

Democratic Republic of the Congo

1 - 31 JANUARY 2019

Armed clashes in South Sudan forced hundreds of South Sudanese people to seek refuge in border areas in Ituri Province, DRC. UNHCR will support the registration of refugees and their possible relocation. Seven primary schools were rehabilitated in Kasai Province, benefitting over 3,000 children. Voluntary Repatriation of Rwandan refugees resumed with 94 repatriations from North and South Kivu Provinces.

Refugees

Burundian refugees

Total in DRC

43,038

As of 31 January 2019

- Individual plots of land were allocated to 470 Burundian refugee households (out of a total of 522) who had been relocated to Mulongwe settlement, South Kivu Province, in August and September 2018. 100 households have already started to build shelters on these parcels, while 58 shelters were finalized this month.
- 35,434 refugees at Lusenda camp and Mulongwe settlement (both in Fizi Territory, South Kivu province) received biomass briquettes, totaling 93 tons distributed. Biomass briquettes are produced by refugees and locals, and provide an alternative and environmentally-friendly solution for cooking.
- In Lusenda camp, 2,881 kitchen sets were distributed to Burundian refugee households (8,789 people), or 71% of the total planned. Distributions will continue depending on the availability of non-food items (NFIs), in order to cover all eligible refugees relocated to Lusenda in 2015.
- UNHCR distributed food to 420 Burundian asylum-seekers who were awaiting confirmation of their refugee status and transfer to Mulongwe settlement.
- 753 school kits were distributed to students in Mulongwe settlement. Miscellaneous schooling expenses were paid for 500 primary school students and 1,390 secondary school students.
- UNHCR's partner Action Aid finalized the construction of two kindergartens at Mulongwe settlement and in Lusenda camp, to reinforce the capacity of existing structures which will be able to host up to 200 children each.
- UNHCR and its partner Association pour le Développement Economique et Social (ADES) installed seven manual water pumps at Mulongwe settlement, while 58 latrine pits were constructed by refugees who had received latrine construction kits.



UNHCR's partner ADES continued to strengthen prevention measures against cholera and Ebola through the sensitization of Burundian refugees in Lusenda camp, Mulongwe settlement, as well as in all transit centers. Handwashing devices and laser thermometers continued to be used, while active monitoring of cases of diarrhea continued given the cholera epidemic in the region.

Central African refugees

Total in DRC

172,075

As of 31 January 2019

- 60 refugees and host community members, who are actively involved in local development committees working in and out of camps in Nord Ubangi Province, benefited from agricultural tools distributed by UNHCR and its partner ADES.
- 3,173 male condoms were distributed to Central African refugees in Mole camp by UNHCR's partner ADES, as part of the fight against HIV/AIDS.
- UNHCR partner AIDES organized sensitization sessions on peaceful coexistence in Mbida (Equateur Province), targeting 511 refugees and host community members while 301 refugees participated in awareness sessions about SGBV in Boyabu camp (Sud-Ubangi).
- After receiving complaints from host community members about natural resource depletion, UNHCR partner AIDES organized sensitization sessions on peaceful coexistence and natural resource management in Mongoro (Nord-Ubangi Province), reaching 497 refugees and locals.
- In its efforts to strengthen peaceful coexistence of refugees with local communities in Bas-Uele Province, UNHCR and partners partners Terre Sans Frontieres (TSF) and the CNR distributed Non-Food Items (NFIs) such as cooking utensils, jerry cans and buckets to 423 host community households living with specific needs. Altogether 1,067 households will be assisted in the coming month.
- In Nord Ubangi, UNHCR and partner ADSSE conducted a census in 72 primary schools and 43 secondary schools in Yakoma, Gbadolite and Mobaye Mongo. 12,241 primary school students and 4,598 secondary school students were identified in the different out of camp schools. The 72 primary schools were equipped with recreational kits and school text books. Additional funding is needed to support secondary schools.

Rwandan refugees

Total in DRC (figure based on a pre-registration done by the DRC government)	Repatriated this month (figure pending verification)	Repatriated in 2018 (figure pending verification)
216,891	94	3,053

As of 31 January 2019

Voluntary Repatriation of Rwandan refugees resumed, with 94 repatriations from North (77) and South Kivu (17). Sensitization messages on voluntary repatriation are being recorded and will be broadcasted in February on 14 radio stations in North and South Kivu.



South Sudanese refugees

Total in the DRC	
96,042	

As of 31 January 2019

- Malaria was the most common disease faced by South Sudanese refugees in DRC. There were a total of 628 malaria cases at Biringi and Meri settlements in January, according to UNHCR's partner ADES.
- Armed clashes in South Sudan forced hundreds of South Sudanese people to seek refuge in border areas in Ituri Province, DRC, according to the CNR. The CNR and local authorities have sensitized asylum-seekers on relocation to Biringi settlement. The number of refugees having arrived in Biringi in January (469) is above the average trend of the past months. UNHCR will support in the registration of refugees and their possible relocation.
- UNHCR reinforced its sensitization measures against Ebola for South Sudanese refugees at Biringi settlement. Four Ebola kits were distributed to four health centres in refugee-hosting areas. The kits include 100-litre tents, chlorine, spraying bottles, soap, individual protection kits with masks, overall and boots, thermostatic gloves, and visibility vests.
- 714 children have started attending a child-friendly space set up by UNHCR's partner ADSSE at Meri settlement, where they can play in a safe environment.
- Distribution of Ebola kits to a health center © UNHCR The "Sport for Protection" project continued at Meri settlement, with the almost-complete rehabilitation and construction of a football and volleyball field, as well as a basketball field. Sensitization of young women on forming female teams continued in January.
- UNHCR's implementing partner ADSSE has identified 902 households in need of non-food item (NFIs) kits at Biringi settlement, namely kitchen sets, soap, clothing, and more. UNHCR will organize an NFI distribution in February to assist these refugees.

Congolese returnees

As part of a six-month CERF funded project, UNHCR's partner Handicap International facilitated the transport from Kamako and Kamonia to Tshikapa of 781 vulnerable individuals who have been expelled or returned from Angola. Returnees also received a cash assistance between \$60 and \$120 depending on the family size. Most of them used the money to settle in Tshikapa while a few others used the money to continue their way to other locations.





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

- Clashes in two locations in Ituri Province led to the displacement of an estimated 6,400 people from Djugu Territory to Mahagi Territory, according to UNHCR's protection monitoring.
- 15 local IDP committee members were trained by UNHCR's partner INTERSOS on prevention of Sexual and Gender-based Violence (SGBV) in Bunia. They will be in charge of local SGBV outreach and counseling activities.

North Kivu Province

- The security situation remained tense as a result of armed group activities in several localities and the political context of the provisional announcement of election results. According to OCHA, 16,700 people have been newly displaced in Masisi territory in the first month of 2019 alone as a result of the fighting.
- High levels of Sexual and Gender-based Violence (SGBV) were reported from Rutshuru Territory, North Kivu Province. Among 683 kidnappings in the territory in 2018, 359 of victims were female, and 290 of the victims were reportedly raped. UNHCR is closely following the situation, and working on SGBV prevention and response.
- As part of its Age, Gender and Diversity (AGD) approach, UNHCR interviewed returnees, IDPs and Rwandan
 refugees of different ages and genders in Rutshuru territory who shared their views on difficulties experienced
 while being on the move, and on their prospects for integration. The AGD exercise's results will inform
 UNHCR's programming.

South Kivu Province

Insecurity persists in the Ruzizi plain and the Uvira High Plateaux. Armed group activities led to new population displacements. According to OCHA, an estimated population of 25,000 people was displaced towards surrounding areas. This development is expected to compound the security and protection situation in the Ruzizi plain.

Kasai region

With funding from UNHCR, the NGO HelpAge rehabilitated seven primary schools situated from Kamonia to Kamako, Kasai Province. The support enables over 3,000 pupils to attend primary school, including IDPs, returnees, Congolese children expelled from Angola, and host community children, promoting peaceful coexistence and improving access to education. The majority go to a school in Kamako, where hundreds of thousands of people have arrived after being expelled from Angola from October 2018. Once in



Before and after pictures of a school rehabilitation in Kamako © HelpAge



poor condition and made of sticks and leaves, the schools now have metal roofs, doors, and tarpaulin structures.

296 IDPs and host community households benefited from education conditional cash assistance ranging from \$35 to \$45 in Mbuji-Mayi which will support them pay their children's school fees.

Tanganyika / Haut-Katanga Provinces

- The security situation remained volatile around Kalemie, Tanganyika Province, hampering humanitarian access. In Pweto Territory (Haut-Katanga Province), clashes also led to the displacement of an estimated 8000 persons from five villages, according to UNHCR's protection monitoring.
- A shelter project is underway in return villages around Kalemie, Tanganyika Province. 600 beneficiaries were identified and received tools to make adobe bricks, which will be used to construct shelters. The project, implemented by UNHCR's partner AIRD, encourages local construction methods.
- In line with the DRC government's objective to encourage IDPs' return to their home villages in Tanganyika Province, UNHCR is focusing its assistance on return villages in the area, while still pursuing protection monitoring and peaceful coexistence activities in IDP sites.



A hangar under construction in Sango Malumbi, Tanganyika Province to store adobe bricks made by returned IDPs © UNHCR/Stenbock-Fermor

Clusters and Working Groups

Shelter Working Group

- The Shelter Working Group finalized and shared a study titled 'Cultures Constructives Locales pour des Habitats Durables et Résilients'¹ which aims to provide a better understanding of the Shelter Sector response in the DRC.
- The Shelter Working Group shared an infographic² showing the main shelter sector needs for 2019. It is estimated that 3,426,862 individuals are in need of Shelter assistance in the DRC (see page 8 for more information).



External / Donor Relations

As of 31 of January 2019

Special thanks to donors for UNHCR operations in DRC in 2019 International Olympic Committee (0.27 M) | UNAIDS (0.03 M) | Private donors (0.05 M)

Special thanks to donors of regional or sub-regional funds 2019 Germany (13.1 M)

Thanks to the major donors of unrestricted and regional funds in 2019 Sweden (90.4 M) | Denmark (54.9 M) | Norway (44.5 M) | Netherlands (37.5 M) | United Kingdom (31.7 M) | Germany (27.3 M) | Switzerland (15.1 M)

Contacts

Andreas Kirchhof, Senior Regional External Relations Officer, – UNHCR Regional Representation Kinshasa, kirchhof@unhcr.org, Tel: +243 996 041 000, +243 817 009 484 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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