Democratic Republic of the Congo

September 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 partners started facilitating the voluntary return of 303 Burundian refugees** from South Kivu Province to Burundi. UNHCR conducted pre-departure formalities such as registration, health screenings and interviews to ascertain the voluntariness of the returnees' decision to return. Upon arrival in Burundi, returnees were provided with an initial assistance package that included food and non-food items as well as cash grants to help them restart their lives.
- **UNHCR and the National Commission for Refugees (CNR) finalized a verification exercise in Biringi, Haut-Uele Province targeting more than 5,500 South Sudanese refugees**. This exercise helps to improve the accuracy of data on South Sudanese refugees in the DRC, helping the government and humanitarian partners enhance their understanding of specific needs amongst the refugee population, better plan and target delivery of protection and assistance, and avoid duplication of services.
- **In Mobaye Mbongo Territory, North Ubangi Province, UNHCR and CNR issued identity documents to 1,280 refugees from the Central African Republic (CAR)** living out of camps. The documents ensure that the identity and status of refugees are formally recognized in the country, facilitating access to rights, protection, services, and opportunities afforded to them as refugees.
- **UNHCR and CNR registered 600 Rwandan and Burundian refugees** living in Tanganyika Province. The registration of refugees is key as the registration document provides them with a proof of legal identity.

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.
- **UNHCR and partner ADES equipped a new maternity unit at Bele health centre, Haut-Uele Province** with 14 beds, mattresses and medical equipment.

EDUCATION

- In North and South Ubangi Provinces, **431 out of the 527 refugee students from the Central African Republic (CAR) and the host community have passed the national primary school final test**. Central African refugees still struggle to access education. Only about 8,200 of the almost 18,000 children in camps have access to primary school and thousands of those students are forced to stop their studies at secondary level due to the lack of available schools.
- In Aba, Haut Uele Province, **UNHCR handed over two schools with latrine stances to the government**, a move that will improve education prospects for both local and refugee youth. The primary and secondary schools consist of 12 classroom blocks and have the capacity to seat 300 students.

SHELTER AND CORE RELIEF ITEMS (CRIs)

- **UNHCR and ADSSE partner distributed core relief items,** which include essential household items such as blankets, containers for water, cooking utensils and mosquito nets **to over 2,500 refugee families** from the Central African Republic at Inke camp, North Ubangi Province.

WATER, SANITATION AND HYGIENE (WASH)

- In Bele and Meri refugee settlements, Haut-Uele Province, UNHCR continues its community-based project where South Sudanese refugees make their own handwashing devices called "tippy taps", recycling materials such as basins, jerry cans or plastic bottles. **Since April, over 800 "tippy taps" have been produced by South Sudanese refugees.**

Statelessness

PROTECTION

- As part of the fight against statelessness, **UNHCR handed over ICT equipment to provincial authorities,** which will facilitate the work of the government in birth registration in Tanganyika Province.
- In Tanganyika Province, **UNHCR and partners officially delivered birth certificates** to 500 internally displaced persons and Congolese returnees.

Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs)

PROTECTION

- In Kalemie Territory, Tanganyika Province, **UNHCR and partner AIDES continued to implement projects that promote peaceful coexistence between displaced persons and the local population and prevent sexual and gender-based violence**. Bicycles and mobile phones were provided to peace committee members to facilitate their movements, allow them to report and respond to protection incidents and human rights violations, and work on conflict resolutions in their respective localities. UNHCR relies on community protection groups to promote peaceful coexistence and maintain social cohesion between communities.
- **UNHCR's protection monitoring partner INTERSOS, recorded more than 2,000 human rights violations in Manono, Nyunzu and Pweto territories** in Tanganyika and Haut Katanga provinces. Incidents mainly consisted of violations of property rights.
- **Serious clashes have been ongoing since 5 September in the Katanda, Tshilenge and Ngandanjika areas of Kasai Oriental, resulting in a reported 63 deaths, the forced displacement of almost 5,800 people and the destruction of over 1,000 homes**. A multisectoral mission to the area from 23 to 30 September by UNHCR, OCHA, UNICEF, FAO and Save the Children aimed to assess the situation and prioritize the cluster response in the short, medium and long term. A report with the recommendations of all partners is expected to be published by OCHA in mid-October.
- **UNHCR partner War Child UK organized the broadcast of nine radio spots on the subject of peaceful coexistence in Kasai Oriental Province**. The programmes were repeatedly broadcast on the radio with coverage areas extending over the provinces of Kasai Oriental, Lomami and part of Sankuru.
- **UNHCR's protection monitoring partners INTERSOS, CADIDHO and AHCOPDI-DH documented 141 cases of sexual and gender-based violence in North Kivu Province**, a majority being cases of rape and physical assault. Forty survivors received psychological support, 48 were administered PEP Kits and 44 received further medical care. Further, 27 victims of human rights violations benefited from cash assistance

that enables them to access *inter alia* medical, legal, and family reunification services. This assistance allowed eight rape survivors to pay for their transport to access medical care. It also allowed five children to be released from armed groups.

SHELTER AND CORE RELIEF ITEMS (CRIs)

- **UNHCR and partner AIDES have finalized the construction of 1,415 emergency shelters in North Kivu Province,** bringing the total of shelters finalized during 2020 to 3,884. These shelters help to keep vulnerable IDP households safe and protected in Masisi, Rutshuru and Walikale Territories.

CASH-BASED INTERVENTIONS (CBI)

- **UNHCR's partner AIRD provided cash for shelter assistance to 391 household returnees** who made progress in the construction of their shelters in Manono Territory, Tanganyika Province. The project will help 600 households of returnees to build their shelter and will provide 1,000 emergency shelters for internally displaced persons and core relief items to 1,600 families. The project forms part of UNHCR's continuous search for durable solutions to the challenges faced by internally displaced persons and aims to promote peaceful coexistence and to strengthen social cohesion between communities.
- **UNHCR's partner AIDES conducted a cash distribution among 20 SGBV survivors and girls at risk** in Lwamba and Manono centre, Manono Territory. The project will also assist 100 women and girls at risk of SGBV with literacy classes and trainings to start their own income-generating activity.

WATER, SANITATION AND HYGIENE (WASH)

- Overcrowding in displacement sites is a pressing concern as solid waste systems are further burdened by new arrivals. As limited WASH services often lead to public health risks and increased tensions, **UNHCR and partners contracted a local enterprise at the ISP displacement site in Bunia, Ituri Province, to clean the site from the accumulated waste and install a more sustainable waste management system**. The displaced persons living at the site are hired to help with the cleaning. This not only creates income opportunities but also ensures that IDPs are actively involved in improving the living conditions in the site.

Clusters and Working Groups

- **Through the UNHCR led Protection Cluster, the working group against landmines is advocating for better protection of civilians against landmines and explosives** in Tanganyika and Haut Katanga Provinces. Since January 2020, a total of 264 landmines were discovered, with exploding landmines causing 52 casualties including seven deaths. The working group has identified 227 mine-infested areas in Tanganyika Province.
- **Since January 2020, the Shelter Cluster partners have provided shelter assistance to 518,938 individuals and core relief items (CRIs) to 410,886 individuals** in Haut Katanga, Ituri, Kasaï, Kasaï Central, North Kivu, South Kivu and Tanganyika provinces. Due to a severe lack of funding, the 42 humanitarian organizations in the shelter cluster only reached 35 per cent of the targeted population in need of basic shelter assistance and CRIs.

External / Donor Relations

Funding received as of 29 September 2020

Donors for UNHCR operations in DRC in 2020

United States of America (42.5 M) | CERF (10 M) | Sweden (3.1 M) | European Union (1.6 M) | Denmark (1.4 M) I France (1.1 M) I Canada (0.73 M) | Japan (0.56 M) | Unilever (0.56 M) I United Nations Foundation (0.32 M)

Major donors of regional or other funds with soft earmarking 2020

Germany (71.1 M) | United States of America (46.8 M) | United Kingdom (24.8 M) | Denmark (14.6 M) | Canada (10.2 M) | Private donors Australia (8.4 M) I Private donors Germany (8 M) I Private donors USA (7.7 M) | Sweden (6.9 M) | Private donors Japan (4.4 M) | Spain (3.4 M) I Ireland (3.3 M) | Finland (3.3 M) | France (2.8 M) I Norway (2.4 M) I Private donors United Kingdom (2.3 M)

Major donors of un-earmarked funds in 2020

Sweden (76.4 M) | Private donors Spain (52.9 M) I Norway (41.4 M) I Netherlands (36.1 M) | Denmark (34.6 M) I United Kingdom (31.7 M) | Private donors Republic of Korea (27.2 M) I Germany (25.9 M) | Private donors Japan (21 M) I Switzerland (16.4 M) I France (14 M) I Private donors Italy (12.4 M) I Italy (10.6 M) I Private donors Sweden (10.5 M)

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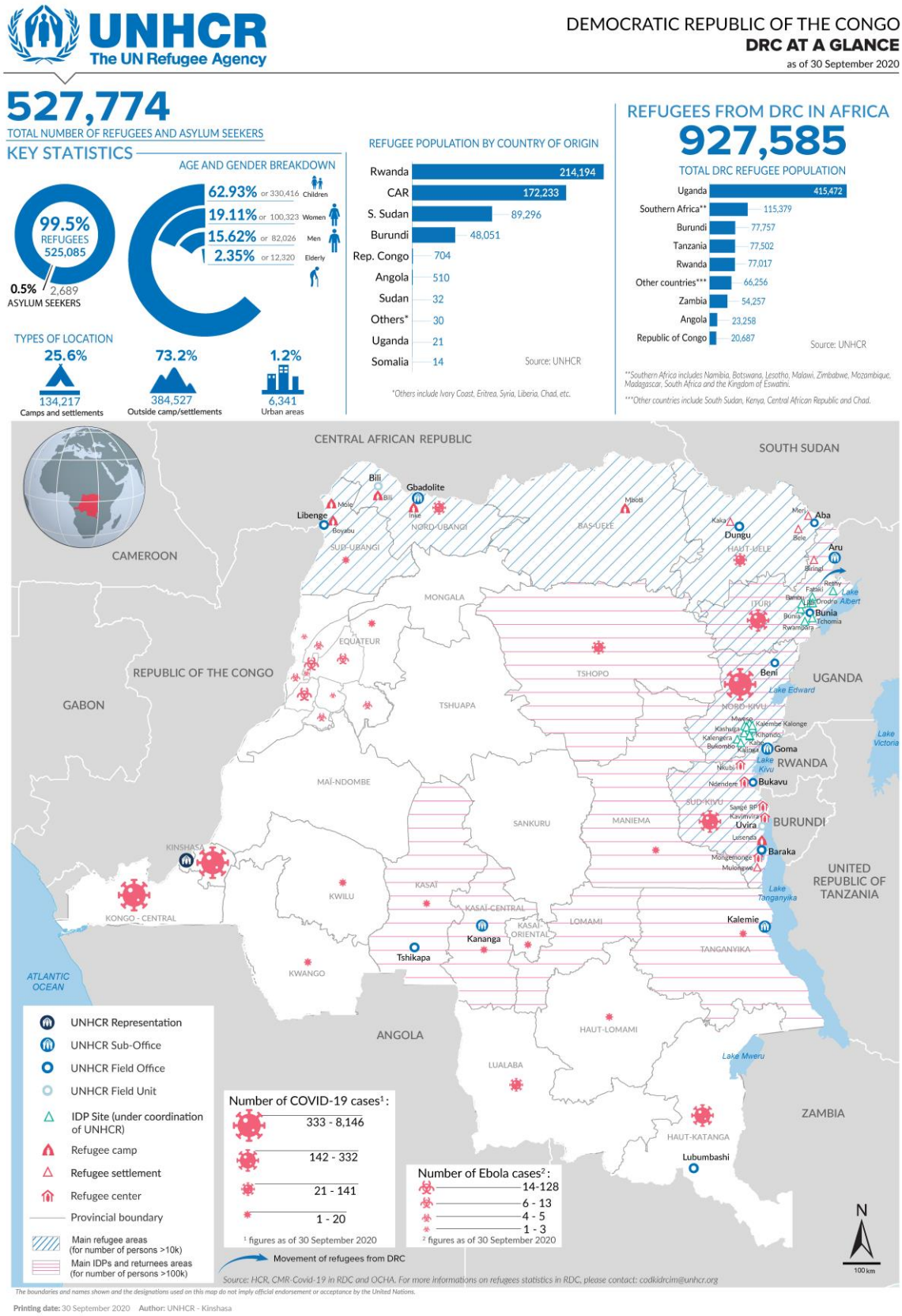
DR Congo Emergency page | UNHCR DRC operation page | Facebook | Twitter


UNHCR
The UN Refugee Agency
DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO
DRC AT A GLANCE
as of 30 September 2020
527,774
TOTAL NUMBER OF REFUGEES AND ASYLUM SEEKERS
KEY STATISTICS
99.5% REFUGEES 525,085
0.5% 2,689 ASYLUM SEEKERS
AGE AND GENDER BREAKDOWN
62.93% or 330,416 Children
19.11% or 100,323 Women
15.62% or 82,026 Men
2.35% or 12,320 Elderly
TYPES OF LOCATION
25.6% 134,217 Camps and settlements
73.2% 384,527 Outside camp/settlements
1.2% 6,341 Urban areas
REFUGEE POPULATION BY COUNTRY OF ORIGIN
Rwanda 214,194
CAR 172,233
S. Sudan 89,296
Burundi 48,051
Rep. Congo 704
Angola 510
Sudan 32
Others* 30
Uganda 21
Somalia 14
Source: UNHCR
*Others include Ivory Coast, Eritrea, Syria, Liberia, Chad, etc.
REFUGEES FROM DRC IN AFRICA
927,585
TOTAL DRC REFUGEE POPULATION
Uganda 415,472
Southern Africa** 115,379
Burundi 77,757
Tanzania 77,502
Rwanda 77,017
Other countries*** 66,256
Zambia 54,257
Angola 23,258
Republic of Congo 20,687
Source: UNHCR
**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.
CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC
SOUTH SUDAN
CAMEROON
REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO
GABON
UGANDA
RWANDA
BURUNDI
UNITED REPUBLIC OF TANZANIA
ANGOLA
ZAMBIA
ATLANTIC OCEAN
Lake Victoria
Lake Tanganyika
Lake Mweru
Lake Edward
Lake Albert
Lake Kivu
Bili
Gbadolite
Libenge
Dungu
Aba
Aru
Bunia
Beni
Goma
Bukavu
Uvira
Baraka
Kalemie
Kananga
Tshikapa
Lubumbashi
KINSHASA
MONGALA
EQUATEUR
TSHOPO
TSHUAPA
MAÏ-NDOMBE
SANKURU
MANIEMA
KASAÏ
KASAÏ-CENTRAL
KASAÏ-ORIENTAL
LOMAMI
KWILU
KWANGO
KONGO - CENTRAL
HAUT-LOMAMI
LUALABA
HAUT-KATANGA
TANGANYIKA
NORD-UBANGI
SUD-UBANGI
BAS-UELE
HAUT-UELE
ITURI
NORD-KIVU
SUD-KIVU
UNHCR Representation
UNHCR Sub-Office
UNHCR Field Office
UNHCR Field Unit
IDP Site (under coordination of UNHCR)
Refugee camp
Refugee settlement
Refugee center
Provincial boundary
Main refugee areas (for number of persons >10k)
Main IDPs and returnees areas (for number of persons >100k)
Number of COVID-19 cases[1]:
333 - 8,146
142 - 332
21 - 141
1 - 20
[1] figures as of 30 September 2020
Number of Ebola cases[2]:
14-128
6 - 13
4 - 5
1 - 3
[2] figures as of 30 September 2020
Movement of refugees from DRC
N
100 km
Source: HCR, CMR-Covid-19 in RDC and OCHA. For more informations on refugees statistics in RDC, please contact: codkidrcim@unhcr.org
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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