

Democratic Republic of the Congo

1 – 15 January 2020

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

Refugees

- From 10 to 16 January, **UNHCR biometrically registered 807 newly arrived Central African refugees** (249 households) in Gboko, Bosobolo Territory, Nord Ubangi Province. This is 75% of the 1,181 refugees who had been pre-registered in the area – many had gone back to the CAR due to difficult living conditions in the DRC. UNHCR will provide WASH, shelter and non-food item (NFI) assistance in three villages, where refugees will be relocated so that they can live at a safe distance from the border.
- On 16 January, **a fire broke out at the health center of Bili refugee camp**, home to over 9,500 Central African refugees. It was likely caused by a bushfire. In total, two tarpaulin buildings with a capacity of 12 beds, as well as one warehouse, were destroyed. The buildings contained observation and treatment rooms, as well as a laboratory, the equipment of which was destroyed. All healthcare is now provided at the maternity ward, which remained intact. UNHCR's partner AIRD is preparing a quote for the construction of a new building.
- On 13 January in Rome (Italy), leaders of the South Sudan Government and of opposition movements **committed to a "Cessation of Hostilities Agreement."** A violation of this agreement could lead to renewed fighting and a potential new wave of refugee arrivals into DRC. In the meantime, low-intensity conflict continued in the region of Yei, South Sudan, leading to some refugee arrivals into DRC.
- In Bosobolo Territory, **UNHCR distributed cash assistance to 590 refugee and local households affected by the floods** that hit Nord and Sud Ubangi in late 2019. Among them, 238 households also received non-food items (NFIs) such as sleeping mats, mosquito nets, tarpaulins and blankets. This brings to 4,001 the total of households who received cash since the floods, including 1,350 who received NFIs.
- UNHCR, in coordination with CNR, IOM, AIRD and AIDES, prepared for the **resettlement of nine Burundian refugees to Canada**. The refugees travelled to Kinshasa, capital of the DRC, for medical screenings and to initiate their visa process. Where possible, resettlement is one of the durable solutions for refugees.

Congolese returnees

- UNHCR conducted a **post-distribution monitoring evaluation following the first two repatriation convoys** that arrived in Kananga, Kasai Central Province, in November 2019. In total, 610 repatriates (200 in the first convoy and 410 in the second convoy) received the return package in Kananga, consisting of cash assistance. According to the evaluation, all of them have now reached their final destinations, and some already started income-generating activities in the city of Kananga.
- The **next repatriation convoy** will cross the DRC-Angola border on 11 February, in Kasai Central Province. Repatriation to Kasai Province, is postponed to allow for the rehabilitation of the Lóvua-Kandjaji road.

Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs)

- As of 13 January, a total of **1,233 shelters, out of 2,300 planned, were built** by UNHCR's partner Caritas in the new displacement site of Kigonze in Bunia (Ituri Province), and are now inhabited. Relocation of IDPs to the new site is ongoing, to decongest the other two sites of Bunia.
- In 2019, **a total of 2,080 shelters made of local materials and 1,089 communal latrines** were completed by UNHCR's partner AIDES in North Kivu Province's Masisi, Lubero and Rutshuru territories for IDPs who returned to their area of origin. Another **2,348 emergency shelters** were built for IDPs in Masisi, Rutshuru and Lubero territories. In addition, AIDES completed the construction of 20 community dormitories to accommodate 120 displaced households, as well as eight classrooms to expand the school capacity in Oicha, Beni Territory.

Clusters and Working Groups

- On 10 January, the Protection Cluster published a [note](#) by UNHCR and INTERSOS on the **protection situation in Nyanzale** (Rutshuru Territory, North Kivu Province) and its surroundings. Recommendations were to launch a large-scale multisectoral assistance programme on the Mweso-Nyanzale axis, and to find urgent solutions for the 16 former child soldiers present in Nyanzale.
- On 15 January, the Protection Cluster published an [analysis](#) by UNHCR and INTERSOS on the **protection situation in Irumu and Djugu territories** (Ituri Province). The main urgent needs highlighted were cash and food, security, menstrual hygiene kits for women and girls, PEP kits for rape survivors, non-food items, and health and education support.

External / Donor Relations

As of 17 January 2020

Donors for UNHCR operations in DRC in 2020

United Nations Foundation (0.32 M) | International Olympic Committee (0.23 M) | European Union (0.17 M)

Major donors of regional or other funds with soft earmarking 2020

Germany (8.4 M) | Canada (2.3 M)

Major donors of un-earmarked funds in 2020

Sweden (76.4 M) | Norway (41.4 M) | Netherlands (36.1 M) | Denmark (34.6 M) | United Kingdom (31.7 M) | Germany (26.4 M) | Switzerland (16.4 M)

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