

# THE DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO SITUATION

MARCH 2018

The situation in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) is one of the world's most **complex and challenging yet forgotten crises**. As of 31 March, the Africa region hosted over 735,800 DRC refugees.

During 1 January to 31 March alone, some 86,456 Congolese fled to neighbouring countries, with a particularly **significant increase** in refugee flows to Uganda, Burundi and Zambia.

On March 23, UNHCR together with 30 humanitarian partners launched a Regional Refugee Response Plan for \$504 million to help respond to the needs of Congolese refugees in neighboring countries.

## KEY INDICATORS



**735,806 \***

Total of refugees and asylum-seekers from the DRC



**86,456 \*\***

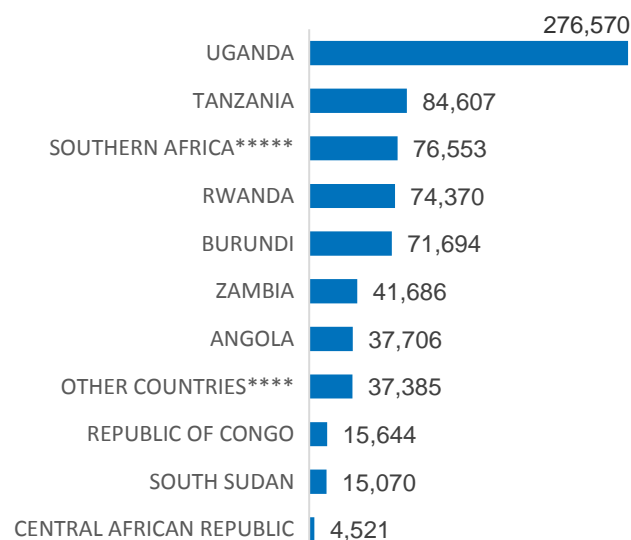
New arrivals in 2018



**25,229**

New arrivals in March

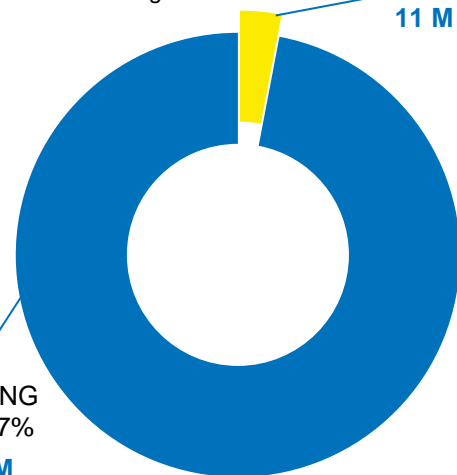
## POPULATION OF CONCERN HOST COUNTRIES



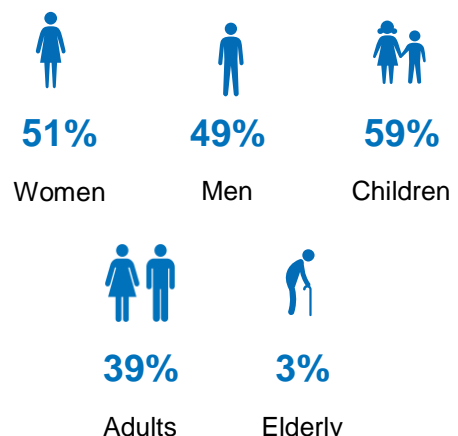
## FUNDING (AS OF THE END OF MARCH)

**USD 363.9 million**

requested for the Congolese situation



## AGE, GENDER BREAKDOWN \*\*\*



\* **Total number** includes figures from Angola, Botswana, Burundi, Central African Republic, Chad, Kenya, Lesotho, Madagascar, Malawi, Mozambique, Namibia, Republic of the Congo, Rwanda, South Africa, South Sudan, Swaziland, the United Republic of Tanzania, Uganda, Zambia and Zimbabwe.

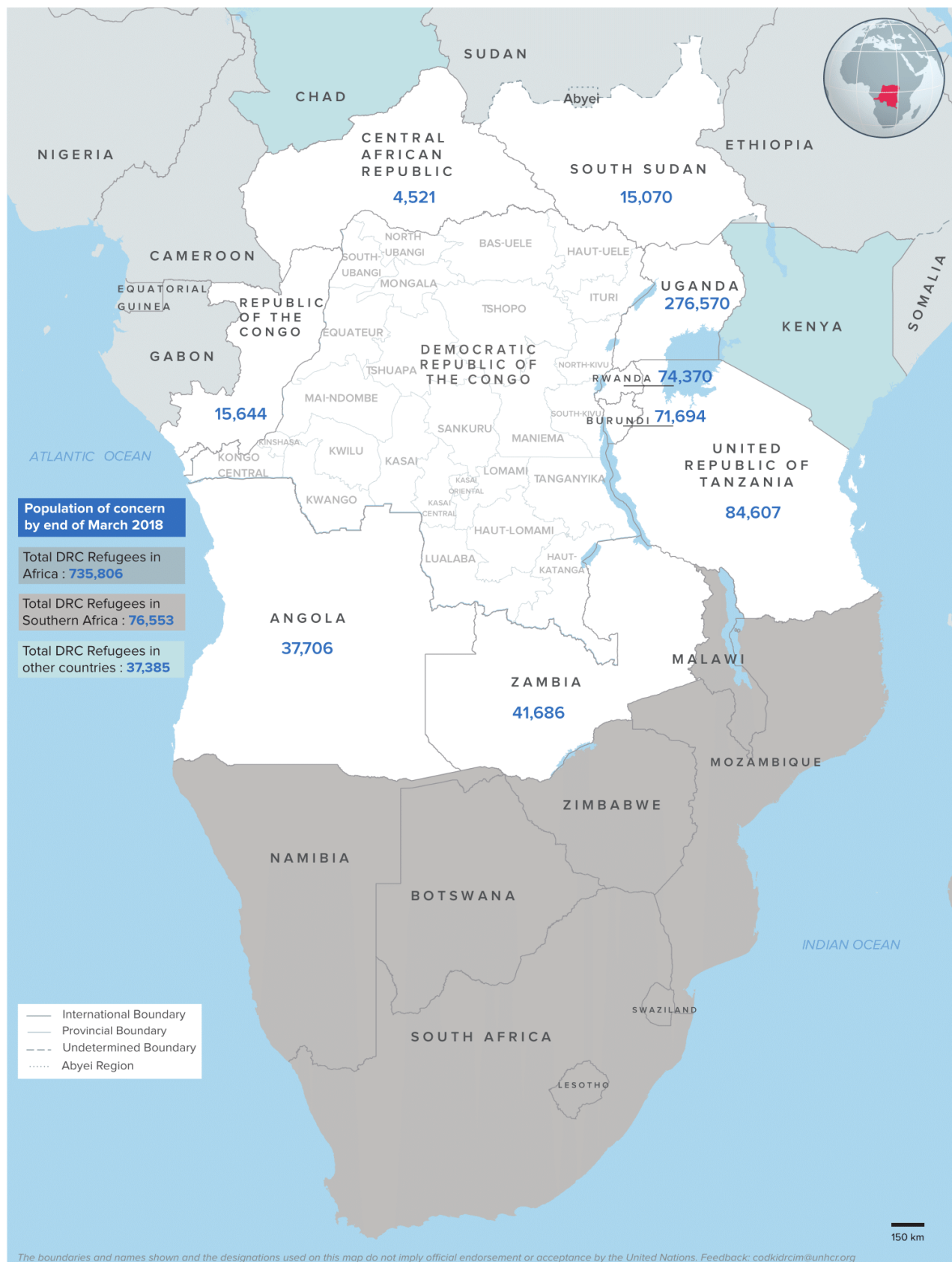
\*\* **New arrivals** include figures from Angola, Burundi, Kenya, Malawi, Mozambique, Republic of the Congo, Rwanda, South Sudan, Swaziland, the United Republic of Tanzania, Uganda, Zambia and Zimbabwe.

\*\*\* **This age breakdown and the charts** include figures from Angola, Burundi, Central African Republic, Kenya, Republic of the Congo, Rwanda, South Sudan and the United Republic of Tanzania.

\*\*\*\* **Other countries** include Chad and Kenya.

\*\*\*\*\* **Southern Africa** includes Botswana, Lesotho, Madagascar, Malawi, Mozambique, Namibia, South Africa, Swaziland and Zimbabwe.

**NUMBER OF REFUGEES** In countries of asylum as of the end of March 2018

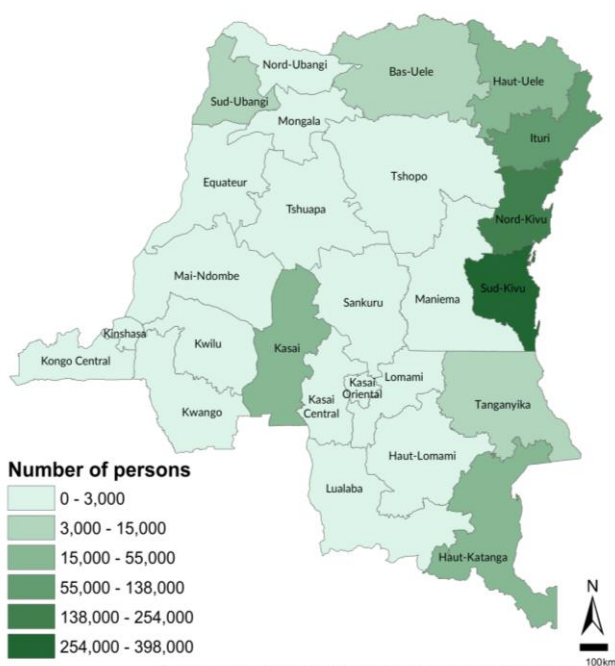


Creation date: 17 April 2018 Sources: UNHCR, UNCS Feedback: codkidrcim@unhcr.org

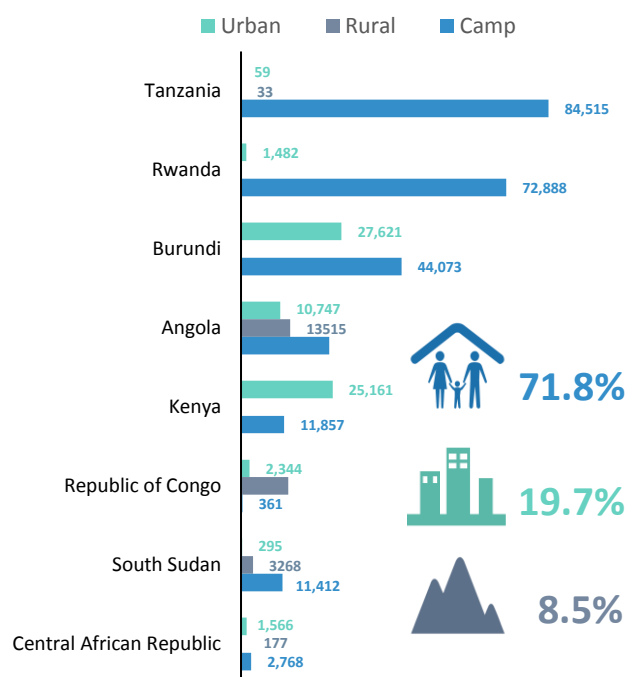
## Regional Highlights and Operational Context

- Over **735,800 Congolese refugees** are being hosted today across Africa. Countries have generously maintained an open door policy in granting asylum to refugees.
- The security conditions in the DRC, especially in the eastern and central provinces have continued to worsen, leading to increasing numbers of persons being forced to flee their homes to seek protection in the DRC, and at the same time many have crossed to the neighboring countries - placing the DRC refugee population **among the ten largest in the world**.
- As of the end of March, UNHCR received \$11 million, representing only 3 per cent of the total requirements against the DRC Situation in 2018. Most of the contributions received, so far, are earmarked at country level, reducing the level of the flexibility that could be used where it is most needed.

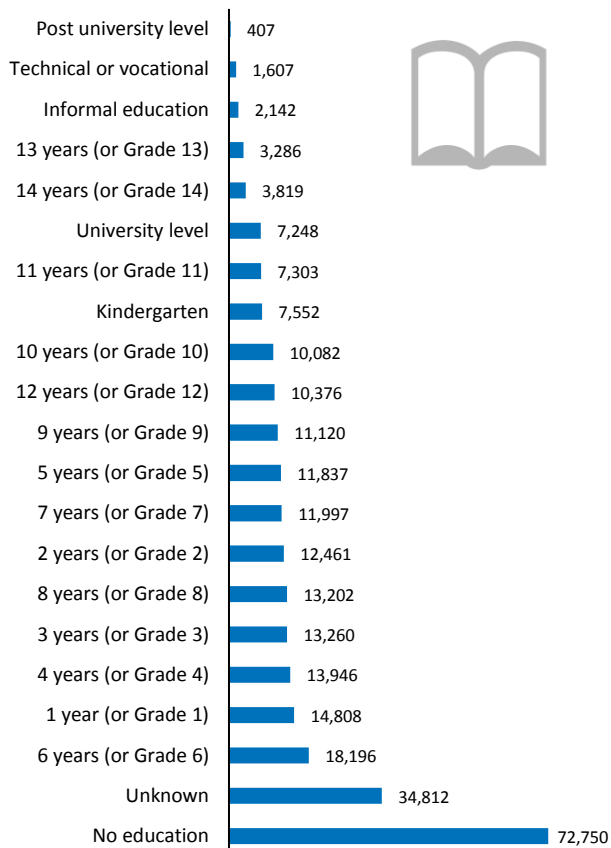
### AREAS OF ORIGIN Of Congolese Refugees

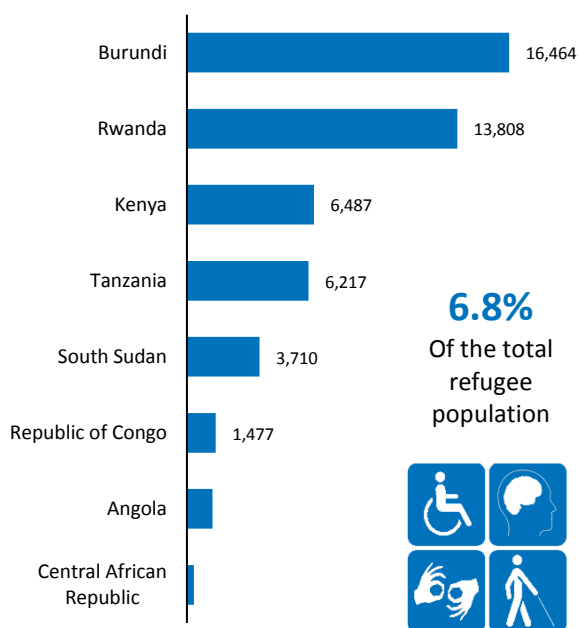
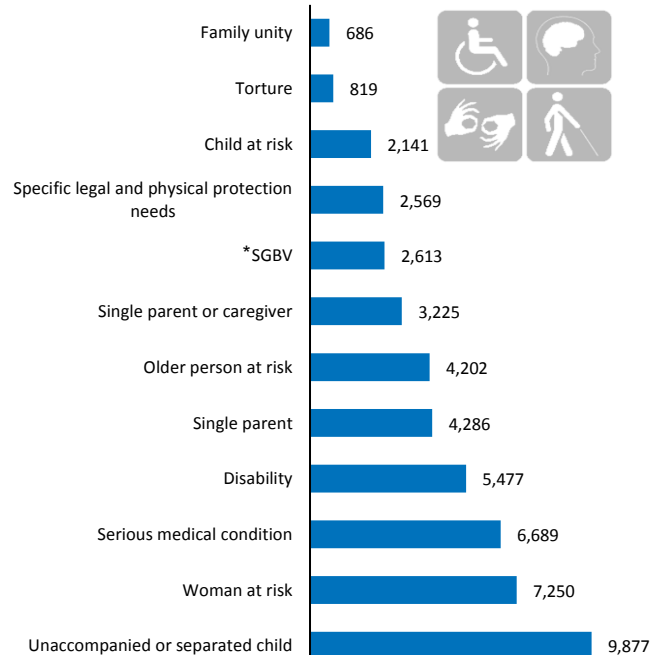


### TYPE OF SETTLEMENT In Countries Of Asylum



*The above charts include figures from Angola, Burundi, Central African Republic, Kenya, Republic of the Congo, Rwanda, South Sudan and the United Republic of Tanzania*

**EDUCATION LEVEL OF REFUGEES | Number Of Persons Per Level**

**OCCUPATION OF REFUGEES | Number Of Persons By Type Of Occupation**

**NUMBER OF PERSONS WITH SPECIFIC NEEDS Per Country of Asylum**

**NUMBER OF PERSONS WITH SPECIFIC NEEDS Per Category Of Concern**


\* Sexual and Gender Based Violence (SGBV)

The above charts include figures from Angola, Burundi, Central African Republic, Kenya, Republic of the Congo, Rwanda, South Sudan and the United Republic of Tanzania

## Achievements during the Reporting Period

### ANGOLA

#### Latest developments

- Refugees registered in Mussungue and Cacanda reception centres have been successfully relocated to the new settlement in Lóvua; the relocation of those living with host communities in Dundo is ongoing. About 13,562 Congolese refugees (3,388 families) were residing in Lóvua settlement, as of March 27, 2018.

#### Achievements

- Out of the 35,411 individuals biometrically registered, 24,528 individuals (6,207 families) were present at the monthly food distribution and received food rations. A total of 255 children (6 to 59 months) were screened for malnutrition in Lóvua resulting in the identification of one case of Severe Acute Malnutrition (SAM) and 17 with Moderate Acute Malnutrition (MAM).

On 22 March, four schools with three classrooms each opened in Lóvua settlement. Partners, Municipal, Provincial authorities and six national teachers from the municipality welcomed 3,339 refugee and host community children who are now attending primary and secondary schools.

In Lóvua, the main morbidity was linked to musculoskeletal pain (23 per cent), followed by malaria (22 per cent) and upper respiratory tract infections (20 per cent). Antenatal (ANC) and postnatal care (PNC) services continued. In addition, 22 women received ANC consultations; all were screened for HIV/AIDS. Twelve women of the total 182 pregnant women in the settlement, attended their first PNC consultation and received dignity kits. In Lóvua settlement, preparations continue to set up two more women-friendly tents to meet the increasing needs as the settlement is expanding.

The construction of household latrines continued. The 41 villages, now have 328 communal latrines and showers, 1,700 household latrines, 82 garbage pits and 48 water points. A total of 41 villages with 72 plots each are currently complete and occupied in Lóvua settlement. Thirteen villages are under preparation to be available for future relocation exercises. A total of 819 emergency shelters were built out of the 3,134 shelters erected in Lóvua.

#### Challenges

- The number of students in Lóvua settlement school opening exceeded the registered 3,339. Teachers are registering the new students. In addition, several adults are demanding Portuguese literacy classes and kindergarten facilities for hundred pre-school children during the day.
- The last components to begin borehole drilling arrived in Lóvua on 27 March after a problematic journey. The contractor planned to start drilling the first test site.



**BURUNDI****Latest developments**

Since the January influx, the number of asylum-seekers from the DRC crossing into Burundi has decreased. In January 2018, the total number of DRC new arrivals was 8,736, including 8,212 who were given refugee status on prima facie basis.

**Achievements**

- Camp-based refugees were given with food and nonfood items as well as briquettes for cooking food. Due to the lack of funding refugees have been informed that no assistance in cash will be available from April.
- In March, 388 asylum-seekers were granted refugee status. The following documents were given to refugees and asylum-seekers: 11 refugee identity cards, 112 birth certificates, 10 death certificates, 202 temporary stay permits, 731 registration proofs were issued to asylum-seekers and refugees and 1056 exit camp permits were issued to refugees wishing to go out of the camp.
- 217 refugees were resettled to other countries, and planning works have started on the recently allocated site for a fifth refugee camp in the Province of Ruyigi.

**Challenges**

- Underfunding had an impact on the assistance to refugees, including on self-reliance activities, education with overcrowded classes and lack of school materials/manuals, health; shelters and latrines that need rehabilitation.
- Newly arrived Congolese refugees from the January influx living in temporary shelters need to be moved quickly to individual houses.

**RWANDA****Latest developments**

- The Government of the Republic of Rwanda and UNHCR, joined by WFP, constituted a Joint Support Team on 26 March to look into the Kiziba camp refugees' protests that occurred on 20th February, resulting in the death of 11 Congolese refugee and injuries to several others, including police officers. It is important to underline that the Joint Support Team did not have an investigation remit, as it is the responsibility of the Rwandan authorities to institute that competent, to carry out an independent and objective investigation, into the incidents and the circumstances leading up to the incidents and the aftermath. A report with conclusions and recommendations is underway.

**Achievements**

- During the reporting period, 245 birth certificates were issued to Congolese children in four camps; 76 in Nyabiheke, 45 in Kigeme, 22 in Mugombwa and 102 in Gihembe.

UNHCR's high education school programme (DAFI) supported 107 students from the five Congolese camps and seven urban refugee students to continue their academic studies in national universities.

- Inkomoko Entrepreneur Development started to support refugee entrepreneurs in all camps and urban areas while Inyenyeri Social Benefit Company was ready to start on-boarding all households in Kigeme with their sustainable cooking solution as UNHCR is shifting to cash instead of firewood.
- The camp clinics performed 57 consultations per day per clinician. Ongoing screening for anaemia in Gihembe Health Center for children under 5 (aged 6 to 59 months) started on 20 March.

### Challenges

- Challenges are still being faced because of late birth registration in the Congolese camps due to a lack of understanding and the failure of caregivers to register their children on time. Due to budget constraints, UNHCR and partners are unable to enroll all refugee student best performers in the schools of excellence. In addition to 486 students already enrolled, 441 new best performers need to be supported and enrolled in boarding schools. An additional USD 180,040 is needed to ensure the enrolment of all 927 refugee students. Even though progress has been made, there are limitations in developing livelihood activities, such as limited space for individuals to open shops. Limited land for farming activities, particularly in Kigeme, and limited budgets for start-up capital.

The Mugombwa health post is in bad condition and needs to be repaired. The patient's referral budget was decreased this year while the need for referral to high level facilities is still considerable. Moreover, there is lack of health assistance access for students in out-of-camp education facilities. The general ration reduction remains at 25 per cent in all Congolese camps.

In Kigeme and Mugombwa camps, the lack of retaining walls and/or stairs around some dischargeable latrines creates a high risk of accidents and hinders accessibility. Family latrines and showers are needed for 20 persons with disabilities who cannot easily access the communal latrines and showers in Gihembe camp. Communal facilities such as latrine blocks and showers are without lighting. This exposes refugees, particularly women and children, to sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV) risks. Shelters in both Gihembe and Nyabiheke camps need to be expanded in order to accommodate the growing population and 200 additional houses are still needed to cover the needs of larger families in Kiziba camp.

## UNITED REPUBLIC OF TANZANIA

### Latest developments

- Since the January influx, there has been a decline in the number of asylum-seekers from the DRC crossing into the United Republic of Tanzania. In January 2018, the total number

of new arrivals was 1,218. This figure dropped to 16 individuals in February 2018. There were no new arrivals in March 2018.

## **Achievements**

- UNHCR and partners came together to scale up and coordinate the humanitarian response, so as to ensure that new arrivals were provided with food, shelter, healthcare and WASH.

The port authority in Kigoma allocated a small plot of land in Kibirizi to accommodate new arrivals. The construction of temporary shelters began soon after and a total of seven mass shelters with the capacity to accommodate 1,520 individuals were set up. Latrine blocks and bathing shelters were also constructed and hygiene promotion posters were strategically placed around Kibirizi.

UNHCR coordinated with the Government's Regional Medical Officer, IRC, WHO, and UNICEF to rapidly scale up healthcare services and set up a more systematic on arrival vaccination campaign in order to reduce the risk of outbreaks of diseases. UNHCR supported upgrades to a nearby health center's isolation wards which served as a case management area in the event of any outbreak. UNHCR's Shelter Unit set up tents provided by UNFPA, which were used as an on-arrival medical screening facility and medical consultation unit.

## **Challenges**

- Due to funding shortfalls, resources were severely overstretched. There was a shortage of staff and the logistical capacity to deal with new arrivals was strained. There was a critical need for additional WASH facilities and sustainable provision of water due to the increased risk of contracting water-borne diseases, such as cholera and diarrheal infections.

Although UNHCR was able to relocate Congolese from Kibirizi to Nyarugusu Refugee Camp, this move placed added pressure on the camp's capacity to accommodate these new Congolese asylum-seekers. The camp urgently needs to resume a decongestion programme that was halted in July 2016 due to limited space in the other camps and develop a new site to host families relocated from Nyarugusu.

There are insufficient resources to sustain full ration of the food basket as well as the continued need for wet feeding and supplementary feeding to address the nutritional needs of new arrivals and persons with special needs (PSNs) in Nyarugusu. Health facilities are overstretched and there is a serious shortage of essential drugs and medicines. WASH facilities are at capacity. A shortage of adequate classrooms, teachers and learning materials are major challenges.



**UGANDA****Latest developments**

- The refugee flow into Uganda remained significant in March, with a daily influx of more than 600 individuals, arriving mainly from the Ituri and North Kivu provinces in the DRC.

**Achievements**

- Since the Ministry of Health declared a cholera outbreak in refugee settlements in Hoima and Kyegegwa districts on 23<sup>rd</sup> February, active search and preventive measures have been reinforced, in cooperation with the Hoima District Health Office. No deaths occurred during the reporting period. As part of the cholera response, partners scaled up hygiene at reception facilities, settlement areas and host community villages. Construction of latrines, water stands and showers continued, as well as distribution of water purification tablets.

In Kyangwali settlement, partners identified 3,050 persons with specific needs (PSNs) since mid-December. Among them are 1,587 unaccompanied and separated children, of whom 42 were reunited with their families and 50 others are pending reunification. Furthermore, 149 survivors of SGBV) were identified since the beginning of the influx in mid-December. Out of this number, 135 incidents allegedly occurred in the country of origin and 14 others in the country of asylum. All survivors received psychosocial support and legal counselling. To reduce the risk of SGBV, partners continued to strengthen protection monitoring, awareness-raising and referral mechanisms, in addition to investing in preventing measures such as streetlights and latrine locks.

In Kyaka II, partners identified 2,510 PSNs since mid-December, including 1,085 unaccompanied and separated children, 98 SGBV survivors, six child mothers and four children with disabilities. Of the total number of unaccompanied minors and separated children, 604 were placed in foster care and 23 reunited with their families. All SGBV survivors were referred for psychosocial and medical assistance and legal counseling.

**Challenges**

- In Kyangwali, 41,812 new refugee arrivals were registered and settled since mid-December 2017, with 1,812 remaining at Kagoma reception center awaiting allocation of land and relocation. With Kyangwali inching closer to reach maximum capacity, UNHCR and the Office of the Prime Minister held preliminary discussions on potential new sites suitable to accommodate new arrivals from the DRC.

**ZAMBIA****Latest developments**

- The flow of new arrivals decreased during March, however, the operation continued to ensure that preparedness measures are in place in view of a possible large influx of Congolese refugees.

## Achievements

Some of the achievements under the Congolese response included : i) establishment of a joint co-ordination mechanism (including sectoral and field level coordination) with partners led by the Government, ii) identification and setting up of reception centers with minimum standards, to receive new arrivals; additional reception centers are in the process of being identified/established and provided with minimum capacity to receive arrivals; iii) provision of various services, including biometric registration and protection is on-going iv) protection and RSD training to members of the District Joint Operations Committee (DJOC) was conducted, as well as v) procurement and pre-positioning of CRIs in key transit centers. Furthermore, vi) staffing has been increased and put in place covering all activities, vii) border monitoring capacity is being increased, viii) a new refugee settlement has been established, where various partners have started putting up various infrastructure using initial funds received. Additionally, ix) to ensure the refugees are settled at the new refugee settlement, relocation started in January – and is on-going, x) donors and the media have been engaged, including through field visits, and, xi) an inter-agency portal has been established.

## ■ Challenges

The main challenge has been and remains, the poor road conditions and networks in the northern part of the country. Ongoing seasonal rains have eroded the already poor roads.

Long distances from the reception centres in the north of the country, where refugees from the Kivus in the DRC as well as Burundians arrive to the two settlements in Western and North Western Provinces of Zambia where these new arrivals are relocated, also pose a logistical and financial challenge to the operation.

## Financial Information

UNHCR is very grateful for the financial support provided by donors who have contributed to our activities with un-earmarked and broadly earmarked funds as well as for those who have contributed directly to the situation or operations.

### FUNDING (in million USD)

A total of **11 million** has been funded

#### Donors who have contributed to the DRC situation:

- CERF
- Educate A Child Programme (EAC/EAA)
- IKEA Foundation
- Italy
- Japan
- Private Donors

### EXTERNAL / DONORS RELATIONS

#### BROADLY EARMARKED CONTRIBUTIONS

Special thanks to donors of broadly earmarked contributions of over \$2 million that can potentially be used for the DRC situation.

United States of America 77.8 million | Canada 6.6 million | Private donors Australia 3.8 million | Sweden 3.2 million

Germany | Luxembourg | Malta | Republic of Korea | Switzerland | Private donors

#### UNEARMARKED CONTRIBUTIONS

Special thanks to donors of unearmarked contributions of over \$10 million.

Sweden 98.2 million | Norway 42.5 million | Netherlands 39.1 million | United Kingdom 31.7 million | Denmark 25.5 million | Private donors Spain 19 million | Australia 18.9 million | Switzerland 15.2 million | Italy 11.2 million

Algeria | Argentina | Belgium | Bosnia and Herzegovina | Canada | China | Estonia | Finland | Germany | Iceland | India | Indonesia | Kuwait | Lithuania | Luxembourg | Monaco | Montenegro | New Zealand | Philippines | Qatar | Republic of Korea | Russian Federation | Serbia | Singapore | Slovakia | Sri Lanka | Thailand | Turkey | United Arab Emirates | Uruguay | Private donors

### CONTACTS

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### LINKS

UNHCR DRC Situation Data Portal - <https://data.unhcr.org/DRC>

UNHCR News & Stories - <http://www.unhcr.org/news/press/2018/3/5ab4d6d84/unhcr-partners-look-us504-million-congolese-refugees.html>