

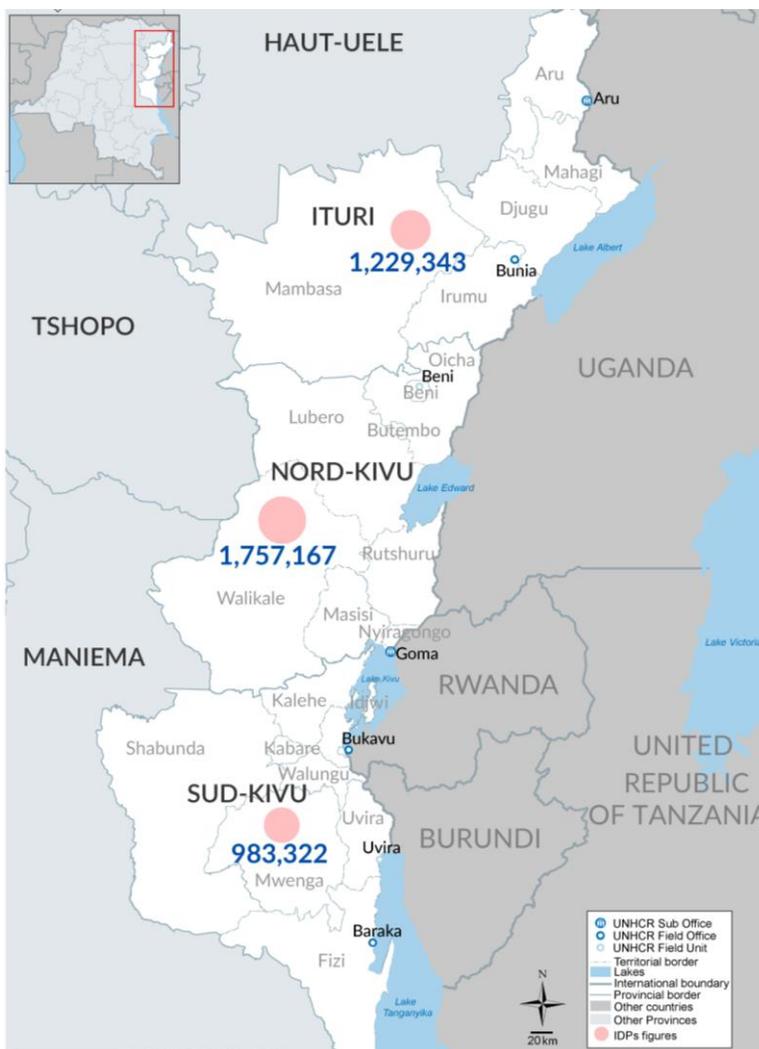
ITURI, NORTH KIVU AND SOUTH KIVU PROVINCES DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO

13 – 27 April 2020

On 15 April, UNHCR completed a **cash distribution in Ituri Province among vulnerable women** in displacement sites and staying with host families. 2,909 women, including local women, were reached in six locations. This assistance allows the women to turn away from harmful coping strategies.

In Kitchanga (North Kivu Province), a community-based protection groups took the initiative of **installing handwashing devices** in the displacement sites of Kahe and Mungote, and in the villages of Nyakabingu, Muhongozi and Burungu, as part of the prevention of COVID-19.

UNHCR and AIDES **completed a shelter project** in Fizi Territory, South Kivu Province. 1,000 internally displaced and local households were able to construct their homes and latrines. Each household received a handwashing station and was sensitized on COVID-19.



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 provinces are accommodated in host families (3.5 M IDPs).

267,000

IDPs are hosted in displacement 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: The security situation in Djugu and Mahagi territories remained unstable in the second half of April. According to local alerts, over 200,000 persons have been displaced since March. Splinter groups from the CODECO armed group continued their retaliations against the DRC’s military, and targeted displaced persons who had returned to their villages of origin. Since the beginning of March, at least 199 returnees have been killed and some 8,000 houses burnt down by assailants. These attacks discourage other displaced persons from returning home. Humanitarian access to many areas of Djugu and Mahagi territories also remains limited, preventing the delivery of vital assistance in a period where needs have increased sharply because of new

displacements and the consequences of COVID-19 prevention measures, as confinements and social distancing have slowed down the provision of assistance.

North Kivu Province: Military operations against the ADF armed group continued in Beni Territory, as well as activities of the Mai-Mai armed group in Lubero Territory. Some 60,000 people were reportedly displaced in southern Lubero Territory and in Beni Territory's Rwenzori sector, according to UNHCR's partners and community-based protection groups. In Rutshuru Territory, clashes between the DRC's army and the FDLR armed group were reported from 16 to 23 April in the Bishusha area, Bwito Chiefdom. Some 201 households who were living in areas controlled by FDLR elements fled to host families in the village of Buhara. Two unaccompanied children were identified by community-based protection groups and referred to child protection organisations for assistance. UNHCR is leading missions to both areas to assess needs.

South Kivu Province: Uvira town has been hit by floods, reportedly killing nearly 40 and injuring over 150 persons, while affecting about 80,000 persons in different neighborhoods. Houses and water, sanitation, hygiene and health infrastructures have been damaged or destroyed in neighborhoods that were already overcrowded, affecting locals as well as IDPs and refugees. Road access to and from Uvira has also been compromised, making humanitarian access nearly impossible. The floods significantly affected the Ruzizi plains too, in Uvira and Fizi territories, where there are two refugee camps. The security situation in Baraka town remains of concern as incidents affecting humanitarian actors continued. In neighbouring Maniema Province, population movements from Kabambare Territory towards Fizi Territory (South Kivu Province) continued due to attacks targeting the local population.

UNHCR's response

Ituri Province



PROTECTION Community-based protection groups supported by UNHCR have taken the initiative to start awareness-raising campaigns on the prevention of COVID-19, and on protection risks related to the outbreak. So far, the associations have reached 697 internally displaced persons and locals in Bule, Fataki and Tchomia (Djugu Territory). The community-led campaigns fill an important gap in raising awareness on COVID-19 in places where UNHCR currently has no access.

UNHCR's partner AVSI finalized two further Quick Impact Projects (QIPs) in Djugu Territory. First, the construction of four latrines in the market of Drodro-Largu, improving access to public sanitation for the local and displaced population. Second, 60 displaced and local families received agricultural tools, seeds and land for agricultural exploitation in Blukwa. This provides important livelihood opportunity amidst the COVID-19 outbreak, as the circulation of goods is limited and prices are on the rise.



SHELTER AND CORE RELIEF ITEMS (CRIs) With its partner the Danish Refugee Council (DRC), UNHCR constructed 362 emergency shelters in Thsukpa displacement site in Djugu Territory. 281 further emergency shelters are underway. New shelters are crucial to counter overcrowding in the existing shelters, and to improve social distancing to prevent the spread of COVID-19 and other diseases such as cholera and Ebola.

In Mahagi Territory, UNHCR and the DRC rehabilitated 144 traditional shelters.

Internally displaced and local persons were hired for these shelter projects, thereby providing them with an important source of income.



CASH ASSISTANCE On 15 April, UNHCR completed a cash distribution among vulnerable women living in displacement sites and with host families. UNHCR and partners Caritas and AVSI reached 2,909 women, including local women, in six locations. This unconditional, multipurpose assistance allows the women to turn away from harmful coping strategies, such as survival sex or other activities putting them at risk, and to improve their access to livelihoods. The assistance can also help women who have experienced a loss of income due to COVID-19 related movement restrictions, or childcare duties.

Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

- National and international health and humanitarian actors' capacities to prevent and respond to COVID-19 need to be strengthened. Water, sanitation and hygiene needs are particularly urgent in displacement sites and host communities.

- Due to limited humanitarian access to several areas, large parts of the displaced and local populations have remained without humanitarian assistance for an extended period. Food assistance to prevent hunger and malnutrition, notably amongst children, is amongst the most urgent needs.
- Newly displaced persons are in urgent need of multisectoral assistance in displacement sites across the Province. The construction of new shelters in overcrowded sites is crucial, especially at the onset of the rainy season.

North Kivu Province



PROTECTION In Beni, Butembo and Kasindi (Beni Territory), community-based protection groups supported by UNHCR took the initiative of carrying out various awareness-raising activities for displaced persons and the host communities. In addition to promoting the prevention of sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV) and protection in general, the awareness-raising activities covered preventives measures against COVID-19 and Ebola, which has recently surfaced in Beni town. Using megaphones, the associations spread messages while respecting distancing and hygiene measures. The sensitization reached 774 people, including 461 women.

In the Nobili area, UNHCR's partner Caritas continued to support young people in activities such as agriculture, carpentry and VSLAs (village savings and credit associations). However, all these activities have been slowed down by the COVID-19 pandemic. Small businesses, mainly ran by women, are for example affected by the closure of the border between DRC and Uganda. Partner Caritas also confirmed reports of small-scale returns of displaced persons from Nobili to their places of origin in the Kamango area, northern Beni Territory.



CASH ASSISTANCE From 3 to 24 April, 1,097 displaced households, out of a total of 5,974 targeted, received mobile money cash assistance in the cities of Beni and Butembo. The distribution is ongoing. In Beni, UNHCR partner Caritas also provided cash assistance to 33 displaced households who were absent during a distribution in March.



SHELTER AND CORE RELIEF ITEMS (CRIs) 2,381 shelters are under construction in displacement sites Masisi and Rutshuru territories, with 1,941 completed so far (1,156 in Rutshuru Territory and 785 in Masisi Territory). Assessments were also conducted to identify the shelter needs of recently displaced persons in Walikale, Lubero and Beni territories.



WATER, SANITATION AND HYGIENE (WASH) In Kitchanga (Masisi Territory), a community-based protection groups called "Réseau de Plaidoyer et de Protection" (Protection and Advocacy Network) took the initiative of installing handwashing devices in the displacement sites of Kahe and Mungote, and in the villages of Nyakabingu, Muhongozi and Burungu, as part of the prevention of COVID-19. The community was also sensitized on the importance of handwashing as a prevention measure.

Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

- Around 10,000 internally displaced persons in Kasindi and Masango, Beni Territory, have not received any humanitarian assistance since their arrival in March 2019 and in early 2020. Many live with and rely on already-impooverished host families, while others resort to informal economic activities to survive.
- In Nobili, urgent water, sanitation and hygiene needs persist since January. Over 100,000 internally displaced persons are gathered in locations with barely any infrastructure, which poses significant risks amidst the COVID-19 pandemic.

South Kivu Province



PROTECTION There was an elevated number of sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV) incidents during the reporting period in Kabambare Territory, in neighboring Maniema Province. These cases were reported and referred to the relevant health center by community-based protection groups supported by UNHCR and partners Caritas and AVSI.

Following the floods in Uvira, UNHCR has identified persons with specific needs, and is working with the Government to provide shelter and psycho-social support.

Community-based protection groups supported by UNHCR's partner AVSI continued awareness-raising and referral activities in Fizi and Uvira territories. In addition to the theme of sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV), they continued raising awareness on COVID-19 prevention measures, using megaphones to address small groups, and going door-to-door. In Kimbi-Lulenge (Fizi Territory), similar community-based protection groups also broadcasted four radio spots to raise awareness about COVID-19.

UNHCR's partner AVSI launched a questionnaire to better understand the communities' perception of COVID-19, reaching 15 of the 17 villages covered by the project in Uvira and Fizi territories. The majority of internally displaced persons and host community members have a basic understanding of COVID-19, but expressed a need for more information and for sensitization materials.

UNHCR's partner AVSI, along with community-based protection groups, finalized the last of the 17 Quick Impact Projects (QIPs) in Uvira and Fizi territories, which primarily consisted in community structures (additional school classrooms, community radios, community market spaces, water sources). The QIPs had not yet been completed due to construction issues or lack of materials.

Protection Cluster

- The UNHCR-led Protection Cluster met with different actors to coordinate the response to protection needs for victims of the floods in Uvira, Ruzizi plains and Baraka. Several protection risks were identified in Uvira, mainly related to the security situation, heightened risks of SGBV and child protection (17 non-accompanied and up to 100 separated children were identified) according to INTERSOS and the local interagency committee in Uvira. UNHCR is reinforcing the Protection and Shelter Clusters in Uvira, but due to the state of the road and the lack of access for humanitarians, humanitarian actors coming from Bukavu are not able to reach Uvira.



SHELTER AND CORE RELIEF ITEMS (CRIs)

UNHCR and partner AIDES completed a shelter project in Kazimia and Kikonde, Fizi Territory. 1,000 internally displaced and host community households were able to construct their own homes and latrines. Shelters that had been destroyed by heavy rains in Kazimia and Kikonde were also reconstructed. Each household was provided with a handwashing station, and UNHCR and AIDES sensitized all beneficiaries on COVID-19 prevention. The project will continue in Fizi Centre (Fizi Territory), where 300 households will be supported with shelter and latrine constructions.

Following the floods in Uvira, UNHCR donated core relief items to the local Government, including 500 buckets, 500 mosquito nets, 100 tarpaulins, 250 mats and 800 kitchen sets, which will be distributed to those affected.

Cash-for-shelter is underway as a response to the floods in Uvira, to facilitate rebuilding and rental payments rather than support for ad hoc sites, which cannot be brought up to standard in the short term.

Shelter Cluster

- The UNHCR-led Shelter Cluster is supporting the response to the floods in Uvira and Fizi territories, in coordination with the Protection Cluster. A multi-sector evaluation is underway in Baraka and its surroundings to assess the needs of thousands of affected households.

Identified needs and remaining gaps

- The shelter sector lacks sufficient actors to respond to the needs of the population, especially after the floods in Uvira, as well as in the Ruzizi plains, Baraka, and surrounding areas in Fizi Territory.
- Those effected by the floods are facing significant protection needs throughout South Kivu Province, including the need for psychosocial support in Uvira.
- Care for SGBV survivors represents a significant gap in South Kivu Province, beyond referrals for urgent medical or other specialized treatment. This is a priority for UNHCR in 2020.

Background

- Due to generalized violence, 230,357 persons in **Ituri Province** 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 (83%), while some 220,000 have fled towards 87 displacement sites. Some 177,000 persons stay in 55 displacement sites coordinated by the CCCM Working Group, while the remaining lives in informal sites. In March and April 2020, a new upsurge of violence in Djugu and Mahagi territories reportedly forced another 200,000 persons into displacement.
- Over 1.7 million IDPs were located in **North Kivu Province** as 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 displaced persons in North Kivu (1.67 million) live with host communities, while almost 90,000 reside in 22 displacement sites coordinated by 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 caused 72,000 persons to flee, bringing the total to almost 1 million internally displaced persons in South Kivu Province, according to OCHA. 97% of all displaced persons reside in host families, while a minority have gathered in informal 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 of 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 27 April 2020

Donors for UNHCR operations in DRC in 2020

United States of America (6.6 M) | CERF (6.3 M) | Sweden (3.1 M) | European Union (1.6 M) | Canada (0.72 M) | Japan (0.56 M) | United Nations Foundation (0.32 M) | International Olympic Committee (0.23 M) | UNAIDS (0.19 M)

Major donors of regional or other funds with soft earmarking 2020

Germany (46.6 M) | United Kingdom (25 M) | United States of America (21.9 M) | Denmark (14.6 M) | Canada (10.2 M) | Sweden (6.9 M) | Private donors Japan (3.5 M) | Ireland (3.3 M) | Finland (3.3 M) | Private donors Germany (2.7 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) | Private donors Spain (20 M) | Switzerland (16.4 M) | Private donors Republic of Korea (10.5 M)

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