

Democratic Republic of the Congo

May 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

- UNHCR and its partner the National Commission for Refugees (CNR) registered over 600 new births amongst refugee from the Central African Republic (CAR) at the Inke, Boyabu and Mole camps in Nord and Sud Ubangi provinces. These registrations will facilitate protection and life-saving assistance to refugee children and families. Since January 2020, a total of 831 births have been registered in the four camps hosting refugees from CAR in Nord and Sud Ubangi provinces. About 171,515 refugees from CAR already live in three provinces of the DRC as of April 2020 both in camps and among the host community.
- In May, UNHCR provided health and protection assistance to six unaccompanied South Sudanese refugee children and their host families in Lubumbashi, Haut Katanga Province. The children are in the meantime waiting to be reunited with their families at the Lusenda camp in South Kivu Province, when COVID-19 related restrictions are eased.
- In Lusenda camp, South Kivu Province, UNHCR and AIDES distributed dignity kits comprising sanitary pads and basic hygiene materials to 7240 Burundian refugee women and girls. The kits will improve the overall health of women, self-esteem and absenteeism among young girls who often skip school and vocational activities due to menstrual hygiene challenges.
- In May, several people were forced to flee their communities, following an incursion by the South Sudanese army in Karagba, 35km from Ingbokolo in Aru territory, Ituri Province. The army reportedly burnt down houses, looted shops and pharmacies.
- Heavy rains and related flooding continued to affect nearly 150,000 individuals, including internally displaced persons and refugees, in Uvira and Fizi territories (South Kivu Province). Many have lost their homes and are staying in temporary sites with little social distancing, health or sanitation facilities. The rains also damaged Burundian refugees' shelters in Lusenda camp and Mulongwe settlement.



SHELTER AND CORE RELIEF ITEMS (CRIs)

- On May 21, UNHCR and partners distributed core relief items to 382 South Sudanese refugees (136 households) newly relocated from Meri settlement to the new Bele settlement, both in Haut Uele province. Among the items were 338 sleeping mats, 338 blankets, 85 kg of soap, 151 plastic buckets, 151 kitchen sets and an equal number of jerrycans. 60 other South Sudanese refugees (17 households) also received WFP food assistance from AJEDEC, a UNHCR implementing partner. The food items included 720kg of corn flour, 216 kg of peas and oil.
- UNHCR and its partner ADSSE distributed second-hand clothes to 2,139 South Sudanese refugees (664 households) in Kaka settlement and in Dungu, Haut Uele Province. The clothing items from private Japanese donor UNIQLO provide a sense of dignity for most of these refugees who fled their homes with nothing and are living in precarious conditions.
- In May, 301 households of Burundian refugees in Mulongwe Settlement, South Kivu province, received shelter kits and conditional mobile money cash grants for shelter and latrine construction from UNHCR and its implementing partner AIRD.

- In Nord Ubangi Province, UNHCR partner AIRD supported refugees from CAR through Cash Based Interventions, in building 43 transitional shelters to improve living conditions in Bili refugee camp. A total of 80 transitional shelters are planned for this year in Bili, to improve shelter conditions for the most vulnerable CAR refugee households. Bili camp is home to some 10,000 refugees from CAR.



LIVELIHOODS AND FOOD SECURITY

- In Biringi settlement, Ituri Province, a fishing project for South Sudanese refugees and host communities yielded 410 kg of fish. The May harvest from four ponds was sold to the local market to increase household incomes. The fish farming project, run by 16 beneficiaries with the support of UNHCR and implementing partner ADSSE since 2018, promotes self-reliance and peaceful coexistence amongst South Sudanese refugees and their hosts.
- In Bondo, Bas Uele Province, machetes, hoes, tarpaulin, breeders and fishing implements were distributed to six associations of refugee from CAR and host community farmers, as well as to fishermen by Terre Sans Frontières, a UNHCR implementing partner. This assistance promotes food security, self-reliance and strengthens ties between refugees and local populations. Bondo is one of several refugee-hosting sites in Bas Uele Province, a province that currently offers refuge to over 40 thousand registered refugees from CAR.



WATER, SANITATION AND HYGIENE (WASH)

- UNHCR and partner ACTED built 50 sanitary blocks, each comprising a latrine and washing room, for households of persons with specific needs at the Bili camp, Bosobolo Territory, Nord Ubangi Province. A total of 80 such blocks are planned by the end of the year through cash-based interventions and technical support to local technicians by ACTED. This assistance will address challenges often encountered by persons with specific needs in accessing sanitary facilities or sharing them with several other people.

Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs)



PROTECTION

- On May 26, UNHCR and partners began facilitating the voluntary return of 4,655 internally displaced persons (1,807 households) from an IDP site in Kaseke to various villages or sites identified around Kalemie Territory where the security situation has been stabilized. Core relief items were distributed, and awareness-raising conducted to support voluntary returns from both Kaseke and Kankombe TyF sites near Kalemie town in Tanganyika province. Other inhabitants of the two sites who desire to return to localities still experiencing violence, such as Nyunzu and Manono territories, will be temporarily transferred to other sites while waiting for the security situation to improve in their own villages. UNHCR will also provide assistance in return zones. The Kaseke and Kakombe displacement sites will be closed progressively as per Government's instructions.
- In May, a joint assessment by UNHCR and partners reported the displacement of about 80,000 persons (14,000 households) in Masisi territory, North Kivu Province, following military operations around the Kitchanga-Nyanzale-Kanyabayonga area, on-going since April 2020. A majority of the displaced are living with host communities, while 10% have sought shelters in schools and churches. UNHCR also noted an increase in sexual and gender-based violence incidents, including a daily average of two rapes reported at the Nyanzale Health Centre. UNHCR is working with local authorities in Nyanzale to strengthen their capacity while distribution of 1,500 emergency shelter kits is underway?
- In May, Community based protection groups supported by UNHCR in Walikale territory, identified and placed 90 separated children in foster families in Kanyabayonga, Kayna and Kirumba in Lubero Territory, North Kivu Province. Humanitarian agencies are currently providing assistance to the children and host families.

- In May, community-based protection groups in Lubichako, Fizi Territory (South Kivu Province), referred 26 survivors of rape to medical structures. The survivors had fled from Kabambare, in neighbouring Maniema Province, where increasing numbers of rapes were reported in April following attacks by an armed group. As many as 40 cases of rape were recorded by the communities.
- In North Kivu province, UNHCR and partner INTERSOS recorded 118 cases of sexual and gender-based violence in Beni, Luberto, Maisisi and Tutshuru territories, including 84 cases of rape. 22 of the survivors received medical support, 24 received Post Exposure Prophylaxis PEP kits, 17 victims received psychosocial support. Three of the perpetrators were arrested.
- In May, UNHCR and partner AIDES, carried out 49 awareness- raising sessions on sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV) in displacement sites, return areas, and amongst host communities in four territories in Tanganyika Province, reaching an estimated 866 persons. This aimed to reduce increasing risks and incidents of SGBV in the zone. UNHCR documented 20 cases of SGBV, including 16 rapes, in the localities of Manono, Moba, Pweto and Kalemie in the month of May alone. Seven of the survivors received medical assistance within 72 hours. Psychosocial support was also provided to the survivors.
- In North Kivu Province, UNHCR and partners (CNR, INTERSOS, Caritas, AIDES) carried out a multisectoral assessment of the protection and shelter situation in Mangina, Beni Territory, where some 6,000 internally displaced households have settled due to violence in their area of origin. Mangina itself had been emptied of the majority of its 70,000 residents in early February, following attacks in neighbouring villages.

SHELTER AND CORE RELIEF ITEMS (CRIs)

- UNHCR's partner AIDES distributed emergency shelter kits (tarpaulins, sticks, ropes and nails) to 72 different internally displaced households in Rutshuru Territory. A total of 2,381 emergency shelters have already been built in the territories of Rutshuru and Masisi out of 4,000 planned. The selection of beneficiaries is underway for the construction of 1,547 remaining emergency shelters.
- UNHCR and partner the Danish Refugee Council constructed 281 emergency shelters in Tsukpa displacement site, Ituri Province, bringing to 643 the total number of shelters built so far, out of 700 planned. The availability of new shelters is crucial to decongest sites and improve distancing, thus preventing the spread of diseases such as cholera, malaria and COVID-19. Inhabitants of Tsukpa site are also in dire need of food to prevent malnutrition.
- In Haut Katanga Province, UNHCR and partner CNR distributed 460 tarpaulins to 300 displaced and host community households in the locality of Kyubo, Mitwaba Territory. The tarpaulins are used to raise temporary shelters for victims of recent floods caused by torrential rains. Runoffs swept through homes and other social infrastructure in both Haut Katanga and Tanganyika provinces.
- UNHCR, in partnership with the Kasai Provincial Ministry of Health, offered core relief items including tarpaulins, mats, blankets and mosquito nets to 200 vulnerable households in Bulape and Kilandjale, Kasai Province. The beneficiaries were victims of violent clashes resulting from land disputes between the Tetela and Kuba communities.

CASH-BASED INTERVENTIONS (CBI)

- On 11 May, UNHCR has distributed cash assistance through mobile money to 3,126 vulnerable internally displaced persons in the towns of Beni and Butembo, North Kivu Province. This will help meet their most pressing needs.
- In May, UNHCR distributed cash assistance to 4,655 internally displaced persons (1,807 households) who voluntarily returned to various villages in Kalemie Territory, Tanganyika Province. They had been taking refuge in the Kaseke displacement site in Kalemie, following 2016 intercommunity clashes in Tanganyika Province.

- In Beni Territory, North Kivu province, UNHCR and partner, Caritas distributed cash assistance to 304 households of displaced persons in the localities of Mulekera and Rwenzori.
- In May, a total of 2,756 IDP households received their cash assistance through mobile phones in Beni bringing the total of households assisted to 3,941 in the town since the beginning of the activities on 3 April 2020. The distribution is targeting a total of 5,974 urban IDP households in Beni and Butembo towns.



WATER, SANITATION AND HYGIENE (WASH)

- In May, two Quick Implementation Projects (QIPs) were finalized by UNHCR's partner AVSI in Djugu Territory, Ituri Province. Through this project a well was built to provide clean drinking water and reduce risks of diseases for displaced persons and locals, while a child friendly space was created for playing and learning at the Loda displacement site.
- In Fizi Centre, South Kivu Province, the poor road network in the area has delayed the start of construction works of a project by UNHCR and partner to construct of 300 shelters and latrines for internally displaced persons.

Clusters and Working Groups

- Following the displacement of about 80,000 persons (14,000 households) in Bwito chiefdom, Rutshuru Territory, as a result of FARDC operations against FDLR militia, UNHCR coordinated a joint protection assessment involving other members of the Protection Cluster. UNHCR is working with local authorities in Nyanzale to strengthen their capacities, while distribution of 1,500 emergency shelters is underway. Advocated to address human rights violations, as well as SGBV and child protection activities are also ongoing.
- The UNHCR coordinated Protection Cluster led an inter-agency mission in Lubero Territory to assess the security and protection situation of dozens of thousands of IDPs who recently fled due to violence. Humanitarian stakeholders have been urged to intervene in order to provide protection and assistance to the multiple needs. UNHCR is planning shelter support to 450 households while continuing protection monitoring and community-based protection activities through partners INTERSOS and Caritas.
- As lead of the Protection Cluster, UNHCR is advocating for the holistic care of an increasing number of survivors of sexual and gender-based violence in South Kivu Province, by Protection Cluster members. It is doing so by integrating psychosocial and judicial support in the most affected zones, but this response will need to be expanded to adequately address the needs.
- Thanks to UNHCR's advocacy as co-lead of the Camp Coordination and Camp Management (CCCM) Working Group, the Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC) has agreed to construct 1,350 emergency shelters and sewers in the displacement sites of Nymazaze and Bahwere in Ituri Province, which will be coordinated by UNHCR. The project permits bigger distances between shelters, improving hygiene conditions and reducing the risk of diseases

External / Donor Relations

Funding received as of 22 June 2020

Donors for UNHCR operations in DRC in 2020

CERF (10 M) | United States of America (6.6 M) | Sweden (3.1 M) | European Union (1.6 M) | Canada (0.73 M) | Japan (0.56 M) | United Nations Foundation (0.32 M) | International Olympic Committee (0.23 M) | UNAIDS (0.19 M) | UPS Corporate (0.17)

Major donors of regional or other funds with soft earmarking 2020

Germany (48.2 M) | United Kingdom (24.8 M) | United States of America (21.9 M) | Denmark (14.6 M) | Canada (10.2 M) | Private donors USA (7.4 M) | Sweden (6.9 M) | Private donors Germany (4.9 M) | Private donors Japan (3.5 M) | Private donors Australia (3.4 M) | Ireland (3.3 M) | Finland (3.3 M) | Norway (2.4 M)

Major donors of un-earmarked funds in 2020

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

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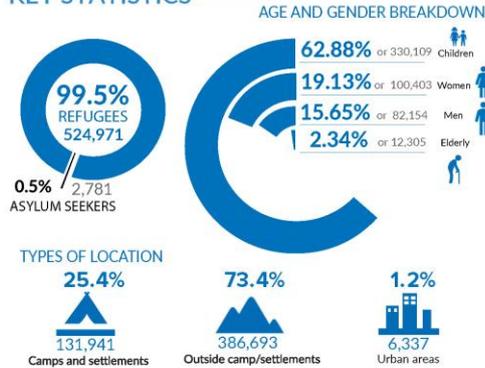
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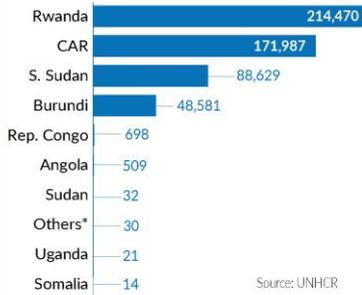
527,752

TOTAL NUMBER OF REFUGEES AND ASYLUM SEEKERS

KEY STATISTICS



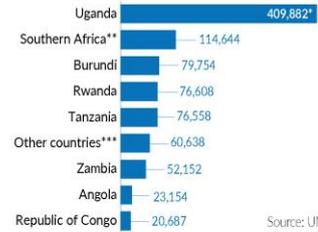
REFUGEE POPULATION BY COUNTRY OF ORIGIN



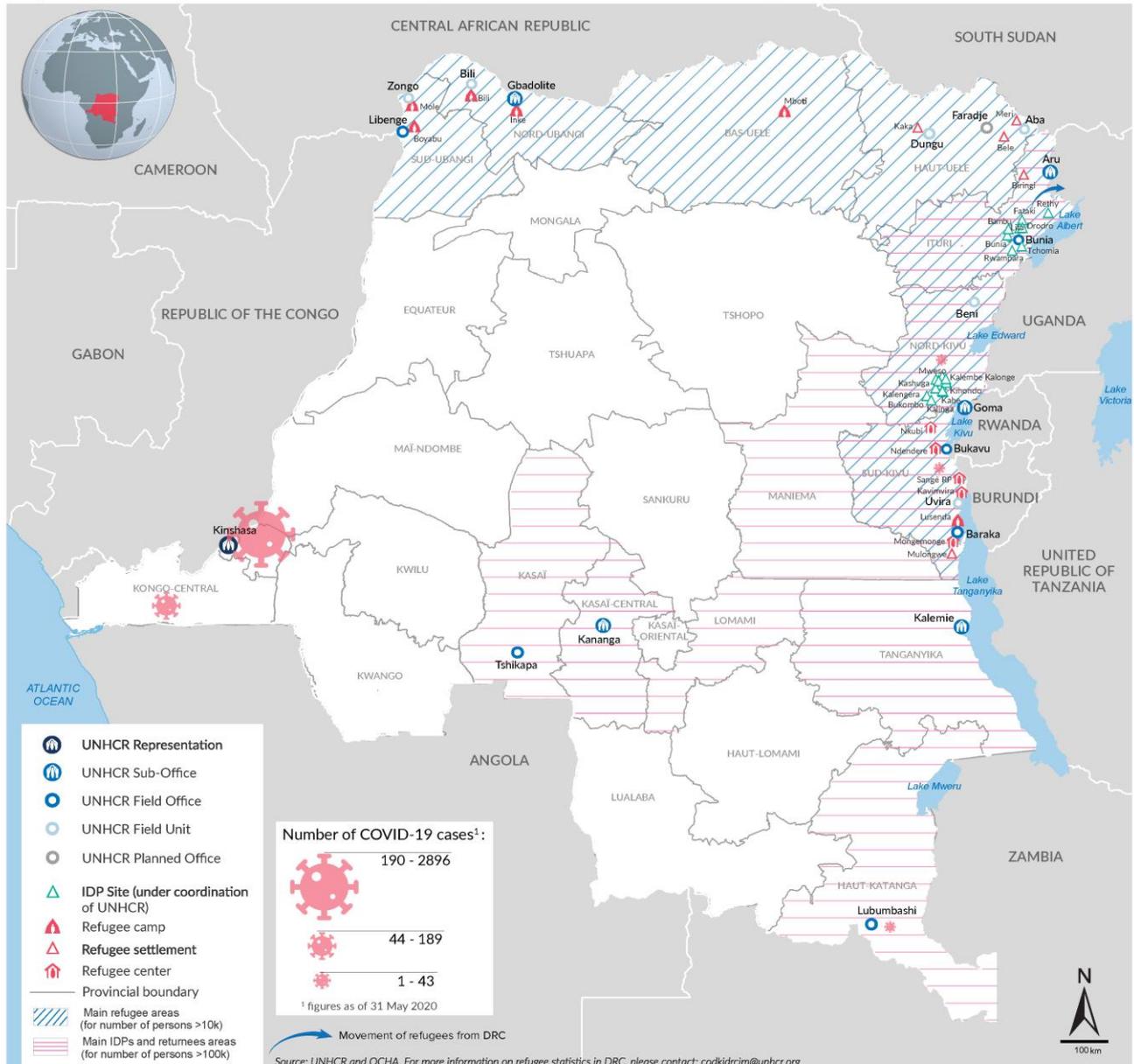
REFUGEES FROM DRC IN AFRICA

914,077

TOTAL DRC REFUGEE POPULATION



* Uganda figures are those of February 2020, the figures for May 2020 are not yet available.
** 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.



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