

Democratic Republic of the Congo

1 - 31 July 2018

7,600 refugee certificates were distributed to Central African refugees as part of an ongoing documentation campaign, which so far reached 17,000 and aims to reach over 39,000 Central African refugees in the DRC.

3,520 Central African and South Sudanese refugees and host community members (704 households) received seeds and plants in July, to enhance their self-reliance. Burundian refugees received kits to build their own shelters and latrines.

284 South Sudanese refugees were registered in July. At the same time, there were reports that Congolese refugees in South Sudan returned to DRC due to violence in South Sudan.

KEY INDICATORS

535,726

Refugees in DRC as of 31 July 2018

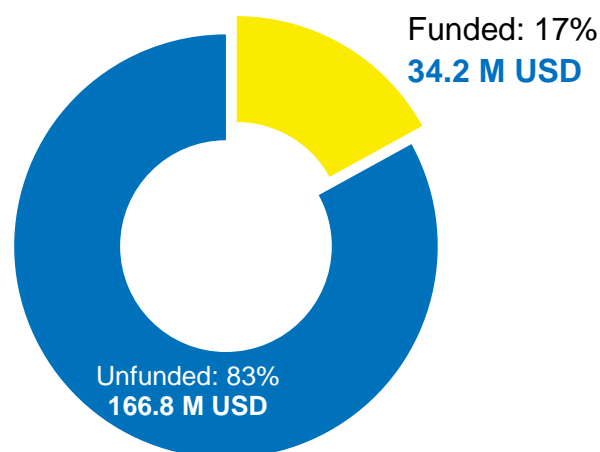
4.49 Million*

Internally Displaced People in DRC as of 31 December 2017

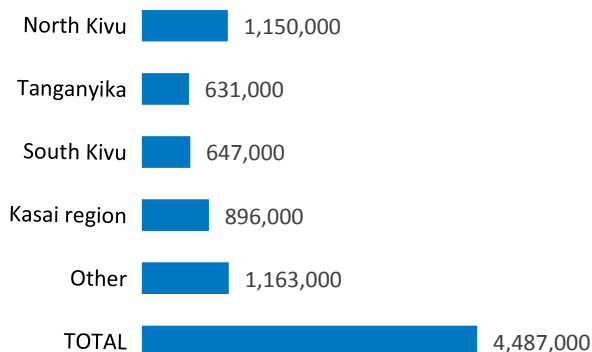
FUNDING 2018 (AS OF 15 AUGUST 2018)

USD 201 M

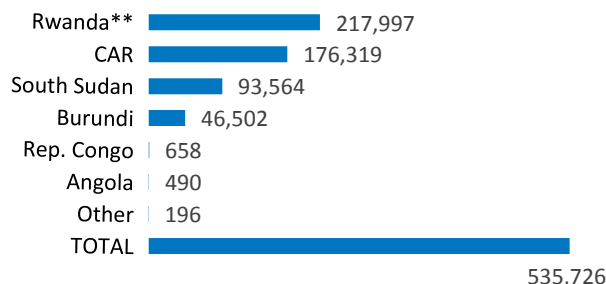
requested for the DRC (including special situations)



Internally Displaced People by Province *



Refugees by country of origin



* Source: OCHA (31 December 2017)

**This figure is based on a pre-registration exercise conducted by the National Commission for Refugees in 2014-2015. Biometric registration is ongoing.

Update on Achievements

Burundian refugees

- A small number of Burundian asylum seekers arrived at Kavimvira transit center and were awaiting registration. 1,647 people are currently staying at three transit centers; Kavimvira, Sange and Monge Monge. All were biometrically registered and their data was stored in ProGres.
- In July, UNHCR reunified 2 refugee children with their families in Burundi, following a Best Interest Determination (BID). An urban Burundian refugee who expressed the wish to return was also accompanied to the border.
- In Lusenda camp (South Kivu Province), 35 families who agreed to ensure temporary care of children in need participated in a UNHCR workshop on child protection, child-friendly communication, the families' role in such a situation, and the prevention of emotional or physical abuse of vulnerable children. In Lusenda camp, Mulongwe site, and Kavimvira and Sange transit centers, 1,314 refugees also participated in 13 sensitization sessions on Sexual and Gender-Based Violence (SGBV), organized by UNHCR and its partner War Child.
- On 23 and 24 July, 45 participants from administrative, military, judicial and police authorities in Uvira Territory were trained on UNHCR's mandate, asylum procedures in the DRC, refugee protection, humanitarian principles, and SGBV prevention and response. The workshop was jointly organized by UNHCR and the National Commission for Refugees (CNR).
- UNHCR visited the central prison in Mulunge, Uvira Territory, to monitor the situation of refugees. 34 refugees were in detention, including 12 who were condemned. 20 cases were still being processed and 2 detainees were awaiting trial. Detention conditions were poor; detainees did not receive sufficient food, did not have spare clothes, and lived in poor health conditions.
- UNHCR transferred USD 47,656 to schools to help refugees in Lusenda camp cover fees for primary and secondary education. UNHCR also made payments for 288 students in Lusenda camp (USD 2,304) and 163 students at Mulongwe site (USD 306) to cover past fees. However, there is an urgent funding gap which means that currently, no school fees can be covered for the next school year.
- In July, 260 kits were distributed by UNHCR's partner ADES at Mulongwe site for households to build their own family latrines and showers. The kits consisted of construction materials and were supplemented by cash to pay for labor costs. In total so far, refugees built 423 latrines and 418 showers at Mulongwe site, supported by cash transfers. UNHCR's partner ADES also built 8 blocks of emergency latrines for newly-transferred refugees.
- In July, 205 households received kits to build their own shelter at Mulongwe site. 156 households finalized theirs during the month, bringing the total number of shelters at Mulongwe site to 932. 309 refugees who were recently transferred from Lusenda camp to Mulongwe site received non-food items (NFIs): blankets, mats and mosquito nets.
- 33 SGBV survivors (19 in Lusenda camp, 14 at Mulongwe site) participated in two capacity-building workshops on business and commercial skills to start small businesses. The workshops were organized by UNHCR and its partner War Child.

Central African refugees



*Vulnerable refugee family
relocated to Inke camp.*

© UNHCR 2018 / G. Nentobo

■ So far, 17,000 refugees in Nord-Ubangi Province received 7,600 refugee certificates as part of a certificate distribution campaign that began in June and aims to reach a total of 39,150 CAR refugees. Each refugee over 18 received a certificate, while minors appeared on their head of household's certificate.

■ 216 vulnerable refugees from out-of-camp locations in Nord-Ubangi Province were relocated to Inke camp between 11 and 13 July, bringing the total since the beginning of 2018 to 389 (100 households). Relocated families received non-food items (NFIs) and one-time cash grants, new shelters, as well as vaccinations for their children. They were warmly greeted by peers at Inke.

■ In July, torrential rain significantly damaged two key access roads to CAR refugees located in Bili camp and Yakoma town, Nord-Ubangi Province. There is a high risk that contacts with those refugees will be completely cut if roads are not rehabilitated.

■ Due to the bad state of roads in Bas-Uele Province, UNHCR cannot distribute urgently-needed NFIs to many registered refugees in the province, although the NFIs are available in UNHCR's warehouse in Bondo. Rehabilitation of the roads would serve both the local community and humanitarian needs.

- At Boyabu camp (Sud-Ubangi Province), 644 households (both refugees and host communities) received 6,765 kg of groundnuts and 1,191 cassava cuttings to plant 56.3 hectares of land for community self-reliance. The distribution was carried out by UNHCR's partner ADES.
- The last 3 of a total of 14 local protection committees were set up by UNHCR and CNR in Nord-Ubangi Province, in the localities of Bangaloko, Mogoro and Ndiambesembi. Each committee is composed of 5 refugees and 5 host community members, approximately half of them female, to monitor developments and prevent, report and, where appropriate, respond to protection incidents.
- On 13 July in Libenge town, Sud-Ubangi Province, UNHCR and CNR trained local authorities and civil society members on national and international refugee protection. 33 participants, including the Administrator of the Territory, took part in sessions that covered topics such as the principle of non-refoulement, UNHCR's mandate, the role of the host government, and durable solutions. A similar training took place on 26 July in Bondo town, Bas-Uélé Province, in response to the persistent violations of refugees' freedom of movement that had been observed in recent months.



*A Central African refugee with her
newly-issued refugee certificate.*

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Rwandan refugees

- An increase in the number of voluntary repatriations was seen in Nord-Kivu Province in June and July. 483 Rwandan refugees were repatriated in July in total (pending verification on the Rwandan side), bringing the total number of repatriations to 2,273 for 2018.
- Sensitization messages on voluntary repatriation were aired on 6 radio stations in Sud-Kivu Province and 8 radio stations in Nord-Kivu Province.
- The registration of Rwandan refugees (both biometric and via tablets) was ongoing in Nord and Sud-Kivu Provinces following a first pilot phase concluded in April.

South Sudanese refugees

- 284 new arrivals of South Sudanese refugees were registered in July: 200 at Meri site and 84 at Biringi site, which is below the average of previous months. A total of 4,232 new arrivals were registered since the beginning of the year.
- On 18 July, the Provincial Governor of Haut-Uélé passed a decree designating Bélé (Faradje Territory) as a new site for the relocation of South Sudanese refugees. The site is at a greater distance from Garamba National Park, and adjacent protected areas, than the existing site of Kaka (Dungu Territory). While the decree opens the possibility for the transfer and registration of refugees still staying in insecure border areas of the province, UNHCR does not have the financial means to pursue this option. The cost for the preparation of the site is estimated at USD 1.5 million, while the transfer, registration and support to refugees will lead to additional costs.
- At Meri site, 200 refugees (40 households) received 12,000 cassava cuttings for food production, in order to support their self-reliance. Another 100 (20 households) received 2,064 cabbage plants and 19,800 onion plants for market gardening. 9 of the 12 hectares made available for a cassava field were already cultivated, and 3 hectares were being cultivated. The activity was carried out by UNHCR's partner ADSSE.
- 239 out of the 318 children who received school assistance from UNHCR at Meri and Biringi sites were admitted to the National Primary Completion Test (ENAFEP) for 2017-2018. That is 142 refugees and 97 locals. To explain the low rate of admission, some of the refugees referred to problems of adaption to the Francophone Congolese programme. This illustrates the importance of the additional French courses for South Sudanese refugees, which had to be discontinued recently due to funding constraints.
- 161 improved stoves were manufactured as part of a Safe Access to Fuel and Energy (SAFE) training organized by UNHCR and its partner Cooperazione Internazionale (COOPI). The manufactured stoves and briquettes will be distributed to beneficiaries at the end of the training, to help them launch income-generating activities.



Improved stoves manufactured as part of SAFE activities in Biringi site, Ituri Province.

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Congolese returnees

- Following an escalation of tensions in South Sudan in June and July, UNHCR's partner INTERSOS recorded a movement of several hundred Congolese, among them likely to be refugees, from South Sudan to DRC's Haut-Uélé Province. Reportedly, many have experienced violence in South Sudan.
- Over 100 refugee households may have spontaneously returned from Burundi to DRC, according to information from various sources.

Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs)

Ituri Province

- Returns of IDPs to their areas of origin continued, especially in Djugu Territory. As returning IDPs found their houses burnt down, one of the main challenges was the lack of shelter.
- 1,523 human rights violations were recorded by UNHCR's partner INTERSOS in Ituri in July: 263 violations of the right to life and physical integrity, 285 cases of Sexual and Gender-based Violence (SGBV), 648 violations of the right to property, and 327 violations of the right to liberty. The 9% increase in the number of incidents compared to the previous month (1,367 incidents) could be explained by the increased number of checkpoints, where many human rights violations are committed against IDPs and returnees.
- UNHCR's partner INTERSOS conducted 491 response actions: 107 referrals and 384 advocacy actions. As a result, 41 out of 68 victims of rape could be referred to health care facilities and received PEP kits within 72 hours. 10 victims received psychosocial care. As a result of advocacy efforts, 54 victims of arbitrary arrests and forced labor were released. 16 perpetrators were arrested and 70 investigations were opened.
- In July, UNHCR distributed 1,070 hygienic kits to women and girls of reproductive age, as well as 240 tarpaulins to 120 households without access to shelter in IDP sites in Bunia town.
- In the context of the transfer of 197 displaced households to IDP sites in Bunia, UNHCR and UNICEF made 197 non-food item (NFI) kits available to partner Caritas, who is in charge of the management of sites in Bunia and will facilitate the relocation.

Nord-Kivu Province

- 626 human rights violations were recorded by UNHCR's partner INTERSOS in July. Looting, extortion, arbitrary arrests and rape remained the most common violations in Nord-Kivu Province. 45 rape cases were reported. The recrudescence of fighting in the province had a notable impact on the number of violations reported.
- UNHCR identified and selected 150 women and young girls at risk of sexual exploitation in Rutshuru, Beni and Oicha Territories. They will receive cash grants through partner INTERSOS to develop income-generating activities, increasing their self-reliance and preventing survival sex.
- From 19 to 23 July, UNHCR conducted a feasibility study on the use of cash transfers to assist prospective returnees currently at Nyanzale site, Masisi Territory. The analysis showed that telecoms operators in the area had a weak capacity to serve displaced persons using mobile money, and that there was a need to look into other distribution mechanisms.
- After an increase in human rights violations committed in the last 3 months, 2 awareness-raising sessions with local authorities took place in Masisi Territory, organized by UNHCR's partner INTERSOS.

Sud-Kivu Province

- In July alone, UNHCR's partner INTERSOS reported approximately 12,000 newly-displaced people in Balala Nord, Fizi Territory, due to the deteriorated security situation in Bijombo, Uvira Territory. This is in addition to the 76,000 already displaced by the Bijombo conflict (OCHA figure).
- Fizi Territory itself also faces violence; INTERSOS recorded that 4,276 people fled armed clashes to the Swima area (towards Lake Tanganyika). Several unaccompanied minors (UAM) were identified and the lack of shelter for IDPs was found extremely alarming, putting them at high protection risks, according to the joint UNHCR, CNR and INTERSOS evaluation mission conducted on 24 July.
- After evaluating community-based protection structures in Uvira and Fizi Territories, CNR, INTERSOS and UNHCR staff merged the various existing structures into Committees of Mediation and Community Protection (CMPCs), with reinforced community participation and ability to prevent and respond effectively to protection issues. UNHCR and INTERSOS then organized capacity-building workshops on protection and mediation for 11 members of the newly-created CMPC in Fizi Territory.
- With the support of UNHCR, partners INTERSOS and CNR evaluated the protection situation in Salamabila, Maniema Province, following mass displacements in May. UNHCR plans to closely monitor the protection situation, and strengthen the military's understanding of protection principles.

Kasai region

- UNHCR's partner War Child reported a significant increase in the number of protection incidents in Tshikapa (Kasai Province) in the last week of July. 100 cases of individual rights violations were documented for the period, a 56% increase from the previous week.
- In July, UNHCR's partner ActionAid reported 72 protection incidents in Kasai Central. ActionAid also reported a lack of appropriate structures for survivors of protection incidents in Dimbelenge Territory: the hospital and health centers were not equipped for SGBV survivors, and the court and local police lacked resources to refer perpetrators to Kananga town.
- UNHCR and partners War Child and Caritas distributed non-food items (NFIs) in Tshikapa town and Kamonia Territory to respectively 500 and 1,000 IDP, returnee and host community households. 75% of beneficiaries were IDPs. The distribution will also target 3,000 households in the rest of Kamonia Territory. Poor road conditions and difficulties crossing a river posed challenges to the distribution.
- UNHCR's partner Caritas launched another distribution of non-food items (NFIs) to 800 households in Luiza Territory, Kasai Central. The NFIs were donated by UNHCR. The assistance targeted the most vulnerable, such as female heads of households or elderly people with children.
- UNHCR's partner NRC identified 1,731 households, mostly returnees, in Luiza Territory, Kasai Central Province, who will receive one-off multipurpose grants of \$130. As these households were not considered for full shelter assistance, they will instead receive grants to cover basic needs and repair damages to their houses.



An IDP receives non-food items in Kamono village, Kasai Central.

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- To reduce and prevent protection risks, UNHCR's partner ActionAid conducted a sensitization campaign in Lupatapata Territory (Kasai Oriental Province), targeting 313 women and 107 men on Sexual and Gender-Based Violence (SGBV), child marriage, and the risk of cholera.
- In July, UNHCR's partner NRC reported that among the 587 households in Bulungu who received UNHCR-funded \$100 multipurpose cash grants in May, there was an increase in the number of children for whom secondary school fees could be paid for an average of 3 months. Many also reported improved access to healthcare.

Tanganyika / Haut-Katanga Provinces

- Security in parts of Tanganyika and Haut-Katanga Provinces was volatile, with militia attacks and extortions, as well as attacks on humanitarians.
- Between 1 and 15 July, 104 families fled to Muteta, 8 kilometers from Pweto town (Haut-Katanga Province) fearing militia attacks, as reported by UNHCR's partner Save Congo. 26 families constructed their own huts, while 32 lived in a school. The remaining were staying with host families.
- In Tanganyika, Haut-Katanga and Lualaba Provinces, UNHCR's partner Save Congo recorded 1,918 human rights violations in July. As a result, UNHCR conducted 557 advocacy actions to respond to extortions, arbitrary arrests and forced marriages. This led to the release of 238 arbitrarily-detained people and the restitution of property to 220 victims. 260 victims of sexual violence and human rights violations were referred for psychosocial care.
- UNHCR's partner AIDES organized 46 awareness-raising sessions on Sexual and Gender-based Violence (SGBV), reaching a total of 2,954 people in villages of return.
- 69 radio spots were broadcasted on RTNC in Kalemie, and on RCMO in Moba. The spots, namely "*displaced people and residents are all brothers*" and "*let's share the neighborhood,*" raised awareness on peaceful coexistence between IDPs and host communities. 8 radio programmes on peaceful cohabitation were also broadcasted on RTNC and RCMO by AIDES.
- One village peace committee was set up by UNHCR's partner AIDES. From 31 July to 1 August, AIDES also trained 20 members of the peace committee (9 men and 11 women) on peaceful coexistence.

Clusters and Working Groups

Protection Cluster

- In response to the Bijombo crisis in Sud-Kivu Province, the Protection Cluster, led by UNHCR, conducted a 'Do No Harm' analysis in 5 sites that were identified for the distribution of assistance. At the request of the Inter-Cluster, the Protection Cluster also conducted an evaluation of potential resources that members may have available to respond to the crisis. The Protection Cluster also advocated for an increased presence of national armed forces, increased peaceful coexistence activities, and more investment in efforts to demobilize armed groups.
- On 16 July, the Protection Cluster began advocacy for access and assistance to IDPs in Mutongo locality, Nord-Kivu Province. 21,000 were reported displaced in the area, but remained inaccessible due to a 15-kilometer mud pool on the road to Mutongo.
- Following advocacy by the Territorial Protection Cluster on access to justice for IDPs, two legal clinics were opened in Baraka, Fizi Territory, to ensure access to justice for SGBV survivors and victims of human rights violations. One clinic was opened by the Panzi Foundation and the other by the law faculty of the Université Espoir du Congo.
- On 3 and 4 July, UNHCR and OCHA trained 41 local authority members on the judicial framework for the protection of IDPs.

Shelter Working Group

- On 31 July, the Shelter Working Group (SWG) led by UNHCR shared that there are currently over 22,000 fully destroyed houses in several localities of Tanganyika Province. Yet, only 4 out of the Shelter Working Group's 15 partners in Tanganyika are currently funded. To date, only 6% of the people in need have received shelter assistance in the province. Destroyed houses are identified as the main impediment to the return of IDPs. Such findings came from Multisectorial Rapid Assessments conducted in Tanganyika Province since early 2018.
- In July, UNHCR made a Cash and Shelter expert available to the SWG; the expert will support all Working Group members through training and developing guidelines on conditional cash-for-shelter interventions.

Cash Working Group

- On 7 July, UNHCR became co-chair of the National Cash Working Group for the DRC, along with the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA).

Working in partnership

- Together with the DRC Government, through the National Commission for Refugees (CNR), UNHCR ensures international protection and delivery of multi-sectorial assistance to persons of concern. UNHCR closely collaborates with other UN Agencies and other humanitarian actors for a coordinated and effective response. UNHCR works with 15 implementing partners (ACTION AID, ACTED, ADES, ADSSE, AIDES, AIRD, ADRA, COOPI, CNR, DRC, INTERSOS, NRC, SAVE CONGO, TSF and WAR CHILD) and many operational partners in the DRC.
- UNHCR leads the Protection Cluster, which coordinates the protection actors in their support of IDPs and other vulnerable persons. UNHCR co-leads the Protection and Prevention component of the National Strategy on Sexual and Gender-Based Violence. UNHCR leads the Shelter Working Group within the Shelter/NFI Cluster. Jointly with IOM, UNHCR co-leads the Camp Coordination and Camp Management Working Group. Jointly with UNOCHA, UNHCR also co-leads the National Cash Working Group for the DRC.

External / Donor Relations

As of 15 August 2018

Special thanks to donors for UNHCR operations in DRC in 2018

United States of America (22.7 M) | CERF (3.9 M) | Sweden (2.5 M) | European Union (1.2 M) | Canada (1.2 M) | France (1.2 M) | Private donors Australia (0.61 M) | UNIQLO (0.48 M) | UNAIDS (0.17 M) | Miscellaneous private donors (0.16 M)

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Thanks to the major donors of unrestricted and regional funds in 2018

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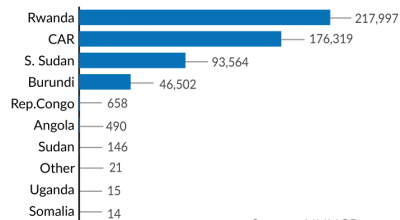
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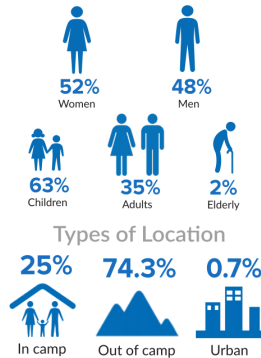
Refugee Population in DRC


535,726
 Total refugee population


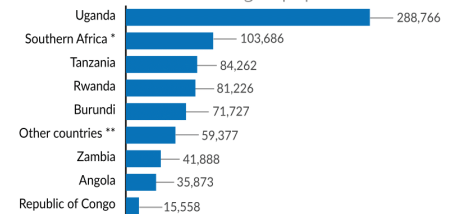
Source: UNHCR

*Other include Syria, Jordan, Eritrea, Chad, Liberia, Sierra Leone etc.

Age and gender breakdown of refugee population in DRC



DRC Refugees in Africa


782,363
 Total DRC refugee population


Source: UNHCR

*Southern Africa include Namibia, Botswana, Lesotho, Malawi, Zimbabwe, Mozambique, Madagascar, RSA and the Kingdom of Eswatini.

**Other Countries include South Sudan, Kenya, Central African Republic and Chad

