

Democratic Republic of the Congo

1 - 31 December 2018

After negotiations among UNHCR, WFP and CNR, [cash-for-food assistance will resume at Meri settlement in 2019](#), albeit temporarily, and under certain security conditions.

[In epidemic-prone South Kivu](#), UNHCR rehabilitated a cholera treatment unit, built a rehydration point, sensitized 20,000 people on HIV, cholera and Ebola, and distributed information leaflets in refugee camps and settlements.

UNHCR and partners launched a profiling operation in Kamako, Kasai, targeting populations expelled or returned from Angola. Among the 5,321 profiled, [1,657 are Congolese refugees from Angola](#), while the rest belonged to several categories.

Refugees Burundian refugees

Total in DRC

43,010

As of 31 December 2018

- [A registration and verification exercise took place in Lusenda camp](#), for refugees who were absent during the previous exercise. Outside of camps, [verification was finalized in Lweba village](#), some 12 km from Fizi centre. 141 persons were verified in Lusenda and 133 in Lweba. The objective was to update statistics on-site and out-of-site. For the first time, every refugee aged 12 and above received individual ID cards.
- UNHCR and its partner ADES [rehabilitated cholera treatment units at the Lusenda health centre, and built a rehydration point at Mulongwe settlement](#), as part of cholera prevention. Both will benefit refugees as well as the Congolese population. Surveillance, including for Ebola, was strengthened in all sites, while about 20,000 people were sensitized on HIV/AIDS, cholera and Ebola in Lusenda and Mulongwe. Information leaflets were distributed to each household and awareness-raising boards were displayed in the sites.
- [UNHCR's partner ADRA distributed business start-up kits to 350 refugees](#) who previously received professional training in soap-making, hairdressing, sewing and baking. [ADRA also distributed agricultural tools](#) to 856 refugees and 225 Congolese host community members.
- [UNHCR and its partner ADES distributed 24,513 kgs of laundry soap](#) to 32,685 refugees in Lusenda camp and Mulongwe settlement. Another 75 kgs of soap were distributed to 303 people in Transit Centers and Assembly Points.
- [UNHCR trained 101 police officers](#) on International Protection, the UNHCR Code of Conduct, measures against Sexual and Gender-based Violence (SGBV) and refugees' right, in Mulongwe and Lusenda.

Central African refugees

Total in DRC

172,011

As of 31 December 2018

- **438 Central African refugee and host community households received Non-Food Items (NFIs)** such as blankets, plastic buckets, cooking utensils and mosquito nets in five villages in Nord-Ubangi Province. **Altogether 2,500 households will be assisted** in ten villages in the province, while another distribution is underway in Bas-Uele Province.



A happy Central African refugee family with their non-food items in Nzakara, Nord-Ubangi Province. © UNHCR 2018 / N. Gergely

- UNHCR's **Sports for Protection project**, funded by the International Olympic Committee, continued in Inke, Bili and Boyabu camps. Multi-day sports tournaments took place in Bili and Inke, 20 community coaches were first-aid-trained by the Congolese Red Cross in Inke, and infrastructure was built in all sites. **2,791 Central African refugees** (1,088 girls, 1,703 boys) aged 10 to 24 are enrolled.
- A **computer literacy project**, funded by the Vodafone Foundation, was launched in Inke and Bili camps. In both camps, a functional "Instant Network Schools" center now allows primary school students to follow coursework on tablets, while "Centres Multimédia Educatifs" (CMEs) serve as cyber-café for the community. In Inke camp, the CME launched a computer literacy module for 54 students. As the project was also implemented in Mole and Boyabu camps, **all four major camps are now covered**.
- As part of its livelihoods programme, UNHCR and partners ADES and ADSSE **set up and trained nine local development committees** in refugee-hosting villages in Nord-Ubangi Province. The committees are in charge of community mobilization, and of planning, implementing and monitoring livelihood projects in their respective communities. In partnership with SENASEM (the National Seed Service), UNHCR also developed a **training module on seed replenishment**, covering most traditional crops in the area. In view of the reduction of food assistance from WFP for Central African refugees, self-reliance indeed needs to be strengthened.



The newly equipped cybercafé and learning center (CME) at Inke camp, funded by the Vodafone Foundation.
© UNHCR 2018 / N. Gergely

- UNHCR's partner ADES **donated livestock to, and trained 15 breeders' cooperatives** composed of 150 refugees and locals in the above-mentioned villages in Nord-Ubangi Province.

- UNHCR's partner ACTED **handed over eight boreholes** to local authorities and refugee committees in eight localities in Bas-Uele Province, where access to water remains a challenge. This brings the total number of out-of-camp boreholes drilled by UNHCR to 14. ACTED also distributed water purification tablets to 260 refugee and local households.

- After receiving several reports of rapes on underage girls in and around Inke camp, **UNHCR's partner AIDES organised 12 sensitization sessions on SGBV, reaching 3,762 refugees and locals**. Sensitization took place in churches, markets, schools, etc.

Rwandan refugees

Total in DRC (figure based on a pre-registration done by the DRC government)	Repatriated this month (figure pending verification)	Repatriated in 2018 (figure pending verification)
216,986	156	3,053

As of 31 December 2018

- As per the final report on UNHCR's registration operation completed on 30 November, **53% of the Rwandan refugees registered in 2018 expressed an intention to return to Rwanda**, while 46% opted against repatriation.
- Other statistics are available, such as that **68% of Rwandan refugees registered in 2018 were born in DRC**, **21% have been displaced in the previous year**, and **48% of the children are out of school**.

South Sudanese refugees

Total in DRC

95,704

As of 31 December 2018

- After negotiations among UNHCR, WFP and CNR following a security incident at Meri in November, which had caused a halt to food distributions, **cash-for-food assistance will resume in 2019, albeit temporarily, and under certain security conditions**. UNHCR will work with WFP and the authorities on reorienting the response towards self-reliance instead of food assistance.
- The **South Sudan Regional Refugee Response Plan for 2019-2020**, of which UNHCR's DRC operation is a part, was launched on 18 December. US\$ 2.7 billion are needed for this refugee crisis – Africa's largest, with 2.3 million South Sudanese refugees.
- Refugee committees and leaders at Biringi settlement were **informed about the peace deal in South Sudan, the importance of peaceful coexistence among South Sudanese ethnicities, and the situation in their country**. 57 refugees (among whom 6 women) participated, and received documentation about the peace process.
- UNHCR's partners CNR, ADSSE and ADES held **awareness-raising sessions on the prevention of Sexual and Gender-based Violence (SGBV) and children's rights**, with an emphasis on parents' responsibility to protect their children during school holidays.
- The **closing ceremony of the 16 Days of Activism against Gender-based Violence** took place at Biringi settlement on 10 December. 600 refugees and 300 host community members participated in the parade, 700 leaflets on SGBV were distributed, and performances highlighted women's pivotal role in society, the community's role in fighting SGBV, and invited men to be models of positive masculinity.
- **World Aids Day was celebrated at Biringi settlement** with testimonials from refugees living with HIV, a march, a theater play, music and dance. Since January 2018, **over 10,000 condoms have been distributed**, and 5,500 sensitization campaigns were organized by UNHCR's partner ADES.
- **16 policemen at Biringi settlement and 21 at Meri settlement** received training from UNHCR's partner CNR, while UNHCR sensitized them on its mandate, international protection, and security measures for refugees.



Refugees living with HIV, and advocates during World Aids Day celebration at Biringi settlement.
© UNHCR/C. Lopes

Congolese returnees

Returnees from Angola

- On 12 December, UNHCR and its partners launched an **identification and profiling operation in Kamako (Kasai)** targeting populations expelled or returned from Angola since October. Among the 5,321 individuals profiled, **1,657 were Congolese refugees from Angola**, while the rest belonged to several categories, showing a crisis that is more complex than expected. The results of the profiling will help better address the needs of various categories of people (see page 8 for more information).
- While awaiting completion of the profiling, UNHCR primarily identified the following needs: **family reunification** (for those who left relatives in Angola), **food, shelter, transportation to areas of origin**, and **income-generating activities**. In terms of protection, UNHCR's partner War Child reported **peaceful coexistence** issues between returnees and locals, **extortions**, and **missing identity documents** among returnees.
- According to the Congolese migration authorities (the DGM), **expulsions from Angola were ongoing in December, with an average of 235 people arriving per day** at the Kamako border point.

Returnees from Zambia

- **UNHCR distributed seeds and agricultural tools to 2,384 persons** (828 households), all Congolese people who returned from Zambia to Pweto (Haut-Katanga Province, DRC) in the first half of 2018. This assistance responds to their **need for self-reliance**, identified during a profiling done by UNHCR. Each household received 7.2 kgs of peanuts, 4.8 kgs of maize and 2 hoses.

Other returnees

- On 7 December, UNHCR and CNR facilitated the **voluntary return of a Congolese refugee** who had been in Mali since 1997. UNHCR provided a plane ticket and cash assistance. The returnee was very well received by her family, after 20 years of absence from her home in Lubumbashi, Haut-Katanga Province.



Seeds and agricultural tools distributed to Congolese returnees in Pweto, Haut-Katanga Province. © UNHCR

Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs)

On 14 August 2018, UNHCR declared an internal **L2 emergency in North Kivu and Ituri provinces**. This allows UNHCR to use emergency procedures and mobilise additional resources in view of the return situation in Ituri Province, and ongoing displacement in North Kivu Province.

Ituri Province

- **The security situation remained volatile in Djugu Territory.** UNHCR's partner INTERSOS recorded the presence of 5,000 IDPs in a location in Djugu Territory, while the NGO Solidarités International recorded 5,234 displaced households in a location in Mahagi Territory.
- There were **287 new arrivals** (109 households) at the ISP displaced persons' site in Bunia.
- **UNHCR's partner INTERSOS documented 439 protection incidents**, including 53 cases of Sexual and Gender-based Violence (SGBV). 35 referrals were made, enabling six rape survivors out of 18 to receive PEP kits within 72 hours. The six other survivors, who lived in remote areas, did not access PEP kits due to distances to healthcare facilities.
- With the support of UNHCR's partner ADSSE, **2,000 women at risk of sexual abuse and exploitation received cash assistance in Bunia and in Djugu Territory.**
- Following advocacy by UNHCR and the NGO Caritas, **50 IDP households at Telega IDP site were able to access agricultural land** belonging to the host community, in order to plant vegetables.



Cash distribution by UNHCR and ADSSE in Bunia.
© UNHCR

North Kivu Province

- The security situation, marked by the electoral process, remained relatively calm, with an exception in Beni town. **In Rutshuru Territory, abductions, especially of women, caused population movements.** 1,845 households fled to Uganda, according to UNHCR's protection monitoring. In Masisi Territory, clashes also led to the displacement of an estimated 80 persons from three villages.
- **761 human rights violations were documented** through UNHCR's protection monitoring, including SGBV cases, goods seizing, lootings, forced labor, and physical assaults. Beni, Rutshuru and Walikale territories were the most affected. Lately, Walikale Territory has been hit by an ethnic conflict, while Beni remains the most affected by violence overall.
- UNHCR organized a first-of-its-kind forum in Goma, gathering IDPs from all six territories of North Kivu Province, as well as civil society, local authorities and partners. IDP leaders discussed common concerns and proposed solutions to inform the humanitarian response. **Key areas put forward were youth participation, dialogue and peaceful co-existence, access to land, and property rights.**
- **The "Movement and Protection of Populations Synergy", of which UNHCR is part, shared displacement figures of 11,631 households (58,155 individuals) for Beni town.** The synergy, created in October, aims to strengthen data collection and information management on displacement in Beni, Oicha and Butembo. It gathers local authorities, state technical divisions, displaced persons, UN agencies and humanitarian partners.



16 Days of Activism against Gender-Based violence in a primary school in Goma, North Kivu Province. ©UNHCR/G. Ramazani

South Kivu Province

- The security situation in South Kivu Province remained relatively calm, with no major election-related incident, although sporadic clashes occurred in Uvira and Fizi territories. UNHCR's protection monitoring reported that approximately **295 individuals (59 households) fled from a village in Fizi Territory** to two other villages in the same territory, due to ethnic clashes.
- **5,860 IDPs (1,172 households), displaced since September and living with host families, received Non-Food Items (NFIs)** in two localities of Uvira Territory; tarpaulins, mats, blankets and mosquito nets. UNHCR provided the NFIs, which were distributed by the NGO Popoli Fratelli.



Dance performance as part of the 16 Days of Activism against Gender-based Violence in South Kivu. ©UNHCR/C. Veale

Kasai region

- The electoral period led to **political and ethnic tension in the Kasai region**. An armed incursion in a diamond mine near Luebo town, Kasai Province, also reportedly led to the **displacement of 200 households**.
- UNHCR's partner War Child recorded **819 protection incidents, 343 of which received a response (42%)**. A majority of the incidents were violations of the right to property (447 cases), followed by violations of the right to liberty and movement (105 cases) and violations of the right to life or physical integrity (64 cases). **Almost half of the victims were returned IDPs**, while another 40% were those expelled from Angola.
- With UNHCR's financing and technical support, the National Multisector Programme for the Fight against HIV finalized a report assessing **HIV/AIDS-related needs for IDPs in the Kasai region**. The main finding was that HIV vulnerability, already present in the region, was exacerbated for IDPs during the conflict, due to massive displacement, precarious living conditions, and lack of access to HIV services.
- From 6 to 8 December, the National Refugee Commission (CNR) organized in Kananga a **forum for peaceful coexistence targeting 140 participants** including provincial, territorial and other local officials, civil society, IDPs and host communities' representatives. The forum, organized with UNHCR's support, focused on ways to consolidate peaceful coexistence including peaceful resolution of land conflicts and creation of local reconciliation committees.

Tanganyika / Haut-Katanga Provinces

- **The security situation was unstable around Kalemie**, Tanganyika Province, leading to restrictions in movements to and from IDP sites around the town.
- From 7 to 14 December, UNHCR trained 75 provincial authority members, civil society members and humanitarian workers in Manono, Tanganyika Province, about the **protection of IDPs, human rights concepts, and UNHCR's mandate**.
- As part of the **16 Days of Activism against Gender-based Violence**, UNHCR trained leaders in universities, schools and communities in Kalemie on preventing different forms of violence. UNHCR and its partner AIDES also organised a participative theatre play, a debate, and a distribution of leaflets about sexual violence and judicial procedures.

Clusters and Working Groups

Shelter Working Group

- In December the Shelter Working Group (SWG) shared a report on [lessons learnt in cash-for-shelter programming in DRC](#), based on consultations with SWG partners and the Cash Working Group. The report notably found that: there is an **enormous potential to expand cash-for-shelter in DRC**, it is **important to include market-based approaches**, and that cash-based approaches can help **increase social cohesion between communities**. More lessons learned and recommendations can be found in the [executive summary](#).
- Following the recommendations, **feasibility assessment tools were produced**, which are being tested in the field by partners. Once the testing is done, the tools will be finalised and subsequently additional trainings are foreseen for all SWG partners.

External / Donor Relations

As of 8 of January 2019

Special thanks to donors for UNHCR operations in DRC in 2018

United States of America (59.8 M) | CERF (3.9 M) | Sweden (2.5 M) | European Union (2.4 M) | Canada (1.2 M) | France (1.2 M) | Italy (0.92) | Australia 4 UNHCR (0.75 M) | UNIQLO (0.48 M) | International Olympic Committee (0.32 M) | Spain (0.29 M) | UNAIDS (0.17 M) | Vodafone Foundation (0.11 M) | Miscellaneous donors Republic of Korea (0.10 M) | Miscellaneous private donors (0.79 M)

Special thanks to donors of regional or sub-regional funds 2018

United States of America (177.3 M) | Germany (23.5 M) | Private donors Australia (14.6 M) | Sweden (11.4 M) | Denmark (8.8 M) | Private donors Germany (7.8 M) | Finland (5.8 M) | Australia (3.8 M) | Canada (3.3 M) | Private donors Republic of Korea (2.9 M) | Norway (2.6 M) | Private donors Sweden (2.4 M)

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Sweden (98.2 M) | Private donors Spain (71 M) | Netherlands (47.1 M) | United Kingdom (45.3 M) | Norway (42.5 M) | Private donors Republic of Korea (38.7 M) | Japan (26.5) | Denmark (25.5 M) | Private donors Japan (20.3 M) | Private donors Italy (18.7 M) | Switzerland (15.8 M) | Private donors USA (14.2 M) | France (14 M) | Germany (13.7 M) | Private donors Sweden (13.2 M) | Italy (11.2 M)

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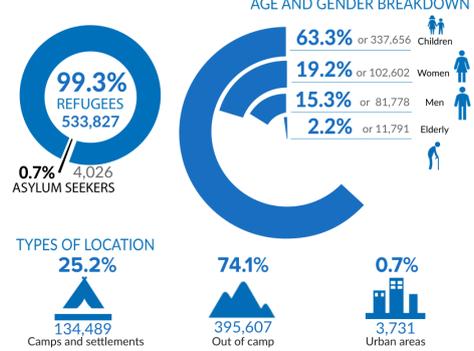
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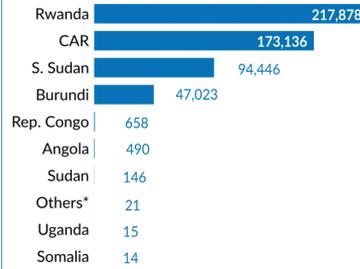
537,853

REFUGEES AND ASYLUM SEEKERS

KEY STATISTICS



REFUGEE POPULATION BY COUNTRY OF ORIGIN

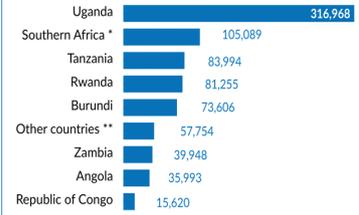


* Others include Ivory Coast, Eritrea, Syria, Liberia, Chad, etc.

REFUGEES FROM DRC IN AFRICA

810,227

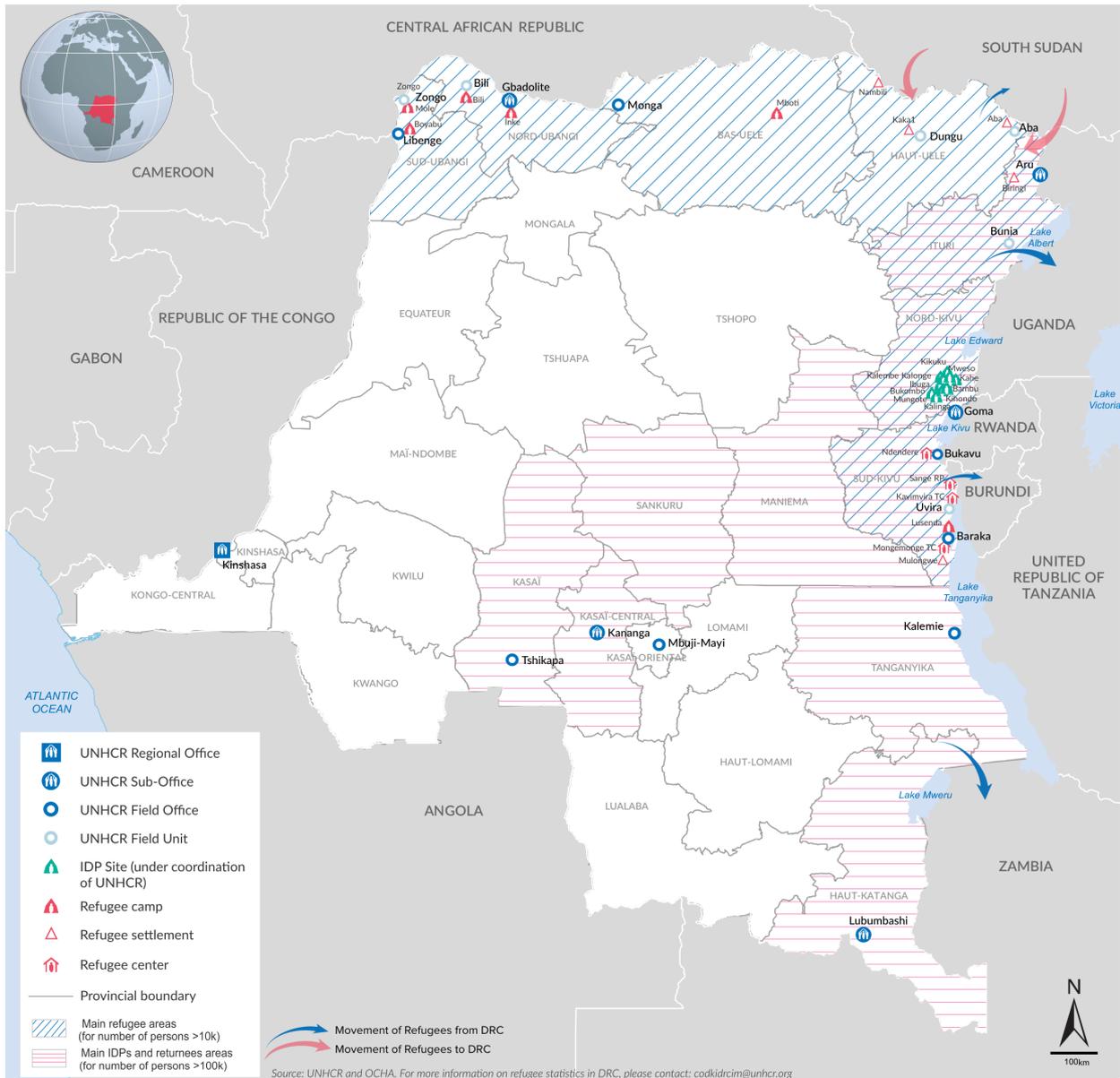
TOTAL DRC REFUGEE POPULATION



Source: UNHCR

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

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



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

Printing date: 26 October 2018 Author: UNHCR - Kinshasa