

Democratic Republic of the Congo

June 2021

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

- UNHCR and the National Commission for Refugees (CNR) facilitated the voluntary repatriation of **1,065 Burundians refugees** living in South Kivu and Haut Katanga Provinces.
- **UNHCR finalised the registration of new Central African refugees arrived in DRC.** A total of **73,645 individuals** were biometrically registered in North Ubangi, South Ubangi and Bas Uele Provinces.
- **87 South Sudanese refugees were vaccinated against COVID-19** in Ituri and Haut-Uélé Provinces
- **UNHCR distributed core relief items to 734 households who have been affected by heavy rain and floods** in Tanganyika Province.



UNHCR staff distributing emergency supplies to families affected by flooding in Tanganyika Province © UNHCR/Aline Irakarama

Refugees



PROTECTION

- UNHCR, the National Commission for Refugees (CNR) and partners AIRD, AIDES and ADES facilitated the **voluntary repatriation in safety and dignity of 1,035 Burundian refugees** living in South Kivu Province and 30 Burundian refugees living in Haut Katanga Province to their country of origin.
- **In June, UNHCR and CNR registered 2,086 new Central African refugees (500 households) in Bosobolo Territory, North Ubangi Province,** bringing an end to the biometric registration of new refugees arrived in the DRC since December 2020. As of 30 June, **a total of 73,645 individuals (20,136 households) have been registered and verified in North Ubangi, South Ubangi and Bas Uele Provinces,** as well as in the DRC capital Kinshasa.
- **UNHCR and CNR continued the distribution of identity cards to Central African refugees** who were relocated from Yakoma to the safer site of Modale in North Ubangi Province. A total of 650 persons have so far received their IDs. The document allows refugees access to social and economic services and facilitate their free movement within the DRC territory.
- Under UNHCR coordination, the local NGO GAPROF facilitated the **delivery of 301 birth certificate to CAR refugee children in North Ubangi Province** for children whose births were not declared on time. Birth certificated allow refugee children and their families to benefit from protection and multi-sectoral assistance

- **91 protection incidents were recorded in Faradje Territory, Haut-Uélé Province and in Aru Territory, Ituri Province.** Data on the alleged perpetrators show that the majority of the incidents were committed by armed groups. 17 SGBV violations were documented in the three sites of Biringi, Bele and Meri, including rape, sexual assault, physical assault, and psychological violence. The survivors benefited from psychosocial support, medical assistance and socio-economic reintegration services.
- UNHCR and partners continued to **relocate South Sudanese refugee families from Meri to Bele site, Haut-Uélé Province.** 2,953 refugees (1,294 households) have so far been relocated since the beginning of the operation in September 2019.

 **EDUCATION**

- **UNHCR's partner Terre Sans Frontières (TSF) distributed school kits to 9,134 South Sudanese refugee and host community students,** including 7,446 at the primary level and 1,688 at the secondary level in 28 targeted schools in Aba and Bele, Haut-Uélé Province.

 **HEALTH**

- **3,774 Burundian refugees received medical consultations carried out by UNHCR and its medical partners in Lusenda camp and Mulongwe settlement, Uvira territory,** South Kivu Province. Respiratory infections and malaria are the most frequent diseases affecting the refugee population. UNHCR's partner ADES continues to **work to prevent HIV among Burundian refugees and the host population.** In June, **26 births and 117 pregnant women were tested for HIV and 1,375 condoms were distributed.** Antiretroviral treatment, tuberculosis and vaccines provided by the Ministry of Health were made available to the refugee population
- The Ituri Provincial Health Division launched a vaccination campaign against COVID-19 in the Aba and Biringi health zones with the support of NGO MALTESER. As of 27 June, 656 people have been vaccinated including 115 health workers, 454 host community members and **87 South Sudanese refugees living in the sites of Biringi, Bele and Meri** as part of the campaign.

**WATER, SANITATION AND HYGIENE (WASH)**

- **UNHCR's partner AIDES in collaboration with Aba and Biringi health zones organized, capacity building sessions targeting 37 community relays and two hygiene promoters** from both refugee and host community on community-based surveillance, water supply chain, promotion of hygiene service and basic sanitation and the techniques the methods, materials and tools for awareness.
- **UNHCR and partners ADSSE and World Vision carried out joint distributions of 4,378 bars of soap to 2,188 individuals (509 households) refugees and host community members in Yakoma** and Modale site, North Ubangi Province, while 793 other households received 20-litre water containers.

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

- **UNHCR and its partner AIDES distributed biomass briquettes to 32,804 Burundian refugees** living in Lusenda Camp and Mulongwe Settlement, 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 ADSSE distributed core relief items (CRIs) to more than 10,000 CAR refugees and host community members** in Sambolola and Congo Rive, South Ubangi Province. The items comprised blankets, sleeping mats, buckets, mosquito nets amongst others. 554 additional vulnerable CAR refugee and host community member households received the CRIs including tarpaulins, kitchen sets, buckets, mosquito nets and jerrycans in the localities of Sambolola, Congo Rive and Nzakara.

CASH-BASED INTERVENTIONS (CBI)

- In Haut-Uélé and Ituri Provinces, UNHCR, the World Food Programme and partner ADSSE distributed cash for food assistance to **30,694 South Sudanese refugees including 24,124 at the Meri site and 6,570 at Biringi**. These activities were implemented in strict respect of physical distancing, temperature measurement and compulsory hand washing.
- **UNHCR and its partner AIRD distributed cash for shelters to 43 South Sudanese refugee households living in Bele site, Haut Uélé Province**, to help refugees transitioning from emergency to durable shelters.

Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs)

PROTECTION

- **In June, UNHCR's protection monitoring partner INTERSOS, recorded 101 protection incidents in Manono, Nyunzu and Kalemie territories, Tanganyika and Haut Katanga Provinces.** Violations documented were mainly related to forced labor, extortion of property, assault and battery, homicide, rape, sexual and physical assaults, forced marriage, torture/inhumane treatment, psychological violence and murder. **UNHCR and its partner AIDES also identified 12 incidents of sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV) including six cases committed against children**, in Kalemie, Manono, Moba, Nyunzu and Pweto territories. Most rapes have been committed by community members known by survivors. The SGBV situation remains worrisome and it continues to be monitored by UNHCR and partners. **Other 2,187 human right violations have been reported during the same month in Ituri Province**, which represent an increase of 40% compared to the previous month, with over half of the violations documented in Djugu territory followed by Irumu with 30 %, Mahagi with 16% and Mambasa with 3% of the total of incidents.
 - **In Ituri Province, 283 SGBV violations were registered during the reporting period among which 118 rape cases with over half of the victims under 18 years old.** The 118 survivors were referred to medical structures and 109 were supported with post-exposure prophylaxis kits, 103 were referred to psychosocial support, and 94 survivors were given cash for transportation and access to medical assistance.
 - **UNHCR and its partner INTERSOS continued to conduct training and capacity building to enhance community structures capacities in Ituri Province.** 60 community monitors were trained on how to conduct community coexistence activities involving IDPs, returnees and host community members. In addition, IDPs committees in Linga, Rwampara and Mambassa were capacitated on human rights basic norms, community-based approach, SGBV prevention and mitigation and Protection Monitoring.
 - UNHCR and its partner AIDES organized a **training targeting 450 individuals involved in IDPs committees** in 11 different IDPs sites, as well as in four villages of return in Kalemie territory, Tanganyika Province. The training reached 450 persons, among which 75 community leaders, and aimed **to provide to reinforce their capacities in community protection through the identification and monitoring of protection issues, the sharing of alerts, the referral of SGBV cases and the advocacy for sustainable and appropriate responses.**
 - From 3 to 4 June, UNHCR organized in Kalemie, Tanganyika Province a **capacity building workshop targeting 35 FARDC military officers**, on the protection of IDPs, the main relevant humanitarian principles as well as on the Kampala Convention on the protection of displaced people.
- In North Kivu, UNHCR's partner SAFDF provided psychological support to 77 survivors of sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV)** among which 17 were displaced women and 60 from the host community. Violations included rape, sexual assault, physical assault, forced marriage and psychological violence. 10 of them were referred to medical structures and 9 to legal structures for further assistance.

- **164 IDPs, 207 returnees and 212 members of host communities took part to a mass awareness raising SGBV session organised by UNHCR's partner INTERSOS in the health zone of Bambu and Kilo, Djugu Territory (Ituri Province)** with the aim to inform and raise awareness among the population living in the mineral zones on the negative of social and legal impacts of forced marriage and the practice of the survival sex among the community of women and girls of IDPs community.



FOOD SECURITY AND NUTRITION

- **UNHCR and partner AIDES distributed agricultural tools and quality seeds to 24 members of an agriculture association with the aim of strengthening peaceful coexistence in Bantous, Kalemie territory (Tanganyika Province)**, where Twa live alongside Bantou communities. This project will enhance at the same time the socioeconomic inclusion and self-reliance of the local inhabitants.



SHELTER AND CORE RELIEF ITEMS (CRIs)

- UNHCR continues to provide assistance to those who have been displaced by the eruption of Mount Nyiragongo on 22 May 2021. **UNHCR built two community warehouses in Minova, South Kivu Province and four in Sake, North Kivu Province to decongest schools and churches.** UNHCR also provided IDPs living in collective centres with 598 tarpaulins, 795 washing soaps, 173 dignity kits, 217 blankets, 257 mats, 88 individual solar lamps and 6 jerrycans.
- Through its partner AIDES, **UNHCR distributed 1,129 tarpaulins and 2,175 jerrycans to 3,833 people (565 households in the health zone of Kamango, in Beni Territory, North Kivu Province.** Tarpaulins were used by beneficiaries to repair their shelters damaged by bad weather.
- In Masisi territory, North Kivu, **2,201 households received core relief items (CRIs) and 1,492 girls and women in childbearing age received dignity kits.**
- **UNHCR and AIDES set up 646 emergency shelters in Kahe settlement and 418 in Mugote settlement, in the health zone of Mweso, North Kivu Province.** In addition, 29 latrines blocks and 29 emergency shower blocks were also built in Busumba settlement, North Kivu Province.
- **UNHCR and partners distributed emergency supplies** including composed of tarpaulins, blankets, mats, mosquito nets, soaps, and jerry cans **to 734 families who have been affected by flooding in Kalemie Territory (Tanganyika Province),** due to the rising waters of Lake Tanganyika in April and May 2021. According to local authorities, over 8,700 houses have been destroyed and almost 1,500 were flooded. Families have been forced to leave their homes.

Clusters and Working Groups

- As the lead of the Protection Cluster, **UNHCR and partners worked to identify the priority needs and rapidly developed a response plan to assist the most vulnerable families** displaced by the eruption of Mount Nyiragongo. This approach focuses on protection monitoring, psychosocial support, medical assistance to displaced, SGBV survivors, and Identification, Documentation, Tracing and Reunification (IDTR) of displaced children.
- **UNHCR's lead role in the three clusters (Protection, Shelter and CCCM) are conducting joint assessments where the UNHCR-led shelter cluster is planning an emergency shelter response** for the most vulnerable families whose homes have been destroyed and who currently occupy schools and other abandoned buildings in Goma. The Shelter Cluster response plan envisages limited construction of emergency

shelter and emphasis on support through rental assistance and the construction of small house extensions for host families.

External / Donor Relations

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