

## Regional Update DRC Situation

**MARCH 2019 - Inputs ZAMBIA**



### OPERATIONAL CONTEXT & COORDINATION

- Zambia has been receiving refugees from the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) for the past several years, with an influx peaking from August 2017 to December 2017. Since then, refugees have continued to be received, albeit, in small numbers.
- Following the Presidential elections held in December 2018 in the DRC, the number of new arrivals crossing into Zambia has drastically gone down. During the month of March 2019, a total of 494 new arrivals from the DRC were received in Zambia.
- The majority of the new arrivals were from Uvira in South Kivu; Fube and Moba in Tanganyika Province; and Pweto in Haut Katanga Province.
- Reasons for flight still remained as harassment from Government security personnel who were in many areas of Pweto and Moba. Refugee perceptions are that there could be a likelihood of occurrence of violence escalating because of intimidation and agitation behavior of opposition supporters in opposition strongholds such as Moba and Fube in the Tanganyika Province.
- As of 31 March 2019, Zambia hosted 45,805 active Congolese refugees, who included 13,954 households. Of the 45,805, some 43,838 were refugees and 1,967 asylum-seekers. A total of 4,573 were identified as vulnerable persons. Between 1 January 2017 and 31 March 2019, a total of 26,918 Congolese have been received in Zambia.



### PROTECTION

#### Achievements

- During the month of March 2019, a second Cross-border Meeting between UNHCR offices in Lubumbashi, DRC and Kawambwa, Zambia, was held. The discussions held in Kawambwa, included an update on the existing political and governance environment in the DRC; security situation in areas of origin in DRC; statistics of persons of concern from DRC in Zambia; and potential for return. The meeting agreed on various recommendations including collaboration between the two offices to regularly share data on country of origin (COI) and register returnees in a prescribed format; sensitize DRC' refugees in Zambia on possibilities of spontaneous returns to areas assessed safe and conducive; undertake a voluntary repatriation intentions survey whose results will be shared with UNHCR in DRC to inform the preparation of security and socio-economic profiles on areas of possible return, and; importantly, initiate discussions with the Governments of Zambia and DRC to invoke the provisions of the 2006 Tripartite they both signed with and UNHCR. The Cross Border Meeting also included a field visit to Mantapala refugee settlement during which the DRC team had an opportunity to meet with the refugee leadership. The discussion that ensued focused mainly on possibilities of spontaneous and facilitated voluntary repatriation. The comments and questions from the leaders indicated that consideration of return has already been raised among the refugees.

- Sensitization of refugees has led to high reporting rate of Sexual and Gender Based Violence (SGBV), which is good because it means that people are able to speak-up and the complaint mechanism is effective. A total of 20 cases among them 14 females and two males were involved in Domestic Violence in Mantapala Settlement. Each one of them received psychosocial counseling before being referred to the police and hospital for specialized attention.
- UNHCR facilitated a one-day training with partners (Africa Action Help and World Food Programme) on Prevention of Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (PSEA). The training also included leaders of the refugee community who provided training feedback and valuable inputs on community participation in the prevention and response.
- In Mayukwayukwa Refugee Settlement, a SGBV MFT comprising of UNHCR and staff from the Office of the Commissioner for Refugees convened to discuss three pending cases concerning one SGBV perpetrator and three survivors of the Congolese origin. The reported cases were assisted with necessary medical and counselling support along with legal monitoring.
- In Meheba Refugee Settlement, nine newly arrived unaccompanied children of Congolese origin underwent the best interest determination assessments and were recommended for Core Relief Items (CRIs) and education support; an alternative care arrangement of foster care and group-living until a foster family is identified. Equally in Mayukwayukwa Refugee Settlement, three newly relocated separated minors underwent the BID process.
- In Meheba Refugee Settlement, child protection MFT meetings comprising of UNHCR and COR Child Protection focal point persons convened during which 33 unaccompanied and separated children had their guardians appointed to facilitate their receipt of CBI support.

## Challenges

- In Mantapala Settlement, Community members including survivors of defilement and other SGBV cases have continued to report the incidences late, giving perpetrators chance to escape apprehension. The protection team has continued to sensitize the community on the need to promptly report the cases, as well as encouraging block leaders to sensitize communities on the same issue.
- There is need to reinforce the police victim support unit and provide conducive working and living conditions for female police to be deployed at Mantapala Settlement. Additionally, the Police Mobile staff in the settlement have to be trained on how to handle SGBV cases.



## Achievements

- Despite limited funding, construction of the two schools in Mantapala Settlement is on-going. School-age Congolese children continued being enrolled in existing school system in Meheba and Mantapala Refugee Settlements.
- In Meheba and Mayukwayukwa, an education monitoring exercise was conducted during the month of March. In Meheba Refugee Settlement, a total of 99 teachers were found to be employed, 57 classrooms and 68 latrines to be available. In Mayukwayukwa Refugee Settlement, 66 teachers were employed, 45 classrooms and 64 latrines were found available.

## Challenges

- Limited funding has slowed the construction of the two schools in Mantapala Settlement.
- Lack of learning and teaching materials, including lack of staffing and insufficient WASH facilities. In Meheba and Mayukwayukwa Refugee settlements, dilapidated classrooms and inadequate and/or delayed provision of textbooks as well as language difficulties for newly arrived refugees.



## Achievements

- Although there are challenges with drugs stock outs, the health facilities in the three settlements have continued providing primary health care to the persons of concern and the local communities.

- A new health centre is under construction in Mantapala Settlement and is expected to be completed soon. Discussions are underway between UNHCR, Nchelenge District Health Office (DHO) and UNICEF regarding its equipping, running, staffing and lodging of staff, drugs supplies.
- During the month, there were a total of 1,523 out-patient department consultations in Mantapala Settlement. Among the cases, 640 (42%) were malaria consultations and a total of 291 (58%) were for under-five with Malaria. This indicates that malaria continued to be the leading cause of morbidity affecting mainly children in the settlement.
- UNHCR staff from Field Office Solwezi coordinated the handover of personal protective equipment (PPEs) and nine Infrared thermometers for the Ebola Virus Disease preparedness and response within North Western Province. The items were delivered by COR to the Provincial Surveillance office that has taken the lead to ensure that they are delivered to the points of entry at the various districts.

## Challenges

- Health facilities in the three settlements continued to experience drug stock-outs, especially essential medicines. In addition, there are no essential infection control supplies for disease prevention in the settlements.
- In Mantapala Settlement, Health Post has no functional laboratory while the diagnostic capacity is inadequate making clinicians to treat cases on symptomatic observation.
- Most people in the settlement have poor health-seeking behavior resulting in seeking medical attention when the persons' health condition deteriorates.
- There are still inadequate skills among the health facility staffs in managing mental health cases that are on the increase in the three settlements. This is worsened by lack of anti-psychotic medicines in the health facilities in the settlements, maybe due to non-existence of specialized units to handle mental cases.



## Achievements

- Dry rations continued to be provided to Congolese refugees in Mantapala Settlement. Those in Meheba and Mayukwayukwa were put on Cash-based-intervention (CBI), with new arrivals in the two settlements pending adjudication receiving wet food rations.
- A business inventory exercise was concluded and a total of 541 household businesses were identified to be operational in the settlement. Among them 184 business were owned by women and 357 by men refugees. An inventory was also conducted in the seven host community (villages) and 85 entrepreneurs (19 for women and 66 for men) were identified. The inventory record will assist to monitor business grants given to beneficiaries in the settlement and to assess the functionality and profitability of the household enterprises especially by those assisted by the grant.
- The distribution of chemical pesticides for controlling Fall Army Worms was concluded and a total of 510 beneficiaries were supported with the chemical to control the spread of the pests.

## Challenges

- A total of 316 entrepreneurs in the settlement were not operating from the designated market places because the current market spaces have been occupied. An additional market will assist to provide space to those currently operating outside the designated market place.
- Erratic rainfall experienced in Late February and March up to Week 3 may hamper optimum development of the crops and lead to poor harvest because many of the crops were flowering and tasseling when rains partially stopped.



## Achievements

- The health facilities in the three settlements continued to screen children under five for malnutrition. In Meheba and Mayukwayukwa Refugee Settlements, a total of 923 children were screened (499 in Mayukwayukwa and 424 in Meheba. The children that were found to be malnourished were enrolled into Supplementary Feeding Program.

## Challenges

- Limited data on malnutrition rates in the settlements to inform programming because no recent survey has been conducted. UNHCR Health Co-ordinator will look into this matter and avail the data.



## Achievements

- In Mantapala Settlement, the Zambia National Service (ZNS) continued to construct new roads to open access to new blocks within the settlement. Thirty (30) kilometres of road network has cumulatively been constructed to link twenty blocks in the settlement. Graveling works have continued though at a slower pace because of wet ground caused by rains.
- UNHCR, in conjunction with COR, is developing a construction manual and shelter strategy for rolling out at least 4,00 prototype shelters in the first phase using Cash Based Intervention for refugees so that households can start living in permanent shelters made brick and iron sheets.
- Construction works to install window frames and door frames which were donated by a business man well-wisher at Mantapala (B) primary school have commenced.

## Challenges

- Both schools at Mantapala (A) and Mantapala (B) require a total of at least 15 class rooms each in order to decongest the number of pupils in each class.



## Achievements

- A total of 3,440 dignity kits were distributed to a total of 3,440 women and girls in the settlement by
- A total of 51 boreholes were drilled in Mantapala providing 423m<sup>3</sup>/day (423,000 Litres per day). The total water availability in the settlement was 28.2 litres/person/day. This is above the standard requirement of water of 20 litres/person/day in normal circumstance and 15 litres/person/day in emergencies.
- There were total of 15 durable and permanent toilets at the two Schools in Mantapala. A total of 108 more latrines for the Schools in Mantapala are required in order to reach the required standard of 1:25. Currently, the ratio of toilet to pupils is about 1:307.
- In Mantapala Settlement, there were a total of 69 Hygiene Promotion Volunteers conducting door-to-door hygiene promotion activities in the settlement. The ratio of hygiene promoters to the population was 1:217, which is above the required sphere standard of 1:500 in emergency phase or 1: 1000 (approximately) in stabilized situations.

## Challenges

- A total of 2, 033 durable household latrines and 2,033 bath shelters are required in the settlement while a total of ten latrines for five Child Friendly Centres and a total of 108 durable latrines for Mantapala (A) School and Mantapala (B) School are required.
- A functioning and sustainable solid waste management system is required in order to coordinate and manage solid wastes in the Settlement.
- A total of 15 boreholes (two in Block 17; three in Block 18 and; ten in the host community) including one borehole at each of the border posts of Chiengi, Kaputa, Nsumbu and Mpulungu are required in order to increase water supply and improve access to water by transiting refugees.

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