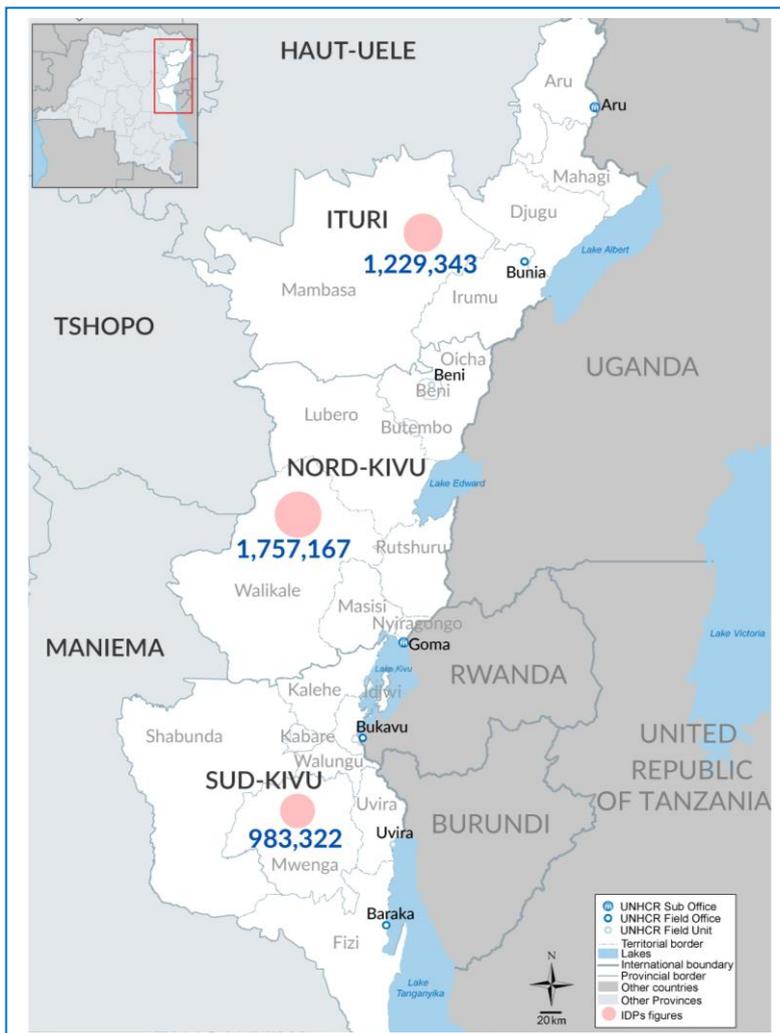


# ITURI, SOUTH KIVU AND NORTH KIVU PROVINCES DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO

17 – 24 February 2020



Focus group discussion with displaced persons who fled towards Beni city, North Kivu Province.  
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## KEY INDICATORS

**4 M\***

Persons are internally displaced in Ituri (1,229,343), North Kivu (1,757,167) and South Kivu (983,322) provinces.

**88%**

Of all IDPs in North Kivu, South Kivu and Ituri are accommodated in host families (3.5 M IDPs).

**231,062**

IDPs are hosted in IDP sites coordinated by UNHCR or IOM as part of the Camp Coordination and Camp Management Working Group, while at least 65,000 persons reside in informal sites.

*\*Ituri figure as of February 2020; North Kivu figure as of January 2020; South Kivu figure as of February 2020. All are estimates subject to fluctuation.*

## Operational context and protection situation

**Ituri Province:** Clashes by armed groups and assailants, and in some cases the DRC army, have intensified in Djugu and Irumu territories; 338 protection incidents were recorded by UNHCR's partner INTERSOS during the reporting period, compared to 267 during the previous week. In southern Irumu Territory, attacks and killings by alleged Allied Democratic Forces (ADF) elements have caused multiple displaced households to flee from informal sites towards IOM-managed sites. In Mahagi Territory, about 600 persons (120 households) fled the village of Ame following attacks by unidentified assailants. Two persons, including one displaced woman, were killed by stray bullets during a clash between the DRC army and armed men in Djugu Territory.

**North Kivu Province:** Amidst repeated attacks by armed groups, the humanitarian situation in Beni Territory remained unstable, with recurring movements of people fleeing out of fear of violence. Attacks by the ADF seem to have multiplied in recent weeks, some targeting civilians, seemingly in retaliation for a military operation carried out by the army. UNHCR's partner INTERSOS recorded 368 human rights violations in Beni and Lubero territories, which is 92 incidents more than the previous week. The majority were allegedly carried out by elements of the Mai Mai armed group. In Lubero Territory, multiple families fled their villages in the Kandole area, following forced evictions by armed men.

**South Kivu Province:** Clashes amongst armed groups, as well as a military operation against elements of the Mai Mai armed group in Salamabila, Kabambare Territory (Maniema Province), have continued to force people to flee to South Kivu Province – the neighboring province. In January 2020, about 35,000 persons fled from Salamabila towards localities in South Kivu Province (Kilembwe, Misisi and Lulimba). This incursion further weakened the timid return movements that had already been observed in Salamabila.

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## UNHCR's response

### Ituri Province

 **PROTECTION** To protect internally displaced persons from sexual exploitation and abuse in the displacement site of Kigonze, and to strengthen accountability towards persons under UNHCR's mandate, UNHCR and partner Caritas launched a community-based complaint referral mechanism. Complaint boxes were installed and focal points amongst the displaced persons were elected; they will facilitate the feedback mechanism and raise awareness amongst the displaced population. Gaps identified by local communities during the 2020 participatory assessment in Djugu and Irumu territories were presented to the Protection Cluster, in order to allow a comprehensive response. Priority gaps included precarious living conditions, limited sources of income hampering access to food, education, and medical care.

 **SHELTER AND CRISIS** On 19 February, UNHCR, as lead agency of the Shelter Cluster, organized capacity-building for different shelter actors, covering the cash-for-shelter reporting and evaluation tool. The aim was to harmonize the evaluation of cash-for-shelter projects and to reduce risks of fraud.

 **CHILD PROTECTION** The Protection Cluster, led by UNHCR, re-activated the Child Protection Working Group in the Province, with the participation of child protection specialists, including members of the global Protection Cluster. During the re-activation session, the discussion focused on capacity-building of child protection actors.

 **CASH ASSISTANCE** UNHCR's partner AVSI identified 365 beneficiaries for multipurpose cash grants in the area of Tchomia. The project's targets are 80% displaced persons and 20% members of the host community.

### North Kivu Province

 **PROTECTION** UNHCR has increased its response in the town of Beni, following continued violence in Beni Territory, and subsequent movements of civilian population, some of whom sought safety in the town of Beni. New permanent staff has reinforced UNHCR's office, which opened in November 2019.

UNHCR and partners held focus group discussions attended by over 200 displaced persons who recently fled to Beni; mainly women. The displaced persons expressed urgent needs in terms of shelter, as most are living with host families or in rented houses. Access to core relief items, health, education, drinking water and hygiene kits, also remains a major challenge. According to CR CLIO, seven emergency alerts were recorded between December 2019 and 14 February 2020, affecting 51,760 displaced households living in host families and collective centers, for the whole of Greater North Kivu.

 **SEXUAL AND GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE (SGBV)** Rape and sexual violence continued to be reported. UNHCR and partners established systems to help survivors access medical, psycho-social and legal assistance. As an example, three women who were victims of rape were referred to medical and psychosocial services by a community-based protection structure in Butembo, Lubero Territory.

Community-based protection structures in the towns of Kanya Kamandi and Buhoyo, Lubero Territory, carried out 10 awareness raising sessions on the prevention of sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV), peaceful coexistence, and child protection.

 **SHELTER AND CRIS** In the town of Oicha, Beni Territory, numerous displaced households who were residing in public places, such as schools and churches, have started moving towards the 20 communal hangars built by UNHCR's partner AIDES at the end of 2019. The displaced persons were previously reluctant to move because of the unstable security situation.

### South Kivu Province

 **PROTECTION** UNHCR identified and reported abuse by the DRC's army elements, who were manning barriers on the main road between Uvira and Baraka. Each person passing was forced to pay illegal fees. Following advocacy, the payments were lifted. A community-based protection structure in Misisi, Fizi Territory, referred the case of a young man who was shot by a member of the army. The perpetrator was arrested by the military court and an investigation is ongoing.

 **SEXUAL AND GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE (SGBV)** An agent of the national intelligence agency (ANR) reportedly committed rape against a minor in Nyange, Fizi Territory. The perpetrator was arrested and turned over to the justice system for further investigation. The victim has been referred to the local health center by the community-based protection structures, where she received further care, including a PEP kit.

 **SHELTER AND CRIS** In Kikonde, Fizi Territory, UNHCR's partner AIDES provided technical support to 600 displaced households who were in the final stages of completing their shelters. Only doors and windows were missing. UNHCR also provided materials for the construction of latrines. Currently, 210 latrines are under construction in Kikonde. Due to bad weather, the construction of shelters and latrines has been delayed.

 **WATER, SANITATION AND HYGIENE (WASH)** As part of UNHCR's Quick Impact Projects (QIPs), which consist in small-scale, low cost projects, UNHCR's partner AVSI partner rehabilitated two water points in Misisi, Fizi Territory, to enable the displaced population and host community to access clean water. Two other water points are being rehabilitated.

## Immediate needs

- **Protection:** from violence and conflict for women, men and children
- **Child protection:** Unaccompanied children, risks of child recruitment and SGBV against minors.
- **Birth registration:** 95% of IDP children in host families and IDP sites do not have birth certificates.
- **Response to Sexual and Gender-Based Violence (SGBV)** against women and girls.
- **Shelter** support is needed for the displaced and host families.
- **Camp Coordination and Camp Management (CCCM)** needs to be strengthened in North Kivu and Ituri. Uncoordinated sites are progressively brought under coordination of CCCM to ensure access to humanitarian assistance and lower multiple protection risks.
- **Core Relief Items (CRIs)** are still needed for many IDP families, especially clothes and kitchen sets.
- **Menstrual hygiene kits** for women and girls.
- **Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH)** needs are urgent in IDP sites and host families, especially in Nobili where over 100,000 IDPs are gathered in locations with barely any infrastructure.
- **Access to education**, the majority of children living in Ituri are out of school, including IDPs in UNHCR coordinated camps. In North and South Kivu IDP children lack the financial means to attend school.

## Background

- Since 6 June 2019, generalized violence led to massive new displacements in **Ituri Province**. 230,357 persons fled their homes between June and November 2019, bringing the total to 1.2 million IDPs in the Province, according to the Commission de Mouvement de Population (CMP), a commission made up of Government and humanitarian agencies. The majority reside in host communities (83%), while 220,000 fled towards 87 IDP sites. Over 141,000 IDPs live in displacement sites coordinated by UNHCR or by IOM as co-leads of the CCCM Working Group.

- Over 1.7 million IDPs are located in **North Kivu Province** as of January 2020, according to the Commission de Mouvement de Population. As reported by OCHA, an estimated 436,000 persons fled their homes between September 2019 and January 2020. The vast majority of IDPs in North Kivu (1.67 million) live with host communities, while almost 90,000 reside in sites coordinated by UNHCR or by IOM as co-leads for the CCCM Working Group.
- Intercommunity violence in the highlands of **South Kivu Province** has led to widespread displacement in Fizi, Mwenga and Uvira territories. Clashes between various communities, armed groups and the DRC's army have worsened since March 2019, and resulted in the forced displacement of at least 322,000 persons. In Kalehe Territory, clashes between the DRC's army and CNRD rebels, which intensified in October 2019, have led 72,000 persons to flee, bringing the total to almost 1 million IDPs in South Kivu, according to OCHA. 98% of all IDPs reside in host families, while a minority have gathered in informal IDP sites (in Kalehe Territory).

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## UNHCR's presence

UNHCR's Sub-Office in Goma covers North Kivu and Ituri Provinces and supervises operations in South Kivu Province. The Goma Sub-Office oversees all North Kivu, while a smaller Field Unit in Bunia manages operations for Ituri. To meet growing needs in the northern part of North Kivu – including Ebola preparedness needs and emergency response – the operation opened a Field Unit in Beni in October 2019, and the Goma Sub-Office is being reinforced with permanent and temporary staff.

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## External Relations

As of 27 February 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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