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ITURI AND NORTH KIVU PROVINCES DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO

10-17 February 2020

Operational context and protection situation



Shelters in an informal IDP site at Kalingwa, Ramogi, in Mahagi Territory, Ituri Province. © UNHCR / Bystrytska

Ituri Province

Armed clashes, in some cases involving the Congolese army, have intensified in the southern part of Irumu Territory and in Djugu Territory. 338 protection incidents were recorded by UNHCR's partner INTERSOS during the reporting period, compared to 267 the previous week. In southern Irumu Territory, attacks and killings by alleged Allied Democratic Forces (ADF) elements led multiple internally displaced households to flee from informal sites to IOM-managed sites (figure to be confirmed). Two persons, including one displaced woman, were killed by stray bullets.

Background: Since the intensification of a military operation by the Congolese army against armed groups in Beni Territory (North Kivu Province), these armed groups have moved towards Mambasa forest in Ituri Province, with ensuing violence and human rights violations. In addition, 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 UNHCR-coordinated displacement sites. 53,552 IDPs reside in 39 IOM-coordinated sites, and the remaining are in informal sites.

North Kivu Province

Human rights violations committed by armed groups were reported in the Eringeti region, amidst the ongoing military operations against alleged members of the Allied Democratic Forces (ADF). Supposed members of the Mai Mai militia also caused security concerns in eastern Beni Territory. In the first two weeks of February, 150,000 persons were estimated to have been displaced in and around Beni. This is in addition to the 160,000 who were confirmed displaced in Nibili, in eastern Beni Territory. Displaced persons in the towns of Beni and Butembo told UNHCR about the atrocities they endured, including killings, decapitations, abductions looting and the destruction of property by alleged ADF fighters, and in some cases by elements of the armed forces.

Background: According to the CMP, there are over 1.6 million IDPs in North Kivu Province as of January 2020. OCHA has reported that 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 UNHCR-coordinated sites and 22,500 displaced persons reside in 9 IOM-coordinated sites.

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 displaced and host families.
- **Camp Coordination and Camp Management (CCCM)** needs to be strengthened in North Kivu and Ituri provinces, as uncoordinated sites are progressively being brought under CCCM to improve access to humanitarian assistance and reduce protection risks.
- **Core Relief Items (CRIs)** 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**, as most children living in Ituri Province are out of school, including those residing in UNHCR-coordinated sites. In North and South Kivu, displaced children lack financial means to attend school.

UNHCR's response

Ituri Province

 **PROTECTION** Members of the Protection Cluster undertook 25 rapid multisectoral assessments in Ituri Province in January and February, to guide the humanitarian response and improve implementation of the policy on the Centrality of Protection.

 **CCCM** The CCCM team assessed the coordination and management needs of five uncoordinated displacement sites (one in Fataki and four in Angumu, respectively in Djugu and Mahagi territories), hosting 14,538 IDPs. Urgent needs included food security, dignified living conditions, access to healthcare, and basic core relief items (CRIs). The CCCM proposed for these sites to be managed by UNHCR and IOM.

UNHCR continued to transfer IDPs from Bunia's General Hospital site to the new Kigonze site. Out of 10,000 IDPs to be relocated, 7,027 IDPs have been transferred so far, the majority being women with children, unaccompanied minors, and persons with specific needs.

 **SHELTER AND CRIs** UNHCR's partner Caritas completed the construction of 68 additional shelters at the new Kigonze site in Bunia, for a total of 1,793 shelters built so far.

148 displaced families who were relocated to Kigonze site received CRI assistance from UNHCR, comprising of 325 mats, 371 blankets, 206 jerrycans, 280 bars of laundry soap and 170 menstrual hygiene kits.

North Kivu Province

 **PROTECTION** Community-based protection structures supported by UNHCR in Kikuvo, Lubero Territory, successfully advocated for the release of six persons who had been arbitrarily arrested. Two boys who were arbitrarily detained in Lusogha, Lubero Territory, were also assisted by the community-based protection structures; one was released but the other is still in detention.

Following the mass displacement from Watalinga Chiefdom, Beni Territory, towards Nabili in December 2019, UNHCR worked with 70 data collectors to identify IDPs and people with specific needs. As of 13 February, UNHCR, OCHA, Caritas and other actors registered 158,278 persons (26,166 households).



CHILD PROTECTION Two girl survivors of rape were referred to care services by the UNHCR-supported community-based protection structure in Luofo (Lubero Territory). The community structure also referred the cases to Direction des Femmes Juristes (DFJ), a Congolese NGO, to facilitate the legal prosecution of the perpetrator, who is allegedly a family member.



SEXUAL AND GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE (SGBV): Community-based protection structures in the towns of Kanya and Kanyabayonga, Lubero Territory, carried out 14 awareness-raising sessions on the prevention of SGBV, peaceful co-existence, and child protection, with the participation of 880 community members.



SHELTER AND CRISIS UNHCR's partner Caritas continued to provide emergency shelters to IDPs in Nabili who sought shelter in public schools and churches. 667 shelters were built for 371 households (2,423 individuals), as some large families need more than one shelter. So far, a total of 2,477 households (20,854 individuals) were assisted, enabling families to live in improved conditions. This should also allow schools and churches to resume their regular activities.

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

Funding received as of 19 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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