

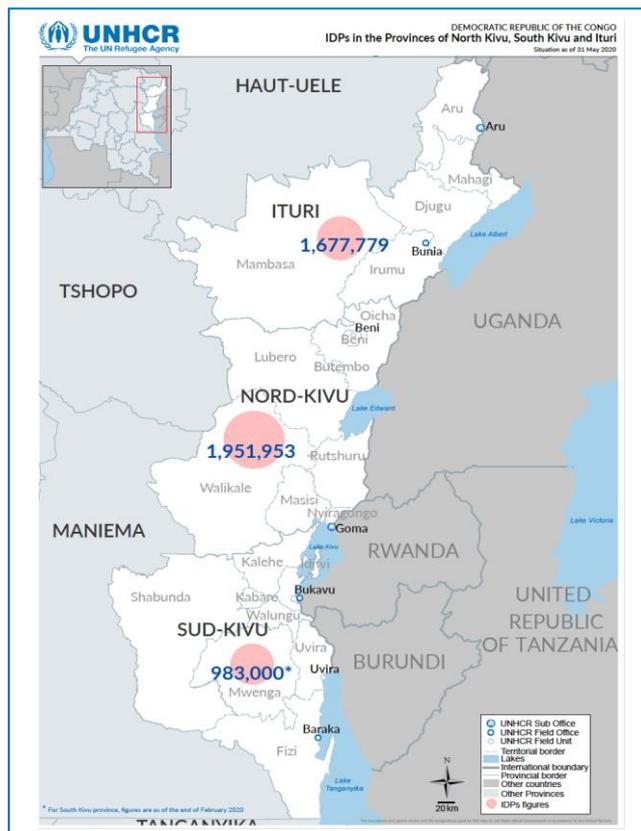
ITURI, NORTH KIVU AND SOUTH KIVU PROVINCES DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO

25 May – 8 June 2020

On 27 May, UNHCR extended its L3 emergency mechanism for an additional three months as **human rights violations** linked to **armed conflict** continue to increase. **Over 1 million people** have been

uprooted by violence in Ituri, North Kivu and South Kivu Provinces since the start of the L3 declaration in November 2019. UNHCR continues to step up its activities in order to respond to the

protection needs of conflict-affected populations, though the needs exceed all response capacities. Cash, shelter support and awareness raising continue amid the COVID-19 outbreak.



KEY FIGURES

Over **4.5M***

Persons are internally displaced in Ituri (**1.6M**), North Kivu (**1.9M**) and South Kivu (**1M**) provinces.

93%*

Of all IDPs in North Kivu, South Kivu and Ituri are accommodated in host families and communities (4.2M)

267,000

IDPs are hosted at CCCM coordinated IDP sites, while about 65,000 persons reside in spontaneous sites.

* Due to continuous population movements these figures change regularly and are only an estimate

Operational context and protection situation

Ituri Province: The security situation remains fragile across the province. The number of protection incidents has been steadily on the rise since the beginning of the year. In May, violations attributed to elements of the Congolese army (FARDC) have increased by 109% compared to March, rising from 343 protection incidents attributed to FARDC elements in March, to 646 in April and 718 in May. This trend is continuing in early June with ongoing military operations against various militia groups, particularly in the territories of Djugu and Mahagi as well as around the provincial capital Bunia. On 5 June the FARDC took over 23 villages in Walendu Watsi Chiefdom in Mahagi Territory that were occupied by CODECO militia for two months.

Attacks by CODECO militia in Mahagi Territory on 17 May have displaced up to 46,000 persons according to UNHCR's partner INTERSOS that is monitoring the protection situation and population movements. Some 6,600 persons have returned to their villages of origin in Walendu Watsi Chiefdom. In Irumu territory, elements of the ADF militia that had retreated due to military operations in neighbouring North Kivu Province, have used the weak presence of security forces in this area to attack local populations, killing 22 persons during several attacks in the area of Komanda Health Zone between 22 and 27 May. Militia attacks further forced over 11,000 persons into displacement in the Komanda Health Zone during May.

North Kivu Province: Armed clashes between the FARDC and armed groups continue to uproot thousands in North Kivu. In Bwito Chiefdom, Rutshuru Territory, armed clashes between the FDLR and FARDC have led to reported human rights violations, by both parties. On 29 May, the FARDC reportedly attacked a medical centre in Bwito and set 42 houses on fire. Medical staff were threatened at gunpoint while medication was being stolen and several patients had to flee the clinic. In Beni Territory, FARDC continues fighting against ADF, who in turn retaliate against the local populations. In Masisi Territory, FARDC fights against different Mai Mai armed groups.

These clashes are resulting in serious human rights violations against the local populations. 760 protection incidents have been recorded during the reporting period, a majority committed by Mai Mai militia (42%) while members of the Congolese army are increasingly involved in human rights violations. In April, 316 incidents were attributed to the FARDC, which rose to 422 (33% increase) in May, a majority taking place in Rutshuru and Beni Territories.

South Kivu Province: Conflict between armed groups continued in South Kivu with 375 protection incidents registered by UNHCR partner INTERSOS, including physical assault and extortion, primarily carried out by armed groups, while the FARDC reportedly perpetrated about 16% of these protection incidents. At the same time, the FARDC has increased its presence in South Kivu to secure the zones facing the presence of armed groups and inter-communal conflicts. There has been increased violence against Banyamulenge pastoralists, accentuating the heightened inter-community conflicts in the Highlands of Fizi and Uvira.

Conflict between the FARDC and the armed groups in the Highlands in Itombwe and Minembwe led to new waves of forced displacement of about 6,000 people towards Fizi, Uvira, Itombwe and Bijombo areas. About 600 IDPs fled to an informal IDP site next to the MONUSCO base in Mikenge where 1,800 people had previously sought protection. On 28 May, both the IDP site and the MONUSCO base were attacked by Mai Mai rebels.

UNHCR's response

Ituri Province



PROTECTION UNHCR-supported community-based protection groups have continued information sharing campaigns on the prevention of COVID-19 and protection related risks, reaching 931 persons during the reporting period including both IDPs and members of the host communities in Djugu and Irumu Territories.

Through engaging local communities, information on COVID-19 and its prevention can reach places where UNHCR currently has no access. UNHCR supports and guides community groups and community members from a distance. With their increased awareness, community members have started to request assistance to install hand-washing stations in public spaces, such as markets or displacement sites.



SHELTER AND CRIS In Mahagi Territory, UNHCR's partner Danish Refugee Council (DRC) rehabilitated 225 traditional shelters. In addition, DRC constructed 186 traditional shelters and 104 families of 534 persons could already move into these improved shelters.



CAMP COORDINATION AND CAMP MANAGEMENT UNHCR as co-lead of the CCCM Working Group, has advocated to allocate additional land to extend sites that have received thousands of new IDPs in recent months and urgently need to be decongested. MONUSCO started the preparation of the new terrain allocated for the extension of Kigonze site.

Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

- The COVID-19 prevention and response capacities of national and international health and humanitarian actors needs to be strengthened. Health programmes in several displacement sites in Ituri have run out of funding, leaving IDPs without affordable access to basic health care.
- Limited humanitarian access linked to bad security leave displaced persons and local populations very vulnerable. Food assistance to prevent malnutrition, notably for children, is amongst the most urgent need expressed by the communities.

- Newly displaced persons that have arrived in displacement sites across the province are in urgent need of multisectoral assistance. The construction of new shelters in overcrowded sites is crucial, especially during the rainy season.

North Kivu Province



PROTECTION UNHCR supported community protection groups continued to raise awareness about COVID-19 preventive measures, gender-based violence and human rights violations throughout North Kivu. Over 3,000 leaflets, posters and banners and 1,300 face were distributed in Beni and Lubero territories.

Community-based protection members in Masisi and Kibabi have advocated with the FARDC, PNC and ANR for more consistent respect for the rule of law in the region. Four displaced persons whose property was occupied by members of the FARDC were allowed their houses back while four unofficial barriers were lifted, increasing and rendering safer freedom of movement and limiting the extortion of goods. Furthermore, the FARDC committed to reinforce presence around Katoyi to counter incursions by armed groups.

18 rape survivors were referred to health facilities for medical care by community protection structures in the territories of Beni, Masisi, Lubero and Rutshuru. 13 separated and unaccompanied children were reunited with their parents by the members of the community-based protection group in Miriki, in the Territory of Lubero.



CAMP COORDINATION AND CAMP MANAGEMENT UNHCR and partners CNR continue awareness raising about COVID19 in the IDP sites. 87 households were advised by the CNR of the social distancing and hygiene practices to avoid contamination of the COVID 19 as well as cholera, which is endemic in the area.

Notwithstanding, in Bukombo site several cases of cholera have been identified. Medical partners and a local NGO have intensified awareness raising and provide medical assistance to the patients.

Protection Cluster

- The Protection Cluster, led by UNHCR has continued to coordinate and follow-up the response by UNHCR and cluster members to the multiple protection needs of about 80,000 internally displaced persons who have been uprooted in Bwito Chiefdom, Rutshuru Territory since March 2020.



CASH ASSISTANCE Mobile cash assistance to IDPs households in Beni continued, 487 IDP households have received cash assistance through mobile phones bringing the total of assisted households to 4,428. The activity carried out by partner INTERSOS faced several weeks of suspensions due to delays in crediting the phones with money by the mobile operator Vodacom, in part attributed to increased telecoms needs during the COVID crisis.



SHELTER AND CRIS UNHCR's partner AIDES has distributed emergency shelter kits (tarpaulins, sticks, ropes and nails) to 72 different internally displaced households in Rutshuru Territory. A total of 2,381 emergency shelters have already been built in the territories of Rutshuru and Masisi out of 4,000 planned. The selection of beneficiaries is underway for the construction of 1,547 remaining emergency shelters.

Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

- There is a lack of latrines and WASH infrastructure and UNHCR coordinated sites, while the majority of the sites are overcrowded.
- In some areas there are not enough protection actors to ensure the effective protection of IDPs and others affected by armed conflicts. Survivors of gender-based violence are particularly likely to remain without sufficient care.
- Many of the newly displaced remain without any support, although they face multiple needs, including shelter support, access to clean water, health services. Also, urgent support is needed for malnourished children.
- In Bwito Chiefdom, the displacement of an estimated 80,000 persons has led to urgent multisector needs, especially in terms of shelter, child protection and protection of women and girls at risk of gender-based

violence. Ensuring access to clean water further remains a challenge which is pivotal to help reduce the risk of COVID-19.

South Kivu Province



PROTECTION The community-based protection groups supported by UNHCR's partner AVSI continued sharing information on the prevention of COVID-19, gender-based violence, child protection and positive masculinity in Fizi and Uvira Territories, reaching nearly 4,000 individuals through door-to-door, in small groups, and via megaphone. Over 1,200 of the individuals reached received information specifically on COVID-19 prevention. These community-based groups also continued to advocate with local authorities for the rights of IDPs and host community members in South Kivu, leading to the release of two children who were arbitrarily arrested in Lubichako, Fizi Territory, and to the removal of unofficial road barriers by the FARDC that were used to extort fees from IDP and local populations. Thanks to the local groups, two survivors of gender-based violence were able to access medical care, and one of the perpetrators was arrested. In Misisi, Fizi Territory, the community groups recorded preventive messages on COVID-19 that are being broadcast on the community radio.

In response to an increasing number of cases of rape that have been recorded in Shabunda Territory, UNHCR conducted an analysis assessing the root causes of gender-based violence, and formulated recommendations to reduce the risk of gender-based violence and improve the response to survivors, especially those in remote areas. UNHCR advocated with local government and protection actors to facilitate transport for survivors to the health centers to receive appropriate medical care within 72 hours, and to strengthen presence of police and military forces to improve the security situation and eliminate impunity of the perpetrators.

Protection Cluster

- The Protection Cluster, led by UNHCR, worked to improve the quality of information gathered and shared regarding the situation in the provinces of South Kivu and Maniema and closely monitored the crisis in the Highlands of Minembwe, Itombwe and Bijombo, due to the resurgence of the intercommunity violence. A discussion was held with OCHA, with the purpose of reactivating the Civil-Military Coordination platform (CMCoord) for cooperation of humanitarian and military actors in information exchange, following the ongoing conflicts in South Kivu's Highlands.



SHELTER AND CRIS UNHCR and its partner AIDES are still in the process of identifying beneficiaries for the shelter projects for IDPs throughout South Kivu: 300 shelters in Fizi centre, 400 shelters in Walungu, 1,500 in Kalehe and 4,000 shelters in Shabunda, and 1,000 shelters in Uvira to respond to respond Uvira flood crisis. In Fizi Territory, UNHCR and AIDES shared information on COVID-19 in the areas targeted for this shelter project. The community-based approach to select the 300 households in Fizi centre is still underway.

Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

- The shelter sector lacks actors to respond to the needs of the population in need, especially after the floods and the armed conflict in Kambabare, Lubutu, Fizi and Kalehe Territories throughout South Kivu.
- There are still significant needs among those affected by the recent heavy rains and flooding in the Fizi and Ruzizi Plain Territories. These areas have received less media attention, but thousands have been displaced and are in need of shelter and other assistance.
- Due to the large displacements during this reporting period, thousands are in need of essential food and shelter assistance, including those in the informal site outside of the MONUSCO base in Mikenge, Mwenga Territory.
- IDPs in the Highlands in South Kivu continue to face conflict between communities, armed groups, and the FARDC, but humanitarian actors are unable to reach many of these areas due to security constraints, leaving IDPs and host community members in extreme need of assistance.

Background

- An upsurge of violence forced over 400,000 persons into displacement between March and June 2020 in **Ituri Province**, in addition to over 230,000 people that were forced to flee from violence in June 2019. In total, **1.6 million persons** fled their homes in the province during the last 2 years, according to the *Commission de Mouvement de Population (CMP)*, a commission of the Government and humanitarian agencies. The majority reside in host communities (80%), while some 213,054 IDPs stay in 64 displacement sites under coordination of the CCCM Working Group, co-led by UNHCR and IOM.
- **Over 1.9 million IDPs** are located in **North Kivu Province** as of end of May 2020 according to CMP. As reported by OCHA, an estimated 436,000 persons fled their homes between September 2019 and January 2020. The vast majority of IDPs in North Kivu (94%) live with host communities, while over 89,933 reside in 22 IDP sites coordinated by CCCM.
- **994,917** persons have been displaced in **South Kivu** during the last 24 months according to CMP. 95% of all IDPs reside in host families, while a minority have gathered in spontaneous IDP sites (in Bijombo, Mikenge and Kalehe Territory). The main causes of displacement are clashes between various communities, particularly in the Highlands of Fizi and Itombwe, fights between armed groups and the Congolese army in Mwenga, Uvira and Shabunda Territories.

UNHCR's presence

UNHCR's Sub-Office in Goma covers North Kivu and Ituri Provinces and supervises operations in South Kivu Province. The Goma Sub-Office oversees all North Kivu, while a smaller Field Unit in Bunia manages operations for Ituri. To meet growing needs in the northern part of North Kivu – including Ebola preparedness needs and emergency response – the operation opened a Field Unit in Beni in October 2019, and the Goma Sub-Office is being reinforced with permanent and temporary staff.

External Relations

As of 1 July 2020

Donors for UNHCR operations in DRC in 2020

CERF (10M) | United States of America (6.6M) | Sweden (3.1M) | European Union (1.6M) | France (1.1M) | Canada (0.72M) | Japan (0.56M)

Major donors of regional or other funds with soft earmarking 2020

Germany (47.6M) | United Kingdom (24.8M) | United States of America (21.9M) | Denmark (14.6M) | Canada (10.2M) | Private donors USA (7.4M) | Sweden (6.9M) | Private donors Germany (6.6M) | Private donors Japan (3.9M) | Private donors Australia (3.7M) | Ireland (3.3M) | Finland (3.3M) | France (2.8M) | Norway (2.4M)

Major donors of un-earmarked funds in 2020

Sweden (76.4M) | Norway (41.4M) | Netherlands (36.1 M) | Denmark (34.6M) | Private donors Spain (33.1M) | United Kingdom (31.7M) | Germany (25.9M) | Private donors Republic of Korea (17.3M) | Switzerland (16.4M) | France (14M) | Private donors Japan (11.7M)

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