

THE DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO SITUATION

MAY 2018

The situation in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) is one of the world's most **complex and challenging yet forgotten crises**. As of 31 May, over 772,000 Congolese refugees are being hosted in countries in Africa.

From 1 January to 31 May alone, some 104,351 Congolese fled to neighboring countries, with a particularly **significant increase** in refugee flows to Uganda, Burundi and Zambia.

On 23 March, UNHCR together with 30 humanitarian partners launched a Regional Refugee Response Plan for \$504 million to help respond to the needs of Congolese refugees in neighboring countries.

KEY INDICATORS



772,052 *

Total of refugees and asylum-seekers from the DRC



104,351 **

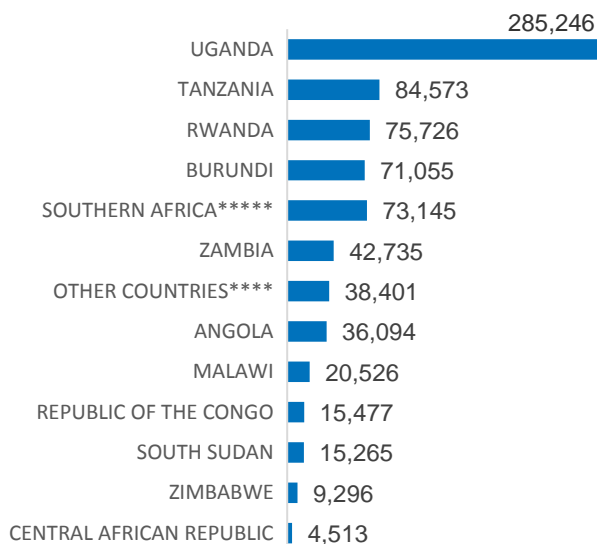
New arrivals in 2018



7,606

New arrivals in May

POPULATION OF CONCERN IN HOST COUNTRIES



FUNDING (AS OF 31 MAY)

USD 368.7million

requested for the Congolese situation

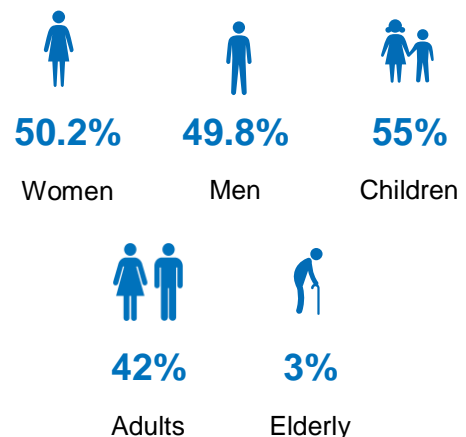
FUNDED
10%

35.2 M

FUNDING
GAP 90%

333.5 M

AGE, GENDER BREAKDOWN ***



* **Total number** includes figures from Angola, Botswana, Burundi, Central African Republic, Chad, Kenya, Lesotho, Madagascar, Malawi, Mozambique, Namibia, Republic of the Congo, Rwanda, South Africa, South Sudan, the Kingdom of Eswatini, the United Republic of Tanzania, Uganda, Zambia and Zimbabwe.

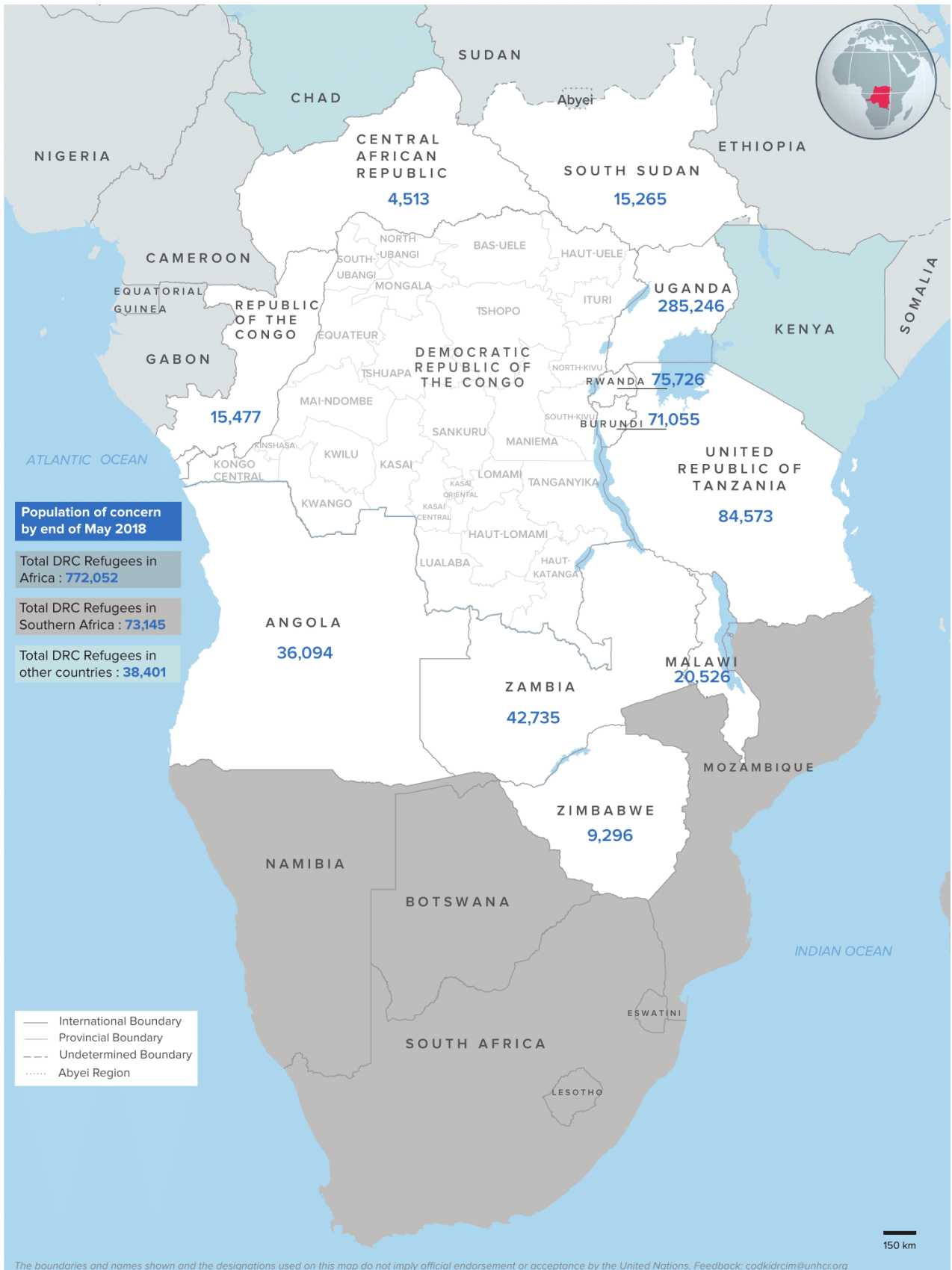
** **New arrivals** include figures from Angola, Burundi, Chad, Central African Republic, Kenya, Malawi, Mozambique, Madagascar, and Republic of the Congo, Rwanda, South Sudan, the Kingdom of Eswatini, Uganda, the United Republic of Tanzania and Zimbabwe.

*** **This age breakdown and the charts** include figures from Angola, Burundi, Chad, Central African Republic, Kenya, Malawi, Mozambique, Madagascar, Republic of the Congo, Rwanda, South Sudan, the Kingdom of Eswatini, Uganda, the United Republic of Tanzania and Zimbabwe.

**** **Other countries** include Chad and Kenya.

***** **Southern Africa** includes Botswana, Lesotho, Madagascar, Mozambique, Namibia, South Africa and the Kingdom of Eswatini.

NUMBER OF REFUGEES In countries of asylum as of the end of May 2018

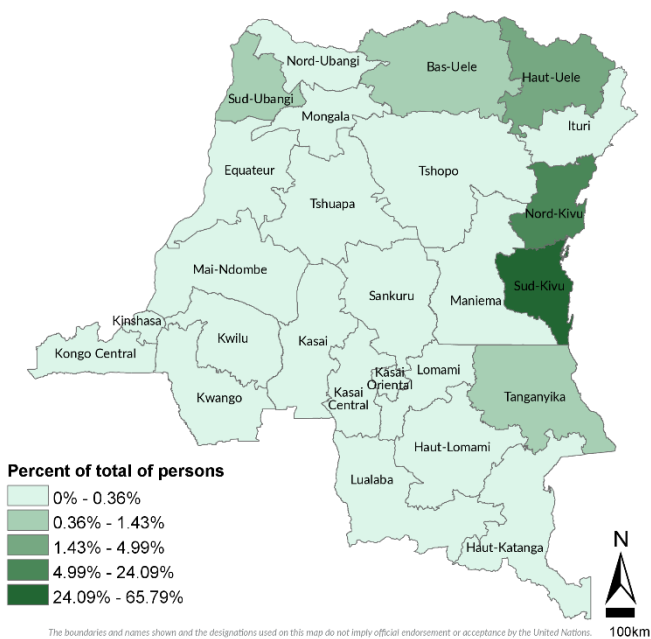


Creation date: 14 May 2018 Sources: UNHCR, UNCS Feedback: codkidrcim@unhcr.org

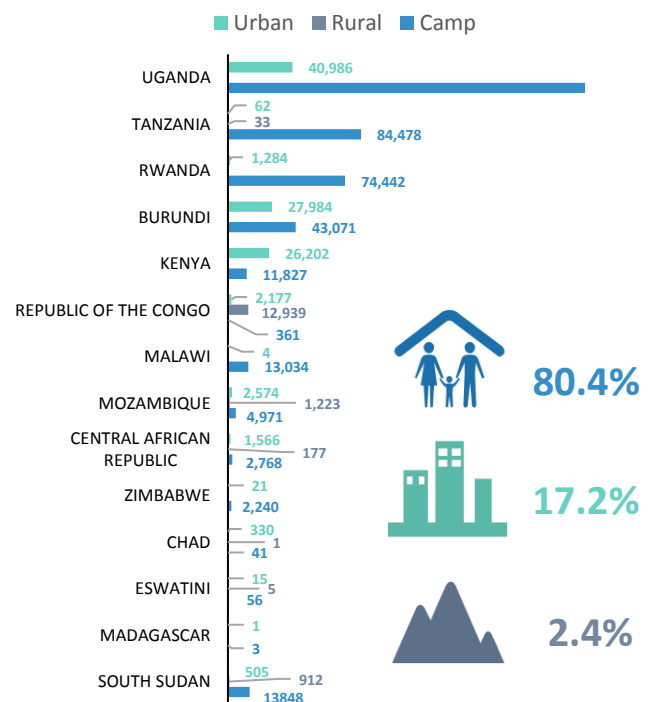
Regional Highlights and Operational Context

- Over **772,052 Congolese refugees** are hosted in countries in Africa that have generously maintained an open door policy in granting asylum to old and new population groups.
- The security conditions in the DRC, especially in the eastern and central provinces, remains volatile with sporadic outbreaks of violence leading to displacement of civilians within the country, and across borders to neighbouring countries. This has placed the DRC refugee population **among the ten largest in the world**.
- At the end of May, UNHCR received \$35.2 million for the DRC situation, representing **only 10 per cent** of the total requirements for 2018.
- Donors pledged **\$528.1 million** for 2018 out of the total requirement of \$ 1.7 billion at the DRC Humanitarian Pledging Conference, organized by OCHA in Geneva on 13 April 2018.
- UNHCR is supporting the Government of Uganda with the **countrywide biometric data verification** of Congolese refugees to address any discrepancies in refugee data. Figures in this update dedicated to new arrivals in Uganda refer to head counting and wrist banding of new arrivals at border collection points and do not reflect individual biometric registration or the results of the verification exercise. From January to May 2018, the Government of Uganda has biometrically registered some 48,840 Congolese refugees with 285,246 as the total DRC refugee population in the country, as per the statistics of the Office of the Prime Minister (OPM).

PROVINCES OF ORIGIN of Congolese Refugees



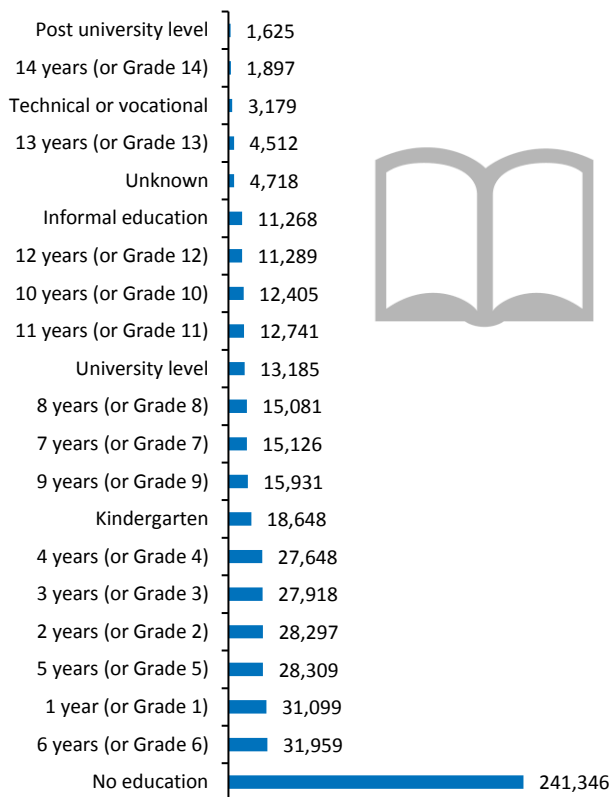
TYPE OF SETTLEMENT In Countries Of Asylum



The above map includes figures from Angola, Burundi, Chad, Central African Republic, Kenya, Malawi, Mozambique, Madagascar, Republic of the Congo, Rwanda, South Sudan, the Kingdom of Eswatini, the United Republic of Tanzania and Zimbabwe.

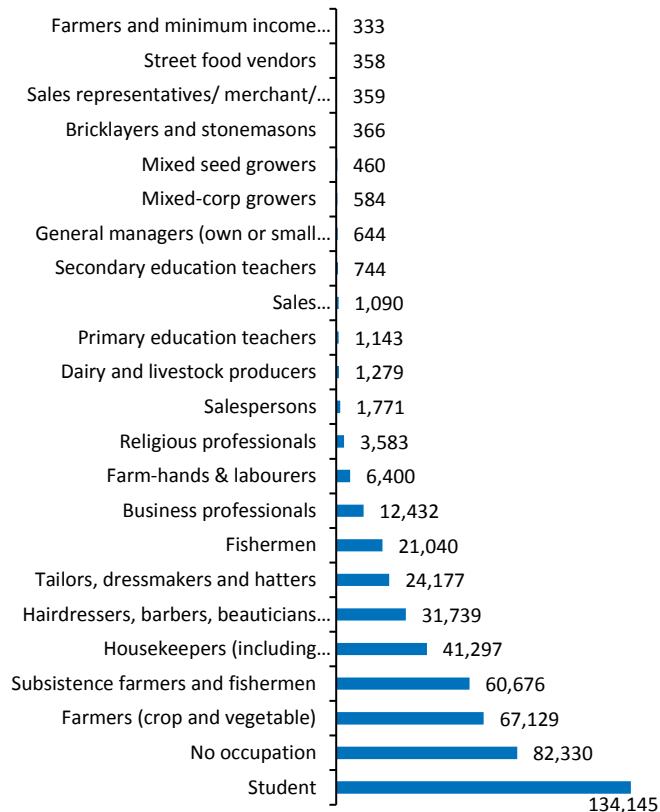
EDUCATION LEVEL OF REFUGEES

Number Of Persons Per Level



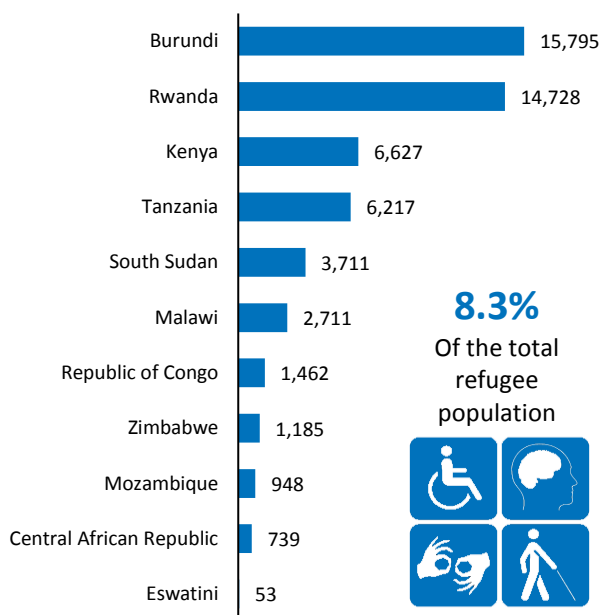
OCCUPATION OF REFUGEES

Number Of Persons By Type Of Occupation



NUMBER OF PERSONS WITH SPECIFIC NEEDS

Per Country of Asylum

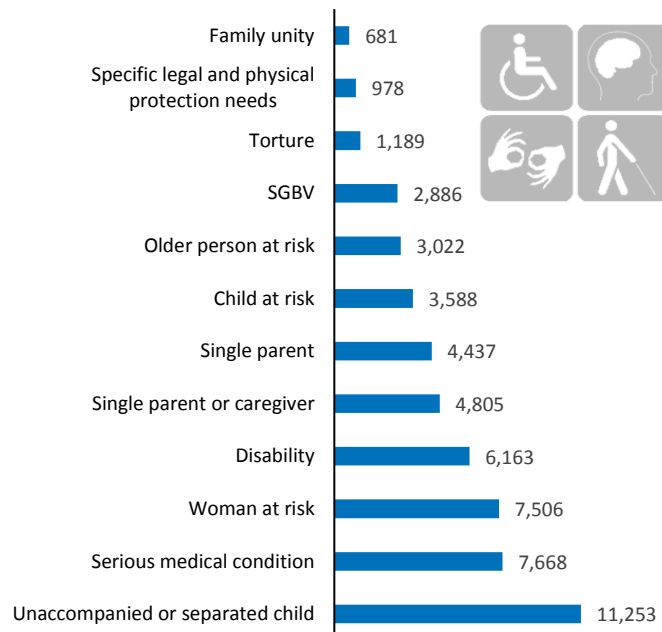


8.3%
Of the total
refugee
population



NUMBER OF PERSONS WITH SPECIFIC NEEDS

Per Category of Concern



* Sexual and Gender Based Violence (SGBV)

The above charts include figures from Angola, Burundi, Chad, Central African Republic, Kenya, Malawi, Mozambique, Madagascar, Republic of the Congo, Rwanda, South Sudan, the Kingdom of Eswatini, the United Republic of Tanzania and Zimbabwe.

Achievements during the Reporting Period

ANGOLA

Latest developments

- An extraordinary UN Country Team meeting was held on 14 May, to receive the debriefing from the Special Representative of the Secretary General of the United Nations in the DRC (SRSG), Mrs. Leila Zerrougui. The SRSG, who is also the Head of the United Nations Stabilization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (MONUSCO), met with President João Lourenço on the volatile situation of the DRC and conveyed Angola's good work in supporting a peaceful political transition in its neighbouring country.
- On 22 May, Lunda Norte's Governor, accompanied by two members of the Parliament belonging to People's Movement for the Liberation of Angola (MPLA) and several provincial authorities, visited Lóvua settlement and stated that Angola would continue hosting and protecting Congolese refugees until conditions improve for safe return to the DRC.

Achievements

- Out of the 35,501 Congolese refugees biometrically registered in Lunda Norte province, 23,319 (5,763 families) received assistance in May. A joint campaign was conducted between UNHCR and the Migration and Foreigners Service (SME) to re-launch continuous registration activities in Lóvua settlement, the first since the closure of Cacanda Reception Centre. About 92 individuals were registered and reunified with their family members, including parents, children below 18 and others due to marital links.
- A total of 3,070 children (6 to 59 months) were screened for malnutrition in Lóvua: 22 cases of Severe Acute Malnutrition and 32 of Moderate Acute Malnutrition were identified.
- The Joint Assessment Missions (JAM) with partners and the Government that started in April in Lunda Norte, was successfully concluded in May. Its findings and recommendations will allow partners to re-design emergency food-security and nutritional content.
- In Lóvua, out of a total of 747 consultations undertaken, the main cause of morbidity was linked to musculoskeletal pain (28 per cent) followed by upper respiratory tract infections (19 per cent), Malaria (16 per cent), and parasites (16 per cent). A total of 2,343 children were vaccinated against measles and rubella, and 787 against polio. Antenatal (ANC) and postnatal care (PNC) services continue to be provided in the settlement: 85 women received ANC consultations; 51 attended their first PNC consultation; all 581 registered pregnant women received "mama kits".
- Currently 41 refugee villages are complete in Lóvua settlement and five new villages are fully plotted to receive refugees awaiting to be relocated. Partners and the Government of Angola agreed to develop a market at the settlement.

- Water trucking in Lóvua continued during May and the first out of six boreholes reached water at 138 metres. About 908 household latrines and showers (benefitting 4,173 people) have been constructed in Lóvua, including in 83 households of people with special needs (PSN).

Challenges

- Although the enrolment of school children is increasing in Lóvua settlement, with over 4,750 students, the current four school units are still insufficient for the high demand.

BURUNDI

Latest developments

- A total of 48 households of 166 new refugees from the DRC arrived in Burundi bringing the total number of registered Congolese refugees and asylum seekers to 71,055. Congolese asylum seekers usually cross into Burundi through Lake Tanganyika, Rusizi river or formal ground borders in Gatumba (Bujumbura) and Ruhwa (Cibitoke).
- Some 44 households of Congolese refugees from Kinama and Kavumu camps spontaneously returned to DRC, as reported by Burundian immigration officers in Rumonge cross-border area.

Achievements

- Construction of the fifth refugee camp in Nyankanda, in the eastern province of Ruyigi, was in progress during May including road access to the site and works on water sources.
- About 95 households of 331 Congolese refugees were transferred from Cishemere transit center in Cibitoke to Kavumu refugee camp in Ruyigi.
- Camp-based refugees were assisted with food and nonfood items (NFIs), as well as with briquettes for cooking.
- More than 190 refugees were resettled to a third country in May, bringing the number of resettled Congolese refugees in Burundi to 1,145 since the beginning of 2018. About 93 cases were submitted for resettlement bringing the number of submitted cases to 618 since the beginning of the year.
- Street lights in refugee camps were installed. Refugees were consulted to agree on the places where they would be placed. Street lights will eventually contribute to the fight against sexual gender based violence (SGBV) in refugee camps.

Challenges

- The operation remains underfunded, resulting in delays in properly addressing the needs of refugees.

- Delays in site allocation for new camps and /or transit centers remains a challenge, anticipating a mass influx from the DRC.

MALAWI

Latest developments

- During May, there were 231 new arrivals of Congolese refugees in Malawi, bringing the total population from DRC to 20,515 refugees and asylum seekers. Of this, 46.1% are women, 53.9% are men and 55.6% are children, aged 0-17 years. Some 14,788 originate from eastern DRC and in particular from South Kivu.

Challenges

- Congestion and insufficient facilities in transit, reception and camp areas remain a major challenge. UNHCR and the Government continue to work on a possible lasting solution to address the problem.

RWANDA

Latest developments

- Standardized Expanded Nutrition Survey (SENS) was conducted successfully in the refugee camps, with participation of UNHCR, World Food Programme (WFP), Africa Humanitarian Action (AHA), American Refugee Committee (ARC), Save the Children and the Ministry of Disaster Management and Refugee Affairs (MIDIMAR).
- Cash-based interventions (CBI) in lieu of food were introduced in Kigeme camp, providing assistance to refugees.
- The verification exercise that took place in the urban areas of Kigali and Huye was completed, while in Gihembe camp covered 90% of refugees.

Achievements

- Construction work was completed on a community centre in Mugombwa camp, located in Southern province, to support refugee community initiatives. Other construction activities, such as double story school building, protection counselling rooms, and a Youth Centre in Kiziba camp, continued. Refugees actively participated during the construction as paid skilled/unskilled workers in accordance to local labour laws.
- The identification of beneficiaries in Kiziba camp who will receive construction materials for shelter needs was concluded.
- A total of 72 individuals were resettled, out of which 6 to Canada under UNHCR's resettlement programme, 13 to Canada due to family reunification and privately sponsored travel and 53 resettled as a group to the USA.

- Some 977 asylum seekers, about 42% of the total population of 2,327 asylum seekers in Gihembe camp, were granted refugee status.

Challenges

- Water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) facilities in refugee camps remained below the Sphere minimum standards in life-saving areas of humanitarian response, due to a funding shortfall.
- Due to the lack of drainage systems in refugee camps, the basic infrastructures (e.g. shelters, latrines, classrooms, health posts/centres) were endangered and most of them could have collapsed, putting the life of refugees and humanitarian workers at risk.
- Due to heavy rain and landslides, access to Kiziba camp was limited. More than 18 Rwandans in the host community lost their lives. The District Authorities demanded machinery to repair the access road.
- School activities in Kiziba camp commenced with only 65% attendance.

UNITED REPUBLIC OF TANZANIA

Latest developments

- As at 31 May, the total number of Congolese refugees and asylum seekers stood at 84,573. Of this number, 1,770 individuals arrived in 2018, with no arrivals during May.

Achievements

- In response to the Ebola outbreak in the DRC, UNHCR and Health partners participated in an Ebola Preparedness and Response roundtable to review the current Ebola and Marburg preparedness and response contingency plans, identify potential Ebola Treatment Centres, map high risk areas and assess the resources available in the Kigoma Region. After receiving formal approval from the Ministry of Home Affairs and district and regional authorities, UNHCR will be able to conduct systematic on-arrival medical screening in all border entry points in case an outbreak sparks increased refugee flows from the DRC. UNHCR is also working closely with the District Medical Officers in Kigoma Region to identify referral medical facilities in the event Ebola and Marburg viruses are detected among new arrivals. In addition, Ebola surveillance, awareness and sensitization visits are currently ongoing in Nduta, Mtendeli and Nyarugusu refugee camps. There are also plans to conduct a refresher training course for healthcare providers on Ebola in collaboration with the Ministry of Health. The course will cover case screening and detection as well as the use of personal protective equipment (PPE).
- During the reporting period, 417 Congolese refugees were resettled to the United States (407 individuals) and Canada (10 individuals) under the Group Resettlement Programme.

- During the reporting period, the Protection Mainstreaming Task Team (PMTT) began implementing a plan to put protection mainstreaming into action with a series of Protection Mainstreaming workshops. UNHCR, in collaboration with Danish Refugee Council, also conducted a workshop targeting protection focal points across the different agencies in the three camps to raise awareness, increase inter-agency collaboration, and develop a comprehensive action plan on protection mainstreaming.

Challenges

- The operation remains chronically underfunded and this has severely stretched the resources and assistance provided to refugees. The operation requires \$68 million and has only received 1% of funding earmarked for the DRC situation as of May.
- More land is needed to host asylum-seekers and refugees and help ease decongestion in Nyarugusu Camp, which currently hosts 84,457 Congolese refugees. A new site in the Migunga Hills, which has the capacity to host approximately 60,000 people, is being investigated in Nyarugusu. More funding, however, is required to develop the site.

UGANDA

Latest developments

- A total of 5,473 Congolese entered Uganda during May 2018, according to border monitoring at the collections points of Ishasha, Kyeshero, Butogota, Nteko, Bunagana, Busanja, Sebagoro, Nsonga, Ntoroko, and Paidha.
- A convoy from Kisoro district and Kyaka II settlement in Kyegewa district, was involved in a traffic accident, on 3 May 2018, resulting in the death of three refugees, while 34 were injured.
- During May, there were no new cholera cases reported in Kyaka II and Kyangwali settlements. The total of those affected in both settlements since the outbreak in mid-February reached 2,252 cases, with 45 deaths, with a Case Fatality Rate (CFR) of 1.4%. Both Kyaka II and Kyangwali settlements areas now qualify to be declared cholera free by the Ministry of Health
- A spontaneous return of Congolese from Sebagoro in Hoima district to Tchomia and Bunia in eastern DRC by boat was observed during the first week of May. About 60 individuals left from Kyangwali settlement and the villages of Sebagoro and Nkondo, in order to look for their properties and remaining relatives in their places of origin. Refugees returned despite briefing by immigration authorities on the dangers they may face on their way back to DRC, leaving their attestations behind with relatives.

Achievements

- In Kyaka II, a contingency plan for Ebola has been drafted, including a training on Ebola management by the UNHCR medical team.

- Screening for Ebola signs and symptoms continued at Sebagoro, where no suspected cases were identified. The surveillance is in line with the Uganda Ministry of Health preparedness plan, as a suspected case was reported on 21 May, in Kakumiro district.
- The Inter-Agency Coordination Group, at the national level, initiated the revision of the DRC chapter of the 2018 Uganda Integrated Refugee Response Plan, based on new planning figures of 150,000 estimated refugee arrivals from DRC by 31 December 2018. Sector Working Groups reviewed sectoral strategies, needs and targets accordingly.

Challenges

- About 3,500 Congolese refugees among those who have recently arrived continue to be settled in Malembo C, an area of Kyangwali settlement which is not suitable for habitation, due to the absence of a sustainable solutions for water supply. UNHCR is monitoring the situation, while consultations are ongoing on alternative location of settlement.

ZAMBIA

Latest developments

- In May, some 42,570 Congolese refugees were hosted in Zambia comprising 13,136 households, with 317 new arrivals biometrically registered.

Achievements

- By 28 May 2018, a total of 6,621 Congolese refugees (2,205 households) had been relocated from Kenani Transit Centre to Mantapala Refugee Settlement, representing over 43% of the registered refugees in Nchelenge District.
- Together with humanitarian and development partners, UNICEF and UNHCR supported interventions of the Ministry of General Education (MoGE) in the education sector. Education partners (Plan International and Save the Children) started the construction of 24 classrooms in Mantapala Refugee Settlement to expand the absorption capacity to 3,450 children, including early, primary and secondary education programs, with gender equality aspects as they have equal proportion of boys, girls and Children with Special Educational Needs (CSEN).
- UNHCR and the Office of the Commissioner for Refugees (COR) undertook joint field consultations to introduce the Comprehensive Refugee Response Framework (CRRF) to all partners in Nchelenge District and to also ensure that there is a common understanding on this new way of working. The same consultations took place on 30 May in Kalumbila District, where the Meheba Refugee Settlement is located.
- A total of 2,270 individuals accessed curative and preventive services (1,246 in Kenani Transit Centre and 1,024 in Mantapala Refugee Settlement) during the reporting period. Among them, 766 (33.7%) were children under five.

Challenges

- There is limited funding to support the Congolese situation impacting the response to the needs of refugees and asylum seekers.
- Poor inner road network in Mantapala Refugee Settlement remains a challenge for the operation.
- There are delays to adjudicate cases of new arrivals in Meheba Refugee Settlement.

ZIMBABWE

Latest developments

- A total of 82 new arrivals from DRC were registered in Tongogara refugee camp, with a total population of Congolese refugees and asylum seekers of 9,300 at the close of the reporting month. The rate of new arrivals from DRC into Zimbabwe has been steady since the beginning of the year at 80 people per month, largely from South Kivu.

Achievements

- The Zimbabwe Refugee Committee (ZRC), the refugee status determining body, held its second session in May at Tongogara Refugee Camp. A total of 60 asylum applications were considered, out of which 13 cases were granted refugee status, five were rejected at the first instance, and 42 cases were deferred to allow for further assessments. UNHCR attended the session in its capacity as an observer and technical advisor to the committee. The majority of the applicants were from conflict affected provinces of DRC.
- 178 refugees were processed for the US Refugee Admissions Program by the Resettlement Support Centre Team during the reporting period. Of this figure, 149 are Congolese refugees.

Challenges

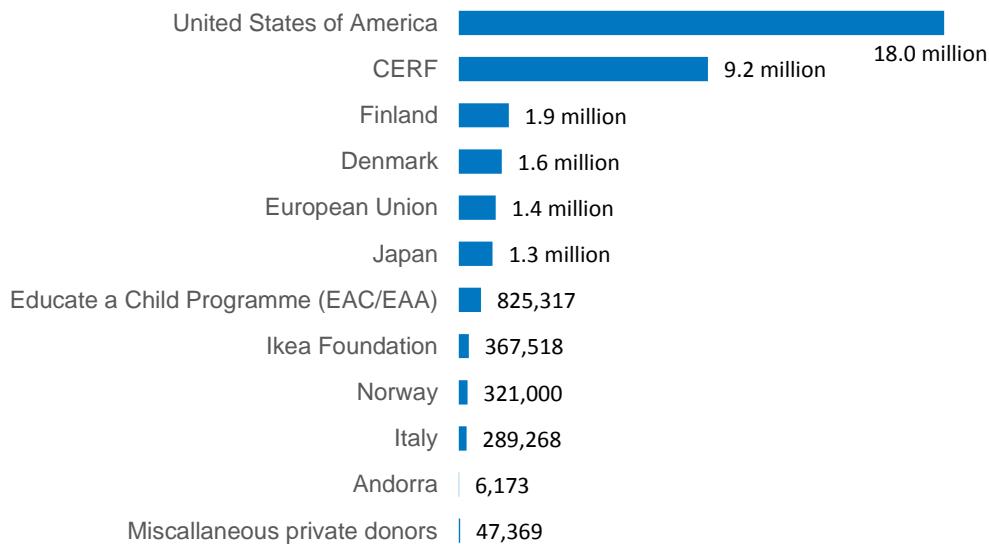
- Timely provision of shelter continues to be a challenge owing to inadequate resources. Consequently the reception center at the Tongogara camp is stretched beyond its capacity.
- Budget reductions have restricted UNHCR's border and detention monitoring activities, which ensure access to territory for all asylum seekers and alternatives to detention.

Financial Information

UNHCR is very grateful for the financial support provided by donors who have contributed to our activities with unearmarked and broadly earmarked funds as well as for those who have contributed directly to the DRC situation or operations.

FUNDING (in million USD)

Earmarked contributions for the DRC situation amount to some **\$35.2 million** as of 31 May 2018.



BROADLY EARMARKED CONTRIBUTIONS

Special thanks to the major donors of broadly earmarked contributions that can potentially be used for this situation or region due to their earmarking to a related DRC situation, sub-region, country or theme.

United States of America 77.8 million | Canada 6.6 million | Private donors Australia 5 million | Sweden 3.2 million

UNEARMARKED CONTRIBUTIONS

Special thanks to the major donors of unearmarked contributions of over \$10 million.

Sweden 98.2 million | Norway 42.5 million | Netherlands 39.1 million | Private donors Spain 32.9 million | United Kingdom 31.7 million | Denmark 25.5 million | Australia 18.9 million | Switzerland 15.2 million | Private donors Republic of Korea 12.6 million | Italy 11.2 million

External Relations

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Links – Web Portals

UNHCR DRC Situation Data Portal: <https://data.unhcr.org/DRC>

UNHCR News & Stories:

- UNHCR chief calls for increased support for Congolese refugees
<http://www.unhcr.org/news/latest/2018/4/5ad07f294.html>
- Fleeing across Lake Albert to escape DR Congo violence
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gB2eQhHSXH0>