

Democratic Republic of the Congo

1 - 28 February 2018

Violence in Djugu Territory (Ituri Province), escalated and forced a **large number of Congolese to flee** to neighboring territories and the city of Bunia, while others crossed Lake Albert by boat to Uganda.

Two **new UNHCR Field Offices**, in Bondo and Monga, were opened to **provide better protection and assistance to new arrivals** from the Central African Republic in remote areas of Bas-Uele Province.

The **rehabilitation of the Katalukulu Health Center** near Mulongwe site (South Kivu) was completed and medical staff was hired. The Center will benefit both Burundian refugees and host community.

KEY INDICATORS

541,153

Refugees in DRC as of 28 February 2018

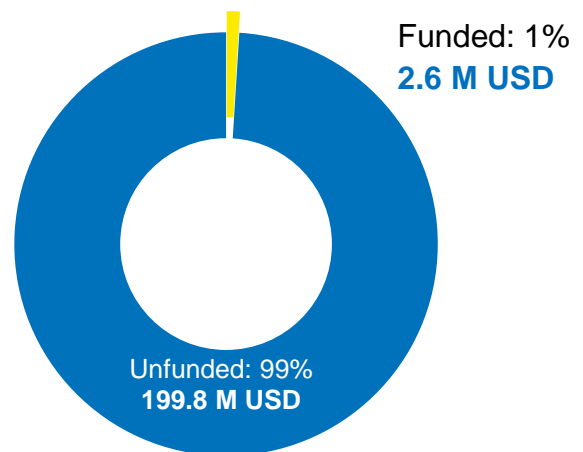
4.49 Million*

Internally Displaced People in DRC as of 31 December 2017

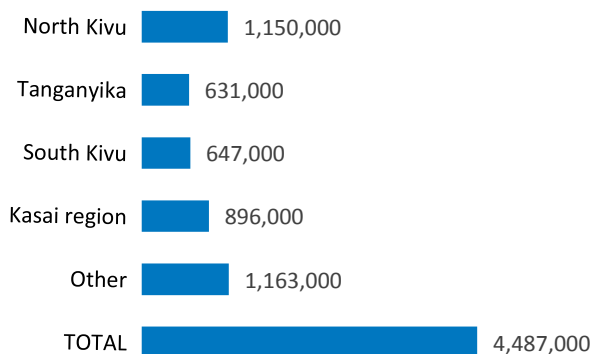
FUNDING 2018 (AS OF 28 FEBRUARY 2018)

USD 202.4 M

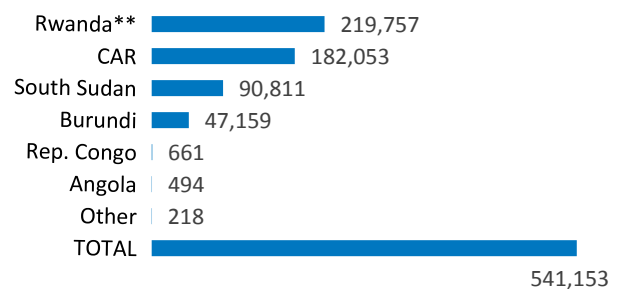
requested for the DRC (including special situations)



Internally Displaced People by Province *



Refugees by country of origin



* Source: OCHA (31 December 2017)

**This figure is based on a pre-registration exercise conducted by the National Commission for Refugees in 2014-2015. Biometric registration is ongoing. So far, 42,132 refugees were registered.

Update on Achievements

Burundian refugees

- In February, 966 refugees were transferred to Mulongwe site from transit centers. At the end of the month, the total number of refugees in Mulongwe was 2,668 including 11 newborn babies and 29 cases of family reunification registered on 8th February.
- 363 new arrivals from Burundi were registered in Monge Monge Transit Center between 14th and 15th February.
- UNHCR's Protection team visited 12 refugees detained by the national police in a prison near Lusenda. Following the visit, nine of them were released. The team also reported bad detention conditions, and plans to advocate with the police to improve the situation.
- In Mulongwe site, 477 students, among them 427 refugees, received school material, including notebooks, pens, crayons, etc. from Education Cluster contingency stock. Partner ActionAid identified other 1,840 students who did not received the kit yet and who will be served in the coming weeks.
- The rehabilitation of the Katalukulu Health Center near Mulongwe site was completed and medical staff was hired. The Center will be fully operational at the beginning of March and will enable refugees to receive free healthcare and locals to benefit from reduced fees.
- An awareness campaign about HIV/AIDS was organized in Lusenda and Mulongwe sites offering free voluntary screening. 100 refugees reached by the campaign opted for the screening.
- In Lusenda camp, a new water tank was installed, bringing water availability up to 17.5 liter per person per day. In Mulongwe site, 12 latrines and 7 showers were completed and other 48 latrines and 38 showers were under construction for the common dorms.
- In Mulongwe, 20 common dorms were completed and 478 refugee households received their plot of land where they can build their own shelter and latrine. 320 shelter and latrine kits were distributed to households in order to speed up the process. UNHCR and its partners provide technical assistance for the construction work.
- 409 hectares of cultivable land were identified in Mulongwe and will be shortly made available for refugee households for farming, in addition to 87 hectares already available. Furthermore, 1,400 young refugees were identified to participate in professional trainings.
- Due to budget constraints, on 7th February, World Food Programme (WFP) announced that only one food fair will be organized for January and February. Moreover, the amount of the voucher will be reduced from 15\$ to 12\$ starting from March. Refugees organized peaceful demonstrations against these reductions. In Mulongwe, WFP held the first food fair of 2 days on 6th February. Furthermore, 26 people with specific needs as well as their families living outside the camp received food supplies for three months from WFP through partner ADES.



Above: construction of common dorms in Mulongwe site. Below: refugee building their own shelter in Mulongwe site
 ©UNHCR/C. Veale

Central African refugees

- Two new UNHCR offices, in Bondo and Monga, were opened to provide better protection and assistance to new arrivals from the Central African Republic concentrated in remote areas of Bas-Uele Province.
- The road connecting Monga to Ndu (Bondo Territory, Bas-Uele Province) is now accessible by vehicles, which will ease access to persons of concern. Logistics partner AIRD rehabilitated nine bridges, while a tenth bridge was under rehabilitation. Biometric registration in Ndu area, where high concentration of refugees was reported, was planned for the coming weeks. In parallel, the rehabilitation of the 110 km long road between Yakoma (Nord-Ubangi Province) and Monga was completed with four bridges rehabilitated. Moreover, the works to rehabilitate the airstrip in Monga were completed with the support of UNHCR's partner Terre Sans Frontières (TSF). The next step will be the first reconnaissance flight towards Monga.
- In Bili camp, refugee protests continued against in-kind food assistance instead of cash, while cash is distributed in all the other refugee camps of the area. All mediation efforts

initiated by UNHCR, local authorities and the refugee committee had so far been unsuccessful.

- In Nord-Ubangi, two boreholes in Gombo and Yomba localities (Mobay-Mbongo Territory) were under rehabilitation, as well as of one drilling in Limasa (Yakoma Territory). Two more boreholes and a water spring were dug in Yakoma and Satema.
- Clothes donated by Japanese fashion company UNIQLO, were distributed to 15,760 refugees in Inke camp. Similar clothes distributions took place in 2017 in the three camps of Mole, Boyabu and Bili as well as in surrounding areas. Distribution will continue to host communities outside the camps.
- The primary school of Monga (Bas-Uele Province) was rehabilitated but equipment is needed, while works on another school building were ongoing in Ndu (Bas-Uele Province). Both refugee and local students will benefit from these rehabilitations.
- On 21st February, UNHCR partner AIDES (*Action et Intervention pour l'Encadrement Développement Social*) established a Joint Committee composed of refugees and locals in Kambo, a village located about 18 km from Gbadolite (Nord-Ubangi Province) which saw its population double with the arrivals of refugees. In its activities, the Committee will aim to promote social cohesion between refugees and host communities through conflict prevention and management, by raising awareness of cooperation and providing mediation.



Rehabilitation of a bridge along the road between Monga and Ndu, Bondo Territory, Bas –Uele Province © UNHCR/G. Nentobo



Rwandan refugees

- Voluntary repatriation continued at a slow pace in February, with 290 Rwandan refugees returned voluntarily to their home country during the month, as observed already in January. Sensitization radio messages continued to be aired and sensitization in the field resumed but with limited results, as rumors spread among refugee communities about assistance upon return to Rwanda being stopped or decreased. Actions need to be taken to appropriately inform refugees and increase the trend.
- In Goma Transit Center, a space for biometric verification of Rwandan refugees was set up.

South Sudanese refugees

- 790 South Sudanese refugees were registered with biometrics during February in Meri and Biringi sites. Registered refugees included new arrivals who reported recent attacks on civilians in South Sudan and others who stayed with hosting families in border areas, and decided to move because of food scarcity.
- Two new school buildings, one in Biringi and one in Aba (Meri), were handed over to the local authorities. At Kaka site, the primary school newly renovated and equipped by UNHCR was operational. Pupils previously sat on bricks on the ground during class due to lack of furniture; now, desks and benches provide a more conducive learning environment.
- UNHCR acquired a water drilling machine and provided training on its use to ADES partner staff. Two boreholes were already drilled at the Aru transit center and in Aru town. A third borehole is planned in Biringi site for early March. More boreholes are needed in Meri site where water availability is below 9 liters per person per day instead of the standard 20 liters.
- UNHCR operational partner CARITAS Mahagi – Nioka distributed non-food items to 1,620 refugee households at Meri site as well as 1,210 hygiene kits to women and girls.
- UNHCR distributed clothes to 1,351 refugees at Kaka site (Haut - Uele Province) and soap, fabric, clothes and sandals to 67 persons with specific needs (unaccompanied children, pregnant and lactating women, women head of household, elderly and chronically ill people).
- UNHCR partner ADSSE supported South Sudanese refugees living in sites with the preparation of the upcoming agricultural season, providing trainings and technical advices from agronomists. ADSSE provided also business training to nine bakers and six millers from Meri site and professional training to 43 tailors and hairdressers.
- UNHCR provided office space to the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) at refugee sites to facilitate their work of family tracing and reunification for unaccompanied and separated children.
- Due to budget constraints, World Food Programme (WFP) announced the amount of the cash vouchers for food purchase will be reduced by 20% starting from March.

Internally Displaced People (IDPs)

Ituri

- Since 2nd February, violence in Djugu Territory (Ituri Province), escalated and forced a large number of Congolese to flee to neighboring Mahagi, Irumu and Aru territories and the city of Bunia, while others crossed Lake Albert by boat to Uganda. According to Provincial Authorities, over 200,000 people were displaced, while around 29,000 crossed into Uganda since the beginning of the year.
- UNHCR contributed to an OCHA-led response plan for 50,000 internally displaced persons in Bunia and surroundings, to be extended to other areas as soon as the needs assessment is completed.
- UNHCR sent Protection staff on mission to Bunia to coordinate Protection activities. Other immediate measures are foreseen, including strengthening monitoring, profiling in Bunia with IOM and some limited non-food items provision.



Internally displaced persons arriving in Aru Territory from Djugu Territory, Ituri Province © UNHCR/ A.Cadonau

Kasai

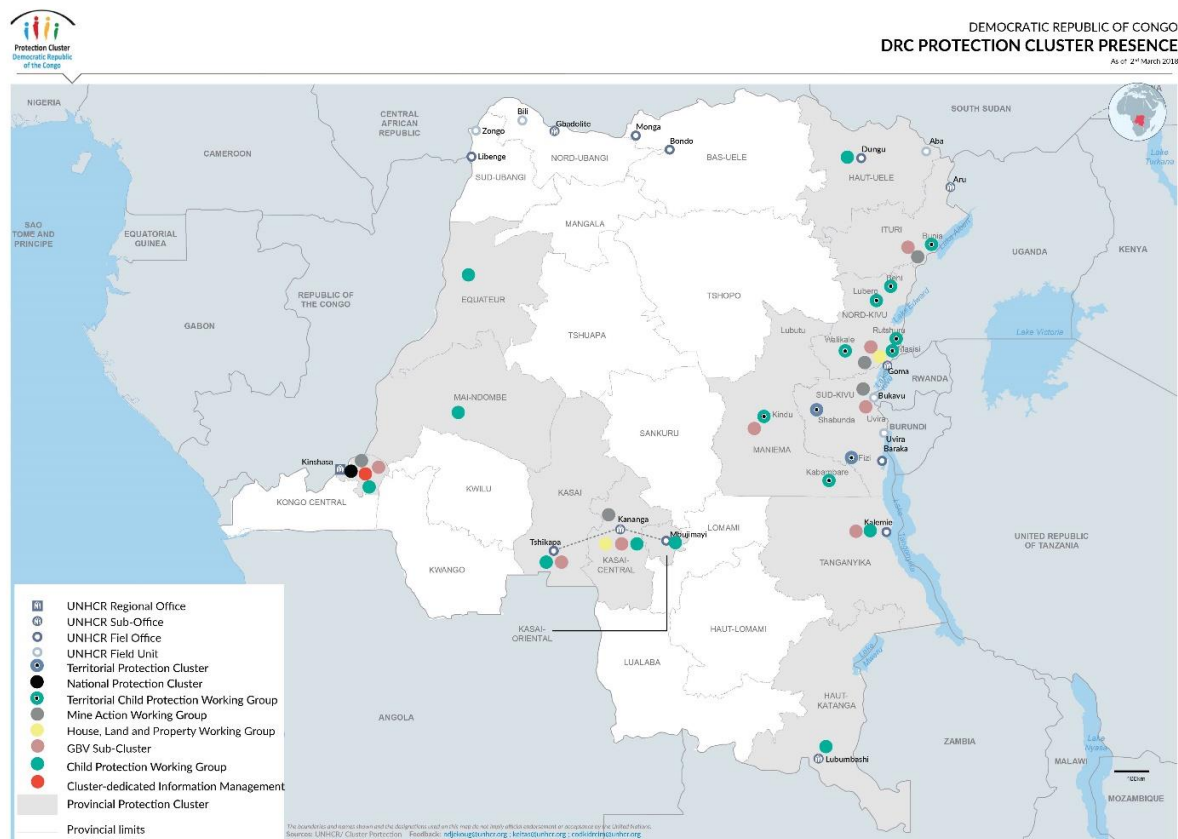
- In Dimbelenge Territory (Kasai Central Province) UNHCR partner ActionAid trained 553 local protection volunteers (256 women, 200 men and 97 youth) on subjects like protection and prevention against Sexual And Gender-Based Violence (SGBV), human rights, women leadership, child rights and peaceful conflict resolution.
- In Kananga and Mbuji-Mayi (Kasai Central and Kasai Oriental provinces) the Protection Cluster carried out information sessions organized with IOM and OCHA in preparation for the Inter-sectorial Area-Based Monitoring System project. The project aims at collecting data on internal displacement and return through a questionnaire covering Protection, Food Security, Shelter & Non-Food Items, Health, WASH and Education sectors. 102 participants (interviewer, coordinators, and support staff) were trained.

Tanganyika / Haut-Katanga

- 25 cases of forced marriage were referred to the Gender and Family Unit of the Provincial Division for Gender and Family in Pweto and Mitwaba (Haut-Katanga). Four mass awareness raising sessions to discourage forced marriage were organized in Kalemie, Pweto, Manono and Moba.
- Fires broke out in three internally displaced sites in Kalemie Territory between 13th and 14th February, destroying around 524 huts. UNHCR provided 200 tarpaulins to affected households.

Cluster Activities

- 199 sexual and gender-based violence survivors were referred by Protection Cluster members for appropriate care in Tshikapa area (Kasai Province).



Critical Needs and Priorities

- In Nord Ubangi Province, MSF Spain will withdraw emergency assistance to CAR refugees settled on the shores of Ubangi River at the end of March. Both refugees and host community access to healthcare, water and sanitation facilities risks to be sharply reduced if no other partner will come forward.
- Further deterioration of the security situation at the border with South Sudan (northern part of Dungu Territory, Haut Uele) urges the relocation of a large number of refugees still in the area.
- UNHCR is no longer able to provide preparatory French classes for South Sudanese refugee children to help them integrate Congolese schools, due to budget constraints. As a consequence, 13% of children supported by UNHCR for education dropped out of school since the beginning of the school year.
- In Djugu Territory, Ituri Province, the need for activities enhancing social cohesion as well as peaceful coexistence is urgent. Furthermore, there is a need for enhanced protection monitoring, documenting of protection incidents, and profiling in order to provide targeted assistance to those in need.
- Only four shelter actors (ACTED, AIRD, IOM and IRC) are working in Tanganyika Province, providing transitional shelters (1,100), shelter reinforcement (5,002) and emergency shelters (3,000). According to the Humanitarian Response Plan, An estimated 470,000 people are in need of NFI/Shelter in Tanganyika Province.

Cash-Based Interventions

UNHCR DRC is progressively increasing the use of cash for assistance to persons of concern. Use of cash transfer can have several advantages: It can increase flexibility, require less logistics, stimulate the local economy, reduce assistance-related costs, and leave more choice to beneficiaries.

In 2017, around 850,000 USD of assistance were delivered as cash grants, benefiting around 10,000 households of refugees, internally displaced and returnees. In the Kasai region, multi-purpose cash grants were provided to 3,000 households and cash support for shelter reconstruction was provided to 200 households displaced and returnees. In Mulongwe refugee site, South Kivu, cash assistance is being used for construction of shelters and latrines, for education and to initiate income-generating activities.

Working in partnership

- Together with the DRC Government, through the National Commission for Refugees (CNR), UNHCR ensures international protection and delivery of multi-sectorial assistance to persons of concern. UNHCR closely collaborate with other UN Agencies and other humanitarian actors for a coordinated and effective response. UNHCR works with 15 implementing partners (ACTION AID, ACTED, ADES, ADSSE, AIDES, AIRD, ADRA, COOPI, CNR, DRC, INTERSOS, NRC, SAVE CONGO, TSF and WAR CHILD) and many operational partners.
- UNHCR leads the Protection Cluster, which coordinate the protection actors in their support of IDPs and other vulnerable. UNHCR co-leads the Protection and Prevention component of the National Strategy on Sexual and Gender-Based Violence in DRC.



Primary school of Kaka site before and after rehabilitation © UNHCR/A. Cadonau/M. Masimango



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Special thanks to donors for UNHCR operations in DRC in 2018

Sweden (2.5 M) | Vodafone Foundation (0.04 M)

Thanks to the major donors of unrestricted and regional funds 2018

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Thanks to donors for UNHCR operations in DRC in 2017

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LINKS

[DR Congo Emergency page](#) – [UNHCR DRC operation page](#) - [DRC Facebook page](#) – [UNHCR Story: Congo dance project helps refugees take steps towards rebuilding lives](#)

