

Democratic Republic of the Congo

1 - 30 Septembre 2018

The security situation and human rights environment in Beni Territory, North Kivu Province, significantly deteriorated. UNHCR is trying to ensure continuous presence in Beni through missions from Goma and other offices.

New arrivals of South Sudanese refugees are creating growing shelter and space needs. The capacity of Meri settlement is of 20,000 people, but 33,517 refugees currently reside there.

24,371 refugees at Lusenda site received biomass briquettes; the first distribution of this scale for Burundian refugees in South Kivu Province. Biomass briquettes provide an environmentally-friendly solution for cooking.

Refugees

Burundian refugees

Total in the DRC	Difference from previous month	Repatriated this month
47,023	+511	10

As of 30 September 2018

- As of the end of September, 310 refugees at Lusenda site were registered as candidates for voluntary repatriation. On 18 September, **10 voluntarily returned to Burundi** from Uvira, South Kivu Province. UNHCR provided transport and repatriation kits. 3 non-registered family members were also transported.
- Between 31 August and 7 September, **305 refugees at Mulongwe settlement received cash transfers through mobile money**. US\$21,178 was transferred to cover school fees for the third trimester and construction costs for shelters, showers and latrines.
- **UNHCR relocated 1,232 Burundian refugees** from transit centres to Mulongwe settlement between 1 and 17 September. Upon arrival, they were given non-food item (NFI) kits, and were temporarily hosted in common dormitories. They will be allocated plots of land and given cash and shelter kits. The relocation, which had been on hold due to funding constraints, eased the situation in overcrowded transit centres.
- UNHCR is in talks with its partner CNR to **renew the refugee certificates and ID cards of 1,165 Burundian refugees** residing in Tanganyika Province. The refugees' documents expired in May.
- UNHCR's partner ADES **vaccinated 7,618 refugee children against poliomyelitis** in Lusenda and Mulongwe.
- **24,371 refugees at Lusenda site received biomass briquettes**, totalling 66,430 kg distributed, in the first distribution of this scale for Burundian refugees in South Kivu Province. Biomass briquettes are produced by refugees and locals, and provide an alternative and environmentally-friendly solution for cooking. The distribution was organised by UNHCR's partner AIDES.
- **A 5,000-liter tank and 14 water taps were finalised at Mulongwe settlement** to improve access to drinking water, bringing the total of functioning water taps to 44. The ratio is therefore of 148 people per water tap, well within the humanitarian standard of 200.
- UNHCR and its partner War Child launched **professional training courses** in basket-making, beekeeping and mushroom-growing for 90 Burundian refugees selected in Lusenda and Mulongwe.

- As part of **Ebola and cholera prevention measures**, UNHCR's partner ADES installed additional hand-washing stations in all Burundian refugee sites, with regular sensitization campaigns carried out.
- UNHCR's Regional Refugee Coordinator for the Burundian refugee situation, Ms. Catherine Wiesner, visited Lusenda and Mulongwe in South Kivu Province.

Central African refugees

Total in the DRC

173,136

Difference from previous month

-3,518

As of 30 September 2018

- As of the end of September, **7,479 pupils were enrolled in primary schools in 4 refugee camps** (Mole, Boyabu, Bili and Inke); 3,968 boys and 3,511 girls. **Another 1,000 vulnerable primary and secondary school children** living outside of camps in Bas-Uele Province received assistance from UNHCR's partner Terre Sans Frontières (TSF) to enrol them into public schools. UNHCR's partners ADSSE and TSF provided them school supplies.
- As per its "community participation" approach, UNHCR supported the **construction of two schools for both refugees and local children** in Nord-Ubangi and Bas-Uele Provinces, with the aim of strengthening peaceful coexistence in the impoverished, out-of-camp locations.
- From July to September, UNHCR's partner TSF **trained 119 vulnerable out-of-school children in tailoring** to increase their autonomy. The trainings (*pictured*) were aimed at children below 18 in 4 out-of-camp locations in Bas-Uele Province. They will be given sewing machines and materials to start their activities.



Tailoring class for out-of-school youth in Ndu, Bas-Uele Province. © UNHCR 2018 / G. Nentobo



In Gbadolite, departure of a refugee family being resettled to Norway. © UNHCR 2018 / G. Nentobo

- In collaboration with IOM, UNHCR **resettled a vulnerable family to Norway** from Inke camp, Nord-Ubangi Province. This was the first Central African family to be resettled from the DRC, and another one will follow in October. The family, a single mother with her 5 children, was chosen for its particular vulnerability.
- As per an exercise taking place every two years to collect updated information on refugees, and identify potential new vulnerabilities, **all refugees registered in Bili, Boyabu and Inke camps were physically verified**. The same exercise was launched in Mole camp on 13 September, and is ongoing.
- In all four camps, the physical verification was accompanied by a **distribution of individual identity cards** to verified refugees over the age of 12. By 30 September, **18,138 identity cards** had been distributed in all camps, with the operation in Mole still ongoing.
- **UNHCR helped 634 young Central African refugees, aged 0 to 5, obtain birth certificates**. None of them had been registered within 90 days after birth, compromising their recognition as CAR citizens and their

access to services after repatriation. In 2018, UNHCR distributed 2,504 birth certificates, both within and after the 90-day deadline.

- In August and September, **UNHCR distributed US\$ 12,870 to groups of refugees in charge of building shelters**, as part of a cash-for-shelter project implemented by partner AIRD for the most vulnerable households in the four camps. 78 out of the planned 240 transitional shelters were completed across the camps, as of the end of September.
- On 27 September, UNHCR and its partner CNR set out to **register, for the first time, groups of Central African refugees who had been living since 2015 in 3 out-of-camp-locations** in Bosobolo Territory. As of 30 September, 2,036 people (610 households) out of a forecast 10,020 were biometrically registered. They were given certificates confirming their refugee status while waiting for identity cards to be printed.

Rwandan refugees

Total in the DRC	Repatriated this month	Repatriated in 2018 (figure pending verification)
217,878	163	2,619

As of 30 September 2018

- As of 30 September, a total of **62,149 Rwandan refugees were biometrically registered and given refugee certificates** in North and South Kivu Provinces, through two registration phases; one in 2015-16, and one ongoing since June. 32,278 were registered in the recent phase. A parallel physical verification, started in March and aimed at updating the number of Rwandan refugees still present in eastern DRC, has so far **confirmed the presence of 74,748** in North and South Kivu Provinces. Both operations are ongoing.
- Voluntary repatriation numbers remained relatively low. In September, **163 Rwandan refugees were repatriated**, a slight decrease compared to August, bringing the total for 2018 to 2,619. These figures are pending verification on the Rwandan side.

South Sudanese refugees

Total in the DRC

94,446

Difference from previous month

+451
As of 30 September 2018

- There were **370 new arrivals and 111 births in September**, for a total of 94,446 South Sudanese refugees in the DRC.
- New arrivals are creating **growing shelter and space needs**. The capacity of Meri settlement is of 20,000 people, but 33,517 refugees currently reside there.
- On 4 September, UNHCR assisted two South Sudanese refugees in traveling to Khartoum, Sudan, to [express their views on peace](#) between the warring factions in South Sudan. This initiative seeks to ensure **refugees' participation in the next steps of the peace process**.
- In a mid-year livelihoods report finalized in September, UNHCR found that **67% of South Sudanese heads of household used to be farmers** in South Sudan, but UNHCR and its partner ADSSE were **only able to help 10% pursue agricultural activities**, due to insufficient funds.
- At Biringi settlement, refugee farmers **donated 619kgs of their harvests** to other refugees as part of a "passing the gift" approach, enabling UNHCR's partner ADSSE to provide seeds to 50 additional households.
- UNHCR **distributed bags of second-hand clothes, donated by UNIQLO, to 4,971 South Sudanese refugees** and host community members at Biringi settlement, Ituri Province. The distribution also served as an opportunity to distribute 4,971 bars of soap.
- 6 South Sudanese refugee **families were reunified** by UNHCR at Biringi settlement, Ituri Province.
- On 13 September, the Ambassadors of the Netherlands and Sweden, and the Deputy Head of Mission at the Embassy of Switzerland, **visited Meri refugee settlement**, in Haut-Uele Province.



Distribution of second-hand clothes donated by UNIQLO at Biringi refugee site, Ituri Province.

© UNHCR/C. Lopes

Congolese returnees

- In 2018, UNHCR individually assisted **35 Congolese citizens, formerly refugees, in returning to the DRC**: 10 were repatriated from the Central African Republic, 9 from Ghana, 1 from Burkina Faso, and 22 from Cameroon.

Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs)

On 14 August, UNHCR declared an internal **L2 emergency in North Kivu and Ituri Provinces**. This will allow UNHCR to use emergency procedures and mobilise additional resources in view of the return situation in Ituri Province, and ongoing displacement in North Kivu Province.

Ituri Province

- The **security situation deteriorated in Djugu Territory**, compounding risks of human rights violations. New waves of violence triggered new displacements, or renewed the displacement of recent returnees. The majority of the newly displaced are staying with host families. There is an urgent need for peaceful coexistence activities.
- Due to the deteriorated security situation in parts of Ituri Province, UNHCR has started **revising its areas of intervention for a shelter project aimed at returning populations**. The intervention will still consist in providing 4,400 emergency shelters, and rehabilitating 600 existing shelters and 7 community structures.
- UNHCR's partner CARITAS reported a **lack of Ebola prevention measures at makeshift IDP sites** in Bunia town after carrying out an evaluation at three sites. Following this evaluation, the NGO MUSACA installed 264 handwashing stations; 150 at the HGR site and 114 at the ISP site.
- **1,980 IDP families received plastic sheets** at a makeshift site in Bunia, from UNHCR and its partner ADSSE. The sheets replaced worn out ones that were used as part of shelters. UNHCR also distributed 364 blankets and 264 sleeping mats to support 182 vulnerable households at the site.
- **1,229 cases of human rights violations and sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV)** were documented in September through UNHCR's protection monitoring; mainly lootings, extortions and arbitrary arrests. 49 rapes, 18 sexual aggressions and 14 forced marriages were recorded. 196 cases received a response, in the form of referrals or advocacy.
- UNHCR's partner Caritas established **IDP coordination committees** in three spontaneous sites, to promote the participation of women, men and young people in the activities implemented there. 30 members of the committees were trained and given office supplies.
- In Djugu Territory, UNHCR's partner INTERSOS, in collaboration with Mediation and Protection Committees **sensitized 1,494 people on peaceful coexistence and conflict resolution** in various localities, through 18 sensitization sessions and two workshops.

North Kivu Province

- The security situation and human rights environment in Beni Territory significantly deteriorated. Of particular concern is **the fate of IDPs stuck in the towns of Oicha, Beni, Kasindi and Butembo**. In Beni town, there is an urgent need to increase the presence of protection actors, coordination by the Protection Cluster, border monitoring activities, communication with communities, civilian-military collaboration, and multisector interventions. UNHCR tries to ensure full-time presence by deploying staff from its sub-offices.
- At Bambu and Kyaghala IDPs sites, which are likely to be closed down, **unaccompanied, at risk minors were identified** through UNHCR's partner CNR. UNHCR is seeking child protection actors to refer the children to.



Construction of shelters in Kitshanga, Masisi Territory.

© UNHCR / J. Kanyamanza

- **1,654 cases of human rights violations and SGBV** were reported through UNHCR's protection monitoring. There was a decrease in incident numbers in all territories except Beni, where numbers of serious human rights violations, including kidnappings, house fires and homicides increased. In response, **19 survivors of rape received emergency medical care and 35 arbitrarily arrested people were freed** after advocacy.
- UNHCR identified **300 IDP and host community children in need of birth registration** in a locality in Rutshuru Territory. With the support of UNHCR, the Ministry of Interior is currently registering them and issuing birth certificates. Awareness-raising plays by local theatre company FALDI, on the risks related to statelessness, also reached over 400 people in two localities in Rutshuru Territory.
- The implementation of a CERF-funded shelter project continued through UNHCR's partner AIDES. In Lubero Territory, **all 1,365 identified vulnerable families were registered for cash assistance, and 1,278 have started constructing their shelter**. In Masisi and Beni Territories, 907 shelters were under construction. The project will also support WASH infrastructures in Beni Territory, but the strained security environment is currently placing activities on hold.

South Kivu Province

- In Fizi, Kabambare, Shabunda and Uvira Territories, **clashes forced an estimated 43,000 civilians to flee** their homes, according to UNHCR's protection monitoring. The 2,500 people who fled in Uvira Territory went to the Ruzizi plains.

Kasai region

- In September, ActionAid and Vodacom **distributed mobile phones and opened M-Pesa accounts for 972 vulnerable IDPs** in Mbuji-Mayi town and in the territories of Kabaya Kamuanga and Miabi, Kasai Oriental Province. Cash transfers of \$100 per household will follow.
- UNHCR's partner ActionAid carried out sensitization campaigns in Mbuji-Mayi town and a village in Lupatapata Territory, Kasai Oriental Province, **reaching 256 people** on the prevention of SGBV, referencing mechanisms, and available responses.
- From 18 to 20 September, **UNHCR trained around 100 members of provincial authorities on child and women protection principles**, and sensitized them on their responsibilities towards affected populations in their areas. The workshop took place in Tshikapa, Kasai Province, with participants from government, parliament, justice, military and police institutions.



Mobile phone distribution in Mbuji-Mayi, Kasai Oriental Province. © UNHCR/H. Watfa

Tanganyika / Haut-Katanga Provinces

- Following the **government closure of several IDP sites in Kalemie**, Tanganyika Province, in August, UNHCR carried out several missions to assess the protection needs of returning IDPs.
- Raids against two villages near Kalemie in September have caused the **displacement of an estimated 35 households** according to UNHCR's partner Save Congo.
- In Haut-Katanga and Lualaba Provinces, **404 human rights violations** were recorded by UNHCR's protection monitoring. In Tanganyika Province, **229 human rights violations** were recorded, all of which were violations of the right to liberty. Responses carried out in Tanganyika province resulted in the release of 64 arbitrarily-arrested people, and return of property to 55 people.

Clusters and Working Groups

Protection Cluster

- On 18 September, the Protection Cluster put in place a **Protection Information Management (PIM) Working Group** at national level, to respond to the need for better information around protection issues.
- The Protection Cluster **issued an alert on ongoing displacements from North to South Kivu Provinces**, where tensions between IDPs and the host community are escalating. There is an urgent need for peaceful coexistence, child protection, and access to land and livelihoods.
- The Protection Cluster identified **urgent needs for peaceful coexistence activities**, to reinforce community protection structures in areas of displacement and return in Djugu Territory, Ituri Province. This came from a multi-sector needs assessment conducted from 3 to 10 September.
- The Protection Cluster drafted a **response strategy for the emergency situation in Beni Territory** in September. It aims to provide an emergency protection response, and reinforce coordination on the ground.
- The **thematic group for Protection Monitoring was reactivated in Fizi Territory**; 15 organizations participated in the first meeting on 20 September.
- On 6 September, following recommendations by the Protection Cluster, the NGO Solidarité des Volontaires Humanitaires (SVH), in coordination with MONUSCO, organized a **workshop for cattle farmers, land farmers and customary authorities on conflict prevention** linked with customary power and transhumance in Fizi Territory.
- After an evaluation in **Nyiragongo Territory**, North Kivu Province, the Protection Cluster found **alarming levels of SGBV**, with high numbers of forced marriages, rapes, and exchanges of coal against sex. The situation in this territory around Virunga Park had deteriorated over the past months.

Shelter Working Group

- The Shelter Working Group's **3W analysis for the DRC** in September showed that only 1 in 10 IDP households identified as needing shelter assistance in the 2018 Humanitarian Response Plan, did receive shelter assistance. The analysis covered all 40 shelter projects currently being implemented in the DRC.
- A joint SWG and WASH Cluster assessment was finalized in **Tanganyika and Haut Katanga Provinces**, with [results](#) published in October. A similar assessment in Ituri and North Kivu Provinces was on stand-by due to the outbreak of Ebola and violence in both Beni and Djugu territories.

External / Donor Relations

As of 10 October 2018

Special thanks to donors for UNHCR operations in DRC in 2018

United States of America (59.8 M) | CERF (3.9 M) | Sweden (2.5 M) | European Union (2.4 M) | Miscellaneous private donors (1.6 M) | Canada (1.2 M) | France (1.2 M) | Italy (0.92) | Private donors Australia (0.63 M) | UNIQLO (0.48 M) | International Olympic Committee (0.32 M) | UNAIDS (0.17 M) | Spain (0.12)

Special thanks to donors of regional or sub-regional funds 2018

United States of America (177.3 M) | Private donors Australia (9.7 M) | Sweden (8.5 M) | Private donors Germany (6.3 M) | Germany (5.1 M) | Australia (3.8 M) | Canada (3.3 M) | Norway (2.6 M) | Private donors Republic of Korea (2 M)

Thanks to the major donors of unrestricted and regional funds in 2018

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Italy (15.1 M) | Private donors Japan (14.6 M) | France (14 M) | Germany (13.7 M) | Italy (11.2 M) | Private donors Sweden (11.2 M)

Contacts

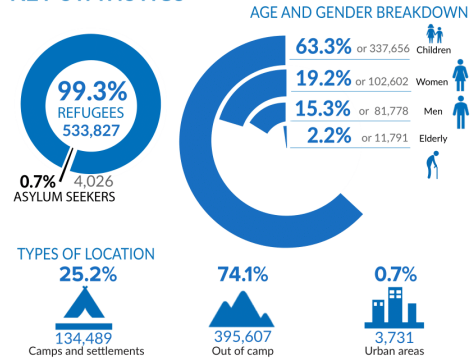
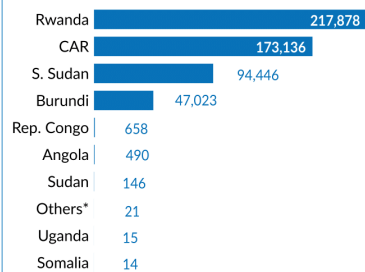
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537,853

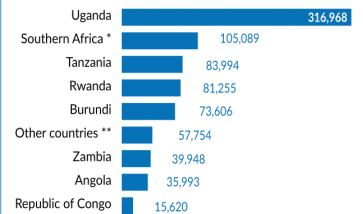
REFUGEES AND ASYLUM SEEKERS

KEY STATISTICS

REFUGEE POPULATION BY COUNTRY OF ORIGIN


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

REFUGEES FROM DRC IN AFRICA
810,227

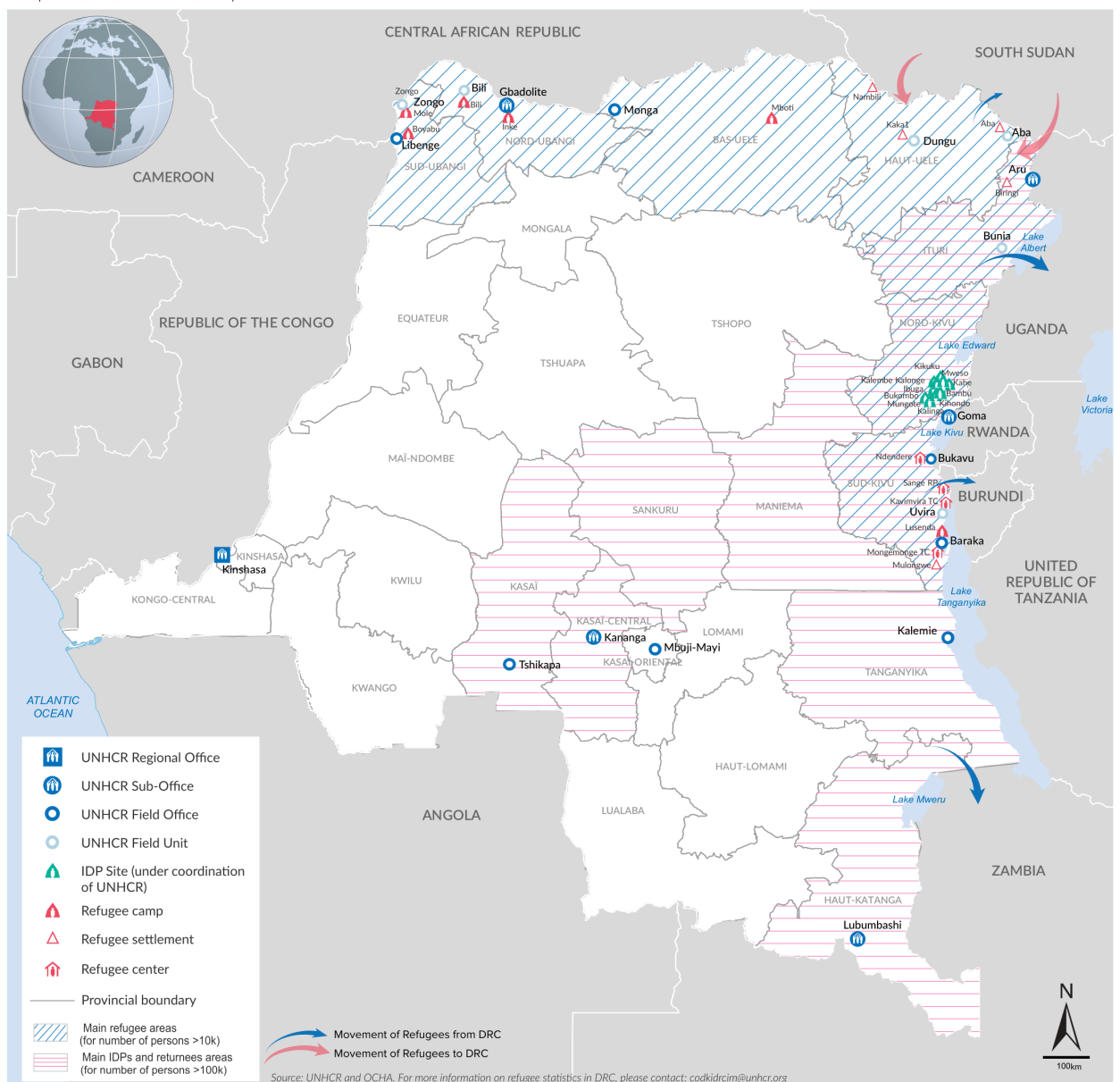
TOTAL DRC REFUGEE POPULATION



Source: UNHCR

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

**Other countries include South Sudan, 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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