

Democratic Republic of the Congo

1 - 30 June 2019

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Since 6 June, a flare-up of violence has led to massive new displacements in Ituri Province. UNHCR and IOM recorded over 110,000 new arrivals in IDP sites between 31 May and 20 June. In addition, 8,647 people fled to Uganda in June.

In Beni Territory, North Kivu, small scale displacements continued in June. These followed the displacement of some 95,000 people to Nobili, near the Ugandan border, in May. UNHCR distributed non-food items to 2,500 vulnerable IDP families (19,222 individuals) in June.

Refugees

Burundian refugees

Total in DRC

45,336

As of 30 June 2019

- A cross-border meeting between the Governments of Burundi and the DRC, and UNHCR, was held on June 11 in Uvira, South Kivu Province. The meeting discussed the **preparation for the repatriation of Burundian refugees living in DRC, pending the signing of a Tripartite Agreement**. The meeting also served as a prelude to the upcoming voluntary repatriation of 130 refugees in Lusenda camp who confirmed their intention to return home.
- **UNHCR relocated 385 Burundian refugees (146 households)** from Kavimvira and Monge Monge transit centers to Mulongwe settlement. They were given a plot of land and provided assistance to build their own shelters.
- **UNHCR registered 235 new births** at Mulongwe settlement and Lusenda camp using the Rapid Application (Rapp) that allows off-line registration and expedites registration times, thus reducing the amount of time people have to wait.
- In an ongoing effort to prevent sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV), **UNHCR trained 60 community leaders at Lusenda and Mulongwe on SGBV prevention**, and on protection against sexual exploitation and abuse (PSEA).
- **Some 36,073 refugees at Lusenda camp and Mulongwe settlement in Fizi Territory, South Kivu Province received biomass briquettes** during the reporting period. Biomass briquettes are produced by refugees and locals, to provide an alternative and environmentally-friendly solution for cooking.



UNHCR staff register the births of refugees at Lusenda camp, South Kivu Province, using a new version of the ProGres software.
© UNHCR / Sanne Biesmans

- **Non-Food Items including laundry soap were distributed** to 1,684 households at Lusenda camp and Mulongwe settlement. In addition, 6,548 households received mosquito nets, and 669 kitchen sets in Lusenda and Mulongwe.
- In order to improve the living environment and hygiene of residents at Mulongwe settlement, **22 households received building kits** to construct latrines and showers.

Central African refugees

Total in DRC

172,809

As of 30 June 2019

- **UNHCR supported civil registration authorities by constructing two new Registration Offices** in Libenge, Sud Ubangi Province and in Bili, Nord Ubangi Province, through AIRD implementing partner. UNHCR made birth registration a global strategic priority and focuses its efforts on overcoming specific registration obstacles affecting refugees and members of host communities.
- **UNHCR provided cash-for-shelter to 160 refugee households with specific needs.** This is to ensure safe and dignified housing, while reducing dependency on humanitarian assistance and addressing protection concerns in Nord and Sud Ubangi Provinces. 98 transitional shelters were completed using a variety of local materials. In Bas-Uele Province, 199 transitional shelters out of the 300 planned were completed outside of camps.
- In an ongoing effort to prevent sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV), **UNHCR's partner AIDES sensitized 1,662 refugees and host community members on SGBV prevention** in Nord Ubangi Province.
- **About 2,680 refugees and host community members participated in digital literacy and other communications technology programmes** in centers equipped with mobile technology in Nord and Sud Ubangi Provinces. An impact survey was launched by the Vodafone Foundation to help improve the quality of services at the centers in Mole, Boyabu, Bili and Inke camps.
- **UNHCR's partner ADSSE distributed various materials** comprising cooking pots, cotton fabrics, aluminum sheets, steel bars, maize and soya seeds to over 100 members of refugee associations in Nord and Sud Ubangi Provinces. These initiatives aim at reinforcing self-reliance activities in Bili, Zongo, Boyabu and Inke refugee camps.



New registration office constructed by UNHCR in Libenge, Sud Ubangi Province. © UNHCR/G. Nentobo



Distribution of materials to refugee associations at Inke refugee camp, Nord Ubangi Province. © UNHCR/C. Achu

Rwandan refugees

Total in DRC (figure based on a pre-registration done by the DRC Government)	Repatriated this month (figure pending verification)	Repatriated in 2019 (figure pending verification)
216,451	72	655

As of 30 June 2019

- **There were 72 Rwandan refugees who voluntarily repatriated** from North Kivu Province in June. Since January 2019, a total of 655 Rwandan refugees returned to Rwanda from DRC (provisional figures pending review on the Rwandan side).
- In Masisi Territory, North Kivu Province, the security situation continued to deteriorate, with **attacks from irregular armed groups, systematically targeting Rwandan refugees** and causing displacement.

South Sudanese refugees

Total in the DRC
102,044

As of 30 June 2019

- UNHCR has been carrying out relocation of the new waves of asylum seekers; **during the reporting period, 701 South Sudanese refugees were relocated to Biringi settlement**, bringing the total since January to 4,108 for both Biringi and Meri settlements. At the same time, since February 2019, refugees who have been living in border areas started complying with the authorities' requests for them to move further inland.
- On 30 June, a suspected Ebola case who had travelled overland from Beni was confirmed in Ariwara, Aru Territory. This is the first confirmed case in this health zone. **In order to strengthen preventive measures to contain the virus, UNHCR and its partners conducted four mass sensitization sessions in Biringi, Aru and Aba** targeting refugees and members of host communities. Awareness raising messages were broadcasted on local radios. As convoys stop in a waystation in Ariwara, health and security measures were reinforced when relocating refugees from border areas to Biringi settlement, Ituri Province. In addition, 12 health staff members participated in a training to strengthen capacity for prevention, detection, investigation and the response to Ebola.
- **UNHCR and local authorities faced difficulties to relocate 201 ethnic Dinka refugees to Biringi settlement**, due to the lack of acceptance by some members of other ethnic groups. UNHCR initiated two sensitization sessions in Aru, to promote harmony and peaceful coexistence between the different ethnic groups.
- UNHCR and its partner ADES organized an **awareness-raising session in Dungu, Haut-Uele Province on the prevention of sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV)**, targeting 764 refugee and Congolese children to mark the celebration of the African Child.
- **UNHCR and its partner Terre Sans Frontieres (TSF) organized a training on protection monitoring targeting 9 staff members**. The training aimed to strengthen protection monitoring and peaceful conflict resolution skills in border areas where refugees and returnees enter Congolese soil.
- **UNHCR trained 45 individuals working for the Congolese Government, members of civil society, and implementing partners on Child Protection** in Aba, Haut-Uele Province. Participants gained knowledge of international and national legal instruments on childrens' rights, with a focus on refugee children, children at risk and Best Interest Determination (BID).

Urban refugees

- In Goma, North Kivu Province, UNHCR's partner AIDES provided cash assistance through mobile money to **89 urban refugee households**, so that they could cover the quarterly school fees of 191 elementary school-age refugee children, mostly Burundians and Rwandans.

Congolese returnees

- In Kamako, Kasai Province, the profiling of Congolese who returned or were expelled from Angola is now **complete**. As of 30 June, over a period of three months, 43,352 people (20,579 households) were recorded by UNHCR and its partners CNR, War Child UK and the DGM, over a period of three months. Although influxes were still taking place, a general downward trend for new arrivals was confirmed as of the end of June.
- Given the cold weather during this dry season, UNHCR and its partner War Child UK **distributed blankets and sleeping mats to 31 households identified as particularly vulnerable**, among those expelled from Angola.

Statelessness

- In several primary schools of Bukavu and Baraka, South Kivu Province, UNHCR conducted awareness-raising on the **prevention of statelessness**. A total of 1,063 children participated in both locations. Children and their teachers engaged in debates on statelessness and nationality, after viewing an educational video. Notebooks with awareness-raising messages were also distributed to both groups.
- On 29 June in Dimbelenge Territory, Kasai Central Province, UNHCR handed over **700 supplementary judgements concerning birth registration** of displaced, returned and local children, in an effort to reduce statelessness. A similar activity benefited 500 children in the Nganza area of Kananga, Kasai Central Province. However, many children remain without birth certificates.



Congolese pupils in Bukavu, South Kivu Province, learning from UNHCR about the risks of statelessness. © UNHCR / Sanne Biesmans

Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs)

Ituri Province

- **Since 6 June, a flare-up of generalized violence between the Lendu and Hema communities led to massive new displacements in Ituri Province.** UNHCR and the International Organization for Migration (IOM) recorded over 110,000 new arrivals in IDP sites in Djugu, Mahagi and Irumu territories between 31 May and 20 June. In addition, tens of thousands are staying with host communities. However, there is limited access to many affected areas, and uncertainty persists around these figures. In June 8,647 people fled to Uganda according to UNHCR's Uganda office, nearly doubling the number of daily crossings compared to the month of May. Some of the affected areas of Ituri Province are Ebola-hit.
- Humanitarian needs for IDPs are overwhelming, notably in the capital Bunia, and in the territories of Djugu and Mahagi. **Initial assessments indicate critical needs in shelter, health, food assistance, non-food items, WASH, sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV) and protection.**
- **Outside of Bunia, the largest concentrations of displaced are located in Drodro** (a church compound that hosts some 77,000 IDPs), **Rho** (where a spontaneous site of some 18,000 people has formed next to a MONUSCO military base), **and in Kasenyi and Tchomia**, on the shore of Lake Albert.
- **In June, UNHCR's partner INTERSOS's Protection Monitoring System recorded 631 human rights violations** in Djugu, Irumu, Mahagi and Mamabasa territories committed by armed men, state services and civilians. IDPs, returned IDPs, returned refugees from Uganda and local residents were affected. Among them were 66 cases of SGBV, 194 lootings, 118 homicides, 62 arsons, and 53 physical assaults. Due to access constraints, human rights violations were largely underreported in June.
- At the request of the provincial Governor, **a new IDP site is being developed on the outskirts of the provincial capital of Bunia**, to replace the existing "hospital site" due to its close proximity to an Ebola Treatment Centre. While IOM has taken on most of the site planning, UNHCR will support 5,000 households in the new site with plastic sheeting. UNHCR is also strengthening its site management and coordination capacity, starting with the so-called "ISP site" in Bunia, the population of which has more than doubled.
- **UNHCR moved non-food items (NFIs) from North Kivu and South Kivu provinces to Ituri Province**, with more expected to arrive in the first two weeks of July. This will allow for a rapid response in the most critical locations, notably the Bunia sites, Drodro, which has received the highest number of new displacements, Kasenyi, a gateway to Uganda where more than 20,000 are staying in collective centers, and Rho and its surroundings, where more than 18,000 displaced people have gathered.



*Shelters built by displaced people in a collective center in Kasenyi, Ituri Province.
© UNHCR / Gloria Ramazani*

North Kivu Province

- The situation in North Kivu Province remained volatile; **all territories continued to experience armed conflict and cyclical displacement**, although displacements occurred on a smaller scale than in previous months.
- In Beni Territory, following the displacement of some 95,000 people to Nobili, near the Ugandan border, in May, **smaller-scale displacements continued in June.** Almost all the displaced in and around Nobili are staying with host families. Recent displacement sites had, so far, not been subject to attacks, but nearby areas and military posts were targeted by armed groups. Humanitarian access remains a challenge, given the area's distance from Goma, and persistent insecurity between Beni and Nobili.

- Continuing its operational engagement around Nobili, **UNHCR distributed non-food items (NFIs) to 2,500 vulnerable IDP families (19,222 individuals) in June**; tarpaulins, jerry cans and mats. UNHCR prioritized IDPs staying in collective structures (schools, churches) so that these could be vacated for normal activities to resume. 5,880 vulnerable host community members (879 households) also received NFIs.
- To ensure the protection of persons of concern, **UNHCR created 10 IDP committees and two protection committees around Nobili**. On 30 June, the IDP committees were trained on their roles, with a focus on how they can spearhead community-based hygiene efforts (WASH being a persistent gap in the response).
- **In North Kivu Province, UNHCR's partner INTERSOS's Protection Monitoring System recorded 844 human rights violations** committed by armed men and state services against 635 individuals in June. Among them were 67 cases of sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV), 223 physical assaults, 257 violations of the freedom of movement, and 295 violations of property rights.
- In other territories of North Kivu Province (Masisi, Lubero and Rutshuru), **1,700 beneficiary households who received emergency and transitional shelter kits in previous months had begun to build their shelters by June**. The first 47 shelters were completed in the Mweso area (Masisi Territory). This UNHCR shelter project is implemented by partner AIDES.

South Kivu Province

- The security situation in the high plateaux of Fizi Territory and in the Minembwe area remained volatile. Clashes between the military and an armed group led to **more displacements of an estimated 49,000 persons towards Lake Tanganyika**, according to OCHA.
 - In June, **UNHCR participated in a joint mission to assess the protection and humanitarian situation of displaced persons** in Mikenge (Mwenga Territory), and in Fizi Territory, South Kivu Province. This was in response to recent waves of displacement following interethnic clashes. In Fizi Territory, 55,405 persons (9,852 households) were identified as displaced, and 75 cases of SGBV were reported. In Mwenga Territory, 19,000 out of the 64,000 IDPs who were displaced, had returned according to OCHA. Destruction of shelters and health facilities, increased food prices and children not being able to attend school were identified as the main risks. Difficulties to access the area and lack of humanitarian presence remained major challenges to respond to the needs.
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- Un garçon déplacé, maintenant de retour dans son village, devant une maison détruite par un conflit intercommunautaire à Mikenge, Territoire de Mwenga, Province du Sud Kivu. © UNHCR / Sanne Biesmans*
- **From 6 to 12 June in Uvira, UNHCR organized a capacity-building session on IDP protection, for 30 actors of the Protection Cluster and 25 representatives of national law enforcement (FARDC and PNC)**. In order to be able to provide solutions to displacement, attendees were trained on how to identify the main protection risks and needs of IDPs in a conflict setting.

Kasai region

- **From 16 to 18 June, UNHCR's partner War Child UK trained 45 members of village protection committees** in Gombe and Muyeji, on alert mechanisms for protection incidents, and on human rights. The training saw participation from 20 men and 25 women.
- **UNHCR's partner War Child UK conducted weekly sensitization campaigns against sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV), as well as on peaceful coexistence**. Radio shows and debates were aired in Luebo, Tshikapa and Kamonia Health Zones, Kasai Province.
- **On 25 June, UNHCR trained 25 local chiefs (including two women) on community-based protection**. The following themes were addressed: UNHCR's mandate, IDP protection, community leadership, and the prevention of sexual exploitation and abuse (PSEA).

- On 26 and 27 June in Kananga, Kasai Central Province, **UNHCR trained 53 members of the army and of the judiciary (including eight women)** on the protection of IDPs and on human rights principles. This is part of UNHCR's efforts to promote human rights and access to justice.

Tanganyika / Haut-Katanga Provinces

- A cash-for-shelter project was completed in Kalemie Territory, Tanganyika Province, benefitting 600 returnee households, including 100 extremely vulnerable households. The project uses cash assistance to help returnees transitioning to more durable solutions and to integrate in the communities.
- An additional cash-for-shelter project is underway in Manono Territory, Tanganyika Province, benefitting 330 returnee households.
- UNHCR carried out **sensitization sessions on peaceful coexistence** in Kalemie, Manono, Moba, Nyunzu and Pweto Territories, targeting 2,390 individuals. Moreover, 216 sensitization messages on peaceful coexistence were aired on community radio stations.
- UNHCR's partner AIDES conducted **training on peaceful coexistence in Manono Territory**, targeting 50 community leaders.
- **UNHCR's partner AIDES set up three peaceful coexistence committees composed of 60 members in Manono Territory.** After completing conflict resolution trainings, the committees will be better able to resolve incidents and conflict between displaced and host communities.
- In an ongoing effort to **prevent sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV)**, UNHCR's partner AIDES carried out 58 sensitization sessions, targeting 3,458 individuals in Manono, Moba, Nyunzu and Pweto territories.
- **In June, UNHCR's protection monitoring recorded 20 SGBV incidents in Tanganyika and Haut-Katanga provinces, 55% of which were committed against children under 18 years-old.** In addition, 40% of the incidents were documented in Pweto Territory and 35% in Moba Territory. Eight SGBV survivors were referred to service providers. The lack of transportation fees constituted a barrier for survivors to access services.

Clusters and Working Groups

Shelter Working Group

- **The Shelter Working Group (SWG) set up a new monitoring system** (SIRAL-GTA), which is more in line with the SWG's strategy. It has 19 staff from 15 organizations who were trained in Kinshasa in June. The SIRAL-GTA user guide is available [here](#).
- **Trainings on local construction culture took place** in Bunia, Ituri Province, and in Kalemie, Tanganyika Province. The SWG trained 39 staff and UNHCR mobilized the local NGO AMICOR and international NGO CRATerre to put their expertise to the benefit of SWG partners.

Protection Cluster

- **The Protection Cluster carried out a protection risk analysis of the activities of armed groups in the Bijombo Highlands**, South Kivu Province. The withdrawal of the army from this area since 1 June created security gaps exploitable by armed groups, who repeatedly attack civilians. Agreed action points included the continuation of protection monitoring, an update of the protection situation, and the mapping of protection threats due to the presence of armed groups.
- **The new Protection Cluster Coordination Officer, Minata Oulein Conde Bangoura, has taken up her functions.** She is hosted at UNHCR's Regional Representation in Kinshasa.

External / Donor Relations

As of 24 June 2019

UNHCR, the UN Refugee Agency is grateful for the support of:

Donors for UNHCR operations in DRC in 2019

United States of America (7 M) | CERF (3.7 M) | Japan (2.5 M) | Sweden (2.2 M) | Canada (0.76 M) | United Nations Foundation (0.43 M) | International Olympic Committee (0.27 M) | UNAIDS (0.03 M) | Private donors (0.08 M)

Major donors of regional or other funds with soft earmarking 2019

Germany (13.1 M) | United States of America (10 M) | Canada (4.6 M) | Sweden (4 M) | Private donors Australia (3.8 M) | Private donors Germany (2.3 M)

Major donors of unearmarked funds in 2019

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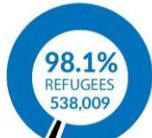
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548,153

TOTAL NUMBER OF REFUGEES AND ASYLUM SEEKERS

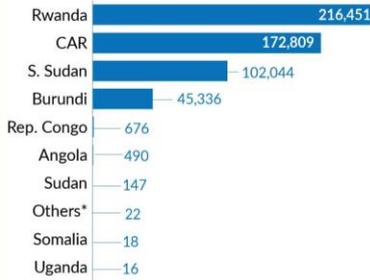
KEY STATISTICS



TYPES OF LOCATION



REFUGEE POPULATION BY COUNTRY OF ORIGIN

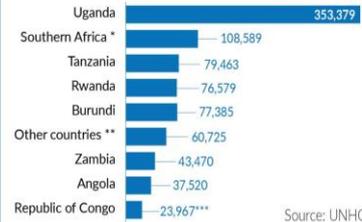


* Others include Ivory Coast, Eritrea, Syria, Liberia, Chad, Sierra Leone, etc.

REFUGEES FROM DRC IN AFRICA

861,077

TOTAL DRC REFUGEE POPULATION



Source: UNHCR

* Southern Africa includes Namibia, Botswana, Lesotho, Malawi, Zimbabwe, Mozambique, Madagascar, South Africa and the Kingdom of Eswatini.

** Other countries include South Sudan, Kenya, Central African Republic and Chad

*** For the Republic of Congo, these figures are for May 2019 (the figures for June are not available).

