

# Democratic Republic of the Congo

July 2021

*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](#).*

## Highlights

- UNHCR and the National Commission for Refugees (CNR), facilitated the **voluntary repatriation of 984 Burundian and Rwandan refugees** to their countries of origin.
- **UNHCR distributed emergency shelter kits and core relief items to 400 households** affected by a heavy rainfall in Kasai Province.
- **UNHCR and partner ADSSE distributed core relief items to 13,870 Central African Refugees (3,603 households)** in North Ubangi Province.
- **UNHCR and partner TEDE provided agricultural tools and quality seeds to IDP and host community members in North Kivu Province**, in order to promote peaceful coexistence among them.



*IDP, refugee, returnee and host community women work together in community fields in North Kivu Province, reinforcing peaceful coexistence. © UNHCR/Blaise Sanyila*



## PROTECTION

- UNHCR and the National Commission for Refugees (CNR) facilitated the voluntary repatriation of **968 Burundian refugees from South Kivu province to Burundi. 16 Rwandan refugees were also repatriated in dignity and safety from North Kivu Province to Rwanda**. Since January 2021, UNHCR and partners have voluntarily repatriated 3,715 Burundian and 802 Rwandan refugees. **In Bukavu, South Kivu Province, UNHCR supported the repatriation of 11 unaccompanied Rwandan refugee children who were reunified with their families in Rwanda**. This was possible thanks to family tracing with the help of the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) and Best Interest Determination (BID) panels undertaken jointly by UNHCR and CNR.
- **UNHCR's protection monitoring partner Terre Sans Frontières (TSF), recorded 74 protection incidents in Faradje Territory, Haut-Uélé Province and in Aru Territory, Ituri Province**, which represents a decrease of 23% compared to the previous month. Data on alleged perpetrators show that the majority of incidents were committed by non-state armed groups and consisted for the majority in looting (48%), arbitrary arrest (27%) physical attacks and murder (3,5%) and sexual and gender-based violence related violations (9,5%).



## HEALTH

- From July 6 to 10, **3,557 Central African refugee children aged 6-59 months were vaccinated against measles**, including 3,116 in the Yakoma health zone and 441 Central African refugee children in the Modale site, in the Wasolo health zone, North Ubangi Province. **26,540 children from local communities were also vaccinated in the two health**

**zones.** This vaccination campaign was organized by the Ministry of Health and the Expanded Programme on Immunization (EPI) with financial support from UNHCR, UNICEF and World Vision.

- From July 12 to 14, UNHCR and its partners AIDES and AIRD provided logistical support to Expanded Programme on Immunization (EPI) of the Aru and Mahagi Territories in Ituri Province for the organization of a **vaccination campaign against poliomyelitis which targeted 518, 899 children including 1,466 South Sudanese refugee children.**



### **WATER, SANITATION AND HYGIENE (WASH)**

- **UNHCR and its partner AIDES distributed over 120,000 bars of soap to 35,994 refugees and asylum seekers in Lusenda camp (27,482), Mulongwe settlement (7,532) as well as Kavimmvira and Monge Monge transit centres and in the Sange assembly point (980) in the South Kivu Province, with the aim to improve the overall hygiene of refugees and reducing the risk of transmitting diseases such as cholera and Covid-19.**



### **SHELTER AND CORE RELIEF ITEMS (CRIs)**

- **UNHCR and partner ADSSE distributed core relief items to 13,870 Central African Refugees (3,603 households) in the localities of Sidi, Boduna, and Dula, Bosobolo Territory, North Ubangi Province. The kits consisted of blankets, tarpaulins, mats, mosquito nets, soap, and solar lamps.**



### **CASH-BASED INTERVENTIONS (CBI)**

- From July 15 to 19, UNHCR and the World Food Programme (WFP) reached **6,768 Central African refugees through a joint cash-for-food distribution and soap in Limasa and Gomba, Yakoma Territory, North Ubangi,** to meet their most urgent needs.

UNHCR's partner WFP concluded the **monthly cash-for-food assistance, having reached 32,869 Burundian refugees in Lusenda camp and Mulongwe settlement,** South Kivu Province.



### **FOOD SECURITY AND NUTRITION**

- UNHCR, WFP and partner AJEDEC distributed **food assistance consisting of cereals, pulses, oil and salt to 2,556 South Sudanese refugees (1,066 households) in Bele site,** Haut-Uélé Province.



### **COMMUNITY EMPOWERMENT AND SELF RELIANCE**

- **On July 9, UNHCR and partner ADSSE officially launched the agriculture mechanization project at the Biringi site, Ituri Province.** A tractor was made available, benefitting 840 South Sudanese refugees and 360 host community members with the aim to strengthen their agricultural production and peaceful coexistence between refugees and host population.
- As parts of the efforts to strengthen community empowerment and self-reliance, on July 15, **UNHCR and ADSSE officially handed over sectoral income generating activities through the donation of a rice mill, a mill and a tricycle to 30 beneficiaries including 21 South Sudanese refugees and 9 host community members** at the Bele site, in Haut-Uélé Province.
- In July, **32,804 Burundian refugees living in South Kivu Province have been assisted by UNHCR and its partner AIDES with biomass briquettes produced by other Burundian refugees.** Biomass briquettes help refugees to make a living for themselves and strengthen their self-reliance and are an environmentally friendly alternative to firewood

## Statelessness

- As part of their efforts to prevent statelessness, **UNHCR and partner AIDES have assisted local authorities in remote villages in Manono and Nyunzu Territories**, Tanganyika Province **to register 243 births within the legal delay**.
- Together with the Government, UNHCR is working towards access to birth registration for all children. In Kananga, Kasai Central province, **UNHCR and partners officially delivered birth certificates to 1,500 returnee, internally displaced and host community member children in Thimble, Dibaya Territory**.

## Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs)

### PROTECTION

- Following inter-community violence in Kayobwe village, Moba Territory, Tanganyika Province, UNHCR conducted a household registration exercise with the aim to respond to the most urgent needs of the displaced persons. Following the registration, UNHCR and partners distributed emergency supplies composed of tarpaulins, kitchen kits, buckets, jerry cans, soap, loincloths, mats, and blankets to **250 households**.
- UNHCR and its partners **recorded 24 incidents of sexual and gender-based violence (GBV)**, including 20 incidents of rapes, five of which involved minors, in Kalemie, Manono, Moba, Nyunzu and Pweto Territories, Tanganyika Province. Due to distance from health facilities and delays in denouncing the violence because of fear of stigmatization, only **11 SGBV survivors out of the 24 were referred to health facilities and received post-exposure prophylaxis kits within 72 hours**. Most rapes have been committed by community members known by survivors.
- **394 protection incidents were recorded in the Grand Kasai region by UNHCR monitoring partners, of which 114 incidents in Kasai Central and 280 in Kasai Provinces** respectively. The incidents consisted mostly in GBV violations, physical attacks, looting and arbitrary arrests. UNHCR has provided support to ensure follow up for 295 of these protection incidents, ensuring adequate and timely referral to care services, mediation, legal and judicial support.
- UNHCR and partner AIDES continue to work with communities to prevent and mitigate the risks of gender-based violence and prevent sexual exploitation and abuse (PSEA). A training was organized in **Moba Territory, Tanganyika Province, targeting 75 individuals** from various communities **In Beni and Lubero Territories, North Kivu Province, 68 survivors of GBV including 13 survivors of rape received psychosocial assistance through UNHCR's partner SAFDF**. Other 17 survivors of sexual violence received medical assistance and legal support. UNHCR continues to offer access to support for the pursuit of legal remedies. Gender-based violence (GBV) remains however taboo in most communities. Survivors of sexual violence can face stigma and possible exclusion from their families and may be reluctant to undertake legal actions.
- **From 21 to 25 July, UNHCR Tshikapa Office in collaboration with other humanitarian agencies, UNHCR organised capacity building sessions targeting local NGOs** (AJID, AEFID, RAPRDHOC). These trainings were coupled with an awareness-raising campaign against Covid-19. The main themes addressed through the trainings were: international protection, information management/monitoring of protection, child protection, peaceful coexistence/conflict management and prevention and response to GBV.
- **UNHCR and its partners conducted human rights trainings for civilian and military authorities who are present in Lubero and Butembo Territories**, North Kivu province as well as members of civil society organizations, aimed at improving the rights persons affected by conflict, including IDPs. These sessions emphasised the responsibilities of the authorities in the promotion and protection of these rights.
- **UNHCR continued to promote gender equality by reinforcing capacities of men and women by building on its positive masculinity and female leadership programmes**. 317 persons were reached in North and South Kivu with information sessions on topics as sexual division of work, access and control of resources and two capacity-building sessions were organised in Tshikapa, Samusanda and Kamuesha localities, Kasai province, targeting 120 participants.


**EDUCATION**

- UNHCR and partner AIRD finalized the construction of a new primary school and a water point located in **Nkumbula village, Moba Territory, Tanganyika Province**. The school has will provide approximately 300 students with a better education and learning environment, with the aim to promote peaceful coexistence between Twa and Bantous communities.



*The primary school of Mulenga built by UNHCR in Moba territory, Tanganyika Province © UNHCR/Aline Irakarama*


**WATER, SANITATION AND HYGIENE (WASH)**

- UNHCR, through its partner AIDES, built three water points and one laundry room in Mangina, North Kivu Province, in the near community hangars constructed in July 2020 to accommodate 90 households with the aim to improve the living conditions for displaced families and improve protection for women who often responsible for fetching water and doing laundry, by reducing their exposure to GBV and related attacks on their way to the river.


**SHELTER AND CORE RELIEF ITEMS (CRIs)**

- UNHCR's partner AIDES rehabilitated 601 shelters of which 585 at the Tsere site and 16 at the Kigonze site in Ituri Province, while other 100 IDP households in the town of Komanda were assisted with tarpaulins.
- 1,500 IDPs (400 households) affected by bad weather conditions were assisted with emergency shelter kits and core relief items in the Territory of Luebo, 400 km from Tshikapa, Kasai Province.
- In South Kivu Province, 1,350 IDP families in Ruzizi and Baraka were reached through a distribution of CRIs composed of tarpaulins, mosquito nets, mats, blankets, jerrycans and kitchen sets in order to improve their overall living conditions during displacement. In North Kivu province, UNHCR and AIDES provided 600 displaced families staying in three IDP sites coordinated by UNHCR (Kalinga, Nyanzale and Mweso) with emergency shelter assistance accompanied by latrines and showers. Additional 1,900 families have been identified and are in urgent need of shelter assistance.


**CASH-BASED INTERVENTIONS (CBI)**

- As part a socio-economic reintegration project for people at risk of SGBV, 95 households in Tshikapa, Kasai Province, benefited from a multi-purpose cash distribution.


**COMMUNITY EMPOWERMENT AND SELF-RELIANCE**

- Through an agriculture initiative, UNHCR and partner TEDE 700 families in Walikale Territory, North Kivu Province, received agricultural tools and quality seeds. This project aims to empower and bring together IDPs, returnees and host community members in order to maintain peaceful coexistence and strengthen their self-reliance through income-generating activities.

## Clusters and Working Groups

- From 12 to 24 July, UNHCR through the Cluster Protection took part to an inter-agency mission in Kongolo Territory, Tanganyika Province where more than 23,000 children, women, and men have been displaced since May, according to local authorities. **The mission reported high level of insecurity due to militias attacks and systematic sexual violence** against women and girls by armed groups. 243 incidents of rapes, 48 of which involved minors were recorded in 12 different villages located between Tanganyika, Maniema and South Kivu Provinces. **UNHCR and its partners continue to work closely with the communities to prevent and mitigate the risks of gender-based violence**, and with the local authorities and humanitarian actors to ensure that psychosocial and medical support is provided to survivors.
- From 07 to 09 July, the Protection Cluster in collaboration with OCHA co-facilitated the organisation of **capacity building sessions targeting 200 members of the Congolese armed force (FARDC) within the framework of the Civil-Military Coordination mechanism in Ituri Province**. The training focused predominantly on the civilian character of the displaced sites and the protection of the civilian populations affected by the humanitarian situation in Ituri Province.
- UNHCR continues to work with its partners and other humanitarian actors through the Protection and Shelter Clusters to identify needs and assist the most vulnerable families who survived the eruption of the Mount Nyiragongo in Goma in May 2021. **During the month of July, UNHCR has been part of a site planning working group together with UN-HABITAT, IOM and AIDES, supporting the local authorities in the identification and organization of permanent and temporary sites** for the volcano survivors, and continued to biometrically register the victims of the eruption to assess their needs and facilitate their access to an appropriate assistance. For more information on UNHCR's response to the Volcano Nyiragongo emergency, read [here](#).

## External / Donor Relations

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