

Democratic Republic of the Congo

April 2021

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](#).

Highlights

- **Over 75,000 persons (15,189 households)** have reportedly fled their homes following clashes between Hutu and Tembo militias in Mubungu. Kalehe Territory, South Kivu Province.
- **822 Burundians refugees** and **221 Rwandan refugees** have been voluntarily repatriated to their countries of origin from North Kivu.
- **Two new sites were granted** by the provincial authorities in Masisi territory (North Kivu) in April 2021 to accommodate thousands of families who have been displaced from Ituri province in recent months.
- From 26 April to 3 May 2021, the **Director of UNHCR Regional Bureau for Southern Africa visited the Aru Sub office** in order to assess the achievements of UNHCR DRC and partners in support of South Sudanese refugees and host communities.



Mr. Valentin TAPSOBA, Director of UNHCR's Regional Bureau for Southern Africa met with South Sudanese refugee working the land in Biringi in eastern DRC ©UNHCR2020/Tania Manduanga

Refugees



PROTECTION

- During the month under review, **15,189 households were forced to flee their homes in Kalehe Territory (South Kivu Province)** because of violent clashes between Hutu and Tembo militias caused by inter-communal land conflict. The families are scattered in nearly 25 neighbouring villages. UNHCR and partners are identifying the most urgent needs to coordinate the appropriate response through the Protection Cluster.
- **26,000 Burundian refugees and asylum seekers have been physically verified and registered** by UNHCR and the Commission Nationale pour les Réfugiés (CNR) in Lusenda Camp and Mulongwe Settlement. All registered refugees will receive new refugee cards to offer protection and facilitate their mobility in the area.
- UNHCR and CNR facilitated the voluntary repatriation of **822 Burundian refugees from Kavimvira transit center in Uvira, DRC to Burundi**. Due to the heavily damaged roads in South Kivu, refugees had to be relocated by boat from Lusenda Camp to Uvira. In addition, 221 Rwandan refugees were repatriated from North Kivu to Rwanda.
- **4,292 Central African refugees (978 households) have been verified and registered by UNHCR and its governmental partner the Commission National pour les Réfugiés (CNR) in Nzakara**, 35 km from Gbadolite (North Ubangi Province). The majority of the refugees originate from the localities of Zangba and Mobaye Banga (Basse Kotto territory) and have arrived in DRC between January and March 2021. By the end of April, about 53,000 individuals had been registered by UNHCR in the three provinces of Bas Uele, North

Ubangi and South Ubangi, with approximately 37% among those already present in UNHCR database and 63% registered for the first time.

- To strengthen the protection of South Sudanese refugee children at risk, **two Best Interest Determination (BID) panel refresher workshops were held in Aru and Faradje territory in April**, targeting 44 participants including 27 humanitarian actors from implementing partners and 17 officials from government structures (Peace Court, representatives from the Division of Social Affairs, Division of Primary, Secondary and Technical Education).



HEALTH

- **With UNHCR support, 3,738 urban Rwandan and Burundian refugees in Goma and Bukavu were enrolled in medical insurance plans.** Having access to basic health care improves the overall quality of life of refugees and prevents refugees from being pushed into extreme poverty. For 2021, an additional 158 urban refugees are awaiting enrolment in the medical insurance scheme in Goma.
- UNHCR continues to promote refugees' access to life-saving and essential healthcare. During April, **5,911 consultations were carried out by UNHCR's medical partners for Burundian refugees and host community members.**



WATER, SANITATION AND HYGIENE (WASH)

- UNHCR continues to provide access to clean water at Lusenda Camp and Mulongwe settlement and to ensure chlorinated handwashing stations are in place at all entry points. In addition, **5,422 refugees were informed on domestic waste disposal** and to improve the hygiene in their living environment.
- **Hygiene and sanitation promotion activities** were carried out during the month of April by a team of 6 hygiene and sanitation promoters **targeting 2,827 refugees residing in the Bele site, Haut-Uele Province.**



SHELTER AND CORE RELIEF ITEMS (CRIs)

- **UNHCR implementing partner AIDES built 13 emergency shelters** in the Mulongwe settlement for the benefit of Burundian refugee households who were relocated during the month of April. 110 additional shelters are currently being constructed. In addition, **148 of these recently relocated Burundian refugee households have benefited from a distribution of construction kits and technical support** which will allow them to build their individual houses and latrines.
- In April, UNHCR and its partner AIDES delivered **340 emergency shelters to displaced households in the Busumba displacement site in Masisi territory, North Kivu Province.** This intervention was aimed at improving the living conditions of the displaced and protect them from meteorological hazards.
- UNHCR through his partner AIRD has assisted 87 South Sudanese households recently relocated in Bele site (Haut Uélé Province) with construction kits consisting of hoe, shovel, metal bucket and hammer to help them build their shelters.
- **Shelters and core relief items (CRIs) kits** comprising of 87 mats, 87 blankets, 40 kitchen Set, 79 jerry cans, 39 buckets and 22.25 Kg of soap were distributed by UNHCR to 31 households (87 people) relocated from Meri to Bele site in April 2021.

CASH-BASED INTERVENTIONS (CBI)

- Between 5 and 20 April 2020, UNHCR continued the distribution of **cash assistance to 19,303 Central African refugees and local community members (5,681 households) in the area of Ndu (Bas Uélé province)** and surrounding villages. The cash distribution was restricted to the purchase of core relief items (CRIs) and the amount of money received was based on the family size of the refugees and host communities benefiting from the distribution. An additional amount of 15 USD has been given to women and girls of reproductive age for the purchase of hygiene kits.
- **In Haut Uélé and Ituri Provinces, UNHCR, the World Food Programme and partner ADSSE assisted 30,572 South Sudanese refugees including 23,875 at the Meri site and 6,697 in Biringi with cash for food assistance.** The cash distribution activities were implemented in strict respect of Covid-19 preventive measure, including physical distancing, temperature measurement and compulsory hand washing.

EDUCATION

- In April, **UNHCR and his partner ADSSE distributed school supplies to 490 primary school students in Aba and Bele sites** targeting students who were absent during the March 2021 distribution. A total of 2,500 primary school students including 1,700 students in Aba (1,360 refugee students and 340 students from the host community) and 800 students in Bele (640 refugee students and 160 students from host community) were provided with school supplies in host elementary school in Aba and Bele since the beginning of the year.

Statelessness

- **On 21 April, birth certificates were issued to minors by the local civil registry, with the support of UNHCR Kananga office in Kananga, Kasai Central Province.** As part of its efforts to prevent and mitigate statelessness, UNHCR is reinforcing its partnership with representatives from the Ministry of Interior with the aim to secure further 35.000 birth certificates for internally displaced children, returnee children and children from host communities.
- **In Nyunzu territory, Tanganyika Province, UNHCR conducted a training on birth registration and the importance of birth declarations within legal timeframe.** The training gathered 29 participants and aimed to strengthen the technical and operational capacities of local and customary authorities and to improve the mechanisms for collecting data on birth. In addition, two motorcycles, 200 official books and office equipment were delivered to local authorities in various nearby villages, with the aim to facilitate birth registrations.

Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs)

PROTECTION

- **Following the deteriorating security and political situation in Ituri and the increasing attacks of armed groups against civilians, a State of Emergency was declared in Ituri and North Kivu Provinces on 30 April.**
- **During the month under review, 3,434 protection incidents involving human right violations have been reported in April in Ituri,** the highest total number of human rights violations ever monitored since the beginning of the protection monitoring programme conducted jointly by UNHCR and INTESOS. The Djugu territory has registered more than a half of the total protection violations (53%), followed by Irumu with 34%,

Mahagi (07%) and Mambassa (06%). **148 of these violations were committed against children** (102 against girls and 46 against young boys) including rape, murder and kidnapping. **In North Kivu Province, 1,464 protection incidents were documented, mostly committed by non-state armed forces and consisting mainly of murders, destruction of properties, money extortion and forced labour**, the majority of which committed in Beni territory, in the health zones of Mutwanga and Oicha.

- **In Masisi territory, North Kivu, about 26,574 people (4,647 households) have reportedly fled during April, finding refuge in IDP sites (323 households) and hosts families (4321 households).** They fled clashes between armed forces and non-state armed groups.
- In North Kivu, **two new IDP sites were recognized by the provincial authorities in Busumba (Mweso health center) and Mpati (Masisi health center) in Masisi territory**, which will help to accommodate the displaced people who have arrived there in recent months.
- **In Kitshanga, Masisi territory (North Kivu) 91 men members of the local communities actively participated in two group discussions about SGBV prevention** and the negative social norms that encourage harmful practices. These discussions were organised by UNHCR and partner AIDPROFEN and were facilitated by the male ambassadors of positive masculinity, who have previously received training on the subject and are now sharing their knowledge with men living in their community.
- **A Kananga, Kasai Central, UNHCR organized a capacity building session on international protection targeting 20 police officers.** The aim of this activity was to prepare them for deployment to assist UNHCR operations (cash and core relief items distributions, awareness raising activities etc).
- As part of their effort to promoting peaceful coexistence and preventing Sexual and Gender Based Violence (SGBV), **UNHCR and its partner AIDES distributed 40 bicycles to 20 Villages Committees for Peace known as *Comités Villageois de Paix*, in Manono Territory, Tanganyika Province.** Thanks to this endowment, village committees for peace are facilitated in movements to better report protection incidents, human rights violations and work on conflict resolutions in their respective localities. UNHCR relies on community protection structures to promote peaceful coexistence and maintain social cohesion between communities.

CASH-BASED INTERVENTIONS (CBI)

- In Mwenga Territory, South Kivu Province, **320 displaced persons at risk, especially women at risk of SGBV have received unconditional cash assistance by UNHCR.** Cash assistance promotes resilience and self-empowerment of women, by allowing them able to make their own financial decisions, thus reducing their vulnerability.
- **1,017 internally displaced households residing in the area of Aungba, Mahagi territory, (Ituri Province) have received 250 USD per household as a cash assistance** to be used for the construction, rehabilitation of their homes and the realisation of their own latrines.

Clusters and Working Groups

- From April 7 to 9, in Kalemie territory, Tanganyika Province, the CCCM cluster conducted a training on IDP Site Management and Coordination. The training brought together 21 participants from local authorities responsible of site administration, site managers, UN agencies, NGOs and other service providers in IDPs sites. In addition, bi-weekly CCCM working group meetings were held to share information concerning the needs of the new internally displaced people arrived in IDP sites across the Province of Ituri.

External / Donor Relations

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

Donors for UNHCR operations in DRC

United States of America (12.4 M) | Sweden (4.8M) | Japan (1.7M) | Canada (1.6M) | UN Peacebuilding Fund (1.6M) | France (1.2M) | Norway (0.6M) | UN Covid-19 MPTF (0.2M)

Donors of regional or sub-regional funds

United States of America (35.6 M) | Germany (10.9M) | Canada (8.5 M) | Private Donors Australia (3.7M) | Private Donors Germany (3.7M) | Finland (2.4M)

Major donors of unearmarked funds

Norway (80M) | Sweden (66.9M) | Netherlands (36.1M) | Denmark (34.6M) | Germany (22.1M) | Private Donor Spain (21.5 million) | Switzerland (16.4M) | Ireland (12.5M) | Belgium (11.9M) | Private Donor Republic of Korea (10.8 million)

Contacts

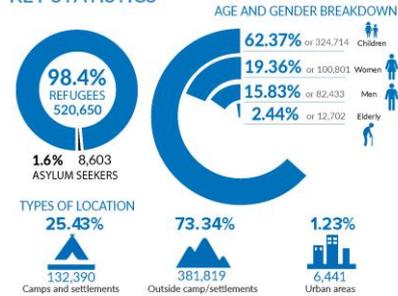
Johannes van Gemund, Senior External Relations Officer, UNHCR Representation Kinshasa,
gemund@unhcr.org, Tel: +243 817 009 484

Vittoria Moretti, Associate External Relations and Reporting Officer, UNHCR Representation Kinshasa,
moretti@unhcr.org, Tel: +243 820 556 659

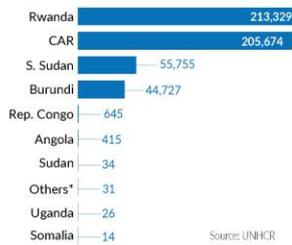
[DR Congo Emergency page](#) | [UNHCR DRC operation page](#) | [Facebook](#) | [Twitter](#)

529,253

TOTAL NUMBER OF REFUGEES AND ASYLUM SEEKERS
KEY STATISTICS



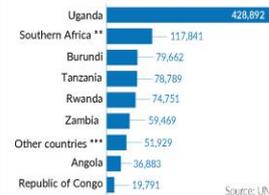
REFUGEE POPULATION BY COUNTRY OF ORIGIN



REFUGEES FROM DRC IN AFRICA

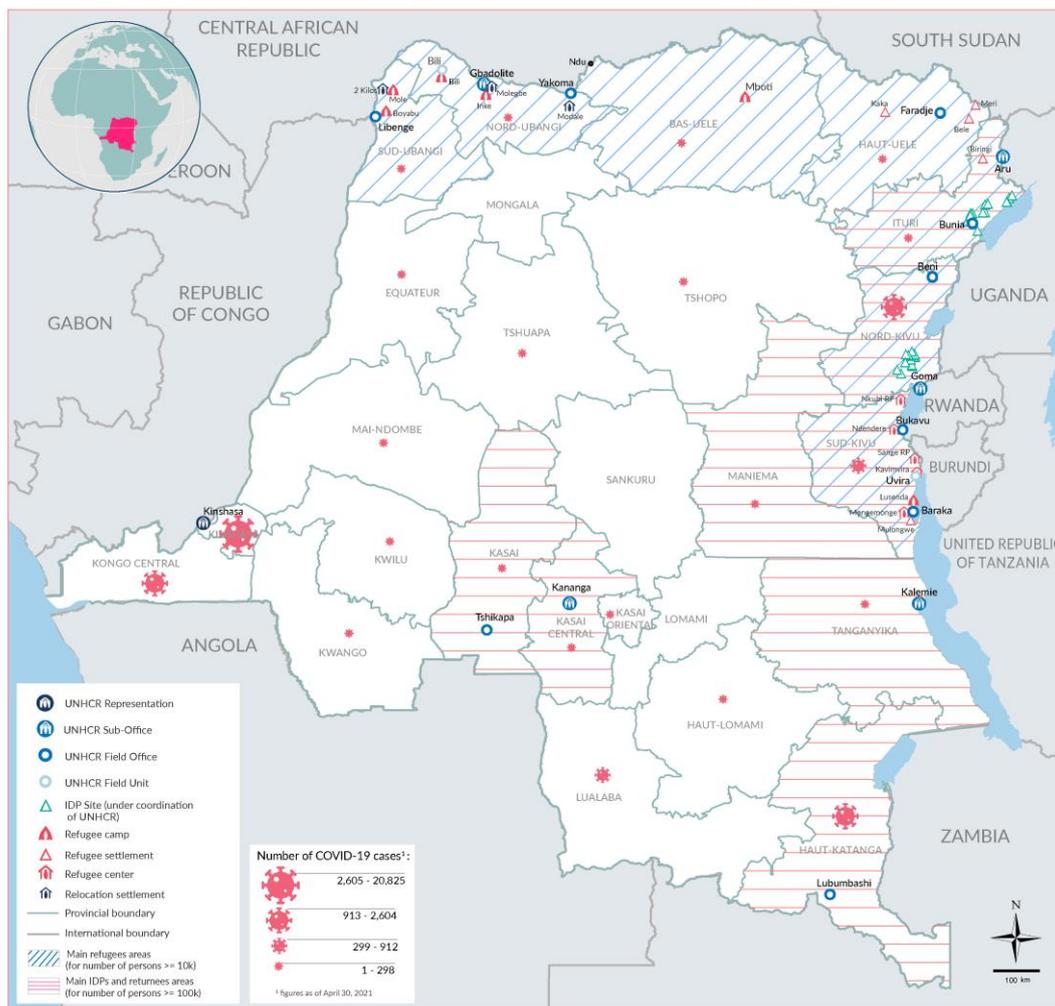
948,007

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.



The boundaries and names shown and the designations used on this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by the United Nations.

Printing date: 30 April 2021

Sources: UNHCR, WHO, CMR-Covid-19 in DRC and OCHA. For more information on refugee statistics in the DRC, please contact: cod@drcongo@unhcr.org

Author: UNHCR - Kinshasa

Coordinate System: GCS WGS 1984
Datum: WGS 1984
Units: Meter