

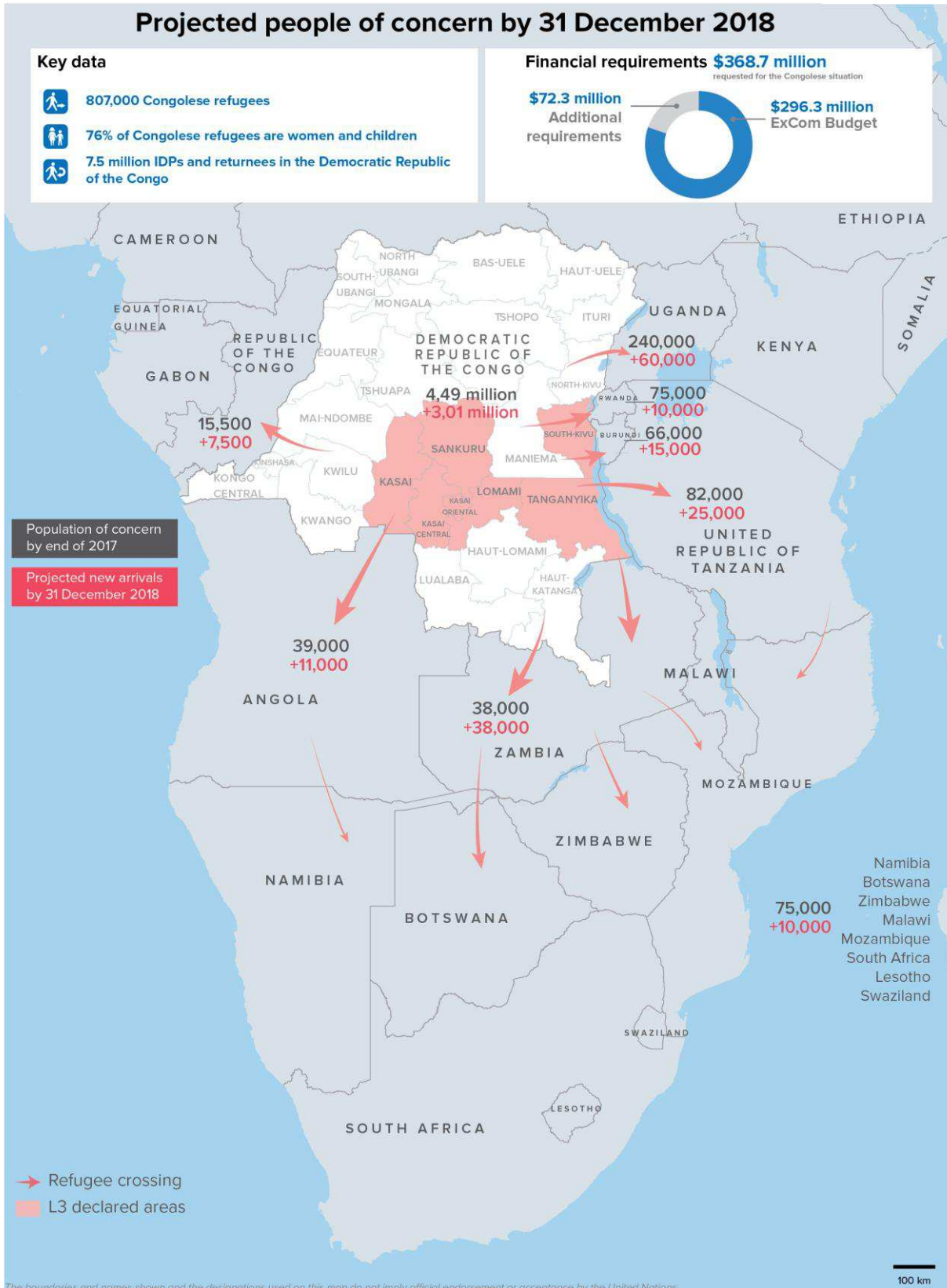


CONGOLESE SITUATION

RESPONDING TO THE NEEDS OF DISPLACED CONGOLESE AND REFUGEES

Supplementary Appeal
January - December 2018

Map of the area covered by this appeal



Overview



4.49 million

People displaced within DRC*



630,500

Congolese refugees hosted in the region**



78%

Of Congolese refugees are women and children

8

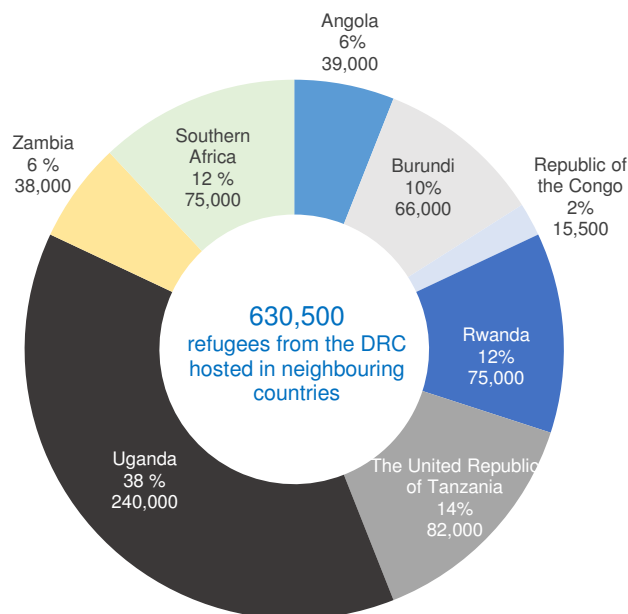
Countries covered in this Appeal

* By end December 2017; source: OCHA

With some 630,500 Congolese refugees in the region and 4.49 million IDPs, the situation in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) is one of the **world's most complex, challenging, protracted and forgotten crises. Since 2015, the number of people displaced internally has more than doubled**, some 428,000 of these having been displaced in the past three months alone.

Intercommunal conflict in the Kasai region has been displacing thousands of people—with 8,000 people internally displaced per day since April 2017—and with tens of thousands having fled to Angola.

Major Congolese refugee-hosting countries
| End 2017



**Source: UNHCR

The security situation has also continued to deteriorate in the eastern DRC, in particular in the provinces of Haut-Katanga, North and South Kivu and Tanganyika, due to incessant fighting between armed groups—much of it driven by intercommunal conflict—and the army. In October 2017, the Emergency Relief Coordinator **declared an IASC System-Wide L3 Emergency** Response for the DRC, focusing on the Kasai region, South Kivu and Tanganyika provinces.

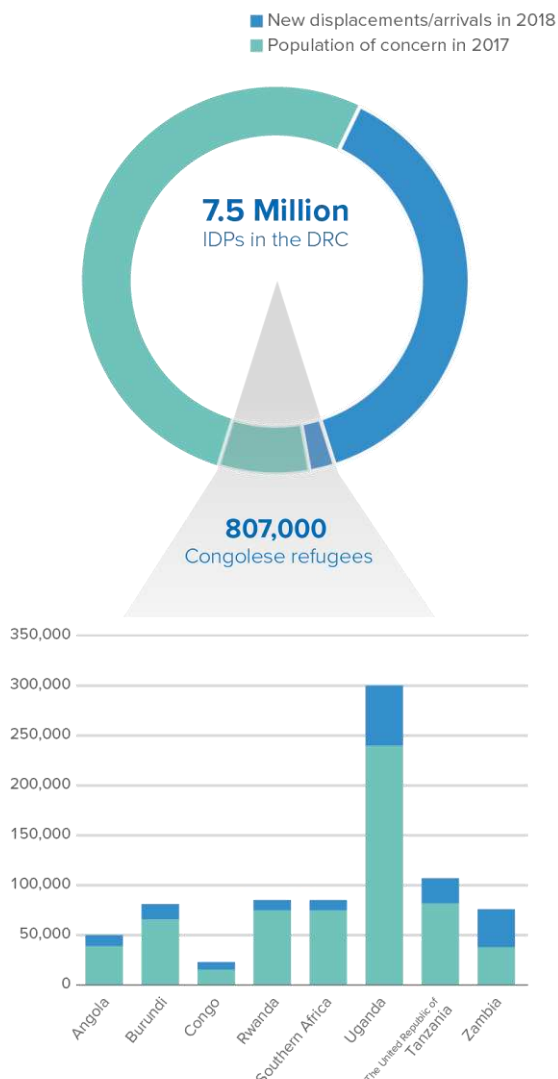
The on-going conflicts in the DRC have caused and continue to **cause internal and external displacement of populations, and loss of human life and property**. Violence in the Kasai region, South Kivu and Tanganyika is estimated to have displaced 1.9 million people over the past year. The province of North Kivu remains the most affected with more than 1 million IDPs, followed by South Kivu and Tanganyika. Concurrently, and complicating the situation, some 1.8 million displaced people have started returning to their home villages, including some 1.4 million in the Kasais, where they are faced with abandoned services and destroyed infrastructure, including their own homes.

Over the past year, **some 120,000 Congolese have fled as refugees to neighbouring countries**—in Uganda, Angola, Zambia, the United Republic of Tanzania, Burundi, the Republic of Congo and Rwanda— joining the 510,000 already in exile. In addition, several thousand have also fled to southern Africa, and to countries such as Central African Republic, Chad, Kenya and South Sudan, and beyond Africa itself. Most governments in hosting countries are keeping their borders open, allowing UNHCR access to the asylum seekers and refugees as they arrive.

The majority of the Congolese refugees are women and children, and nearly **53 percent of Congolese refugees hosted in neighbouring countries are under 18**. UNHCR has also identified many unaccompanied and separated children, as well as older people at risk and female-headed households, all of whom require urgent protection.

With militia activities widespread, and unrest and violence fuelled by ethnic and political conflict affecting many areas within the DRC, **the risk of further displacement is high**. OCHA expects 2.4 million newly displaced people within the DRC in 2018. At the same time, it is also estimated that some 650,000 IDPs will also return to their villages of origin. UNHCR expects the influx to neighbouring countries will continue and that an estimated 176,500 people will likely seek refuge in 2018, bringing the estimated refugee population to 807,000—an increase by 28 per cent—by the end of December 2018.

Projected population of concern | End of 2018



The challenges of getting aid to people in need are complex and growing fast. **Protection and assistance needs are enormous.** Newly arrived refugees and newly internally displaced populations come **in addition to prior refugee and IDP populations for whom resources** at the disposal of governments and UNHCR have been decreasing these last several years. **What is available is largely insufficient to cover basic needs.** For example, in Burundi, Rwanda, Uganda, the United Republic of Tanzania, and other countries of asylum, refugee settlements and camps are at full capacity. Funds for livelihood interventions are stretched, prolonging as such refugees' dependence on external assistance.

This Appeal presents UNHCR's strategic objectives and financial requirements for its response to current as well as expected Congolese refugees and IDP and returnee populations, and for which it is seeking **\$368.7 million, including \$72.3 million in urgent additional requirements from January through to December 2018.** Within the DRC, UNHCR is scaling up its protection and emergency response to people displaced within the Level 3 areas. At the same time, the urgent needs of displaced people in Haut Katanga, Ituri and North Kivu Provinces in particular will continue to be of concern to the Office.

While continuing to assist States protect and care for existing Congolese refugee populations in seven main host countries and other countries in Southern Africa witnessing secondary movements of Congolese refugees, UNHCR will focus its efforts on protection and lifesaving response in those countries receiving major influxes—Angola, Uganda, and Zambia—and it will continue preparedness activities in Burundi, the Republic of Congo, Rwanda, and the United Republic of Tanzania.

Summary of financial requirements

UNHCR's Executive Committee (ExCom) budget for the Congolese situation in 2018 was \$296,346,140. To address the increasing protection and life-saving needs of people who have been displaced, UNHCR has established a supplementary budget to strengthen protection capacity and response in eight countries and for the UNHCR Southern Africa sub-region. Additional requirements presented in this appeal amount to **\$72.3 million**. The total revised 2018 requirements for the Congolese situation now amount to **\$368.7 million**, including support costs.

OPERATION	ExCom budget not related to the Congolese situation	CONGOLESE SITUATION			Total revised requirements
		ExCom Budget and subsequent adjustments related to the Congolese situation	Additional requirements	Total	
ANGOLA	2,602,287	-	27,720,129	27,720,129	30,322,416
BURUNDI	8,243,682	22,680,913		22,680,913	30,924,595
REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO	16,177,081	7,297,087		7,297,087	23,474,168
DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO	122,344,071	58,752,673	19,882,158	78,634,831	200,978,902
RWANDA	56,226,581	39,249,149		39,249,149	95,475,730
UGANDA	298,210,014	118,322,138		118,322,138	416,532,152
THE UNITED REPUBLIC OF TANZANIA	91,480,550	34,448,670		34,448,670	125,929,220
ZAMBIA	230,000	12,049,067	20,000,000	32,049,067	32,279,067
SOUTH AFRICA REGIONAL OFFICE	26,900,848	3,546,443		3,546,443	30,447,291
SUBTOTAL	622,415,114	296,346,140	67,602,287	363,948,427	986,363,541
Support costs (7 per cent)		-	4,732,160	4,732,160	4,732,160
TOTAL	622,415,414	296,346,140	72,334,447	368,680,587	991,095,701

More details on individual operations covered by this Appeal are available in the country-annexes to this Supplementary Appeal and on the relevant country operations pages on the Global Focus [website \(http://reporting.unhcr.org\)](http://reporting.unhcr.org).

Strategic overview

UNHCR's overarching strategy for the Congolese situation will be in line with the Organization's Strategic Directions aiming at **protecting** the rights of people of concern, **responding** to continued and sudden population displacement, advocating for refugees' **inclusion** in national development plans and labour markets, **empowering** communities and **striving towards solutions** to refugee crisis.

While continuing to assist States protect and care for existing Congolese refugee populations in seven main host countries and other countries in Southern Africa witnessing secondary movements of Congolese refugees, UNHCR will focus its efforts on current emergency response in Uganda, Zambia and Angola, and it will continue preparedness activities in Burundi, the Republic of Congo, Rwanda and the United Republic of Tanzania. Within the DRC, UNHCR will scale up its emergency response to internally displaced populations within the Level 3 areas (the Kasais, North and South Kivu and Tanganyika). At the same time, the urgent needs of other internally displaced populations in Haut Katanga, Ituri and North Kivu Provinces, in particular, will continue to be of concern to the Office.

More specifically, interventions will be guided by the following goals:

STRATEGIC GOAL 1: Access to territory and protection

UNHCR will advocate with neighbouring countries to the DRC and countries in the Southern Africa sub-region to guarantee unhindered access to their territories for Congolese fleeing conflicts in the DRC as well as to ensure the civilian character of asylum. The Office will also continue to promote *prima facie* recognition of refugee status during refugee influxes, based on the 1951 Refugee Convention and the 1969 OAU Convention governing the specific aspects of refugee problems in Africa. UNHCR will ensure registration and documentation of refugees and protection of those most at risk. UNHCR will support Governments to protect children and people with special needs, to prevent sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV) and assist victims of violence. In the IDP context, the Office will call on the DRC to apply the Africa Union "Kampala Convention on the protection and assistance of Internally Displaced Persons in Africa".

STRATEGIC GOAL 2: Response to the immediate needs of refugees and IDPs

Taking into account the limited capacity of host communities and those States part of the Congolese situation, as well as the very poor conditions of populations on the move within and across borders UNHCR, in partnership with the governments and other humanitarian actors, will aim at ensuring access to services and immediate and effective response to basic needs of refugees, IDPs and host communities. Cash-based interventions will be preferred, whenever possible, as a more effective and dignified way to assist people of concern.

STRATEGIC GOAL 3: Building partnerships for inclusion and solutions

Within the Comprehensive Refugee Response Framework (CRRF) “whole of society approach” and based on the commitments made by States in New York as well as the Sustainable Development Goals, UNHCR will advocate for refugees’ inclusion in national development plans and frameworks as well as in mainstream national systems. It will also advocate for freedom of movement and right to work to increase livelihood opportunities for refugees. Within the principle of responsibility-sharing, UNHCR will also advocate for a sufficient number of resettlement opportunities for refugees in critical protection situations. Local integration opportunities will be pursued and, whenever the situation in the DRC will be conducive to returns, voluntary repatriation will be supported. The Office will assist IDPs rebuild their lives once back in their villages of origin and to build resilience while still in displacement. Investment will also be geared to communities as agents of protection.

Planning assumptions

1. Conflict in Kasai region, North and South Kivus and Tanganyika as well as in Haut Katanga and Ituri will continue—with varied degrees of intensity—and will generate internal displacement and possible outflows of asylum-seekers in neighbouring countries.
2. Leading to the elections, insecurity may become more widespread, affecting urban areas in particular and leading further displacement inside and outside the DRC. An estimated 88,000 refugees currently living in the DRC will also be affected.
3. New arrivals in neighbouring countries will vary between 100 to 1,000 asylum-seekers crossing borders per week. At the same time, a limited number of Congolese refugees in Angola may continue to choose to return to their villages of origin or nearby locations.
4. By the end of 2018, the estimated cumulative number of Congolese refugees fleeing the violence in the DRC will reach close to 807,000, out of which an estimated 176,500 will be new refugees, while some 7.5 million Congolese will be internally displaced/recent returnees. OCHA estimates some 2.4 million people newly displaced in the course of 2018.
5. The borders will remain open to refugees seeking protection in neighbouring countries.
6. Refugees (new and old populations) will be granted access to protection and basic services including education, health and WASH. They will be food secure and will have access to livelihood opportunities.
7. The most vulnerable IDPs and returnees living in areas accessible to humanitarian actors will receive basic assistance and enjoy protection of rights.

Unaccompanied and separated Congolesse children—a worry for UNHCR



Thirty five year old Mbuyi Jean became the guardian of twelve year Kisimba Vero and another child from his neighbourhood, when he and his two young children fled conflict between government security forces and local militia in Mpweto. © UNHCR/Pumla Rulashe

As the number of refugees in Zambia's Kenani transit centre exceeds 14,600 people, unaccompanied and separated children make up an alarming 60 per cent.

“Why did they kill my parents?”

This refrain resonates in 35-year old Jean Mbuyi's mind, leaving him wrung out with helplessness and despair.

“How do I explain to a 12-year old that her parents became the casualties of a senseless, uncaring and evil conflict that has killed thousands of innocent people and forced thousands more from their country?” asks Mbuyi. He is referring to the increasing clashes between

Congolesse security forces and local militia groups in Mpweto, which on 30 August 2017 caused the displacement of thousands of refugees who sought protection in Zambia.

Over 600 refugees fled into Zambia's Luapula province that day and every day since, between 50 and 100 people have continued to arrive in search of safety and security. His neighbour's daughter, 12-year old Kisimba Vero, watched in horror as her parents were hacked to death.

Since 30 August, over 1,400 unaccompanied and separated children, including child-headed households, have been registered by UNHCR and its NGO partner, the Zambia Red Cross Society. Children make up 60 percent of over 8,500 refugees biometrically registered in Kenani transit centre. UNHCR has established a Protection Desk in the transit centre dedicated to assess the protection and care needs of children at risk, for urgent intervention. Paramount amongst the concerns for unaccompanied and separated children is to ensure safe caring arrangements.

In consultation with the children, the protection team pursues mixed solutions with supervised living arrangements for adolescents and foster care for young children. A taskforce of volunteer refugee teachers has been established to assist in identifying resourceful refugee families known for their caring family environment and demonstration of social engagement in the community. Psycho-social support to help the children begin coping with the loss, grief and sense of loneliness critical for the healing process is also being arranged.

Response

In the DRC, UNHCR will assume leadership of the Protection Cluster and ensure a robust operational delivery of protection priorities. Ensuring that the response in other clusters is implemented based on an overarching protection strategy and with a protection lens will be part of those responsibilities. Protection monitoring will remain at the core of UNHCR's activities, providing timely information to all humanitarian actors in order to inform their response based on a solid analysis of protection risks and vulnerabilities, but also on the capacities of local communities and displaced populations.

UNHCR will be actively engaged in the NFI and Shelter Cluster, and will continue to lead the Shelter working group. It will not, for the time being, take leadership of the Cluster. Existing arrangements for the leadership of the NFI/Shelter cluster by UNICEF, in which UNHCR fully participates, will remain in place for the time being.

The CCCM cluster is not currently activated in Kinshasa nor in the Kasais. However, UNHCR, as part of its protection accountabilities, will ensure that activities such as community mobilization, community-based protection activities and protection-sensitive site management are given due consideration in the related response strategies. The organization will strengthen its response to the shelter needs of IDPs and returnees and support the most vulnerable families through a mix of cash and in kind assistance.

UNHCR will work within the inter-agency framework, complementing the work of other agencies around protection of IDPs from SGBV, food insecurity, and assisting with psychosocial support victims of violence. UNHCR will specifically focus on access to documentation and capacitation of government interlocutors to effectively protect IDPs' rights and property. The communities will be empowered to become effective agents of protection.

In refugee-hosting countries, UNHCR will continue to lead and coordinate the international response to refugee situations, in close collaboration and consultation with relevant government counterparts, and with the support of the UN Country Team and other partners. The Office's response for 2018 will prioritize advocacy and support to governments to ensure safe access to territory for people seeking asylum.

Reception capacity in countries of asylum will need to be increased and investment will be required to make sure that refugees' access quality services and basic assistance together with livelihood opportunities. Refugees' registration and documentation, child protection, prevention of SGBV and care for victims, and community empowerment will be the pillars of offices' protection strategy together with continuous advocacy for refugees' right to work and freedom of movement. Within the

spirit of the New York Declaration and of the CRRF, humanitarian assistance will be extended to host populations, whenever possible.

The Office will make wide use of cash-based interventions to support refugees address their basic needs and build some livelihood. Together with the Government and development partners, UNHCR will contribute to improving infrastructure for health, education, water and sanitation, as well as to protect the environment. Innovative projects will also be pursued, including connectivity for refugees, electrification for protection, renewable energy and many others. Regional response and preparedness capacity will be boosted, particularly within the Southern Africa Regional Office.

Key intervention areas

More details on individual operations covered by this Appeal are available in the country-annexes to this Supplementary Appeal and on the relevant country operations pages on the Global focus website (<http://reporting.unhcr.org>).



Protection

UNHCR's strategy will focus on registration, facilitate access to protection services, build the capacity/resilience of communities, prevention and response to SGBV, and addressing the protection needs of unaccompanied and separated children and other key vulnerabilities. UNHCR will:

- Support governments with the registration of refugees individually and biometrically, including those are hosted by local communities; and advocate for the issuance of birth certificates to refugees and IDPs. Conduct verification exercises, when needed.
- Ensure the issuance of ration cards, where applicable, and individual documentation attesting refugees' legal status in countries of asylum.
- Ensure timely and accurate refugee status determination processes, where applicable. Advocate for *prima facie* recognition of refugee status in case of sudden inflow of refugees.
- Undertake border visits to various crossing points to assist refugees/returnees to access to safety and confirm that the principle of non-refoulement is respected. Organize regular training of immigration and other border officials. Advocate for the civilian character of asylum.
- Together with legal partners, improve access to justice and legal services for people of concern. Provide counselling and sensitize the refugee community to national laws and rights.
- Map and assess the capacity of national authorities, partners, refugee and host communities in the delivery of protection and assistance. Provide technical advice and support to national protection mechanisms.
- Reinforce community protection system and establish child friendly and safe spaces. Support unaccompanied and separated children through alternatives care mechanisms, psychosocial and recreational activities.
- Maintain effective case management and multi-sectoral response (medical, legal and psychosocial) to SGBV survivors. Ensure prevention of SGBV cases through sensitization and community based interventions. Set up referral mechanisms for refugees/IDPs at heightened protection risks, and survivors of SGBV.
- Identify and assist people with specific needs in a safe protection, sensitive manner. Distribute dignity kits to women and girls.
- Establish two-way communication with refugee/IDP communities that are engaged as agents of protection and include them in planning, delivery and monitoring of protection and assistance.
- Promote and advocate for comprehensive solutions.



Shelter and core relief items

Bearing in mind the parameters set by governments, UNHCR will:

- Support local authorities in establishing and maintaining key infrastructure in refugee settlements. A new settlement will be established in Zambia, and new sites will be identified in Angola, Burundi, Rwanda, Uganda, and the United Republic of Tanzania. Within the DRC, support to the rehabilitation of public infrastructures in villages where IDPs return is also foreseen.
- Assist the most vulnerable refugees and IDPs with emergency shelter and implement community-based shelter projects.
- Provide core relief items—family tents, blankets, jerry cans, mosquito nets, sleeping mats, buckets and kitchen sets—and/ or equivalent cash assistance to newly and most vulnerable refugees, IDPs in settlements/camps.



Health

UNHCR will strengthen, expand and support national health services so as to meet the health needs of refugees. UNHCR will:

- Support governments and partners to deliver primary health care and nutrition services, including infant and young children' feeding, in camps/settlements, host villages and transit centres.
- Advocate for the inclusion of refugees in national health system.
- Ensure access to health care for refugees, including vaccinations, screening for acute malnutrition of children, identification and referral of cases of acute and chronic illness and pregnant women at risk. Ensure treatment of chronic non-communicable diseases as well as prevention of HIV-AIDS and care for patients.
- Promote preventive health measures through awareness-raising of refugees and host communities.



Education

UNHCR will strengthen, expand and support national education services so as to meet the education needs of refugees. UNHCR will:

- Ensure access to primary and secondary education for refugee school age children. Advocate and support governments for the inclusion and mainstreaming of school-age refugee children into national education systems.
- Through the DAFI programme, support refugee students' access to tertiary education.
- Recruit qualified teachers and build their professional skills in refugee-hosting countries.



Water, sanitation and hygiene

So as to ensure timely provision of life-saving assistance including water, sanitation and hygiene services, UNHCR will:

- Supply a sufficient quantity of potable water; the functioning of waste management systems and the establishment and maintenance of adequate sanitation facilities in sites.
- Sensitize communities to sanitation rules and responsibilities and the effective management of water resources.



Community empowerment and self-reliance

UNHCR will strengthen the local capacity to host refugees and promote peaceful coexistence among refugees and with host communities. UNHCR will:

- Enhance the resilience, self-reliance and livelihoods activities of refugees through skills-building initiatives, sustainable rural livelihood strategies and protection of shared environment. Advocate for refugees' right to work and their financial inclusion.
- Undertake market analysis to identify which sectors have potential to provide real economic and self-reliance opportunities for people of concern living both in rural and urban areas.
- Link refugees to jobs or apprenticeships in partnership with relevant trade, employment and development actors.
- Promote, where feasible, commercial farming, organic agriculture, and non-farming livelihoods opportunities from technical, vocational training, skills training, and language courses. Support, through multi-purpose cash-based interventions, vulnerable individual refugees/IDPs and/or families.
- In collaboration with FAO and IFAD, facilitate agricultural and fisheries production, where possible.
- Support interventions promoting peaceful coexistence and social cohesion within refugee/IDP/host communities.



Logistics and airlifts

So as to ensure timely provision of immediate life-saving needs and support effective sourcing, transportation, delivery, storage, distribution and accounting for assistance, UNHCR will:

- Organize international and local procurement and transportation, storage, and distribution of relief items.
- Ensure timely and dignified transport of refugees from reception/transit centres/entry points to settlements/camps/allocated plots.
- Maintain a constant flow of relief supplies and ensure storage of a quantity of supplies sufficient to respond to the first days of a sudden inflow from the DRC.
- Establish and maintain UNHCR and partners' vehicle fleet adequate to the response.
- Establish local and regional frame agreements for goods locally available.

Coordination and working in partnership

UNHCR's response and requirements build on UNHCR's "Emergency Preparedness and Response policy". A Regional Refugee Coordinator for the Congolese situation has been appointed and will ensure an overarching vision and coherent engagement across the region in pursuit of protection and solutions. The Refugee Response Plan for the Congolese situation is being developed. For the DRC, UNHCR is part of the Humanitarian Response Plan. The UNHCR requirements presented in this Supplementary Appeal will be reflected in, and aligned with, these plans.

UNHCR is scaling up its presence in the DRC and neighbouring countries to respond to the needs of refugee and IDPs. The Emergency Relief Coordinator **declared an IASC System-Wide L3 Emergency Response** for the DRC, focusing on the Kasai, Tanganyika and South Kivu provinces, for a period of six months, effective in October 2017. UNHCR supports this declaration, and declared its own UNHCR Level 3 Emergency to respond to this crisis within the DRC and to the refugee flows into neighbouring countries. For Zambia and the Republic of Congo, UNHCR declared Emergency Level 1, requiring enhanced preparedness, while Angola was already Emergency Level 2, which requires stepped-up support. UNHCR is also very concerned by the situation in Uganda, following the surge in new arrivals witnessed since November 2017.

The Regional Refugee Coordinator in charge of the DRC situation, currently based in the DRC, will pay particular attention to nurture constructive relations with regional bodies, including SADC, COMESA and IGAD. In all operations which are part of the Congolese situation, UNHCR will ensure the organization of regular meetings with implementing and operational partners and key government stakeholders. Frequent field missions will be organized together with government officials for UN, donor and other development partners.

In the DRC, the organization has opened two new offices in the Kasais and one in South Kivu, while additional staff has been recruited to strengthen UNHCR's presence in Tanganyika and South Kivu Provinces. Additional staff is also required to strengthen coordination and support functions in Kinshasa. The DRC itself has to be seen as a region, with its 20 offices and multitude of parallel humanitarian crisis to deal with. As such, central and sub-office structures need to be solid enough to ensure effective and efficient delivery of protection and assistance to people of concern.

In countries of asylum, new offices have been opened in the course of 2017 as refugees arrived in areas where UNHCR had no presence, and additional staff recruited. Whenever possible, UNHCR is trying to co-locate offices with other UN agencies or NGOs.

Particularly, but not exclusively, in countries rolling-out the CRRF approach, and within the Refugee Response Model, UNHCR is expanding strategic partnerships to include development actors—such as the World Bank, the African Development Bank, bilateral donors, and UN development agencies—civil society and the private sector.

In Uganda, the response will benefit from the CRRF approach adopted by the Government and all stakeholders. As well, Rwanda and Zambia have shown interest in the CRRF and will be soon implementing its approach to solutions and management of refugee situations. This follows commitments made by several States as part of the Congolese situation during the General Assembly's sessions on refugees and migrants at the end of 2016.

The “whole of society approach” should guarantee a more comprehensive response that will also take into account the needs of host populations and that will assist in building the foundations for long-term solutions to the refugee situation.

Priorities for resource mobilization

UNHCR takes as basic principles in its fundraising that funds be raised first and foremost for prioritized activities, and that the funds raised are as flexible as possible given the range of locations, contexts and themes within which the Office works. Put simply, the preferences for income would be as follows.

- **Unearmarked funding** is the priority for resource mobilization. Contributed without restrictions on its use, unearmarked funding allows UNHCR the critical flexibility in how best to reach refugees and other populations of concern in the greatest need and at the greatest risk.
- Secondly, funding which is **broadly earmarked at the situational or regional level**: meaning, funding that can be used across the range of countries and activities in a given region or situation in accordance with the priorities and activities identified by UNHCR.
- Thirdly, funding which is **earmarked at the country or operational level**. Funding of this type allows UNHCR to allocated funding to its planned activities within a country in a context specific manner.
- Fourthly, funding which is **earmarked to the sectoral or thematic level**. This is the most restrictive level of funding.
- Ideally, all funds raised should be **flexible in their implementation period**; meaning, UNHCR should be able to carry funds to the following year. This will enable the smooth continuation of activities, make operations more predictable, and avoid situations of UNHCR receiving funds it may not able to spend within the calendar year.

Implications for people of concern if UNHCR's strategy is not supported

The lack of resources **in the DRC** will have dramatic effects on the lives of IDPs. For those most able to return, this will include the impossibility for the most vulnerable to restart their lives in their homes. At the same time, UNHCR will not be able to assist those still in displacement or newly displaced with multi-purpose cash grants, psychosocial support, access to vital documentation and other critical interventions assisting those most in need. The impact of an underfunded strategy will extend to the inability of the Government to effectively coordinate humanitarian assistance and ensure the protection of people's rights and property.

In countries of asylum, Governments will find their ability to welcome and host refugees in safety and dignity to be restricted, and will have difficulty ensuring their access to services and basic assistance and support from host communities. UNHCR and partners will have their presence reduced and protection interventions will be limited, including access to documentation, livelihood opportunities and education, SGBV prevention, access to legal services and protection from undue detention.

With children making up 53 per cent of the refugee population, they will be the most impacted, becoming more vulnerable and at risk to being forcibly recruited, exposed to violence and abuse. People with special needs will also be affected, making their lives even more challenging that they currently are.

With limited resources, UNHCR will prioritize lifesaving support. Activities for long-term solutions will not be prioritized such as education, self-reliance and promoting peaceful coexistence. The maintenance of infrastructure and shelter assistance, being very expensive undertakings, are also deprioritized with direct implications on living conditions and the provision of minimum standards of services in camp and settlements.

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UNHCR
hqfr00@unhcr.org

P.O. Box 2500
1211 Geneva 2

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reporting.unhcr.org

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Displaced and struggling to survive. © UNHCR/John Wessels