

Democratic Republic of the Congo

1 – 15 August 2018

This document provides a mid-month update. It complements UNHCR's more detailed Operational Updates for the DRC, which cover the full month.

Refugees

- As of 15 August, **6,562 individual identity cards** had been distributed to Central African refugees in Inke and Boyabu camps in Nord-Ubangi and Sud-Ubangi Provinces. The large-scale **verification operation** was launched by the National Commission for Refugees (CNR) with UNHCR's support, in early August. Once physically verified, CAR refugees were given a refugee identity card.
- Amid the current **Ebola outbreak** in parts of Nord-Kivu Province, UNHCR's partner ADES organized mass awareness-raising sessions across South Sudanese, Burundian and Rwandan refugee sites. UNHCR has also put **8 water tanks and chlorine** at the disposition of its partner CNR to strengthen hygiene in Transit Centers, Assembly Points, and Registration Centers for Rwandan refugees in the province. Measures to prevent Ebola must however be strengthened; for South Sudanese refugees, there is a need for 300 hand-washing devices, water chlorination products and disinfectants as well as for the capacity-building of 60 humanitarian staff.
- In the first half of August, **138 Rwandan refugees were repatriated** from Nord-Kivu Province. These figures are pending verification on the Rwandan side.
- Over **500 boys and girls**, namely urban refugees of various origins in Lubumbashi, and vulnerable out-of-camp Central African refugees in Mobayi Mbongo Territory, were identified and registered for the 2018-2019 school year by UNHCR's partner ADSSE, and the NGO LIZADEL.

Internally Displaced People (IDPs)

- On 14 August, UNHCR declared an **L2 emergency in Nord-Kivu and Ituri Provinces**. This will allow UNHCR to use emergency procedures and mobilise additional resources in view of the return situation in Ituri Province, and ongoing displacement in Nord-Kivu Province.
- A mission conducted by UNHCR's partner INTERSOS from 23 July to 8 August found that, in Djugu Territory (Ituri Province), **82% of the 73 villages surveyed were hosting IDPs**, and 85% of villages stated that some of their population was still displaced. While large-scale returns were underway, one main obstacle to these returns was the destruction of shelters; 39% were destroyed in areas visited. UNHCR has launched a shelter programme in return zones in Ituri Province, alongside protection activities for the most vulnerable, and peaceful coexistence initiatives.
- According to UNHCR's protection monitoring, **several thousand households remained displaced** in Kalehe Territory, Sud-Kivu Province, due to inter-ethnic conflicts that occurred in the past year. Other clashes between armed groups also caused the **displacement of an estimated 7,260 persons** from several villages in Nord-Kivu Province.
- Between 1 and 15 August, UNHCR's partners recorded **1,156 human rights violations** in Haut-Katanga, Lualaba, Ituri, and Nord-Kivu Provinces. A large part (550) took place in Ituri Province.
- In Kasai Central, UNHCR and its partner ActionAid have started the distribution of **mobile phones to 1,800 internally displaced, returnee and host community households** in Kananga town and Dimbelenge Territory. They were selected according to vulnerability criteria set by UNHCR. So far,

1,000 households have been given a phone with a SIM card and a mobile money account. Each household will receive a cash transfer of \$100 once the phone distribution is complete.

Coordination activities

Protection Cluster

- The **Housing, Land and Property (HLP) Sub-Cluster** has been reactivated in Bunia, Ituri Province, as increasing returns of IDPs to their areas of origin are likely to create new needs related to housing, land, and property. Returned IDPs may indeed find their property occupied, or delimitations between lands may have disappeared. The reactivation of the HLP Sub-Cluster across the DRC is in line with the search for durable solutions for returned IDPs.

Shelter Working Group

- The Shelter Working Group (SWG), led by UNHCR, shared that an estimated **19,000 shelters were destroyed** and another **33,000 damaged** in the 8 health zones visited in Sud-Kivu and Maniema Provinces. This was found from a joint assessment conducted with the WASH Cluster and the REACH Initiative, to follow up on the L3 emergency alert that ended in April 2018.

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As of 15 August 2018

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