

# Democratic Republic of the Congo

1 - 31 MARCH 2019

To help enable the sustainable reintegration of IDP returnees, **501 new shelters were handed over to IDP returnees** in Djugu Territory, Ituri Province. Three rehabilitated health centers were also handed over.

**1,001 South Sudanese refugees** were biometrically registered and transferred to Biringi settlement where they have access to protection and assistance. Since February, 2,488 South Sudanese refugees were transferred to Biringi.

In an initiative of the UNHCR-led Shelter Working Group, 82 staff working for 24 humanitarian organisations **were trained on implementing shelter/housing cash-based interventions.**

## Refugees

### Burundian refugees

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Total in DRC

**43,419**

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As of 31 March 2019

- **27,685 refugees at Lusenda camp and Mulongwe settlement in Fizi Territory, South Kivu Province received biomass briquettes** during the reporting period. Biomass briquettes are produced by refugees and locals, and provide an alternative and environmentally-friendly solution for cooking.
- In an ongoing effort to prevent Sexual and Gender-Based Violence (SGBV) and in response to recent SGBV cases in Lusenda and Mulongwe, South Kivu Province, **UNHCR's partner ActionAid and local SGBV Committees organized awareness sessions targeting 774 participants** (650 in Mulongwe settlement and 124 in Lusenda camp).
- **Non-Food Items including laundry soap were distributed to 33,983 refugees** and 4,270 buckets were distributed in Lusenda, Mulongwe and at the different reception centers and 550 kitchen sets at Lusenda camp.
- **In South Kivu Province, 872 children who are enrolled in four different secondary schools (527 Burundian refugees and 345 Congolese) and their teachers participated in awareness-raising sessions** organized by UNHCR-supported SGBV committees and UNHCR's partner ActionAid on topics such as GBV in school, gender equality and early marriage which often leads to school drop-outs.
- In a continuous effort to support access to education for refugee and Congolese children, **UNHCR's partner ActionAid distributed 7,251 uniforms to primary school children** (5,471 to refugees and 712 to Congolese pupils) **and secondary school children** (831 to refugees and 237 to Congolese pupils) in schools near Lusenda and Mulongwe.
- **UNHCR and the National Commission for Refugees (CNR) biometrically registered 250 Burundian refugees at Kavimvira transit center** prior to their transfer to Mulongwe settlement. 22 individuals still remained at the transit center, waiting for the outcome of their Refugee Status Determination (RSD) process, while another 16 have reportedly returned to Burundi spontaneously.

- In order to improve self-reliance among refugees and to support peaceful coexistence, **3,000 beneficiaries have been able to cultivate their own crops and vegetables** (730 refugees and 270 Congolese at Mulongwe settlement and 1,470 refugees and 630 Congolese at Lusenda camp). At Lusenda, 74 hectares of land with crops has been plowed by refugees with the support of partner ADRA.
- UNHCR and partner ADES provided **70 households with latrine and shower construction kits at Mulongwe settlement**. 208 kits have been distributed since January 2019.
- As malaria remains a leading cause of mortality among refugees, **UNHCR's partner AIDES distributed 360 mosquito nets** to urban Burundian and Rwandan refugees in Bukavu, and 60 mosquito nets to urban Burundian refugees in Uvira.

## Central African refugees

Total in DRC

**172,635**

As of 31 March 2019

- Due to strong wind, on 9-10 March, **222 refugee shelters were destroyed at Mole camp**, Sud Ubangi Province, home to almost 15,000 Central African refugees. There is a need to rehabilitate these structures to avoid promiscuity in the camp.



Cassava harvest at Bili refugee camp, Nord Ubangi Province. © UNHCR/Nentobo

- In Nord Ubangi Province, **six mill grinding machines were handed over to six associations of people with specific needs** living in and out-of-camp localities by UNHCR's partner AIDES. Each association is made up of 10 members (seven Central African refugees and three locals), with the aim of creating income-generating activities and fostering peaceful coexistence.
- In Nord-Ubangi Province, **210 teachers working in schools attended by both refugee and Congolese children participated in a capacity building workshop** organized by UNHCR's partner AIDES on topics such as violence and sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV) in out of camp schools.
- In Bas-Uélé Province, UNHCR's partner Terre Sans Frontières (TSF) identified **678 primary and secondary school refugee students living out of camps who will benefit from free tuition fees**. A total of 800 children in Monga, Ndu, Mbitto, Nzeret and Kanzawi will benefit from this assistance in the coming weeks.
- In Bas-Uélé Province, **UNHCR's partner TSF distributed non-food items. The tarpaulins, kitchen sets, jerry cans, mosquito nets and blankets were given to 113 Central African asylum seekers** who crossed into the town of Ndu from the Central African Republic **and 109 host community households**. The asylum seekers are awaiting pre-registration.



Distribution of farming tools to refugees and host community members in Bas-Uélé Province © UNHCR/Nentobo

- In Boyabu and Libenge, Sud Ubangi Province, 475 refugee and 109 host community households living in and out of camps benefited from farming tools distributed by UNHCR’s partner AIDES. In Ndu, Bas-Uélé Province, UNHCR’s partner TSF distributed farming tools to 173 refugee and host community households.

## Rwandan refugees

Total in DRC (figure based on a pre-registration done by the DRC government)	Repatriated this month (figure pending verification)	Repatriated in 2019 (figure pending verification)
<b>216,690</b>	<b>165</b>	<b>423</b>

As of 31 March 2019

- **165 Rwandan refugees were repatriated from North and South Kivu.** Figures are provisional, pending a final verification on the Rwandan side. Since January 2019, a total of 417 Rwandan refugees have been repatriated from DRC.

## South Sudanese refugees

Total in the DRC
<b>98,363</b>

As of 31 March 2019

- In border areas of Ituri Province with South Sudan, the National Commission for Refugees (CNR) and local authorities sensitized refugees on relocation to Biringi settlement (Aru Territory, Ituri). During the reporting period, **1,001 South Sudanese refugees were biometrically registered and transferred to Biringi settlement.** Since February, a total of 2,488 South Sudanese refugees were transferred to Biringi. While some of the refugees had fled fighting in February 2019, others had been in the border area for a longer period.
- **The additional number of refugees arriving to Biringi settlement is placing pressure on existing shelter facilities.** There was a gap of 160 shelters for new arrivals in Biringi. New arrivals stayed in mass shelters.
- **UNHCR and local authorities faced difficulties to relocate 62 ethnic Dinka refugees to Biringi settlement,** due to the lack of acceptance by some members of other ethnic groups. UNHCR initiated sensitization sessions to promote harmony and peaceful coexistence between the different ethnic groups.

- In Dungu Territory, **1,821 people (629 households)** received **second-hand clothes** thanks to private-sector donor UNIQLO. 390 women and girls received underwear for women and girls thanks to private-sector donor PUMA. In addition, 105 people with specific needs received slippers.



Borehole construction at Biringi settlement © UNHCR/Lopes

- **Three new boreholes were being drilled at Biringi settlement to improve water supply and reduce waiting time to fetch water.** There are currently 16 water points available for refugees and host community members.

- **UNHCR has officially handed over to local authorities a primary school in Djambokele** (Haut-Uele Province), two football fields (one in Meri settlement and a second one in the town of Aba), a basketball/volleyball field, a multipurpose facility (salle polyvalente) in Meri, and a water point for the benefit of the refugees and the host population.

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## Congolese returnees

- **The International Organisation for Migration (IOM) started providing transportation** for those returned and expelled from Angola, using profiling lists compiled last December by UNHCR, its partners War Child, CNR, and migration authorities. A list of 417 individuals out of 6,463 profiled was shared with IOM.
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# Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs)

On 14 August 2018, UNHCR declared an internal **L2 emergency in North Kivu and Ituri provinces**. This allows UNHCR to use emergency procedures in view of the displacement and returns in Ituri Province, and ongoing displacement in North Kivu Province.

### Ituri Province

- In Djugu Territory, Ituri Province, an estimated **19,647 people (3,175 households)** were **newly displaced** according to UNHCR's partners INTERSOS and COOPI. Humanitarian access to the affected areas remains limited. INTERSOS is conducting assessments in these areas. In the Bahema sector of Djugu Territory, stabilization led to the **return of 2,235 people (487 households)**, according to UNHCR's partners INTERSOS and CARITAS.
- In March, UNHCR's protection monitoring partner INTERSOS recorded 112 human rights violations, including 30 cases of sexual violence and nine serious violations of children's rights in Djugu, Mambasa and Mahagi Territories.
- As Shelter continues to be one of the key concerns of returnees, preventing their sustainable reintegration, **UNHCR's partner the Danish Refugee Council (DRC) handed over 501 new shelters** to IDP returnees in Niolu, Duvire, Yamamba, Tchomia, Drodoro and Lita localities in Djugu Territory. **Three Health Centers were also rehabilitated** in return areas, and handed over to the local community in Tchomia, Mgbavi and Blukwa.



- **UNHCR carried out post-distribution monitoring surveys targeting 2,628 individuals** among which 97% were women in Bunia and Djugu territory who had benefited from its cash-based interventions implemented in 2018. The purpose of these surveys was to learn lessons from past interventions and guide the ones to be implemented in 2019. Results showed that cash-based interventions had positive effects on the beneficiaries' lives, and risks were reduced through the use of cash. However the surveys also showed that there is a need to improve communication with beneficiaries throughout the process.

#### North Kivu Province

- **The situation in Lubero and Beni Territories remained highly volatile** due to continued armed attacks, threatening civilians' security and hampering the Ebola response.
- In March, **UNHCR's protection monitoring partner INTERSOS recorded 1,198 protection incidents**, affecting 855 victims. Masisi Territory was most affected, with 33% of the total violations. 105 cases of SGBV were also documented, over half of them of rape. 18 rape victims were referred to medical structures within 72 hours, and received medical and psychosocial care.
- From 25 to 31 March, **UNHCR and UNDP carried out a joint assessment in Masisi, Lubero and Rutshuru Territories as part of the humanitarian-development nexus pilot project**. The particular aspects jointly looked at included peace, governance, access to social services (notably justice), community participation and community protection. Communities' suggestions were collected, and opportunities for joint UNDP-UNHCR interventions were identified. Communities' priorities were the restoration of security and peace, improved humanitarian-development coordination, increased accountability to populations, and strengthening the capacities of local authorities. The assessment was carried out in several Health Zones (Bambu, Kibirizi, Kayna, Masisi, Mweso and Birambizo) hosting IDPs, returned IDPs and Rwandan refugees.

#### South Kivu Province

- **The situation in Kalehe, Fizi and Uvira Territories remained volatile** due to armed attacks and criminality.
- **UNHCR and partner INTERSOS conducted a needs assessment in Katasomwa**, Walungu Territory from 11 to 15 March, **to collect data related to sexual violence, shelter and population displacement**. It found that the massive arrival of armed elements in villages has affected the lives of displaced people who were unable to gather their belongings before leaving. Many found themselves without identity documents and became victims of arbitrary arrest. This situation limits population movements and has a negative impact on livelihoods. Advocacy and awareness-raising were conducted by local leaders and representatives to get victims released; but many have to pay fines.

#### Kasai region

- **In Kasai Province, 216 incidents were documented in March**. The most common violations were violations of rights to liberty, extortion of property and looting, assault, SGBV, forced labor, and arbitrary arrests. Due to technical problems, monitoring could not be conducted throughout the month, which explains the relatively low number of incidents documented for this month.
- **UNHCR and partner War Child followed up on 146 cases**, or 68% of the documented incidents. Half of the protection incidents targeted women and children.
- **521 IDPs, IDP returnees and host community members (232 male and 289 female) participated in sensitization sessions** conducted in five different communes of Kananga and organized by UNHCR's partner War Child. Topics discussed were the fight against SGBV, access to justice and conflict resolution.
- UNHCR trained 69 protection monitors working in Kananga, Mbuji-Mayi and Tshikapa on a new community-based approach with the objective to improve data collection, reporting and the response to incidents.

## Tanganyika / Haut-Katanga Provinces

- To support the peaceful character of returns in Tanganyika Province, **UNHCR and its partner AIDES organized participative theatre plays on conflict resolution and peaceful coexistence** in IDP sites and return areas in Kalemie, Manono and Moba, targeting 2,573 individuals. Sensitization messages on peaceful coexistence and conflict resolution were aired on a radio station reachable in these areas.
- **AIDES registered 19 cases of SGBV** in March in Kalemie and Moba territories. Kalemie Territory alone accounted for 79% of cases.
- **A cash-for-shelter project is underway in Kalemie Territory**, Tanganyika Province, benefitting 600 returnee households, including 100 extremely vulnerable ones. 164 households started constructing their shelters while 21 have been completed. This project uses cash assistance to help returnees to transition to more durable solutions and integrate within the community.



Cash-for-shelter project, Kalemie Territory. © UNHCR

# Clusters and Working Groups

## Shelter Working Group

- **82 staff working for 24 humanitarian organisations were trained on implementing shelter/housing cash-based interventions** using tools developed by the UNHCR-led Shelter Working Group. Trainings were held in various humanitarian hubs (Goma, Bukavu, Kalemie, Kinshasa) so a large number of technicians could be trained. The tools (in French) are available on the Shelter Working Group's [website](#). Supplementary documentation with references to key guidance and tools is also available in the related guide (in English) which can be found [here](#).
- **A workshop was held in Goma on the 26th of March to identify the main tenure hurdles faced by partners** in current shelter projects in DRC. The Global Shelter Cluster's Housing-Land-Property expert facilitated this session in which 11 participants from 7 key organisations participated. Consequently, tools will be developed based on these findings and similar workshops will be held in other hubs. The guidelines for Emergency Shelters interventions were finalised and disseminated. The guidelines are available [here](#).

## Protection Cluster

- In Beni town, **the Protection Cluster organized a workshop targeting 55 DRC Armed Forces (FARDC) officers** on the basic tenets of Protection, Human Rights, International Humanitarian Law, SGBV and UNHCR's mandate with the aim of preventing violations by FARDC elements of the rights of IDPs and host community members. An action plan which incorporates their commitments to protect civilians was developed.
- **The Protection Cluster reviewed 59 protection related projects with the objective to guide the Common Humanitarian Fund's selection process** and provided later on a technical review of the 17 selected projects.
- 149 partners participated in a **protection cluster/sub cluster performance evaluation survey**. The results show that the partners are satisfied with the work done by the cluster.
- **The North East Protection Cluster organized a workshop in Goma with 39 participants** where key protection activities and coordination objectives were identified for North Kivu Province. This initiative is part of a process to develop a new Protection Cluster strategy and adopt regional action plans.

## External / Donor Relations

As of 2 April 2019

### Donors for UNHCR operations in DRC in 2019

United States of America (7 M) | Japan (2.5 M) | United Nations Foundation (0.43 M) | International Olympic Committee (0.27 M) | UNAIDS (0.03 M) | Private donors (0.05 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 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) | Denmark (24.4 M) | Private donors Spain (19.5 M) | Switzerland (15.1 M)

## Contacts

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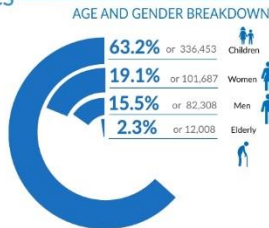
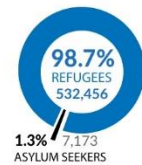


DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO  
**DRC AT A GLANCE**  
as of 31 March 2019

**539,629**

TOTAL NUMBER OF REFUGEES AND ASYLUM SEEKERS

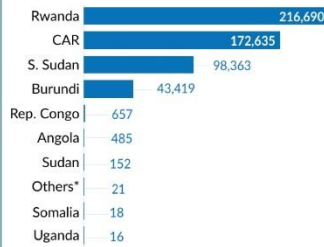
KEY STATISTICS



TYPES OF LOCATION



REFUGEE POPULATION BY COUNTRY OF ORIGIN

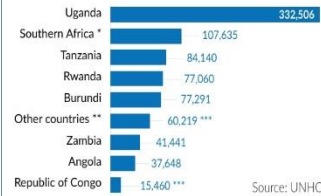


\* Others include Ivory Coast, Eritrea, Syria, Liberia, Chad, Sierra Leone, etc.

REFUGEES FROM DRC IN AFRICA

**833,400**

TOTAL DRC REFUGEE POPULATION

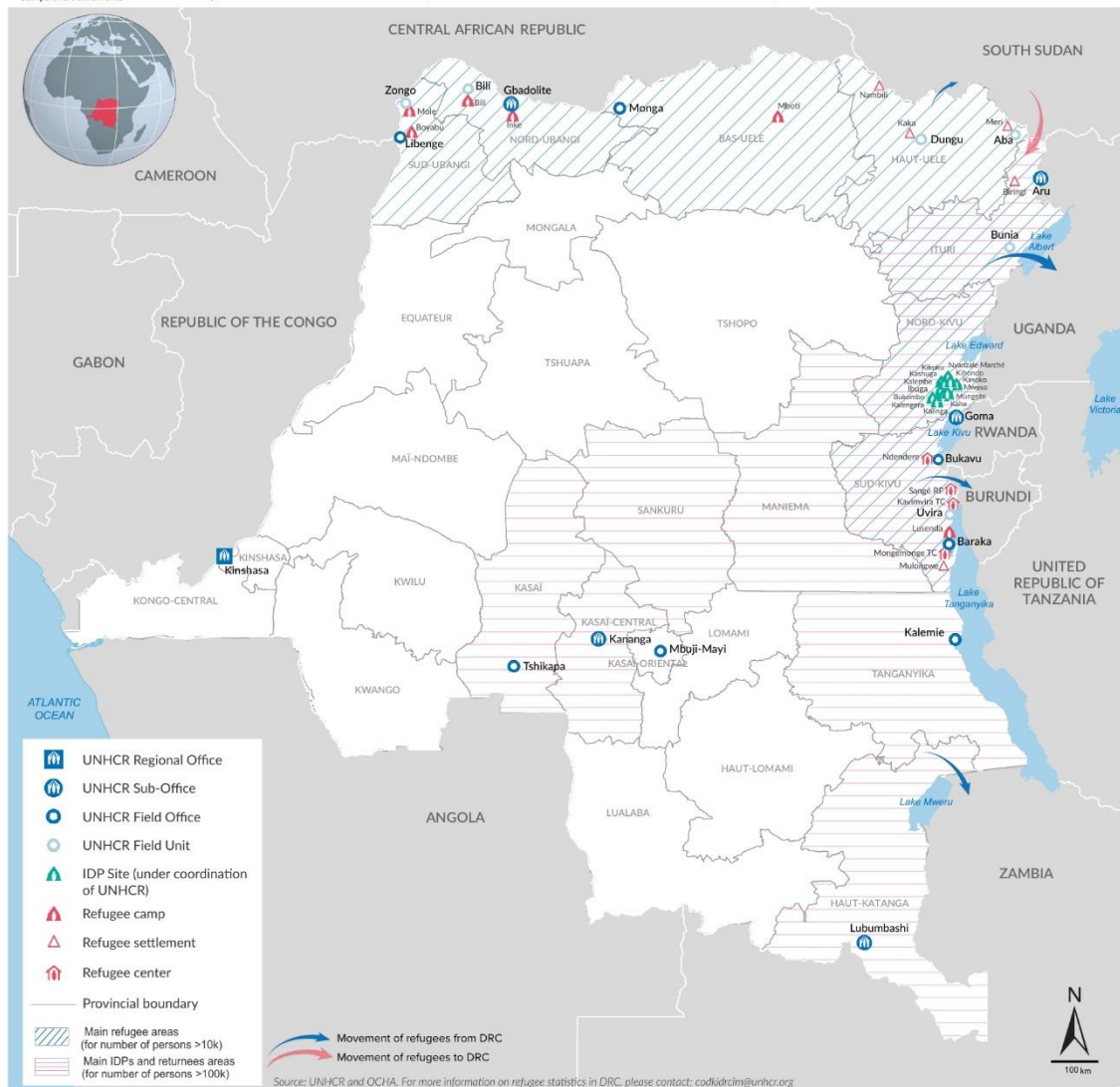


Source: UNHCR

\* 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

\*\*\* For the Republic of Congo and Chad, these figures are for February 2019 (the figures for March are not available).



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

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