

# Democratic Republic of the Congo

November 2021

## Highlights

- UNHCR and partners facilitated the **voluntary repatriation of 435 Burundian and Rwandan refugees** to their country of origin.
- Between 15 and 20 November, UNHCR and the DRC government facilitated the **voluntary repatriation of 568 CAR refugees from Inke camp North Ubangi Province** by UNHAS flight.
- **UNHCR and partner AIDES distributed core relief items to 7,851 displaced people and vulnerable host community members** in Fizi Territory, South Kivu Province.
- In November, **488 displaced households and host community members received core relief item kits** in Lubero Territory, North Kivu Province



*A UNHCR staff distributes essential items and dignity kits to displaced population and host community members in Lubero territory, North Kivu. © UNHCR/Ibrahima Diane.*

## Refugees

### PROTECTION

- In November 2021, **UNHCR and its partner CNR facilitated the voluntary repatriation of 162 Rwandan refugees and 273 Burundian refugees from North and South Kivu Provinces** to their countries of origin. So far 1,749 Rwandan refugees and 7,288 Burundian refugees were repatriated from the DRC in 2021.
- **In November, UNHCR and the CNR have facilitated voluntary returns for a total of 568 Central African Refugees from Inke Camp (North Ubangi Province) to Bangui using the UN humanitarian air service UNHAS.** As of end November, a total of 4,255 CAR refugees (1,295 households) in North and South Ubangi Provinces have been assisted to voluntarily return home to Bangui, and to the Lobaye and Ombella M'poko prefectures in CAR since the beginning of the operation on 22 October.
- During the month of November, **UNHCR and CNR distributed refugee identity cards to an additional 2,691 Central African refugees in North and South Ubangi and in Bas Uele Provinces.** The identity card is equivalent to a residence permit: it grants its holders the rights to work, to education, access to healthcare, and freedom of movement within the country. Over 15,360 refugee ID cards have been distributed so far by the UNHCR in the three provinces affected by the CAR refugee influx.

- Between 1 and 12 November, UNHCR and its government partner the CNR completed the registration of **882 new-borns in Lusenda camp and Mulongwe settlement (South Kivu Province) hosting Burundian refugees**. UNHCR and the CNR also completed the registration of 546 asylum seekers at Monge
- On 17 November UNHCR and the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) organized a repatriation convoy of **seven unaccompanied children (ENA) from Rwanda**. These children will be reunited with their parents found in their home country following a tracing organized by the ICRC. To date, 60 Rwandan ENAs have been repatriated to Rwanda since the beginning of 2021.



UNHCR carries out registration of Burundian new-born children in Lusenda refugee camp and Mulongwe settlement, South Kivu © UNHCR/Antonia Vadala



### WATER, SANITATION AND HYGIENE (WASH)

- To improve access to drinkable water for both refugees and host communities, UNHCR partner ADSSE built a borehole at the WENZE development hub in South Ubangi Province. Now, water is available through several taps to facilitate distribution and allow both refugees who are being relocated to WENZE and local communities to benefit from clean water. In addition, ADSSE completed the construction of ten blocks of latrines to improve sanitary conditions and prevent the spread of disease.
- On 24 November, UNHCR and its partner ADES started the **distribution of hygiene kits among 8,939 women and girls of childbearing age, as well as the distribution of soap targeting 34,255 people in the Lusenda refugee camp and Mulongwe settlement** (South Kivu Province). The distribution followed the finalization of the registration verification in the refugee camp. A total of 27,264 pieces of 125g soap and 37,138 pieces of 600g soap bars were distributed.



### SHELTER AND CORE RELIEF ITEMS (CRIs)

- In November, UNHCR and its partner ADSSE distributed start off kits including kitchen sets, blankets, jerrycans, mosquito nets buckets and mats to **411 CAR refugees (78 households) who had spontaneously relocated to Sidi village**, Bosobolo Territory (North Ubangi Province) over the past weeks. **Essential household items including tarpaulins, blankets, mosquito nets, solar lamps and soap were also distributed to 8,195 Central African refugees living in Nzakara** about 30km from Gbadolite, North Ubangi Province.
- In South Ubangi Province, the WENZE development hub is being equipped to host refugees living along the border in ZONGO area. **Five dormitories of ten rooms each, as well as ten blocks of latrines and showers**, are currently being finalized by UNHCR partner AIRD.
- UNHCR partner AIRD has launched the construction of **30 semi-durable shelters for the most vulnerable households, and an elementary school at the development hub of Sidi, Bosobolo Territory** (North Ubangi Province). At this development hub, 482-hectares land plot has been made available for Central African refugees living along the border in Bosobolo by local authorities.
- UNHCR's partner AIDES distributed core relief items to **959 Burundian refugees with specific needs in Lusenda and Mulongwe sites**. They received mats, jerry cans, kitchen sets, 15-liter buckets, mosquito

**nets, solar lamps, and blankets.** Other 4,362 households were identified for assistance in clothes (mainly women and girls aged over 12).



### FOOD SECURITY AND NUTRITION

- During November, in North Ubangi Province, **the World Food Programme (WFP) distributed cash-for-food assistance to 15,756 CAR refugees (4,071 households) in “out of camp” locations in Sidi, Bodouna, Gbangi, Dula and Boroto in Bosobolo Territory.** Cash-for food was also distributed to 510 refugees (204 households) relocated from Yakoma to the Modale development hub, North Ubangi Province.
- During the month under consideration, **UNHCR, the World Food Programme (WFP) and partner ADSSE reached 31, 678 South Sudanese refugees through a joint cash-for-food distribution in Haut-Uélé and Ituri Provinces,** to meet their most pressing needs.
- **UNHCR, the World Food Programme (WFP) and partner AJEDEC distributed food assistance (maize flour, peas, vegetable oil and salt) to 43 South Sudanese refugees relocated to Bele site, Haut-Uele Province.**



### CASH-BASED INTERVENTIONS (CBI)

- **In Nord Ubangi, UNHCR and its partners distributed cash assistance among 2,533 refugees (444 households) living in the Modale development hub for the construction of their shelters.** The same distribution is also planned for South Ubangi and Bosobolo Territory for new refugees who are living outside the camps.



### COMMUNITY EMPOWERMENT AND SELF RELIANCE

- In South Kivu, **UNHCR and partner AIDES, distributed of 2,456 kgs of seeds to 33 associations of farmers which have been trained in food crops (corn, beans, and paddy) and 5 associations in vegetable crops (onion, cabbage, and tomato).** In 2021, over 7000 kgs of seeds have been purchased and distributed to 95 associations as part of activities to empower refugee households in Lusenda and Mulongwe sites.
- Within the framework of promoting empowerment and peaceful coexistence **in the territory of Dilolo, Lualaba Province, 25 refugees have been given one hectare of arable land each by UNHCR and its partner ADSSE** which they have started to cultivate together with members of host communities.

## Statelessness

- As part of the “Ibelong” campaign to prevent and mitigate the risk of statelessness, **in November UNHCR started awareness raising sessions in schools with a comic book called “Coco the invisible”** that helps children to understand the risks of being stateless in the context of North and South Kivu Provinces.
- Within the framework of its activities to prevent statelessness, in November **UNHCR, with the support of its partner AIDES, delivered 95 birth certificates** issued by the civil registry in the territories of Nyunzu and Manono in Tanganyika province

## Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs)



### PROTECTION

- In November, **UNHCR's protection monitoring partner INTERSOS recorded over 778 protection incidents in North Kivu and 722 in South Kivu Provinces**. 15 survivors of sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV) received medical assistance and 55 survivors of other human rights violations were provided with cash assistance to access support services or reunite with their families, through UNHCR and its partners INTERSOS, AHCOPDI, APD and CADIDHO in NK.
- **In the greater Kasai region, the protection environment in the month of November remained characterised by multiple human rights violations, namely illegal tax payments, physical assaults, extortion of property, arbitrary arrests, as well as incidents of sexual and gender-based violence (GBV)**. During November alone, 1,022 protection incidents were reported in the two Provinces, with violations perpetrated by several armed actors.
- From **November 10 to 12, UNHCR and its partner INTERSOS organized a training of trainers workshop on the fight, prevention and response to sexual exploitation and abuse (PSEA) as well as community-based complaints mechanisms (CBCM)** for 25 focal points from partner organizations participating in the PSEA response in Ituri Province.
- **In November 2021, UNHCR partner AIDES, identified and documented 41 incidents of gender-based violence (GBV)** including 11 rapes of minors perpetrated by armed elements **in the territories of Manono, Moba, Nyunzu, and Kongolo, Tanganyika Province**. The survivors who reported the incident within the 72 hours were provided with post-exposure prophylaxis kits. Kongolo territory was the most affected due to recurrent incursions by armed groups.
- UNHCR and its partner FMMDK (Femme Main dans la Main pour le Développement du Kasai) organized a **workshop from 23 to 26 November in Tshikapa targeting 30 women lawyers from the greater Kasai region, within the context of a socio-economic reintegration project** for young women and men improve self-reliance and promote social cohesion between displaced persons and members of the host community in the Provinces of Kasai and Kasai Central.
- **As part of the 16-day of Activism against Gender-Based Violence campaign, UNHCR partner AIDES conducted a training on protection, discrimination, gender-based violence prevention and peaceful resolution of conflicts** for 75 local authorities and community leaders in the territory of Nyunzu, Tanganyika Province. The objective of this training was to strengthen their capacities in effectively fighting GBV within their communities and in the promotion of the peaceful coexistence of IDPs, returnees and host communities.



### SHELTER AND CORE RELIEF ITEMS (CRIs)

- During the month of November, **150 displaced, returnee and vulnerable host community households were relocated to the village of Kapinga-Nkundi, 75 km from Tshikapa, Kasai Province. Those households have benefited from assistance in the form of core relief items, construction material and the first instalment of cash**. To promote social cohesion between the host community and the newly relocated people, UNHCR, through its partner AIDES, built a mill, a transitional school made of tarpaulin and has rehabilitated the water source for the benefit of the whole community.
- In November, UNHCR and its partner AIDES distributed **core relief items among 488 displaced households and dignity kits among 654 women and girls in Kirumba, Miriki and Katinga, Lubero territory, North Kivu Province**. These items support their dignity, health, privacy and limit their exposure to further protection risks (GBV).

- In South Kivu, UNHCR through its partner AIDES, **distributed basic relief items to 7,581 displaced people who fled during October, following clashes in Bibokoboko and vulnerable people from the host community in Fizi territory**, including sleeping mats and jerrycans tarpaulins.

### **\$ CASH-BASED INTERVENTIONS (CBI)**

- Within the framework of a shelter project implemented by UNHCR with the support of its partner AIDES, **UNHCR distributed the second instalment of conditional cash and multi-purpose cash grants to 65 households of 430 people in the health zone of Dibaya, Kasai Central Province**. The people who benefitted from this activity are mainly former IDPs who have returned to their villages of origin and members of the host population.

## Clusters and Working Groups

- During the month of November, the Shelter Cluster participated in a **Global Shelter Cluster meeting showcasing the work and challenges of shelter cluster partners in DRC in relation to the shelter response and environmental issues**. The Shelter Cluster reiterated the importance of mainstreaming environmental and energy consideration within its strategy, and the intention to continue supporting partners in reducing their impact on the environment (e.g by carefully selecting construction materials, considering impact on deforestation, mitigating energy consumption for home-cooking etc.)
- On the occasion of the **16 Days of Activism Campaign against Gender-Based Violence in November**, the Shelter Cluster realized three videos. These show how a shelter response can be used to reduce and mitigate risks of GBV and the importance of having a house with a solid door that can be locked to keep families safe, especially women and girls. The videos are accessible at this [link](#).
- In November, the Center East protection Cluster together with OCHA, carried out **a 2-day training for 22 local authorities and humanitarian actors** to strengthen the capacity of the members of the protection sub-cluster of Kindu, Maniema Province. The themes addressed concerned the analysis and peaceful resolution of conflicts, approaches to protection and durable solutions for IDPs, protection monitoring and reporting of protection incidents, humanitarian principles and coordination mechanisms.

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