

Democratic Republic of the Congo

June 2020

During the COVID-19 pandemic, UNHCR DRC is producing a condensed monthly Operational Update. Specific information about UNHCR's response to COVID-19 in DRC can be found [here](#).

Refugees



PROTECTION

- At least **3,000 Congolese** crossed the **Ubangui river from Buda town in Bosololo Territory**, Nord Ubangi Province, seeking protection and shelter in the village of Toko Kota, in the Central African Republic, despite borders being closed due to the coronavirus pandemic. As per the reports, they fled following violence by security forces over a dispute with local authorities over the equipment intended for the locality's health centre. From 7 to 12 June, UNHCR organized a joint mission with Congolese Government partner Commission Nationale pour les Réfugiés (CNR) to Buda. The security situation remains calm and UNHCR is planning for awareness-raising sessions with the refugees about a possible return.
- Heavy floods which occurred in April have further affected a weak road network across South Kivu Province. This hampers the relocation of over 1,400 Burundian refugees from overcrowded transit centres in Uvira. UNHCR and partners are looking at an **alternative way of relocating refugees, for example by boat across the Tanganyika lake**, to Mulongwe settlement.
- **The security situation continues to be volatile around Ingbokolo in Aru territory**, Ituri Province. The border between the Ituri Province and South Sudan remains porous due to the insufficient presence of the Congolese police and armed forces, creating opportunities for armed groups to enter, putting populations, both refugees and the host community at great risk.



SHELTER AND CORE RELIEF ITEMS (CRIs)

- UNHCR provided **60 refugee families from the Central African Republic with cash** to buy materials to build transitional shelters in Bili camp, Nord Ubangi Province. 20 additional refugee families will benefit from this assistance to improve their shelter conditions.
- **UNHCR distributed dignity kits - containing hygiene supplies - to over 9,000 women and girls** of reproductive age in Lusenda and Mulongwe settlements, South Kivu Province. The distribution of kit provides an opportunity to meet and speak to women and girls, share information, and better understand their concerns.



EDUCATION

- **Over 600 refugee students from the Central African Republic who are taking the end of primary school exam this year benefited from special home-based education lessons** organized by UNHCR's partner Association pour le Développement Social et la Sauvegarde de l'Environnement (ADSSE). The activity took place in Inke, Bili, Mole and Boyabu refugee camps located in North and South Ubangi Provinces and included a maximum of six students per session to respect physical distancing measures.



LIVELIHOODS AND FOOD SECURITY

- UNHCR and partners the World Food Programme (WFP) and Action et Intervention pour le Développement Social (AIDES) started **distributing mobile phones and SIM cards to over 8,000 Burundian refugees** at Mulongwe settlement in South Kivu Province. It will allow them to receive cash for food assistance via electronic payments.
- UNHCR and partner AIDES **distributed over 50,000 kg of biomass briquettes** at Lusenda and Mulongwe settlements, South Kivu Province. Biomass briquettes are produced by refugees and locals and provide an environmentally friendly alternative to firewood and charcoal for cooking.

- UNHCR and partner AIDES **distributed over 50,000 quality casava cuttings to 40 refugee farmers from the Central African Republic and host community members** in Bili, Nord Ubangi Province to promote food security, increase agricultural productivity and farm income.
- Almost **50 Burundian refugee farmers received agricultural tools** in Kalemie, Tanganyika Province. The group harvests the fresh produce and sells it at the local market.



WATER, SANITATION AND HYGIENE (WASH)

- UNHCR and partners ACTED and African Initiatives for Relief and Development (AIRD) finalized the **construction of 80 latrines at Bili camp, Nord Ubangi Province**. Bringing a toilet into a compound provides real benefits to refugees' health and security, as it cuts environmental pollution, reduces the transmission of communicable illnesses such as diarrhoea and lowers the risk of sexual assault.

Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs)



PROTECTION

- In South Kivu Province, community-based protection groups supported by UNHCR and partner Consortium Caritas-AVSI **conducted workshops on sexual and gender-based violence related themes** including “**positive masculinity**”, **reaching almost 4,000 internally displaced persons, host community members and refugees**. 50 ambassadors of “positive masculinity” were identified in Fizi and Uvira Territories, and they will work with community-based groups as leaders in their community. The community-based protection groups also shared information and resources on COVID-19 prevention, reaching nearly 3000 IDPs, host community members, and refugees.
- In June, **UNHCR’s protection monitoring partner INTERSOS documented 1,305 human rights violations** (including looting, inflicting bodily harm and SGBV) in South Kivu and Maniema Provinces. INTERSOS referred 198 cases for immediate interventions that address physical safety, health concerns and psycho-social needs.
- In North Kivu Province, UNHCR and partner INTERSOS recorded **148 cases of sexual and gender-based violence**, including 102 cases of rape. 30 of the survivors received medical support and 35 were treated with Post Exposure Prophylaxis (PEP) kits within 72 hours after the assault, as well as psychosocial support.
- **120 vulnerable internally displaced households received cash grants** in Kashuga, North Kivu Province which will help them meet a variety of needs, including access to food, water, healthcare and shelter.
- According to DRC immigration authorities (DGM), **3,094 Congolese (including 1,350 women and 136 girls) were expelled from Angola in June at the Kamako border in Kasai Province**, representing a 30 per cent increase from last month. Approximately 70 per cent of them remain close to the Kamako border with hope to return to Angola once the situation improves. UNHCR, through our partner War Child UK, is conducting protection monitoring in Kamako to identify and profile protection concerns, and ensure adequate responses.
- In Greater Kasai, UNHCR partner War Child UK, recorded and documented **1,897 human rights violations (1,030 in Kasai Province, 511 in Kasai Central Province, 356 in Kasai Oriental/ Lomami Provinces)**, nearly a quarter of which involved returnees (IDPs).



SHELTER AND CORE RELIEF ITEMS (CRIs)

- UNHCR and partner AIDES continued to provide **shelter assistance to over 5,000 vulnerable IDP households in Beni, Lubero and Rutshuru Territories, North Kivu Province**. 4,000 IDP households received emergency shelters together with 92 latrines and showers, 850 IDP households received support allowing them to build transitional shelters and latrines and 180 households are now sheltered in community hangars. Shelter needs remain high as almost two million Congolese are now estimated to have been internally displaced in North Kivu Province alone.
- UNHCR and partner the Danish Refugee Council (DRC) finalized the **construction of 900 emergency shelters with tarpaulins or mud walls and rehabilitated 600 emergency shelters** in four displacement sites in Djugu and Mahagi Territories, Ituri Province. This shelter support is crucial to help to reduce population density in overcrowded displacement sites and improve living conditions.

- have fled to these areas (including IDP sites under UNHCR coordination), since the beginning of the year fleeing violence and attacks in their home areas.
- **700 shelters are currently being constructed in Walungu and Fizi Centre**, South Kivu Province by UNHCR and partner AIDES. Cash assistance and in-kind support are provided to internally displaced persons, allowing them to build their own homes. In Uvira, UNHCR has also identified **1,000 households who will benefit from a cash-for-shelter support**, enabling families affected by the recent floods to guarantee three months of rental support.

CASH-BASED INTERVENTIONS (CBI)

- In Uvira, South Kivu Province, UNHCR started the **identification of 1,000 households affected by the recent floods who will benefit from cash-for-shelter**, amounting to three months of rental support to facilitate them moving out of the temporary site established after the floods.
- On 4 June, UNHCR started providing **cash assistance to 137 returnee households from Angola** in Kananga, Kasai Central Province to help them reintegrate. In addition, the World Food Programme (WFP) has provided returnees with cash for food assistance.



WATER, SANITATION AND HYGIENE (WASH)

- UNHCR's partner the Danish Refugee Council (DRC) finalized the construction of 100 latrines and 50 showers in four displacement sites in Djugu and Mahagi Territories, Ituri Province.

Clusters and Working Groups

- The security situation in South Kivu Province and Maniema was marked by the continued attacks by armed groups, with incursions into villages, road ambushes, inter-community conflicts, especially in Fizi (Highlands), Shabunda and Uvira (Ruzizi) Territories. The Protection Cluster advocated for members of the *Comité Régional Inter-organisation* (CRIO) to intervene in the hard-to-reach Territory of Shabunda, where very few humanitarian and security actors are present. This has led to the deployment of a military presence to stabilize the area.
- Through the Shelter Cluster which coordinates the shelter response, 37 humanitarian actors provided 11,133 households with constructed or rehabilitated shelters while 8,160 households benefited from emergency shelters in Haut-Katanga, Ituri, North Kivu, South Kivu and Tanganyika Provinces. Insecurity and logistical constraints are restricting interventions in some areas, mainly North Kivu, South Kivu and Ituri Provinces.

External / Donor Relations

Funding received as of 1 July 2020

Donors for UNHCR operations in DRC in 2020

CERF (10M) | United States of America (6.6M) | Sweden (3.1M) | European Union (1.6M) | France (1.1M) | Canada (0.72M) | Japan (0.56M)

Major donors of regional or other funds with soft earmarking 2020

Germany (47.6M) | United Kingdom (24.8M) | United States of America (21.9M) | Denmark (14.6M) | Canada (10.2M) | Private donors USA (7.4M) | Sweden (6.9M) | Private donors Germany (6.6M) | Private donors Japan (3.9M) | Private donors Australia (3.7M) | Ireland (3.3M) | Finland (3.3M) | France (2.8M) | Norway (2.4M)

Major donors of un-earmarked funds in 2020

Sweden (76.4M) | Norway (41.4M) | Netherlands (36.1 M) | Denmark (34.6M) | Private donors Spain (33.1M) | United Kingdom (31.7M) | Germany (25.9M) | Private donors Republic of Korea (17.3M) | Switzerland (16.4M) | France (14M) | Private donors Japan (11.7M)

Contacts

Johannes van Gemund, Senior External Relations Officer, UNHCR Representation Kinshasa, gemund@unhcr.org, Tel: +243 817 009 484
 Fabien Faivre, Associate External Relations Officer, UNHCR Representation Kinshasa, faivre@unhcr.org, Tel: +243 825 443 419

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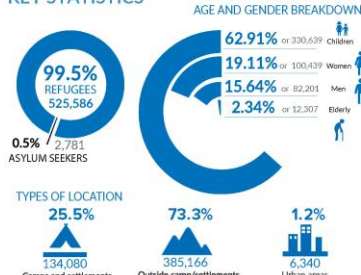
DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO DRC AT A GLANCE

as of 30 June 2020

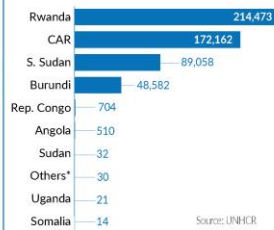
528,367

TOTAL NUMBER OF REFUGEES AND ASYLUM SEEKERS

KEY STATISTICS



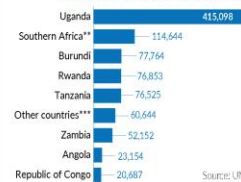
REFUGEE POPULATION BY COUNTRY OF ORIGIN



REFUGEES FROM DRC IN AFRICA

917,521*

TOTAL DRC REFUGEE POPULATION



* In this total, only figures for Burundi, Rwanda, Tanzania, Republic of Congo and South Sudan are as of 30 June 2020. Figures for all other countries are as of May 2020.
 ** 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.

