

Democratic Republic of the Congo

1 - 31 May 2018

Over **29,000** refugees from the Central African Republic were biometrically registered in Bongo Territory (Bas-Uélé Province). Most of them arrived since May 2017.

28,000 Burundian refugees were targeted in a distribution of non-food items in Lusenda camp (South Kivu) which started in May.

2,193 protection incidents were documented in Ituri Province.

KEY INDICATORS

534,108

Refugees in DRC as of 31 May 2018

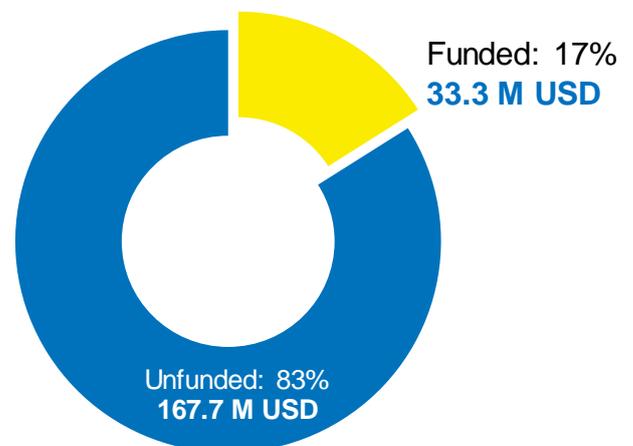
4.49 Million*

Internally Displaced People in DRC as of 31 December 2017

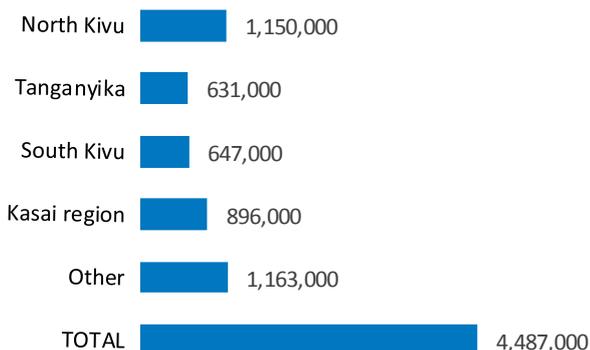
FUNDING 2018 (AS OF 13 JUNE 2018)

USD 201 M

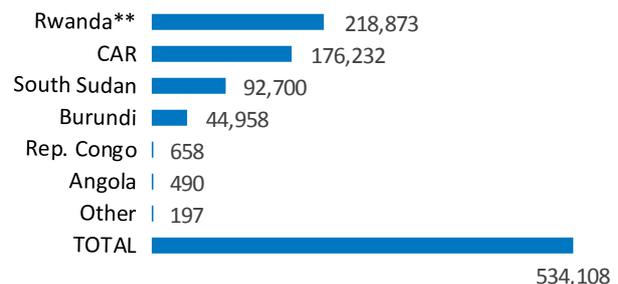
requested for the DRC (including special situations)



Internally Displaced People by Province *



Refugees by country of origin



* Source: OCHA (31 December 2017)

** This figure is based on a pre-registration exercise conducted by the National Commission for Refugees in 2014-2015. Biometric registration is ongoing.

Update on Achievements

Burundian refugees

- According to monitors in the border area with Burundi, there were no indications of large numbers of new arrivals during the month of May. 331 refugees (83 households) were transferred from Lusenda camp to Mulongwe site, both in South Kivu Province.
- The biometric verification of refugees was completed in Lusenda camp, while it was ongoing at Mulongwe site. As a result, 2,406 individuals were deactivated in the registration database. This led to a downward revision of statistics.
- At Mulongwe site, refugees constructed another 220 family shelters, bringing the total number of shelters at the site to 488. Refugees in Mulongwe are given an individual shelter kit, cash and a plot of land to build their own homes. However, over 700 families were still waiting to be transferred to the site. Much of the delay is due to lack of funding in the shelter sector. Current funds only allow the construction of another 100 shelters.
- In Lusenda camp, 99 plastic tarpaulins were distributed to families whose houses were damaged by heavy rains in April. More is needed to meet the overall needs, as a total of 1,125 shelters need repair from bad weather.
- A distribution of non-food items started in Lusenda camp, including blankets, mats, jerry cans and soap, targeting over 28,000 refugees. It continued into the month of June.
- 1,392 school uniforms were distributed to children in local primary schools, including 1,236 to Burundian refugee children, and 156 to local children. These uniforms were distributed in schools which had not benefited from earlier distributions this year. Moreover, 373 vouchers for school fees were provided by UNHCR's partner ActionAid to parents of children who recently relocated.
- The May food fair was organized, with the World Food Programme (WFP) transferring monthly cash assistance (recently reduced to USD 12 per person) to refugees in Lusenda and Mulongwe. Refugees used electronic cards to buy their chosen food supplies in the pre-determined shops. UNHCR followed up to ensure that any individual problems were resolved.



A Burundian refugee at Mulongwe site tends to his garden, in front of the shelter he built with UNHCR support.

© UNHCR 2018 / C. Veale

Central African (CAR) refugees

- The first phase of a biometric registration campaign of Central African refugees in Bas-Uélé Province ended on 30 May, with over 29,000 refugees registered. The campaign focused on five localities in Bondo Territory: Ndu, Monga, Nzeret, Mbito and Kanzawi. Refugees received refugee certificates which allow them to move freely inside DRC. An estimated 11,000 refugees in remote areas of Bas-Uélé, notably in Ango Territory and along the Bondo-Ango axis, still remain to be verified and registered.
- Some 7,000 refugees arrived at the localities of Kanzawi and Mbito, Bas-Uélé Province, in mid-May, due to in-fighting between factions of an armed group. Most of the new arrivals were women and children who reported fleeing fighting in the area of Kouango (CAR), just across the border. The remoteness of the area and lack of infrastructure meant that most new refugees were sleeping in the open, others in public buildings. UNHCR provided health services and relocated them into two hangars further away from the border. As of the end of May, the biometric registration campaign reached and verified 5,000 of the new arrivals, the rest having possibly returned to CAR.
- At Boyabu camp (Sud-Ubangi Province), 1,538 kg of groundnut seeds were distributed to 180 households, allowing them to cultivate 12.8 hectares of land to support their self-reliance. Agricultural activities are ongoing in all four camps hosting Central African refugees in Nord-Ubangi and Sud-Ubangi Provinces (Inke, Bili, Mole and Boyabu), with over 4,000 refugees and host community members involved as of mid-2018. However, demand greatly exceeds the available means. In 2017, over 500 hectares of land were cultivated in and around the four camps.
- Food aid provided by the World Food Programme (WFP) in the four refugee camps in Nord-Ubangi and Sud-Ubangi Provinces shifted to targeting. This meant that while all refugees in the camps still received food assistance, amounts were further reduced for those considered less vulnerable. Despite ongoing sensitization efforts, the decrease of the cash amounts due to WFP funding constraints led to some tensions with the refugee communities of Inke, Mole and Boyabu. Refugees in Bili camp received cash instead of in-kind (food fair) for the first time. They welcomed this change.
- Dance workshops funded by the NGO African Artists for Development (AAD) were concluded in Inke camp. This pilot project involved 450 regular participants and greatly helped in fostering peaceful coexistence between refugees and host community at Inke.
- At Bili camp the primary school was being rehabilitated, while the construction of a new health center began. Refugees at Boyabu camp built 60 school benches for the camp's primary school.



Newly arrived Central African refugees in Kanzawi, Bas-Uélé Province.

© UNHCR / J. Busanga

Rwandan refugees

- While repatriation numbers of Rwandan refugees remained relatively low in May, in North Kivu an increase of 32% was noted vis-à-vis the previous month. A total of 301 refugees voluntarily returned (274 from North Kivu and 27 from South Kivu¹). In South Kivu, return convoys resumed in the second week of May after a one-month break. In order to counter rumors, information sessions for refugees continued to provide facts about the return packages. Since the beginning of 2018, a total of 1,367 Rwandan refugees² have returned with UNHCR's support to Rwanda.
- Rwandan refugees, local authorities, religious leaders and members of the security forces in Masisi Territory (North Kivu) were sensitized on the verification and biometric registration of Rwandan refugees. 14,000 leaflets in French, Swahili and Kinyarwanda were distributed.

South Sudanese refugees

- The number of new arrivals to DRC from South Sudan increased in May. 726 new arrivals were received and registered at two refugee sites in May: 601 in Meri, Haut-Uélé Province, and 125 in Biringi, Ituri Province. This represents an increase of 558 people compared to the previous month. 57 newborn babies were registered as refugees at the two sites. 579 refugees who were not new arrivals were also registered at Kaka site near Dungu, Haut-Uélé Province.
- The evaluation of locations for potential new settlement sites was ongoing. Meri site (Haut-Uélé province) was beyond its capacity, hosting over 32,000 refugees. Moreover, several thousand refugees remained in highly insecure border areas of Dungu Territory and many may request to be transferred.
- In order to improve access to healthcare for refugees and host populations, UNHCR provided essential drugs and medical products to four health centers in Ituri and Haut-Uélé Provinces. UNHCR partner ADES targeted health centers in Aba (with 156 boxes), Dungu (140), Biringi (86) and Doruma (157). All four health centers will also provide urgently needed drugs to hospitals. One box of drugs was provided to the transit center for South Sudanese refugees in Aru.
- 114 community leaders (South Sudanese refugees and Congolese) were trained on child protection, the response to sexual and gender-based violence, and peaceful coexistence at Meri and Biringi sites. The training was provided by UNHCR and its partners the Danish Refugee Council, COOPI, and ADSSE.
- 37 birth certificates were distributed to refugees who had registered their children within the timeframe required by authorities. At Biringi site, 122 children who had not been registered within the legal time limit were awaiting supplementary judgments to obtain their birth certificates.

¹ Provisional figures pending verification on the Rwandan side.

² Provisional figures pending verification on the Rwandan side.

- Food supplements to treat refugees with acute malnutrition were urgently needed but not available through the national system. In May, 1,165 cases of acute malnutrition were registered at Meri site (including 550 children under five), and 241 cases at Biringi site (85 children under five). UNHCR's health partner ADES organized information sessions on the use of locally available staple foods to prevent and cure malnutrition.
- The gaps in humanitarian assistance and protection services remained significant. More than half of South Sudanese refugee households (some 6,700 families) on the sites have not received shelter kits. Over 10,000 South Sudanese refugees are still in need of non-food items.

Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs)

Ituri Province

- 2,193 protection incidents were documented in Ituri Province in May, of which 354 violations of right to life and physical integrity, 504 violations of right to liberty, 293 cases of sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV), and 1,042 violations of right to property. In May, an increase of 208 cases was recorded compared to the month of April when 1,985 cases were documented. In order to support victims, 647 actions were carried out by the protection monitors including 83 follow-up and 564 advocacy actions. 37 victims of rape accessed medical care within the required 72 hours, 29 victims of arbitrary arrest and forced labor were freed, 39 alleged perpetrators of various offenses were arrested, and 92 investigations were initiated by the authorities.
- Following an alert from authorities in the sector of Ndo, Djugu Territory, regarding high mortality rates amongst IDP children aged 0 to 5 a joint mission (health and protection) was organized by UNHCR, ADES and CNR to Kandoy on 9 May. The mission highlighted a number of urgent needs relating to medication, food, non-food items (NFIs), water and sanitation, education, and access to land. Following the needs assessment, UNHCR distributed tokens for NFI assistance to 900 households in the sector of Ndo. An distribution of non-food items including soaps, blankets and hygienic items took place in June.
- 160 newly arrived families (805 persons) were recorded at one of the spontaneous IDP sites in Bunia between 8 and 11 May, as a result of looting and killings. Further, 120 people, mostly women and children, fled from Makako to Kabakaba town (Djugu Territory) following an attack by armed men in the night of 23 -24 May. These newly displaced are located in host families in Kabakaba.

Kasaï Region

- On 18 May, UNHCR donated 7.5 tons of drugs and medical supplies to hospitals and health centers of Kasaï, Kasaï Central and Kasaï Oriental provinces. The donation (distributed by partner CARITAS) mainly consisted of anti-malaria drugs, antibiotics, anti-inflammatories and deworming treatment. In Kasaï Central and Kasaï Oriental, where the distribution already started, some 50 hospitals and health centers were targeted by the assistance.
- To strengthen community-based protection monitoring and response, UNHCR through its partner ActionAid supported groups of internally displaced persons and host communities in Kasaï Central, in the provincial capital of Kananga and Dimbelenge Territory. 200 persons were trained on protection, with a focus on the fight against sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV). Material support included 25 phones with a software to collect information on SGBV, 10 bicycles, 5 megaphones and office supplies. Cash support of a total of USD 7,250 was awarded to several communes and

community groups in Kananga, including for activities against sexual and gender-based violence. 8 motorbikes were provided to 15 Protection monitors in Kasai Central.

- On 12 and 13 May, 587 households received USD 100 in multi-purpose cash assistance from UNHCR in Bena Mbuyi, Bajilankaka, Bakua Mukenyi, Bakua Kashila and Bakua Tshinanga in Kazumba Territory, Kasai Central. Overall, 7,200 households will benefit from multi-purpose cash grants in the provinces of Kasai, Kasai Central and Kasai Oriental this year. During the month of May, ActionAid identified 3,600 households across Kasai Central and Kasai Oriental. The selection focused on households which were most affected by the conflict, including internally displaced persons (IDPs), returnees, and host community families accommodating IDPs or unaccompanied children.

Tanganyika and Haut-Katanga Provinces

- 2,094 protection incidents were documented in Tanganyika, Lualaba and Haut-Katanga Provinces in May, including 217 cases of sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV).. 949 advocacy actions were undertaken to respond to cases of extortion, arbitrary arrests and forced marriages. As a result, 207 victims were released and in 275 cases property was returned to its owner.
- As part of its efforts to promote peaceful coexistence between communities, UNHCR implementing partner AIDES broadcasted 225 radio spots in Kalemie and Moba, and organized 20 sessions of participatory theatre on peaceful coexistence. AIDES also organized 26 training sessions on peace and human rights for community leaders in the villages of Moba and Pweto Territories.
- UNHCR helped rebuild 54 transitional shelters destroyed by heavy rains on 15 May 2018 in Kabutonga village (Kalemie Territory), an area of return where transitional shelters had been constructed by UNHCR partner AIRD.
- UNHCR made available 800 tarpaulins available for households whose huts were destroyed in a fire in Katanika IDP site on 21 May.
- From 24 to 30 May, a mission to evaluate the movements of Congolese returnees from Zambia was carried out in Pweto and surrounding villages, Haut-Katanga Province. The assessment identified 657 households of 2,396 persons who held documents issued in Zambia by authorities and humanitarian agencies; while 2,097 households, or 10,956 persons, did not.

North Kivu

- 1,006 protection incidents were documented in North Kivu in May. 106 sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV) survivors accessed medical care (19 of them received PEP kits), and 25 victims of arbitrary arrest were freed.
- 33 members of local authorities and civil society participated in a workshop organized by UNHCR in Kasindi, Beni territory, on the principles for protection and assistance to IDPs. The workshop aimed to prevent the multiple harassments and violations of rights of IDPs that were documented in the past months through protection monitors.
- As part of the search for durable solutions for IDPs, a joint mission was organized to seven UNHCR-coordinated IDP sites in Masisi. Both local authorities and IDPs were sensitized to durable solutions, and the IDPs' return intentions were collected.
- In the first week of May, UNHCR and partners INTERSOS and AIDES evaluated the feasibility of using a cash-based approach for shelter interventions in North Kivu. The study covered the Health Zones (*Zones de Santé*) in the Territories of Lubero and

Masisi. It recommended the use of cash-based interventions in parts of the area.. Shelter interventions will now be implemented using a mixed approach that involves both cash and the distribution of construction materials.

South Kivu

- From 20 to 27 May, a UNHCR mobile unit conducted a protection evaluation in the Ruzizi Plain to assess the security situation and the living conditions of IDPs. Overall the activities of armed groups and the frequent clashes remain the main cause of population displacement in Uvira Territory. Recently, flooding also became an important cause of displacement. The IDPs live in dire conditions with a critical lack of drinking water, which increases the risks of epidemics. They are also exposed to increased risks of sexual violence. Schools are being used to host the displaced in overcrowded conditions, which impedes local childrens' education. Peaceful coexistence between the local population, IDPs and members of the armed forces remains difficult, and tensions are high.
- Between 8 and 13 May 2018, UNHCR partner INTERSOS provided psychosocial assistance to 20 survivors of rape in Kigulube, Shabunda Territory. The team also evaluated the survivors' needs and recommended to continue psychosocial and material assistance to them, despite the logistical challenges of reaching the area.

Clusters and Working Groups

- The Protection Cluster consolidated data on various humanitarian actors' interventions between February and April 2018 for Kalemie, Kongolo, Manono, Moba and Nyunzu Territories (Tanganyika Province). According to the intervention reports, 60,249 persons benefitted from Protection-related activities (incl. advocacy, sensitization for peaceful coexistence etc.).
- The Protection Cluster was involved in the discussions over the second allocation of the DRC Humanitarian Fund in 2018.
- Two Protection Cluster support missions were organized to Bunia (Ituri Province) and Beni (North Kivu Province), between 1 and 4 May. In Bunia, the missions met with authorities and the civilian section of MONUSCO. 34 representatives from NGOs and state actors benefitted from a 2-day capacity building session.

Working with Partners

- Together with the DRC Government, through the National Commission for Refugees (CNR), UNHCR ensures international protection and delivery of multi-sectorial assistance to persons of concern. UNHCR closely collaborates with other UN Agencies and other humanitarian actors for a coordinated and effective response. UNHCR works with 16 implementing partners (ACTION AID, ACTED, ADES, ADSSE, AIDES, AIRD, ADRA, AJEDEC, COOPI, CNR, DRC, INTERSOS, NRC, SAVE CONGO, TSF, WAR CHILD) and several operational partners in DRC.
- UNHCR leads the Protection Cluster, which coordinates the protection actors in their support of IDPs and other vulnerable persons. UNHCR co-leads the Protection and Prevention component of the National Strategy on Sexual and Gender-Based Violence in DRC. UNHCR leads the Shelter Working Group within the Shelter/NFI Cluster. Jointly with IOM, UNHCR co-leads the Camp Coordination and Camp Management Working Group.

External / Donor Relations

As of 31 May 2018

Donors for UNHCR operations in DRC in 2018

United States of America (22.7 M) | CERF (3.9 M) | Sweden (2.5 M) | European Union (1.2 M) | Canada (1.2 M) | France (1.2 M) | UNIQLO (0.24 M) | UNAIDS (0.17 M)

Donors of regional or sub-regional funds 2018

United States of America (56.2 M) | Private donors Australia (6.2 M) | Sweden (5.2 M) | Germany (5.1 M) | Canada (3.3 M) | Norway (2.6 M)

Major donors of unrestricted and regional funds in 2018

Sweden (98.2 M) | Norway (42.5 M) | Netherlands (39.1 M) | Private donors Spain (32.9 M) | United Kingdom (31.7 M) | Denmark (25.5 M) | Australia (18.9 M) | Private donors Republic of Korea (15.8 M) | Switzerland (15.2 M) | Italy (11.2 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

Nandor Gergely, Associate External Relations and Reporting Officer, – UNHCR Sub-Office Gbadolite, gergely@unhcr.org, Tel: +243 812 287 781, +243 816 887 682

Links

[UNCR DRC Congo emergency page](http://www.unhcr.org/dr-congo-emergency.html)

<http://www.unhcr.org/dr-congo-emergency.html>

[UNHCR DRC operation page](http://www.unhcr.org/pages/49e45c366.html)

<http://www.unhcr.org/pages/49e45c366.html>

[UNHCR DRC Facebook page](https://www.facebook.com/UNHCR-R%C3%A9publique-D%C3%A9mocratique-du-Congo-111965425530257/)

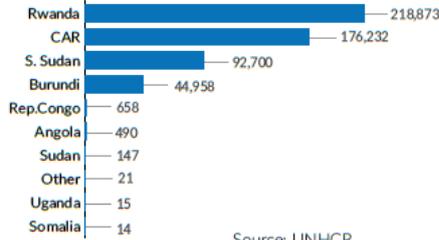
<https://www.facebook.com/UNHCR-R%C3%A9publique-D%C3%A9mocratique-du-Congo-111965425530257/>

[Reintegration project offers hope and homes to displaced Congolese](http://www.unhcr.org/afr/news/stories/2018/5/5afacbab4/reintegration-project-offers-hope-and-homes-to-displaced-congolese.html)

<http://www.unhcr.org/afr/news/stories/2018/5/5afacbab4/reintegration-project-offers-hope-and-homes-to-displaced-congolese.html>

Refugee Population in DRC

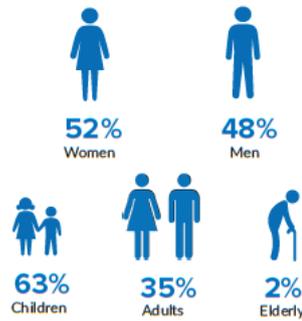
534,108
Total refugee population



Source: UNHCR

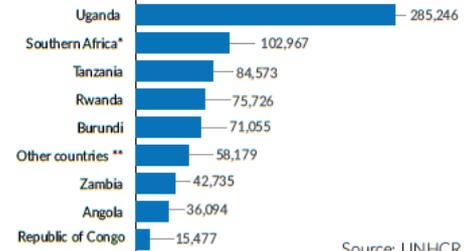
*Other include Syria, Jordan, Eritrea, Chad, Liberia, Sierra Leone etc.

Age and gender breakdown of refugee population in DRC



DRC Refugees in Africa

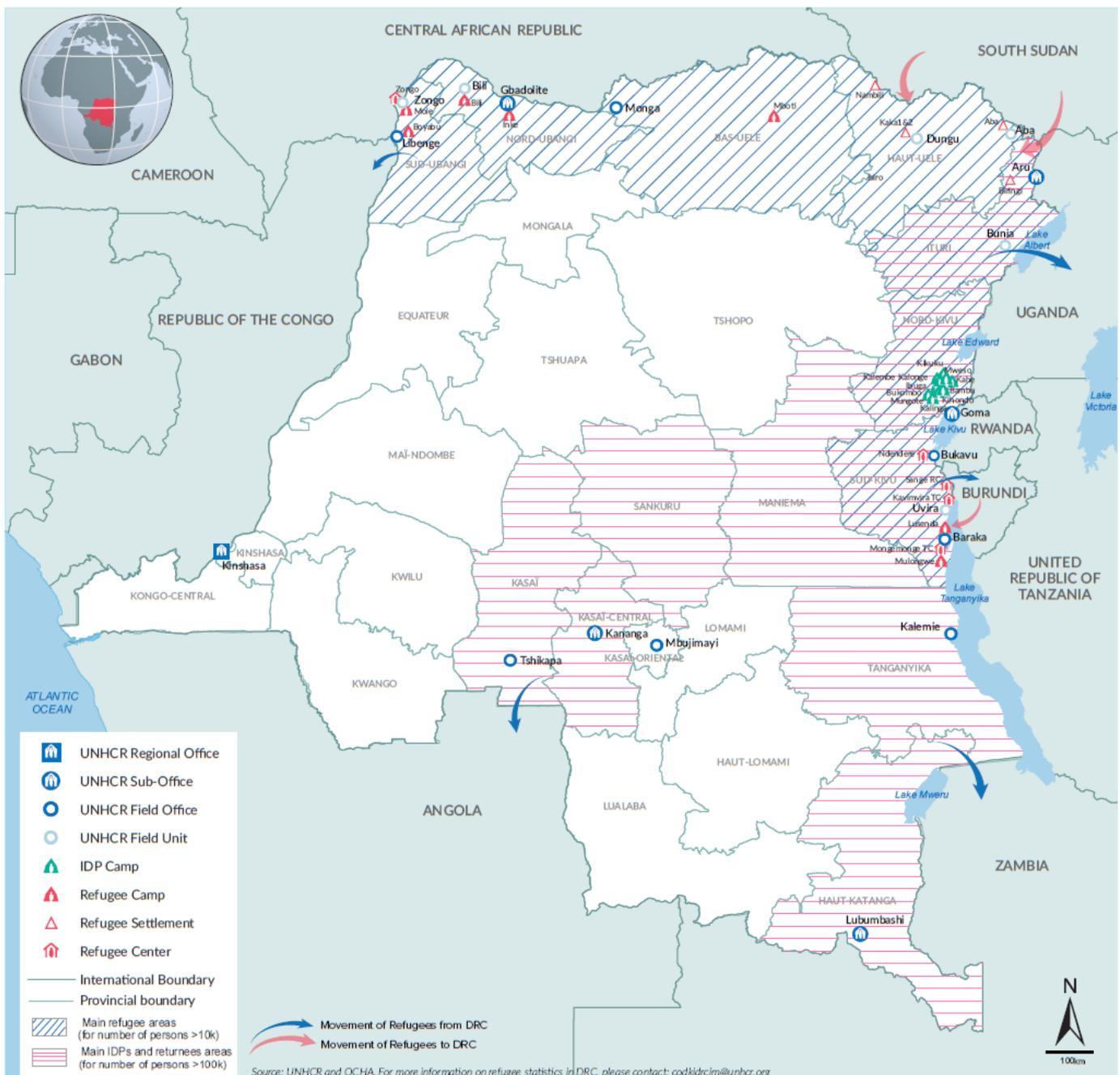
772,052
Total DRC refugee population



Source: UNHCR

*Southern Africa include Namibia, Botswana, Lesotho, Malawi, Zimbabwe, Mozambique, Madagascar, RSA and the Kingdom of Eswatini.

**Other Countries include South Sudan, Kenya, Central African Republic and Chad



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

Printing date: 24 Jun 2018 Author: UNHCR - Kinshasa