

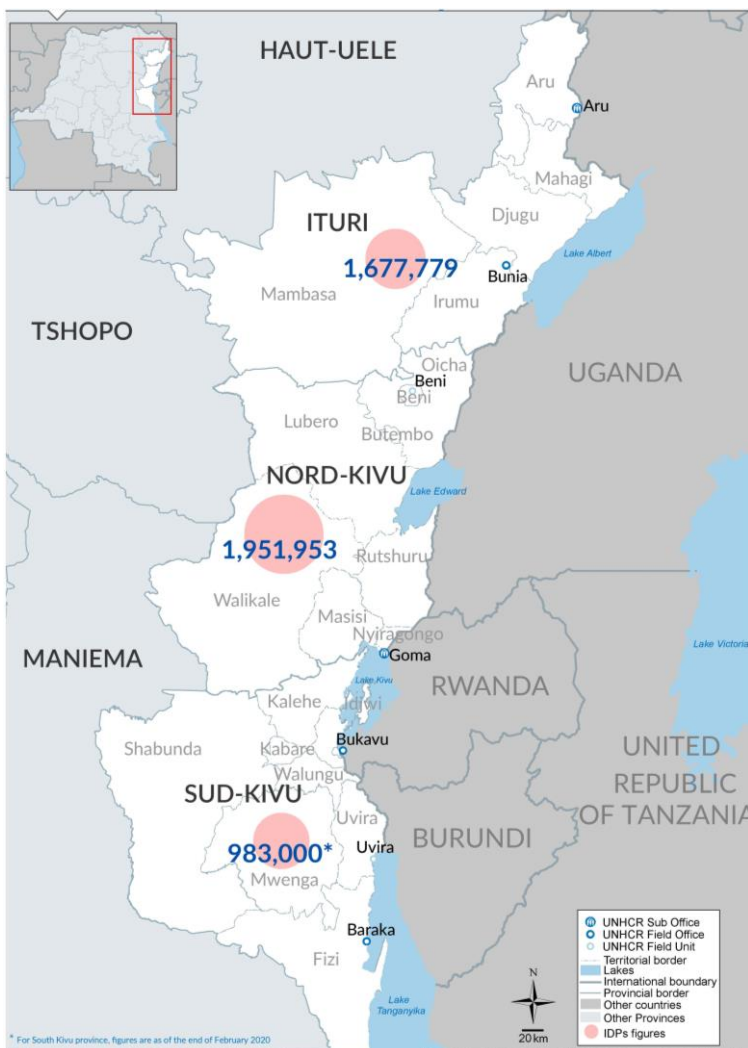
ITURI, NORTH KIVU AND SOUTH KIVU PROVINCES DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO

27 April - 11 May 2020

Thanks to UNHCR's advocacy as co-lead of the CCCM Working Group, the Norwegian Refugee Council has agreed to **construct 1,350 emergency shelters and sewers** in the displacement sites of Nymazaze and Bahwere, Ituri.

UNHCR and partner AIDES distributed **1,524 emergency shelter kits** to internally displaced persons in Masisi and Rutshuru territories (North Kivu). So far, 2,266 emergency shelters have been built.

40 cases of rape were reported in April in Kabambare, Maniema Province, among the people fleeing attacks by armed men. Of the reported cases, 26 survivors were identified and referred to health services for medical treatment.



KEY FIGURES

Over **4.5M***

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

93%*

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

267,000

IDPs are hosted at CCCM coordinated IDP sites, while about 65,000 persons reside in spontaneous sites.

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

Operational context and protection situation

Ituri Province: The security and protection situation remained of concern across Ituri Province. Splinter groups of the CODECO armed group continued their activities in Djugu and Mahagi territories despite the leader of a local armed group calling for its members to end abuses against local populations. Killings, burning of houses and land, pillaging and looting are the main protection incidents linked to their presence. Due to insecurity in Mahagi Territory, UNHCR's partner the Danish Refugee Council (DRC) suspended its shelter construction activities for internally displaced persons. On 28 April, the DRC's army launched an offensive against the CODECO armed group in Djugu Territory. The army reportedly committed attacks against local populations and public buildings, such as looting a health centre and setting abandoned houses on fire, preventing displaced


persons from returning. In Irumu and Mambasa territories, local armed groups have also intensified their activities, which has increased protection incidents, with the Mai Mai armed group being responsible for numerous kidnappings and cases of forced labor.

North Kivu Province: The DRC's army continued its military operation against the ADF armed group, with fighting and attacks reported in Halungupa area, Beni Territory, and around Eringeti. The army instructed local populations to evacuate areas where air strikes and artillery shelling will occur. Northwest of the town of Oicha, the ADF continued to attack villages, targeting the local populations. Incidents related to the Mai-Mai armed group were also reported in Lubero Territory, south of the town Beni. In Ufamando, Masisi Territory, the security situation remained fragile following the return of the former leader of an armed group on 25 April, increasing the protection risks for the local population who have been forced to contribute financially to organize his return. Armed clashes were reported between armed groups and the army, in the area of Remeka and Miko (Masisi Territory). Seven women were reportedly raped by members of armed groups, one person was kidnapped, and a health centre was looted. Some 7,487 individuals (2,489 households) have fled the area.


South Kivu Province: The security situation in South Kivu Province was dominated by clashes between armed groups, by the intensification of the DRC army's operations against armed groups, and by inter-ethnic conflicts. In Fizi Territory, inter-ethnic conflicts have increased, leading to displacements in Kilembwe, in the Lulenge area. In Kabambare Territory, there is a worrying increase in the number of rape cases committed against women and girls on their way to and from fields, the majority of whom were displaced toward the Kimbi-Lulenge area, Fizi Territory. UNHCR's partner INTERSOS documented 549 human rights violations between 24 April and 8 May, the majority of which consisted of extortion, assault, and battery. The most affected territories were Shabunda and Walungu. Some 820 people fled in Fizi Territory, while 430 people were displaced in the Itombwe area. Most of the displaced have settled in informal displacement sites, where they are experiencing difficulties in finding livelihoods, especially during the COVID-19 pandemic.


UNHCR's response

Ituri Province

 **PROTECTION** UNHCR-supported community-based protection groups have started awareness-raising campaigns on the prevention of COVID-19 and on related protection risks, reaching 3,226 IDPs and host community members in Djugu and Irumu territories so far. By engaging local communities, information on COVID-19 and its prevention can reach places where UNHCR currently has no access. UNHCR is in regular phone contact to support and guide community members and share up-to-date information about COVID-19.

UNHCR's partner AVSI finalized two further Quick Implementation Projects (QIPs) in Djugu Territory. In Tchomia, an area with insufficient water supply, a well was constructed, which will reduce the risk of disease propagation by providing a source of clear water for IDPs and locals. In Loda displacement site, a child-friendly space was built for children to learn and play in a safe environment, restoring a sense of normality after having fled their homes.

 **SHELTER AND CORE RELIEF ITEMS (CRIs)** UNHCR and partner DRC constructed 281 emergency shelters in Tsukpa displacement site, bringing to 643 the total built so far, out of 700 planned. The availability of new shelters is crucial to alleviate population density in the site and improve distancing to prevent the spread of COVID-19, as well as other diseases such as cholera and malaria.


 **CAMP COORDINATION AND CAMP MANAGEMENT (CCCM)** UNHCR met with IDP committees in the displacement sites of ISP, Kigonze, Telega, Bembei and Kasenyi to discuss site management and empower displaced persons to self-manage the sites. Their feedback will help establish sectorial committees, which will receive specialized training to support IDP committees in their areas of expertise (SGBV, youth protection or security, amongst others).

Thanks to UNHCR's advocacy as co-lead of the CCCM Working Group, the Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC) has agreed to construct 1,350 emergency shelters and sewers in the displacement sites of Nymazaze and Bahwere, which will pass under UNHCR management in May. The new constructions will enhance the distance between shelters and improve hygiene conditions, reducing the risk of spread of diseases.

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** UNHCR's partner INTERSOS recorded 45 cases of SGBV in Beni (10), Lubero (2), Masisi (12) and Rutshuru (4) territories, including 28 cases of rape. All survivors received medical support and Post-Exposure Prophylaxis (PEP) kits.


Community-based protection groups supported by UNHCR continued to advocate for the protection of their communities. In Kitchanga, Masisi Territory, community members ensured the release of a 16-year-old who had been detained by an armed group on suspicion of belonging to a rival group. In Walikale Territory, community-based groups identified 90 separated children and placed them in foster families in Kanyabayonga, Kayna and Kirumba in Lubero Territory. This information has been shared with the relevant humanitarian agencies and the response is ongoing.


A large population movement has been reported in Masisi Territory on the Kitchanga-Nyanzale-Kanyabayonga road following a military operation, ongoing since April 2020, against the FDLR armed group in the Virunga National Parc. Following an assessment conducted between 10 and 20 May, UNHCR and partners found that over 14,000 households were displaced, with 39% living with host communities and 10% in public buildings (schools, churches). Others built small shelters on land allocated by authorities. An increase in the number of SGBV cases was observed in the area, with an average of two rapes registered per day at the Nyanzale Health Center. The most urgent needs are food, shelter, core relief items (CRIs), protection, and water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH).

UNHCR is raising awareness and analysing the communities' perception of COVID-19, the needs generated by it, and the appropriate response. Out of 20 interviews with key informants and 12 discussions groups with IDPs in Kitchanga and Nyanzale (Masisi and Rutshuru territories), 90% are reported to be aware of COVID-19 related risks, while about 80% seemed to understand and respect preventive measures recommended by the Government. However, they expressed the need for additional information, and to ask questions and share their concerns with experts.

On 5 May, UNHCR and partners (CNR, INTERSOS, Caritas, AIDES) carried out a multisectoral assessment of the protection and shelter situation in Mangina, Beni Territory, where some 6,000 internally displaced households have settled due to violence in their area of origin. Mangina itself had been emptied by the majority of its 70,000 original residents in early February, following attacks in neighbouring villages.

 **CASH ASSISTANCE** As of 11 May 2020, 3,126 out of almost 6,000 targeted internally displaced households received cash assistance through mobile money in the city of Beni and Butembo. The distribution started on 3 April in Benia but no date has yet been set for the start of the activity in Butembo, where some 1,000 households are targeted.

 **SHELTER AND CORE RELIEF ITEMS (CRIs)** UNHCR and its partner AIDES distributed 1,524 emergency shelter kits (composed of tarpaulin, rope, nails and wooden sticks) to internally displaced people in displacements sites in Masisi and Rutshuru territories. So far, 2,266 emergency shelters (1,467 in Rutshuru and 799 in Masisi) have been built.


 **CAMP COORDINATION AND CAMP MANAGEMENT (CCCM)** Since the confirmation of a COVID-19 case in the province, some humanitarian actors have been conducting awareness raising and providing WASH kits in displacement sites. However, their presence and interventions remain insufficient compared to displaced persons' needs. Local authorities have started to identify new spaces where people could be transferred, in order to relieve the overcrowded sites and implement social distancing to prevent the propagation of COVID-19. To

this end, UNHCR and the National Commission for Refugees (CNR) are planning to survey the intentions of displaced persons in terms of durable solutions in June.

Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps


- Absence of protection actors and lack of community-based protection activities in certain areas;
- Poor socio-economic, legal and medical care for survivors of Sexual and Gender-Based Violence;
- Lack of child protection activities, which leads to sexual exploitation and survival sex;
- Low coverage of child protection activities in several areas;
- All UNHCR-coordinated displacement sites need additional latrines, handwashing kits and shelters.

South Kivu Province

 **PROTECTION** Community-based protection groups supported by UNHCR's partner AVSI continued awareness-raising on the prevention of COVID-19 and SGBV, on child protection and positive masculinity. In Fizi and Uvira territories, nearly 1,000 individuals were reached door-to-door and via megaphone.

The community-based protection groups, with the support of UNHCR and AVSI, conducted a phone assessment to analyze communities' perception of COVID-19, reaching 75 persons in 17 villages in Uvira and Fizi territories. Though most respondents expressed general awareness of COVID-19 and prevention measures, the percentage of community members who did not believe or understand COVID-19 (34%) was still significant. A large majority of respondents also expressed the need for additional information and prevention materials.

Community-based protection groups in Lubichako, Fizi Territory, referred 26 victims of rape to medical services. The victims had fled from Kabambare, in neighbouring Maniema Province, where increasing numbers of rapes were reported in April following attacks by an armed group. As many as 40 cases of rape were reported by the communities. UNHCR is advocating for the holistic care of these survivors by Protection Cluster members.

 **SHELTER AND CORE RELIEF ITEMS (CRIS)** UNHCR and partner AIDES's 2020 shelter project was launched in Fizi Centre, Fizi Territory. A workshop was organized, during which participants discussed the impact of COVID-19 on the project's implementation. Due to degraded roads, UNHCR and AIDES have not been able to start the construction of 300 shelters and latrines in Fizi Centre as part of this shelter project.

Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

- The shelter sector lacks actors to respond to the needs of the population, especially after the floods in Uvira, as well as the Ruzizi Plain, Baraka and surrounding areas in Fizi Territory.
- The people affected by the floods are facing significant protection needs throughout South Kivu Province, including the need for psychosocial support and for the prevention of SGBV in Uvira.
- Psychosocial support for displaced survivors of SGBV represents a major gap throughout South Kivu Province. UNHCR is integrating psychosocial and judicial support the most affected zones, but this response will need to be expanded to adequately address the needs.

Background

- Due to generalized violence 230,357 persons in **Ituri Province** fled their homes between June and November 2019. In March and April 2020, a new upsurge of violence in Djugu and Mahagi territories reportedly forced another 300,000 persons into displacement. In total at the end of May 2020, 1.7 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 177,128 previously displaced persons and 16,285 newly displaced persons stay in 63 displacement sites under coordination of the CCCM Working Group.
- Over 1.7 million internally displaced persons were located in **North Kivu Province** as of January 2020 according to the 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 (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 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 4 June 2020

Donors for UNHCR operations in DRC in 2020

CERF (10 M) | United States of America (6.6 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 (47 M) | United Kingdom (24.8 M) | United States of America (21.9 M) | Denmark (14.6 M) | Private donors USA (12.6 M) | Canada (10.2 M) | Sweden (6.9 M) | Private donors Germany (4.9 M) | Private donors Japan (3.5 M) | Private donors Australia (3.4 M) | Ireland (3.3 M) | Finland (3.3 M) | Norway (2.4 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) | Private donors Spain (33.1 M) | United Kingdom (31.7 M) | Germany (25.9 M) | Switzerland (16.4 M) | Private donors Republic of Korea (13.9 M)

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