

THE DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO SITUATION

JULY 2018

The situation in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) is one of the world's most **complex and challenging yet forgotten crises**. As of 31 July 2018, 782,363 Congolese refugees are being hosted in African countries. From 1 January to 31 July 2018 alone, some 121,618 Congolese fled to neighboring countries, with a particularly **significant increase** in refugee flows to Uganda, Burundi and Zambia. On 17 July 2018, UNHCR together with 43 humanitarian and development partners launched the revised Regional Refugee Response Plan for **\$547 million to help respond to the needs of Congolese refugees in neighboring countries**.

KEY INDICATORS



782,363 *

Total of refugees and asylum-seekers from the DRC



121,618 **

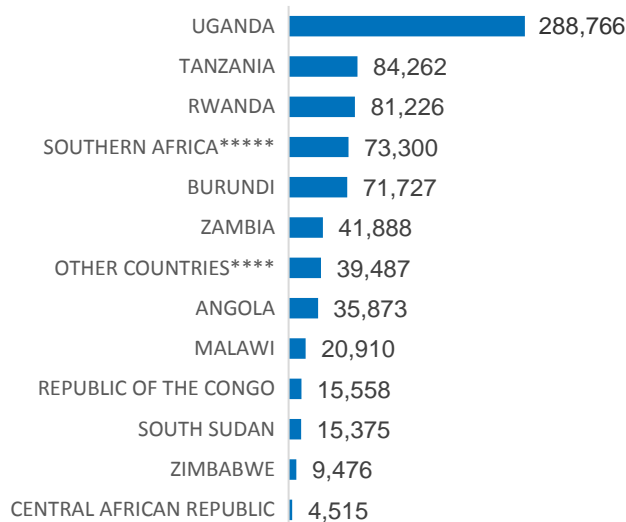
New arrivals in 2018



10,100

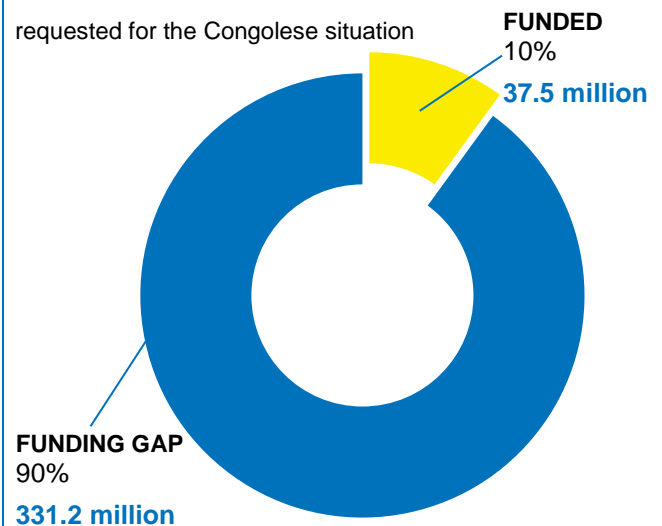
New arrivals in June 2018

POPULATION OF CONCERN IN HOST COUNTRIES

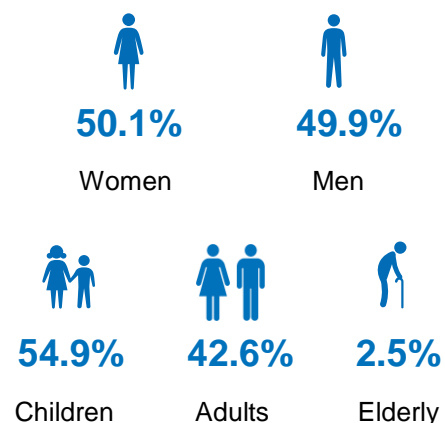


FUNDING (AS OF 31 JULY 2018)

USD 368.7 million



AGE, GENDER BREAKDOWN ***



* **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.

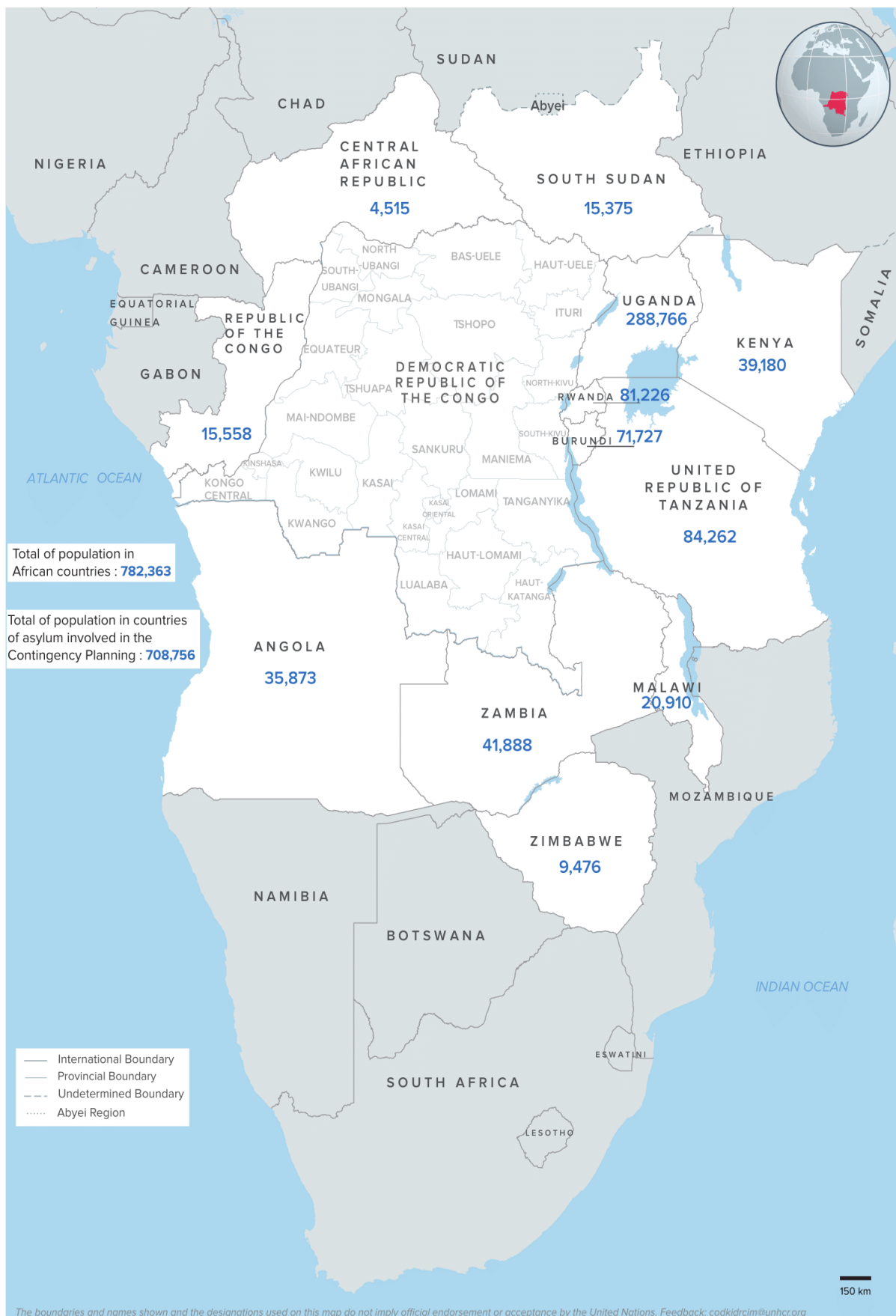
** **New arrivals** include figures from Angola, Botswana, Burundi, Chad, Central African Republic, Kenya, the Kingdom of eSwatini, Malawi, Mozambique, Madagascar, Republic of the Congo, Rwanda, South Sudan, Uganda, the United Republic of Tanzania and Zimbabwe.

*** **This age and gender breakdown** includes figures from Angola, Botswana, Burundi, Chad, Central African Republic, Kenya, the Kingdom of eSwatini, Malawi, Mozambique, Madagascar, 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 July 2018

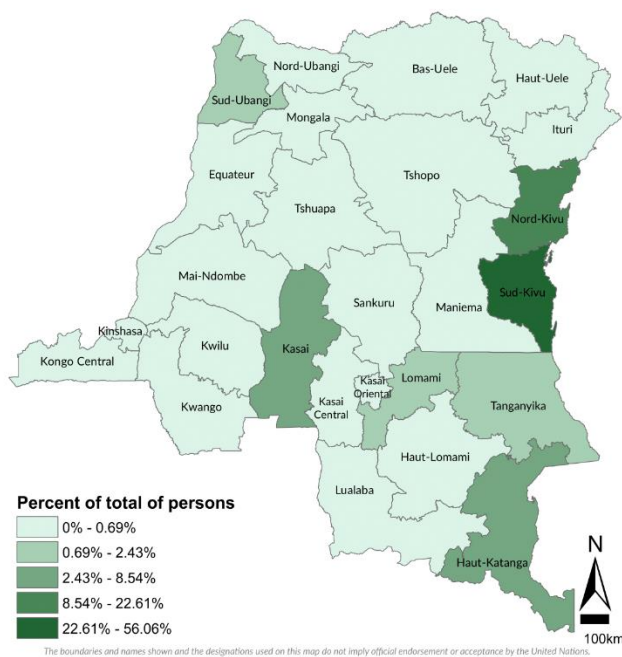


Creation date: 31 July 2018 Sources: UNHCR - Kinshasa Feedback: codkidrcim@unhcr.org

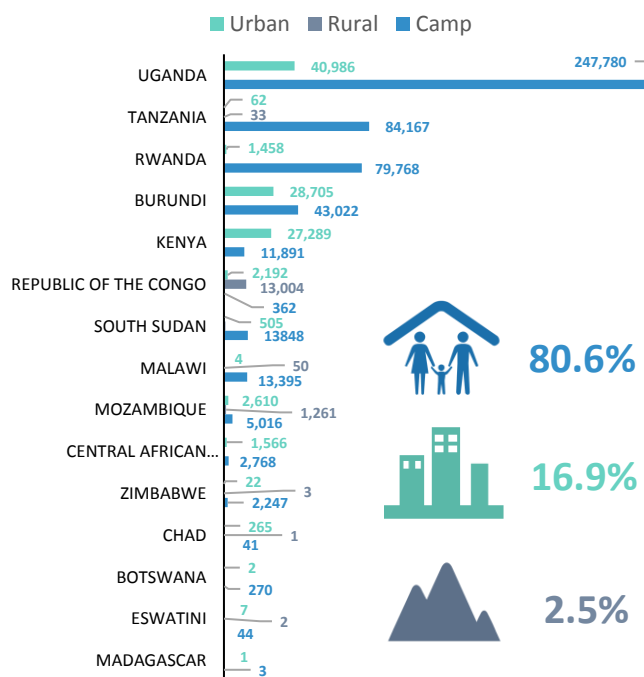
Regional Highlights and Operational Context

- A total of **782,363 Congolese refugees and asylum-seekers** are being hosted in countries in Africa, that have generously maintained an open door policy in granting asylum to old and new population groups.
- 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**.
- As of the end of July 2018, UNHCR received **\$37.5 million** for the DRC situation, representing only **10 per cent** of the total requirements for 2018.
- The interagency Regional Refugee Response Plan for the DRC situation has received **\$59.6 million**, as at 17 July 2018, representing only **11 per cent** of the total requirements for 2018.
- The DRC Humanitarian Pledging Conference was held in Geneva on 13 April 2018. Donors pledged USD \$528.1 million. The total requirement is USD \$ 1.7 billion.
- The first UNHCR - UNDP Joint-Programming Workshop on the RRRP for the DRC Situation, was held on 02-03 July, at the UN Office in Nairobi, Kenya, organized by the Regional Refugee Coordinator for the DRC Situation, Ann Encontre and the UNDP Sub-Regional Platform Coordinator, David Clapp. The joint workshop aimed to strengthen the coordination of humanitarian and development assistance in hosting and return areas of Congolese refugees, as well as other displaced populations of concern, and to start the process of identifying other potential partners, including national and bilateral actors, as well as international and multilateral humanitarian, development and peacebuilding organizations. This initiative encapsulates a new way of working and has brought a new dimension to the concept of interagency cooperation through a coordinated response, as a basis for working as One UN with development actors.

PROVINCES OF ORIGIN of Congolese Refugees



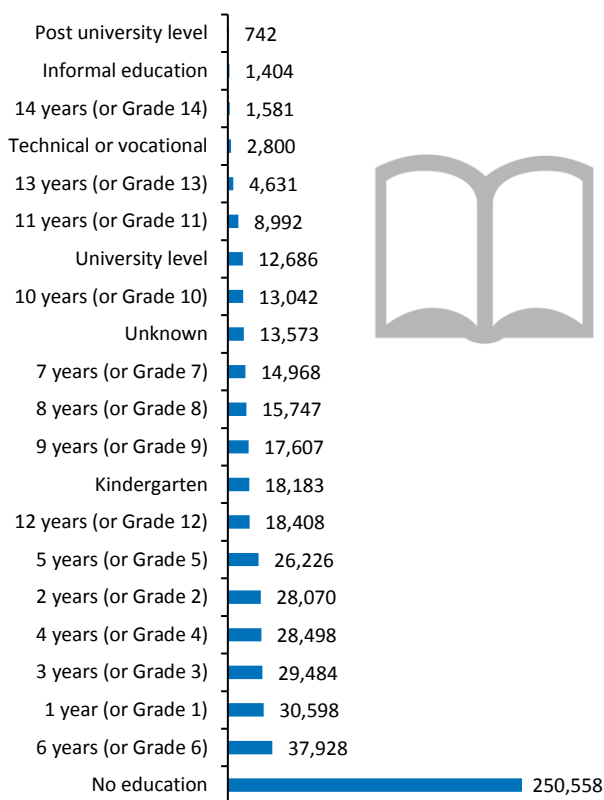
TYPE OF SETTLEMENT In Countries Of Asylum



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

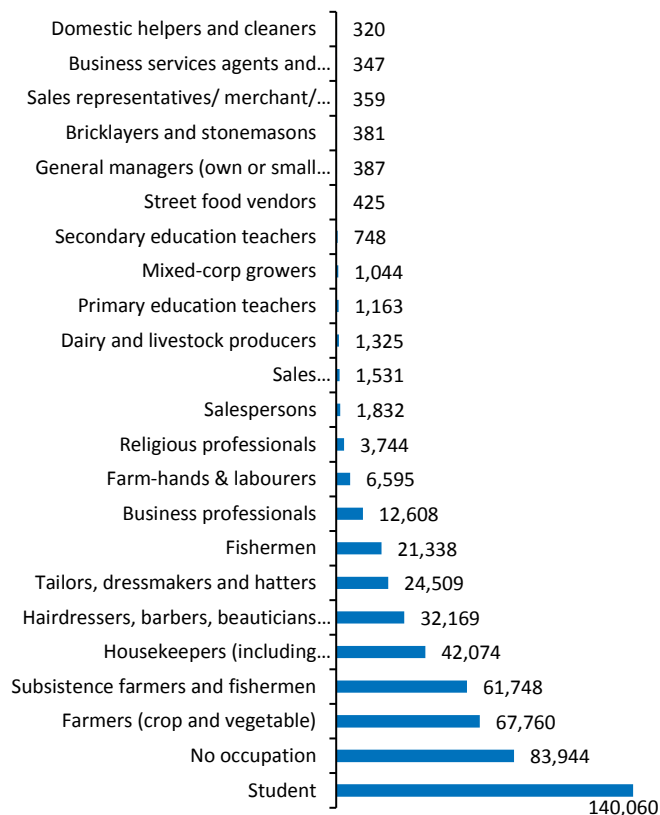
EDUCATION LEVEL OF REFUGEES

Number Of Persons Per Level



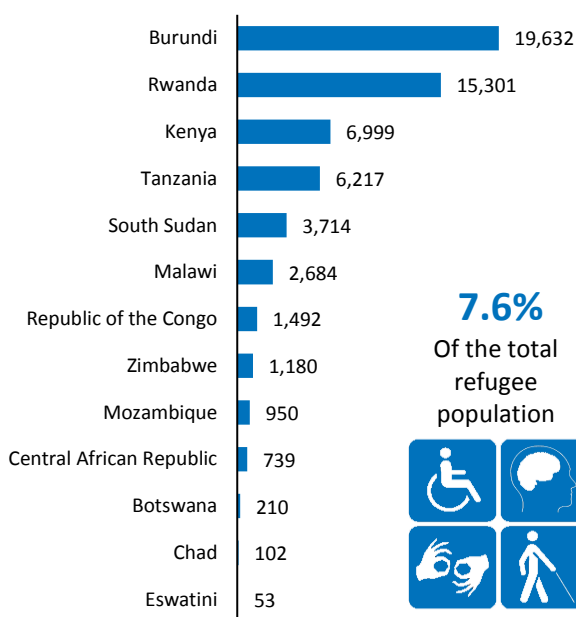
OCCUPATION OF REFUGEES

Number Of Persons By Type Of Occupation



NUMBER OF PERSONS WITH SPECIFIC NEEDS

Per Country of Asylum

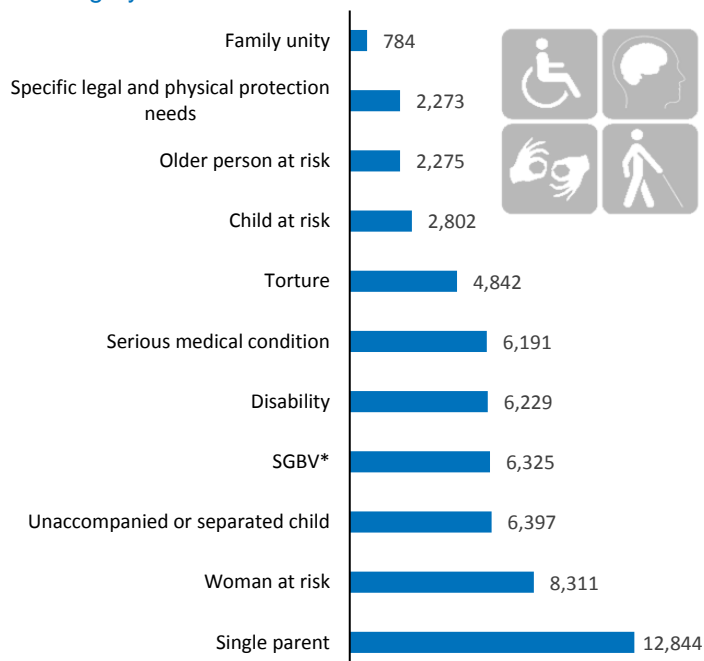


7.6%
Of the total
refugee
population



NUMBER OF PERSONS WITH SPECIFIC NEEDS

Per Category of Concern



* 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

ANGOLA

Latest developments

- A total of 13,707 Congolese refugees and asylum seekers were residing in Lóvua refugee settlement and some 8,800 in urban areas in and around Dundo town, as at 31 July.

Achievements

- With the support of the Embassy of Spain, a group of four comic performers, clowns, from Clowns Without Borders held performances for over 5,000 children in Luanda and Lunda Norte. This initiative aimed at promoting the use of comedy as a tool to overcome traumas and stimulate social cohesion between refugee and host communities.
- Some 21,706 individuals (5,363 families) participated in the general food distribution.

Challenges

- Due to a lack of funding, only 40% and 30% of the monthly ration for maize meal and beans, respectively, were provided to refugees in Lóvua and the urban communities.
- Refugees prefer to continue giving birth in Lóvua settlement, instead of using the facilities in local hospitals, due to long distances and discrimination, which refugees believe they face.
- There was an outbreak of chicken pox in Lóvua settlement with more than 200 registered cases. UNHCR and partners conducted information campaigns aimed at stemming the spread of the disease.
- Borehole construction in Lovua has stopped due to a temporary technical issue with the contractor's vehicle and efforts being made to start again the work.

BURUNDI

Latest developments

- A total of 81 households of 375 new refugees from the DRC arrived in Burundi, bringing the total number of registered Congolese refugees and asylum seekers to 71,727.
- UNHCR is following up on the immigration services' report that some 76 households of Congolese refugees may have returned to DRC from the Northern and Eastern refugee camps via Rumonge port, south of the Capital Bujumbura. It was also reported that some 33 households living in Rumonge urban community may have returned to DRC via unofficial exit points, according to the local authorities. A verification exercise in refugee camps is underway to verify the number of returnees. As the electoral period draws near, more refugees may seek to return to DRC.
- UNHCR Burundi put in place Ebola preventive mechanisms, including awareness campaign in camps and other refugee communities, training of medical and field staff, and sensitization of refugees on good practice to avoid Ebola. Refugees are also encouraged to avoid trans-border movements to and from the DRC. In this context, and in an effort to

reduce the risks of contamination, the Government of Burundi started closing unofficial exit/entry points across the border with the DRC.

Achievements

- Another 369 asylum-seekers were granted refugee status. In addition, 479 identity cards, 365 birth certificates, 04 death certificates, 17 wedding certificates, 95 temporary stay permits and 338 registration proofs were issued to asylum seeker and refugees and 1,082 exit camp permits were issued to refugees wishing to go out of the camp.
- Some 98 persons with specific needs (PSN) identified among the Congolese refugee population, including 71 females and 27 males and they were all assisted accordingly.
- A convoy of 37 households of 124 new refugees from the DRC organized from Bujumbura and Cishemere Transit Center, western province of Cibitoke bordering the DRC, to Kavumu refugee camp in the Province of Cankuzo.
- The contingency plan for the DRC refugees was reviewed in anticipation of a potential influx from the DRC and construction works continued in the new refugee camp in Nyankanda, eastern province of Ruyigi.
- Some 1,615 refugees who subscribed to the Village Service Loans Associations (VSLA), including 550 new members were assisted and followed up in July. VSLAs have proven to be a powerful means of economic and social empowerment of refugees and the host population surrounding refugee camps.
- Latrines, shower blocks and improved stoves were built in Kavumu and Bwagiriza refugee camps and solar street lights installation was underway in all refugee camps.
- A total of 417 resettlement cases were submitted in July and 267 Congolese refugees departed for resettlement countries, bringing to 1,791 the number of resettled Congolese refugees from Burundi since the beginning of this year.

Challenges

- The operation remains underfunded. This situation has a negative impact on the overall assistance available for refugees, including self-reliance activities and education. There are many overcrowded classes and lack of school materials/manuals, health, and shelters and latrines that need rehabilitation.

CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC

Achievements

- Some 123 long term Congolese refugees, who arrived in Central African Republic from 2001 to 2013, were sensitized for durable solutions, namely local reintegration and voluntary repatriation.
- A total of 46 Congolese refugees, who decided to be locally integrated in Central African Republic, selected and received cash assistance from UNHCR to begin income-generating activities and approximately 26 million FCFA invested in their activities.

MALAWI**Latest developments**

- In July, the total population of Congolese refugees and asylum seekers stood at 20,910 Individuals, with average of 275 new arrivals per month, between January and June 2018.

Achievements

- UNHCR's operational partner Welthungerhilfe (WHH) started maintenance work on latrines, bathrooms, the drainage and septic tank at Karonga transit center.
- At Mbilima entry point, WHH drilled a borehole and also continued to provide food to all new arrivals at Karonga transit center.
- In partnership with Jesuit Refugee Service, UNHCR identified a contractor to construct handwashing facilities at Chitipa waystation.
- JRS also started renovation work of an old storage room at Karonga transit centre, to ensure there is at least some space for storage of NFIs in case of an emergency.

Challenges

- Expansion of shelter facilities remains critical at entry and transit points and in the Dzaleka camp, in case of an emergency.
- Access to health for refugees and asylum seekers needs to be strengthened at both Chitipa and Mbilima reception and Karonga transit center. The Operation intends to source funds to procure motorcycles for emergency cases.
- WASH facilities require improvements to address the needs in Chitipa and Mbilima entry points, as well as at Karonga transit center.
- A proper and more effective system is required to distribute NFIs at Karonga transit center.

RWANDA**Latest developments**

- A joint Government of Rwanda and UNHCR verification exercise in Nyabiheke refugee camp started on 09 July. There was a 71% completion rate at the end of July.
- From July 23rd to 25th a training was conducted on Prevention of Sexual Abuse and Gender; participants included Community mobilisers, health promoters, Sexual Gender Based Violence activists, other casual labors from partners and UNHCR; in Mugombwa camp 33 males and 43 females participated; in Kigeme camp 59 males and 58 females participated; in Huye (urban area) where participants were drivers, community mobilisers and security guards, a total of 17 males and 3 females participated.
- The Ministry of Disaster Management and Refugee Affairs (MIDIMAR) called for a meeting on 13 July with refugee leaders to discuss the outcome of the verification exercise in Gihembe, which was completed on 22 June. Refugee leaders were tasked to inform individuals who are not registered that they are not entitled to stay in the camp. MIDIMAR and Immigration authorities will advise them on how to submit individual application for asylum.

Achievements

- A total of 120 persons were screened during an ongoing screening of non-communicable diseases in Gihembe health center and 12 cases of hypertension were identified.
- The construction of eight early childhood development (ECD) classrooms at Gihembe camp funded by UNHCR was under procurement process. Once the construction is finalized, they will provide ECD access to more than 500 children.
- The construction of eight blocks of latrines was successful in Nyabiheke camp by LDS, the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints.
- Shelters were redistributed to refugees with shelter needs following resettlement departures in Gihembe camp.
- An average of 14.8 liters/person/day was provided in Nyabiheke camp.
- The management of severe and moderate malnutrition for children under 5, pregnant and lactating mothers was done in clinics both outside and inside the camp.

Challenges

- There is a lack of child friendly spaces in Gihembe and Nyabiheke camps.
- Access to healthcare remains a challenge for Congolese students enrolled in secondary, universities, and vocational training centres away from the refugee camps.
- Shelters need to be expanded in order to accommodate the growing population. There is a need for supplementary feeding for refugees with chronic illnesses (excluding diabetics) as well as the elderly in Gihembe and Nyabiheke camps.
- There is a need for an additional 295 shower rooms in Nyabiheke and Gihembe camps.
- Family latrines and showers are needed for 20 persons with disabilities who cannot easily access the communal latrines and showers in Gihembe camp.

UNITED REPUBLIC OF TANZANIA

Latest developments

- There were some 84,262 Congolese refugees and asylum seekers in Tanzania, as of July 2018, sheltered in Nyarugusu refugee camp in the Kigoma region.
- On 28 July the Kibirizi reception centre closed and as of the end of July, all entry points and transit centers in the Kigoma Region were closed too.

Achievements

- A total of 2,026 Congolese refugees departed for resettlement countries, from January to July 2018. Since June 2015, some 19,160 applications have been submitted under the Group Resettlement Programme when Tanzania embarked on a five-year Group Resettlement Programme aimed at resettling approximately 33,000 Congolese refugees to the United States of America.
- The UN Capital Development Fund (UNCDF) completed a pilot project that expanded access to finance for refugees through formation and strengthening savings groups complemented with digital and financial literacy for refugee and host community in Nyarugusu refugee camp, hosting the large majority of refugees from DRC. As part of this program, UNCDF developed with partners such as MICROSAVE, FUNDACIÓN CAPITAL, a tablet and SMS-based financial education applications in both Kirundi and

Swahili language to be used in the camp. Phase II of this project was launched on July 2nd and intends to scale up program to Nduta and Mtendeli refugee camps, as well as to the surrounding host communities, with expanded partnerships including among others the Danish Refugee Council and International Refugee Committee. Refugee participation in savings groups and usage of mobile financial services can have a robust and direct impact on livelihoods, and guarantee inclusive social and economic development.

Challenges

- The government of Tanzania has taken an increasingly restrictive approach on refugee issues, with direct implications in the asylum environment. UNHCR Tanzania is monitoring the situation and keeps advocating for refugees' rights.

UGANDA

Latest developments

- The influx from the DRC, which began in Mid-December 2017, continued through July 2018, following inter-ethnic violence in Ituri and North Kivu. A total of 7,434 refugees from DRC entered Uganda in July through the border entry points of Kisoro and Matanda.

Achievements

- Between 3-5 July, refugees from the Kyangwali settlement held their first Refugee Eligibility Committee (REC) session of 2018, led by the OPM Principal Protection Officer. A total of 1,336 households (3,866 individuals), were booked to face the REC. Preliminary results indicated that close to 1,135 households (3,166 individuals) were interviewed by the team, with a provisional refugee acceptance rate of 97 per cent, the majority of whom were of Congolese origin.
- On 12 July, a joint monitoring exercise was conducted in Kyangwali, by a technical team from UNHCR, OPM, HDLG, African Initiatives for Relief and Development (AIRD), Humanitarian Initiative Just Relief Aid (HIJRA), Action Africa Help Uganda (AAHU) and NRC. The objective was to inspect the status of all partners' ongoing construction projects, such as roadworks, WASH infrastructure (e.g. septic tanks) and communal facilities (e.g. communal shelters in the reception centre). Defects were recorded, and recommendations were made as to how to facilitate retention payments (where applicable) and, for practical completion, the final payment to the contractor.
- In Kyangwali, AIRD completed the construction of a protection screening shelter, in Maratatu, while construction works continued at the medical screening shelter, in Mukunyu.
- In Kisoro, UNHCR was able to increase food security and the timely serving of hot meals by building 04 additional eco-stoves, increasing the total number to 08, with a capacity to cook for 2,000 refugees.
- In Kyaka II, in order to provide health services to the increasing number of refugees in the settlement, two health outposts were constructed in Itambabiniga and Bukere zones.
- In Nakivale, 11 newly constructed PSN shelters were handed over to HIJRA in a joint exercise by OPM, UNHCR and AIRD.
- In Rwamwanja, UNHCR constructed a health centre for outpatients, in the host community of Bisozi Sub County. The construction which was handed over to the Local Government

on 24 July, aimed at facilitating access to primary care for approximately 10,000 individuals, both refugees and host communities.

- The Japan International Cooperation Agency's Promotion of Rice Development (JICA-PRiDe) project conducted a Training of Trainers on rice production for 30 refugees and host community members from Rwamwanja and Kyaka II. The training, which was held in Namulonge, is in line with the Memorandum of Cooperation between UNHCR and JICA, aiming at building the extension capacity in refugee hosting districts as a strategy for increasing production of New Rice for Africa 4 (NERICA 4), to achieve increased incomes.
- Google Mission from Regional Representative Assignment of Community Technology Access (CTA) connectivity infrastructure visited Rwamwanja, Kyaka II and Nakivale settlements to access the existing ICT facilities that will enhance the launching of Kolibre Learning Platform, funded by Google.org Foundation. The mission visited the youth centres and vocational training centres at the settlements.

Challenges

- In Kyaka II, a significant delay in replenishing the stock of plastic sheeting resulted in thousands of refugees staying much longer than 03 days in the Nyakabande and Matanda transit centres, as well as Kyaka II's reception centre. Refugee relocations to shelter plots within the settlement were halted, without the ability to provide this crucial shelter kit material. 4000 plastic sheets from Palorinya have since been sent to Kyaka II to clear this backlog in the communal temporary shelters.
- There was a delay in the construction progress of new classroom blocks in four primary schools (Kaborogota, Byabakora, Mukondo and Kakoni) due to financial constraints.
- New arrivals to Kyaka II are to be received in Bwiriza and a 5km access road to this zone is urgently required before the plot allocation process can take place efficiently.
- In Kyangwali, the plots being allocated to new arrivals are too small to allow families to establish agricultural activities. OPM has informed UNHCR that they will provide separate plots, in the future, for agriculture to these households.
- The newly built health centre for Bisozi Sub County, Rwamwanja, needs furniture such as beds, tables and chairs, as well as some medical equipment, in order to become operational.

ZAMBIA

Latest developments

- UNHCR continued to undertake border monitoring missions, with findings indicating that Congolese refugees have continued to cross into Zambia from the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), albeit, in very small numbers. During the month of July, 259 Congolese new arrivals were received in Zambia through different entry points, bringing the cumulative total of new arrivals since January 2017 to 21,372.
- As of 31 July, Zambia hosted some 41,888 Congolese refugees and asylum seekers, of which 4,912 persons with specific needs.
- Some 10,460 Congolese refugees were residing in the Mantapala refugee settlement, alongside local host communities, following their relocation from Kenani transit centre in June.

Achievements

- The biometric registration of new Congolese refugees, mainly in the Northern Province and Lusaka Province, continued, as well as their individual refugee status determination and relocation to Meheba or Mayukwayukwa refugee settlements, after refugee status was granted. Despite limited reception capacity, especially in Meheba refugee settlement and in Lusaka, the new arrivals were provided with food, shelter and health services while awaiting status and land allocation in the settlement.
- Community sub-committees including livelihoods, SGBV, community watch group, and child protection were set up to enhance all-round protection services in Mantapala refugee settlement. As a result, some 248 (103 males and 145 females) SGBV survivors received psychosocial counselling services. Additionally, some 25 volunteers were trained to monitor unaccompanied and separated minors. Each trained volunteer was allocated nine children to monitor and provide child support.
- Mapping of potential farm land in phase two of Mantapala refugee settlement was completed. A total of 300 selected farming households received farming tools comprising of hoes, rakes and watering cans. An additional 120 households were shortlisted for backyard gardening and livestock rearing support in the settlement.
- UNHCR continued to advance on preparedness activities and discussions, as part of the contingency planning, especially with regards to coordination and scoping actions that bear no cost implications at this point, given the difficulty financial situation of most stakeholders and partners.

Challenges

- Limited funding has continued to be a major challenge, negatively affecting the implementation of various sectors, such as provision of livelihood activities, especially to youths, access to education and health.
- Despite the localised launch of the Zambia chapter of the DRC RRRP, partners and stakeholders have been unable to generate additional resources. Therefore, with limited funding and as CERF funds coming to an end, most of the partners, will be compelled to cease operations in the northern operation by end of August 2018. One of the main sectors that will be negatively impacted will be health sector.
- The poor road network in areas of operation and within refugee settlements is one of the major challenge hampering the response activities. The lack of funding to improve this crucial aspect in the foreseeable future will continue to dramatically challenge access to new arrivals, to refugee sites and to basic services for refugees settled in the sites.
- The absence of network and connectivity in most parts of the settlement results in operational delays and additional activities for refugees, as well as the absence of access to energy and in particular lighting, increases the risk of SGBV incidents in the settlements.

ZIMBABWE

Latest developments

- A total of 76 new arrivals from DRC into Zimbabwe were recorded during July, bringing the total number of Congolese refugees and asylum seekers to 9,476.

- Some 8,903 persons of the total Congolese population in the country, were residing in Tongogara Refugee camp, located in Chipinge district, and about 467 Congolese were living in urban areas, mainly in Harare, the capital of Zimbabwe.

Achievements

- Resettlement applications of four Congolese refugees were successfully accepted by the United States of America.

Challenges

- Due to funding limitations, UNHCR cannot effectively respond to shelter needs of new arrivals.

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
- 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** 7.4 million | **Canada** 6.6 million | **Sweden** 3.2 million

France | Germany | Luxembourg | Malta | Norway | Republic of Korea | Switzerland | United Kingdom | Private donors

UNEARMARKED CONTRIBUTIONS

Sweden 98.2 million | **Norway** 42.5 million | **Netherlands** 39.1 million | **Private donors Spain** 37.8 million | **United Kingdom** 31.7 million | **Denmark** 25.5 million | **Private donors Republic of Korea** 19 million | **Switzerland** 15.2 million | **France** 14 million | **Italy** 11.2 million | **Private donors Japan** 11.1 million | **Private donors Italy** 10.2

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

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