

Democratic Republic of the Congo

1 – 31 August 2019

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In Kasenyi, Ituri Province, UNHCR and partner CARITAS continued the construction of collective hangars to respond to the arrival of some 4,300 IDPs. So far, 21 hangars are occupied by 252 households. In addition, 333 individual shelters were finalized.

A total of 268 new Burundian asylum-seekers arrived in three transit centers in South Kivu Province in August. This brought the total number of Burundian asylum-seekers to 1,507. As a result, infrastructures are overwhelmed, as well as water and sanitation facilities.

Refugees

Burundian refugees

Total in DRC

45,441

As of 31 August 2019

- Following the first voluntary repatriation of 88 Burundian refugees in July, UNHCR organized Focus Group Discussions, a survey and interviews with 526 Burundian refugees living in Lusenda camp and Mulongwe settlement on their **intentions of return**. The findings are underway.
- Meanwhile, **268 new Burundian asylum seekers arrived in the three transit centers** in August. This brought the total number of Burundian asylum seekers to 1,507. As a result, infrastructures are overwhelmed, as well as water and sanitation facilities. The Kavimvira Transit Center (TC) has a capacity of 700, for 730 currently there, while the Sange TC has a capacity of 400 persons for 578 currently there.
- In response to the recent **cholera outbreak** in South Kivu Province, UNHCR and its operational partners have put in place precautionary measures at Lusenda camp and Mulongwe settlement. Water and handwashing points were reinforced, health care partners were trained on cholera management, and awareness-raising was conducted for refugees and the local population. UNHCR set up four oral rehydration points (ORP) in Lusenda and Mulongwe, and rehabilitated the Lusenda Cholera Treatment Unit (CTU). Chlorinated handwashing points and awareness-raising also serve the purpose of helping to prevent Ebola. UNHCR staff and health partners were briefed on Ebola prevention by UNHCR's Medical Coordinator. However, due to lack of funds and staff on the ground, there are still **not enough handwashing points**, and not all beneficiaries were reached by awareness-raising activities.
- In Mulongwe settlement, UNHCR and partners CNR, AIRD, and AIDES **allocated 92 plots of land to 144 households** who arrived in June. In addition, some 927 households received mobile money transfers, enabling them to construct their own houses and latrines.
- **Preventive measures were taken against measles**; routine vaccinations were reinforced, and community workers and care providers were briefed on standard universal precautions. According to WHO, over 3,000 children died of measles in DRC between January and August.
- In an ongoing effort to **prevent SGBV amongst refugees**, UNHCR-supported SGBV subcommittees organized several awareness-raising sessions in Lusenda camp and Mulongwe settlement, focusing on the prevention of rape, forced marriage, denial of resources and physical violence. A total of 731 persons participated, including men, women, girls and boys.

- A total of **532 women and girls received menstrual hygiene kits** from UNHCR's partner AFPDE, which consisted of 532 small buckets of 4 liters, 1,506 pairs of underwear, 532 packs of two reusable hygienic pads, and 159.6 kg of soap.
- Some **101,145 tons of biomass briquettes** were distributed to 8,206 households (34,239 people) in Mulongwe settlement and Lusenda camp. Biomass briquettes are an environmentally-friendly alternative to firewood and charcoal and are being produced by refugees and local population as an income-generating activity.

Central African refugees

Total in DRC

173,079

As of 31 August 2019



Newly-constructed civil status registration centre in Zongo, Sud Ubangi Province. © UNHCR/Ghislaine Nentobo

- UNHCR's partner AIRD completed the construction and rehabilitation of **two civil status registration centres** in Pambwa and Zongo, respectively in Nord and Sud Ubangi provinces. The centres will facilitate birth registrations and the establishment of birth certificates for refugees and locals, in an effort to prevent statelessness.
- UNHCR's partner ADES begun receiving **34 tons of essential drugs and nutritional supplies** that will meet the needs of patients in the four CAR refugee camps, as well as in out-of-camp locations in Bas-Uele Province. The stock includes drugs malaria treatment drugs, antibiotics, and hospital equipment.



Start of the harvesting season in community farms at Inke refugee camp, North Ubangi Province. © UNHCR/Clariss Achu

- UNHCR and CNR identified **4,200 Central African refugees who had not yet been registered**, in a dozen of villages in Yakoma and Mobayi Mbongo territories, Nord Ubangi Province. They arrived between 2018 and 2019, and some as recently as in July and August. They fled remaining pockets of violence in the Bas-Kotto and Mboumou prefectures in the Central African Republic. Most of them built temporary shelters along the Ubangi River, from where their home country is easily accessible. Yakoma Territory already hosts some 8,343 registered Central African refugees, while Mobayi Mbongo Territory counts some 33,653.



Central African teen mothers await consultation at Bili refugee camp's health center in Nord Ubangi Province. © UNHCR/Clariss Achu

- In Inke and Bili refugee camps, hosting a total of almost 27,650 Central African refugees, **79 latrines for persons with specific needs were completed** by refugees using cash assistance, under the supervision of UNHCR's partner ACTED. In addition, UNHCR's partner ACTED sensitized 941 refugees in Inke camp on the community management of latrines, and on good hygiene and sanitation practices.

- As the harvesting season started in Nord and Sud Ubangi provinces, UNHCR's partner AIDES **supported self-reliance agricultural activities** for 79 groups of 10 farmers each, in Inke, Boyabu and Bili refugee camps. AIDES provided agricultural tools, seeds, and technical training. In each group, 20% of members are Congolese from the host community.

Rwandan refugees

Total in DRC (figure based on a pre-registration done by the DRC Government)	Repatriated this month (figure pending verification)	Repatriated in 2019 (figure pending verification)
216,018	177	1,088

As of 31 August 2019

- UNHCR's government partner the Commission Nationale pour les Réfugiés (CNR) conducted an **awareness-raising mission in Kalehe Territory**, South Kivu Province, to inform Rwandan refugees and local authorities about the renewal of refugee certificates, which will take place in September 2019, as well as the possibility to voluntarily repatriate to Rwanda.
- In North Kivu Province, and particularly in Masisi Territory, **armed groups continued to target** civilians and protection actors, as well as Rwandan refugees living in the territory.

South Sudanese refugees

Total in the DRC

102,826

As of 31 August 2019

- Over 42% of **construction works around the opening of the new Bele settlement**, in Haut Uele Province, are complete. These consist of the construction of transit centers and way stations in six different locations, the construction of additional accommodation to increase Bele's housing capacity, and the development of road infrastructure on relevant axes. The new Bele settlement will serve to relocate all South Sudanese refugees currently living in unsafe border areas. Relocations started on 4 September.
- The **transportation of new arrivals from Ingbokolo way station to Biringi settlement**, both in Ituri Province, met significant operational challenges due to difficult road conditions because of the rainy season.



A borehole in the new Bele settlement. © UNHCR



A bus transporting South Sudanese refugees between Ingbokolo way station and Biringi settlement, stuck on a muddy road. © UNHCR

- In Meri settlement, Haut Uele Province, UNHCR and partners **identified and case-managed 49 child protection cases**, while essential clothes and hygiene products were delivered to 41 children at risk. UNHCR and partners also identified 24 cases of Sexual and Gender-Based Violence (SGBV) in Meri settlement.
- With UNHCR's support, partner Terre Sans Frontière (TSF) **rehabilitated Aba's general hospital**, near Meri settlement, which is used by South Sudanese refugees. In addition, partner ADES rehabilitated a water source, constructed 23 latrines and distributed 8,470 hygiene kits to women and girls in Meri settlement.
- UNHCR and partners CNR, ADES and ADSE evaluated 100 latrines in Biringi settlement, and noted their **severe state of disrepair** due to wear-and-tear, as well as to damages caused by rainfall. It was decided for

ADES to reinforce sensitization on the good use of latrines, as well as to fix latrine doors, 80% of which had fallen off.

- In Biringi settlement, **refugees completed 60 out of the 240 shelters programmed** to help alleviate overcrowding in the settlement, due to ongoing arrivals from South Sudan.

Urban refugees

- In Goma, North Kivu Province, a total of **75 urban refugees received medical care** through KINGO LA AFYA health mutual. In addition, voluntary AIDS testing was performed on 32 urban refugees, all of whom were tested negative.
- A total of **188 primary school refugee students confirmed their enrolment in Goma public schools**. This operation will enable UNHCR to know the enrolment rate of refugees for the 2019-2020 school year. Meanwhile in South Kivu Province, UNHCR's partner AIDES started preparations to allow 162 urban refugee children (Burundian and Rwandan) to enrol in primary schools in September.

Congolese returnees

- Since 18 August, thousands of **Congolese refugees spontaneously left Lóvua refugee settlement in Angola** to make their way back home to DRC. A Tripartite Agreement was subsequently signed on 23-24 August between UNHCR and the Governments of Angola and DRC, in order to start an organized Voluntary Repatriations movement.
- On 13 August, UNHCR and partners carried out an assessment mission in the village of Kapampa, some 47km from Pweto, Haut-Katanga Province. The village counts some **5,548 Congolese refugees (1,283 households) who spontaneously returned from Zambia** and who were registered by UNHCR and CNR in November 2018. The mission highlighted needs in shelter, food, education, health, nutrition, and hygiene and sanitation. Some 65% of the population of this village consists of school-age children, and a high number of pregnant teenagers or young mothers was noted. There are seven other villages hosting Congolese returnees around Kapampa.



Kabimba site, Tanganyika Province, hosting Congolese people who returned from Tanzania and Burundi.
© UNHCR

- From 21 to 30 August, UNHCR and CNR verified the number of **Congolese refugees who have been returning from Tanzania and Burundi since March 2019**, and are currently in the site of Kabimba, Tanganyika Province. A total of **2,952 persons** (908 households) were verified as holding refugee status. Among them, 1,360 people (453 households) came from Tanzania and 1,591 (454 households) came from Burundi. Some 653 households expressed their wish to return to their villages of origin in Kalemie Territory (Tanganyika Province) or Fizi Territory (South Kivu Province).

- On 27 August, UNHCR **inaugurated Mwash Primary School** in Pweto, Haut Katanga Province, which is to host 300 pupils, including returned Congolese refugees. UNHCR financed six classrooms, two

administrative offices, one borehole and four latrines at the school, and each student was handed a school bag and stationery. Pweto and its surroundings are home to almost 4,000 Congolese refugees who returned from Zambia. Rehabilitating this school was part of an effort towards their reintegration in their home country, including through the education system.

- On 11 August, UNHCR and CNR supported the organization of a **football match to reinforce social cohesion** between communities in Kamako, Kasai Province. The town hosts over 43,000 Congolese people who were expelled or who returned from Angola since October 2018, which has risen risks of intercommunity tensions.
- From 5 to 18 August, UNHCR and CNR evaluated the **state of roads between Tshikapa and Kandjadjji** (both in Kasai Province), which will be used for the Voluntary Repatriation of Congolese refugees from Angola.

Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs)

Ituri Province

- Since 6 June, generalized violence has led to massive new displacements in Ituri Province. OCHA estimates that **360,000 people were displaced by the recent crisis**. Outside of Bunia, the largest concentrations of IDPs are in Drodro, Fataki, Rho, Kasenyi and Tchomia in Djugu and Irumu territories.
- On the outskirts of the provincial capital, Bunia, **a new IDP site called “Kigonze” is under development** at the request of the Provincial Governor. This is to replace the existing so-called “hospital site” due to its proximity to an Ebola Treatment Centre. UNHCR committed to providing emergency shelters and core non-food items (NFIs) to an initial 2,000 families once they are relocated to the site. This will be done in collaboration with IOM (site planning and WASH) and CARITAS (site management, nutrition and health). MONUSCO has continued preparatory site development during the month of August.
- In Kasenyi, UNHCR and its partner CARITAS continued the **construction of 40 planned collective hangars to respond to the arrival of some 4,300 IDPs**. So far, 21 hangars are occupied by 252 households as each hangar hosts 12 families. The remaining hangars will be occupied when latrines are finalized. In addition, some 333 individual shelters, out of 600 planned, were finalized by UNHCR and partner CARITAS, and are occupied by families in Kasenyi. The shelters, added to the hangars, will host up to 5,400 IDPs, including older caseloads.
- On site CE39, there is a problem of **access to drinking water**. Urgent advocacy is required from the Wash Cluster for the positioning of a water supply actor.
- The **distribution of non-food items** (NFIs) continued in Kasenyi, where 1,505 households received bedding items and Feminine hygiene products were also distributed to 891 beneficiaries out of 1,117 targeted.
- In Drodro, the **construction of 39 collective hangars** was ongoing by UNHCR and its partner the Danish Refugee Council (DRC). Some 47 IDP households, who were living in the classrooms of Drodro Primary School, were installed in a completed communal shelter in Tsuya site, while DRC identified 285 host families in the Duma and Ndjala localities, who agreed to provide shelter space for IDPs living in public buildings.
- In Ramogi, Mahagi Territory, **UNHCR completed a “fixing” exercise** to establish a verified list of IDPs and to assess their needs based on their living conditions. Results were being analyzed.
- In Tchomia, UNHCR and INTERSOS conducted a border monitoring mission to assess the **flow of Congolese people spontaneously returning from Uganda** through official border points. Authorities confirmed that there is a small-scale movement back, but porous borders make it difficult to control. The returnees are mostly undocumented after having lost their papers, and are referred to local authorities for document clearance. There is a need for a more systematic registration of returnees.
- In August, UNHCR's partner INTERSOS's recorded **1,020 human rights violations** in Djugu, Irumu, Mahagi and Mamabasa territories – an almost 50% of increase compared to July. The violations affected IDPs, returned IDPs, returnees from Uganda, and local residents. Among them were 116 cases of Sexual and Gender-Based Violence (SGBV), 449 violations of property rights, 323 violations of freedom of movement, and 132 physical assaults.

North Kivu Province

- The Nobili Crisis Committee recorded **6,329 displaced households** in Nobili, a location near the Ugandan border that has been affected by recent displacement, between 10 June and 10 August. This is in addition to the 15,991 households previously recorded by NRC and WHH.
- In Nobili, UNHCR and its partner INTERSOS conducted a protection analysis that highlighted **tensions between ethnic groups**, mainly due to perceptions of unequal access to humanitarian assistance.
- UNHCR helped setting up **10 IDP sub-committees** in the 10 displacement locations in and around Nobili. The committees received capacity-building and are active in registering new displacements.
- In Masisi and Rutshuru territories, 83 family shelters were constructed in August as part of **shelter assistance targeting IDPs and returnees**. A total of 722 shelters, built with local construction methods, are now completed out of 810 planned. The assistance plan was revised to cover the needs of 380 IDP households in Masisi Health Zone. In addition, 348 emergency shelters will be provided in Bukombo and Kalinga IDP sites.

- In North Kivu Province, particularly in Masisi Territory, armed groups continued targeting civilians and protection actors, but also Rwandan refugees living in the territory. As a consequence, **displacement from conflict-affected areas into host communities and IDP sites continued**.
- On 26 August, about 20km from Goma, a convoy of United Nations vehicles was indiscriminately shot at by armed assailants, with no casualties. The **province-wide deterioration of security** since the second half of July is severely limiting humanitarian access; access for UNHCR is still possible but with severe challenges.
- In August, UNHCR's partner INTERSOS recorded **1,227 human rights violations** committed by armed men and state services against 924 individuals. Among them, 103 cases of SGBV were recorded. Some 65 cases of rape were referred to medical care facilities and received Post Exposure Prophylaxis (PEP) kits within 72 hours.

South Kivu Province

- UNHCR's partner INTERSOS reported **196 serious violations of children rights** in armed conflict between January and July, mainly consisting of child recruitment, killings and mutilations, sexual abuse and abductions. Of those cases, 72 occurred in Shabunda Territory. UNHCR will conduct a specific assessment in the area to identify solutions for the protection of children.
- After cholera and measles outbreaks in South Kivu and other parts of DRC, **the first confirmed case of Ebola** was detected in Mwenga Territory on 16 August. This led to movement restrictions between Rwanda and DRC for Congolese nationals. Additionally, this significantly affected UNHCR staff movements, as transport between Bukavu and Uvira had to deviate through the Ruzizi plains despite precarious security conditions.
- Following reports of massive rape in Lulimba, Fizi Territory, UNHCR and its partner INTERSOS set up a **community protection committee** composed of 12 members from different communities. They were trained to reduce risks of Sexual and Gender-Based Violence (SGBV) by learning to identify and refer cases to medical, legal and psychosocial structures. A community protection plan was put in place, allowing women and girls to access the health center within 72 hours.

Kasai region

- In the last two weeks of August, UNHCR and the theatre company Vision Kasaienne (Viska) organized **participative theatre plays** in several communes of Tshikapa, Kasai Province, to sensitize displaced and host populations about peaceful coexistence. The aim is to reduce inter-community tensions in Tshikapa.
- From 26 to 31 August, UNHCR's partner the Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC) supported local authorities in delivering **424 certificates of land occupation** for displaced households in Salambote Health Zone, Kasai Province.

Tanganyika / Haut-Katanga Provinces

- In response to the **fires that burned down straw shelters in four IDP sites** in Kalemie Territory, Tanganyika Province, UNHCR distributed 411 tarpaulins in the sites of Eliya, Kalunga, Kalenge and Kabembe. The proximity of straw shelters explains the rapid spread of fires in IDPs sites.
- Following the completion of a **cash-for-shelter and multi-sector cash assistance targeting returned IDPs** in villages around Kalemie, Tanganyika Province, UNHCR conducted a post-distribution monitoring. A total of 600 households benefited from cash-for-shelter and 1,055 households (5,202 persons) received multi-sector cash assistance between February and June 2019. Results are underway.



A returned IDP building his own shelter in Mbayo, Manono Territory. © UNHCR

- UNHCR and partner AIDES completed the **psychological follow-up of 32 women survivors of Sexual and Gender-Based Violence (SGBV)** in a return village in Kalemie Territory, Tanganyika Province. Among them, 25 received group follow-up and 7 received individual follow-up over 10 weeks.
- In connection with the Provincial Government's **decision to close down 14 IDP sites around Tanganyika Province**, which are home to 98,602 IDPs (29,612 households) as of 30 June, UNHCR met with the Minister

of Education, Health, Social Affairs and Scientific Research and with the head of DIVAH on 30 August. This was to follow-up on the [reactivation of the Provincial Framework for Humanitarian Consultation \(CPCH\)](#) and durable solutions linked to the closures. The Provincial Government agreed to call for a CPCH working session.

Clusters and Working Groups

Protection Cluster

- In Ituri Province, the Protection Cluster, led by UNHCR, finalized a tool designed to facilitate the [monitoring of population movements in sites under UNHCR coordination](#). This will allow real-time monitoring of arrivals, departures, births and deaths.
- The Deputy Humanitarian Coordinator visited Ituri Province and participated in a workshop to develop a [humanitarian access plan for hard-to-reach areas](#), particularly in Djugu Territory.
- From 26 August to 1 September, UNHCR and members of the Protection Cluster conducted a mission in response to [intercommunity conflict in Shabunda Territory](#), South Kivu Province, which started in July. The human rights violations observed were extortions, rapes and lootings. Focus groups were organized and a “do no harm” analysis was conducted, and recommendations presented to humanitarian actors to help them improve their response.

Camp Coordination and Camp Management Cluster

- In North Kivu Province, the CCCM Cluster prepared to accompany IDPs living in a number of sites in Rutshuru Territory, [back to their locations of origin, or to the locations where they chose to integrate](#). To date, 54% of the population interviewed stated that they would like to settle in the environment of displacement (around the IDP sites), while 21% wanted to return to their place of origin.

External / Donor Relations

As of 3 September 2019

UNHCR, the UN Refugee Agency is grateful for the support of:

Donors for UNHCR operations in DRC in 2019

United States of America (28.4 M) | CERF (3.7 M) | Japan (2.5 M) | Sweden (2.2 M) | Finland (1.7 M) | France (1.6 M) | Canada (0.76 M) | United Nations Foundation (0.43 M) | Australia for UNHCR (0.43 M) | International Olympic Committee (0.27 M) | UNAIDS (0.03 M) | Private donors (0.10 M)

Major donors of regional or other funds with soft earmarking 2019

United States of America (54.3 M) | Germany (13.1 M) | Private donors Australia (8.1 M) | Canada (4.6 M) | Sweden (4 M) | Private donors Germany (3.2 M)

Major donors of un-earmarked funds in 2019

Sweden (99.8 M) | Private donors Spain (47.6 M) | Norway (44.5 M) | Netherlands (37.5 M) | United Kingdom (31.7 M) | Germany (26.7 M) | Denmark (24.4 M) | Private donors Republic of Korea (24.1 M) | Switzerland (15.1 M) | Private donors Japan (14.2 M) | France (14 M) | Private donors Italy (11.1 M) | Ireland (10.2 M)

Contacts

David Nthengwe, Senior Regional External Relations Officer, – UNHCR Regional Representation Kinshasa, nthengwe@unhcr.org, Tel: +243 996 041 000, +243 817 009 484

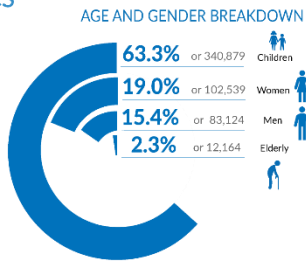
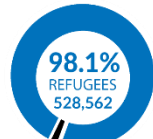
Alexandra Stenbock-Fermor, Associate External Relations and Reporting Officer, – UNHCR Regional Representation Kinshasa, stenbock@unhcr.org, Tel: +243 996 041 000, +243 822 253 121

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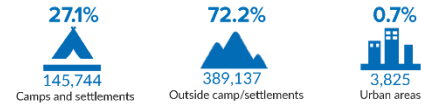
538,706

TOTAL NUMBER OF REFUGEES AND ASYLUM SEEKERS

KEY STATISTICS



TYPES OF LOCATION



REFUGEE POPULATION BY COUNTRY OF ORIGIN

Rwanda	216,018
CAR	173,079
S. Sudan	102,826
Burundi	45,441
Rep. Congo	649
Angola	490
Sudan	147
Others*	22
Somalia	18
Uganda	16

* Others include Ivory Coast, Eritrea, Syria, Liberia, Chad, Sierra Leone, etc.

REFUGEES FROM DRC IN AFRICA

886,881

TOTAL DRC REFUGEE POPULATION

Uganda	376,111
Southern Africa*	111,117
Burundi	80,897
Tanzania	77,833
Rwanda	76,375
Other countries**	61,789
Zambia	44,917
Angola	37,553
Republic of Congo	20,289***

Source: UNHCR

* 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

*** For the Republic of Congo, these figures are for May 2019 (the figures for June are not available).

