UNHCR
The UN Refugee Agency

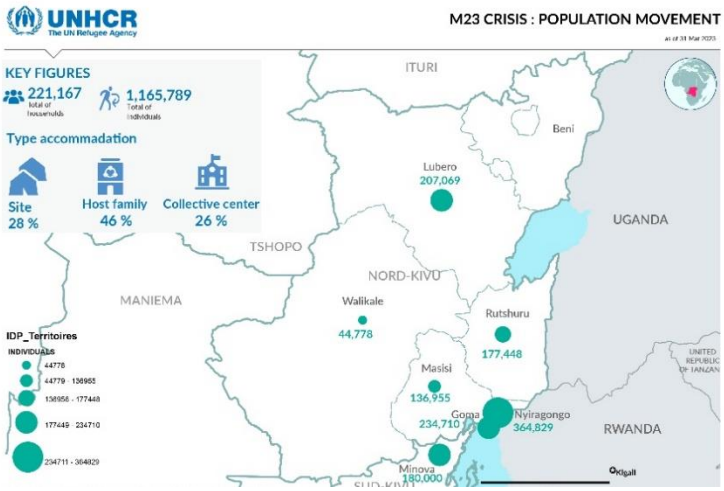
Democratic Republic of the Congo

DRC Emergency: Update 03 – 09 April 2023

Hundreds of thousands of displaced people continue to struggle in dire conditions in spontaneous sites in North Kivu Province ©UNHCR/Blaise Sanyila

KEY STATISTICS

- **1.2 million** people displaced in North Kivu Province since March 2022 by conflict
- **+280,000** internally displaced people attempting to return to their homes, despite facing significant risks
- **Urgent needs** include shelter, non-food items, water and sanitation and protection monitoring



OVERVIEW

In the eastern provinces of the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), ongoing conflict is estimated to have caused the displacement of a staggering 1,165,789 people, according to figures from the North Kivu Provincial Humanitarian Coordination (COHP) group. Conditions for the displaced continue to deteriorate and the humanitarian situation remains a deep concern as hundreds of thousands remain without adequate shelter or consistent access to clean water and food.

The Joint Regional Force of the East African Community (EAC) continue to establish a presence in the North Kivu which, for over a year, has been subjected to violent clashes between government forces and non-state armed groups. A fragile ceasefire has been achieved in some parts of North Kivu Province as the frequency of violent clashes in Rutshuru and Masisi territory has been curbed.

As a result, some internally displaced populations have attempted to return to their homes and their livelihoods. As of 31 March 2023, the estimated number of recorded returns totaled as many as 280,000 people. UNHCR, in collaboration with its partners, continues to monitor displacement and return movements in tandem with assessing access to regions to deliver life-saving assistance. Many locations in Rutshuru and Masisi territories have been inaccessible for months because of the violence.

SECTOR RESPONSE

In the coordinated response under the leadership of UNOCHA, UNHCR leads the provision of services for the Protection, Shelter and Camp Coordination and Camp Management (CCCM) Clusters in collaboration with UN agencies, international and local NGOs, and government partners.

Protection Cluster

- On 3 April 2023, 230 members of the local peace and development committees were hosted at a capacity-building workshop under the ''IDPs Boost Framework'' in Beni. The workshop was dedicated to developing skill sets that will allow the participants to accompany the implementation of the Local Development Plan (LDP), an initiative supported UNHCR.
- On 4 April, the UNHCR led Protection Cluster joined forces at the provincial level with the Senior Management Group for Protection to generate an analysis of strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats in the response to the displacement in the region.

CHALLENGES AND GAPS: Given the spontaneous return of more than 200,000 people, intention surveys are needed to track the needs and priorities of the displaced populations.

Shelter and Non-Food Item Cluster

- UNHCR was able to distribute 4217 NFI Kits and 2973 dignity kits by the end of March.
- In South Kivu, a joint mission led by OCHA was undertaken in Minova and Minembwe to assess the security situation, as well as in Kalehe territory which has seen an influx of as many as 180,000 displaced people arriving from North Kivu Province.

CHALLENGES AND GAPS: Access to displaced populations in Masisi territory remains heavily impeded by a lack of security in the region. Identifying sufficient land to establish official IDP sites continues to be challenge.

Camp Coordination and Camp Management (CCCM) Cluster

- The development of Rusayo IDP site from an unofficial spontaneous site to a planned site continues. The capacity for 6,100 shelters has been identified at the site.

CHALLENGES AND GAPS: Significant local development is still required in remote regions to support a substantive humanitarian response. Road and infrastructure continues to be a challenge as well.

INTERAGENCY BUDGET NEEDS

In the context of the Humanitarian Response Plan 2023, which identifies more than 26.4 million people in need in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, UN Agencies and partners are calling for $2.25 billion, to target ten million people in need.

UNHCR requires $233 million to respond to the needs of displaced people in the DRC in 2023, this comes after receiving just 46% of the funding required in 2022.

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