

Democratic Republic of the Congo

September 2021

Highlights

- UNHCR and partners facilitated the **voluntary repatriation of 1,449 Burundian and Rwandan refugees** to their country of origin.
- **So far, over 2,500 refugees took part in a biometric verification exercise** launched by UNHCR and the CNR in Goma and surrounding areas, North Kivu Province.
- **UNHCR distributed mobile phones to over 3,900 displaced persons and returnees** in Kasai Province.
- **UNHCR distributed core relief items to 120 South Sudanese refugees** newly relocated to Bele site, Haut-Uele Province.



Refugees during a verification registration process in Goma, North Kivu Province. © UNHCR/Blaise Sanyila

Refugees

PROTECTION

- UNHCR and the National Commission for Refugees (CNR) facilitated the **voluntary repatriation of 1,264 Rwandan refugees and 185 Burundian refugees** living in North Kivu and South Kivu Provinces to their country of origin.
- **2,579 Burundian, Rwandan and Ugandan refugees took part in a biometric verification exercise** launched by UNHCR and the CNR in Goma and surrounding areas, North Kivu Province. The activity consists of verifying and updating individual registration records and collecting additional information, as necessary.
- **UNHCR and CNR distributed refugee identity cards to 2,748 Central African refugees** in the South Ubangi Province. 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 7,000 refugee ID cards have so far been distributed in North Ubangi and South Ubangi Provinces.
- Following an intention survey carried out by UNHCR and the CNR in September, **almost 10,000 Central African refugees currently living in Inke camp, North Ubangi Province and in Mole and Boyabu camps in South Ubangi Province have signed up for voluntary repatriation**. By the end of this year, UNHCR plans to assist some 6,500 refugees to repatriate to the CAR and who are returning to areas where the security situation has improved over the past months.

- **UNHCR and CNR have verified the presence of more than 22,500 Central African refugees** in Mole and Boyabu camps, South Ubangi Province. The verification exercise launched on 11 September is continuing and will allow UNHCR to better plan protection and assistance to CAR refugees. An estimated 29,000 refugees are expected to be verified in the two camps.
- **Five incidents of gender-based violence, including 15 cases of child abuse were documented** by UNHCR's partner ADSSE in Haut-Uele Province in September, while other 11 cases of gender-based violence were reported by INTERSOS in Lusenda camp and Mulongwe settlement, South Kivu Province. Psychosocial and medical support was provided to survivors by UNHCR's partners.
- From August 31 to September 2, **UNHCR and its government partner CNR organized a training on community site security for 13 police officers and 15 monitoring and vigilance committee members** to strengthen the security in Bele and Biringi sites, Ituri and Haut-Uele Provinces.
- In Haut Katanga Province, **UNHCR covered school fees for 324 primary school refugee students**.



HEALTH

- **UNHCR and partners continue to support access to life-saving and essential healthcare to the refugee population.** This includes distribution of mosquito nets and malaria treatment, which remains the most common illness among the refugees, as well as support to HIV prevention, through testing and the distribution of contraceptives among refugees and host population.
- **Support to the COVID-19 response through health systems and services continues to be a priority,** including equipping health centres, training health workers and supporting isolation and quarantine centres. Vaccination is ongoing for Central African refugees in North and South Ubangi Provinces, and South Sudanese refugees in Haut-Uele and Ituri Provinces. The arrival of a batch of 50,000 doses in Goma signals the resumption of the vaccination drive in Nord Kivu Province. UNHCR is supporting the government-run vaccination programme in refugee- and IDP-hosting areas and is running risk awareness campaigns to combat vaccine hesitancy.



WATER, SANITATION AND HYGIENE (WASH)

- **UNHCR, through its partner UGEAFI, enhanced water storage in Lusenda Burundian refugee camp,** South Kivu Province, with the construction of a water tank.
- UNHCR partner ACTED completed the **construction of communal latrines at the Modale settlement, North Ubangi Province,** making a total of 270 sanitary facilities built since April 2021. Bars of soap were also distributed to over 4,000 Central African refugees who were newly relocated to Modale, improving hygiene conditions and prevent the spread of diseases.



SHELTER AND CORE RELIEF ITEMS (CRIs)

- At Mulongwe settlement, South Kivu Province, UNHCR's partner AIDES, distributed **core relief items to more than 8,000 Burundian refugees** consisting of tents, mats, jerry cans and kitchen sets. In addition, 618 Burundian refugees with specific needs received blankets, solar lamps and mosquito nets.
- **120 South Sudanese refugees newly relocated to the Bele site, Haut-Uele Province, benefited from a distribution of emergency supplies** such as mats, blankets, jerry cans, kitchen sets, buckets and soaps.



FOOD SECURITY AND NUTRITION

- UNHCR and the World Food Programme (WFP) reached more than **30,000 South Sudanese refugees through a joint cash-for-food distribution** in Haut-Uele and Ituri Provinces, to meet their most urgent needs.

UNHCR and partners facilitated the **distribution of cash-for-food by WFP to more than 14,000 CAR refugees and vulnerable host community members** in Bosobolo Territory, North Ubangi Province.



COMMUNITY EMPOWERMENT AND SELF RELIANCE

- **8.5 hectares of land for agriculture was made available by UNHCR's partner ADSSE to 17 South Sudanese refugee households** recently relocated to the Bele site in Haut-Uele Province. The initiative will enhance self-reliance for refugees who will cultivate the land to grow vegetables.
- As parts of its efforts to strengthen community empowerment and self-reliance, **UNHCR's partner ADSSE organized a capacity-building training on income-generating activities at the Bele site**, Haut Uele Province, targeting 30 South Sudanese refugees and host community members.

Statelessness

- As part of its efforts to support the government implementation of the national roadmap to combat statelessness, **UNHCR in collaboration with the *Comité technique interinstitutionnel de lutte contre l'apatridie* (CTLA) organized a capacity building and training workshop targeting 33 civil society members** in Ituri Province.
- **As part of efforts to fight statelessness, UNHCR conducted a three-day training about statelessness in Lubumbashi, Haut Katanga Province, targeting 50 participants** including local authorities, traditional and community leaders and civil society actors. The training aimed to analyse statelessness issues, to raise awareness and encourage provincial authorities to improve access to civil documentation and improve birth registrations mechanisms. Without birth certificates, children risk becoming stateless in the future.
- **UNHCR and partners delivered 220 birth certificates in Tabac Congo**, Kalemie territory, Tanganyika Province.

Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs)



PROTECTION

- **18 community leaders and local authorities participated in a training on basic notions of gender-based violence (GBV), as well as on community strategies to fight and prevent GBV** cases organized by UNHCR partner INTERSOS in Komando Centre, Ituri Province. An additional training on GBV mitigation and prevention strategies was organized on 25 September and saw the participation of 19 internally displaced persons, including 14 women and 5 girls from the Telega site, Ituri Province.
- In collaboration with provincial authorities **UNHCR's partner AIDES identified 32 unaccompanied internally displaced children in Kalemie territory**, Tanganyika Province. So far, seven children were reunified with their families.
- **UNHCR's partner INTERSOS recorded 554 human rights abuses in Kongolo, Nyunzu and in the north of Kalemie territories, Tanganyika Province.** These were mainly related to attacks reportedly being carried out by rival armed groups competing to maintain control over mining areas and as retaliation against government-led military operations.
- **UNHCR's partner AIDES have recorded eight rape incidents against children** in Manono, Moba, Nyunzu and Pweto Territories. Survivors were referred to service providers for psychosocial and medical support. The

actual figures are thought to be higher as reporting of gender-based violence remains taboo in most communities.

- **In September, UNHCR and partner War Child UK recorded 920 human rights abuses in the greater Kasai region**, representing an increase of 331 abuses from August 2021. The majority of the incidents involved violations of the right to property, sexual and gender-based violence and violations of the right to life/physical integrity.
- Since 6 September, waves of returns of Congolese living in Angola have been observed at the Kamako border entry point in DRC's Kasai Province. **As of 30 September, Congolese authorities have reported the arrival of more than 7,900 Congolese who are returning preventively for fear of forced expulsion** by the Angolan government who have issued an ultimatum to foreigners living in an irregular situation. While most of the people affected by the ultimatum are economic migrants, two women were identified as refugees and they were allowed to return to Angola and have been assisted by UNHCR Angola to return to the Louva refugee camp. UNHCR partner War Child UK has reported human rights violations, involving Angolan and Congolese security forces, including extortion and physical violence. Most of these evictees are currently housed in makeshift shelters, collective sites or with host communities. **Following a UN OCHA coordinated joint inter-agency assessment mission to Kamako from 21 to 24 September, UNHCR is preparing to provide shelter and emergency kits to over 1,000 families in the area.**



SHELTER AND CORE RELIEF ITEMS (CRIs)

- **UNHCR's partner AIDES rehabilitated 1,507 emergency shelters for displaced households in Plaine Savo site, Ituri Province.** 371 additional individual emergency shelters were built by AIDES in Fataki to accommodate displaced families and decongest schools in Bule.
- **UNHCR's partner AIDES finalized the construction of 300 transitional shelters in Miriki, Lubero Territory,** North Kivu Province and started the construction of 400 transitional shelters and latrines in Mangina, Beni Territory and 362 transitional shelters in Kanyatsi, Lubero Territory, which will benefit both IDPs and returnee community members.



CASH-BASED INTERVENTIONS (CBI)

- **UNHCR distributed mobile phones to over 3,900 displaced persons and returnees** who are being relocated to Kapinga Nkudi and Shamusanda villages in Kasai Province as part of a socio-economic reintegration project. Provision of mobile phones and SIM cards will allow them to receive electronic payments to support their shelter needs and facilitate their reintegration into the community. In addition, UNHCR and partner AIDES constructed shelters for 71 returnee families living with specific needs.

Clusters and Working Groups

- From 23 to 24 September, the Protection Cluster, led by UNHCR, organized a **workshop attended by 23 participants representing 15 different clusters on Protection Mainstreaming in Goma, North Kivu Province.** The workshop addressed the four key principles of prioritizing safety and dignity and avoid causing harm, ensuring meaningful access, accountability, and participation and empowerment and to ensure that they are reflected at all stages of the response.

External / Donor Relations

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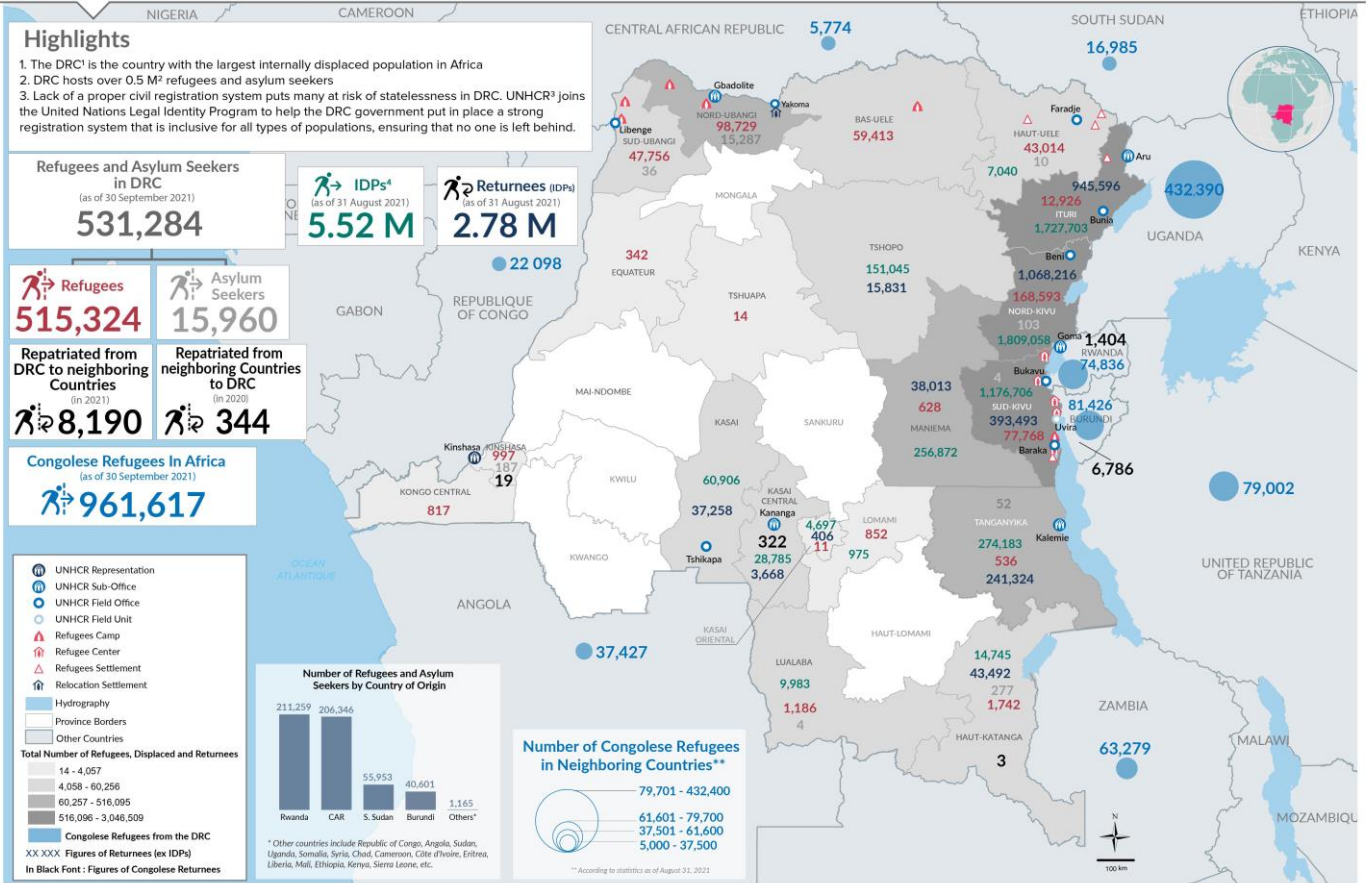
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¹ Democratic Republic of the Congo; ² Millions; ³ United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees; ⁴ Internally Displaced People; ⁵ Central African Republic.
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