

THE DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO SITUATION

APRIL 2018

The situation in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) is one of the world's most **complex and challenging yet forgotten crises**. As of 30 April, the Africa region hosted over 743,400 refugees from the DRC.

From 1 January to 30 April alone, some 97,799 Congolese fled to neighbouring countries, with a particularly **significant increase** in refugee flows to Uganda, Burundi and Zambia.

On 23 March, UNHCR together with 30 humanitarian partners launched a Regional Refugee Response Plan for \$504 million to help respond to the needs of Congolese refugees in neighbouring countries.

KEY INDICATORS



743,401 *

Total number of refugees and asylum-seekers from the DRC



97,799 **

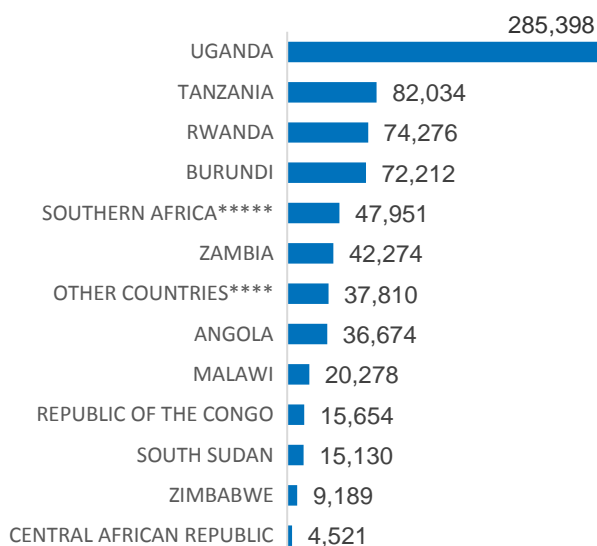
New arrivals in 2018



11,467

New arrivals in April

POPULATION OF CONCERN IN HOST COUNTRIES



FUNDING (AS OF 30 APRIL)

USD 368.7 million

requested for the DRC situation

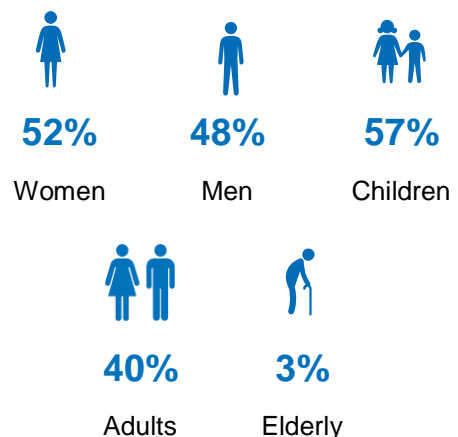
FUNDED 4%

14.5 M

FUNDING GAP 96%

354.2 M

AGE, GENDER BREAKDOWN ***



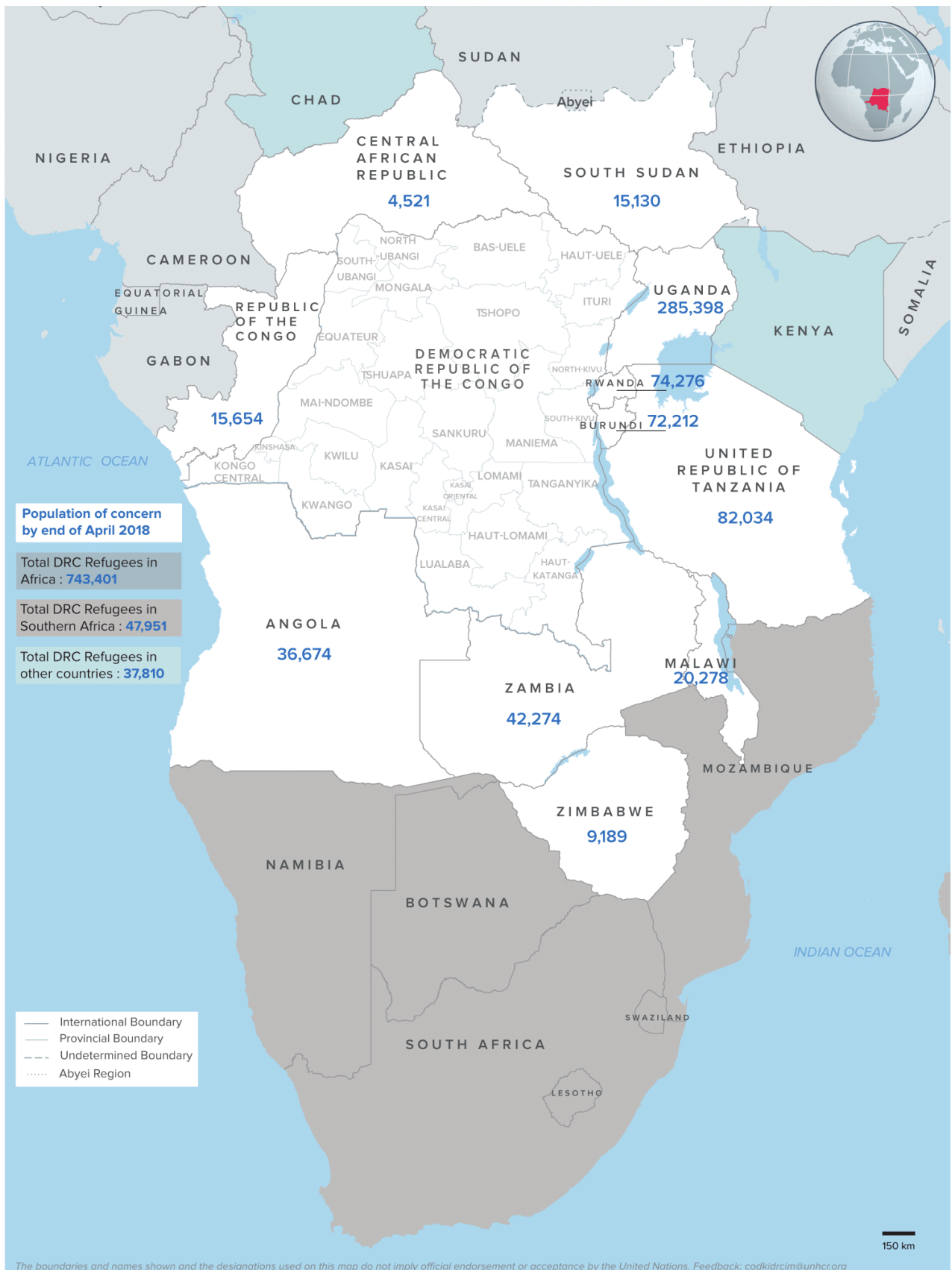
* **Total number** includes figures from Angola, Botswana, Burundi, Central African Republic, Chad, Kenya, Lesotho, Madagascar, Malawi, Mozambique, Namibia, Republic of the Congo, Rwanda, South Africa, South Sudan, Swaziland, the United Republic of Tanzania, Uganda, Zambia and Zimbabwe.

** **New arrivals** include figures from Angola, Burundi, Chad, Central African Republic, Kenya, Malawi, Mozambique, Madagascar, Republic of the Congo, Rwanda, South Sudan, Swaziland, Uganda, the United Republic of Tanzania and Zimbabwe.

*** **This age breakdown and the charts** include figures from Angola, Burundi, Chad, Central African Republic, Kenya, Malawi, Mozambique, Madagascar, Republic of the Congo, Rwanda, South Sudan, Swaziland, Uganda, the United Republic of Tanzania and Zimbabwe.

**** **Other countries** include Chad and Kenya.

NUMBER OF REFUGEES In countries of asylum as of the end of April 2018

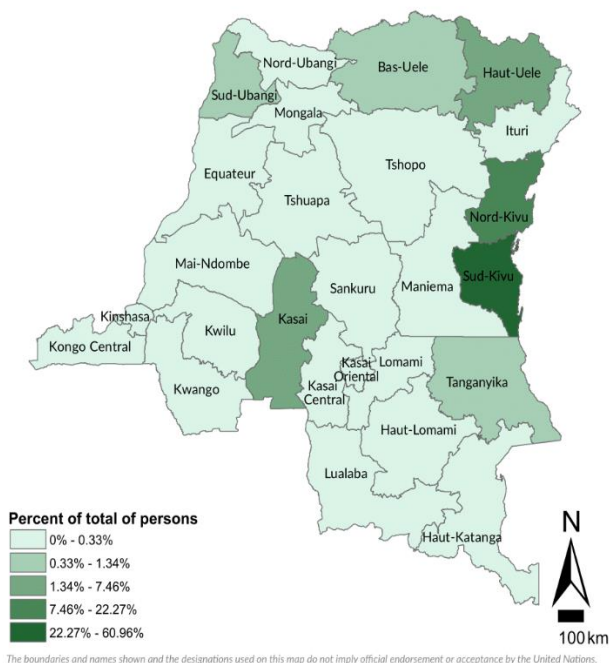


Creation date: 12 May 2018 Sources: UNHCR, UNCS Feedback: codkidrcim@unhcr.org

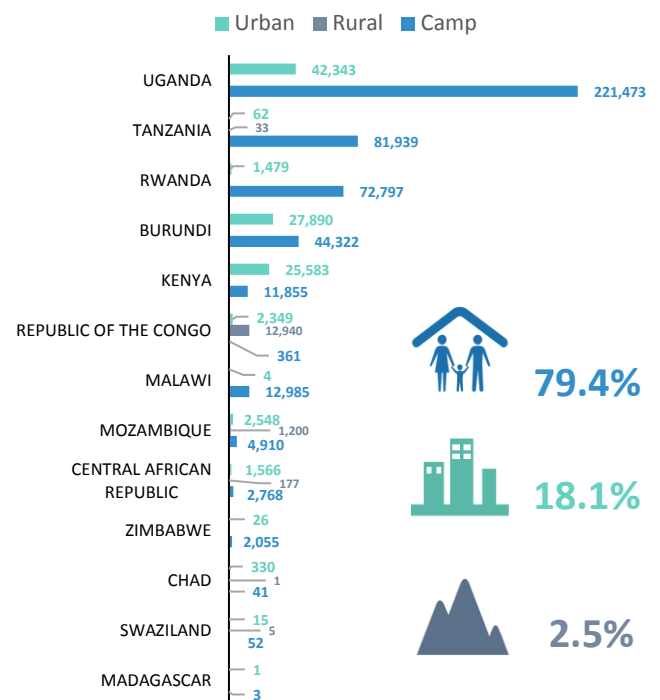
Regional Highlights and Operational Context

- Over **743,401 Congolese refugees** are being hosted in countries in Africa that have generously maintained an open door policy in granting asylum to old and new population groups.
- The security conditions in the DRC, especially in the eastern and central provinces, remains volatile with sporadic outbreaks of violence leading to displacement of civilians within the country, and across borders to neighbouring countries. This has placed the DRC refugee population **among the ten largest in the world**.
- At the end of April, UNHCR received \$14.5 million for the DRC situation, representing only four per cent of the total requirements for 2018.
- Donors pledged \$528.1 million out of the total requirement of \$ 1.7 billion at the DRC Humanitarian Pledging Conference, held in Geneva on 13 April 2018.
- The UN High Commissioner for Refugees Filippo Grandi, visited the Great Lakes region, from 03 to 12 April. During his visit to DRC, the High Commissioner met with senior Government officials, including President Joseph Kabila; refugees and IDPs; and UNHCR staff and partners. The High Commissioner also visited Burundi and Rwanda, where he met with persons of concern and various stakeholders, including President Pierre Nkurunziza of Burundi and President Paul Kagame of Rwanda. During his visit, the High Commissioner called for solutions to crises affecting the region and urged for more international support for concrete solutions.

PROVINCES OF ORIGIN of Congolese Refugees



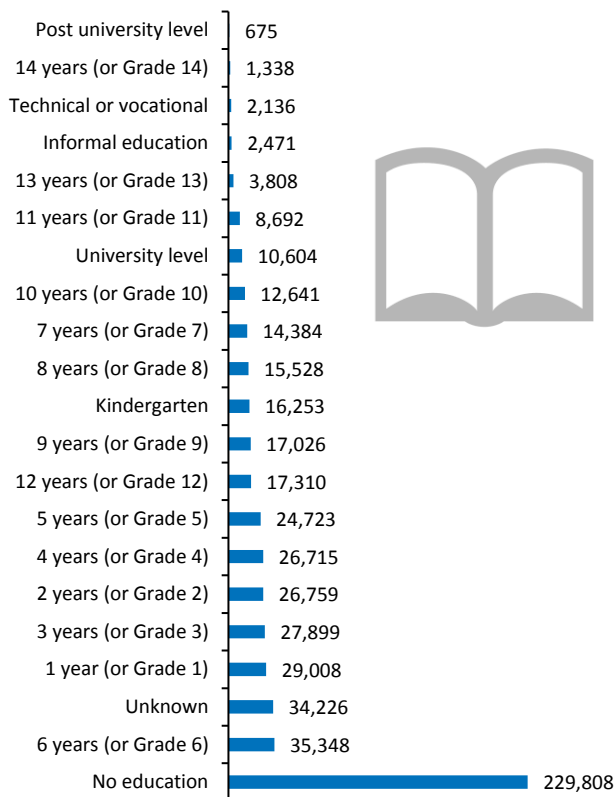
TYPE OF SETTLEMENT In Countries Of Asylum



The above map includes figures from Angola, Burundi, Chad, Central African Republic, Kenya, Malawi, Mozambique, Madagascar, Republic of the Congo, Rwanda, South Sudan, Swaziland, the United Republic of Tanzania and Zimbabwe.

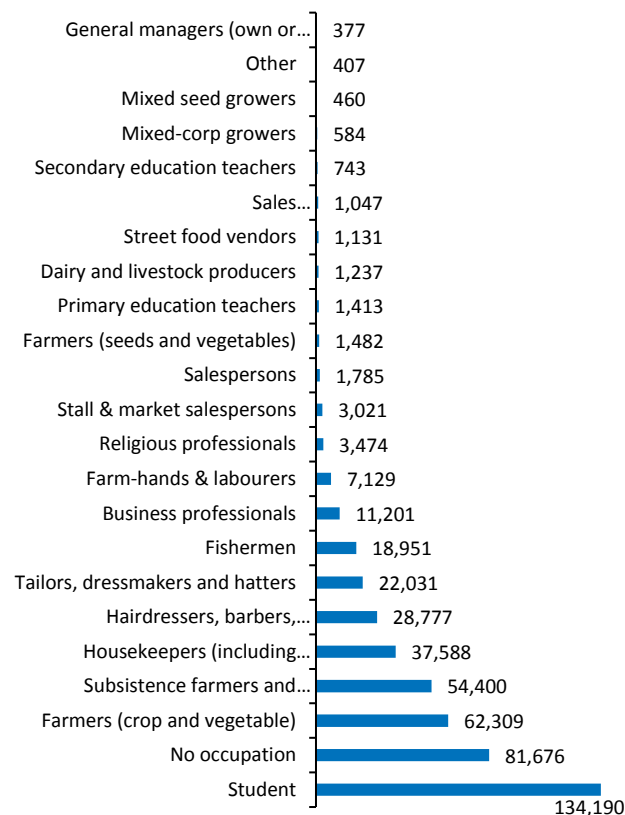
EDUCATION LEVEL OF REFUGEES

Number Of Persons Per Level



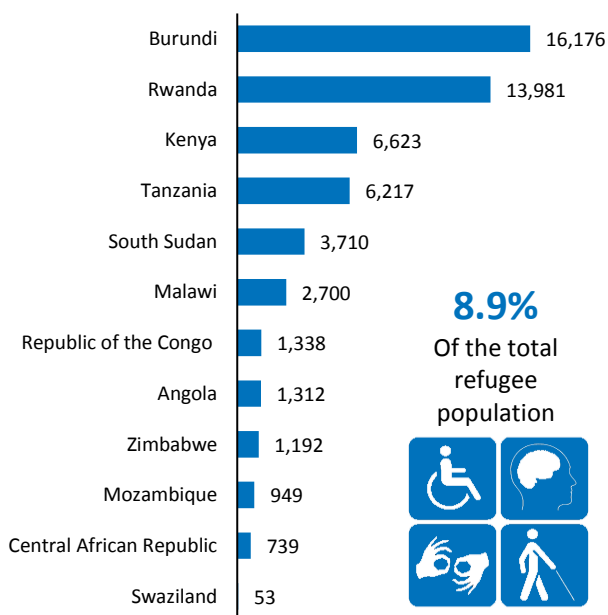
OCCUPATION OF REFUGEES

Number Of Persons By Type Of Occupation



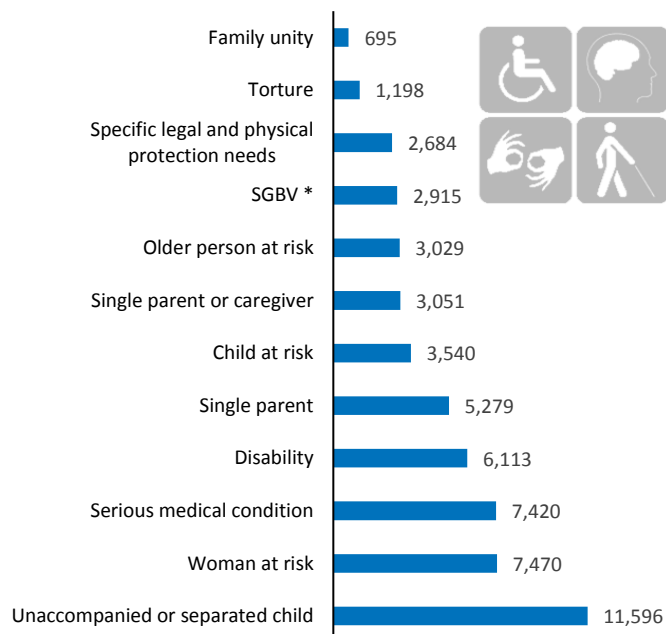
NUMBER OF PERSONS WITH SPECIFIC NEEDS

Per Country of Asylum



NUMBER OF PERSONS WITH SPECIFIC NEEDS

Per Category of Concern



* Sexual and Gender Based Violence (SGBV)

The above charts include figures from Angola, Burundi, Chad, Central African Republic, Kenya, Malawi, Mozambique, Madagascar, Republic of the Congo, Rwanda, South Sudan, Swaziland, the United Republic of Tanzania and Zimbabwe.

Achievements during the Reporting Period

ANGOLA

Latest developments

- Some 13,439 Congolese refugees (3,332 families) were residing in Lóvua settlement, as of April.

Achievements

- Out of the 35,411 individuals biometrically registered, 23,230 individuals (5,759 families) were present at the monthly food distribution and received food rations. Local authorities register newborn refugee children and nationals every Wednesday in Lóvua.
- Of the 2,106 children (6 to 59 months) who were screened for malnutrition in Lóvua, eight cases of Severe Acute Malnutrition (SAM) and 41 with Moderate Acute Malnutrition (MAM) were identified.
- In Lóvua, the main causes of death were linked to upper respiratory tract infections (22 per cent), followed by diarrhoea (six per cent) and malaria (four per cent). Antenatal (ANC) and postnatal care (PNC) services continued for refugee women: 77 received ANC consultations; 43 were screened for HIV/AIDS; 28 attended their first PNC consultation and 360 dignity kits plus 25 *mama* kits were distributed. During the monthly general food distribution, more than 6,000 mosquito nets were provided to refugees in Lunda Norte.
- Elections of refugee representatives in Lóvua settlement occurred peacefully in all 41 occupied villages. About 74 per cent of eligible refugees voted, out of which 35 per cent were women, resulting in the election of 3 representatives per village.
- Joint Assessment Missions (JAM) with partners and the Government took place in Lunda Norte to enhance food security and ramp up monitoring and evaluation, screening, and targeting of the refugee population. The findings and recommendations will allow partners to re-design emergency food-security and nutritional content.
- Refugees received 14 to 16 litres of water per person / per day in Lóvua settlement and water trucking will continue under current partnerships. Borehole drilling started in Lóvua reaching a depth of 126m out of the projected 160m, however, no water has been found to date.

Challenges

- 497 refugees (126 families) who were previously removed from the distribution list as they had missed previous distributions for almost two months, came to the April distribution. They claimed that they were not able to collect the food assistance due to the distance between their settlement and the distribution point, and the fear of being arrested.

- Partners met with Lunda Norte's Vice Governor and provincial authorities due to concerns over the risk of further refoulement, recalling the agreement made in March 2018 whereby refoulement was strictly forbidden by the central Government of Angola.
- Due to the expansion of Lóvua, many villages in the settlement are located far from the existing health facilities and refugees are unable to reach them by foot. UNHCR and Doctors of the World ("Médicos del Mundo" / MDM) have agreed to build a second health centre in the settlement and work will start imminently.

BURUNDI

Latest developments

- The UN High Commissioner for Refugees, Filippo Grandi, visited Burundi on 10 April 2018 and met with refugees in the Musasa refugee camp, in the Northern Province of Ngozi. Most of the refugees' queries pertained to insufficient assistance, including food, clothing, income generating activities and the lack of education materials. The High Commissioner explained the difficulties with regard to resource mobilization and promised to appeal to donors for more substantive support, including self-reliance and income-generating activities as well as professional training.
- Forty-six households comprising 156 new refugees from the DRC arrived in Burundi bringing the total number of Congolese asylum seekers registered in Burundi to 484.

Achievements

- Camp-based refugees were assisted with food and non-food items as well as with briquettes for cooking.
- Another 294 asylum-seekers were granted refugee status. In addition, 128 birth certificates, 11 death certificates, 106 temporary stay permits, 589 registration proofs were issued to asylum-seekers and refugees and 985 exit camp permits were issued to refugees wishing to go out of the camp.
- In April, 41 households comprising 119 Congolese refugees were transferred from Cishemere transit center in Cibitoke to Kavumu refugee camp in Ruyigi.
- Three hundred and ninety eight (398) refugees were resettled to other countries, with a total of 954 refugees resettled from Burundi since January 2018, while 49 new cases were submitted for resettlement, bringing the number of submitted cases to 525 since the beginning of 2018.
- Construction works for a fifth refugee camp are currently in progress in the Province of Ruyigi. This camp will accommodate some of the planned figures for refugees in the contingency planning for the DRC situation.

Challenges

- The operation remains underfunded. This situation has a negative impact on the overall assistance available for refugees, including self-reliance activities and education, as there are many overcrowded classes and lack of school materials/manuals, health, and shelters and latrines that need rehabilitation.

MALAWI

Latest developments

- As of April 2018, the majority of registered persons of concern in Malawi were from the DRC, with a total of 20,253 individuals. There have been 1,192 new arrivals from the DRC since January 2018, with the trend in the first quarter reducing slightly with an average of 300 arrivals per month. In April only, 173 new arrivals were recorded.
- The majority of new arrivals are from South Kivu who entered Malawi through Chitipa, Songwe and Mbilima, in Northern Malawi bordering Tanzania, and Mchinji in Western Malawi, bordering Zambia. After crossing the border in the North, the new arrivals are taken to Karonga reception centre where they are registered (level 1 registration) before being transferred to Dzaleka Refugee Camp in Dowa district. Whilst in Dzaleka camp, the new arrivals are registered by the Government and UNHCR, jointly, before undergoing Refugee Status Determination (RSD) by the Government.

Achievements

- The RSD process is currently accelerated for Congolese asylum seekers, reducing the waiting time from a period of up to three years to just under one year.
- The Government of Malawi has agreed to adopt the Comprehensive Refugee Response Framework (CRRF), and is currently pending official pledges from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Within this framework, the Government intends to provide group recognition to Congolese asylum seekers.

Challenges

- The Government of Malawi has made reservations to the 1951 Refugee Convention. As a result, the country employs a fairly strict encampment policy, with very limited possibility of self-reliance for refugees and asylum-seekers. UNHCR is continuing to advocate for the Government to lift the reservations, which the Government has indicated it is willing to do.
- Dzaleka camp is increasingly congested with a population of 34,052 individuals, including 20,253 from DRC. Alternate sites need to be identified, considering a transition towards a settlement approach. The identification of suitable alternative locations by the Government is pending.

RWANDA**Latest developments**

- In the aftermath of the protests that took place in Kiziba refugee camp, in February 2018, the situation remained challenging in that camp. However, UNHCR and its partners maintained services and the police continued to provide security.
- A joint verification exercise began in Gihembe camp, and has so far covered 50% of the refugee population.
- A joint Eligibility Mission by the World Bank and UNHCR was organized to start a two-step process for access to the IDA 18 financing - eligibility and project design.

Achievements

- Protection counselling related to security concerns in Kiziba camp was conducted.
- Over 950 entrepreneurs were trained, 39 of whom received loans to develop their businesses, with a successful repayment rate of 98 per cent.
- The health centre in Nyabiheke camp is being rehabilitated with an extension of a maternity and a delivery room, pharmacy store and distribution points. The rehabilitation will improve the quality of services by reducing the waiting time at the pharmacy distribution point and controlling infections by decongesting the maternity service.
- The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints (LDS) constructed eight dischargeable latrines in Nyabiheke and 39 dischargeable latrines in Gihembe camp.
- Forty-two individuals were resettled.

Challenges

- Since 20 April, all school activities were stopped in Kiziba camp for security reasons.
- The patients' shower block in Kiziba camp was destroyed due to heavy rainfall.
- Upper Respiratory Tract Infections remain high amongst Congolese refugees in the camps.
- Gastro-intestinal diseases increased in Mugombwa, due to the delay in waste collection, poor drainage systems, inappropriate use of latrines and the lack of refugees' ownership in cleaning WASH facilities.
- General food ration has been reduced by 25% in all refugee camps, due to a funding shortfall for WFP.
- There is a lack of supplementary feeding for refugees with chronic illnesses (except those with diabetics) and the elderly in Gihembe and Nyabiheke.
- The average water supply in Nyabiheke camp remains at 13 litres per person per day. Over USD 60,000 is required to connect the camp to the national water system managed by WASAC.
- Family latrines and showers are needed for 20 persons with disabilities who cannot easily access the communal latrines and showers in Gihembe camp.
- In line with the shelter strategy, a significant number of family-shelters need to be upgraded.

UNITED REPUBLIC OF TANZANIA

Latest developments

- Following increased inflows at the beginning of the year, Tanzania has seen a sharp decline in the number of refugee arrivals, with only one Congolese arriving in April. While the port at Kibirizi, 3km north of Kigoma town, is still considered an “open” entry point to Tanzania, there have been reports that local authorities are turning away boats from the DRC along Lake Tanganyika before they reach the shore. The numbers of those who are forced to return are not known at this stage.
- During the reporting period, UNHCR was requested by the port authority in Kigoma to close the extended section of Kibirizi, which was allocated to accommodate the new arrivals. Given the fluid and unpredictable electoral / political situation in the DRC and the potential for a new influx, UNHCR underlined the importance of keeping the small plot of land in Kibirizi open and remains on standby to receive new arrivals.

Achievements

- Due to heavy rainfall, a small section of the Kibirizi reception facilities flooded. A drainage system that was put in place during Kibirizi’s initial construction helped to prevent further damage.

Challenges

- Access to territory for Congolese asylum seekers continued to remain precarious. UNHCR will continue to ensure that preparedness measures remain in place should the situation change for the worse in the DRC, while advocating to keep the borders open.

UGANDA

Latest developments

- In April, 9,310 Congolese individuals arrived in Uganda.
- A total of 133 cholera cases were reported, bringing the total of those affected since the outbreak in mid-February to 2,119 cases and 45 deaths, in Kyangwali and Kyaka II settlements.
- A joint site assessment mission conducted by the Office of the Prime Minister and UNHCR indicated that the Kyangwali, Kyaka II and Nakivale settlements have sufficient additional absorption capacity to cope with the current planning scenario of receiving new asylum seekers.

Achievements

- In Kyaka II, an Inter-Agency Comprehensive Needs Assessment resulted in the identification of the need to develop an Inter-Agency and Multi-Sector Plan of Action. In

addition, mapping of services provided by the various humanitarian actors was undertaken to allow for a thorough gap analysis and to ensure effective coordination of the emergency response.

- In Kyaka II and Kyangwali, anti-fraud and Protection from Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (PSEA) posters have been placed at the main service delivery points. Suggestions and complaints boxes have been set up in selected locations.
- In Kyaka II, partners identified the need for enhanced profiling of unaccompanied children and persons with specific needs, prior to their relocation to the settlement to enable their smooth access to community support with stronger protection interventions, if needed.

Challenges

- Both in Kyangwali and Kyaka II, more intensive and systematic police presence in refugee settlements is warranted, in order to maintain law and order, both inside and around the refugee settlements.

ZAMBIA

Latest developments

- There were 42,224 Congolese biometrically registered in Zambia as of 30 April, consisting of 12,984 households, with 5,314 identified as vulnerable persons.
- In April, 371 new arrivals were recorded, with most of those registered in Lusaka, rather than at the entry point in Luapula or the north western provinces, neighbouring DRC.

Achievements

- After a pause of two weeks due to heavy rains and impassable roads, relocation movements from the Kenani Transit Centre to the newly established Mantapala refugee settlement in the north of Zambia, have resumed, with 3,914 Congolese individuals relocated.
- To ensure that the relocation is completed by the end of June, as was initially planned, about 1,000 individuals are being transferred per week. The reception capacity of communal shelters in Mantapala refugee settlement has doubled to hold over 1,100 persons at any given time.
- In Mantapala refugee settlement, progress is being made on the construction of the clinic, classroom blocks and office space for partners.
- Food was distributed to 13,942 refugees. The whereabouts of the no shows for the monthly food distribution are being verified to assess whether refugees may be spontaneously leaving the site.

Challenges

- Poor road conditions and heavy rains made access to Mantapala refugee settlement difficult and problematic for the delivery of materials with regard to construction activities. This considerably slowed down progress with establishing health and educational facilities.
- Out of the required USD 74.2 million Inter-agency response budget for Zambia, only US\$ 8.3 million (11 %) has been received so far. The uncertainty of availability of funding beyond mid-year, after the expiry of the CERF projects makes medium and longer term planning difficult.

ZIMBABWE

Latest developments

- During April, 184 new arrivals from DRC were recorded, making the total number of 9,189 refugees from the DRC in the country.
- UNHCR, in collaboration with the Department of Immigration, facilitated the transfer of 36 Congolese asylum seekers (30 adults and 6 minors) to Tongogara Refugee Camp, who were stranded at the Zambia-Zimbabwe Nyamapanda border post. This transfer followed a UNHCR border monitoring mission to the border post, which enabled UNHCR to reinforce its advocacy for the implementation of an alternative to detention in lieu of the Government's default of transferring asylum seekers through the prison system. Senior immigration officials at the border engaged UNHCR on the best way to assist the asylum seekers who are coming from the DRC.

Achievements

- Registration through the Biometrics Identity Management System (BIMS) was completed in Tongogara camp for 2,800 persons who had not updated their records, including 1,654 Congolese individuals. A verification exercise of unaccompanied and separated children (UASC) began in Tongogara refugee camp, with 33 children registered by UNHCR's child protection partner *Terre des Hommes* under the guidance of UNHCR. The exercise aims at updating the current status, biodata and whereabouts of UASC following recommendations of a recent mission on UASC/Alternative Care from Geneva.
- WFP food stocks were adequate to feed all new arrivals throughout the month, and by the end of April a general distribution of blankets, mosquito nets, kitchen sets and semi-collapsible jerry cans had been completed in Tongogara refugee camp.
- UNHCR and the Government conducted a campaign to encourage new arrivals to expedite the construction of semi-permanent shelters that had slowed down due to the non-availability of shelter material. The Environmental Health Department conducted health education sessions in Tongogara camp where 464 persons, including 126 men and 338 women, were educated on malaria, cholera and typhoid. In the camp's Section 9 dedicated to new arrivals, 169 persons, including 72 men and 97 women, were educated

on malaria, diarrhea and cholera. The Environmental Health Department recommended sourcing of a water testing kit for surveillance of all diarrheal and water borne diseases.

Challenges

- There is an accommodation shortage at the Tongoagra refugee camp - reception center as the number of asylum seekers continues to increase. Efforts continue to be made to ensure that new arrivals are prioritized for the allocation of houses vacated by resettled refugees, in an endeavor to decongest the limited reception facilities.
- UNHCR's border and detention monitoring activities are key components in the facilitation of alternatives to detention and access to territory for asylum seekers. However, the operation's budget for 2018 was reduced and it has become increasingly difficult to conduct missions to key border areas.

Financial Information

UNHCR is very grateful for the financial support provided by donors who have contributed to our activities with un-earmarked and broadly earmarked funds as well as for those who have contributed directly to the situation or operations.

FUNDING (in million USD)

A total of **14.5 million** has been funded

Donors who have contributed to the DRC situation:

CERF	IKEA Foundation
Denmark	Italy
Educate A Child Programme (EAC/EAA)	Japan
Finland	Private Donors

EXTERNAL / DONORS RELATIONS

BROADLY EARMARKED CONTRIBUTIONS

Special thanks to donors of broadly earmarked contributions of over \$2 million that can potentially be used for the DRC situation.

United States of America \$77.8 million | Canada \$6.6 million | Private donors Australia \$3.8 million | Sweden \$3.2 million

Germany | Luxembourg | Malta | Republic of Korea | Switzerland | Private donors

UNEARMARKED CONTRIBUTIONS

Special thanks to donors of unearmarked contributions of over \$10 million.

Sweden \$98.2 million | Norway \$42.5 million | Netherlands \$39.1 million | United Kingdom \$31.7 million | Denmark \$25.5 million | Private donors Spain \$19 million | Australia \$18.9 million | Switzerland \$15.2 million | Italy \$11.2 million

Algeria | Argentina | Belgium | Bosnia and Herzegovina | Canada | China | Costa Rica | Estonia | Finland | Germany | Iceland | India | Indonesia | Kuwait | Lithuania | Luxembourg | Monaco | Montenegro | New Zealand | Philippines | Qatar | Republic of Korea | Russian Federation | Serbia | Singapore | Slovakia | Sri Lanka | Thailand | Turkey | United Arab Emirates | Uruguay | Private donors

CONTACTS

Stylianos Kostas, Regional Refugee Coordination for the DRC Situation, UNHCR
Kinshasa, DRC - kostas@unhcr.org – Tel. +243 996 041 000 - Cell +243 817 570 227

LINKS

UNHCR DRC Situation Data Portal - <https://data.unhcr.org/DRC>