

# Democratic Republic of the Congo

February 2021

*During the COVID-19 pandemic, UNHCR DRC is producing a condensed monthly Operational Update. Specific information about UNHCR's response to COVID-19 in DRC can be found [here](#).*

## Highlights

- **456 Burundians and 156 Rwandans refugees were voluntarily repatriated** to their countries of origins from North Kivu and South Kivu Provinces.
- UNHCR provided **unconditional cash assistance to 719 internally displaced families** in South Kivu Provinces.
- **Over 200 newly relocated South Sudanese refugees to Bele site**, Haut Uele Province, benefited from **emergency supplies** and access to **shelters**.



*A displaced person and a UNHCR staff member sit in front of a new shelter constructed in North Kivu Province. © UNHCR/Diallo*

## Refugees

### PROTECTION

- UNHCR continued the voluntary repatriation of both Rwandan and Burundian refugees. **456 Burundian refugees** were repatriated from South Kivu Province and **156 Rwandan refugees** were repatriated from North Kivu and South Kivu Provinces. UNHCR is physically verifying all **45,007 Burundian refugees** residing in South Kivu Province to improve the accuracy of data on refugees, and is providing all refugees with new refugee cards, to ensure better protection and freedom of movement
- **Over 40,000 Central African asylum seekers have been registered by 28 February 2021 in North Ubangi, South Ubangi and Bas Uele Provinces** by UNHCR and the National Commission for Refugees (CNR), while the local authorities had previously estimated that in total around 92,000 individuals could have fled from CAR. The registration of CAR asylum seekers is ongoing in South Ubangi Province and it will soon be implemented in the Bosobolo Territory, North Ubangi, whilst the process is already concluded in the Territory of Ndu, Bas Uele Province and Yakoma Territory, North Ubangi Province.
- **Protection concerns remain high in the North East of the country.** During the reporting period, **96 protection incidents**, twice as many as January, **were documented**, the majority of which were committed in Aru Territory, Ituri Province, and Faradje in Haut-Uele Province and were perpetrated by several non-state armed groups and militias active in the region. Over 60% of the targeted victims are reported to be refugees and over 10% among them asylum seekers. These incidents include predominantly violations of the right to life and physical integrity, sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV), violations of the right to property and of

the right to liberty. While psychological support and medical care have been provided to all SGBV survivors, access to justice remains challenging in some areas, such as Faradje Territory.

- In Haut Katanga Province, UNCHR and its partner ADSSE have documented **28 refugees with specific needs, of which 15 have already been taken to health centers to receive adequate medical care and regular follow-up**



### HEALTH

- **UNHCR and partners continue to promote access to life-saving and essential healthcare to the refugee population.** This includes distribution of mosquito nets and malaria treatment, which remains the most common illness among the refugees, as well as support to **HIV prevention**, through testing and the distribution of contraception among refugees and host population.



### WATER, SANITATION AND HYGIENE (WASH)

- **In Lusenda Camp and Mulongwe Settlement**, South Kivu Province, UNHCR together with its partner ADES have continued to improve access to clean water through the **construction of five new boreholes and 24 hand washing stations.**
- **UNHCR and NGO partner ADSSE distributed WASH kits composed of jerry cans, buckets and soap to over 18,700 Central African refugees**, and 500 host community members **in Ndu, Bas Uele Province and Yakoma, North Ubangi Province.** Both refugees and local populations are included in the distribution plan, with the aim to reinforce peaceful coexistence.



### SHELTER AND CORE RELIEF ITEMS (CRIs)

- Over **90 households of 206 people newly relocated in the Bele site, Haut-Uele Province, benefited from the distribution of emergency supplies** such as mats, blankets, jerry cans, kitchen sets, buckets and soaps. 78 out of the 90 households received transitional shelters built together with the support of UNHCR and its partners, whilst 11 households joined family members already residing in the Bele site.
- UNHCR and the National Commission for Refugees (CNR) continue to advocate with the government for the provision of land to refugees for farming and shelter construction in Bele site, as the number of resettled refugees continue to increase.



### FOOD SECURITY AND LIVELIHOODS

- Over **2,400 South Sudanese refugees, including 206 refugees recently relocated from Meri to Bele sites, Haut Uele Province benefited from a general food distribution** which included maize flour, beans, and vegetable oil carried out by the World Food Programme. A joint livelihoods committee composed of UNHCR, CNR, ADSSE, COMIREF and indigenous people will be established, with the task to identify the beneficiaries for 2021 livelihoods activities.

## Statelessness

- **185 women, including 55 pregnant and 130 breastfeeding mothers, have been sensitised around the importance of birth certificates** in the prevention of statelessness, and about the procedures for obtaining birth certificates at the Hopital General de Reference and the Biringi Health Centre, whilst 9 breastfeeding women were referred to the CNR to receive assistance with obtaining the certificates.

## Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs)



### PROTECTION

- **UNHCR's protection monitoring partner INTERSOS documented over 4,374 human rights violations in North Kivu, South Kivu and Ituri Provinces**, including over 340 cases of sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV), with the Djugu Territory registering the highest number of incidents. Psychosocial and legal support have been provided to survivors of SGBV together with cash-for-protection assistance and awareness raising sessions and protection monitoring trainings have been conducted by UNHCR and its partner AVSI on prevention of sexual exploitation and abuse (PSEA) with both IDPs and host communities.
- In order to provide affordable energy and help protect the most vulnerable, especially at night, **UNHCR has donated 5,528 solar lamps to displaced families in North Kivu Province, targeting primarily women** who face greater exposure to sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV).
- In Tanganyika and Haut Katanga Provinces, **UNHCR's partner AIDES identified and documented 27 additional sexual and gender-based violence** (SGBV) cases, with children - especially minor girls - being the most affected category. 11 survivors have received medical assistance so far. AIDES is providing them with psychological assistance and conducting group discussions with 226 SGBV survivors to help them developing life-long skills with the aim to ensure their self-reliance and reintegration.



### HEALTH

- **UNHCR, through its implementing partner Kadima Foundation, donated dignity kits to 80 women who have received vesicovaginal fistula treatment at the Lukonga General Hospital in Kananga, Kasai Central.** The kits, containing cloth, soap, sanitary tape, a plastic bucket and sanitary towels, were distributed in the presence of the Provincial Minister of Health. The distribution also launched the start of a campaign aimed at addressing the issue of fistulas in the province led by the Ministry of Health.



### SHELTER AND CORE RELIEF ITEMS (CRIs)

- UNHCR and its partner AIDES have completed **998 emergency shelters and 2,425 transitional shelters** for IDP families in North and South Kivu Provinces, for a total of 3,423 shelters built in 2021, in addition to the 29,890 houses already completed during 2020.



### CASH-BASED INTERVENTIONS (CBI)

- In South Kivu Province, UNHCR distributed **cash assistance to 719 internally displaced families** residing in the Kalehe Territory – targeting primarily women at risk or female head of households - to help them meet their most urgent needs.

### EDUCATION

- UNHCR and its partner AVSI continued to work to improve the **quality of education for 4000 IDPs and host communities' children**, by building 16 classes in 3 primary schools in Bogoro and 4 primary schools in Tsere, Rwampara district, Ituri Province.

## Clusters and Working Groups

- **UNHCR leads the Shelter Cluster in the DRC**, an inter-agency mechanism that coordinates shelter, settlement, and shelter related CRIs during a humanitarian response for internal displacement situations. In the DRC, it is responsible for coordinating the response to meet emergency and long-term needs. **In mid-February, the Shelter Cluster team carried out visits in Beni territory, where over 40,000 households have been displaced between November 2020 and February 2021.** The Shelter Cluster estimated during the visits that over 23,000 households need shelters, including 3,500 households in need of rent assistance in urban areas. **Throughout the month, the Shelter Cluster led 4 working group sessions to harmonize the shelter partners response in host-family situation**, which represents 70% of the response to the internally displaced situation in the DRC.

## External / Donor Relations

UNHCR, the UN Refugee Agency, is grateful for the support of:

### Donors for UNHCR operations in DRC

Sweden (4.8) | UN Peacebuilding Fund (1.6M) | Japan (1.2 M) | UN Covid-19 MPTF (0.2M)

### Donors of regional or sub-regional funds

Germany (10.9M)

### Major donors of unearmarked funds

Norway (80M) | Sweden (66.9M) | Netherlands (36.1M) | Denmark (34.6M) | Germany (22.1M) | Switzerland (16.4M) | Spain (13.3M) | Ireland (12.5M) | Belgium (11.9M)

## Contacts

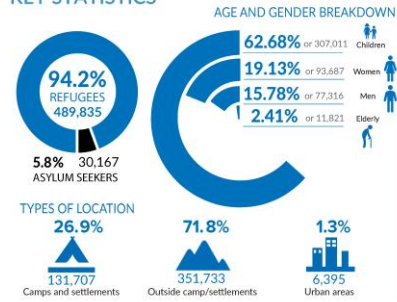
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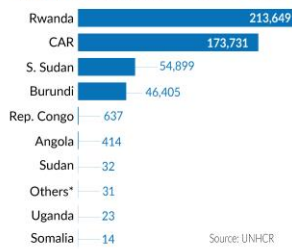
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**520,002**

TOTAL NUMBER OF REFUGEES AND ASYLUM SEEKERS  
KEY STATISTICS



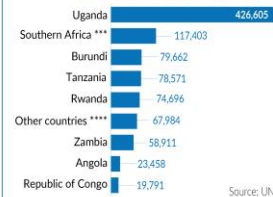
REFUGEE POPULATION BY COUNTRY OF ORIGIN



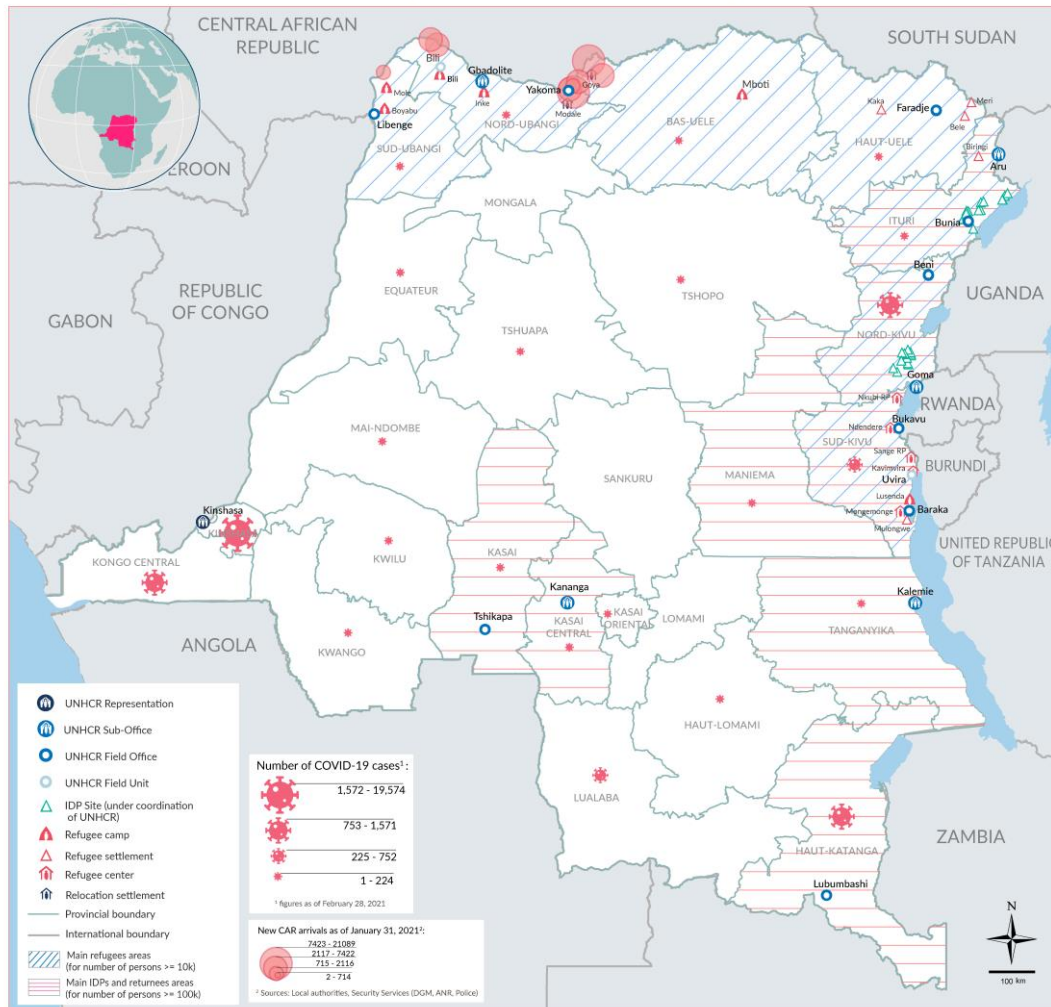
REFUGEES FROM DRC IN AFRICA

**947,081**

TOTAL DRC REFUGEE POPULATION



\*\*\*Southern Africa includes: Namibia, Botswana, Lesotho, Malawi, Zimbabwe, Mozambique, Madagascar, South Africa and the Kingdom of Eswatini.  
\*\*\*\*Other countries include: South Sudan, Kenya, Central African Republic and Chad.



The boundaries and names shown on this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by the United Nations.

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Sources: UNHCR, WHO, CMR, CMR-Covid-19 in RDC and OCHA. For more information on refugee statistics in the DRC, please contact: codrickm@unhcr.org

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Datum: WGS 1984  
Units: Degree