

## ITURI AND NORTH KIVU PROVINCES DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO

20-27 January 2020

### Operational context and protection situation



*Displaced population at the Kigonze IDP site in Bunia (Ituri Province), after having been transferred from the neighbouring General Hospital site. © UNHCR/Bystrytska*

#### Ituri Province

Ituri Province was marked by continuous attacks in the territories of Djugu, Irumu and Mahagi. As a result of hostilities, three civilians were confirmed killed and five wounded in the territories of Djugu and Irumu. Ongoing clashes continued to cause population movements to the existing IDP site of Bule and its surroundings.

**Background:** Since 6 June 2019, generalized violence led to massive new displacements in Ituri Province. 230,357 persons fled their homes between June and November 2019; bringing the total to 1.1 million IDPs in the Province, according to the Commission de Mouvement de Population (CMP), a committee made up of Government and humanitarian agencies. The majority reside in host communities (80%), while 220,000 have fled towards 87 IDPs sites. 87,577 IDPs live in 12 displacement sites coordinated by UNHCR, 53,552 IDPs reside in 39 sites coordinated by IOM, and the remaining are staying in spontaneous sites.

#### North Kivu Province

The Congolese army continued its military operation against the Allied Democratic Forces (ADF), an armed group active in Beni Territory, which has responded with a series of killings of civilians. Attacks tentatively attributed to ADF on 21 and 22 January in Beni and Oicha health zones have provoked new displacements towards Oicha Centre, Beni town and Nobili, while compromising displaced persons' ability to return home. In Rutshuru Territory, attacks attributed to the FDLR armed group killed at least three people. Continuing clashes between armed groups in the Katsiru area, and attacks against local populations, have sparked violent protests by the local population. In Masisi Territory, significant security incidents attributed to armed groups continued to prevent residents from circulating and from accessing services. Criminality in the town of Goma has increased, involving the killing of locals, abductions, and the looting of houses and shops.

**Background:** Over 1.6 million IDPs are located in North Kivu Province as January 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 some 67,903 reside in 13 IDP sites coordinated by UNHCR and 22,500 displaced persons reside in 9 sites coordinated by IOM.

## Immediate needs

- **Protection** from violence and conflict for women, men and children.
- **Child protection**, with unaccompanied children, risks of child recruitment and SGBV against minors.
- **Birth registration**, as 95% of IDP children in host families and IDP sites do not have birth certificates.
- **Response to Sexual and Gender-Based Violence (SGBV)** against women and girls.
- **Shelter** support is needed for the displaced and host families.
- **Non-Food Items (NFIs)** are still needed for many IDP families, especially clothes and kitchen sets.
- **Menstrual hygiene kits** for women and girls.
- **Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH)** needs are urgent, especially in Nobili where over 100,000 IDPs are gathered with barely any water infrastructure.
- **Access to education**, as the majority of children in living in Djugu, Irumu and Mahagi territories are out of school, including those residing in UNHCR-coordinated IDP sites.

## UNHCR's response

### Ituri Province



**PROTECTION** UNHCR continued to transfer IDPs from the General Hospital site to the new Kigonze site, both in Bunia. 150 families were transferred during the reporting period, bringing the total to 1,133 households, the majority women with children, unaccompanied minors and persons with specific needs.



**CHILD PROTECTION** UNHCR held four participatory assessments with teenagers and school-aged children who have been missing school for over a year. The displaced children indicated the lack of schools in the vicinity of their home as the cause of their drop-out, while children from host communities indicated their families could not afford school fees. As a result, children are loitering in search of informal labor, which exposes them to exploitation and abuse. The participants recommended affordable education facilities and a safe space for youth.



**SHELTER AND NFIs** 331 new shelters were constructed at the Kigonze site, bringing the total to 1,559 shelters constructed out of 2,300 planned. UNHCR and IOM are to advocate for the extension of Kigonze, with the envisaged construction of 1,200 additional shelters.

73 displaced families received NFI kits from UNHCR, composed of mats, blankets, jerrycans, laundry soap and menstrual hygiene kits.



**CASH ASSISTANCE** UNHCR's partner AVSI identified 365 beneficiaries for multi-purpose cash grants in the area of Tchomia. Beneficiaries comprise 80% of IDPs and 20% of members of the host community.

### North Kivu Province



**PROTECTION** In Nobili, 25 members of three community-based protection structures received training from UNHCR and partners Caritas and INTERSOS, on SGBV prevention and protection monitoring..

UNHCR's partner Caritas set up four Village Savings and Credit Associations for 120 IDPs (87 women and 33 men) located in Masisi and Rutshusu territories (Nyanzale, Kikuku, Bwalanda and Kibirizi). The associations received equipment, and will receive funding for income-generating activities (IGA) in February.

UNHCR's partner INTERSOS has expanded protection monitoring activities to the cities of Beni, Oicha and Nobili. National partner CNR is supporting IDPs who have lost their voter cards (a vital identification document) so that they can acquire duplicates.

UNHCR's partner Socoac has completed a community agricultural project for 700 beneficiaries in Beni Territory, aimed at reinforcing peaceful co-existence between IDPs, the Twa ethnic group, and the host population. In January, beneficiaries continued to receive follow-up support including harvesting of cabbage and beans.



**CHILD PROTECTION** In Beni city, there is a high risk of attacks against separated and unaccompanied children living on the streets. UNHCR has worked with local authorities to reunify children with their families. However, in two cases, no family members were found in the villages of origin. Child Protection actors in the Protection Cluster continue to follow up, with a commission consisting of UNHCR's national partner CNR, the State Division for Humanitarian Aid (DIVAS) and the Child Protection Working Group.

Three cases of child recruitment have been released, following negotiations by the community-based protection structure of Kirumba, supported by UNHCR and partner Caritas, as well as by Solidarité Intégration des Filles Mère au Congo (SIJFMCO). SIJFMCO will follow up to address the human rights violations committed on the children.

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## 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.

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## External Relations

As of 6 February 2020

### Donors for UNHCR operations in DRC in 2020

United Nations Foundation (0.32 M) | International Olympic Committee (0.23 M) | European Union (0.17 M)

### Major donors of regional or other funds with soft earmarking 2020

Germany (8.4 M) | Canada (2.3 M)

### Major donors of un-earmarked funds in 2020

Sweden (76.4 M) | Norway (41.4 M) | Netherlands (36.1 M) | Denmark (34.6 M) | United Kingdom (31.7 M) | Germany (26.4 M) | Switzerland (16.4 M)

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