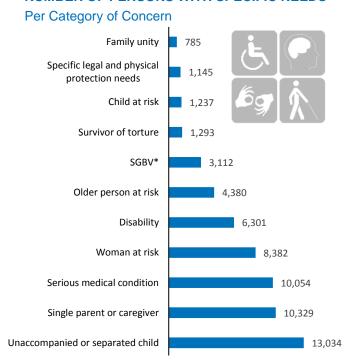
Number Of Persons By Type Of Occupation



NUMBER OF PERSONS WITH SPECIFIC NEEDSPer Country of Asylum



NUMBER OF PERSONS WITH SPECIFIC NEEDS



^{*} Sexual and Gender Based Violence (SGBV)

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



Achievements during the Reporting Period



Latest developments

- A total of 13,914 Congolese refugees and asylum-seekers were residing in Lóvua refugee settlement and some 8,597 in the town of Dundo and its surrounding area.
- In August, 154 new arrivals from the DRC were recorded.
- From August 14 to 16, UNHCR organized a donor visit to Lunda Norte. Among the participants were the ambassadors of the Netherlands and South Africa and representatives from the embassies of France, Namibia, the United Kingdom and the United States of America, as well as the UN Resident Coordinator and representatives of other UN Agencies and partner organizations. The participants expressed their satisfaction with the services provided in the refugee settings, however, with concerns regarding the continuing gaps in the delivery of assistance, particularly food security, WASH and health. The potential return to DRC was raised during discussions with refugees, who are not in favor at this time.

Achievements

- The second health clinic was inaugurated in Lóvua settlement, on 31 August.
- UNHCR and its partner, Medecins du Monde (MdM), with the support and active participation of refugees, continued the information campaign against the outbreak of chicken pox in Lóvua settlement, resulting in a decrease of registered cases, which in July reached more than 200.
- Malaria prevention workshops were held by MdM in mid-August, with some 168 field mobilizers and partners among the participants.
- As part of an inter-agency initiative, the "Livelihoods in Lóvua settlement" document was released explaining the existing context in the settlement and a series of possible projects to be explored among livelihood partners.

Challenges

- From 13 to 23 August, the general food distribution (GFD) took place for refugees living in urban areas and in the Lóvua settlement, with some 21,715 individual beneficiaries from 5,102 households. However, due to critical funding constraints, food rations were significantly reduced and only 40 and 50 per cent of the monthly ration for maize meal and remaining food commodities, respectively, were provided. Relevant monitoring and messaging, including on acute malnutrition prevention, continued regularly.
- A strategy to invest in diversification of livelihood projects is currently under development, even though lack of funding remains a major challenge to implementation.



BURUNDI

Latest developments

 A total of 197 households of 446 new refugees from the DRC arrived in Burundi, bringing the total number of registered refugees and asylum seekers to 72,576.

Achievements

- Construction work of the fifth refugee camp in Nyankanda, entered its final stage.
- Two convoys of 99 households of 351 Congolese refugees were organized from Bujumbura and Cishemere transit center, in the western province of Cibitoke bordering the DRC, to Kavumu refugee camp in the province of Cankuzo. About 95 households of 338 refugees from the total population were new arrivals from the DRC, while the remaining 4 households of 13 refugees were residing in urban communities close to Bujumbura. Other transfers concerned 38 households of 61 refugees from camp to camp for family reunification and/or for protection reasons.
- Some 56 resettlement cases were submitted in August from which 136 departed for resettlement countries, bringing the total number of resettled Congolese refugees from Burundi to 1,927 since the beginning of this year.
- Following a significant number of school dropouts in 2017, UNHCR and its partners started campaigns to prevent further dropouts that might occur during the new school year. The campaign aims to encourage parents to enroll their children in schools.
- A total of 332 individuals were vaccinated for BCG, Polio and Measles, bringing the vaccination coverage rate to 92.5 in Kavumu and 100% in Bwagiriza refugee camps.
- UNHCR continues to implement Ebola preventive mechanisms, including campaigns and training of medical and field staff.

Challenges

UNHCR Burundi remains underfunded, which is negatively impacting the overall assistance and services available for refugees, including self-reliance activities and education. There are many overcrowded classrooms and lack of school materials/manuals challenges with health services, and shelters and latrines that need rehabilitation.

MALAWI

Latest developments

There were some 21,764 Congolese refugees and asylum seekers in Malawi as at the end of August with some 463 new arrivals from the DRC.

Achievements

 UNHCR's partner Welthungerhilfe (WHH) concluded work at Karonga transit center resulting in significant WASH improvements. Among others, pour flush latrines were rehabilitated and taps were fitted in all the eight latrines; bathrooms and storage room



- for NFIs and offices were rehabilitated, septic tank renovated and soak pit for washing slab constructed, while work continued on a drainage system.
- WHH started work to install a solar powered water pump to address water challenges at the transit center in Karonga.

Challenges

- Regular rehabilitation of dormitories is needed at the transit center in Karonga, as well as at the "waystation" at Chitipa border point. WASH improvements is needed too, at Chitipa and Mbilima border points.
- Strengthening of health service delivery at Karonga transit center, as well as at Chitipa and Mbilima "waystations" remains critical.
- Congestion in Dzaleka refugee camp, where the new arrivals are hosted, is a major challenge, while the new site for relocation of refugees and asylum seekers is yet to be committed.



Latest developments

- As of 31 August 2018, the number of Congolese refugees and asylum seekers in Rwanda stood at 81,740.
- There was a 91 per cent completion rate of the joint Government of Rwanda and UNHCR verification exercise in Nyabiheke camp, which started earlier in July. A total of 14,328 refugees were verified, while the remaining 9 per cent, representing some 1,476 refugees, is pending verification.
- The Legal Aid Forum (LAF) of Kigeme held a dialogue on 6 August with the participation of the Rwanda Investigation Bureau, local leaders from Nyamagabe district (sectors and cells neighbours of Kigeme refugee camp), MIDIMAR, Immigration officials, UNHCR and the Refugee Executive Committee. The dialogue mainly focused on the rights and obligations of refugees in Rwanda, crime prevention and in particular SGBV, human trafficking and drug abuse, as well as on the role of different partners and stakeholders in providing services to refugees in Rwanda.

Achievements

- A total of 700 refugee identity cards (IDs) were distributed to refugees in Gihembe camp.
- Some 495 Congolese refugee entrepreneurs were trained in business skills and received strategic business consulting services from INKOMOKO.
- The hygiene promotion team composed of 69 WASH committee members and 24 community health workers started operating in Nyabiheke camp.
- In Kiziba camp, some 80 shelters received renovation changing the plastic sheets to corrugated iron ones.
- A total of 10,387 persons benefited from outpatient medical consultations with bout 41 consultations per clinician per day. Among the identified morbidity diseases the top three were upper respiratory tract infections (URI) (42%), intestinal worms (5%) and skin disease (5%).



Legal assistance provided to 21 refugees in Kiziba camp.

Challenges

- Pregnant, lactating and person with chronic disease who are asylum seekers in Mugombwa and Kigeme camps are not receiving food assistance
- Due to fund limitations, there is a delay in medical referrals in all refugee camps which results in unmet needs.
- The average water supply in Nyabiheke camp remains 14.8 litres per person per day, which is below the minimum standard of 20liters. It is estimated that over US\$ 60,000 is needed to connect the camp to the district's water system (WASAC) ensuring regularity in the supply of the required quantity of water.
- An estimated 2,000 families continue to live in shelters roofed with plastic sheets with imminent risks of leakage and further deterioration as Rwanda currently faces another rainy season.
- Congolese students enrolled in secondary schools, universities, and vocational training centres away from the refugee camps have no access to healthcare.

UNITED REPUBLIC OF TANZANIA

Latest developments

- There were some 84,088 refugees and asylum seekers from the DRC in Tanzania, as at 31 August 2018.
- On 6 August, representatives from the Ministry for Home Affairs (MHA) in Nyarugusu camp called for a special coordination meeting to deliberate on next steps following the Government's announcement to undertake a series of measures on camp operations. These measures include the closure of all large businesses such as bars, chemists, video halls and mobile money stores with the exception of smaller businesses selling basic commodities such as food, salt, and sugar. MHA officials claimed that these measures aim to restrict Tanzanian businessmen from profiting from refugee operations without paying tax and is also due to security concerns in avoiding cases of thieving from mobile money stores.

In addition, exit permits would continue to be issued to medical referral cases, as well as to refugees attending court cases and incentive workers attending workshops outside the camps provided they have appropriate paperwork.

Camp authorities in Nyarugusu issued a number of additional directives. Traineesmembers of the host community started also facing difficulties to access the training facility (MPCC) located near the common market.

The impact of these measures was immediately felt by refugees, and among other consequences, for instance, the price of basic commodities increased significantly.

 UNHCR supported a DFID mission to the Kigoma region at the end of August. The main purpose of the mission was to follow up on the implementation of the activities they funded through UNHCR partners and to have a general overview of the current context



of the camp. UNHCR advocated for additional support to persons with specific needs (PSN) including SGBV survivors and other vulnerable individuals.

Achievements

- A total of 44 best interests of child determination reports (BID) were paneled. Among them 20 were approved for resettlement and 24 were approved for voluntary repatriation, as the best durable solution for unaccompanied and separated children.
- As at 31 August, the total number of Congolese refugees who departed for resettlement countries since the beginning of 2018, stood at 2,323 individuals. Since 2015, some 19,160 applications have been submitted under the Group Resettlement Programme aiming at resettling approximately 33,000 Congolese refugees to the United States within a five-year period.
- About 118 shelters were completed and construction and renovation work was in progress for 218 more. For PSNs, some 70 shelters were under construction and mobilization of funds was ongoing for upgrading 74 other shelters.

Challenges

Government policies continue to limit refugee opportunities for livelihoods and self-reliance. Refugees at Nyarugusu refugee camp are almost completely dependent on humanitarian assistance and therefore at heightened protection risks, including SGBV, exploitation and abuse. Despite the challenges and the extremely reduced protection environment, UNHCR continues to focus its advocacy and resource mobilization efforts on increasing integration activities of stability and resilience, and mitigating as much as possible negative coping mechanisms that result from the precarious socio-economic environment, food insecurity and limited access to basic social services and infrastructure.

UGANDA

Latest developments

- As of 31 August, the total number of Congolese refugees and asylum seekers was 316,968. A total of 7,791 refugees from DRC entered the country in August through the border-entry points of Kisoro and Matanda. The new arrivals mainly comprise Lendu, Hima and Kinyarwanda speakers.
- The UNHCR Ebola response preparedness budget was finalized and shared with the Ministry of Health (MoH) and other partners.

Achievements

- Partners continue to respond to new arrivals from DRC and Ebola preparedness activities focusing on hygiene and sanitation. Construction of family latrines continued in settlements with combined completion of over 3,000 units bringing the coverage to 44%. The National Water and Sewerage Corporation (NWSC) commissioned a section of the sustainable water scheme to serve the host community in Rwamwanja (Kamwenge).
- In Kyangwali and Kiryandongo refugee settlements, a total of 189 shelters for people with specific needs (PSN) were constructed, with a total target of 381 for 2018. Semi-



- permanent PSN shelters in the Southwest were constructed: 25 in Kyaka II, 18 in Nakivale and 23 in Rwamwanja settlement.
- The ReHoPE library project for the Hoima Local Government is now completed, while construction works for the Ebola screening facilities at Kasonga are ongoing.
- The demarcation of new shelter plots by the Office of the Prime Minister continued in Kyaka II, with a total of 600 plots demarcated in August alone.

Challenges

- The ReHoPE library in Hoima is non-operational, despite construction completion, because it is not yet equipped with the necessary hardware or furniture etc. These items are not yet securely funded but it is hoped that the World Bank will cover the costs.
- The progress of semi-permanent PSN shelter construction in Kyaka II was slow and a joint meeting between UNHCR and AIRD was held in order to improve on the rate of implementation.



Latest developments

- Some 480 new arrivals of Congolese were registered in August, bringing the total population of refugees and asylum seekers from the DRC to 42,521. Reception and registration of new arrivals continued in Lusaka, North-Western, Luapula and Northern provinces.
- A border monitoring mission comprising staff from the Office of the Commissioner for Refugees (COR) and UNHCR was undertaken in August in districts that border with DRC, including Mushindamo, Mwinilunga and Ikelenge in North-Western province, to assess the Government's preparedness and response capacity in the event of an influx. A similar mission was undertaken in the Copperbelt province. Furthermore, UNHCR and Government staff from North-Western province conducted an emergency response orientation field visit to Mantapala settlement and chiengi reception centre in Luapula province.
- In order to appreciate the inter-agency efforts towards the Congolese emergency response in Nchelenge District (Luapula Province), the UN Resident Coordinator, UNDP Country Director and UNHCR's team in Kawambwa visited Mantapala Settlement to assess the progress towards the provision of social services for refugees and host communities. Similarly, the mission also sought to understand the challenges and gaps that are yet to be addressed, especially as the Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF), which was supporting the work of over six UN Agencies and their partners, including UNHCR, came to an end. As the situation in the north of the country stabilizes and emergency partners begin to handover their programmes to the Government and UNHCR, development partners such as UNDP are exploring avenues to support development interventions in the areas of connectivity, mobility and access to energy.
- A national stakeholders' consultations to develop a Multi-year, Multi-partner Protection and Solutions Strategy (MYMPPSS), took place in Lusaka from 27-31 August. The two-day event brought together district authorities from the three main refugee hosting areas, line ministries, UN agencies, NGOs, faith-based organizations, the private sector, donors,



academia and refugee leaders. The purpose of the consultations was to exchange, collect and agree upon key areas of intervention to be supported by a wide range of current and potential partners in Zambia regarding the protection of refugees and others of concern, as well as the identification of durable solutions for them. The consultations will lead to the drafting of Zambia's MYMPPSS. Given that consultations for both the MYMPPSS and CRRF include to some extent the same partners, the outcomes of the MYMPPSS will also support the Government-led process for finalizing the CRRF roadmap, setting strategic direction on how Zambia will implement a comprehensive refugee response. Solutions for protracted and new arrivals (including Congolese) were discussed.

Achievements

- In Meheba refugee settlement, the District Joint Operations Committee (DJOC) continued to screen new arrivals, including from the DRC. The screening helped in decongesting the transit centre in the settlement as new arrivals is used to move to plots after adjudication.
- As Mantapala settlement is stabilizing, the address system of refugee shelters has been completed. It is now becoming easier to locate families in the settlement, especially during protection follow-up of those in need of assistance.
- Community leaders' committees involving refugees and host community were set up in Mantapala to promote community participation in local governance as well as a peaceful co-existence.
- A market has been established in Mantapala settlement to benefit both refugees and the host community.
- Under the livelihood programme, some 250 refugees and 50 host community households were identified to be supported through Caritas Mansa for rain-fed farming. Each household will be provided 0.5 hectares of land for this purpose. Although this support will benefit 300 households, the remaining 93% of the households in Mantapala settlement cannot be targeted due to lack of funding.
- Some 26 parents in Mantapala settlement were trained in foster care so that they are equipped to take care of unaccompanied children. A refresher course in Psychosocial Support was conducted for 44 (32 males and 12 females) caregivers. Within a two-month period, from July to August 2018, the caregivers supported 227 children (208 girls and 19 boys), while 173 psychosocial cases have since been closed and 54 cases remain active. Counseling has since continued.

Challenges

- Limited funding has continued to be a major challenge, negatively affecting the implementation of various sectors, such as provision of livelihood activities, specific programmes for youths, access to quality education and health.
- There is need to enhance the capacity of reception centres at the entry points in terms of infrastructure and pre-positioning of CRIs.
- Despite the localised launch of the Zambia chapter of the DRC RRRP, partners and stakeholders have been unable to generate additional resources locally. Therefore, with limited funding and CERF funds having come to an end, most of the partners, such as UNICEF and others, will be compelled to cease their humanitarian interventions. One of the main sectors that will be negatively impacted will be the health sector.



- The poor access road network and within the refugee settlement is one of the major challenges hampering the ongoing interventions. Meanwhile, the GRZ has availed some US\$ 50,000 to rehabilitate the main access road prior to the rainy season while UNHCR is actively mobilising to work on road network within the refugee settlement.
- Other challenges include the absence of network and connectivity in most parts of the settlements as well as the absence of access to energy and in particular lighting, thereby increasing the risk of SGBV incidents.

ZIMBABWE

Latest developments

- During August, some 86 new arrivals from DRC into Zimbabwe were recorded, with a steady rate of new arrivals since the beginning of the year, bringing the total population of Congolese refugees and asylum seekers to 9,590.
- Some 9,033 individuals were residing in Tongogara refugee camp, located in Chipinge district, and about 554 Congolese were living in urban areas, mainly in Harare.

Achievements

 Water supply was improved in Tongogara refugee camp and the amount of water availability per section increased from two and half hours per day to three hours.

Challenges

 Owing to lack of funding, UNHCR cannot effectively respond to shelter needs of new arrivals and there remains a gap of some 338 shelters with a cost of about US\$ 337,324.



Financial Information

UNHCR is very 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.

Donors who have contributed to the DRC situation:

- United States of America
- CERF
- Belgium
- Finland
- Denmark
- European Union
- Sweden

- Japan
- Educate A Child Programme (EAC/EAA)
- IKEA Foundation
- Norway
- Italy
- Andorra
- Miscellaneous private donors

BROADLY EARMARKED CONTRIBUTIONS

United States of America 77.8 million | **Private donors Australia** 8.6 million | **Canada** 6.6 million | **Sweden** 3.2 million

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Sweden 98.2 million | Private donors Spain 45.2 million | Norway 42.5 million | Netherlands 39.1 million | United Kingdom 31.7 million | Denmark 25.5 million | Private donors Republic of Korea 22.2 million | Switzerland 15.2 million | France 14 million | Germany 13.7 million | Private donors Italy 11.9 | Italy 11.2 million | Private donors Japan 11.1 million

Algeria | Argentina | Belgium | Bosnia and Herzegovina | Canada | China | Costa Rica | Estonia | Finland | Iceland | India | Indonesia | Ireland | Israel | Kuwait | Liechtenstein | Lithuania | Luxembourg | Monaco | Montenegro | New Zealand | Philippines | Portugal | Qatar | Republic of Korea | Russian Federation | Saudi Arabia | Serbia | Singapore | Slovakia | Sri Lanka | Thailand | Turkey | United Arab Emirates | Uruguay | Private donors



Working in Partnership

Partners involved in the 2018 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

Links

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2018 Regional Refugee Response Plan (RRRP) for the DRC situation



2018 Supplementary Appeal for the DRC situation

News & Stories

Former teacher's passion revived through teaching refugees in Angola

REGIONAL COORDINATION

- Ms. Ann Encontre is the Regional Refugee Coordinator (RRC) for the DRC situation, covering DRC refugees in Angola, Burundi, Central African Republic, Rwanda, Republic of the Congo, South Sudan, the United Republic of Tanzania, Uganda, Zambia and other countries receiving refugees from the DRC.
- UNHCR leads and coordinates the response to the DRC refugee emergency, ensuring that the response is coherent with developments within the DRC, in close collaboration and consultation with relevant government counterparts, and with the support of UN Country Teams and other humanitarian and developments partners.

CONTACTS

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