

Democratic Republic of the Congo

1 - 30 November 2019

UNHCR voluntarily repatriated 1,439 Central African refugees so far, since the start of the operation on 21 November. UNHCR will repatriate close to 4,000 refugees to the Central African Republic's capital Bangui, and prefectures that were assessed as safe.

UNHCR conducted a large-scale verification exercise of 25,691 South Sudanese refugees in two settlements in Haut-Uele Province, and subsequently printed 12,705 individual identity cards and 7,710 attestations of family composition for refugees.

So far since 8 October, 2,589 Congolese refugees were repatriated from Angola to DRC. In addition, 14,757 spontaneous returnees were verified by UNHCR in Kasai Central Province (12,291) and in Kamako, Kasai Province (2,466).

Refugees

Burundian refugees

Total in DRC	Women	Men
47,529	24,341	22,918

As of 30 November 2019

- UNHCR and partners carried out the annual participatory assessment based on Age, Gender and Diversity (AGD) with refugees and host populations in and around Mulongwe settlement and Lusenda camp. 650 refugees and 30 host community members participated. They raised protection concerns such as security, child protection and the stigmatization of certain vulnerable groups, primarily female heads of household, survivors of sexual violence, and the elderly. The findings are used as a baseline for planning activities in 2020.
- In November, 987 asylum seekers (265 households) were granted refugee status and transferred from Kavimvira Transit Centre (TC) to Mulongwe settlement. Upon arrival, UNHCR distributed essentials items such as kitchen sets, mosquito nets, blankets, jerrycans and mats, and WFP distributed food rations. 1,875 kg of laundry soap were also distributed to all asylum seekers and refugees in reception facilities and in Mulongwe settlement.
- In addition, 288 new Burundian asylum seekers arrived in reception structures in November, among them 132 in Kavimvira TC and 164 at Sange Assembly Point (AS). 1,295 asylum seekers were transferred from Sange AS to Kavimvira TC, where they will be biometrically registered as asylum-seekers.
- In Lusenda camp, an armed individual made irruption with two rifles. This, which led to panic amongst refugees and threatened the civilian character of the camp. The armed individual was later arrested by the police.
- In Lusenda camp and Mulongwe settlement, 35,917 refugees received the equivalent of \$12 each in cash to respond to their basic food needs.
- In Lusenda camp and Mulongwe settlement, 480 households (320 of Burundian refugees and 160 of the host population) received seeds and tools to help them to grow crops (beans, corn, hoes and rakes) and contribute to their self-reliance.
- In Mulongwe settlement, 1,589 women and girls received dignity kits (including underwear, sanitary pads and soap), after a shortage that lasted since March 2019, although distributions should take place every three months. There are however still not enough kits to cover Lusenda camp. The kits currently being distributed only last one month, although they should last three. Additional funding is needed to purchase enough kits and to distribute them every three months.



In Mulongwe settlement, 100 adolescents (84 Burundian and 14 Congolese) who were enrolled in masonry and embroidery vocational training have received follow-up support from UNHCR and its partner ADRA to enable them to start their businesses. Support included the construction of a new fireplace for stone-making, and the distribution of sewing materials.

Central African refugees

Total in DRC	Women	Men
171,581	92,366	79,215

As of 30 November 2019

- UNHCR voluntarily repatriated 1,686 Central African refugees from Mole and Boyabu camps in Sud Ubangi Province since the start of the operation on 21 November. UNHCR will repatriate close to 4,000 refugees to the Central African Republic's capital Bangui, prefectures such as Lobaye and Ombella Mpoko that were assessed as safe. The refugees are given civil status documents and school attendance certificates, and UNHCR is building classrooms and providing cash assistance in CAR to facilitate reintegration and self-reliance upon return.
- UNHCR and partners are planning to assist victims of the October floods in Nord and Sud Ubangi province. UNHCR will distribute non-food items and cash



The voluntary repatriation of Central African refugees from the DRC's Sud Ubangi Province in November 2019. © UNHCR/Adrienne Suprenant

to refugee and host communities. Heavy rains in October caused the Ubangi River to overflow, destroying 113 schools, 60 bridges, 30,000 toilets, 360 water points and almost 33,000 hectares of farm lands just in the area visited by a joint mission conducted by UNHCR and various other humanitarian and Government agencies in Nord Ubangi Province. Note that the floods also affected Sud Ubangi Province.

UNHCR and the DRC authorities reported an influx of 1,062 Central African asylum-seekers in border villages



Inke refugee camp's health center, which received new solar panels in November. © UNHCR/Hugh Cunningham

of Bosobolo Territory, Nord Ubangi Province. A joint monitoring team found them living in precarious conditions in several localities in the Pandu chiefdom, 114 km from Bili. UNHCR will provide biometric registration and plans to provide non-food items if refugees relocate away from unsafe border areas. The refugees began crossing the Ubangi River on 19 November after armed men looted and burnt four villages in the Galabadja area, in the CAR's Kemo Prefecture. Although refugees expressed the wish to be repatriated from the DRC's Sud Ubangi Province to parts of the CAR that are deemed safe, pockets of violence remain in other parts of the CAR, still creating needs in the DRC's Nord Ubangi Province.

 UNHCR's partner AIDES assisted in community farming projects for refugees and the host population in and around lnke refugee camp,



Nord Ubangi Province. Some 90 heads of households, representing 695 beneficiaries, received technical training and seeds to begin the new farming season. These projects are a key source of income for many refugee and local families; they encourage self-reliance and reinforce peaceful coexistence as refugees and locals farm the land together.

■ UNHCR installed solar panels in health centres in Inke camp in Nord Ubangi Province, in order to power recently-acquired refrigerators for blood banks, incubators, and laboratory equipment. This equipment had previously not been functional due to the lack of electricity. Now, patients with complex cases or in need of blood transfusion will no longer need to be referred to other hospitals, that are often located long distances away. Solar panels with all be installed in Boyabu and Mole camps in Sud Ubangi Province.

Rwandan refugees

Total in DRC
(figure based on a pre-registration done by the DRC Government)

215,518

143

Nepatriated this month (figure pending verification)

Repatriated in 2019 (figure pending verification)

1,607

Women: 108,491 | Men: 107,027

As of 30 November 2019

- UNHCR and CNR continued the renewal of refugee certificates in areas with high concentrations of Rwandan refugees. In November, 1,875 refugees received new certificates in Fizi Territory, bringing the total to 4,883 Rwandan refugees who received renewed ID documents in South Kivu Province.
- On 22 November ten Rwandan refugees (four households) were voluntarily repatriated to their country of origin. In 2019, 261 refugees (97 households) were repatriated to Rwanda from the Ndendere Transit Center, and 1,607 in total from the DRC.

South Sudanese refugees

Total in DRC	Women	Men
88,203	47,118	41,085

As of 30 November 2019

- In October and November, UNHCR started a large-scale verification exercise of South Sudanese refugees in Meri and Bele settlements, Haut-Uele Province, with the aim of updating UNHCR. So far, 25,691 were verified, and UNHCR subsequently printed 12,705 individual identity cards and 7,710 attestations of family composition, to be issued to the refugees.
- A total of 694 South Sudanese refugees (273 households) have been relocated to Bele settlement so far since September, both from the overcrowded Meri settlement and from unstable border areas in Haut Uele Province. All refugees received food assistance and non-food items (soap, mats, blankets, kitchen equipment, buckets) upon arrival, as well as a plot of land for self-reliance activities such as agriculture.
- UNHCR completed the construction of three waystations and four Transit Centers, which will be used in 2020 for relocations from border areas to Bele settlement. A total of 366 transitional shelters were also completed in Bele settlement, out of the 500 planned, and two water wells were dug.
- A total of 202 South Sudanese refugees (90 households) were also relocated from border areas to Biringi settlement, Ituri Province, and received warm meals and non-food items. In addition, 370 transitional shelters were built out of 440 planned, while 170 durable shelters were completed.
- In November, 12 cases of sexual and gender-based violence were recorded in Meri, Biringi and Kaka settlements. Nine survivors received psychosocial care, while all eight rape survivors received medical care. Counseling and psychosocial and medical care are needed for the remaining cases. UNHCR also provided



judicial support for previous SGBV cases, and organized group therapy sessions for 39 people in Biringi and Kaka settlements.

■ In localities around Kaka settlement, Haut Uele Province, UNHCR and partners identified 853 persons with specific needs and 77 children at risk, in need of assistance. In Meri settlement, UNHCR's partner ADSSE distributed clothes and soap to 31 persons with specific needs, including elderly and disabled persons.

Congolese returnees

- Voluntary repatriation convoys to Kasai Central Province started in November, through the Kalamba Mbuji entry point. On 14 and 26 November, two convoys respectively carrying 200 and 410 individuals arrived at the Kalamba Mbuji Transit Center, from where they continued their journey to Kananga, the capital of Kasai Central.
- Repatriation convoy movements also continued in Kasai Province. Three convoys were organized in November, bringing the total to six repatriation convoys (1,989 returnees) reaching the province from Angola since October.
- In total, 2,589 Congolese refugees were repatriated from Angola on both routes. In addition, 14,757 spontaneous returnees from Angola were verified by UNHCR in Kasai Central Province (12,291) and in Kamako, Kasai Province



Congolese repatriates look out the truck that is bringing them to Kananga, Kasai Province, as part of voluntary repatriations.

© UNHCR/John Wessels

- (2,466). The major challenge faced by this operation is the advanced degradation of roads due to torrential rains, and the state of the Lueta floating bridge in Kasai Central Province, on which the movement of trucks (even empty) was prohibited by authorities to allow for repairs. All returnees received cash assistance to facilitate their return and integration at their destination.
- Since 28 August, following a relative lull in violence in Ituri Province, UNHCR and partner INTERSOS observed the spontaneous return of 1,575 Congolese refugees who had fled to Uganda, after the violence that shook DRC's Ituri Province in June. The return movement may have also been motivated by the start of the new school year. The total number of returnees may be higher, as many are unaccounted for if they do not cross through official entry points, or do not possess refugee certificates. Most returnees are located in Mahagi, Djugu and Irumu territories, Ituri Province.

Urban refugees

On 27 and 28 November, UNHCR and partners gathered 23 refugees and 10 internally-displaced persons in Kalemie, Tanganyika Province, to conduct an Age, Gender and Diversity Mainstreaming (AGDM) exercise. Refugees and IDPs with various profiles discussed the protection risks they encounter, and their ability to cope with them, with the objective of integrating these risks in UNHCR's planning. The exercises identified risks related to documentation, security, health, as well as education, livelihoods, peaceful coexistence, and community participation.

Statelessness

On 22 November, UNHCR and partners officially delivered birth certificates to 500 internally displaced, returnee and local children, as well as children expelled from Angola in the city of Kananga, Kasai Central Province. This is part of UNHCR's efforts to prevent statelessness. The ceremony was attended by the UNHCR Regional Representative, the Provincial Minister of Justice and the Mayor of Kananga. Since the launch of this activity in Kasai Central Province in June 2019, UNHCR has facilitated mobile hearings across



the Province, for the issuance of birth certificates for 2,500 children. A similar activity is planned in Kasai Province for 4,500 displaced and returnee children, and children expelled from Angola.

Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs)

On 27 Novembre, UNHCR declared an internal L3 emergency for North Kivu and Ituri provinces, following the recent massive waves of displacement in both provinces.

Ituri Province

- On 28 November, five people (four aid workers and one civilian) were killed in an attack on an Ebola treatment center in Biakato (Mambasa Territory). Growing insecurity in this area risks restricting humanitarian access to displaced people. In Djugu and Irumu territories, displacements continued as civilians suffered attacks on their villages and feared further violence.
- In Ituri Province, a total of 10,873 households (48,684 individuals; 55% women and girls, 45% men and boys) were registered in nine out of 12 IDP sites coordinated by UNHCR as of 8 November, as part of a registration exercise intended to collect information on IDPs' needs. Registration will continue in the three remaining sites.
- In Djugu Territory, UNHCR and partners built 3,873 emergency shelters in Savo site (Bule), Rho site and Djalla site (Drodro). 372 displaced households were also relocated from host families to the new Chamusa and Blukwa sites in Djugu Territory.
- In Bunia, Ituri's provincial capital, **596 emergency shelters were built** in the new Kigonze IDP site as of 2 December.
- For the 16 Days of Activism, UNHCR and partners organized awareness-raising sessions on gender-based violence and positive masculinity for 16,364 persons in in Djugu, Mambasa, and Irumu territories. Participants included local authorities, community leaders and grassroots organizations.

North Kivu Province

- The security situation in Beni Territory dramatically worsened at the end of November. In retaliation to a major military offensive against the ADF armed group, presumed ADF elements killed 107 people in targeted attacks between 22 and 28 November, while at least 35 were kidnapped. Attacks have since continued, with heavy casualties. On 25 November, a MONUSCO base and the Beni town hall were torched by civilians as a protest, after which city-wide shutdowns gained momentum in North Kivu, extending to the provincial capital Goma. The situation remained extremely tense with mob violence, lynching of armed forces and police and youth arrests.
- All but critical UN staff was evacuated from Beni, and UNHCR's activities in Beni, Oicha and Butembo were suspended. UNHCR and its partners were therefore unable to access IDPs and assess their numbers or needs. Large displacements are believed have taken place from rural areas (where targeted attacks occurred), to the relative safety of cities such as Beni, Butembo and Kasindi.
- Meanwhile, conflict was ongoing in the rest of North Kivu Province. In November, 2,317 households reportedly fled their villages in Masisi and Rutshuru territories, following armed clashes. Most took refuge in abandoned and public buildings, and in host communities. An additional 935 households fled their villages in Rutshuru and Walikale territories following armed clashes between 18 and 27 November, seeking refuge within host communities. It is also estimated that on 10 November, 10 households of 43 individuals fled the Kabunga-Mingi locality (Rutshuru Territory) to Uganda.
- UNHCR and its partner AIDES completed their shelter project for returned IDPs in North Kivu. A total of 1,699 shelters were finalized, out of 1,700 planned, in return areas in Masisi, Rutshuru and Lubero territories.
- In response to new arrivals in IDP sites in Masisi Territory, 112 emergency shelters were under construction in the Bukombo and Kalinga sites, the population of which has increased, while 201 were completed.
- In Nyiragongo Territory, 100 members (38 women and 62 men) of community-based protection structures were trained on conflict resolution. In the same territory, UNHCR and partner Caritas also provided \$150 per person in multi-purpose cash assistance, to 142 people with specific needs, specifically women at risk of sexual exploitation.



In Nyanzale, Rutshuru Territory, two water networks were completed by UNHCR's partner CARITAS, and a health center, a primary school and a communal market were still under construction, as part of Quick Impact Projects (QIPs).

South Kivu Province

- Inter-community tensions in the Highlands of South Kivu Province persisted, affecting the Minembwe Highlands, Fizi Highlands (Fizi Territory), Itombwe sector (Mwenga Territory) and Bijombo (Uvira Territory). The conflict continued to lead to displacements and involved the burning of houses and violence against civilians. The presence of an armed group in the Fizi Highlands caused opposing Banyamulenge tribes to flee towards villages in the Minembwe area, and to bigger towns such as Baraka and Uvira.
- Continuous population movements posed challenges for humanitarian access to IDPs in Minembwe and the Itombwe sector, while access was further hampered by the presence of armed groups, the lack of roads and the rainy season. Furthermore, some ethnic groups regrouped in inaccessible areas, while others regrouped in more accessible areas, potentially affecting the neutrality of humanitarian aid.
- UNHCR, along with MONUSCO and other UN agencies, participated in a joint assessment mission in Bijombo (Uvira Territory) and Minembwe (Fizi Territory) to assess the protection, security and humanitarian situation following population movements. An armed group had reportedly taken control of the area, while the opposing Banyamulenge community expressed that it did not always feel secure around the Congolese army.
- UNHCR, through partner AVSI, distributed tarpaulins to respond to the shelter needs of 1,524 persons who had fled their villages in the Itombwe sector, and who formed a spontaneous site in Mikenge (Mwenga Territory) close to a MONUSCO base. All 270 displaced households were from the Banyamulenge tribe.
- UNHCR and partner AIDES's shelter project progressed in Fizi Territory, to benefit a total of 1,000 IDPs (300 households in Kikonde village and 700 households in Kazimia village). In November, 100 construction kits were distributed to 100 families. Kits consisted of wheelbarrows, spades, twine rolls and other construction material. In addition, 700 families in Kazimia received mobile phones and SIM cards to receive mobile money, which will help them complete the construction of their shelter.



Distribution of construction kits in Kikonde, South

Kasai region

- UNHCR partner NRC carried out a multi-purpose cash Kivu Province. © UNHCR/Youssouf Abdelsaddick distribution in Kamiji Health Zone (Lomami Province), benefitting 2,000 displaced and returnee households, and households expelled from Angola. This will help them meet their most urgent needs, according to their own priorities. Some beneficiaries spoke of
- 155 IDPs and IDP returnees received cash-for-protection assistance in Kananga, Kasai Central Province, and in Dimbelenge Territory. 37 of them received vouchers to use in the local health center, while the other 118 assistance cover either socio-economic reintegration, cash to rehabilitation/construction of shelters, transport, or the economic empowerment of women.

consolidating their shelters, others of paying for their children's education, while others spoke of buying food.

- In addition, 17 survivors of Sexual and Gender-Based Violence (SGBV) benefited from the same type of assistance in Kananga, Kasai Central Province, contributing to their socio-economic reintegration, education, access to the food, transport, etc.
- In November, UNHCR's partner War Child UK recorded 1,625 human rights violations in the Kasai region, including 354 cases of SGBV (themselves including 120 rapes). Civilians, including relatives of the victims, perpetrated most of the violations (945 out of 1,625), followed the national police and the army. Returned IDPs were the most affected (688 cases), followed by local residents (665 cases). UNHCR and partners responded to 1,062 of the violations, including to 292 cases of SGBV.
- From 28 to 30 November, UNHCR, as well as other UN agencies and NGOs, carried out a joint rapid assessment mission in the Njoko Punda Health Zone, Luebo Territory, Kasai Province, after torrential rains affected thousands of people. The mission found that rains and winds caused 14 deaths and the destruction of 2,500 houses, making more than 8,700 persons homeless. Several public infrastructures were also affected, including 14 damaged or destroyed health facilities, and 62 damaged schools. The joint assessment mission handed over a large batch of essential items to the disaster-stricken community, namely first aid drugs,



menstrual hygiene kits, delivery kits for pregnant women, essential household items and around 200 tarpaulins for households with elderly people. Dignity kits were made available to health centers for 130 highly vulnerable women and girls.

Tanganyika / Haut-Katanga Provinces

- In response to recurrent population movements of both returnees and IDPs in Tanganyika Province, UNHCR and partners carried out an evaluation mission in Kongolo Territory, which aimed to update displacement numbers and assess needs. The mission highlighted important needs in protection, food security, nutrition, health as well as, education, hygiene and sanitation. Some 2,839 displaced persons were recorded in the area, mainly in Mburula Health Zone. Displacements reportedly started in 2016 and continued over the years, with a peak in 2019 (over 1,000 displacements).
- From 13 to 20 November, UNHCR and partner AIDES assisted the High Court of Kalemie in organizing public court hearings in Moba Territory, Tanganyika Province, to judge cases of Sexual and Gender based Violence (SGBV). The High Court judged and convicted 48 cases, among them 37 rape cases and 25 committed on minors. This is part of UNHCR's efforts to bring justice to SGBV survivors in displacement-affected areas.
- In November, UNHCR's partner INTERSOS recorded 636 human rights violations, compared to 607 in October in Tanganyika, Haut Katanga and Lualaba provinces. Kalemie and Nyunzu territories were the most affected in Tanganyika Province. The majority of incidents were committed by a prominent armed group (74%), and mostly consisted in violations of the right to property, sexual violence, violations of the right to physical integrity, and violations of the right to freedom.
- As part of its shelter project in Manono Territory, Tanganyika Province, UNHCR conducted a mission from 13 to 19 November to evaluate progress in the construction of 330 shelters for returned IDPs in several Health Zones in Manono Territory. As of mid-November, 85 shelters were completed.



Public court hearing in Kalemie, Tanganyika Province, facilitated by UNHCR to judge cases of sexual and gender-based violence. © UNHCR



A UNHCR staff monitoring a cash-for-shelter project for returned IDPs in Manono Territory, Tanganyika Province.

© UNHCR

- UNHCR and partner AIRD also provided multipurpose cash assistance to 991 returned IDPs as part of the same project. The cash and shelter project provides shelter assistance to 330 beneficiaries, as well as multipurpose cash to 1,000 beneficiaries.
- On 9 November, UNHCR and partner AIDES distributed 19 bicycles to 13 Village Peace Committees (Comités Villageois de Paix) in Moba Territory, Tanganyika Province. Bicycles will facilitate the movements of committee members, for them to better report human rights violations, including Sexual and Gender-Based Violence, and work on conflict-resolutions in their respective localities.

Clusters and Working Groups

Protection Cluster

The UN's Victims' Rights Advocate (VRA) Jane Connors was in DRC from 21 to 29 November. She visited Kinshasa and Goma, and met governmental, civil society and United Nations stakeholders. She visited three health centers hosting victims of sexual exploitation and abuse, and met the victims. The VRA's role is to ensure that victims' rights and dignity are at the forefront of the United Nations' efforts to fight against sexual exploitation and abuse perpetrated by peacekeeping forces and other United Nations personnel.



■ Following the floods that affecter northern DRC in October and November, a **Protection Working Group** was set up in Gbadolite (Nord Ubangi), under UNHCR coordination, to ensure that the protection of the most vulnerable persons remains at the forefront of the response.

Shelter Working Group

- On 1 November, the Shelter Working Group (SWG) announced the arrival of a new **national information** manager, Ms. Eliora Henzler, based in Kinshasa.
- In Kasai Oriental Province, the Shelter Working Group, led by UNHCR, started a shelter-specific needs assessment on 25 November, to better understand the situation of IDP returnees. Data collection will run from mid to late December, with results in 2020.

External / Donor Relations

As of 26 November 2019

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

Donors for UNHCR operations in DRC in 2019

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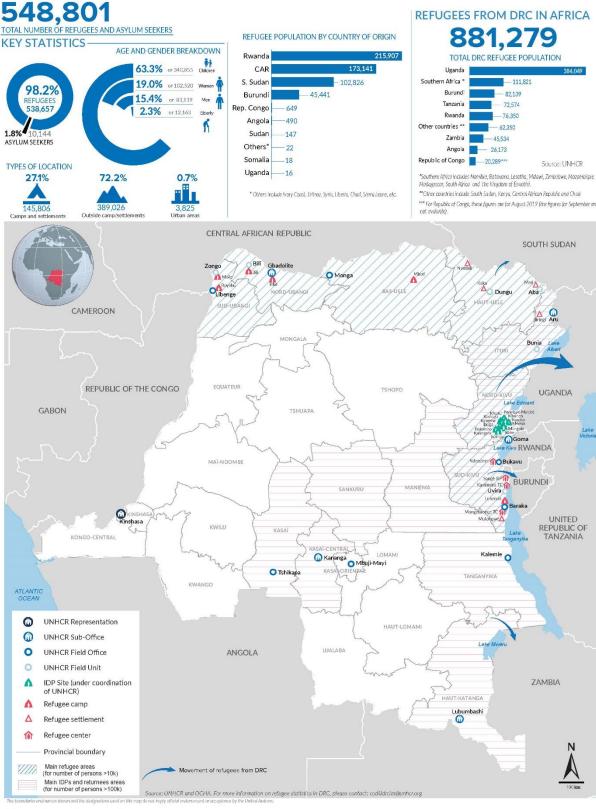
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