

Democratic Republic of the Congo

April 2022

Highlights

- **149 Rwandan refugees were repatriated in safety and dignity** to their country of origin from North and South Kivu Provinces.
- **441 displaced and host households received core relief items, shelter kits** and food assistance in Rutshuru, North Kivu Province
- **108 households affected by the floods of Lake Tanganyika received material kits and cash** to reconstruct their own shelters in South Kivu Province.
- UNHCR partner World Vision distributed **water and sanitation kits to 5,250 CAR refugees in Nzakara, Sidi and Wenze development hubs**, North and South Ubangi.



A displaced woman affected by the floods of Lake Tanganyika, South Kivu, receives cash support from UNHCR and AIDES to build a home for her and her children. © UNHCR/ Antonia Vadala

KEY FIGURES¹

149

Rwandan refugees repatriated in safety and dignity

174

Children received birth certificates

639

Families received shelter support

6,200

Protection incident recorded by INTERSOS

Context & Security

The security situation in several parts of the country did not improve during the month of April, with the eastern Provinces of the DRC continuing to face **intercommunal conflicts and armed group confrontations**. Killings, kidnappings and house burnings continued in the territories of Irumu, Djugu, and Mambasa (Ituri Province) by armed groups, in spite of ongoing military operations. In North Kivu Province, the activities of an armed group claiming to be M-23 have caused the **displacement of an estimated 55,000 people with approximately 19,000 who have crossed into Uganda**. The movement of military forces to Rutshuru created opportunities for armed groups to intensify attacks against civilians in the west of Masisi and the north of Walikale territories. **Attacks alleged to rebel groups continued in April with at least 22 incursions and the killing of over 45 civilians. In South Kivu Province, increased tensions** led to violence against members of the different ethnic communities and

¹Figures for the reporting period December 2021 – January 2022

serious human rights violations (kidnappings, violent attacks, gender-based violence and in some cases killings of civilians).

Refugees

PROTECTION

- In April, UNHCR and its partner the National Commission for Refugees (CNR) facilitated the voluntary repatriation of of **149 Rwandan refugees in safety and dignity to their country of origin from North and South Kivu**. This brings to a total of 724 Rwandan refugees repatriated from both Provinces since the beginning of 2022.
- In April, UNHCR and partners **documented 58 protection incidents concerning CAR refugees, including extortion, arbitrary arrests and illegal taxes in the localities of Yakoma, Limasa, Modale and Kanzawi**, North Ubangi Province. UNHCR and CNR have carried out awareness raising and advocacy campaigns for the suppression of illegal checkpoints and the return of some refugees' protection documents withheld by security forces.
- Following a monitoring exercise in the Uvira central prison and detention structures in the territory of Uvira, South Kivu, **UNHCR, together with the CNR, identified 34 refugees who are detained to provide them with cash-for-food, psychosocial or legal assistance**.
- From 25 to 29 April, **UNHCR conducted a workshop on the protection and the Best Interest of the Child in Lubumbashi, Haut Katanga Province**. The workshop aimed to increase the capacity of operational partners to better assess and determine the best interest of the refugee child and gathered participants from the judicial institutions, community workers, civil registry agents as well as officials of the Directorate General of Migration (DGM). As a result, the workshop established a committee to determine the best interest of the refugee child.

EDUCATION

- In April, **UNHCR distributed school kits comprised of school stationery, uniforms, backpacks and shoes for almost 2,000 primary school students**. At Meri site (Ituri), the distribution reached 800 South Sudanese refugee students and 200 students from host community whilst in Bele (Haut Uele) 726 refugees and 180 students from host community were reached.
- In April UNHCR partner **AIRD completed the construction of 42 classrooms in seven primary schools in Mobayi Mbongo and Yakoma territories in North Ubangi Province**, whilst 900 benches were built and distributed to five primary school.
- **In North Ubangi, UNHCR partner ADSSE further facilitated the training of over 170 teachers from targeted primary and secondary schools** in Mobayi Mbongo and Yakoma territories. The curriculum included pedagogic training on remedial classes for out of school children.



CAR refugees and Congolese students attend a class in the newly built primary school in Lembo, North Ubangi Province © UNHCR/ Vittoria Moretti

**WATER, SANITATION AND HYGIENE (WASH)**

- During April, **UNHCR partner World Vision distributed water, hygiene and sanitation (WASH) kits comprising of jerry cans and aqua tabs to an estimated 5,250 CAR refugees** (1,050 households) in the development hubs of Nzakara, Sidi and Wenze in North and South Ubangi Provinces to improve hygiene and sanitation conditions and prevent diseases.
- **UNHCR, through its partner ADES, provided technical support as well as cash assistance to 38 Burundian refugee households to support the construction of their family latrines in Mulongwe settlement**, South Kivu Province. This assistance aims at providing satisfactory sanitary conditions to the refugee community.
- To improve hygiene and sanitation conditions and prevent the spread of Covid-19 and other infectious diseases, **UNHCR completed the construction of six blocks of latrines at the Covid 19 isolation centre in Bili refugee camp (North Ubangi) and in the Mole and Boyabu primary schools (South Ubangi).**

**HEALTH**

- During the month of April, **360 CAR refugees from Inke and Boyabu camps were vaccinated against Covid in April, bringing to 1,955, the total number of refugees inoculated in North and South Ubangi Provinces** since 2021, as part of the government vaccination campaign.
- UNHCR supported the enrolment of **49 urban refugees living in Goma into the health insurance scheme**. A total of 692 urban refugees have benefitted from free health care since the beginning of 2022.

**SHELTER AND CORE RELIEF ITEMS (CRIs)**

- **UNHCR partner AIRD completed the construction of 20 semi durable shelters** for persons with special needs at the Bili refugee camp in North Ubangi Province.
- In April, UNHCR provided **shelter assistance to 24 households of 64 South Sudanese refugees and asylum seekers** living in the sites of Bele (Haut-Uele Province) and Biringi (Ituri Province) to improve their living conditions.
- In South Kivu Province, **6 tonnes of biomass briquettes**, which are used as an alternative source of energy protecting the environment, were distributed to the Burundian refugees living in Mongemonge and Kavimvira as well as the assembly point of Sange.

**CASH-BASED INTERVENTIONS (CBI)**

- Between 19 and 22 April, **UNHCR distributed cash for shelter to 2,451 refugees (531 households) in the Modale development hub**, North Ubangi Province.

- In South Kivu, to provide satisfactory sanitary conditions, UNHCR partner ADES, provided technical support as well as **cash assistance to approximately 200 Burundian refugees (38 households) to support the construction of their family latrines in Mulongwe settlement.**



CAR refugees receiving cash for shelter assistance from UNHCR in Modale, North Ubangi, © UNHCR/Nestor Kantore



COMMUNITY EMPOWERMENT AND SELF RELIANCE

- In April, **UNHCR partner World Vision, distributed maize and groundnuts seeds to 109 refugee and host community households in Modale development hub**, North Ubangi Province, to cultivate 60 hectares of land which has been granted to the community living in Modale by local authorities. These activities will contribute to food security, self-reliance, promote peaceful coexistence and strengthen the resilience of both communities.
- **UNHCR handed over soap making kits to 30 vulnerable women from both IDP and host community members in Kigonze and other IDP sites in Bunia**, Ituri Province. This activity, in line with UNHCR strategy for durable solutions, aims to contribute to the self-reliance and resilience of the beneficiaries.

Statelessness

- In Haut Katanga Province, **24 refugee children were identified and given birth certificate.** During this exercise, UNHCR partner AIDES identified 12 unaccompanied refugees minors in Haut Katanga Province as well as in Lualaba Province. UNHCR and partner are working to find suitable solutions for those minors in order to ensure their best interests.
- **In Tanganyika Province, 150 children from 12 to 17 years old from the Twa and Bantous communities received birth certificates** after suppletive judgements in Manono territory. Birth registration is essential to fight statelessness and to ensure that all children have access to basic services such as education and health.

Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs)



PROTECTION

- In Ituri Province, UNHCR's protection monitoring partner INTERSOS conducted a series of **capacity building sessions on psychological first aid for survivors of gender-based violence (GBV)** for 1,430 people, including 140 members of community, medical and legal structures and 1,290 students, pupils and teachers in Ituri Province.
- Between 29-30 April, UNHCR together with its partners FMMDI (Femmes Mains dans la Mains pour le Développement Intégré) and Kadima Foundation **organized training sessions on gender-based violence**

(GBV) and the prevention of sexual abuse and exploitation (PSEA) with traditional leaders and customary authorities in the Kasai Central Province, with the aim to reinforce their capacity and their role in the prevention of gender-based violence and in the promotion of women's rights in Kasai.

- UNHCR through its partner SAFDF (*Solidarité des associations féminines pour la défense des droits de la femme*) provided psychosocial support to 64 GBV survivors, including cases of psychological violence, rape, forced marriage, physical aggressions, and sexual assaults in Beni and Lubero territories, North Kivu. The survivors were afterwards referred to psychological, medical and legal facilities.



SHELTER AND CORE RELIEF ITEMS (CRIs)

- In April, 108 households affected by the 2020/21 floods of Lake Tanganyika living in the town of Uvira, South Kivu Province, received kits with local materials and cash from UNHCR and its partners AIDES and Trust Merchant Bank (TMB). This assistance aims to allow them to build their own shelters and live in more dignified conditions.
- In Beni territory, North Kivu Province, 804 displaced households were provided with core relief items (CRIs) kits, including blankets, sleeping mats, soaps and jerry cans by UNHCR and its partners AIRD and AIDES.



COMMUNITY EMPOWERMENT AND SELF RELIANCE

- UNHCR handed over soap making kits to 30 vulnerable women from both IDP and host community members in Kigonze and other IDP sites in Bunia, Ituri Province with the aim to strengthen their self-reliance and resilience of the beneficiaries.
- As part of the efforts to reinforce peaceful cohabitation, UNHCR and partner AIDES assisted 25 Twa and Bantous households to develop sustainable community fields in village of returns in Kalemie, Tanganyika Province. Technical support to improve the yield of these fields, increasing production crops such as cassava, maize, peanuts whilst strengthening peaceful cohabitation among the different communities.

External / Donor Relations

UNHCR, the UN Refugee Agency, is grateful for the support of²:

Donors for all UNHCR operations in DRC in 2022

Sweden (3,7M) | CERF (2,5M) | Education Cannot Wait (1,7M) | UN Peacebuilding Fund (1,7M) | Japan (1,1M) | Country-based pooled fund (0,8) | UN Programme on HIV/AIDS (0,2M) |

Donors of regional or sub-regional funds in 2022

Norway | Private Donors

Major donors of unearmarked funds for the DRC in 2022

Sweden (95.2M) | Norway (72.5M) | Netherlands (37.2M) | Denmark (35.6M) | Germany (27.6M) | Private Donors Spain (19.9M) | Switzerland (18.4 M) | Belgium (11.9 million) | Ireland (11.8 million)

² Funding update as of 13 April 2022

Contacts

Rachel Criswell, Senior External Relations Officer, UNHCR Representation Kinshasa,
criswell@unhcr.org, Tel: +243 817 009 484

Vittoria Moretti, Associate External Relations and Reporting Officer, UNHCR Representation
Kinshasa, moretti@unhcr.org

[DR Congo Emergency page](#) | [UNHCR DRC operation page](#) | [Facebook](#) | [Twitter](#)