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ITURI AND NORTH KIVU PROVINCES DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO

3-10 February 2020

Operational context and protection situation



*Displaced population of Watalinga Chiefdom, in Beni Territory, find refuge in the surroundings of Nobili, North Kivu Province.
© UNHCR / Hanson Tamfu*

Ituri Province

Attacks by different armed groups continued in the territories of Djugu, Mahagi and Irumu. In Beni Territory (North Kivu Province), a military operation against the Mai Mai and the Allied Defense Forces (ADF) armed groups caused the armed groups to move towards the forest in Mambasa Territory in Ituri Province, where dozens of civilians were killed. The lack of military presence combined with the threats posed by presumed ADF members against the local population in the area pose a serious protection risk. In Mambasa, the population demonstrated against the repeated attacks, and denounced a possible coalition between the Mai Mai and ADF armed groups.

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 according to the Commission de Mouvement de Population (CMP), a commission made up of government and humanitarian agencies. The majority resides in host communities (80%), while 220,000 persons have fled towards 87 IDPs sites. 87,577 IDPs live in 12 displacement sites coordinated by UNHCR, while 53,552 live in 39 sites coordinated by IOM, and the remaining are staying in informal sites.

North Kivu Province

On 7 and 9 February, presumed members of the ADF armed group attacked local populations in the villages of Makusa and Makeke, near Mambasa town in Ituri Province, causing a significant preventive displacement of the inhabitants of nearby Mangina, Beni Territory (North Kivu Province), towards the cities of Beni, Oicha and Butembo and their surroundings. The village of Mamove, in Beni Territory, was also attacked twice by alleged ADF elements, killing 15 persons. As result, around 942 households (about 4,750 persons) fled the area; 800 households moved towards Eringeti, 92 towards Samboko and 50 to Mavivi. In north-western Masisi Territory, there were continued reports of violence in areas held by armed groups. Communities were more and more isolated, while those believed to have provided information to outsiders were detained and beaten. MONUSCO patrols could not enter the area. Still in Masisi Territory, land disputes between farmers and pastoralists have intensified since 2 January. Approximately 690 households fled from the village of Bihira to neighboring villages and on February 9, armed men attacked the displaced persons. This conflict has increasingly fueled inter-community tensions.

Background: Over 1.6 million IDPs are located in North Kivu Province as of January 2020, according to the Commission de Mouvement de Population, a commission made up of Government and humanitarian agencies. 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 and documentation**, as 95% of IDP children in host families and IDP sites do not have birth certificates. Children without birth documentation can be denied education, while adults cannot circulate without identification documents, which help prevent their being presumed to be foreigners.
- **Response to Sexual and Gender-Based Violence (SGBV)** against women and girls.
- **Shelter** support is needed for the displaced and host families.
- **Camp Coordination and Camp Management (CCCM)** needs to be strengthened in North Kivu and Ituri Province, as uncoordinated sites are progressively being brought under CCCM to ensure access to humanitarian assistance and reduce protection risks.
- **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 in IDP sites and host families, especially in Nibili where over 100,000 IDPs are gathered in locations with barely any infrastructure.
- **Access to education**, the majority of children living in Ituri Province are out of school, including IDPs in UNHCR coordinated camps. In North and South Kivu provinces, IDP children lack the financial means to attend school.

UNHCR's response

Ituri Province



PROTECTION The IDPs at the Kigonze site in Bunia have selected a President of the IDP committee and established sectoral groups focusing on issues such as protection, youth, security, feedback and response, etc. This will enable IDPs' active participation and decision-making in all activities at the site. UNHCR and Protection Cluster partners will strengthen the capacity of the committees, to enable them to be more proactively involved in improving health and sanitation conditions, the prevention and response to Sexual and Gender-based Violence (SGBV), and security.



SHELTER AND NFIs Also at the Kigonze site, 70 additional emergency shelters were built by UNHCR's partner Caritas, bringing the total to 1,725 shelters.



WASH IOM provided IDPs with materials to clean latrines (buckets, chlorine and protective equipment) in Kigonze site. However, water availability at the site remained a serious concern; according to UNHCR and its partner Caritas, the quantity of water did not exceed 3,5 to 5 liters per person per day, which is far below the 15-liter standard. UNHCR and IOM are seeking an urgent response to close this gap. IOM is preparing water-trucking as an interim measure, while it is committed to start the construction of water wells in the coming weeks.



EDUCATION The CCCM Working Group at the Kigonze site is seeking support from the Education Cluster and the Child Protection Working Group to pay for teachers' salaries. A school was constructed by the Government; however, no additional funding is currently available for it to become operational. At least 2,000 displaced school-aged children at Kigonze are missing school.

North Kivu Province



PROTECTION In Beni city, UNHCR's partner Caritas identified 329 IDP households with specific needs, a majority being women, who will benefit from a multipurpose cash grant in March 2020. Identification had started in December 2019, but after the attacks by alleged ADF members in and around the

city, IDPs were forced to flee again, and therefore a new effort to identify beneficiaries had to be conducted.

Two Village Savings and Credit Associations supported by UNHCR's community protection project in Nobili (Beni Territory) received training on the prevention of sexual abuse and exploitation (PSEA); 40 women participated in this training.

Two child survivors of rape were referred to care services by the local community protection structure in Kanyabayonga (Lubero Territory). A plea was made by the same structure for the army commander of the area to facilitate legal prosecution, as the perpetrator is allegedly a member of the armed forces.

 **SHELTER AND NFIs** Since December 2019, about 150,000 IDPs have fled towards Nobili, forcing many to seek shelter in public places such as churches, schools and in the open. As of 8 February, UNHCR's partner Caritas provided 3,728 emergency shelters to 1,884 IDP households in Nobili, bringing the total to 2,121 households (18,431 individuals) who received shelter support.

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 11 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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