

Democratic Republic of the Congo

1 - 30 April 2019

Clashes in Ibu Ibu, 25km into DRC's Ituri Province, led an unconfirmed number of South Sudanese refugees to relocate away from border areas. Some returned to South Sudan after the incident, but subsequently re-entered DRC to seek international protection.

An influx of Central African refugees has been taking place since 4 April in Mogoro, 45km from Gbadolite, Nord-Ubangi Province. UNHCR and its partner CNR pre-registered 3,829 people (1,096 households).

As malaria remains a leading cause of mortality among Burundian refugees, UNHCR distributed 20,689 mosquito nets in Lusenda camp in April – the camp being home to 29,600 refugees.

Refugees

Burundian refugees

Total in DRC

45,097

As of 30 April 2019

- From 22 to 27 April, UNHCR and the Commission Nationale pour les Réfugiés (CNR) carried out the physical verification and biometric registration of 1,090 refugees living out of camp in Uvira Territory, South Kivu Province. Each refugee aged 12 and above received an individual identity card. Issuing civil status documentation is vital to ensure refugees' rights, notably their freedom of movement, and to address the risk of statelessness.
- As malaria remains a leading cause of morbidity and mortality among Burundian refugees, UNHCR distributed 20,689 mosquito nets in Lusenda camp in April – the camp being home to 29,600 refugees as of April. 20 persons with specific needs in Lusenda camp and Mulongwe settlement also received further non-food items (NFIs).
- UNHCR's partner AIDES distributed 152 hygienic kits to women and girls who were awaiting transfer to Mulongwe settlement at Kavimvira, Sange and Monge Monge Transit Centers.
- UNHCR organized two sports tournaments (football and basketball) in Lusenda camp, as part of an International Olympic Committee-funded project aiming to protect youth through sport. The activities brought together 921 youth including refugees, Congolese citizens, with a special focus on persons with disabilities.
- 438 comic books were distributed by UNHCR's partner Action Aid to two schools at Mulongwe settlement and six schools in Lusenda camp. These comics titled "Mbote Kinshasa" ("Hello Kinshasa" in Lingala) will benefit over 9,000 pupils, of whom 7,981 are Burundian refugees and the rest are local children.
- In Mulongwe settlement, 60 shelter construction kits were distributed to newly-arrived households. The settlement counts a total of almost 6,800 refugees. UNHCR's approach of enabling refugees to build their own shelters empowers them to create their own housing solutions. In Lusenda camp, 415 shelters that were damaged by heavy rainfall in recent months have been rehabilitated.
- UNHCR's partner War Child organized a capacity-building workshop on the basic tenets of protection (including identifying and referring human rights violations) for host community members outside of camps, and representatives of community child protection committees. 26 of the 35 participants were women.

- Together with MONUSCO and OCHA, UNHCR held a training for 68 members of the Congolese armed forces and 66 police officers on international protection principles relating to refugees and internally-displaced people (IDPs).

Central African refugees

Total in DRC

172,725

As of 30 April 2019

- An influx of Central African refugees has been taking place since 4 April in Mogoro, about 45km from Gbadolite in Nord-Ubangi Province. UNHCR and its partner the National Refugee Commission (CNR) pre-registered 3,829 people (1,096 households). However it was yet to be established how many among them fled the recent violence in Basse Kotto, Central African Republic. In addition, 1,467 households had already been biometrically registered in DRC in 2017. They had likely returned to the Central African Republic, then fled to DRC again.
- UNHCR and CNR distributed refugee attestations to 877 of the Central African households who were among the new influx, but who already held refugee status in DRC since 2017.
- In Bas-Uele Province, UNHCR was still facing difficulties ensuring access to healthcare and biometric registration for Central African refugees living in several remote villages in Ango Territory. This was due to the bad state of roads and to insecurity. Consequences were that refugees resorted to traditional healing or to re-selling the food assistance they received to pay for medicines. The lack of biometric registration also posed protection risks for refugees in remote locations.
- UNHCR and its partner ADSSE distributed clothes donated by UNIQLO to 1,532 refugee and local households out of the 2,450 targeted in refugee-hosting villages in Nord Ubangi Province. UNHCR and ADSSE also distributed non-food items (NFIs) to 401 households out of the 1,551 targeted. The distributions were paused following the influx in Mogoro.
- In Bas Uele Province, UNHCR's partner Terre Sans Frontières trained 30 groups of 450 people who will be able to launch income-generating activities in breeding, fishing and agriculture. This includes 301 refugees and 149 locals, all living in out-of-camp locations. Among them, 16 groups of 240 farmers (including 80 locals) received seeds and agricultural tools and were clearing fields for agricultural purposes.
- In Boyabu camp, Sud Ubangi Province, 8 groups of farmers (formed of 80 households) received 1,120kgs of groundnuts from UNHCR's partner AIDES. In two out-of-camp locations around Boyabu, AIDES also distributed 175 machetes to 7 groups of farmers (formed of 200 households).



Influx of Central African refugees in Mogoro, 45km from Gbadolite, Nord-Ubangi Province.
© UNHCR/Ghislaine Nentobo

Rwandan refugees

Total in DRC
(figure based on a pre-registration done by the DRC government)

216,629

Repatriated this month
(figure pending verification)

62

Repatriated in 2019
(figure pending verification)

478

As of 30 April 2019

- **UNHCR and CNR agreed to place greater emphasis on raising awareness of voluntary repatriation in South Kivu Province**, from where zero repatriations took place in April. This, through radio broadcasts, pamphlets and “go and see visits” to Rwanda, in the localities that host most Rwandan refugees in South Kivu, in Kalehe and Mwenga territories.

South Sudanese refugees

Total in DRC

100,005

As of 30 April 2019

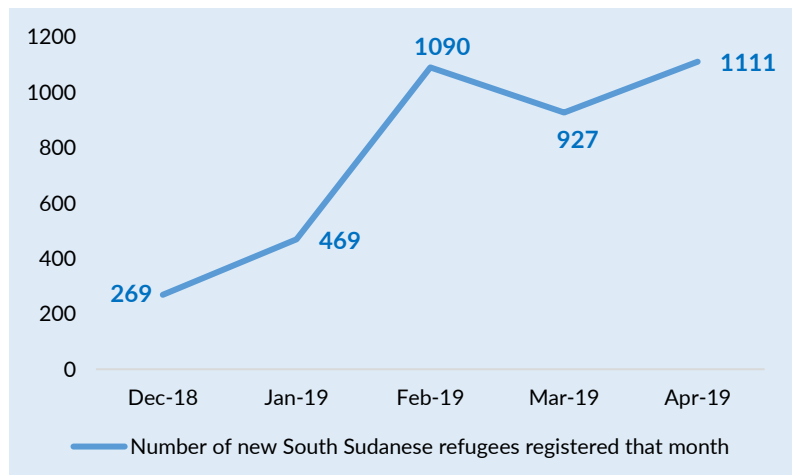
- **Since late April, security has been a concern at the border with South Sudan.** On April 25, an armed incursion from South Sudan into Faradje Territory (Haut-Uele Province) resulted in a clash with the DRC army (FARDC). This led an unconfirmed number of refugees to relocate away from border areas, for fear of repercussions. Local authorities have encouraged such movements. Some refugees returned to South Sudan after the incident, with some subsequently re-entering DRC to seek international protection, given the still-volatile situation in South Sudan. UNHCR is assisting them in reaching safety at Biringi settlement.



UNHCR staff biometrically registering a young South Sudanese refugee who recently arrived at Biringi settlement.
© UNHCR/Carlinda Lopes

- **From 1 to 30 April, UNHCR biometrically registered 1,432 South Sudanese refugees at Meri, Biringi and Kaka settlements, and Dungu town.** Registration helps ensuring refugees’ protection. Currently, 46,090 South Sudanese refugees are biometrically registered in the four locations.

- **UNHCR and partners ADES, ADSSE and CNR gathered information about 30 cases of Sexual and Gender-based Violence (SGBV) that took place at Biringi settlement** from February to April 2019. Ten consisted of physical assaults, nine of denials of resources, five of rape, four of psychological violence, and two of sexual assaults. Survivors were aged 5 to 59.



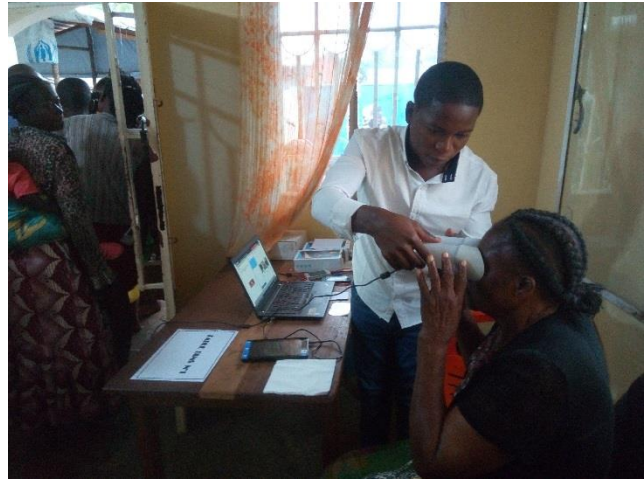
- UNHCR and partners AIRD, ADSSE and CNR **distributed clothing donated by UNIQLO to 35,663 people at Biringi and Meri settlements** – that is 82% of South Sudanese refugees living in settlements. In Meri, the 29,625 targeted refugees also received household item kits (soap and jerry cans).

- UNHCR and the same partners **distributed women’s underwear donated by Puma to 1,943 households at Biringi settlement and 8,576 women at Meri settlement.** 981 women at Biringi also received dignity kits, consisting of a bucket, three pairs of underwear, and a pack of hygienic pads. Dignity kits have been a gap for South Sudanese refugee women, who reported receiving too small quantities, too infrequently, often leading them to share with others.

- **UNHCR’s partner ADES handed over a solar panel and a refrigerator to the Nyalanya Health Centre**, which is used by the 34,000 refugees residing at Meri settlement as well as local population.

Congolese returnees

- **On 17 April, UNHCR and partners resumed the profiling of returnees and expelled people from Angola, after a halt in December.** The exercise uses digital tools to gather data such as fingerprints and iris scans, which help confirm the refugee status of those returning from Angola. From 17 to 30 April, UNHCR and partners profiled 10,767 people (4,079 households), bringing the total of profiled people to 16,088 (6,429 households) since December 2018. Among this total, 1,608 held a biometrically-verified refugee status in Angola, and 2,867 were extremely vulnerable. The results of the profiling help humanitarian actors to guide their response in terms of protection and transport to final destinations.
- **UNHCR and partners reported that expulsions and returns from Angola were ongoing** at the border crossing point of Kamako, Kasai Province, and that important needs remained in terms of protection, food, health and transportation.
- Following an inter-agency assessment mission from 9 to 14 April, **humanitarian actors found that 18,000 people (3,720 households) expelled or returned from Angola have settled or are transiting in Lomami Province.** They arrived in Wikong and Kalanda Health Zones, and in the town of Mwene Ditu, between October 2018 and April 2019.
- In Ituri Province, UNHCR's partner INTERSOS reported **spontaneous returns of Congolese refugees from Uganda's Tchaka I and II refugee camps.** Meanwhile, UNHCR's Uganda office reports that movements from DRC to Uganda are ongoing too.



Profiling of those returning and having been expelled from Angola at the Kamako border crossing point, Kasai Province.
© UNHCR

Statelessness

- **UNHCR's partner the National Refugee Commission (CNR) registered the birth of 95 children** whose birth had not been registered within the deadline. CNR also distributed 36 birth certificates to children who were registered within the deadline, in five IDP sites in Kalemie and Manono territories, and in the chiefdoms of Tumbwe and Manono-Centre.
- In Manono Territory, two sensitization sessions were held by CNR on birth registration, with 193 internally-displaced people (IDPs) participating. These sessions were held after a decrease in civil registrations.

Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs)

On 14 August 2018, UNHCR declared an internal **L2 emergency in North 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 North Kivu Province.

Ituri Province

- In April, UNHCR's partner INTERSOS recorded 5,385 newly displaced people (1,075 households) in the Kpandroma and Bouba localities, Walendu sector of Djugu Territory. However in the Bahema sector, 801 households of 3,980 people who had fled to Bunia, Iga Barriere and Lopa were found to have returned to their villages. Due to persistent insecurity in several parts of Djugu Territory and ongoing military operations in the Walendu sector, cyclical displacement is expected to continue.
- UNHCR and partners collected the long-term intentions of IDPs living in ten spontaneous sites in Ituri Province, including in Bunia. Of the 17,893 people surveyed (4,672 households), 79% wished to return to their area of origin. Among the answers given by IDPs, 59% said they wished to return within 30 days if security allowed, 17% did not know where to stay upon returning, and 73% said they needed a new shelter. The exercise also found that 85% of children did not have a birth certificate, exposing them to the risk of statelessness.
- UNHCR's partner INTERSOS documented 498 protection incidents in the Djugu, Mahagi and Irumu territories. These included 100 violations of physical integrity, 94 cases of sexual violence, 234 violations of property rights and 70 violations of the right to freedom of movement. 20 rape survivors received medical care within 72 hours, while 37 did not, due to a lack of PEP kits in the health centers closest to them. Following advocacy from INTERSOS, international NGOs MEDAIR and COOPI provided PEP kits to several health centers in the Tchomia and Ramogi localities.

North Kivu Province

- Around Kamango in Beni Territory, OCHA estimates that 52,000 people have become internally displaced following sustained attacks, while UNHCR Uganda reported population movements across the border from DRC. Humanitarians present there describe the situation as a serious crisis.
- In Lubero Territory, approximately 50,000 people were displaced in the Kayna Health Zone according to OCHA, while in Masisi Territory, various armed groups continued exactions against the civilian population.
- From 2 to 6 April, UNHCR's partner INTERSOS confirmed the presence of almost 11,500 new IDPs in three localities of Masisi Territory, North Kivu Province, and assessed the protection environment. INTERSOS found that 60 IDPs were murdered, 13 wounded and 20 kidnapped during clashes between armed groups in the first three months of 2019. Another 133 were victims of extortion. INTERSOS recorded 15 cases of rape, mostly committed by armed groups, in two health centers in March, but many more were likely to have remained unreported. Nine prostitution houses were recorded, employing IDP girls aged 14 to 17 who resorted to survival sex. In terms of child protection, INTERSOS recorded eight child recruitments by armed groups, two children killed during clashes and nine unaccompanied children. **There was a need for shelter**, as a majority of IDPs lived with host families despite insufficient space, leading some to sleep in churches. The health center in one of the localities (Kirumbu) was only able to treat benign cases for lack of medical equipment, and had no available PEP kits for rape survivors. There was a school hosting 236 IDPs children in Mweso town, but **IDP parents were not able to pay school fees**, increasing risks of drop-outs. In terms of livelihoods, IDPs mostly worked as laborers in local inhabitants' fields but did not have access to land to cultivate. **UNHCR has put together a response plan which focuses on protection monitoring, community protection, shelter, livelihoods, health, and WASH.**
- Results became available from a collection of IDPs' intentions, conducted in March in 12 IDP sites coordinated by UNHCR in Masisi, Rutshuru and Walikale territories. Out of the 9,811 surveyed households, **45% wanted to settle in their area of displacement but outside of a site, 22% wanted to return home, and 16% wished to be relocated to another site.** This exercise also found that 11,034 children were out of school.

South Kivu Province

- **1,877 households from the Ziralo highlands fled their villages in the Mubugu and Mbinga South sectors (Kalehe Territory)** following armed clashes, according to a joint mission to Katasomwa (Kalehe Territory) by UNHCR and its partner INTERSOS. The armed groups have occupied schools and used school benches as firewood.
- **Clashes have led to the displacement of more than 2,600 people in the territories of Kabambare (Maniema Province) and Fizi (South Kivu Province).** A joint mission between UNHCR and its partners INTERSOS and the National Refugee Commission (CNR) is planned in affected areas to assess the humanitarian and protection needs of IDPs.
- **UNHCR and its partners INTERSOS and the CNR carried out two protection needs assessments;** on the Kigulube axis of Shabunda Territory, and on the Karhala-Birhala axis of Mwenga Territory. In Kigulube, local leadership highlighted the need for the Congolese government to improve the DDR (disarmament, demobilization and reintegration) process for members of armed groups who surrender voluntarily. On the Karhala-Birhala axis, the mission highlighted the need for durable solutions through IDP integration in the area.

Kasai region

- On 3 and 4 April in Kananga, Kasai Province, **UNHCR trained community and religious leaders on their role in a community-based protection scheme, as well as on the fight against sexual exploitation and abuse,** and on UNHCR's mandate. A total of 51 people took part in both sessions.

Tanganyika / Haut-Katanga Provinces

- **In April, 58 cases of Sexual and Gender-based Violence were identified by UNHCR's partner AIDES in Kalemie, Manono, Moba, Nyunzu and Pweto territories,** with victims aged 4 to 69. A majority of cases (31) were committed by members of armed groups. 55 of the survivors were referred to relevant support structures. However, no socio-economic reinsertion activities are currently available, and UNHCR is lacking funds to cover transportation and hospitalisation fees for survivors.
- In terms of response, **64 survivors of sexual violence were receiving psychosocial care** from UNHCR's partner AIDES, including 37 new cases recorded in April. However, systematic psychosocial care is only available in Kalemie Territory. **22 survivors were referred to a judicial clinic** for advice and assistance and 100% agreed to press charges.
- **Out of the 600 shelters to be constructed as part of a cash-for-shelter project in several return villages in Kalemie Territory, 202 have been finalized.** 351 are under construction while 47 have not yet started being built. There is a risk that construction will go beyond the expected project duration. Those who have completed their shelter will receive cash in May, following verifications by UNHCR and partner AIRD.
- **In April, UNHCR's partner AIDES conducted 20 sensitization sessions on peaceful coexistence and conflict resolution** for 2,123 people (956 males, 1,167 females); IDPs in sites and returnees in Kalemie, Manono, Moba, Nyunzu and Pweto territories. Locations were selected according to levels of threats to peaceful coexistence. Radio spots were also aired in the form of series on peaceful coexistence in Kalemie, Manono and Moba territories. AIDES built the capacity of 61 members of 3 local peace committees in Kalemie Territory, in terms of conflict resolution and protection from Sexual and Gender-based Violence (SGBV).

Clusters and Working Groups

Protection Cluster

- **On 19 April, the Protection Cluster published its national strategy for DRC.** It is in line with the Humanitarian Country Team's [protection strategy](#) adopted in April 2018, which focuses on three priorities: (1) protecting population through preventing or reducing violence and protection risks, (2) people affected by violence, especially the most vulnerable, have access to appropriate and adapted multisector assistance, and (3) the protection environment is reinforced in order to better guarantee their rights and reduce their exposure to crises and conflicts. The strategy also reinforces the 2017-2019 Humanitarian Response Plan for DRC, of which two major objectives are directly linked to protection.

- The Mine Action Sub-Cluster reported that four explosive remnants of war were discovered in Kalemie, capital of Tanganyika Province, in the first week of April. They were removed by military authorities and held by the Congolese intelligence services (ANR). The reason for their presence was not yet clear.

Shelter Working Group

- The Shelter Working Group, led by UNHCR, shared a [series of tools](#) for the implementation of cash-for-shelter assistance in DRC, as well as two sets of technical standards, respectively for [tarpaulin](#) and [emergency shelters](#) in DRC. The standards for emergency shelters were developed in southwest DRC (Tanganyika, Haut-Katanga and Haut-Lomami provinces), but can be used as a reference for the rest of DRC.

Cash Working Group

- The Cash Working Group and its partners compiled [documentation sheets](#) on 19 recent projects that use cash transfer modalities in DRC. These sheets aim to share experiences and practical lessons learnt amongst humanitarian partners implementing cash and voucher assistance in DRC. Documentation and sharing of experiences is amongst the key priorities of the Cash Working Group's 2018-2019 Action Plan.

External / Donor Relations

As of 21 May 2019

Donors for UNHCR operations in DRC in 2019

United States of America (7 M) | CERF (3.7 M) | Japan (2.5 M) | Sweden (2.2 M) | Canada (0.76 M) | United Nations Foundation (0.43 M) | International Olympic Committee (0.27 M) | UNAIDS (0.03 M) | Private donors (0.07 M)

Major donors of regional or other funds with soft earmarking in 2019

Germany (13.1 M) | United States of America (10 M) | Sweden (4.6 M) | Private donors Australia (2.5 M)

Major donors of unearmarked funds in 2019

Sweden (90.4 M) | Norway (44.5 M) | Netherlands (37.5 M) | United Kingdom (31.7 M) | Germany (26.7 M) | Private donors Spain (26.3 M) | Denmark (24.4 M) | Switzerland (15.1 M) | Private donors Republic of Korea (13.8 M)

Contacts

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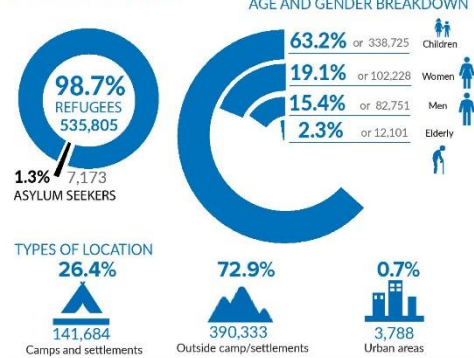
Alexandra Stenbock-Fermor, Associate External Relations and Reporting Officer, – UNHCR Regional Representation Kinshasa, stenbock@unhcr.org, Tel: +243 996 041 000, +243 822 253 121

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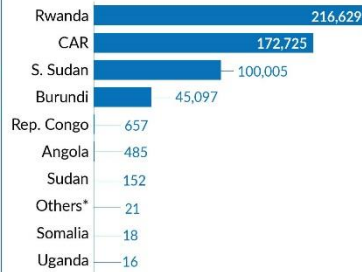
542,978

TOTAL NUMBER OF REFUGEES AND ASYLUM SEEKERS

KEY STATISTICS



REFUGEE POPULATION BY COUNTRY OF ORIGIN

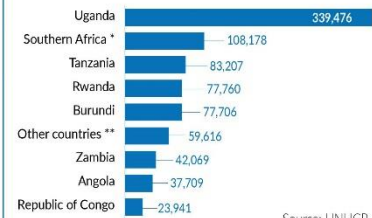


* Others include Ivory Coast, Eritrea, Syria, Liberia, Chad, Sierra Leone, etc.

REFUGEES FROM DRC IN AFRICA

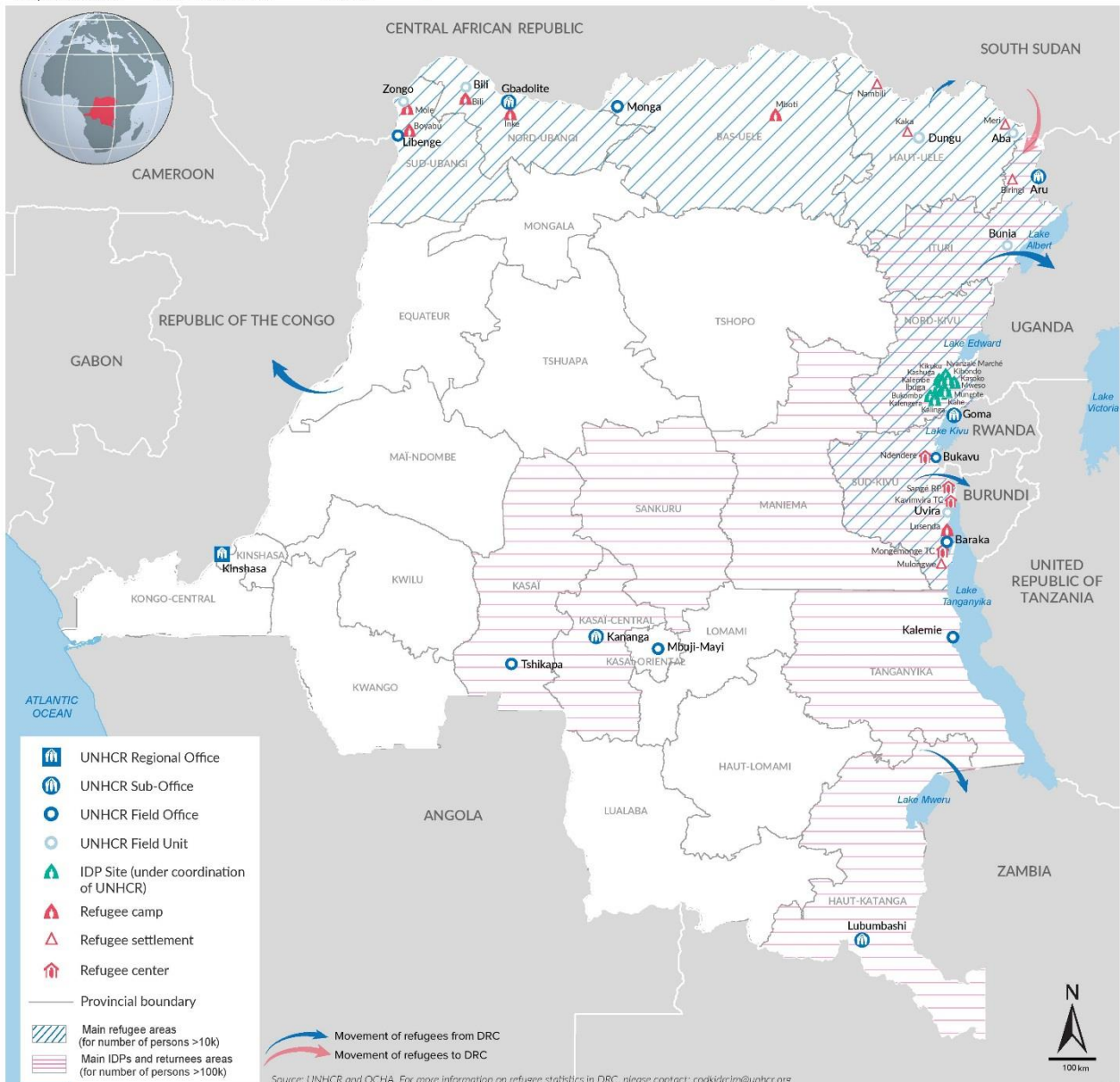
849,662

TOTAL DRC REFUGEE POPULATION



Source: UNHCR

*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



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