

Democratic Republic of the Congo

1 – 15 October 2019

This document provides a mid-month update on major developments between the publication of UNHCR's monthly Operational Update.

Refugees

- In Sud Ubangi Province, about 4,127 Central African refugees in Mole and Boyabu camps confirmed their **intention to voluntarily return** to parts of the Central African Republic (CAR). UNHCR organised a “Go and See” mission to CAR to allow refugees to make an informed decision.
- The construction of the new **Bele settlement** for South Sudanese refugees is ongoing in Haut Uele Province. As of 15 October, all 14 planned communal **latrine and shower blocks** were completed, as well as 331 family latrines and shower blocks out of 500 planned.
- UNHCR's partner Terre Sans Frontières (TSF) distributed **education kits** (pens, books, school bags and uniforms) to 130 Central African and local primary school pupils in the refugee-hosting locality of Ndu, Bas-Uele Province, to encourage school attendance for out-of-camp refugees. TSF also launched **vocational trainings** for 85 adolescent Central African refugees in three refugee-hosting localities in the Province. The trainings include tailoring and business management, with the aim of encouraging self-reliance activities.
- UNHCR transferred **300 Burundian asylum-seekers** from Sange Assembly Point to Kavimvira Transit Center, in South Kivu Province where they received assistance.
- **51 South Sudanese refugees** (17 households) were registered at the Aru Transit Center before being transferred to Biringi settlement, Ituri Province. They received basic household items as well as food rations.
- In Biringi refugee settlement, Ituri Province, UNHCR and partners distributed **underwear donated by PUMA/STICHD** to 1,607 women and girls. In addition, 1,285 women and girls of childbearing age received sanitary pads. Other in-kind donations included soap, jerry cans, clothes and household items.
- UNHCR and partners conducted **Best Interest Assessments** for 14 Burundian refugee children at risk, to establish links with tutors, the background of their separation, and to evaluate protection conditions in their current families. UNHCR and partners also conducted **Best Interest Determination** for 10 Burundian refugee children at risk, living in four families. The panel decided to keep these children in their current families, given the children's wishes and the favourable protection conditions.

Congolese returnees

- On 9 October, the **first organised convoy of voluntary repatriations** of Congolese refugees in Angola left Lövua settlement (Angola) with 218 people on board. Refugees were safely repatriated to Tshikapa and Kamonia, Kasai Province, through the Kandjadji entry point and the Mugamba Transit Center. UNHCR and WFP provided repatriation packages, which consisted of cash assistance to cover for food and transportation to areas of origin.
- At the request of the DRC Government, and responding to high numbers of spontaneous returnees stranded at the border, UNHCR started **transporting spontaneous returnees from Kalamba Mbuji to Nkanji**, a temporary Government site situated near Kananga, Kasai Central. As of 15 October, 4,516 people had been transported. In Nkanji, UNHCR and WFP provided **return packages** composed of multipurpose cash to cover further transportation and food expenses. As of 15 October, 6,603 people had received this package in Nkanji.

Statelessness

- On 1 and 2 October, UNHCR organised a **Statelessness Forum** in Goma, North Kivu Province, gathering some 50 government, civil society and United Nations actors to discuss statelessness risks in eastern DRC. The aim of the forum was to validate priority actions, and encourage provincial authorities to make this fight a priority.

Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs)

- In Ituri Province, **armed confrontations and attacks** continued to endanger civilians, mostly in Mambasa and Djugu territories. UNHCR started a new **registration of IDPs** in UNHCR-managed sites in Ituri Province, to help improve humanitarian programming. A total of 4,654 households (17,473 persons) were registered so far in two IDP sites in Bunia.
- Armed clashes continued in Masisi and Rutshuru territories, North Kivu Province, **displacing at least 776 households** (4,464 individuals). Most are staying in schools and churches, in need of urgent multi-sectoral assistance. Some **20,000 recent IDPs** are also staying in the town of Oicha (Beni Territory) in precarious conditions. In the Nobili area, an estimated **4,570 IDPs had returned** to the town of Kamango.
- In North Kivu Province, UNHCR completed a total of **1,447 family shelters** for returned IDPs in Rutshuru, Masisi and Lubero territories. Another **49 emergency shelters** were completed in Kalinga IDP site, out of 848 planned before year-end in Kalinga and Bukombo IDP sites.
- On 10 October, UNHCR began a socio-economic reintegration project for **201 survivors of sexual and gender-based violence** (SGBV) in Kananga, Kasai Central Province. Beneficiaries will receive training in income-generating activities, such as baking, tailoring and soap-making, as well as literacy classes.
- In Kamonia (Kasai Province) and Kamji (Lomami Province), UNHCR and its partner NRC provided **cash-for-shelter assistance** to 2,840 households who were either displaced, expelled from Angola, or vulnerable members of the local community.
- On 2 October in Tanganyika Province, UNHCR and partners welcomed **81 returning IDPs** (42 households) at the port of Moba, after they voluntarily returned from IDPs sites in Kalemie to their area of origin. UNHCR and partner AIRD distributed **42 basic household item kit**, and UNHCR is conducting protection monitoring during the return, to collect information on and respond to risks of human rights violations.

Clusters and Working Groups

- The **Site Management and Site Coordination (CCCM) Working Group** in Ituri Province monitored population movements after reported attacks in IDP sites in Djugu in late September; 675 households (2,874 people) coming from four IDP sites in Djugu Territory were registered in two sites in Bunia and in neighboring Lopa.
- The **Protection Cluster** announced the arrival of three information managers; Mr. Jean Marie Munguakonkwa and Mr. Christian Mughanda in Goma (North Kivu Province), and M. Clovis Kena Mulumba in Kananga (Kasai Central Province). The **SGBV Sub-Cluster** welcomed its new Coordinator for the Greater Kasai region, Ms. Jesinda Tete Lebsonga.

External / Donor Relations

As of 14 October 2019

Donors for UNHCR operations in DRC in 2019

United States of America (32.3 M) | CERF (3.7 M) | European Union (3.2 M) | Japan (2.5 M) | Belgium (2.3 M) | Sweden (2.2 M) | Finland (1.7 M) | France (1.6 M) | Canada (0.76 M) | United Nations Foundation (0.43 M) | Australia for UNHCR (0.43 M) | International Olympic Committee (0.27 M) | UNAIDS (0.03 M) | Private donors (0.11 M)

Major donors of regional or other funds with soft earmarking 2019

United States of America (27.1 M) | Germany (13.1 M) | Private donors Australia (10.2 M) | Private donors Germany (5.3 M) | Canada (4.6 M) | Sweden (4 M) | Private donors Republic of Korea (2.1 M)

Major donors of un-earmarked funds in 2019

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