

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

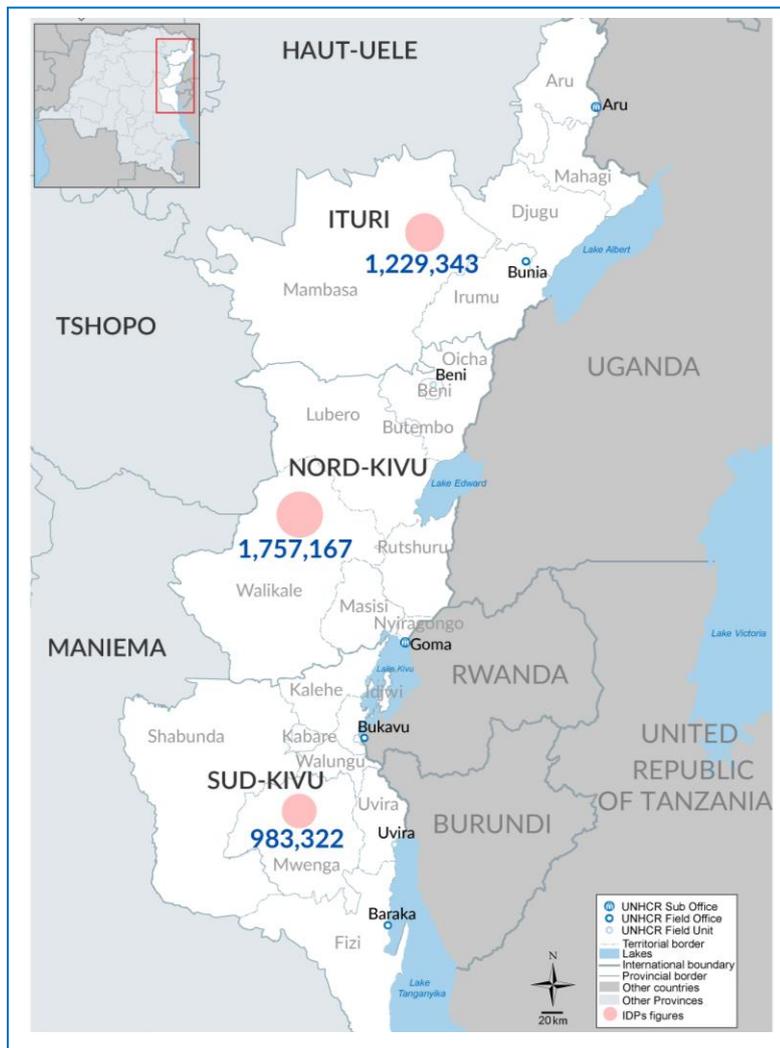
9 – 16 March 2020

MAIN HIGHLIGHTS

Amidst the pre-existing emergency in eastern DRC, UNHCR is also preparing its **response to the COVID-19 pandemic**. Priorities in terms of COVID-19 response include activities in WASH, shelter and multi-purpose cash assistance targeting the most vulnerable persons.

In response to the ongoing emergency in Ituri Province, UNHCR and partners provided **multi-purpose cash assistance to 491 vulnerable households** in Kasenyi and Tchomia, Ituri Province. The assistance targeted women at risk of SGBV and single women households.

In Beni Territory (North Kivu Province), **a total of 23,917 IDPs were registered** in an online system used by various humanitarian actors. 18,921 persons (2,703 households) arrived in the area of Mangina, while 4,996 (860 households) were registered in the area of Bulambo.



KEY INDICATORS

Nearly 4 M

Persons are internally displaced in Ituri (1,229,343), North Kivu (1,757,167) 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 UNHCR or IOM as part of the Camp Coordination and Camp Management 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: Attacks by armed group CODECO continued in Djugu Territory, resulting in 14 deaths. A catholic church in Fataki, Djugu Territory was attacked by unknown assailants, causing the displacement of 1,275 families towards Bule, Drodro and surrounding villages. In Mambasa Territory, the population has gradually been fleeing their homes since late February, out of fear of attacks by the Allied Democratic Forces

(ADF). The persons remaining in the zone face severely movement restrictions and are at risk of food insecurity as food prices have tripled due to limited availability. Humanitarian assistance has been hampered by insecurity.

North Kivu Province: Attacks by armed groups against the local population continued in several locations, especially Masisi and Rutshuru territories. 378 protection incidents were recorded by INTERSOS, mostly extortions (105), kidnappings (65), and bodily harm (55). In Beni Territory, the DRC's army continued its operations against armed groups. The Mai Mai armed group, and alleged ADF elements, killed and kidnapped several persons, resulting in 274 households fleeing towards Mamove and Oicha. There are reports of an upsurge of Mai Mai activities and related incidents in Lubero Territory, where the armed group is said to have abducted over a dozen civilians as a retaliation for not paying illegal taxes, according to UNHCR's protection monitoring.

South Kivu Province: Clashes between the Mai Mai and the DRC's army continued in Fizi Territory, affecting the area close to Lamera. In several locations in Fizi and Kabambare territories, the local population has fallen victim to serious human rights violations committed by armed groups, including kidnappings, killings and lootings. In Mayange village, Kabambare Territory, attacks by Twa combatants have intensified, causing movements of approximately 40 households towards Fizi Territory.

UNHCR's response

Ituri Province



PROTECTION As part of its community-based protection project, UNHCR and its partner, the AVSI-Caritas consortium, provided multi-purpose cash assistance to 298 and 193 vulnerable households respectively in Kasenyi and Tchomia, Irumu Territory. The assistance targeted women at risk of SGBV and single-women households, amongst the displaced and the host community.



Multipurpose cash assistance for vulnerable households in Beni town, North Kivu Province. © UNHCR/Ibrahima Diané



SHELTER AND CRIs UNHCR's partner Caritas completed the construction of 112 additional emergency shelters at the Kigonze displacement site in Bunia, thereby reaching a total of 2,159 shelters built. The shelters are built by workers recruited from displaced and local communities, bringing the communities together and providing important livelihood opportunities.



CCCM 102 displaced families staying at the HGR displacement site in Bunia were transferred to the new Kigonze site. So far, UNHCR has facilitated the transfer of 1,885 families from the HGR site to Kigonze.

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.
- There are significant needs in terms of Camp Coordination and Camp Management (CCCM) in Ituri Province; IDPs hosted in uncoordinated sites are progressively brought under CCCM coordination to facilitate communication with sectoral actors.

North Kivu Province



PROTECTION In Beni Territory, a total of 23,917 IDPs were registered in an online system used by various humanitarian actors in the area. 18,921 persons (2,703 households) have arrived in the area of Mangina, while 4,996 persons (860 households) were registered in the area of Bulambo.

 **SHELTER AND CRIS** UNHCR prepared for a cash distribution to provide housing support to vulnerable displaced households in urban areas, including Beni and Butembo. A majority of the IDPs live with host families, often in close proximity and in rented properties. The cash assistance, which will benefit about 6,000 households, including host families, aims to help beneficiaries live in decent housing conditions.

On 14 March, UNHCR trained over 50 field staff in Beni on protection and the prevention of sexual exploitation and abuse (PSEA), as well as on the use of the Kobo smartphone application to identify beneficiaries in IDP-hosting neighborhoods of Beni.

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** Community-based protection projects, including the construction of community structures to enhance social cohesion, continued in Uvira and Fizi territories. UNHCR's partner AVSI completed the construction of 7 out of 10 water pipes in Lubichako 1 and Lubichako 2 (Fizi Territory), which are already functional for the displaced and host community members to use.

 **CHILD PROTECTION** As part of Quick Impact Projects (QIPs) for community-based protection, UNHCR's partner AVSI continued the construction of one Child Friendly Space, including for children demobilized from armed groups, in Sange (Uvira Territory). AVSI also completed the rehabilitation of a Child Friendly Space in Makobola (Fizi Territory). Materials and school kits were distributed to displaced and host community children.

 **SEXUAL AND GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE (SGBV)** UNHCR continued to celebrate International Women's Day with the participation of 300 IDPs from the highlands and midlands of Uvira Territory. Female IDP leaders spoke and performed a theater play, conveying messages of peace and social cohesion.

Community-based structures supported by UNHCR's partner AVSI carried out 14 awareness-raising activities on SGBV, positive masculinity and child protection, reaching 4,085 participants in Uvira and Fizi territories.

 **SHELTER AND CRIS** As part of UNHCR's and partner AIDES's shelter project in Kikonde and Kazimia (Fizi Territory), 781 shelters were constructed for displaced and host community households.

 **CASH ASSISTANCE** UNHCR and partner AIDES provided cash-for-shelter to 75 displaced, returnee, and host community households via mobile money in Kazimia, Fizi Territory.

Identified needs and remaining gaps

- In South Kivu Province, where there are no official displacement sites, shelter is one of the most immediate needs for displaced persons, in large part because of the need to decongest informal sites and host families. Overcrowding poses risks of SGBV and social conflict, as well as public health issues amidst the COVID-19 pandemic.
- Urgent WASH support is needed for displaced and host families, especially in terms of access to clean water and latrines.

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, bringing the total to 1.2 million IDPs 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 220,000 fled towards 87 IDP sites. Over 141,000 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 for the CCCM Working Group.

- Intercommunity violence in the highlands of **South Kivu Province** has led to widespread 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 19 March 2020

Donors for UNHCR operations in DRC in 2020

United States of America (6.2 M) | Sweden (3.1 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 (2.3 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 Spain (13.2 M)

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