Clashes between non-state armed groups continue to be reported in numerous locations across Rutshuru and Masisi territories. The Grand Nord region of North Kivu Province continues to see violence and human rights violations. Repeated incursions by non-state armed groups operating more and more extensively in the region are continuing to drive up reports of killings, kidnappings and extortion. Mapping the needs remains a challenge due to heavily restricted access.

Diplomatic dialogue engaging Heads of State and Government at various summits has focused on the crisis in eastern DRC. In Luanda, Angola, the quadripartite summit of SADC, EAC, CIRGL and ECCAS on the security situation ended on Tuesday June 27. Initiated by the African Union, the summit aims to improve coordination of regional peace efforts and initiatives, involving both political and military aspects. In the final statement issued at the closure of proceedings, the summit welcomed achievements of the political, military, humanitarian and socio-economic processes undertaken to date by the various stakeholders to resolve the numerous challenges facing eastern DRC.

Peace efforts and collaborations within the region remain crucial to finding a resolution to the violence across DRC’s eastern provinces, where as many as 2.8 million have been forcibly displaced since March 2022. A system-wide scale up in the humanitarian response has been announced to tackle the multiplying risks faced by displaced populations.
SECTOR RESPONSE

In the coordinated response to the situation under the leadership of UNOCHA, UNHCR is coordinating the provision of services for the Protection, Shelter and Camp Coordination and Camp Management (CCCM) Clusters in collaboration with UN agencies, international and local NGOs, and government partners.

**Protection Cluster**
- As part of the commemorative activities for World Refugee Day on June 20, UNHCR and its partners organized a 3-day entrepreneurial fair bringing together 15 entrepreneurs, including 10 refugee traders and 5 IDP traders, showcasing the skills and products from displaced and host communities, demonstrating inclusion, social cohesion and economic strength.
- Meanwhile, in the north of Masisi territory, clashes between non-state armed groups continued to generate human rights violations and displacement. On June 22, 1,568 households with 7,840 individuals were forced to flee the fighting to safer areas. In Luxe Bashali Mokoto, 2,240 individuals also fled fighting and escaped to the village of Kasura. In Beni, attacks on civilians by non-state armed groups continue.
- A total of 17 victims of human rights violations registered by UNHCR through INTERSOS protection monitoring activities in Rutshuru (9), Masisi (5), Walikale (2) and Beni (1) have benefited from cash protection assistance to access care services.
- On June 23, a conference on refugee cohesion and inclusion was organized by UNHCR in the city of Goma to discuss options for supporting refugees and IDPs in eastern DRC. As many as 78 participants from universities, civil society, military, and police administrations took part. Several recommendations were made, including the exploration of funding opportunities and grassroots scholarships for the education sector and vocational and technical training for refugees and IDPs.

**CHALLENGES AND GAPS:** Access remains heavily restricted in areas controlled by non-state armed groups, hindering humanitarian response in Rutshuru and Masisi territories | Violent clashes are preventing protection monitors from engaging with some displaced populations, and restrictions on freedoms are increasingly common in Rutshuru and Masisi territories.

**Shelter and Non-Food Items (NFI) Cluster**
- A total of 303 hectares of land have now been mobilized across 5 official sites to increase the capacity of humanitarian workers to shelter displaced people in the Goma region. This includes 35 hectares in Sake town; 133 hectares in Buchagara, of which 58 hectares are already being used by 3,000 shelters; 52 hectares in Rusayo II; 80 hectares in Nzulo; 3 hectares in Lushagala.

**CHALLENGES AND GAPS:** The transfer of families to more secure shelters in planned sites was interrupted following landowner protests and demonstrations.

**Camp Coordination and Camp Management (CCCM) Cluster**
- 900 families, making a total of 4,596 people, were transferred to Rusayo II site this week, thanks to the concerted efforts of UNHCR, IOM and AIDES.

**CHALLENGES AND GAPS:** More latrines and showers are needed to match shelter capacity | Physical presence of authorities required for improved administration of sites | Financial restrictions and limiting important CCCM activities.
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, this comes after receiving just 46% of the funding required in 2022.

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