

Democratic Republic of the Congo

November 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](#).

Highlights

- Over 43,000 forcibly displaced, returnees and host community members received cash assistance in the Greater Kasai region.
- 18,000 displaced persons received shelter support in North and South Kivu.
- UNHCR distributed essential household items to 2,852 internally displaced and host community families affected by floods and ongoing violence in North Kivu Province.
- UNHCR assisted over 1,000 refugees from the Central African Republic who have made an informed choice to voluntarily return to their home country.



A displaced woman receiving cash assistance to meet her most urgent needs in Kakenge, Kasai Province. © UNHCR/Lubiana Gosp-Server

Refugees

PROTECTION

- UNHCR and the National Commission for Refugees (CNR) assisted over 1,000 refugees from the Central African Republic (CAR) living at Mole camp, South Ubangi Province to voluntarily repatriate. The voluntary return operation from the DRC to CAR is taking place under the framework of a Tripartite Agreement between the two governments and UNHCR. All parties have agreed to ensure returns are voluntary.
- UNHCR and the CNR continued to assist the **voluntary repatriation of Burundian refugees** living in South Kivu Province to their home country. UNHCR conducted pre-departure formalities such as registration, health screenings and interviews to ascertain the voluntariness of 274 returnees' decision to return. Upon arrival in Burundi, returnees are provided with an initial assistance package that includes food and non-food items as well as cash grants to help them restart their lives.
- UNHCR and partners **relocated 182 Burundian refugees from Monge transit centre to Mulongwe settlement**. Refugees were allocated plots of land for farming, given cash-for-shelter, technical assistance to build their own houses and latrines as well as basic household items such as kitchen sets and sleeping mats.
- UNHCR completed a verification exercise targeting over 10,000 refugees from CAR at Bili camp, North Ubangi Province. The exercise provides viable up to date statistics to inform protection and assistance activities, and facilitates surveys on voluntary returns.

**HEALTH**

- **UNHCR continues to promote refugees' access to life-saving and essential healthcare.** This include HIV prevention, protection and treatment, reproductive health services, food security and nutrition and hygiene services.

**EDUCATION**

- Cash assistance can reduce the financial barriers to access quality education, through covering costs such as school supplies. In Haut Katanga and Lualaba Provinces, **UNHCR and partner ADSSE provided cash, enabling almost 600 primary school pupils to benefit from school kits.**
- UNHCR's partner Terre Sans Frontières (TSF) provided **school supplies and grants to cover school fees to 400 vulnerable Central African refugee pupils** at Bonde and Baye, Bas-Uele Province.

**SHELTER AND CORE RELIEF ITEMS (CRIs)**

- UNHCR and partner African Initiatives for Relief and Development (AIRD) finalized the construction of **79 shelters at Bele settlement, Haut Uele Province** that will benefit 164 South Sudanese refugees.

**FOOD SECURITY AND LIVELIHOODS**

- In Lubumbashi, Haut Katanga Province, **UNHCR and partner ADSSE provided financial assistance to over 170 refugees to support their income-generating projects.** UNHCR provides means to refugees to become independent and meet their daily needs. The group of refugees recently started income generating activities such as small shops, pharmacies, dispensary centres, or work in transport and agriculture.
- UNHCR is expanding access to cultivable land for South Sudanese refugees and host communities at Bele settlement, Haut Uele Province. **51 hectares of land have been provided to over 100 refugees and host community members** for their agricultural activities.

Statelessness

**PROTECTION**

- In North Kivu, South Kivu and Ituri Provinces, UNHCR organised **three workshops** targeting over 60 members of the local authorities, civil society, local NGOs as well as UN agencies in order to **develop a plan of action on the eradication of Statelessness by 2024.**
- In collaboration with the CNR, **UNHCR supported civil registration authorities by providing furniture and supplies to four civil status offices in Faradje Territory, Haut Uele Province.** UNHCR made birth registration a global strategic priority and focuses its efforts on overcoming specific registration obstacles affecting refugees and members of host communities.

Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs)



PROTECTION

- **UNHCR's partner INTERSOS documented over 1,300 human rights violations in North Kivu Province.** Several localities in Masisi and Beni Territories remained inaccessible because they are occupied by armed groups or remain at high risk of being attacked. 81 incidents of sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV) including 66 cases of rape perpetrated by armed groups have been reported. 36 survivors received medical care and were provided -exposure prophylaxis (PEP) kits – antiretroviral medicines to treat people potentially exposed to HIV-. For 30 rape survivors no PEP kits were available in the health centres closest to them.
- **Engaging men continues to be a key prevention strategy for SGBV.** Trainings and sensitization sessions carried out by UNHCR's partners SAFDF and AIDPROFEN were attended by over 100 men in North Kivu Province. The sessions aimed at reinforcing positive masculinity and meaningfully engaging men in combating SGBV. In addition, 150 women have also been sensitized and trained in different localities of the province in order to ensure their participation in decision-making and access to resources.
- In Manono Territory, Tanganyika Province, **UNHCR and partner AIDES distributed start-up kits to 80 Congolese returnees and host community women** that include tools and materials for starting their income generating activities.



SHELTER AND CORE RELIEF ITEMS (CRIs)

- In Beni Territory, North Kivu Province, **UNHCR and partner CARITAS provided essential household items to 2,852 internally displaced and host community families** affected by floods and ongoing violence. In addition, 850 mattresses have also been distributed to the most vulnerable.
- UNHCR continues to find housing solutions for displaced persons. **UNHCR's partner AIDES provided shelter support to over 18,000 displaced persons** in the provinces of North and South Kivu.
- **UNHCR's partner AIDES distributed dignity kits to over 1,000 displaced and host community women and girls** in the Beni health zone, North Kivu Province to help them maintain their dignity.



CASH-BASED INTERVENTIONS (CBI)

- In August 2020, over 32,000 people fled violence following confrontations between different ethnic groups in the Great Kasai region. **UNHCR provided cash assistance to over 43,000 forcibly displaced, returnees and host community members** in Demba Territory, Kasai Central Province and Mweka, Kasai Province.
- **UNHCR provided multi-purpose cash assistance to 4,150 Congolese returnees in Manono Territory,** Tanganyika province. The flexibility that CBIs offer makes them a more dignified form of assistance, giving returnees the ability to immediately prioritise and choose what they need.

External / Donor Relations

UNHCR, the UN Refugee Agency, is grateful for the support of:

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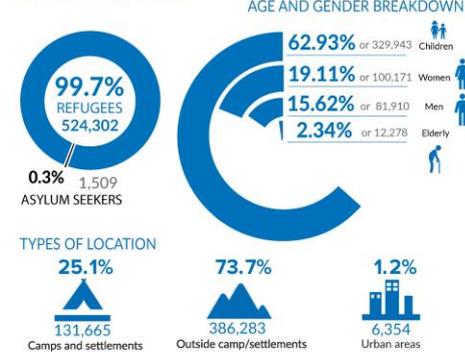
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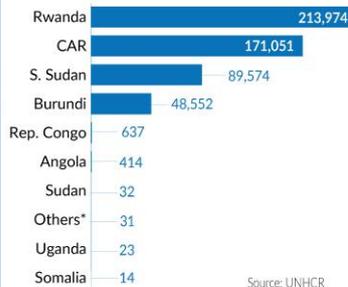
525,811

TOTAL NUMBER OF REFUGEES AND ASYLUM SEEKERS

KEY STATISTICS



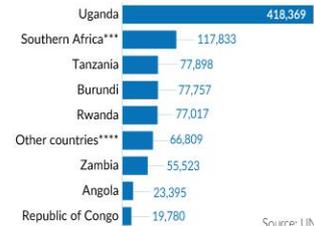
REFUGEE POPULATION BY COUNTRY OF ORIGIN



REFUGEES FROM DRC IN AFRICA

934,381**

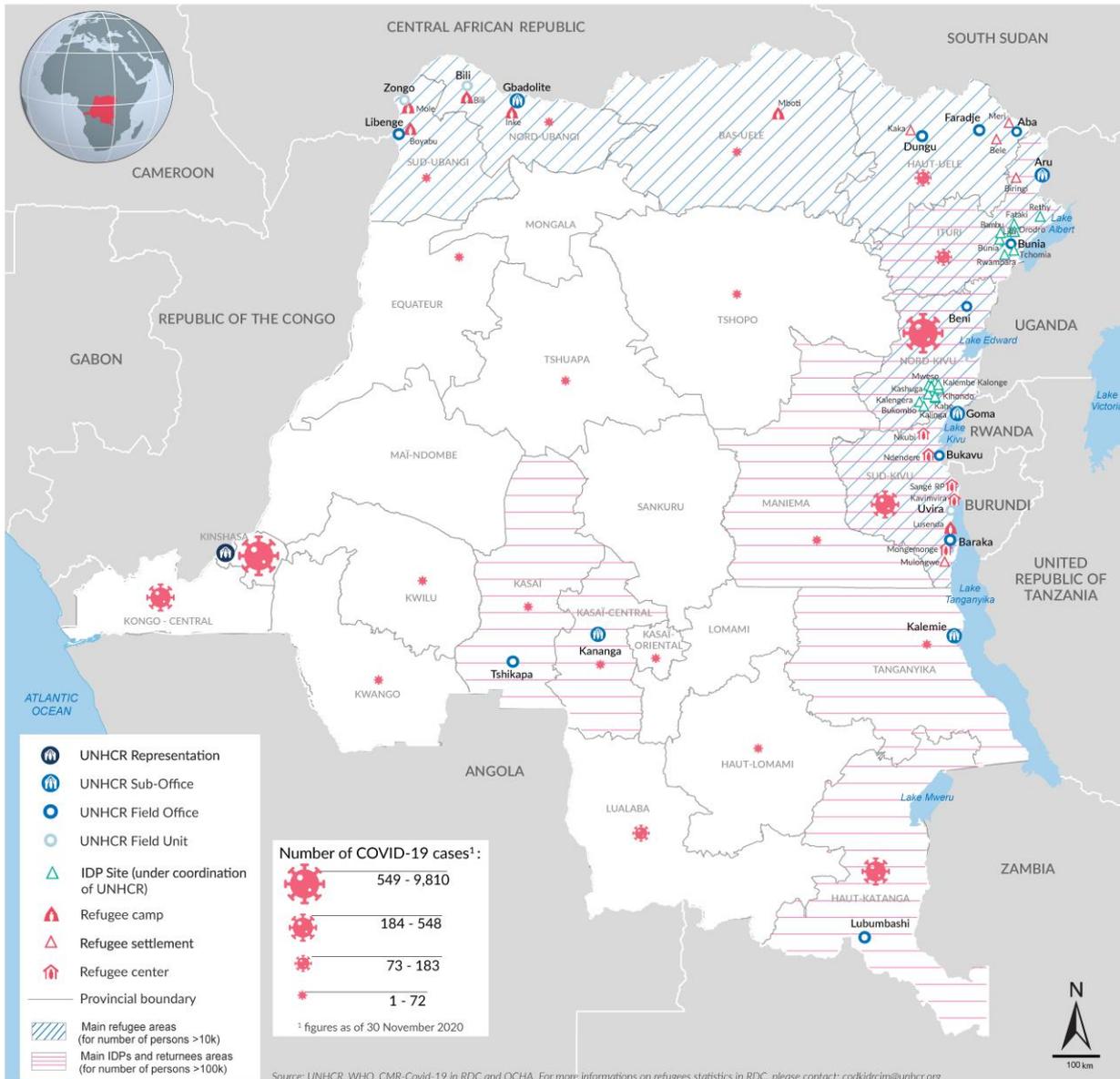
TOTAL DRC REFUGEE POPULATION



** Figures as of 31 October 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.



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