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WEEKLY EMERGENCY UPDATE

Ituri and North Kivu Provinces, Democratic Republic of the Congo

29 October – 4 November 2019



Operational context and protection situation

Ituri Province

Armed violence continued to endanger civilians during the reporting period, mostly in Irumu and Djugu territories. Most human rights violations recorded by UNHCR's Protection Monitoring recorded 199 human rights violations during the week, and most incidents were lootings (65), injuries (22), abductions (21), forced labor (21) and sexual violence (13). Cases of rape committed against minors remained a serious concern. In localities bordering Lake Albert in Djugu Territory, unidentified armed men are reportedly still active; civilians tend to voluntarily restrict their own movements in these areas for fear of being attacked. On 30 October, a 38-year-old displaced man was killed by armed men in his field in Dhendro, Bahema Nord community (Djugu Territory). In Mambasa Territory, military offensives have intensified with the aim of dismantling a prominent armed group. In southern Irumu Territory, several groups continued to commit exactions (lootings and kidnappings) against civilians.

BACKGROUND: Since 6 June, generalized violence has led to massive new displacements in Ituri Province. UNHCR and IOM recorded over 110,000 new arrivals in IDP sites in Djugu, Mahagi and Irumu territories between 31 May and 20 June. OCHA estimated that 360,000 people were displaced by the recent crisis; some 145,000 towards IDP sites and the rest to host communities. As displacements continued, Ituri's Site Management and Coordination Working Group (CCCM) now estimates that almost 227,000 people are staying in 72 IDP sites. Outside of Bunia, the largest concentrations of IDPs are found in Drodro, Rho, Fataki, Kasenyi and Tchomia, in Djugu and Irumu territories. In Mahagi Territory, there is a large concentration of IDPs in Ramogi. Spontaneous returns of an estimated 1,575 people who had fled to Uganda were observed, but UNHCR is not able to establish exact numbers. UNHCR's Protection Monitoring system documented 5,530 incidents between January and October 2019 in Ituri Province.

North Kivu Province

The situation in North Kivu remained of concern, with all territories affected by varying degrees of conflict, and the impact being felt by civilians. Between 25 and 30 October, 241 human rights violations were recorded by UNHCR's Protection Monitoring, a figure comparable to recent weeks. Violations mostly consisted of extortion, kidnapping and bodily harm, mainly affecting men; while Sexual and Gender-Based Violence disproportionately affected women. The impact was most felt in Masisi Territory (109 violations), where aid workers' access to recent IDPs in Nyabiondo Health Zone has been restricted by targeted attacks against them. Lubero Territory witnessed a resurgence of conflict, with armed groups destroying a health center accused of being associated with the Ebola response, for the second time in one month. In Beni Territory, military operations against armed groups, which were officially launched on 29 October, are complicating humanitarian actors' access to persons of concern outside the city of Beni.

BACKGROUND: Over 1.5 million IDPs are located in North Kivu Province as of October 2019. The vast majority are staying with host communities (94%), while some 91,000 reside in 24 IDP sites coordinated by UNHCR or IOM. Displacements are cyclical in most of the Province, with interlinked causes that include armed conflict, human rights violations committed by armed groups and state armed forces, land conflicts, inter-ethnic violence, illegal exploitation of mineral resources, and others. Between March and early June 2019, attacks by a prominent armed group led to significant displacements from the town of Kamango towards the town of Nobili (Beni Territory). Until recently, OCHA estimated the number of IDPs in the Nobili area at around 112,000, but most of them had returned as of late October. In other territories of North Kivu (Masisi and Rutshuru) OCHA estimates that over 67,000 people were displaced towards host communities in May and June alone, while arrival numbers into several IDP sites have been significant. UNHCR's Protection Monitoring system documented 7,813 protection incidents between January and September 2019 throughout the Province.

Immediate needs

Ituri Province

- **Protection:** Persistent violence in parts of the Province exposes populations to several protection risks: killings, lootings, rape, abductions and others. Peaceful coexistence between communities remains a major challenge.
- **Child protection:** A lack of child-friendly spaces (especially outside of Bunia), and high numbers of unaccompanied minors, exacerbate child protection needs. SGBV committed against minors is raising serious concerns.
- **Sexual and Gender-Based Violence (SGBV)** risks are high: sexual exploitation, survival sex, early forced marriage, and the use of sex as a source of income are consistently reported by women in focus group discussions.

- **Shelter:** IDPs outside established sites and in host families still live in precarious conditions, exposed to abuse. Despite ongoing shelter construction, the lack of space for remains a challenge. Strengthened advocacy is needed for local authorities to grant more space.
- **Non-Food Items (NFIs)** are still needed, namely clothes and kitchen sets.
- **Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH)** conditions in most sites and in host families are below standard. Women and girls lack access to menstrual hygiene services and products, and to reproductive health services.
- **Access to education** is hindered by host communities' limited capacity to enroll IDP children in school; there are not enough teachers or available classroom space. The majority of IDP children do not go to school.

North Kivu Province

- **Protection** needs are enormous: physical security for civilians in and around IDP sites; community-based protection for local and IDP communities to participate in solutions and response mechanisms; peaceful coexistence; protection for vulnerable youth and women; and birth registration to prevent statelessness are some of the most pressing.
- **Child protection** needs are pronounced in northern North Kivu, with many orphaned or unaccompanied children, frequent child recruitment by armed groups, or children who recently left armed groups and face reintegration issues.
- **Sexual and Gender-Based Violence (SGBV)** remains widespread, as certain armed groups in Masisi use it as a weapon of war. Despite the referral of survivors to medical structures, legal follow-up is virtually non-existent, perpetuating impunity. IDP women are particularly vulnerable to sexual abuse, sexual exploitation and survival sex. Their sexual and reproductive health needs largely go unmet.
- **Shelter:** IDP sites under UNHCR coordination in Masisi Territory do not offer sufficient or adequate shelter, pushing IDPs towards host families. As arrivals to the sites continue, shelter needs are still increasing, and require a flexible response capacity. In Oicha (Beni Territory), 120 recently-displaced households are still sleeping in a school. Shelter needs are also exacerbated by cyclical displacements, for example in Masisi and Rutshuru territories.
- **Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH)** conditions need urgent support in IDP sites in Masisi and Rutshuru territories. Water scarcity is of serious concern for IDPs in Oicha (Beni Territory), endangering peaceful coexistence with local communities. Difficult WASH conditions particularly affect vulnerable displaced women.
- **Education:** In several localities in Masisi, Lubero, and Beni territories, school closures are regular because of conflict. After waves of displacement, IDPs not sheltered by host communities also tend to occupy classrooms.

UNHCR's response

Ituri Province

- **Registration:** A total of 9,184 households (41,525 persons; 23,044 women / 18,481 men) were registered in nine out of 12 IDP sites coordinated by UNHCR in Ituri, as part of an ongoing registration exercise to collect information on IDPs' needs.
- **Peaceful coexistence:** On 31 October, UNHCR organized a workshop with 22 Hema community leaders from Djugu and Irumu territories. Over 400,000 members of the Hema community are displaced in sites and host families. They reported human rights violations, most committed by unidentified armed men, which include sexual violence against women and girls as a weapon of war, killings, and abductions. Young people from the community have limited access to education, and are exposed to the risk of juvenile delinquency. Child malnutrition in IDP sites remains of concern. IDPs in sites have easier access to humanitarian aid, but the periodicity of aid varies according to the location and available humanitarian actors. UNHCR recommends joint humanitarian assessments to investigate human rights violations committed against the Hema, and to better document their needs.
- **Community-based protection:** UNHCR and its partners Caritas and AVSI provided capacity-building to 45 members of displacement-affected communities in Mambasa Territory, who are now able to report on protection incidents and refer victims of physical and sexual abuse to relevant medical and judicial structures.
- Twelve members of community-based protection structures, as well as the IDP committee of Biakato site (Mambasa), participated in an awareness-raising workshop on Sexual and Gender-Based Violence (SGBV) and the Prevention of Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (PSEA). Posters on PSEA were installed in community-based structures' offices.
- A radio broadcast on peaceful coexistence between IDPs and host populations in Komanda was made possible thanks to a local collaboration between NGO FOMOPROLIF, and "Radio La Référence".
- **Shelter:** In Djugu Territory, 500 emergency individual shelters in Drodoro, and 200 individual shelters in Bule were built for 700 households during the week.
- **Protection monitoring:** A total of 199 protection incidents (mostly lootings and injuries) were reported during the period, compared to 201 incidents last week. Attacks and the presence of unidentified armed men remain of concern in Djugu, Irumu and Mambasa territories.
- **Sexual and Gender-Based Violence (SGBV):** A total of 13 cases of rape were reported (eleven girls and two women). Among them, ten survivors were referred to medical facilities for emergency treatment within 72 hours.

North Kivu Province

- **Shelter:** UNHCR's shelter project for returned IDPs is nearing completion, with 1,669 transitional shelters out of 1,700 complete as of 31 October (98%). The shelters are built by beneficiaries using with local construction materials.
- Emergency shelter response to recent arrivals in IDP sites is ongoing; 848 emergency shelters are planned before year-end in Kalinga and Bukombo sites in Masisi Territory, which were overwhelmed by large-scale IDP arrivals in recent months. 124 of these shelters are under construction, 49 completed.
- The shelter project also includes the rehabilitation, almost completed as of 31 October, of a primary school occupied by IDPs in the displacement-affected town of Oicha.
- **Community-based protection:** Community-based protection structures continued to conduct awareness-raising workshops for several thousand participants, with a focus on gender equality, women's rights, "positive masculinity", PSEA in school settings, and SGBV. Further community-based awareness-raising efforts (community fora, radio broadcasts) focused on peaceful coexistence between IDPs and host communities.
- Two water networks were rehabilitated and a communal market was constructed, as part of "Quick Impact Projects" (QIPs) to improve peaceful coexistence between IDPs, refugees, host communities and returned IDPs. Community-based protection structures were also involved in mediating and solving 13 cases of community conflict.
- **Protection monitoring:** Between 25 and 30 October, 241 human rights violations (the majority of them extortions, kidnappings and bodily harm) were recorded, affecting 178 men and 63 women. These figures are comparably greater than those of the previous week (227 violations). The most affected territories were again Masisi (109) and Rutshuru (48). The number of violations also increased in Lubero territory due to a resurgence of conflict.
- **Sexual and Gender-Based Violence (SGBV):** Four cases of rape were recorded by protection monitoring during the period, two by armed elements and two by civilians. All survivors were referred for medical treatment within 72 hours. Community-based protection structures also identified and referred ten SGBV victims to medical facilities.

UNHCR's presence

- UNHCR's Sub-Office in Goma covers North Kivu and Ituri Provinces, as well as supervising operations in South Kivu Province. The Goma Sub-Office oversees all of North Kivu while a much smaller Field Unit (in Bunia) manages operations for Ituri. Both emergencies were initially covered by a small team in Ituri, and by staff of the Goma Sub-Office on mission. This solution however is cost-ineffective, and complicates security management in a volatile area.
- To meet growing needs in the northern part of North Kivu – including Ebola preparedness needs and emergency response –, as of October 2019 the operation has opened a Field Unit in Beni, and the Goma Sub-Office is being reinforced with permanent and temporary staff. In addition, to face the dramatically worsened humanitarian situation in Ituri since early June 2019, the Bunia Field Unit has been strengthened with additional staff in Protection, Security, Reporting, Supply, Shelter, Programme, CCCM and Drivers. Further staff in Field and Supply are expected between now and the end of the year; however, needs still outpace available human resources.

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WEEKLY EMERGENCY UPDATE

Ituri and North Kivu Provinces, Democratic Republic of the Congo

1 October – 7 October 2019



Operational context and protection situation

Ituri Province

Armed clashes continued to endanger civilians in Mambasa, Djugu and Irumu territories during the week. Most of the 178 reported human rights violations were lootings, injuries, and sexual violence. As in the previous week, there were no reported attacks on IDP sites, due to intensified army patrolling with MONUSCO's support, especially at night. Peace and reconciliation efforts were intensified by local authorities and community leaders in Djugu Territory. Return movements of Congolese refugees who had sought asylum in Uganda since May were observed in Djugu and Mahagi, with exact numbers yet to be established. Some 315 returnee households are estimated to have returned to their places of origin (10 to Mahagi and 305 to Djugu), taking advantage of the relative calm, and to enroll their children in school. Timid returns of IDPs to their areas of origin were also observed by community leaders from Ituri's provincial capital Bunia, and neighboring locality Iga Barrière (Irumu).

BACKGROUND: Since 6 June, generalized violence has led to massive new displacements in Ituri Province. UNHCR and IOM recorded over 110,000 new arrivals in IDP sites in Djugu, Mahagi and Irumu territories between 31 May and 20 June. OCHA estimated that 360,000 people were displaced by the recent crisis; some 145,000 towards IDP sites and the rest (215,000) in host communities. **As displacements continued, Ituri's Site Management and Coordination Working Group (CCCM) estimates that almost 227,000 people are staying in 87 IDP sites.** Outside Bunia, the largest concentrations of IDPs are in Drodro, Rho, Fataki, Kasenyi and Tchomia, in Djugu and Irumu territories. In Mahagi territory, there is a large concentration of IDPs in Ramogi. In June, 8,647 people fled to Uganda according to UNHCR's Uganda office, nearly doubling the number of daily crossings compared to May 2019. **UNHCR's Protection Monitoring system documented 4,567 incidents between January and September 2019 in Ituri Province.**

North Kivu Province

The security and protection situation in much of North Kivu Province remained of concern during the week, particularly in Rutshuru and Lubero territories, where ongoing fighting significantly increased human rights violations committed against civilians. In Masisi Territory, armed groups continued to endanger civilians, including in some cases Rwandan refugees. In the northern part of North Kivu Province, while a relative lull was observed in fighting, the security situation remained tense around the town of Oicha (where almost 20,000 recent IDPs are located) and in the so-called "triangle of death". IDPs in Oicha stay in extremely precarious conditions, some sleeping in schools and most lacking access to water and sanitation. Children in the area are exposed to protection risks, from kidnapping to forced recruitment and abuse. In the Nobili area, on the Ugandan border, intensified returns of IDPs to their areas of origin were observed, despite recent insecurity. These returns are likely linked to IDPs' livelihoods and to community leaders encouraging returns. The spread of the Ebola epidemic is showing signs of slowing down, with no new cases in Beni reported for 21 days, and on average one new case a week.

BACKGROUND: Since 30 March, and with a sharp intensification as of 7 May, attacks against civilians and military outposts by members of a prominent armed group led to significant displacements from the town of Kamango towards the town of Nobili (Beni territory). By 24 June 94,612 displaced people (15,991 households) had been registered in Nobili and 9 surrounding localities, but displacements continued: **the Nobili crisis committee recorded 6,329 newly-displaced households between June and August.** In host communities in other territories of North Kivu Province, OCHA estimates that over 67,000 were displaced in May and June, while arrival numbers into several IDP sites have been significant. During July, UNHCR and the National Refugee Commission (CNR) recorded 5,256 new IDPs (1,225 households) in 8 IDP sites in Masisi, with the most (2,754 persons) having arrived to Bukombo site. Displacements into IDP sites (on a small scale) and into host communities continue. **UNHCR's Protection Monitoring system documented 7,813 protection incidents between January and September 2019 throughout the Province.**

Immediate needs

Ituri Province

- **Health:** IDPs' access to appropriate healthcare in displacement-affected areas, and overwhelmed health facilities remain of serious concern. Child mortality rates are high.
- **Shelter:** IDPs outside established sites, and in host families live in precarious conditions, and exposed to abuse. Despite ongoing shelter construction in several areas, the lack of space for emergency shelters remains a challenge. Strengthened advocacy is needed for local authorities to grant more space.
- **Food assistance** is urgently needed, and the looting of fields left behind in areas of origin compounds food insecurity.

- **Non-Food Items (NFIs)** are still needed, namely clothes and kitchen sets.
- **Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH)** conditions in most sites and in host families are below standards. Women and girls lack access to menstrual hygiene services and products, and to reproductive health services.
- **Access to education** is still hindered by host communities' limited capacity to enroll IDP children in school; there are not enough teachers and available classroom space. The majority of IDP children do not go to school.
- **Sexual and Gender-Based Violence** risks are high, with survival sex used as a source of income, notably in Bunia.
- **Protection:** Ongoing violence exposes populations to several protection risks: killings, lootings, rape, abductions among others. Peaceful coexistence between communities is another major challenge. There are tensions between newer and older waves of displaced persons; the more recently-displaced are facing discrimination in access to facilities and services. A lack of child-friendly spaces (especially outside of Bunia), and many unaccompanied minors, exacerbate child protection needs.

North Kivu Province

- **Shelter:** IDP sites under UNHCR coordination in Masisi territory do not offer sufficient or adequate shelter, pushing IDPs towards host families. As arrivals into the sites continue, shelter needs are still increasing. Around Nobili (Beni territory) UNHCR assistance over the summer addressed critical gaps in the shelter needs, but new displacements (at least 6,329 households since June) have created additional needs. In the town of Oicha (Beni territory), at least 235 recently displaced households are sleeping in a school.
- **Education:** In the Nobili area, no humanitarian actor is positioned in education. In several localities in Masisi, Lubero, and Beni territories education is disrupted because of ongoing conflict.
- **WASH** conditions need urgent support in IDP sites in Masisi and Rutshuru territories; and in Nobili where needs were exacerbated by recent floods. Water availability is a serious concern for the many IDPs in Oicha.
- **Health** services need to be strengthened to respond to overwhelmed facilities, prohibitive treatment costs, and simultaneous measles and Ebola epidemics.
- **Food Assistance** is critically needed, particularly for those who lost their livelihoods to conflict but also for those living in managed IDP sites.
- **Non-Food Items (NFIs)**, for those living with host families as well as in IDP sites, are needed.
- **Sexual and Gender-Based Violence** remains widespread, as armed groups in Masisi use SGBV as a weapon of war. Despite referrals to medical structures being in place, legal follow-up is virtually non-existent, perpetuating impunity.
- **Protection** needs across the board are enormous: the physical security of civilians living in and around IDP sites; increased community-based protection to promote the participation of both local and IDP communities in the search for solutions and response mechanisms; peaceful coexistence; the protection of vulnerable youth and women; and birth registrations to prevent statelessness are some of the most pressing.
- **Child protection** needs are particularly pronounced in northern North Kivu with many orphaned or unaccompanied children (around Beni), or children who have recently left armed groups and face reintegration issues (in Lubero).

UNHCR's response

Ituri Province

- **Community-based protection:** Since June, UNHCR and partners Caritas and AVSI trained 40 community leaders and local authorities (including 11 women) in Djugu Territory on community-based protection. Another 15 community-based protection structures and 14 IDP committees received such training in Irumu, Mambasa and Djugu territories. Five protection plans were also established by five community-based protection structures in Irumu and Mambasa territories.
- **Shelter and non-food items (NFIs):** Some 74 families (313 people) who were sleeping in classrooms in Bule (Djugu Territory) were relocated into family shelters at the Bule site and received non-food items (NFIs), namely 95 blankets and 95 mats.
- **Protection monitoring:** UNHCR and partner INTERSOS conducts protection monitoring in accessible areas, and provides referrals to victims where possible. This week, 171 protection incidents (mostly lootings and injuries) were reported, compared to 131 incidents last week; an increase of 26% due to armed confrontations between the army and rebel groups, as well as attacks against civilians, mostly in Djugu and Mambasa territories.
- **Sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV):** A total of 14 cases of rape were reported (13 girls and one woman). Among them, 10 survivors were referred to medical facilities for emergency treatment within 72 hours; four received Post Exposure Prophylaxis (PEP) kits. The alleged perpetrators are civilians, one unidentified man, and one member of the national police force.

North Kivu Province

- **Community-based protection:** UNHCR and partner Caritas trained four community-based protection structures in Masisi Territory on IDP protection and their roles and responsibilities. The structures will now work on creating community-based protection plans for their areas. Elsewhere in North Kivu (Lubero and Kayna), two such protection plans were finished; they identify protection risks faced by communities and propose solutions.

- **Peaceful coexistence:** Community-based protection structures were involved in resolving five resource-related conflicts and organizing two forums on peaceful coexistence in the town of Kitchanga.
- As part of a peaceful coexistence project aiming to facilitate IDPs' access to fields and livelihoods in Beni Territory, UNHCR partner SOCOAC finished identifying all 800 beneficiary households and distributed farming tools.
- **Shelter:** Another 8 family shelters were completed for returned IDPs in Rutshuru, Masisi and Lubero during the week, bringing the total to 1,433. To respond to growing shelter needs in IDP sites, 80 emergency shelters are under construction in Kalinga site, 49 of them completed. Altogether 848 emergency shelters are planned before year-end in two IDP sites: Kalinga (300) and Bukombo (548). UNHCR's shelter project also includes the rehabilitation of an elementary school (currently occupied by IDPs) in the displacement-affected town of Oicha. This will facilitate IDPs' access to education and promote peaceful coexistence.
- **Non-food items (NFIs):** In the Nobili area, UNHCR distributed tarpaulins and NFIs (mats and jerry cans) to 202 recently-displaced IDP households living in schools, so they could relocate to emergency shelters and so teaching could resume. Patients in some overwhelmed health centers received the same NFIs.
- **Protection monitoring:** Between 27 September and 3 October, 136 human rights violations (including extortions, bodily harm and SGBV) were recorded, affecting 104 men and 32 women. A large proportion of violations was attributed to the FARDC (41%), with armed groups responsible for another 38%. The most affected territories were Rutshuru and Lubero, both witnessing intensified conflict between the FARDC and armed groups.
- **Sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV):** Four cases of SGBV (three in Masisi, one in Lubero) were recorded and referred to medical facilities for emergency treatment, including the provision of (PEP) kits within 72 hours.

UNHCR's presence

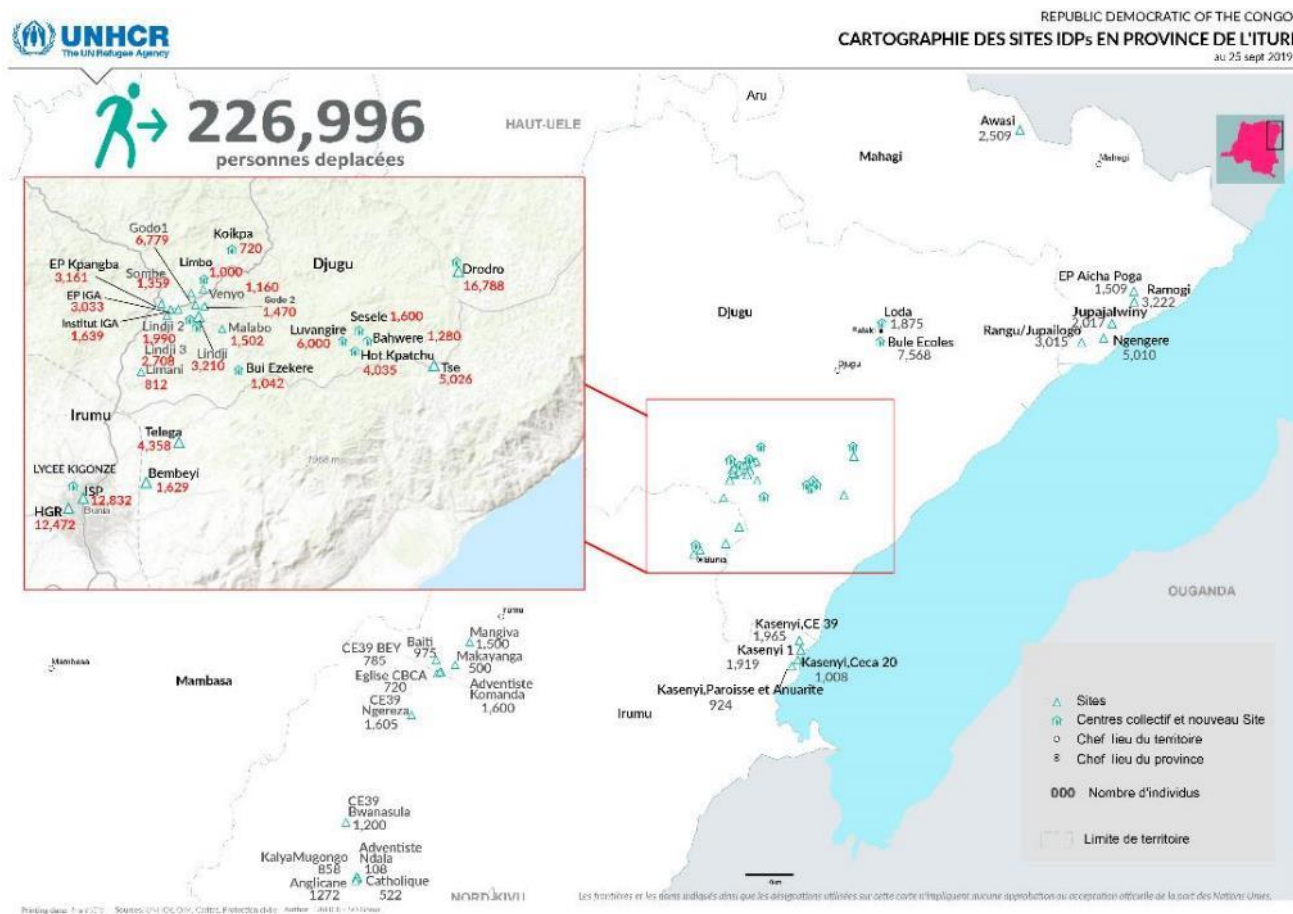
- UNHCR's Sub-Office in Goma covers North Kivu and Ituri Provinces, as well as supervising operations in South Kivu Province. The Goma Sub-Office oversees all of North Kivu while a much smaller Field Unit (in Bunia) manages operations for Ituri. Both emergencies have so far been covered by a small team in Ituri, and by staff of the Goma Sub-Office on mission. This solution however is cost-ineffective, puts additional burden on human resources and complicates security management in a volatile area of responsibility.
- To meet growing needs in the northern part of North Kivu – including Ebola preparedness needs and emergency response –, as of September 2019 the operation is opening a Field Unit in Beni, with seven planned staff. This will help meet expectations of the Humanitarian Country Team and of the SRSG for UNHCR to play an active role in contributing to addressing the many challenges of this part of the Province. In addition, to face the dramatically worsened humanitarian situation in Ituri since early June 2019, the Bunia Field Unit has been strengthened with additional staff in Protection, Security, Reporting and Drivers. Further staff in Programme, Shelter and Field are expected between now and the end of the year; however needs still outpace available human resources.

Contacts

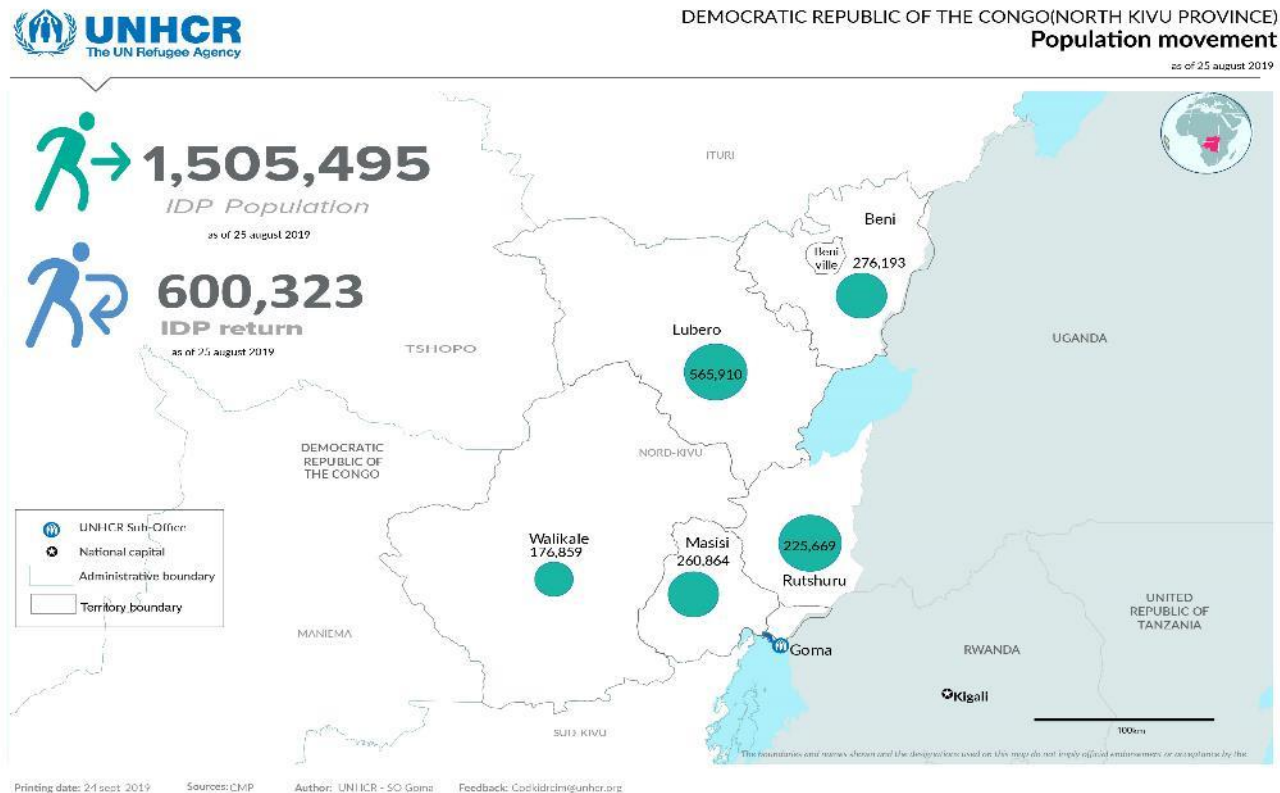
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Maps of affected areas

Ituri



North Kivu



WEEKLY EMERGENCY UPDATE

Ituri and North Kivu Provinces, Democratic Republic of the Congo

5-11 November 2019



Operational context and protection situation

Ituri Province

UNHCR's Protection Monitoring recorded 111 human rights violations in Ituri, compared to 199 the week prior, a decrease of 88 incidents (44%). The reduction could be due to a comparative lull in armed conflict, notably in Djugu Territory. However, civilians continued to endure human rights violations committed by state armed forces, the national police, and unidentified armed men. Cases of rape committed against minors remained of concern. In Irumu Territory, which recorded the highest percentage of violations (47%), prominent armed groups continued to target civilians, including in two cases of kidnapping. Voluntary restrictions of movements also continued, with civilians afraid to visit their fields. Increasing displacement from North Kivu Province into southern Irumu Territory (Ituri Province), were reported. In Mambasa Territory, local armed groups' enduring hostility towards the Ebola response severely impacted access to health, and the protection environment. Following the assassination of a community radio presenter engaged in the Ebola response on 2 November, the radio ceased broadcasting due to fear of retaliation.

BACKGROUND: Since 6 June, generalized violence has led to massive new displacements in Ituri Province. UNHCR and IOM recorded over 110,000 new arrivals in IDP sites in Djugu, Mahagi and Irumu territories between 31 May and 20 June. OCHA estimated that 360,000 people were displaced by the recent crisis; some 145,000 towards IDP sites and the rest to host communities. As displacements have continued, Ituri's Site Management and Coordination Working Group (CCCM) now estimates that almost 227,000 people are staying in 72 IDP sites. Outside of Bunia, the largest concentrations of IDPs are found in Drodro, Rho, Fataki, Kasenyi and Tchomia, in Djugu and Irumu territories. In Mahagi Territory, there is a large concentration of IDPs in Ramogi. Spontaneous returns of an estimated 1,575 people who had fled to Uganda were observed, but UNHCR is not able to establish exact numbers. UNHCR's Protection Monitoring system documented 5,530 incidents between January and October in Ituri Province.

North Kivu Province

The situation in North Kivu remained extremely worrying, with Masisi, Rutshuru and Beni territories especially affected by conflict. A total of 217 human rights violations were recorded by UNHCR's Protection Monitoring during the period, slightly less than previously. Masisi Territory was particularly affected, with 12 armed attacks recorded in just seven days, all concentrated around the town of Mweso. Armed elements reportedly dressed as civilians when committing exactions including lootings, kidnappings and bodily harm. In Rutshuru Territory, intense fighting endangered the civilian and humanitarian character of displacement sites; a national army offensive took place in the Kihondo IDP site on 6 November. Many of the site's inhabitants fled for fear of retaliations. In Beni Territory, large-scale military operations against armed groups, ongoing since 30 October, have caused casualties on both sides. The conflict has led to retaliatory attacks by a prominent armed group against civilians, with at least 11 people killed, 10 kidnapped, and 8 wounded. Schools, health centers and road traffic in the region are reportedly affected.

BACKGROUND: Over 1.5 million IDPs are located in North Kivu Province as of October 2019, 94% of whom are staying with host communities, while some 91,000 reside in 24 IDP sites coordinated by UNHCR or IOM. Displacements are mostly cyclical, with causes that include armed conflict, human rights violations by armed groups and state armed forces, land conflicts, inter-ethnic violence, illegal exploitation of mineral resources, and others. Between March and early June 2019, attacks by a prominent armed group led to significant displacements from the town of Kamango towards the town of Nobili (Beni Territory). Until recently, OCHA estimated the total number of IDPs in the Nobili area at around 112,000; but as of late October, most of them had returned. In Masisi and Rutshuru territories, OCHA estimates that over 67,000 people were displaced towards host communities in May and June alone, while arrival numbers into several IDP sites have been significant. UNHCR's Protection Monitoring system documented 9,034 protection incidents between January and October 2019 throughout the Province.

Immediate needs

Ituri Province

- **Protection:** Persistent violence in parts of the Province exposes populations to several protection risks: killings, lootings, rape, abductions and others. Peaceful coexistence between communities remains a major challenge.
- **Child protection:** A lack of child-friendly spaces (especially outside of Bunia), and high numbers of unaccompanied minors, exacerbate child protection needs. Cases of SGBV against minors raises serious concerns.
- **Sexual and Gender-Based Violence (SGBV)** risks are high: sexual exploitation, survival sex, early forced marriage, and the use of sex as a source of income are consistently reported by women in focus group discussions.

- **Shelter:** IDPs outside established sites and in host families still live in precarious conditions, exposed to abuse. Despite ongoing shelter construction, the lack of space for emergency shelters remains a challenge. Strengthened advocacy is needed for local authorities to grant more space.
- **Non-Food Items (NFIs)** are still needed, namely clothes and kitchen sets.
- **Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH)** conditions in most sites and in host families are below standard. Women and girls lack access to menstrual hygiene services and products, and to reproductive health services.
- **Access to education** is hindered by host communities' limited capacity to enroll IDP children in school; there are not enough teachers and available classroom space. The majority of IDP children do not go to school.

North Kivu Province

- **Protection** needs are enormous: physical security for civilians in and around IDP sites; community-based protection for local and IDP communities to participate in solutions and response mechanisms; peaceful coexistence; protection for vulnerable youth and women; and birth registration to prevent statelessness are some of the most pressing.
- **Child protection** needs are pronounced in northern North Kivu, with many orphaned or unaccompanied children, frequent child recruitment by armed groups, or children who recently left armed groups and face reintegration issues.
- **Sexual and Gender-Based Violence (SGBV)** remains widespread, particularly in Masisi and Lubero. Women often fear to come forward due to fears of stigmatization and exclusion, so incidents are underreported. Despite the referral of survivors to medical structures, legal follow-up is virtually non-existent, perpetuating impunity. IDP women are particularly vulnerable to sexual abuse, sexual exploitation and survival sex.
- **Shelter:** IDP sites under UNHCR coordination in Masisi territory do not offer sufficient or adequate shelter, pushing IDPs towards host families. As arrivals to the sites continue, shelter needs are still increasing, and require a flexible response capacity. In Oicha (Beni territory), 120 recently-displaced households are still sleeping in a school. Shelter needs are also routinely exacerbated by cyclical displacements, for example in Masisi and Rutshuru territories.
- **Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH)** conditions need urgent support in IDP sites in Masisi and Rutshuru territories. Water scarcity is of serious concern for the many IDPs in Oicha (Beni territory), endangering peaceful coexistence with local communities. Difficult WASH conditions particularly affect vulnerable displaced women.
- **Education:** In several localities in Masisi, Lubero, and Beni territories, school closures are regular because of conflict. After waves of displacement, IDPs not sheltered by host communities also tend to occupy classrooms.

UNHCR's response

Ituri Province

- **Registration:** A total of 10,873 households (48,684 individuals; 55% women and girls, 45% men and boys) were registered in nine out of 12 IDP sites coordinated by UNHCR in Ituri as of 8 November, as part of a registration exercise intended to collect information on IDPs' needs. Registration will be concluded in the three remaining sites of Drodoro, Rho and Bule (Djugu Territory) in the coming weeks.
- **Shelter:** During the week, in UNHCR-coordinated IDP sites in Djugu Territory, 50 family shelters were completed in Rho (for a total of 250 so far) and 400 in Bule (for a total of 1,064 so far). The first 40 family shelters were constructed for IDPs staying with host communities in Drodoro. At the new "Lycée Kigonze" IDP site in Bunia, 150 shelters were completed during the week, and 450 in total so far.
- **Community-based protection:** Community-based protection structures in Djugu Territory continued to organize awareness-raising sessions on Sexual and Gender-Based Violence (SGBV) in school settings in Tchomia, and around IDP sites in Drodoro. UNHCR partner AVSI also trained three IDP committees in Linga, and 15 community leaders in Fataki on their duties and responsibilities.
- Two community fora on peaceful coexistence between IDPs and host communities were organized in Fataki and Tchomia. 15 complaint boxes were installed in these locations for beneficiary feedback.
- **Protection monitoring:** 111 protection incidents were recorded between 3 and 8 November, compared to 199 the previous week, a decrease of 44%. This decrease could be due to a lull in armed conflict, notably in Djugu Territory. However, civilians continued to endure violations including looting (29 cases), rape (11 cases), assault, extortion and arbitrary arrests (10 cases each). The most affected territories were Irumu (47%) and Djugu (30%).
- **Sexual and Gender-Based Violence (SGBV):** 11 cases of rape were reported this week on seven girls and four women. Among them, ten survivors were referred to medical facilities for emergency treatment within 72 hours. The alleged perpetrators are civilians, state armed forces, and members of armed groups.

North Kivu Province

- **Shelter:** UNHCR's shelter project for returned IDPs in North Kivu, implemented by partner AIDES, is nearing completion with 1,678 transitional shelters complete out of 1,700 as of 7 November. The remaining shelters, built by beneficiaries using local construction materials, are being finalized in Lubero Territory.
- Emergency shelter response to recent arrivals in IDP sites is ongoing; altogether 848 emergency shelters are planned before year-end in Kalinga and Bukumbo sites in Masisi Territory, which were overwhelmed by arrivals in recent months. 124 of these shelters are under construction, 49 completed.

- The rehabilitation of a primary school hosting 120 IDP households in the displacement-affected town of Oicha was almost complete as of 7 November. To free up the school and allow teaching to resume, UNHCR will build 20 collective hangars for IDPs on a nearby property.
- **Community-based protection:** Community-based protection structures continued to conduct awareness-raising workshops within communities, with a focus this week on feedback, referral and conflict resolution mechanisms, in addition to gender equality, women's rights, and the prevention and response to SGBV in the last weeks. Several thousand people participated. Further community-based awareness-raising efforts (community fora, radio broadcasts) focused on peaceful coexistence between communities. Suggestion boxes were installed in several localities to ensure the project's accountability to beneficiaries.
- To improve peaceful coexistence between IDPs, refugees, host communities and returned IDPs, 300 people received material support for an agricultural project in Nyanzale, as part of "Quick Impact Projects" (QIPs). QIPs are also ongoing around Beni, in agriculture and for the reintegration of formerly exploited children.
- **Protection monitoring:** Between 1 and 7 November, 217 human rights violations (the majority of them lootings, kidnappings and bodily harm) were recorded, affecting 151 men and 61 women. These figures are smaller than those of the previous week (241 violations), but do not reflect an improvement in the protection situation. The most affected territories were Masisi (79) and Lubero (46), with the situation in Masisi particularly worrying.
- **Sexual and Gender-Based Violence (SGBV):** community-based protection structures around Bwito (Masisi) referred two cases of rape, both on underage girls, to health structures for medical follow-up.

UNHCR's presence

- UNHCR's Sub-Office in Goma covers North Kivu and Ituri Provinces, as well as supervising operations in South Kivu Province. The Goma Sub-Office oversees all North Kivu while a smaller Field Unit (in Bunia) manages operations for Ituri. Both emergencies were initially covered by a small team in Ituri, and by staff of the Goma Sub-Office on mission. This solution however is cost-ineffective and complicates security management in a volatile area of responsibility.
- To meet growing needs in the northern part of North Kivu – including Ebola preparedness needs and emergency response –, as of October 2019 the operation has opened a Field Unit in Beni, and the Goma Sub-Office is being reinforced with permanent and temporary staff. In addition, to face the dramatically worsened humanitarian situation in Ituri since early June 2019, the Bunia Field Unit has been strengthened with additional staff in Protection, Security, Reporting, Supply, Shelter, Programme, CCCM and Drivers. Further staff in Field and Supply are expected between now and the end of the year; however, needs still outpace available human resources.

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WEEKLY EMERGENCY UPDATE #16

Ituri and North Kivu Provinces, Democratic Republic of the Congo

15 October – 21 October 2019



Operational context and protection situation

Ituri Province

Armed confrontations continued to endanger civilians during the reporting period, mostly in Irumu and Djugu territories. Most reported human rights violations were injuries (30), forced labor (29), lootings (28) and sexual violence (10), with 185 incidents documented overall. Returns of IDPs to their areas of origin were observed, due to a lull in fighting in certain areas of Djugu Territory after the latest peak of violence in June 2019. An estimated 2,528 displaced households now returned to 14 villages in the Dhendo community, while 1,459 returned to 16 villages in Linga community, according to OCHA. Peace and reconciliation efforts continued in Djugu Territory; during the reporting period, community leaders signed an agreement with the Provincial Government, positioning themselves against assailants' activities. Attacks against Ebola Emergency Response Teams and health facilities intensified recently, and remain of concern in Mambasa Territory. Lootings by presumed elements of an armed group in search of food for survival also continued to be reported in southern Irumu Territory.

BACKGROUND: Since 6 June, generalized violence has led to massive new displacements in Ituri Province. UNHCR and IOM recorded over 110,000 new arrivals in IDP sites in Djugu, Mahagi and Irumu territories between 31 May and 20 June. OCHA estimated that 360,000 people were displaced by the recent crisis; some 145,000 towards IDP sites and the rest to host communities. As displacements continued, Ituri's Site Management and Coordination Working Group (CCCM) now estimates that almost 227,000 people are staying in 87 IDP sites. Outside of Bunia, the largest concentrations of IDPs are found in Drodoro, Rho, Fataki, Kasenyi and Tchomia, in Djugu and Irumu territories. In Mahagi Territory, there is a large concentration of IDPs in Ramogi. Spontaneous returns of an estimated 1,575 people who had fled to Uganda were observed, but UNHCR is not able to confirm exact numbers. UNHCR's Protection Monitoring system documented 4,567 incidents between January and September 2019 in Ituri Province.

North Kivu Province

The security and protection situation in North Kivu remained of concern during the week. Between 11 and 17 October, 239 human rights violations (mainly extortions, lootings, bodily harm and SGBV) were recorded by UNHCR's Protection Monitoring; an increase of almost 90% compared to the previous week. OCHA estimates that over 147,000 people have been displaced since January 2019 in the Bwito and Bashali Mukoto health zones, in Masisi and Rutshuru territories. That represents close to 15% of the total population. In northern Beni Territory, the town of Oicha is home to some 20,000 recent IDPs, many of whom still live in precarious conditions in spontaneous IDP sites or schools. Most IDPs in Oicha lack access to water and sanitation. Peaceful coexistence between IDPs, host communities and indigenous populations in the area is complicated by limited access to basic resources. Around Nobili on the Ugandan border, returns of IDPs to the town of Kamango and surroundings have been reported since 4 October, now in large numbers. Some 95,000 IDPs (out of an estimated total of 112,000) would have returned according to OCHA, and now face needs in their return areas. A DRC Humanitarian Fund allocation is foreseen to address their urgent needs in nutrition, health and protection.

BACKGROUND: Since 30 March, and with a sharp intensification as of 7 May, attacks against civilians and military outposts by members of a prominent armed group led to significant displacements from the town of Kamango towards the town of Nobili (Beni Territory). By 24 June 94,612 displaced people (15,991 households) had been registered in Nobili and 9 surrounding localities, but displacements continued: the Nobili crisis committee recorded 6,329 newly-displaced households between June and August. Until recently, OCHA put the estimated total number of IDPs in the area at around 112,000. In other territories of North Kivu, OCHA estimates that over 67,000 were displaced towards host communities in May and June alone, while arrivals into several IDP sites have been significant. In July, UNHCR and the National Refugee Commission (CNR) recorded 5,256 new IDPs (1,225 households) in 8 IDP sites in Masisi, with the most having arrived to Bukombo site (2,754 persons). UNHCR's Protection Monitoring system documented 7,813 protection incidents between January and September throughout the Province.

Immediate needs

Ituri Province

- **Protection:** Persistent violence in parts of the province exposes populations to several protection risks: killings, lootings, rape, abductions and others. Peaceful coexistence between communities remains a major challenge.
- **Child protection:** A lack of child-friendly spaces (especially outside of Bunia), and high numbers of unaccompanied minors exacerbate child protection needs.

- **Sexual and Gender-Based Violence (SGBV)** risks are high: sexual exploitation, early forced marriage, and the use of sex as a source of income are consistently reported by women in focus group discussions.
- **Shelter:** IDPs outside established sites and in host families still live in precarious conditions, exposed to abuse. Despite ongoing shelter construction, the lack of space remains a challenge. Strengthened advocacy is needed for local authorities to grant more space.
- **Non-Food Items (NFIs)** are still needed, namely clothes and kitchen sets.
- **Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH)** conditions in most sites and in host families are below standard. Women and girls lack access to menstrual hygiene services and products, and to reproductive health services.
- **Access to education** is hindered by host communities' limited capacity to enroll IDP children in school; there are not enough teachers or classroom space. The majority of IDP children do not go to school.

North Kivu Province

- **Protection** needs are enormous: physical security for civilians in and around IDP sites; community-based protection for local and IDP communities to participate in solutions and response mechanisms; peaceful coexistence; protection for vulnerable youth and women; and birth registration to prevent statelessness, are some of the most pressing.
- **Child protection** needs are pronounced in northern North Kivu, with many orphaned or unaccompanied children around Beni, or children who recently left armed groups and face reintegration issues in Lubero.
- **Sexual and Gender-Based Violence (SGBV)** remains widespread, as armed groups in Masisi use it as a weapon of war. Despite referrals to medical structures, legal follow-up is quasi non-existent, perpetuating impunity.
- **Shelter:** IDP sites under UNHCR coordination in Masisi Territory do not offer sufficient or adequate shelter, pushing IDPs towards host families. As arrivals to the sites continue, shelter needs are still increasing. In Oicha (Beni Territory), at least 84 recently-displaced households are sleeping in a school. Shelter needs are also further exacerbated by cyclical displacements, for example in Masisi and Rutshuru territories.
- **Non-Food Items (NFIs)**, for those living with host families as well as in IDP sites, are needed.
- **Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH)** conditions need urgent support in IDP sites in Masisi and Rutshuru territories. Water availability is also a serious concern for the many IDPs in Oicha (Beni Territory), endangering peaceful coexistence with local communities.
- **Education:** In several localities in Masisi, Lubero, and Beni territories, schools close regularly because of conflict. After waves of displacement, IDPs who are not sheltered by host communities also tend to occupy classrooms.

UNHCR's response

Ituri Province

- **Registration:** A new registration exercise is underway in 12 IDP sites managed by UNHCR, intended to provide more data on individual needs and vulnerabilities. Results will help UNHCR improve humanitarian programming in the sites. A total of 11,010 persons (2,581 households) were registered in IDP sites in Irumu Territory so far (Kasenyi, Telega and Bembei), and registration will continue in the following weeks.
- **NFIs:** A total of 617 households received non-food item kits (blankets, mosquito nets, jerrycans, sanitary pads and soap) during the week. Among them, 243 households also received plastic sheeting for emergency shelter in Kpanga site (Djugu), while 227 households received hygiene kits in Venyo site (Djugu).
- **Protection** (community-based): UNHCR, in collaboration with partners Caritas and AVSI, built the capacity of Complaints Management Committees in Komanda and Bwanasura IDP sites. Awareness-raising sessions on Sexual and Gender-Based Violence (SGBV) were also held in IDP sites in Komanda Bey and Bwanasura (Irumu Territory).
- **Protection** (monitoring): A total of 185 protection incidents (mostly lootings and injuries) were reported during the period, compared to 199 last week. Peace and reconciliation efforts continued, but the situation remains volatile due to armed confrontations, as well as attacks against civilians, mostly in Djugu and Mambasa territories.
- **Sexual and Gender-Based Violence (SGBV):** A total of 10 rape cases (8 girls and two women) were recorded during the period. Among them, six survivors were referred to medical facilities for emergency treatment within 72 hours.

North Kivu Province

- **Protection** (community-based): Community-based protection structures continued to conduct awareness-raising workshops on peaceful coexistence, the prevention of Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (SEA) in school settings, the prevention and response to SGBV, and "positive masculinity." Several thousand participants were reached across most territories of North Kivu (in particular in Nyiragongo, Masisi and Rutshuru). In addition, the structures rely on radio spots and local theater groups to spread their messages. They are involved in mapping opportunities for "Quick Impact Projects" to increase peaceful coexistence, and are assisting UNHCR in targeting vulnerable beneficiaries for upcoming cash interventions.
- **Protection** (monitoring): Between 11 and 17 October, 239 human rights violations (including extortions, lootings, bodily harm and SGBV) were recorded, affecting 191 men and 55 women. This is an almost 90% increase compared to the previous week (125 incidents), with a larger proportion of violations attributed to armed groups (44%). The

most affected territories were Masisi (91 cases), where the situation deteriorated again compared to previous weeks, and Rutshuru (76 cases).

- **Shelter:** UNHCR's shelter project, implemented by partner AIDES in North Kivu, is nearing completion. A total of 1,653 transitional shelters out of 1,700 planned for returned IDP households are complete (or 97%). In parallel, shelter response in IDP sites is ongoing; 80 emergency shelters are under construction in Kalinga site, with 49 completed. Altogether 848 emergency shelters are planned before year-end in two IDP sites in Masisi Territory (Kalinga and Bukumbo), where respectively 300 and 548 IDPs have arrived due to conflict. The shelter project also includes the rehabilitation of a primary school occupied by IDPs in the displacement-affected town of Oicha.

UNHCR's presence

- UNHCR's Sub-Office in Goma covers North Kivu and Ituri Provinces, as well as supervising operations in South Kivu Province. The Goma Sub-Office oversees all of North Kivu while a much smaller Field Unit (in Bunia) manages operations for Ituri. Both emergencies have so far been covered by a small team in Ituri, and by staff of the Goma Sub-Office on mission. This solution however is cost-ineffective, puts additional burden on human resources and complicates security management in a volatile area of responsibility.
- To meet growing needs in the northern part of North Kivu – including Ebola preparedness needs and emergency response –, as of September 2019 the operation is opening a Field Unit in Beni, with seven planned staff. This will help meet expectations of the Humanitarian Country Team and of the SRSG for UNHCR to play an active role in contributing to addressing the many challenges of this part of the Province. In addition, to face the dramatically worsened humanitarian situation in Ituri since early June 2019, the Bunia Field Unit has been strengthened with additional staff in Protection, Security, Reporting and Drivers. Further staff in Programme, Shelter and Field are expected between now and the end of the year; however needs still outpace available human resources.

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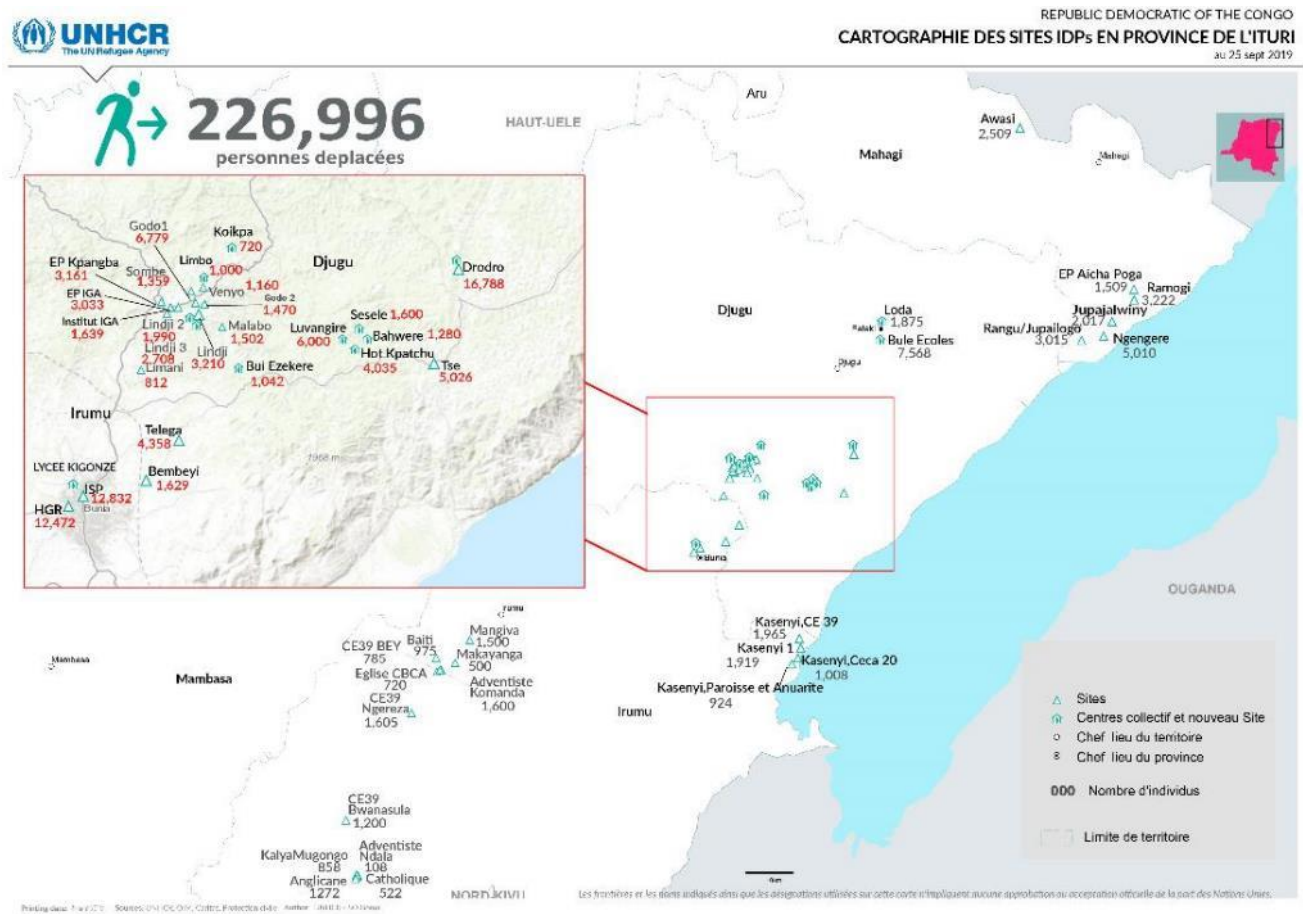
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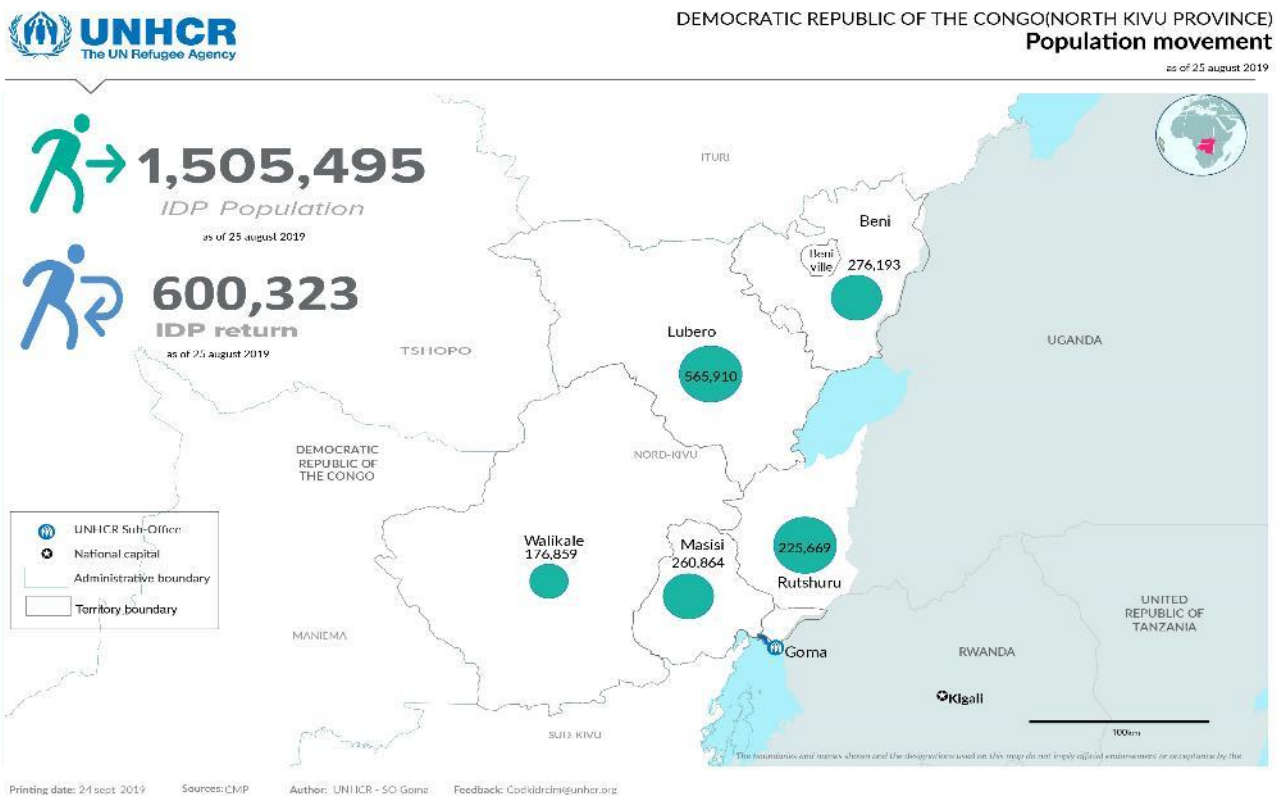
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Maps of affected areas

Ituri



North Kivu



WEEKLY EMERGENCY UPDATE

Ituri and North Kivu Provinces, Democratic Republic of the Congo

14 September – 22 September 2019



Operational context and protection situation

Ituri Province

During the reporting period, attacks targeting villages and IDP sites continued. Killings, lootings, abductions, injuries, and cases of rapes were reported mostly in Djugu and Irumu territories. The protection environment for civilians is of extreme concern in Djugu Territory, following the resurgence of attacks in Drodro, Bule, and in the spontaneous site of Rho. Ongoing violence in Djugu, and fear of further attacks, led to a significant movement of already-displaced people towards the localities of Katoto and Lopa, as well as to Bunia, the provincial capital of Ituri, and neighbouring Iga Barrière. Estimations of forced displacement linked to last week's violence in Djugu Territory are of some 750-800 households. During the same period, there was a decrease in incidents perpetrated by armed groups in western Mambasa Territory, due to intensified army patrols. As of September, the CCCM Cluster estimates that nearly 227,000 displaced people are staying in 87 IDP sites across Ituri Province, many of them without assistance.

BACKGROUND: Since 6 June, generalized violence has led to massive new displacements in Ituri Province. UNHCR and IOM recorded over 110,000 new arrivals in IDP sites in Djugu, Mahagi and Irumu territories between 31 May and 20 June. OCHA estimates that 360,000 people were displaced by the recent crisis; some 145,000 towards IDP sites and the rest (215,000) in host communities. As displacements continued in September, the CCCM Cluster estimates that almost 227,000 people are staying in 87 IDP sites across Ituri. Outside of Bunia, the largest concentrations of IDPs are found in Drodro, Rho, Fataki, Kasenyi and Tchomia, in Djugu and Irumu territories. In Mahagi Territory, there is a large concentration of IDPs in Ramogi. In June, 8,647 people also fled to Uganda according to UNHCR's Uganda office, nearly doubling the number of daily crossings compared to May 2019.

North Kivu Province

Overall, the security situation in North Kivu remained volatile. Sporadic clashes between the national army and armed groups continued, especially in Rutshuru and Masisi, and Nyiragongo territories. Armed clashes between the army and a presumed armed group in Lubero Territory, led to the forced displacement of 11,896 people between 6 and 13 September, according to UNHCR's partner INTERSOS. The majority are women and children who staying in host families, with staggering protection needs. On 18 September, the Chief of Staff of a prominent armed group was killed by the Congolese army in Rutshuru Territory, and more than twenty farmers were kidnapped by presumed said armed group in Kisharo. School activities were still paralysed due to ongoing violence in many areas of Rutshuru and Lubero territories. In Masisi Territory, the past week was marked by mass displacement in the Bashali Mokoto area, following a land conflict in which an armed group became involved. Armed groups continued targeting civilians (including Rwandan refugees) and protection actors. In Beni town and surrounding areas, intensified armed group presence and criminal activities continued, negatively impacting the population.

BACKGROUND: Since 30 March, and with a sharp intensification as of 7 May, attacks against civilians and military outposts by members of a rebel group led to significant displacements from Kamango to Nobili (Beni Territory), near the DRC border with Uganda. As of 24 June, 94,612 displaced people (15,991 households) had been registered in Nobili and in 9 surrounding localities, but displacements continue. In host communities, OCHA estimates that over 67,000 were newly-displaced in May and June, while arrivals into several IDP sites have been significant. In July alone, UNHCR and the National Refugee Commission (CNR) recorded 5,256 new IDPs (1,225 households) in 8 IDP sites in Masisi, with the most having arrived to Bukombo site (2,754 persons). In Masisi Territory, security has deteriorated sharply in 2019, with 1,960 protection incidents, including 90 murders, recorded between January and July.

Immediate needs

Ituri Province

- **Health:** The displacement area is Ebola-affected, exacerbating already-systemic health needs. A measles epidemic is gaining grounds, with insufficient vaccines and overwhelmed health facilities. Child mortality rates are high.
- **Shelter:** Many IDPs are still sleeping in open areas or in public buildings, exposed to elements and to abuse. Despite ongoing shelter construction in several areas, the lack of space for emergency shelters remains a challenge. Strengthened advocacy is needed for local authorities to grant more space.
- **Food assistance** is urgently needed, while the looting of fields left behind in areas of origin further exacerbates food insecurity.
- **Non-Food Items (NFIs)** are urgently needed, including clothes and plastic sheeting.
- **Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH)** conditions in the most overcrowded locations are below standards. Women and girls lack access to menstrual hygiene services and products, and reproductive health services.

- **Education** is needed due to school closures, notably in Drodro and Kasenyi, as IDPs use classrooms for shelter.
- **Sexual and Gender-Based Violence** risks are high due to overcrowding and the use of survival sex, notably in Bunia.
- **Protection**: There are tensions between newer and older waves of displaced persons. The more recently-displaced are facing discrimination in access to facilities and services. Peaceful coexistence is another major challenge.
- **Child Protection**: There is a lack of child-friendly spaces and many unaccompanied minors.

North Kivu Province

- **Shelter**: IDP sites under UNHCR coordination in Masisi Territory do not offer sufficient or adequate infrastructure, pushing IDPs towards host families. Around Nobili (Beni territory), UNHCR assistance addressed parts of the needs, but new displacements (also caused by flooding that affected 838 households) created additional needs. In September, Nobili's Humanitarian Coordination Team issued an alert on the occupation of schools and churches by 655 IDP households, a few days before the start of the school year.
- **Non-Food Items (NFI)**, for those living with host families as well as in IDP sites, are critically needed.
- **Health** services need to be strengthened to respond to overwhelmed facilities, prohibitive treatment costs, and simultaneous measles and Ebola epidemics.
- **Education**: Some 3,000 children in Masisi Territory did not finish the last school year due to displacement.
- **Sexual and Gender-Based Violence** remains widespread, as armed groups use SGBV as a weapon of war in Masisi.
- **WASH** conditions need support in IDP sites in Masisi and Rutshuru territories, and in Nobili where needs were exacerbated by recent floods.
- **Food Assistance** is critically needed, particularly for those who lost their livelihoods to conflict but also for those living in managed IDP sites.
- **Protection**: Some of the most pressing needs are; the physical security of civilians living in and around IDP sites; community-based protection to promote the participation of local and IDP communities the response; peaceful coexistence; protection of vulnerable youth and women; and birth registrations to prevent statelessness.

UNHCR's response

Ituri Province

- UNHCR is reinforcing **Camp Coordination and Camp Management (CCCM)** in Djugu Territory. Thanks to CCCM partners' advocacy, local authorities have agreed on the relocation of new arrivals to the new site of Kigonze, under construction in Bunia.
- At the **new site of Kigonze** in Bunia, UNHCR, in collaboration with OIM, will accelerate site planning and shelter construction to accommodate new arrivals. The delimitation of space for new emergency hangars is underway.
- **Shelter**: UNHCR's partner DRC built six community hangars in Drodro during the week under review. Another 230 family shelters are also under construction; 80 in Drodro and 150 in Bule.
- **NFI**: A UNHCR-led non-food item (NFI) distribution benefited 621 displaced households in Telega. They received plastic sheeting, mats, blankets, laundry soap, mosquito nets, and jerry cans. Women and girls received menstrual hygiene kits composed of sanitary pads and soap.
- **Protection Monitoring**: UNHCR and partner INTERSOS conduct protection monitoring in accessible areas, and provides referrals to victims where possible. From 15 to 21 September, 33 killings, 38 lootings, 13 abductions, 14 injuries and 6 rapes were reported in Djugu and Irumu territories. By comparison, 248 incidents were reported the previous week, a decrease mostly due to the decrease in rebel group activity in Mambasa Territory.
- **SGBV**: Six cases of rape were reported (four girls and two women). Four survivors were referred to medical facilities for emergency treatment, including the provision of Post Exposure Prophylaxis (PEP) kits within 72 hours.

North Kivu Province

- **Community-Based Protection**: In Beni, UNHCR and partners CNR and Caritas trained four IDP committees on protection and their roles and responsibilities. A total of 47 people participated, including five representatives of local authorities.
- With the support of the Bambu community protection structure, a peaceful march was organized by 128 women from various local associations to demand peace and the end of sexual violence against women.
- **Peaceful Coexistence**: A peaceful coexistence project in Mabalako and Musienene, Beni Territory, was launched to facilitate IDPs' access to community fields. Some 650 beneficiary households, out of 800 planned, have so far been identified. Identification is ongoing.
- Some 848 school students (393 girls and 455 boys), as well as 1,199 men and 1,812 women from local communities participated in awareness-raising activities on peaceful coexistence, organized in several localities of Lubero, Nyiragongo and Rutshuru territories to celebrate **International Peace Day** on 21 September.
- **Shelter**: During the week under review, 66 IDP shelters were finalized in Masisi, Lubero, and Rutshuru territories.
- **Protection Monitoring**: UNHCR and partner INTERSOS conduct protection monitoring in accessible areas, and provide referrals to victims where possible. During the reporting period, 140 human rights violations (lootings, injuries, killings, abductions and cases of SGBV) were perpetrated against 64 men, 19 boys, 35 women and 22 girls.

- **SGBV:** Six cases of rape (four girls and two women) were documented by protection monitoring. Four survivors were referred to medical facilities for emergency treatment, including the provision of Post Exposure Prophylaxis (PEP) kits within 72 hours. Two survivors did not benefit from medical follow-up due to the distance from health structures.
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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 of North Kivu while a much smaller Field Unit in Bunia manages operations for Ituri. Both emergencies have so far been covered by a small team in Ituri, and by staff of the Goma Sub-Office on mission. This solution however is cost-ineffective, puts additional burden on human resources and complicates security management in a volatile area.
 - To meet growing needs in the northern part of North Kivu, including Ebola preparedness needs and emergency response, the operation is opening a Field Unit in Beni as of September 2019, with seven planned staff. This will help meet expectations of the Humanitarian Country Team and of the SRSG for UNHCR to play an active role in addressing challenges of this part of the Province. In addition, to face the dramatically-worsened humanitarian situation in Ituri since early June 2019, the Bunia Field Unit has been strengthened with additional staff in Protection, Security, Reporting and Drivers. Additional staff in Programme, Shelter and Field are expected between now and the end of the year; however needs still outpace available human resources.
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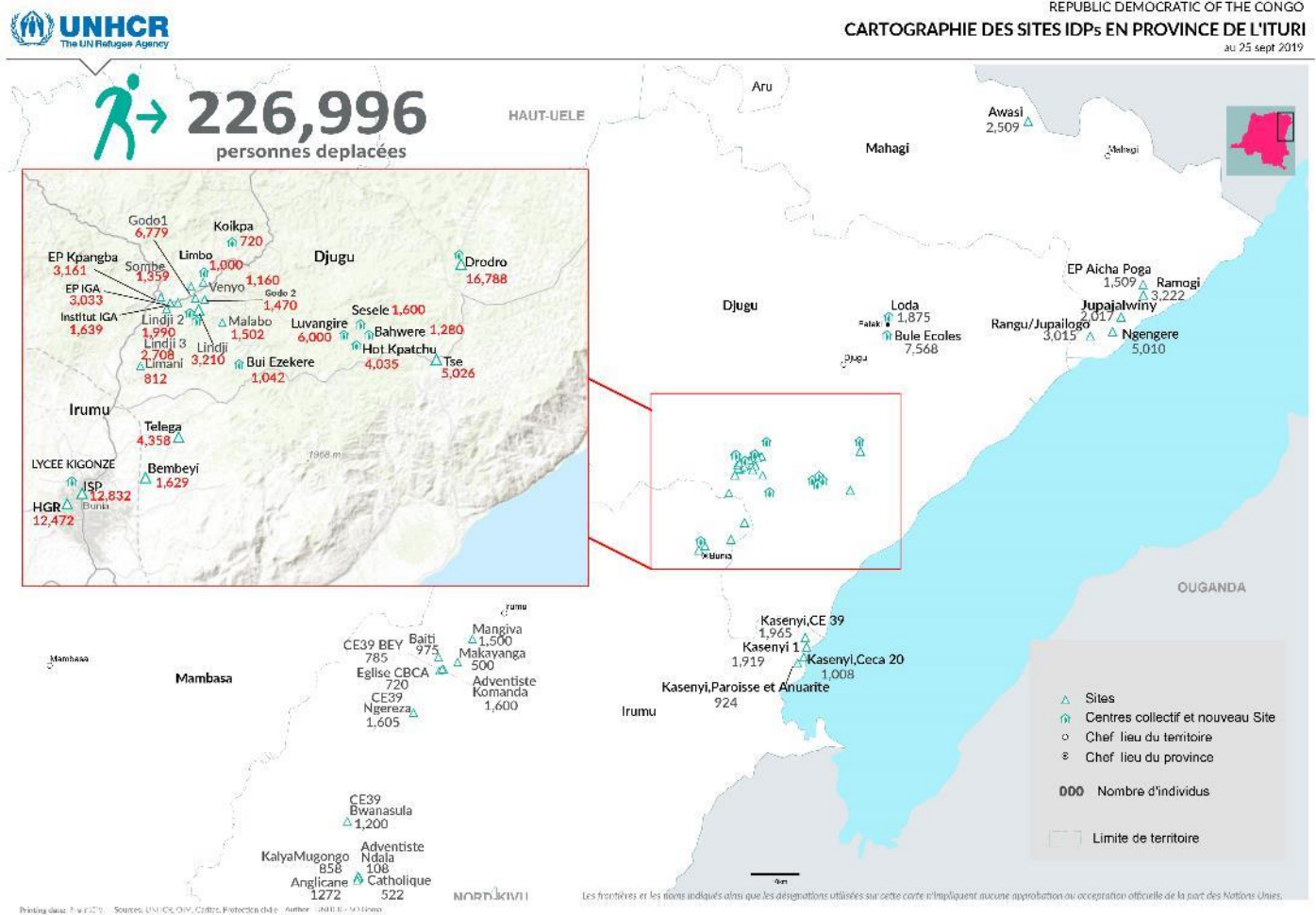
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Maps of affected areas

Ituri



North Kivu

