

Democratic Republic of the Congo

1 - 31 July 2019

UNHCR and partners are speeding up groundwork for the **voluntary repatriation of 4,000 Central African refugees** located in camps in Sud Ubangi Province, following a Tripartite Meeting held on 5 July between UNHCR and the governments of DRC and CAR.

From 23 to 25 July in Lóvua settlement (Angola), a first **cross-border meeting took place between UNHCR's DRC and Angola offices**, to discuss the voluntary repatriation of DRC refugees from Angola.

In response to the arrival of some 4,300 displaced persons in Kasenyi, Ituri Province, UNHCR is building **600 emergency shelters and 40 community hangars** through partner CARITAS. These structures will be able to host up to 5,400 IDPs, both older and more recent caseloads.

Refugees

Burundian refugees

Total in DRC

45,336

As of 30 June 2019

- On 9 July, **88 Burundian refugees were voluntarily repatriated by UNHCR from Lusenda camp in DRC, to Burundi**. This was the first repatriation convoy from DRC to Burundi.
- The World Food Programme (WFP), in coordination with UNHCR and implementing partners, has **transitioned from voucher-based food assistance to cash assistance for Burundian refugees** in Lusenda camp and Mulongwe settlement, South Kivu Province. Cash helps refugees access the food market, and allows them to build their own livelihoods. In partnership with the TMB bank, each refugee received a small amount to meet their food needs of August.
- In July, UNHCR and its partner the National Refugee Commission (CNR) **registered 188 newborns in Lusenda camp, while 19 households (29 persons) were physically verified and biometrically registered**, after having been absent during the June registration exercise. Each refugee aged 12 and above received an identity card. Civil status documentation is essential to ensuring refugees' rights and protecting them from statelessness.
- **In July, four unaccompanied children in Lusenda camp were reunited with their families**, after UNHCR and partners ICRC and War Child held a child's Best Interest Determination (BID) panel meeting.
- As part of the UNHCR "Sport for Protection" project, funded by the International Olympic Committee, a **football tournament was held in Lusenda camp**, with eight men's teams and seven women's teams. The teams consist of refugees and local youth as the project promotes peaceful coexistence and youth talents.
- **UNHCR provided rapid malaria diagnostic tests to health facilities in Lusenda camp and Mulongwe settlement**, in order to improve screening and drug



Medical consultation of a Burundian child infected with malaria at Lusenda health center. © UNHCR/Sanne Biesmans

prescription. Malaria is the main cause of morbidity among refugees in Lusenda and Mulongwe, especially for children under five.

- In Lusenda camp and Mulongwe settlement, **104 visually-impaired persons received an ophthalmic consultation** through UNHCR's partner AIDES, in anticipation for the prescription of corrective glasses.
- To encourage self-reliance, UNHCR's partner ADRA provided **fishing tools and fishing permits to the Fisher Committee at Mulongwe settlement**.
- **UNHCR provided a protective kit against Ebola to its partner ADES**, as preventive measures are being reinforced in Lusenda camp and Mulongwe settlement, South Kivu Province. Following a measles outbreak in DRC, refugees in both locations are encouraged to get vaccinated.
- **UNHCR's partner ADRA organized a workshop to raise awareness on environmental protection**. Participants consisted of 76 members of the refugee and host population at Mulongwe settlement, including 54 women and 22 men.

Central African refugees

Total in DRC

172,809

As of 30 June 2019

- **UNHCR and its partners are speeding up groundwork for the voluntary repatriation of an estimated 4,000 Central African refugees** located in Boyabu and Mole camps in Sud Ubangi Province. Following a Tripartite Meeting held on 5 July between UNHCR and the governments of DRC and CAR, focal points were setup, meetings held with local authorities and awareness-raising sessions organized in July to facilitate the return of the refugees.



UNHCR and CNR distribute attestations to refugees in Nzakara, Nord Ubangi Province. © UNHCR

- In July, UNHCR and its partner the National Refugee Commission (CNR) **distributed 3,374 refugee attestations to Central African refugees living outside of camps in Mobayi Mbongo Territory**, Nord Ubangi Province. Documentation helps ensuring refugees' freedom of movement in DRC, as well as access to basic services. This operation targets 20,581 persons in seven host villages in Mobayi Mbongo Territory. They were biometrically registered in 2017 but did not receive refugee documentation at the time. Mobayi Mbongo Territory hosts the highest number of out-of-camp refugees in Nord Ubangi Province, with about 33,665. Most of them arrived in 2017 following violence in the Central African Republic (CAR), but have received very little assistance due to insufficient funding and the remoteness of their locations.
- **UNHCR's partner AIDES distributed farming tools to 16 community protection committees** set up by UNHCR in out-of-camp refugee-hosting villages in Mobayi Mbongo Territory, Nord Ubangi Province. These committees of 10 persons each comprise equal numbers of refugees and host community members, tasked with protection activities, such as improving the protection environment, or identifying and reporting protection risks to UNHCR. The hoes, machetes, pickaxes and rakes will facilitate the cultivation of larger quantities of crops, necessary to meet the growing food needs of these communities.
- **In July, 239 new births were registered in health centres in Inke, Boyabu, Mole and Bili camps**. Most of the babies were exposed to a high risk of post-birth infections due to limited health assistance in these camps.

Most refugee women who give birth no longer receive babies' kits, as UNHCR's partner ADSSE stopped distributing them in 2017 due to insufficient funds. These kits contained sanitary towels, cots, buckets, sheets, babies' clothes, blankets and soap.

- **UNHCR's partner ADSSE distributed clothes to 350 households (1,750 individuals) of Central African refugees and Congolese members of the host community** in Kambo, 17km from Gbadolite, Nord Ubangi Province. The clothes, donated by Japanese company UNIQLO, will improve hygiene conditions for the families. These distributions, which began in December 2018, target 4,000 households (about 20,000 persons) in seven out-of-camp locations in Nord Ubangi Province. The Province is home to about 44,500 Central African refugees, mostly located in villages along the banks of the Ubangi River. Many have received very little assistance due to accessibility and funding challenges.

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

- Between 24 and 27 July, UNHCR and its partner the National Refugee Commission (CNR) conducted an **awareness-raising mission** in Shanje, Kalehe Territory, Sud Kivu Province, to accelerate the pace of voluntary repatriations from the province, which is particularly low. Refugees were informed about the reintegration programme and assistance package available in their country of origin.

South Sudanese refugees

Total in DRC
102,044

As of 30 June 2019

- By the end of July, there were **188 new arrivals** at Biringi settlement, and **556 new arrivals** at Meri settlement.
- **There has been a persistence of night-time incursions by armed elements** into border towns of Dungu Territory, while allegedly searching for South Sudanese rebel leaders in DRC.
- In Biringi settlement, Ituri Province, **1,041 primary school pupils out of the 1,163 supported by UNHCR and UNICEF passed their exam** and progressed to the next class, or 89%. In the secondary school, 33 out of the 50 pupils supported by UNHCR passed onto the next class, or 66%. As children grow, barriers to pursuing education multiply, especially among refugees. Secondary education remains a major gap for refugees.
- **In July, UNHCR and protection partners recorded 150 protection incidents** in transit centers, refugee settlements and other refugee-hosting areas in Aru, Dungu and Faradje territories. A large number of incidents consisted in violations of the right to property (62), as well as arbitrary arrests (25). Rape and forced labour were each reported 11 times too. A majority of victims were refugees, asylum-seekers and returnees.
- **UNHCR responded to 19 incidents through referrals and advocacy to the military.** Five rape victims received medical treatment within 72 hours, an alleged rape perpetrator was arrested, two victims of arbitrary arrests were released, and two people saw their property returned after having been extorted.
- **In Biringi settlement, UNHCR and partner AIRD started constructing 80 of the 240 shelters planned** for the end of the year. This is in response to the recent influx of South Sudanese refugees, which had created shelter needs.

- **In Dungu settlement, 30 South Sudanese refugee women are being trained in tailoring**, as part of a UNHCR self-reliance programme. The two-month training started in mid-June and will last for another two weeks. The women received 10 sewing machines (sharing one for three) at the start of the training.

Urban refugees

- UNHCR's partner AIDES **facilitated access to medical care for 40 urban refugees** in Goma; 20 girls, 6 women, 4 boys and 11 men, most of whom Burundian and Rwandan, through the "Kingo la Afya " health insurance.
- UNHCR and partners recorded an **85% success rate among urban refugee pupils in Goma for the 2018-2019 primary school year**. In total, 160 out of 191 pupils passed, among whom 93 girls. The partner determined that the failure rate (15%) was related to a lack of monitoring by parents, and close follow-up will be ensured to improve the results for the next school year.
- In July, UNHCR **helped 127 refugee pupils attend primary school** in Bukavu, South Kivu Province. Education at the primary level is a priority for UNHCR, to help refugee children acquire basic skills in literacy and numeracy.

Congolese returnees

- From 23 to 25 July in Lóvuá settlement (Angola), a first cross-border meeting took place between UNHCR's DRC and Angola offices, to **discuss the voluntary repatriation of DRC refugees from Angola**. Organised voluntary repatriations were recommended, as well as a Tripartite Agreement between UNHCR and the DRC and Angolan Governments. Refugees expressed their readiness to return home by their own means.
- Between 1 and 15 July, **UNHCR identified 8,900 Congolese refugees (1,512 households) who returned from refugee camps in Tanzania and Burundi** between April and June. They settled in a site near the village of Kabimba, 60km from Kalemie, Tanganyika Province. Most are women and children, who returned from Nyariguzu camp (Tanzania) and Buagiriza camp (Burundi). Their needs are urgent in terms of non-food items (NFIs), shelter, and food. In addition, children are out-of-school as they left before the end of the school year. UNHCR and CNR are planning on verifying their numbers.

Statelessness

- In Baraka, South Kivu Province, UNHCR organized **awareness-raising sessions in several primary schools on the prevention of statelessness**. Altogether 895 pupils participated. After watching an awareness-raising video, children and their teachers engaged in debate on statelessness and nationality. Some 268 notebooks with awareness-raising messages were distributed.
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Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs)

Ituri Province

- On the outskirts of the provincial capital of Bunia, a **new IDP site is under development** at the request of the Provincial Governor, to replace the existing so-called “hospital site” due to its proximity to an Ebola Treatment Centre. UNHCR committed to providing emergency shelters and core non-food items (NFIs) to an initial 2,000 families once they are relocated to the new site. MONUSCO started preparatory site development on 15 July, but construction was on hold while partners waited for additional funding.
- In Bunia’s “ISP” site, UNHCR distributed **plastic sheeting** to 962 persons (155 households) out of 1,076 targeted. UNHCR also distributed **non-food items** (NFIs) to 1,139 persons (210 households) out of 1,346 targeted. Lastly, UNHCR distributed **hygiene kits** to 928 persons (158 households) out of 1,086 targeted.
- In response to the **arrival of some 4,300 displaced persons in the locality of Kasenyi**, UNHCR is building 600 emergency shelters and 40 community hangars through its partner CARITAS. These structures will be able to host up to 5,400 IDPs, both older and more recent caseloads.
- UNHCR is **reinforcing community-based protection** in all localities affected by displacement in Ituri Province. Since the second half of July, UNHCR’s partners AVSI and CARITAS have been deployed on various axes in Djugu, Irumu and Mambasa territories, to identify, map and support existing community-based protection structures. Some 81 such structures were mapped as of 31 July.
- UNHCR, through its partner INTERSOS, conducted **protection monitoring** to the extent that the territory is accessible, and provided referrals for victims of violations where possible.

North Kivu Province

- In the Nobili area, Beni Territory, **UNHCR distributed non-food items** (sleeping mats, jerry cans and soap) and **tarpaulins for emergency shelter** to a total of 7,298 IDP households (55,364 individuals) from 30 May to 18 July. In addition, 879 vulnerable host community households received NFIs. This distribution was coordinated with the rapid response mechanism (RRMP), which distributed non-food items to 15,991 households.
- With UNHCR support, **10 IDP sub-committees** were set up in the 10 displacement locations in and around Nobili. They received capacity-building and remain active, notably in registering new displacements.
- Since early June, UNHCR started a **pilot project distributing reusable sanitary pads to 100 girls and women** from the IDP and host communities in Nobili. Menstrual hygiene is a major challenge in displacement situations. On 19 July, focus groups revealed overwhelming appreciation for the washable, durable pads, with 96% of those surveyed being in favor. Their continuous availability answers menstrual health needs and can prevent infections.
- In Masisi, Rutshuru and Lubero territories, **UNHCR is conducting a shelter project with its partner AIDES**. UNHCR distributed tarpaulins to 500 IDP households (3,119 people) in Mweso, Masisi Territory. Another 1,700 construction kits and 170 tool kits were distributed to IDPs in Masisi, Lubero and Rutshuru to build semi-durable shelters. As of 31 July, the project was 64% complete, with nearly 11,000 IDPs living in finished shelters.
- From 22 to 26 July, UNHCR and CNR conducted a mission in Masisi Territory to **verify and register new IDPs** who arrived in the Bukombo IDP site. A total of 2,462 new individuals (560 households) were registered, among whom 192 persons with specific needs. Some 97% of the newly-displaced came from the Bapfuna groupment. In July, IDP sites under UNHCR coordination in Masisi Territory received **5,256 newly-arrived individuals** (1,225 households). Most of them settled to Kashuga site (1,234 individuals), Bukombo site (754 individuals) and Kalinga (407 individuals).
- During this mission, UNHCR and CNR identified urgent needs in shelter, food assistance, water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) and education in **Bukombo site**. UNHCR is liaising with partners to explore possible assistance.
- From February to July, UNHCR’s **protection monitoring** recorded a total of 7,073 protection incidents in North Kivu Province.

South Kivu Province

- In Kalehe and Shabunda territories, **clashes between the army and armed groups led people to flee their homes** to surrounding villages. UNHCR and other actors conducted several needs assessment missions, including in Bunyakiri (Kalehe Territory), Mulamba (Walungu Territory) and Kalole (Shabunda Territory). However, humanitarian access remains restricted due to security risks and a lack of roads.
- UNHCR and its partners INTERSOS and CNR carried out a specific needs assessment in the Mulamba group in Walungu Territory, with regards to the **recurrence of recorded rape cases**. Support to medical providers in providing PEP kits is needed. It was recommended to advocate for the deployment of FARDC and PNC units in the area to act as a deterrent against possible attacks by armed groups.

Kasai region

- UNHCR undertook a mid-year review of its cash-based interventions (CBI) in the Kasai region, with the following findings: **2,229 households received multi-purpose cash assistance out of the 7,700 targeted for 2019**; 898 households received cash-for-shelter assistance out of 3,700 targeted for 2019; and 197 people received cash-for-protection assistance, out of the 750 targeted by the project. Participants in the review (IDPs, returnees, and members of host communities) mentioned the heavy verification processes, when selecting beneficiaries, as the cause for some delays in assistance.
- In July, **UNHCR's protection monitoring system registered 1,728 protection incidents** in areas of operation in the Kasai region. UNHCR was able to respond to 782 of these cases, in the form of referrals (to medical, psychosocial and/or judicial structures), advocacy in the case of arbitrary arrests, or judicial advice. In terms of prevention, sensitization messages were aired on radios in Kasai Province, and a public debate on positive masculinity was organized in Kananga (Kasai Central Province), gathering 120 people.
- From 26 July to 2 August, UNHCR's partner War Child UK organized **two-day trainings in IDP sites in Kamonia, Kamako and Nsumbula, on the prevention of community conflict through mediation and sensitization**. A total of 105 community members (70 men, 35 women) participated.
- As part of a cash-for-shelter project in Yangala, Luiza Territory, Kasai Central Province, some **479 households finished constructing their shelters**, while 419 were still building theirs. The project is implemented by UNHCR's partner the Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC), who distributed doors and windows to the 898 total beneficiary households. In addition, NRC distributed the last round of cash to beneficiaries, who had previously received a first round to buy sticks and hay, to make bricks, and to pay workers to build their shelters. The last round will be used to finalise walls and roofs.



Beneficiaries help each other finalise their shelters in Yangala, Luiza Territory, Kasai Central Province. © UNHCR



UNHCR distributes tarpaulins to IDPs victim of arson in Eliya site. © UNHCR

Tanganyika / Haut-Katanga Provinces

- In early July, a total of **810 huts were burned down** in the IDP sites of Eliya, Kalunga, Kalenge, Kabembe and Kisalaba, in. In Eliya alone, 500 huts were burned. Subsequently, several shelters were burned down in different surrounding villages.
- As a response, the Camp Coordination and Camp Management (CCCM) Cluster, co-lead by UNHCR and IOM, requested all organisations with capacity to assist the affected households. As of 31 July, UNHCR had **distributed tarpaulins to 211 households** out of 226 targeted in Eliya site – the other 15 having been absent. Further tarpaulin distributions are planned in Kalunga, Kalenge and Kabembe sites.

Clusters and Working Groups

Shelter Working Group

- On 12 July, the Shelter Working Group (SWG), led by UNHCR, shared three sets of analyses about the shelter sector in DRC; a [mapping](#) of shelter partners' presence with details of activities planned, ongoing and completed; [remaining needs](#) per humanitarian pole; and [disaggregated data](#) on the beneficiaries of shelter activities.
- On 10 July, the SWG published a case study of the Mugunga 3 IDP site in Goma, North Kivu Province. Titled "[We are all IDPs,](#)" this study presents a nuanced view of IDPs' vulnerabilities, as well as of their potential.
- On 9 July, after consultations with field partners, the SWG shared new versions of its "[Score Card](#)" – the tool used to identify beneficiaries – and of its [technical standards](#) for emergency tarpaulin shelters.
- On 6 July, the SWG shared its [mid-year summary of achievements](#) and projections for 2019. Key figures include: **188,333 people reached** (12.5% of the SWG's target), **16 active partners**, and **8 donors** who are funding shelter/housing projects in DRC.
- On 20 July, the SWG shared a "[Construction Calendar](#)" aiming to enable shelter actors to plan their responses according to rainy seasons and harvest seasons.
- On 23 July, the SWG announced the arrival of Mr. Serge Aganze, the new **GTA Coordinator for the Central Pole**, in Kananga, Kasai Central Province.

Protection Cluster

- On 23 July, the Protection Working Group in Kananga, Kasai Central Province, issued an alert on the **high number of sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV) incidents** recorded in the province. Consequently on 30 July, the SGBV Working Group held an ad-hoc meeting at UNHCR's Kananga office to strengthen advocacy and holistic support for SGBV survivors.
- On 29 July, a **working group on protection monitoring** was put in place in Tshikapa, Kasai Province, to harmonize data collection through UNHCR's partner War Child UK.
- In North Kivu Province, the Protection Cluster advocated for a **holistic response to the phenomenon of survival sex**, observed in two IDP sites in Bunia. This was based on protection monitoring reports produced by UNHCR's partner INTERSOS. Following this advocacy, some 200 hygienic kits were distributed to women and girls, including those practicing survival sex, by the NGO SAF, a Cluster member. UNHCR and the international NGO TROCAIRE have planned additional distributions for August.
- From 3 to 6 July in South Kivu Province, UNHCR participated in an **inter-agency humanitarian needs assessment mission in Kalehe Territory**, in response to clashes between armed groups and the army, which led to the displacement of an estimated 25,000 persons. Following up on the recommendation of the inter-agency mission, UNHCR and its partners INTERSOS and CNR carried out a specific protection needs assessments from 22 to 25 July. It was recommended to advocate with the military to ensure the protection of civilians, whose movements are limited because the presence of armed groups.

External / Donor Relations

As of 30 July 2019

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

Donors for UNHCR operations in DRC in 2019

United States of America (17 M) | CERF (3.7 M) | Japan (2.5 M) | Sweden (2.2 M) | France (1.6 M) | Canada (0.76 M) | United Nations Foundation (0.43 M) | Australia for UNHCR (0.38 M) | International Olympic Committee (0.27 M) | UNAIDS (0.03 M) | Private donors (0.09 M)

Major donors of regional or other funds with soft earmarking 2019

United States of America (18.4 M) | Germany (13.1 M) | Private donors Australia (6.1 M) | Canada (4.6 M) | Sweden (4 M) | Private donors Germany (2.3 M)

Major donors of unearmarked funds in 2019

Sweden (99.8 M) | Norway (44.5 M) | Private donors Spain (39.6 M) | Netherlands (37.5 M) | United Kingdom (31.7 M) | Germany (26.7 M) | Denmark (24.4 M) | Private donors Republic of Korea (20.6 M) | Switzerland (15.1 M) | France (14 M) | Private donors Japan (12.1 M) | Ireland (10.2 M)

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548,153

TOTAL NUMBER OF REFUGEES AND ASYLUM SEEKERS

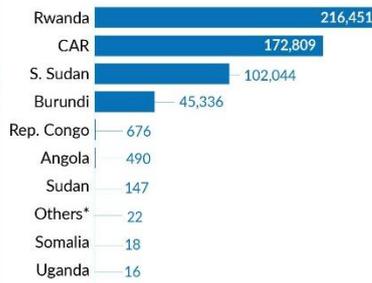
KEY STATISTICS



TYPES OF LOCATION



REFUGEE POPULATION BY COUNTRY OF ORIGIN

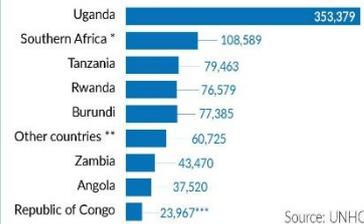


* Others include Ivory Coast, Eritrea, Syria, Liberia, Chad, Sierra Leone, etc.

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).

