

Democratic Republic of the Congo

January 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

- Local authorities in the DRC have reported the arrival of an estimated 92,000 individuals who fled from CAR as a result of the violence that erupted amid the December 2020 elections.
- As of 31 January 2021, UNHCR and the National Commission for Refugees have biometrically registered over 14,500 new arrivals from CAR.
- 8,000 internally displaced and host community members benefited from SGBV and PSEA awareness sessions in Ituri Province.
- UNHCR distributed cash assistance to 1,116 vulnerable internally displaced families, mainly living in North Kivu Province.



UNHCR staff biometrically registering newly arrived Central African families in Ndu, Bas Uele Province. © UNHCR/Faivre

Refugees

PROTECTION

- According to local authorities in the DRC, an estimated **92,053 individuals from the Central African Republic (CAR) reportedly arrived in the DRC**. A biometric registration exercise is being conducted by UNHCR in coordination with the National Commission for Refugee (CNR) to have a more accurate count of the new arrivals and to better assess their protection needs.
- As of 31 January, a total of **14,622 refugees have been biometrically registered** in Bas-Uele Provinces and 2,378 refugees in Nord-Ubangi Province. Registration is ongoing with up to 1,000 new arrivals per day, which enables the early identification of people with vulnerabilities.
- On 21 January, **a Level 2 emergency has been declared** for the UNHCR Operation in the Democratic Republic of the Congo. This decision is designed to scale up UNHCR operations' preparedness and response activities in addressing the protection needs of Central African refugees and other populations affected by the new crisis.
- Based on initial needs assessments conducted in the main hosting areas in DRC, there is **urgent need for water, food, and shelter as well as better access to health and adequate sanitation** to prevent the spread of COVID-19 and other diseases.

- UNHCR, the CNR and other partners **relocated 230 Burundian refugees from Uvira transit centres (Kavimvira and Sange) to Mulongwe refugee site in Fizi Territory, South Kivu Province**. Due to the bad road network, they were **transported by boat** across the Tanganyika lake. At Mulongwe, each household will receive their own plot of land and cash assistance to construct their home and latrine.
- UNHCR and the CNR facilitated the **voluntary repatriation of 141 Burundian refugees** living in South Kivu Province, bringing the total number of Burundians refugees who have been repatriated to Burundi since 2020 to 2,084.



HEALTH

- **UNHCR continues to promote refugees' access to life-saving and essential healthcare**. This includes access to HIV prevention, protection and treatment, reproductive health services, food security and nutrition and hygiene services.
- UNHCR's partner AIDES carried out the **medical and nutritional screening of over 5,500 newly arrived asylum-seekers in Ndu**, Bas Uele Province. UNHCR partners are treating patients and distributing medicine but the needs are mounting with reported cases of malaria, respiratory tract infections, and diarrhoea increasing among refugees.



WATER, SANITATION AND HYGIENE (WASH)

- In Ndu, Bas Uele Province, UNHCR's partner ACTED rehabilitated five boreholes to provide ready access to a supply of water for newly arrived families from CAR.



SHELTER AND CORE RELIEF ITEMS (CRIs)

- UNHCR and partners are **pre-positioning emergency supplies in Yakoma**, North Ubangi province, before vast areas become inaccessible by road during the looming rainy season. In the course of March, the rains will prevent the delivery of assistance to refugees in Bas Uele and North Ubangi Provinces unless supplies are airlifted at considerable cost for which UNHCR must raise funds. **UNHCR and partner ADSSE distributed core relief items** including blankets, sleeping mats, jerry cans and mosquito nets to 52 extremely vulnerable new asylum-seekers in Zongo, South Ubangi Province.
- UNHCR and partner AIRD finalized the construction of **29 shelters at Bele settlement**, Haut Uele Province that will benefit 56 South Sudanese refugees.

Statelessness

- Together with the Government, UNHCR is working towards access to birth registration for all children. In South Kivu Province, **a new decree from the Provincial Government has been issued on 8 January, which put in place a mechanism to provide for late registration of births free of charge**.

Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs)



PROTECTION

- **UNHCR's protection monitoring partner INTERSOS documented over 960 human rights violations in Ituri and North Kivu Provinces**, including almost 100 cases of sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV).

Psychosocial and medical support is provided to survivors of SGBV and post-exposure prophylaxis (PEP) kits are available for urgent GBV response.

- Without the security and protection afforded by light, women and girls may not feel comfortable going out at night, even to latrines or washing areas. **UNHCR and partners Caritas, AVSI and INTERSOS distributed close to 5,000 solar lamps** to displaced women at risk of SGBV in Bule, Ituri Province.
- To prevent Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (PSEA) effectively, all staff and humanitarian workers must make sure that displaced persons are aware of their rights and entitlements. **UNHCR and partner AVSI conducted GBV and PSEA awareness-raising sessions with over 8,000 women, girls, boys and men** in various localities of Djugu and Irumu Territories, Ituri Province.
- **In Tanganyika Province, UNHCR's partner AIDES assisted 25 unaccompanied minors** who have been displaced due to intercommunal conflicts. The minors who are currently living with host families identified by the Provincial Social Affairs Division received clothes, shoes and mattresses.



SHELTER AND CORE RELIEF ITEMS (CRIs)

- In Kigonze, Bule and Drodro, Ituri Province, UNHCR and partner the Danish Refugee Council **finalized the construction of 285 emergency shelters** which will be used to relocate new displaced families who were occupying schools and churches.
- **UNHCR and partners distributed core relief items comprised of blankets, mats, jerrycans, soap, sanitary pads to 291 displaced families** who have recently been relocated to Kigonze displacement site in Bunia, Ituri Province.
- **In Djugu Territory, Ituri Province, UNHCR and partners relocated 5,232 internally displaced persons** who were previously occupying schools and churches, to Savo and Bule displacement sites. This will enable schools to be returned to their normal purpose.
- **UNHCR and partner Caritas facilitated the relocation of 585 displaced persons** from the ISP displacement site to the new Kigonze site in Bunia, Ituri Province.



CASH-BASED INTERVENTIONS (CBI)

- **UNHCR and partners distributed unconditional cash assistance to 1,116 vulnerable households** mainly in Masisi and Lubero Territories, areas with a high concentration of IDPs in North Kivu Province.
- **UNHCR and partner AIDES distributed a conditional cash transfer to 297 households in Demba Territory**, Kasai Central through its shelter programme.

Clusters and Working Groups

- **UNHCR leads the Shelter Cluster in the DRC**, an inter-agency mechanism that coordinates shelter, settlement, and shelter-related NFIs during a humanitarian response for internal displacement situations. In the DRC, it is responsible for coordinating the response to meet emergency and long-term needs. **In 2020, the 28 humanitarian organizations who are members of the Shelter Cluster and the NFI Working Group provided shelter assistance to 445,517 individuals and essential household and personal non-**

food items to 1,246,681 individuals in Haut Katanga, Ituri, Kasai, Kasai Central, North Kivu, South Kivu and Tanganyika Provinces¹.

External / Donor Relations

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

Donors for UNHCR operations in DRC

UN Peacebuilding Fund (1.4M) | UN Covid-19 MPTF (0.2M)

Donors of regional or sub-regional funds

Germany (10.9M)

Major donors of unearmarked funds

Norway (80M) | Sweden (66.9M) | Netherlands (36.1M) | Denmark (34.6M) | Germany (22.1M) | Switzerland (16.4M) | Ireland (12.5M) | Belgium (11.9M)

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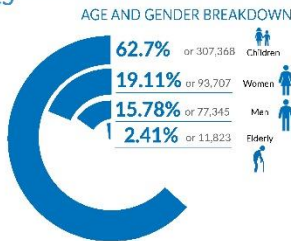
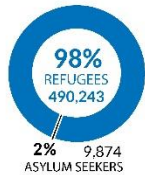
[DR Congo Emergency page](#) | [UNHCR DRC operation page](#) | [Facebook](#) | [Twitter](#)

¹ The end of year report highlighted some data inconsistencies which were later verified in a data cleaning exercise and explains the slight reduction in beneficiaries reached between October and December 2020. Note that the data shared by the Shelter Cluster only represents the data that is shared by Shelter Cluster partners.

500,117

TOTAL NUMBER OF REFUGEES AND ASYLUM SEEKERS

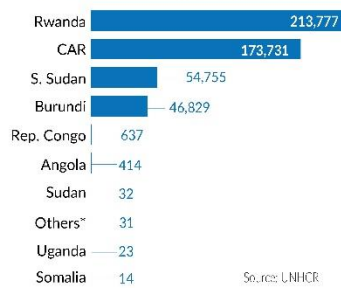
KEY STATISTICS



TYPES OF LOCATION



REFUGEE POPULATION BY COUNTRY OF ORIGIN

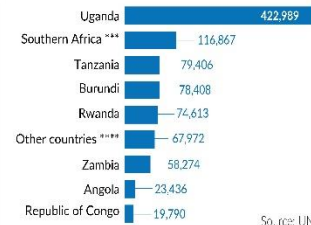


*Others include Ivory Coast, DRC, Syria, Liberia, Chad, etc.

REFUGEES FROM DRC IN AFRICA

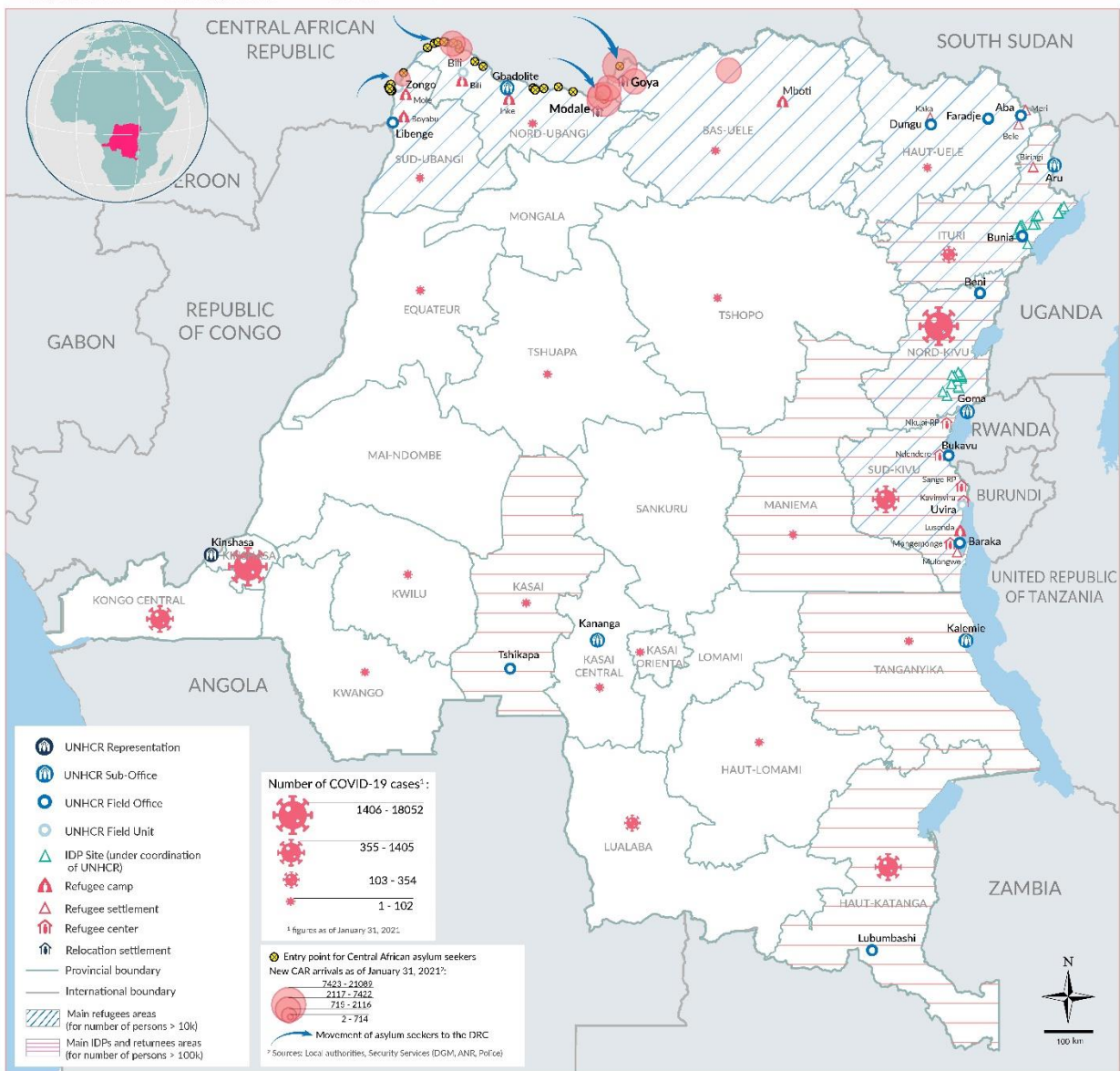
941,755

TOTAL DRC REFUGEE POPULATION



***Southern Africa includes Namibia, Botswana, Lesotho, Malawi, Zimbabwe, Mozambique, Madagascar, South Africa and the Kingdom of Eswatini.

****Other countries include Sierra Leone, Kenya, Central African Republic and Chad.



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

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Sources: UNHCR, WHO, CMR-Covid-19 in DRC and OCHA. For more information on refugee statistics in the DRC, please contact: codr@drc.unhcr.org

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Coordinate System: UTM WGS 1984
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Units: Meter