

Democratic Republic of the Congo

1 – 15 July 2019

This document provides a mid-month update on major developments between the publication of UNHCR's monthly Operational Update.

Refugees

- On 5 July, UNHCR signed a **Tripartite Agreement with the Governments of DRC and of the Central African Republic (CAR)**, in preparation for the voluntary repatriation of Central African refugees from DRC. An initial 4,000 refugees have expressed their intention to return home.
- On 9 July, **88 Burundian refugees were voluntarily repatriated from Lusenda camp in DRC, to Burundi**. This was the first repatriation convoy from DRC to Burundi following the Tripartite Agreement signed between UNHCR and the Governments of DRC and Burundi.
- The World Food Programme (WFP), in coordination with UNHCR and implementing partners, has **transitioned from voucher-based food assistance to cash assistance for Burundian refugees** in Lusenda camp and Mulongwe settlement, South Kivu Province. Cash helps refugees access the food market, and allows them to build their own livelihoods.
- On 9 July, UNHCR and its partner the National Refugee Commission (CNR) **started distributing refugee certificates to CAR refugees living outside of camps in Mobayi Mbongo Territory, Nord Ubangi Province**. So far, 2,594 households out of the 9,554 targeted have received certificates. The operation is ongoing, targeting a total of 20,581 people. Documentation helps refugees move freely in DRC, and access basic services. The refugees had been biometrically registered in 2017, but had not received documentation up to now.
- As of 13 July, a total of **811 Rwandan refugees had been repatriated from DRC to Rwanda in 2019**.

Congolese returnees

- Between 1 and 15 July, **UNHCR identified 8,900 Congolese refugees (1,512 households) who have returned from refugee camps in Tanzania and Burundi** between April and June. They have settled in a site near the village of Kabimba, 60 km from Kalemie, Tanganyika Province. Most are women and children, who returned from Nyariguzu camp (Tanzania) and Buagiriza camp (Burundi). Their needs are urgent in terms of non-food items (NFIs), shelter, and food. In addition, children are out-of-school as they left before the end of the school year. UNHCR and CNR are planning on verifying their numbers.

Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs)

- **UNHCR's protection monitoring system registered 817 protection incidents** in areas of operation in the Kasai region, between 1 and 15 July. UNHCR was able to respond to 380 of these cases, in the form of referrals (to medical, psychosocial and/or judicial structures), advocacy in the case of arbitrary arrests, or judicial advice. In terms of prevention, sensitization messages were aired on radios in Kasai Province, and a public debate on positive masculinity was organized in Kananga (Kasai Central Province), gathering 120 people.
- **UNHCR undertook a mid-year review of its cash-based interventions (CBI)** in the Kasai region, with the following findings: 2,229 households received multi-purpose cash assistance out of the 7,700 persons targeted for 2019; 898 households received cash-for-shelter assistance out of 3,700 targeted for 2019; and 197 people received cash-for-protection assistance, out of the 750 targeted by the project. Participants in the review (IDPs, returnees, and members of host communities) mentioned, the heavy verification processes during the selection of beneficiaries as the cause for some delays in assistance.
- Following military offensives by the Congolese national army (FARDC), **armed violence has decreased in much of Ituri Province**. However, sporadic attacks persist, limiting humanitarian access to many displacement sites. Outside of Bunia, the largest concentration of IDPs appear to be in Drodro, Rho, Kasenyi and Tchomia in Djugu Territory. In Mahagi Territory, there is a large concentration of IDPs in Ramogi. UNHCR, through its partner

INTERSOS, conducts **protection monitoring**, and refers some of the victims of Sexual and Gender-Based Violence (SGBV). UNHCR held several focus groups in IDP sites, with a specific focus on women and girls, to inform its response and establish IDP committees in sites. The focus groups conducted with women highlighted the **need for female staff on the ground**, and for awareness-raising on the rights and referral mechanisms.

- **The situation in North Kivu remained volatile**, as all territories continued to experience armed conflict and cyclical displacement. In Masisi Territory the situation deteriorated, with attacks from armed groups systematically targeting Rwandan refugees and causing displacement. In Beni Territory, following the displacement of some 95,000 people to Nobili on the Ugandan border in May, **smaller scale displacements continued**. Almost all the displaced in and around Nobili are staying with host families. So far, UNHCR distributed non-food items (NFIs) to 2,500 vulnerable IDP households (19,222 people): tarpaulins, sleeping mats and jerry cans. This enabled those who stayed in public buildings (schools, churches) to relocate, allowing schools to be freed up. UNHCR also distributed NFIs to almost 900 vulnerable host community households.

Coordination activities

Shelter Working Group

- On 12 July, the Shelter Working Group (SWG), led by UNHCR, shared four sets of analyses about the shelter sector in DRC; a [mapping of shelter partners' presence](#) with details of activities planned, ongoing and completed; [remaining needs per humanitarian pole](#); and [disaggregated data on the beneficiaries of shelter activities](#).
- On 10 July, the SWG published a [case study](#) of the Mugunga 3 IDP site in Goma, North Kivu Province. Titled "We are all IDPs," this study presents a nuanced view of IDPs' vulnerabilities, as well as of their potential.
- On 9 July, after consultations with field partners, the SWG shared new versions of its "[Score Card](#)" – the tool used to identify beneficiaries – and of its [technical standards](#) for emergency tarpaulin shelters.
- On 6 July, the SWG shared its [mid-year summary](#) of achievements and projections for 2019. Key figures include: 188,333 people reached (12.5% of the SWG's target), 16 active partners, and 8 donors who are funding shelter/housing projects in DRC.

External / Donor Relations

As of 9 July 2019

Donors for UNHCR operations in DRC in 2019

United States of America (17 M) | **CERF** (3.7 M) | **Japan** (2.5 M) | **Sweden** (2.2 M) | **Canada** (0.76 M) | **United Nations Foundation** (0.43 M) | **Australia for UNHCR** (0.38 M) | **International Olympic Committee** (0.27 M) | **UNAIDS** (0.03 M) | **Private donors** (0.09 M)

Major donors of regional or other funds with soft earmarking 2019

United States of America (18.4 M) | **Germany** (13.1 M) | **Private donors Australia** (6.1 M) | **Canada** (4.6 M) | **Sweden** (4 M) | **Private donors Germany** (2.3 M)

Major donors of un-earmarked funds in 2019

Sweden (90.4 M) | **Norway** (44.5 M) | **Private donors Spain** (39.6 M) | **Netherlands** (37.5 M) | **United Kingdom** (31.7 M) | **Germany** (26.7 M) | **Denmark** (24.4 M) | **Private donors Republic of Korea** (20.6 M) | **Switzerland** (15.1 M)

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