

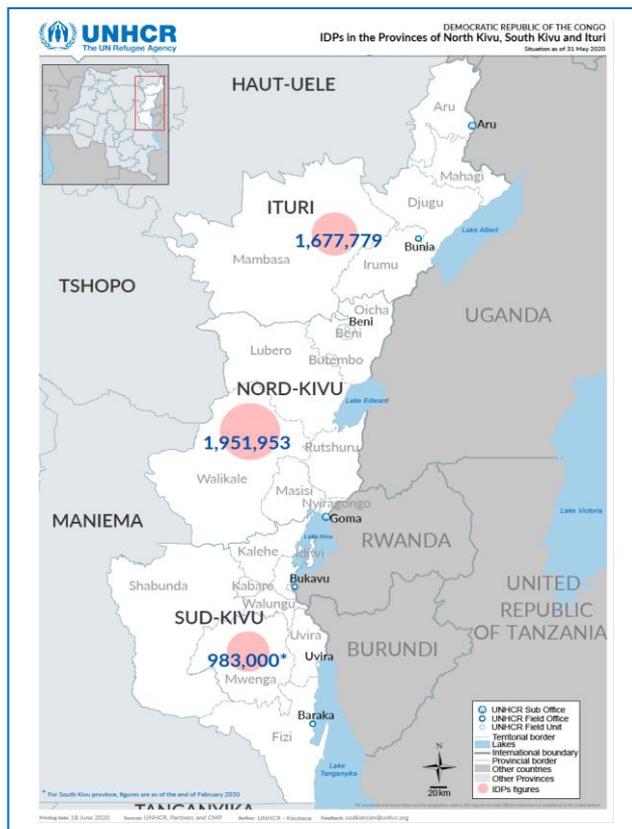
# ITURI, NORTH KIVU AND SOUTH KIVU PROVINCES DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO

8-22 June 2020

On 15 June UNHCR launched a **large-scale soap distribution for refugees, IDPs** and members of the **host population** in Ituri, North Kivu and South Kivu to help prevent the spread of COVID-19. A total of

118 tons of soap will be distributed in the three provinces. Each beneficiary will receive the equivalent of 4 bars of soap (600 gram). The **continued violence against civilian population** in

East Congo is worrisome. **Attacks against a displacement site** in South Kivu, is particularly worrisome as it arose out of militia incursions into the site that put its civilian character into jeopardy.



### KEY FIGURES

Over **4.5M\***  
Persons are internally displaced in Ituri (**1.6M**), North Kivu (**1.9M**) and South Kivu (**1M**) provinces.

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**93%\***  
Of all IDPs in North Kivu, South Kivu and Ituri are accommodated in host families and communities (4.2M)

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**267,000**  
IDPs are hosted at CCCM coordinated IDP sites, while about 65,000 persons are resided at spontaneous sites.

\* Due to continuous population movements these figures change regularly and are only an estimate

## Operational context and protection situation

**Ituri Province:** Continuous attacks by various militia and armed groups as well as counter-operations by the Congolese army (FARDC) continue to cause numerous protection incidents and population movements. Djugu Territory remains the most affected area. On 9 June, 6 internally displaced persons (IDPs) and 3 IDPs who had returned to their villages were killed in an attack by unidentified armed men in Lenga, Fataki health zone, with 5 children among the victims. 1,600 persons reportedly fled as a result. During another attack in Loda Health Zone on 17 June, unidentified armed men killed 5 IDPs who had returned to their village, including 2 children and caused around 500 families to flee.

The unstable security situation is increasing affecting to humanitarian activities. On 17 June, CODECO militia ambushed two humanitarian vehicles in Walendu Pitsi Chiefdom, which was the first attack on humanitarian workers in Ituri since almost two years. Violence in Beni Territory has led to several displacements from North Kivu to Ituri. Meanwhile, the Ituri provincial government closed the borders with North Kivu which will likely affect inter-province forced displacements.

**North Kivu Province:** Attacks between armed groups and the FARDC continued in North Kivu, causing human rights violations and forced displacement of several thousand people. 860 protection incidents (including 45

cases gender-based violence) were documented by UNHCR's partner INTERSOS between 5 and 18 June, affecting Lubero and Beni Territories in particular. In Beni Territory several attacks by suspected Allied Democratic Forces (ADF) elements since 12 June have killed at least 17 civilians and led many more to flee. Military operations by the FARDC are pushing the ADF across the provincial border towards Ituri. Likewise, attacks in North Kivu provoke population movements towards southern Irumu Territory in Ituri Province. An ADF attack on 18 June in Beni Territory forced 4,850 persons to flee to Boga health zone in Irumu Territory in Ituri.

**South Kivu Province:** Fighting between armed groups and the FARDC continued in South Kivu with significant IDP movements of over 7,500 persons fleeing, while armed conflict between the Gumino militias and the Mai Mai rebels in Fizi Territory uprooted at least 5,000. Armed men, presumably the Gumino combatants often associated with the Banyamulenge community infiltrated an IDP site in Mikenge, Mwenga Territory to hide from their assailants. This led to FARDC entering the camp, searching for weapons and arresting 5 armed elements. Two IDPs were injured during the clashes between the Gumino combatants and the FARDC. In return, the same militia reportedly attacked the site on 20 June. These infiltrations have thus jeopardized the civilian character of the site even though the residents had no way to stop the militia's actions.

400 protection incidents have been reported by UNHCR's protection monitoring partner INTERSOS from 5 to 19 June 2020. More than 80% of these cases were perpetrated by armed groups in Fizi, Uvira, Shabunda, Kalehe, and Mwenga Territories, South Kivu. The most common incidents were physical assault and extortion, and there was a documented rise in forced labor from 12 to 19 June 2019.

## UNHCR's response

### Ituri Province



**PROTECTION** UNHCR-supported community-based protection groups have continued information sharing campaigns on the prevention of COVID-19 and protection related risks such as SGBV and child protection, reaching 1,009 persons during the reporting period including IDPs and members of the host communities in Djugu and Irumu Territories.

Through engaging local communities, information on COVID-19 and its prevention can reach places where UNHCR currently has no access. UNHCR supports and guides community groups and community members from a distance.



**SHELTER AND CRIS** UNHCR launched a large-scale soap distribution for IDPs in displacement sites and host communities to help prevent the spread of the coronavirus. UNHCR and its partner Caritas distributed 600 g soap bars to the 8,799 IDPs staying in Kigonze site and to 1,614 persons in the HGR site in Bunia. UNHCR will continue the distribution to all sites under its coordination and where the security situation permits access.

UNHCR and its partner Caritas proceed to register newly arrived IDPs in the sites which is key for the provision of multi-sectorial assistance by humanitarian actors and ensuring protection of IDPs.

In Mahagi Territory, UNHCR's partner Danish Refugee Council (DRC) completed the construction of 4 blocs of latrines in Angumu site. In displacement sites across the province, IDPs across the province have expressed the need for more WASH infrastructures, especially to prevent the spread of diseases.



**CAMP COORDINATION AND CAMP MANAGEMENT** As co-lead of the CCCM Working Group, UNHCR has advocated for the allocation of additional land to expand sites that have received thousands of new IDPs in recent months and urgently need to be decongested. MONUSCO continues the preparation of the new land to expand the Kigonze site in Bunia. The clearing of the new terrain is completed and currently the rehabilitation of the road leading to the site is ongoing before construction can begin.

### Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

- The COVID-19 prevention and response capacities of national and international health and humanitarian actors needs to be strengthened. Health programmes in several displacement sites in Ituri have run out of funding, leaving IDPs without affordable access to basic health care. UNHCR as co-lead of the CCCM Working Group is trying to raise funds.

- Limited humanitarian access due to poor security, leave displaced persons and local populations vulnerable as no humanitarian assistance has reached them for months. Food assistance to prevent malnutrition, notably for children, is amongst the most urgent need expressed by the communities.
- Newly displaced persons that have arrived in displacement sites across the province are in urgent need of multisectoral assistance. The construction of new shelters in overcrowded sites is crucial, especially during the rainy season.

### North Kivu Province



**PROTECTION** Members of community-based protection groups by UNHCR continued to raise awareness of the risks associated with COVID-19, reaching a total of 9,274 persons in the reporting period. In addition, 26 radio programs have been broadcast on community radio stations reaching approximately 8,500 people.

UNHCR and its implementing partner INTERSOS conducted surveys the IDP and host populations as well as state authorities and local leaders to understand their perception of COVID-19 virus, interviewing 771 people. Overall, 229 persons (30%) did not know about COVID, while 542 people (70%) did. 47% of those interviewed compare COVID-19 to Ebola, 24% think that it is brought by Western people while 9% believe it is an invention. Radio is a major source of information; (65%) of the 771 interviewed indicated that they obtain information on COVID through the radio.

UNHCR organized a two-day PSEA training session for implementing partners in Goma. The purpose of this training was to recall the concepts of sexual abuse and exploitation, review the SOPs and develop the action plan for each organization. The training will also be organized in other parts of eastern DRC.



**CAMP COORDINATION AND CAMP MANAGEMENT** UNHCR and partners are collecting the intentions of IDPs who are residing in all 13 UNHCR managed IDP sites with the objective of decongesting sites as part of the fight against COVID19. At the same time, IDPs residing in the sites are being physically verified. This will help implement programmes by UNHCR, with the support of local authorities, to promote pathways to more stable lives for displaced families, and durable solutions for some. In some localities such as in Masisi Territory, the lack of security however has a negative impact on the prospect of local integration.



**SHELTER AND CRIS** The community based group and the IDP committee in Nobili have monitored the shelter conditions in the localities in the surrounding of Nobili. Among 9,814 shelters visited, only 2,350 shelters are in an acceptable condition while 7,464 shelters are in need of repair. The results of this assessment will be used to advocate with humanitarian actors for support to the rehabilitation of shelters, and to determine the types of shelters needed given the security situation in the region and repeated flights.

UNHCR is distributing 600g soap bars to residents in several IDP sites and host communities in North Kivu as part of its large-scale soap distribution to help prevent the spread of the coronavirus. 16,931 IDPs and 3,391 members of host communities have received soap bars so far, which will help to prevent the spread of diseases including Cholera and COVID-19.



**SEXUAL AND GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE (SGBV)** UNHCR has set up a mission in Beni and Lubero territoires aimed at strengthening the capacities of national NGOs, including partners in the areas of protection monitoring, legal support for SGBV survivors, prevention of statelessness and SGBV.

### Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

- There is a lack of latrines and WASH infrastructure and UNHCR coordinated sites, while the majority of the sites are overcrowded. Due to continued violence, IDPs cannot return home to most places of origin, although UNHCR is working with local authorities on the identification of land on which IDPs can build, and settle for the duration.
- There is an absence of protection actors in some areas which hamper the affective protection of IDPs and others affected by armed conflicts. Particularly survivors of Sexual and Gender-Based Violence vulnerable remain without sufficient care.
- Many of the newly displaced remain without any support, despite facing multiple needs, including shelter support, access to clean water, health services. Also, urgent support is needed for malnourished children.

- In Bwito Chiefdom, the displacement of an estimated 80,000 persons have led to urgent multisector needs, especially in terms of shelter, child protection and protection of women and girls at risk of SGBV. Access to clean water further remains a challenge which is pivotal to help reduce the risk of COVID-19.

### South Kivu Province

 **PROTECTION** From 5 to 20 June 2020, community-based protection groups supported by UNHCR's and Caritas-AVSI continued to raise awareness about COVID-19 prevention measures, child protection and peaceful cohabitation reaching over 2,000 IDPs and host community members in Fizi and Uvira Territories through small group sessions, door-to-door visits, and using megaphones. Community member also successfully mediated 3 cases of land conflict, as well as 1 case of family conflict (between a mother and son) in Uvira and Fizi Territories.

 **CHILD PROTECTION** Community-based protection groups shared information on child protection with 40 IDPs and host community members, including host families. Together with partner AVSI they carried out a survey to evaluate the impact of the various child protection activities with a sample of 105 children from IDP-, host-, and refugee communities in Uvira and Fizi Territories. The results of this survey illustrated that these children have a high level of understanding of children's rights, 95% were able to explain children's rights on education and health.

 **SEXUAL AND GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE (SGBV)** Community-based protection groups conducted information and resources-sharing sessions for over 2,000 IDPs and host community members on various SGBV topics, including positive masculinity and early marriage. Members of these protection groups referred 3 survivors of SGBV to obtain the necessary medical services. In one of these cases, the perpetrator was arrested with the help of protection group members in Misisi, Fizi Territory.

In Kalehe Territory, community-based protection groups conducted a targeted awareness campaign on the prevention of sexual violence among young people. The structure also referred two survivors of SGBVs, underaged girls to health centers where they received a PEP Kit and other appropriate care.

 **SHELTER AND NFIS** As part of UNHCR's shelter project for IDPs in Fizi Centre, Fizi Territory with partner AIDES, UNHCR is in the final phase of selecting the 300 household beneficiaries. UNHCR and AIDES trained the 30 community networks on construction tools, distributing 30 construction tool kits (each kit serves 10 households). With these construction tools and training, some of the 300 IDP households have already begun constructing their homes.

#### Cluster Protection

- In view of the deteriorating security situation in the Mikenge area, the Protection Cluster has been advocating with the Congolese security forces and MONUSCO for strengthening the protection of civilians in the Itombwe sector.

 **CASH ASSISTANCE** Post-distribution monitoring (PDM) is currently underway for the IDP households that received cash-for-shelter as part of the UNHCR and AIDES shelter project in Kazimia and Kikonde, Fizi Territory that served 1,000 households.

#### Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

- Shelter support is needed for the displaced and host families especially in this COVID-19 period to prevent any eventual confinement in case of confirmed cases. In South Kivu, where there are no official IDP sites, shelter is one of the most immediate IDP needs – in large part because of the need to decongest informal sites and host family dwellings.
- Urgent WASH support is needed for IDPs and host families as access to clean water and latrines is particularly pressing.
- There are still significant needs among those affected by the recent heavy rains and flooding in the Fizi and Ruzizi Plain Territories. These areas have received less media attention, but thousands have been displaced and are in need of shelter and other assistance.

- Providing holistic support for survivors of SGBV remains a gap throughout South Kivu. UNHCR has an integrated response to IDP programming, but due to funding gaps and capacity this does not meet the needs for all IDPs in South Kivu.

### Background

- An upsurge of violence forced over 400,000 persons into displacement between March and June 2020 in **Ituri Province**, in addition to over 230,000 people that were forced to flee from violence in June 2019. In total, **1.6 million persons** fled their homes in the province during the last 2 years, according to the *Commission de Mouvement de Population (CMP)*, a commission of the Government and humanitarian agencies. The majority reside in host communities (80%), while some 213,054 IDPs stay in 64 displacement sites under coordination of the CCCM Working Group, co-led by UNHCR and IOM.
- **Over 1.9 million IDPs** are located in **North Kivu Province** as of end of May 2020 according to CMP. 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 (94%) live with host communities, while over 89,933 reside in 22 IDP sites coordinated by CCCM.
- **994,917** persons have been displaced in **South Kivu** during the last 24 months according to CMP. 95% of all IDPs reside in host families, while a minority have gathered in spontaneous IDP sites (in Bijombo, Mikenge and Kalehe Territory). The main causes of displacement are clashes between various communities, particularly in the Highlands of Fizi and Itombwe, fights between armed groups and the Congolese army in Mwenga, Uvira and Shabunda Territories.

## 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 1 July 2020

### Donors for UNHCR operations in DRC in 2020

CERF (10M) | United States of America (6.6M) | Sweden (3.1M) | European Union (1.6M) | France (1.1M) | Canada (0.72M) | Japan (0.56M)

### Major donors of regional or other funds with soft earmarking 2020

Germany (47.6M) | United Kingdom (24.8M) | United States of America (21.9M) | Denmark (14.6M) | Canada (10.2M) | Private donors USA (7.4M) | Sweden (6.9M) | Private donors Germany (6.6M) | Private donors Japan (3.9M) | Private donors Australia (3.7M) | Ireland (3.3M) | Finland (3.3M) | France (2.8M) | Norway (2.4M)

### Major donors of un-earmarked funds in 2020

Sweden (76.4M) | Norway (41.4M) | Netherlands (36.1 M) | Denmark (34.6M) | Private donors Spain (33.1M) | United Kingdom (31.7M) | Germany (25.9M) | Private donors Republic of Korea (17.3M) | Switzerland (16.4M) | France (14M) | Private donors Japan (11.7M)

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