

ITURI, NORTH KIVU AND SOUTH KIVU PROVINCES DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO

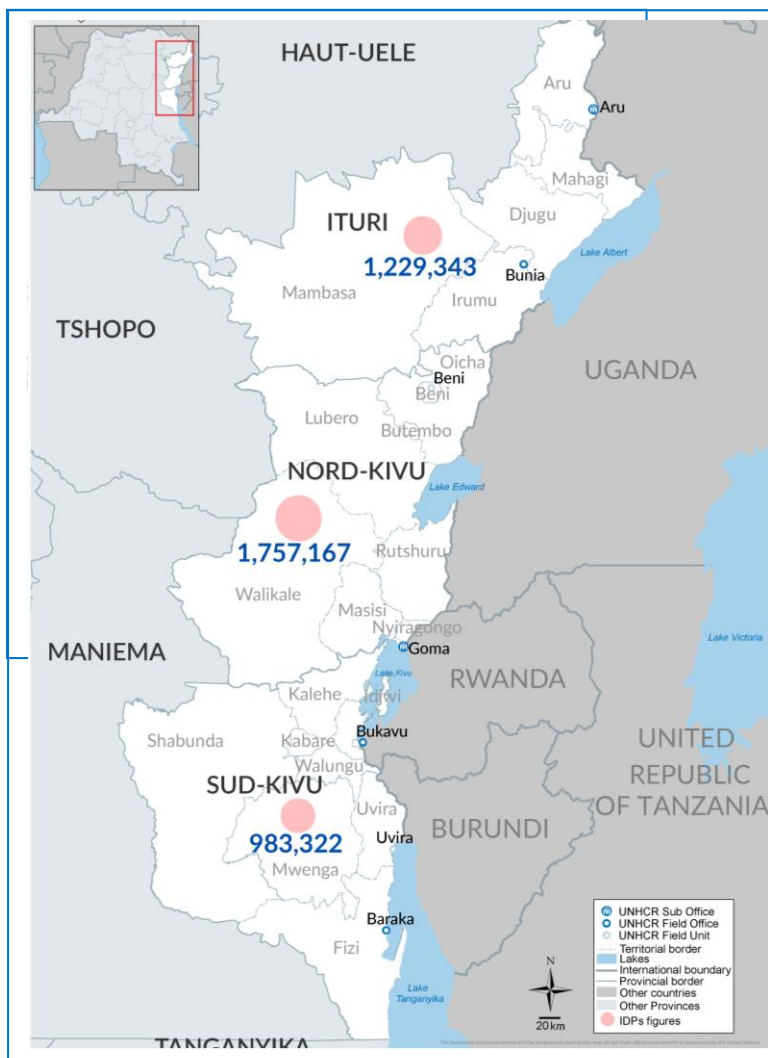
16 – 31 March 2020

MAIN HIGHLIGHTS

UNHCR and partner Caritas facilitated the **transfer of 108 families** from the overcrowded General Hospital displacement site in Bunia, to the new Kigonze site, also in Bunia (Ituri Province). So far, a total of 1,992 families have been transferred.

In Rutshuru Territory (North Kivu Province), the **construction of 813 emergency shelters is underway** at the displacement site of Kanyatsi. Some 1,400 households who recently arrived at the site are in the process of being registered.

In South Kivu Province, community-based protection structures supported by UNHCR's partner AVSI **reached 2,392 participants through awareness-raising** on sexual and gender-based violence, the promotion of positive masculinity, and child protection in Uvira and Fizi territories.



KEY INDICATORS

Nearly 4 M*

Persons are internally displaced in Ituri (1.2 M), North Kivu (1.7 M) and South Kivu (983,322) provinces.

88%

Of all IDPs in North Kivu, South Kivu and Ituri are accommodated in host families (3.5 M IDPs).

267,000

IDPs are hosted in IDP sites coordinated by the Camp Coordination and Camp Management (CCCM) Working Group, while at least 65,000 persons reside in informal sites.

**Ituri figure as of February 2020; North Kivu figure as of January 2020; South Kivu figure as of February 2020. All are estimates subject to fluctuation.*

Operational context and protection situation

Ituri Province: In Bunia, some 10,000 new arrivals since February have contributed to existing overcrowding in the city's displacement sites, where land availability restricts humanitarian actors' ability to construct more housing. Communal shelters and some individual dwellings are under construction, but the communal

shelters will offer little protection against COVID-19. The new arrivals fled ongoing military operations in their previous displacement areas. In Djugu and Mambasa territories, armed groups resorted to reprisals against local populations, in response to military operations by DRC's army against them. Criminality is also increasing throughout the area. Armed men raided two villages in the Mangala area (Djugu Territory) and killed six returnees, including one child. In the Walendu Pitsi area (Mambasa Territory) armed men killed two returnees for allegedly having stolen 10,000 Congolese Francs (about 5.8 US Dollars). This situation holds a risk of negatively impacting social cohesion in the area, as the different parties belong to different communities.


North Kivu Province: In Beni Territory, the security situation continues to be marked by ADF and other armed groups' actions, as well as by the ongoing military offensive against them. As Government forces claimed victories over ADF, 100 elements of the Mai Mai armed group reportedly surrendered to army in Rutshuru Territory. Meanwhile, local populations continue to experience human rights violations and forced displacement, due to individual attacks and fighting between the armed groups and the army.


Since 19 March, a timid return movement began to be observed from Nobili, where around 24,000 households fled in December 2019 due to killings by the ADF. The self-organized return movement of 165 households is described by others as a "go and see" approach, to evaluate whether the situation is favorable to return in areas of origin. The families are returning to areas that are not accessible to humanitarian actors for the moment, as access to Nobili is only possible via Uganda, while borders remain closed amidst the COVID-19 pandemic.


South Kivu Province: Clashes between the Mai Mai armed group and the DRC's army continued in Fizi Territory, affecting the area close to Lemera. In several locations in Fizi and Kabambare territories, the local population has been victim of several serious human rights violations committed by armed groups, including kidnappings, killings, rape and lootings. In some cases, staff from international NGOs were targeted. In Kabambare Territory, attacks by combatants have intensified, causing the displacement of approximately 40 households towards Fizi Territory. Factions of another armed group maintain control in Walungu and Mwenga territories, where they continue to commit human rights violations against civilians. In Shabunda Territory, armed groups are forcibly recruiting children. There have been reports of harassment of civilians who are accused by the DRC's army of being members of armed groups.


UNHCR's response

Ituri Province

 **PROTECTION** UNHCR's partner AVSI, completed five Quick Impact Projects in Djugu and Irumu territories. In Djugu Territory, a health centre used by both displaced persons and the local community was rehabilitated. Two classrooms were also built in Bule, and two water point installed in Masumboko. In Drodro-Largu, two hangars were built in the local market. In Kasenyi (Irumu Territory), public latrines were completed at the port, which serves as important marketplace for displaced populations and the local community.

 **SHELTER AND CRIs** UNHCR's partner Caritas completed the construction of five community hangars at the ISP displacement site in Bunia, to provide emergency shelter for persons who arrived since January 2020. The structures of two further hangars are completed but need to be covered in tarpaulins.

 **CCCM** UNHCR and partner Caritas facilitated the transfer of 108 families from the overcrowded General Hospital displacement site in Bunia, to the new Kigonze site. So far, a total of 1,992 families have been transferred, with the final transfers pending access to land.


 **CASH ASSISTANCE** As part of a community-based protection project, UNHCR and its partner, the consortium AVSI-Caritas, provided multi-purpose cash assistance to 68 vulnerable households at the Bembeyi displacement site (Irumu Territory). The assistance targeted women at risk of sexual and gender-based violence, and single-women households. Further distributions are underway for a total of 2,200 households.

Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps


- WASH needs are high in displacement sites and host communities across the provinces, and a response is urgent to prevent the spread of COVID-19.
- According to UNHCR estimations, at least 100 displaced families, who have been registered by UNHCR, remain at the Hospital General displacement site in Bunia, along with a number of new arrivals. Currently, no new shelters are available to proceed with their transfer to Kigonze, due to a lack of funding.


- At the ISP displacement site in Bunia, 8,390 persons (1,461 families) have arrived since January and remain unregistered and without any shelter, CRI or cash assistance. They only have access to the site's already-overwhelmed infrastructure such as latrines. UNHCR is constructing community hangars, with divisions for families, as there is insufficient land to provide individual houses. WASH assistance is also needed.
- Food insecurity continues in communities hosting displaced persons north of Bunia, as most nutrition programmes end at the periphery of Bunia town. Advocacy is ongoing to extend their reach.


North Kivu Province

 **PROTECTION** Thanks to advocacy by community-based structures in Masisi Territory, five illegal roadblocks have been removed by the Administrator of the Territory. Roadblocks are often illegally erected by the army or by armed groups and are locations where human rights violations tend to take place.

In the displacement site of Nyanzale (Masisi Territory), harvesting has begun in two community fields where 100 displaced households and host families work together, encouraging peaceful cohabitation.

 **SHELTER AND CRIs** In Ruthuru Territory, the construction of 813 emergency shelters is underway at the displacement site of Kanyatsi. Some 1,400 households who recently arrived at the site are in the process of being registered.


 **SEXUAL AND GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE (SGBV)** UNHCR-supported community-based protection structures in Lubero, Masisi and Beni territories have referred twenty victims of rape to medical services. Four women received assistance from a local NGO providing legal support. Between 16 and 21 March, the structures organised awareness-raising sessions on SGBV, targeting 1,521 persons in Minova, Kirumba, Kiwandja, Nyiragongo and Nobili territories

 **CASH ASSISTANCE** After security concerns prevented a cash distribution from taking place in another location, UNHCR and partners identified some 5,700 families in and around Beni and Butembo for mobile money assistance, amounting to approximately three months of rent. The distribution of phones has started, but slow service by the mobile money provider, given competing priorities amidst the COVID-19 outbreak, means that the distribution is proceeding slower than anticipated.

Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

- Around 10,000 IDPs in Kasindi and Masango, Beni Territory, have not received any humanitarian assistance since their arrival in March 2019 and in early 2020.
- In Nobili, urgent WASH needs persist since January. Over 100,000 IDPs are gathered in locations with barely any infrastructure, posing significant risks amidst the COVID-19 pandemic.

South Kivu Province


 **PROTECTION** 17 community-based protection projects, including the construction of community spaces for social cohesion, were completed in Uvira and Fizi territories.


Community-based protection structures supported by UNHCR's partner AVSI mediated seven conflicts, improving peaceful cohabitation in the zone.


UNHCR organized a capacity-building workshop for 60 members of local authorities, community leaders and soldiers of the DRC's army on the protection of internally displaced persons in different localities in Walungu Territory. This was in response to recommendations from a protection needs assessment, and in order to better involve these actors in the protection of displaced persons.


Protection Cluster

- The Protection Cluster, led by UNHCR, held trainings for 20 Cluster members and 15 members of the authorities, military and police, on protection principles, Cluster coordination, and evaluation tools in Fizi Territory. This relaunched the work of the Protection Cluster in an area where IDP coordination had dimmed in recent years.

 **CHILD PROTECTION** Community-based protection structures supported by UNHCR's partner AVSI disseminated messages on the prevention of family separation, and on the prevention children's recruitment in armed groups, via radio broadcasts in Uvira and Fizi territories.

 **SEXUAL AND GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE (SGBV)** Community-based protection structures supported by UNHCR's partner AVSI reached 2,392 participants through awareness-raising on SGBV, the promotion of positive masculinity, and child protection in Uvira and Fizi territories.

 **SHELTER AND CRISIS** UNHCR, through partner AIDES, continued to provide assistance to 1,000 displaced and local households who received tools and technical support to build their own houses in Kikonde and Kazimia, Fizi Territory. So far, 925 shelters (635 in Kazimia and 290 in Kikonde) have been constructed. 68 shelters were destroyed by heavy rain, and their reconstruction is ongoing. In addition, the construction of 750 latrines has started in both locations.

 **CASH ASSISTANCE** UNHCR and partner AIDES continued cash-for-shelter assistance in Kazimia (Fizi Territory), through mobile money. 542 households were assisted among displaced, returnee, and host community households.

UNHCR, through partner AVSI, provided multipurpose cash assistance to 176 displaced households, a majority being women at risk and 20% being members of the host community.

Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

- Shelter support is needed for displaced and host families, especially in case of confinement measures amidst the COVID-19 pandemic.
- In South Kivu Province, where there are no official displacement sites, shelter is one of the most immediate needs for displaced persons, particularly to decongest informal sites and alleviate overcrowding at host families.
- Urgent WASH support is needed for displaced and host families, especially in terms of access to clean water and latrines.



Finalization of a shelter in Kazimia, Fizi Territory, South Kivu Province. © AIDES

Background

- Since 6 June 2019, generalized violence led to massive new displacements in **Ituri Province**. 230,357 persons fled their homes between June and November 2019. In total, 1.2 million persons are displaced in the Province, according to the Commission de Mouvement de Population (CMP), a commission made up of Government and humanitarian agencies. The majority reside in host communities (80%), while some 220,000 have fled towards 87 displacement sites. Some 177,000 IDPs live in displacement sites coordinated by UNHCR or by IOM as co-leads of the CCCM Working Group.
- Over 1.7 million IDPs are located in **North Kivu Province** as of January 2020 according to the Commission de Mouvement de Population. As reported by OCHA, an estimated 436,000 persons fled their homes between September 2019 and January 2020. The vast majority of IDPs in North Kivu (1.67 million) live with host communities, while almost 90,000 reside in sites coordinated by UNHCR or by IOM as co-leads of the CCCM Working Group.
- Intercommunity violence in the Highlands of **South Kivu Province** has led to widespread pendular displacement in Fizi, Mwenga and Uvira territories. Clashes between various communities, armed groups and the DRC's army have worsened since March 2019, and resulted in the forced displacement of at least 322,000 persons. In Kalehe Territory, clashes between the DRC's army and CNRD rebels, which intensified in October 2019, have led 72,000 persons to flee, bringing the total to almost 1 million IDPs in South Kivu, according to OCHA. 97% of all IDPs reside in host families, while a minority have gathered in informal IDP sites (in Kalehe Territory).

UNHCR's presence

UNHCR's Sub-Office in Goma covers North Kivu and Ituri Provinces and supervises operations in South Kivu Province. The Goma Sub-Office oversees all North Kivu, while a smaller Field Unit in Bunia manages operations for Ituri. To meet growing needs in the northern part of North Kivu – including Ebola preparedness needs and emergency response – the operation opened a Field Unit in Beni in October 2019, and the Goma Sub-Office is being reinforced with permanent and temporary staff.

External Relations

As of 6 April 2020

Donors for UNHCR operations in DRC in 2020

United States of America (6.2 M) | Sweden (3.1 M) | Canada (0.72 M) | Japan (0.56 M) | United Nations Foundation (0.32 M) | International Olympic Committee (0.23 M) | European Union (0.17 M) | UNAIDS (0.03 M)

Major donors of regional or other funds with soft earmarking 2020

United States of America (13.9 M) | Germany (8.4 M) | Sweden (3.9 M) | Canada (3.7 M) | Finland (3.3 M) | Private donors Australia (2.1 M)

Major donors of un-earmarked funds in 2020

Sweden (76.4 M) | Norway (41.4 M) | Netherlands (36.1 M) | Denmark (34.6 M) | United Kingdom (31.7 M) | Germany (25.9 M) | Switzerland (16.4 M) | Private donors Republic of Korea (10.5 M)

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