

# Democratic Republic of the Congo

1 - 31 May 2019

Since the end of March in Beni Territory, North Kivu Province, attacks against civilians and military outposts have intensified. **Some 96,000 people have been displaced from Batangi Chiefdom to the town of Nobili** (near the Ugandan border) in April and May. UNHCR is involved in the response.

**15,946 returnees and expelled people from Angola have been profiled** by UNHCR and its partners in Kamako, Kasai Province. The results of the operation will help to better address the needs of various categories of people returning from Angola since October 2018

While the largest influx of South Sudanese refugees to DRC was observed in 2016, **the number of new registrations has been rising since the beginning of 2019**; there have been 4,373 new registrations since January 2019.

## Refugees

### Burundian refugees

Total in DRC

**45,099**

As of 31 May 2019

- **130 Burundian refugees (43 households) have indicated their intention to return to Burundi** by contacting the National Refugee Commission (CNR) and UNHCR. Arrangements for their return are under review.
- **Two separated children were reunited with their families in Mulongwe settlement**, Fizi Territory, South Kivu Province, thanks to the collaboration between UNHCR, CNR, War Child, and AIDES.
- **UNHCR's partner Action Aid facilitated the payment of school fees for 6,755 Burundian primary school pupils and 1,468 Burundian secondary school pupils in Lusenda camp and Mulongwe settlement.** The cost of taking the national primary school final exam was also paid for 501 Burundian refugee pupils in Lusenda camp and Mulongwe settlement.
- In an ongoing effort to prevent statelessness, **the Civil Registry Office issued 51 birth certificates in Lusenda camp and 29 in Mulongwe settlement** (both in Fizi Territory, South Kivu Province) for Burundian refugee children recently born in DRC.
- **UNHCR's partner War Child organized a football tournament as part of the Sport for Protection project funded by the International Olympic Committee.** The tournament brought together refugee and Congolese youth, and 88 young footballers participated. All participants were also sensitized on the prevention of sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV), child protection, peaceful coexistence and conflict resolution.



Refugees and local youth play basketball on the sports field funded by the International Olympic Committee. © War Child/Lusambya

- **UNHCR's partner AIDES distributed kitchen sets and mosquito nets to households** who were absent during the December 2018 distribution. 669 kitchen sets and 2,074 mosquito nets were distributed in Mulongwe settlement, and 6,669 mosquito nets were distributed in Lusenda camp. Mosquito nets are essential for the prevention of malaria, which remains the leading cause of mortality among Burundian refugees.
- In Lusenda camp, South Kivu Province, **UNHCR's partner ADRA distributed 3,000 fruit tree seedlings to promote reforestation and self-reliance amongst Burundian refugees.**
- **UNHCR's partner ADRA trained 26 women and 12 men in the production of biomass briquettes.** A new method was introduced, allowing the production of smaller and more efficient briquettes. Biomass briquettes are an alternative fuel to firewood, which helps protect the environment, while refugees are also able to sell the briquettes they make, contributing to their self-reliance.



Distribution of fruit tree seedlings in Lusenda camp. © ADRA

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## Central African refugees

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Total in DRC

**172,768**

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As of 31 May 2019

- In an ongoing effort to prevent sexual and gender-based violence in Bas-Uele Province, UNHCR's partner ACTED conducted **awareness-raising for 203 Central African refugees and host community members.**
- **HIV and AIDS awareness-raising sessions, targeting 8,643 individuals,** were undertaken in Mole camp, Sud Ubangi Province. In addition, 146 HIV-positive Central African refugees received access to anti-retroviral (ARV) medication. One main challenge remained the shortage currently affecting ARV medications in Nord Ubangi, Sud Ubangi and Bas-Uele provinces.
- **For the first time since September 2017, 295 Central African children living in four camps in Nord and Sud Ubangi Provinces benefited from Plumpy'Sup,** a special product donated by the World Food Programme (WFP) for the treatment of malnutrition. The malnutrition rate in camps is estimated at 4.7%, and is even higher in out-of-camp areas like Mobayi Mbongo (Nord Ubangi Province), where global malnutrition stands at 7.5%<sup>1</sup>. The insufficiency of these products seriously impacts the most vulnerable, and might lead to an increase in Moderate Acute Malnutrition (MAM). Additional funding is needed to counter malnutrition.
- **UNHCR is addressing refugees' energy needs through solar power.** Inke refugee camp's Health Center, in Nord Ubangi Province, is being equipped with further solar power systems, which will provide clean and much-needed additional power to run medical equipment.



Central African refugee children in Mobayi Mbongo. © UNHCR

<sup>1</sup> According to a SMART/SENS survey carried out in December 2018 by the DRC national nutrition programme and jointly funded by UNHCR, UNICEF and WFP.

- In Mobayi Mbongo, a locality in Nord Ubangi Province, **127 Central African refugee and host community households (635 individuals) were given agricultural tools** with the objective of making them self-sufficient.

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## Rwandan refugees

Total in DRC (figure based on a pre-registration done by the DRC government)	Repatriated this month (figure pending verification)	Repatriated in 2019 (figure pending verification)
<b>216,524</b>	<b>104</b>	<b>583</b>

*As of 31 May 2019*

- **104 Rwandan refugees were voluntarily repatriated** from DRC. Since January 2019, a total of 583 Rwandan refugees have been repatriated from DRC (provisional figures pending review on the Rwandan side).
- Between 7 and 11 May, UNHCR and its partner the National Refugee Commission (CNR) conducted an awareness-raising mission in Kalehe Territory, South Kivu province, to **accelerate the pace of voluntary repatriations from the province**, which is particularly low. Towns with high concentrations of Rwandan refugees were targeted. Authorities and refugees were informed about the reintegration programme and associated benefits in Rwanda, and focal points were identified to guide refugees wishing to return.

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## South Sudanese refugees

Total in DRC
<b>101,479</b>

*As of 31 May 2019*

- While the largest influx of South Sudanese refugees into DRC was observed in 2016, **the number of new registrations has been rising in 2019**; there have been 4,373 new registrations since January.
- **In May, 3,551 South Sudanese refugees were relocated to Biringi settlement** in Aru Territory, Ituri Province. Most of them had arrived during an influx in the first half of February, while some had been staying along the border for months or years, and have now complied with the authorities' request to move further inland.
- **The ongoing influx of South Sudanese refugees has put stress on available shelter and water sources.** Newly-arrived refugees live in temporary housing, exposed to security risks. Respectively in Meri and Biringi settlements, 15,750 and over 3,000 refugees live in temporary housing units. Immediate needs include 9,438 shelter and latrine kits (7,938 in Meri, and 1,500 in Biringi). In terms of water sources, 29 additional boreholes are needed in Meri and 6 in Biringi.
- **In the first half of May, 200 additional shelters were built to respond to shelter needs in Biringi settlement.** From February to 15 May, 3,595 South Sudanese refugees have been relocated to Biringi settlement, putting pressure on existing shelter facilities.
- **At the end of May, new incursions from South Sudan into Faradje Territory (Haut-Uele Province) led to further movements of South Sudanese refugees and host populations.** Several hundred persons were affected, according to local chiefs. UNHCR was gathering more information. Several South Sudanese refugees have relocated to Meri settlement, Haut Uele Province, while others returned to South Sudan. No cases of South Sudanese refugees re-entering DRC after returning to South Sudan were reported.
- **8,358 households received UNIQLO clothes, PUMA underwear and soap as part of a general non-food item (NFI) distribution in Meri settlement.** 26,824 pieces of women's underwear were distributed to South Sudanese women and girls.

- **3,421 primary school students and 257 secondary school students, both South Sudanese refugees and locals**, received pens and pencils prior to their final school exams in Meri settlement.
- **2,385 refugees in Kaka and Dungu centres received a three-month ration of cereals** (rice and corn flour), beans, olive oil, and salt thanks to collaboration between WFP and UNHCR.
- **A masculine football tournament took place in Meri settlement and the nearby town of Aba** from 24 May to 20 June (World Refugee Day) to promote peaceful coexistence between refugees and host communities, as part of UNHCR's Sports for Protection project funded by the International Olympic Committee. Around 220 people organized into 20 teams (12 teams composed of Congolese youth and 8 of South Sudanese refugees) participated in the tournament.
- **An Ebola prevention kit was provided to the Bamokandi Health Center in Dungu**, which is attended by South Sudanese refugees. The kit includes a 1,000 litre tank, chlorine, spray, soap, individual protection kits (a mask, overalls and boots), thermostatic gloves, and visibility vests.
- **Diplomats from France, the Russian Federation, Switzerland, and the United States of America visited Biringi settlement** (Aru Territory) with UNHCR's Regional Representative, Ann Encontre, from 29 to 31 May. One of the themes was self-reliance, where UNHCR has made progress in advocating for refugees' access to farming land, while providing related training, tools and seeds to refugees and members of the local community. Certain donor representatives said they were positively impressed by the high potential for further increasing self-reliance in Biringi settlement. The mission also witnessed the inauguration of one of several new boreholes benefiting refugees and the host community. In a meeting with traditional leaders, the latter expressed their openness to welcoming more refugees from South Sudan.
- **Due to a lack of resources, the World Food Programme (WFP) put an end to the distribution of nutritional inputs for patients suffering from moderate acute malnutrition in December 2018.** HIV-positive South Sudanese refugees who rely on these inputs for a balanced diet to accompany their medication, are among the first affected by this measure. UNHCR is exploring alternative options which require additional funding.

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## Congolese returnees

- **In May, 15,946 people returned and expelled from Angola (7,126 households) were profiled** by UNHCR and its partners in Kamako, Kasai Province. The results of the operation will help to better address the needs of various categories of people returning from Angola since October 2018.
- **In May, 1,999 people returned and expelled from Angola were transported from Kamako to Tshikapa, their final destination (both in Kasai Province), by the International Organization for Migration (IOM)** on the basis of lists provided by UNHCR and its partners in the profiling operation.
- **UNHCR organized two focus groups in Kamako, Kasai Province, with 27 Congolese people expelled from Angola, in order to better understand their intentions regarding a potential return.** A majority mentioned that they wanted to stay in Kamako, while smaller numbers wanted to return to Angola as soon as possible, or to return to another destination in DRC. It was also noted that the number of persons being profiled in Kamako has slightly decreased since the end of May. UNHCR is analyzing the reasons for this in order to adapt its response strategy.
- **More than a hundred community leaders participated in a forum on returnee reintegration organized by UNHCR in Kamako.** The provision of community farming land and peaceful coexistence activities were among the decisions taken by community leaders to integrate returnees and expelled people into the local community.
- **UNHCR and its partners have identified more than 460 unaccompanied and/or separated children** during the profiling exercise in Kamako. Following UNHCR's advocacy efforts, the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) pledged to provide a response for them.
- On 6 May, **UNHCR and its partner AIRD launched the construction of a primary school and a borehole** in Mwashii village, 25km from Pweto town, Haut-Katanga Province, which hosts former Congolese refugees who recently returned from Zambia. The school will consist of six classrooms with desks and chairs, a bloc of five latrines, and an office. During their first trans-border meeting in November 2018, UNHCR DRC and UNHCR Zambia had found children studying under trees in this village. Earlier in October 2018, UNHCR and

the National Refugee Commission (CNR) had also conducted a profiling of the returnees and identified needs, to which this school and borehole are responding.

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## Statelessness

- In May, **1,200 children born in DRC received birth certificates** after court hearings were held for the issuance of supplementary judgments for children in Kasai Province. UNHCR works with provincial authorities to prevent statelessness by facilitating birth registration. In situations of displacement, birth registration is an important protection tool.
- Between 29 April and 5 May, **UNHCR participated in the Goma Dance Festival, North Kivu Province, to raise awareness on the risks of statelessness**. The festival, which involved urban Burundian and Rwandan refugee youth in Goma, included dance, graffiti and poetry workshops focused on youth empowerment and (among other topics) the risks of statelessness.

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## Urban refugees (various nationalities)

- In Bukavu, South Kivu Province, UNHCR's partner AIDES and the National Commission for Refugees (CNR) **facilitated the payment of school fees for 121 urban refugee children** of Rwandan and Burundian nationalities, allowing them to complete the 2018-2019 school year. **23 primary school pupils and 11 secondary school pupils also benefited from the payment of examination fees** at the end of the school year.

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# Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs)

## Ituri Province

- In Djugu and Mahagi territories, armed men continued to commit systematic acts of violence. As a result, many were forced to flee to IDP sites; **almost all IDP sites in Djugu Territory received new IDPs in May**, with an estimated 2,000 households having arrived to the ISP and HGR sites in the city of Bunia, as well as to sites in Mahagi Territory.
- **UNHCR's protection monitoring partner INTERSOS recorded 1,472 human rights violations** committed by armed men, state services and civilians in May in four territories of Ituri Province (figure pending final verifications). Among them were 253 cases of sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV), 59 kidnappings, 781 property extortions and arsons, 221 violations of physical integrity, and 99 homicides.
- In Ituri Province, **UNHCR's partner INTERSOS carried out a monitoring mission in southern Irumu Territory to analyze the threats to human rights and fundamental freedoms faced by IDPs**. Around 80% of the population previously displaced has now returned, according to assessments conducted on-site. Recommendations made to the Protection Cluster included advocacy for the Congolese army (FARDC) to strengthen security in the area, and a greater mobilization of resources to provide medical care, food assistance and education for returned IDPs, as well as people who are still displaced.

## North Kivu Province

- Since the end of March, in north-eastern Beni Territory, **attacks against civilian populations and military outposts** have caused the **displacement of an estimated 96,000 IDPs to the town of Nobili** (near the Ugandan border) between early April and the end of May. The attacks intensified around 7 May, causing a large-scale wave of displacement and creating a **multi-sectoral emergency** in which UNHCR and several other actors are involved.
- As of 3 June, **82,839 IDPs (14,221 families) out of the estimated 96,000 were registered in Nobili and its surroundings** by international NGOs WWH and the Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC). The registration exercise was ongoing. 85% of them were women and children. 16% of displaced households (some 2,275) were found to be **sleeping in communal buildings** (schools and churches), disrupting local education. Other sectors (local healthcare and WASH) were also overwhelmed by the influx, and UNHCR operational partners were gearing up for a multi-sectoral response.

- At the end of May, **UNHCR began distributing tarpaulins to households living in school buildings**; 90% of whom vacated the buildings after receiving the assistance, and built family shelters alongside host communities. UNHCR has continuously advocated for avoiding the creation of spontaneous IDP sites. As of 3 June, 346 households of 1,917 persons received tarpaulins, and 8 schools were vacated, allowing for the resumption of classes. More NFIs were being shipped to the area for distributions to continue.
- UNHCR has also responded to the displacement crisis in Nobili, Beni Territory, by successfully advocating with state migration authorities (the DGM) to **keep the DRC-Uganda border fully open**, including to those wishing to seek asylum in Uganda. However, no significant cross-border movements have been reported.
- In May, **UNHCR's protection monitoring partner INTERSOS recorded 1,545 human rights violations** against civilians in the areas of North Kivu Province that could be reached. 65% of them were attributed to armed groups, and 17% to the Congolese army. 50 rape survivors were identified and referred to medical structures for immediate care.



IDP children studying outdoors, as local schools have been overwhelmed by the influx.  
 © UNHCR / Samy Koffi

Core relief item distribution to IDPs in Nobili. © UNHCR / Pascal Masirika



### South Kivu Province

- The murder of a local community leader, and a subsequent series of retaliations, led the **security situation in the highlands of Fizi, Itombwe and Mwenga territories to deteriorate considerably since 4 May**, according to UNOCHA. According to local witnesses, this also reportedly led to the displacement of about 125,000 people. The humanitarian situation remains fragile, as school and health infrastructures have been destroyed.

- In Kabare Territory on the Miti-Kavumu axis, **armed groups committed abuses on the population ranging from extortion to looting of crops**. Other cases of violence were reported in Shabunda, Kalehe and Walungu territories by UNHCR's protection monitoring partner INTERSOS. The arrival of members of armed groups, and their dependents, led to renewed population movements.
- In May, UNHCR and its partner INTERSOS organized five protection needs assessment missions in the territories of Shabunda, Uvira, Fizi, Walungu and Kalehe. **1,090 protection incidents were recorded in the conflict-affected areas of South Kivu Province in May**. These include human rights violations, threats to human rights and hampering access to basic services. However, the growing activities of armed groups have prevented access to all territories.
- Following recent waves of displacement, UNHCR participated in a joint mission from May 30 to June 3, to assess the protection and humanitarian situation of displaced persons in Fizi Territory; on the Kananda-Mukera axis, in Fizi center, in Namisha and in Burembo. **The mission found 9,612 displaced persons (1,530 households) hosted by the local population**. Access to free medical care is a challenge for most of the displaced; their children are exposed to heavy work to support their families, and most displaced pupils have not integrated into schools in their areas of displacement.

### Kasai region

- In Kasai, Kasai Central and Kasai Oriental Provinces, **981 protection incidents (373 in Kasai, 343 in Kasai Central and 265 in Kasai Oriental) were documented in May**. The most common violations were extortion of property, sexual and gender-based violence, and violations of the right to liberty. More than half of the cases were followed up on in May, and referred to appropriate service providers by UNHCR and partner War Child.



Cash distribution to displaced people in Luiza Territory, Kasai Central Province. © UNHCR/Isabelle Assouan

- **2,229 displaced, returned and expelled households received cash-based assistance** organized by UNHCR and its implementing partner Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC) in the health center of Yangala, Bushimaie sector in Luiza Territory in Kasai Central Province.

### Tanganyika / Haut-Katanga Provinces

- **UNHCR registered 140 children** (78 boys and 62 girls) in the Kisalaba and Mitetezi IDP sites, and in the locality of Kabimba (all in Kalemie Territory, Tanganyika Province), so that they can **receive birth certificates**. 34 birth certificates were also delivered to 34 other children in those locations (23 boys and 11 girls). Birth certificates are a way of reducing the risk of statelessness.
- In the locality of Kabimba (Kalemie Territory, Tanganyika Province), **UNHCR sensitized 313 IDPs (109 men and 204 women) on the risks of statelessness** and the importance of registering births with local authorities.
- In May, **23 cases of sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV) were identified by UNHCR's partner AIDES in Kalemie, Moba, Nyuzu, Manono and Pweto territories** in Tanganyika and Haut-Katanga provinces. These included 16 rapes, six sexual assaults, two cases of psychological violence, and two cases of physical violence. 39% of SGBV cases were committed against children under 18. All 23 cases were referred by NGO AIDES to be taken on by relevant structures.
- In May, **UNHCR facilitated the transport of 32 survivors of sexual violence** from Mulange village (Kalemie Territory, Tanganyika Province) to relevant medical structures, so that they can receive medical care organised by the NGO ADRA.
- To help preventing SGBV, **42 sensitisation sessions were organised by UNHCR's partner AIDES, with participation from 4,734 people** (958 men, 1,277 women, 1,294 boys, and 1,205 girls). Radio spots about the fight against SGBV were also aired 96 times on radios in Kalemie, Manono, Moba, Nyunzu and Pweto territories (Tanganyika and Haut-Katanga provinces).
- To promote peaceful coexistence in Tanganyika and Haut-Katanga provinces, which are still affected by ethnic tensions, **19 sensitisation sessions (including 5 participative drama plays) were organised** by UNHCR's

partner AIDES in several localities Kalemie, Manono, Nyunzu and Pweto territories. 4,507 IDPs attended them (1,149 men, 1,447 women, 865 boys and 1,046 girls). Radio spots on peaceful coexistence were also aired 216 times in Manono, Moba, Pweto, Nyunzu and Kalemie territories, in both provinces.

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## Clusters and Working Groups

### Protection Cluster

- **The Protection Cluster held a workshop to elaborate the regional protection plan for Maniema Province** in Kindu, Maniema Province. During the workshop, protection risks, priority areas and priority activities were identified in accordance with the 2019 DRC Humanitarian Response Plan. Notwithstanding, a lack of financial means was identified as a challenge for the implementation of the protection plan.

### Shelter Working Group

- **21 staff working for 10 humanitarian organisations were trained in Goma, North Kivu Province on innovative shelter solutions based on local building culture.** Additional trainings will be held in Bunia, Uvira and Kalemie in the coming months. The presentation (in French) is available on the [Shelter Working Group's website](#).
- **The SWG agreed on a standardized set of indicators to track the partners' activities.** Inter-sector indicators were also established in collaboration with the WASH Cluster, Housing-Land-Property Working Group, Cash Working Group and the NGO Humanity and Inclusion. The indicators are [available here](#).
- 47 staff working for 24 humanitarian organisations were trained in Goma, Bunia, Bukavu and Kalemie on the newly developed monitoring tool which is based on the above-mentioned tracking indicators.

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## Donors

As of 11 June 2019

### Donors for UNHCR operations in DRC in 2019

United States of America (7 M) | CERF (3.7 M) | Japan (2.5 M) | Sweden (2.2 M) | Canada (0.76 M) | United Nations Foundation (0.43 M) | International Olympic Committee (0.27 M) | UNAIDS (0.03 M) | Private donors (0.08 M)

### Major donors of regional or other funds with soft earmarking 2019

Germany (13.1 M) | United States of America (10 M) | Canada (4.6 M) | Sweden (4 M) | Private donors Australia (3.8 M)

### Major donors of unearmarked funds in 2019

Sweden (90.4 M) | Norway (44.5 M) | Netherlands (37.5 M) | Private donors Spain (33 M) | United Kingdom (31.7 M) | Germany (26.7 M) | Denmark (24.4 M) | Private donors Republic of Korea (17.3 M) | Switzerland (15.1 M)

## Contacts

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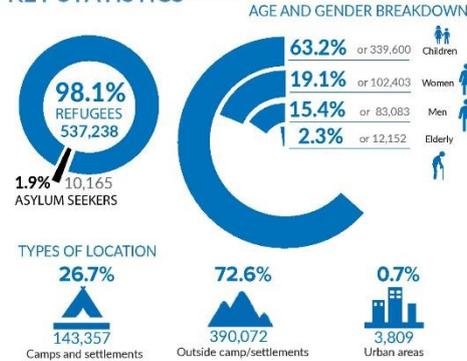
**Alexandra Stenbock-Fermor**, Associate External Relations and Reporting Officer, – UNHCR Regional Representation Kinshasa, [stenbock@unhcr.org](mailto:stenbock@unhcr.org), Tel: +243 996 041 000, +243 822 253 121

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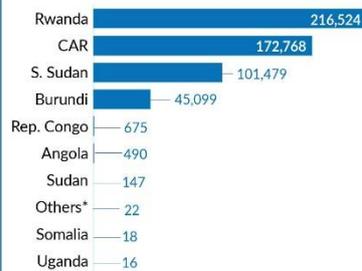
# 547,403

TOTAL NUMBER OF REFUGEES AND ASYLUM SEEKERS

## KEY STATISTICS



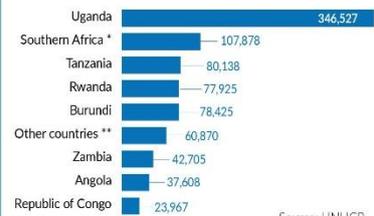
## REFUGEE POPULATION BY COUNTRY OF ORIGIN



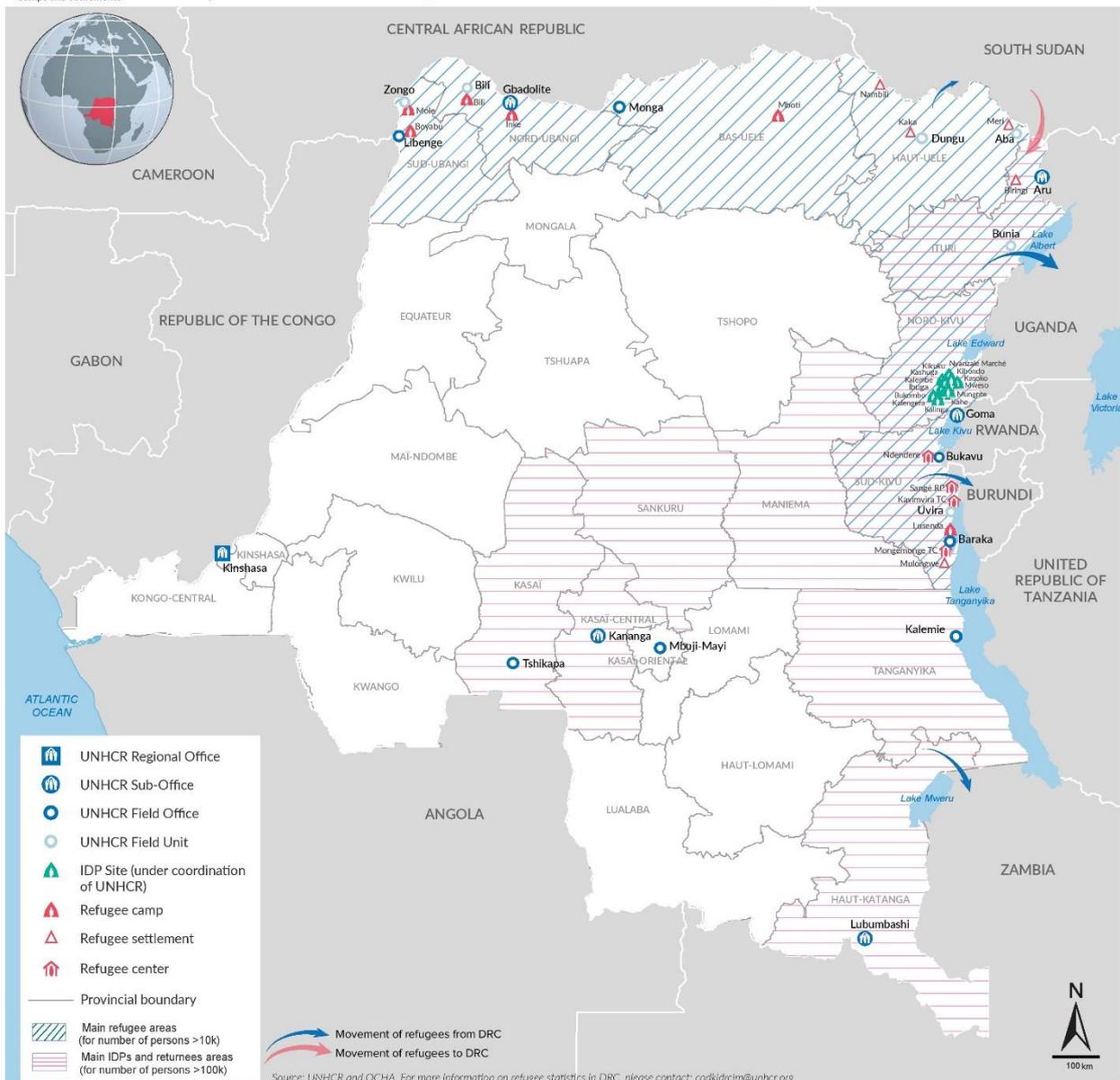
## REFUGEES FROM DRC IN AFRICA

# 856,043

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



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