

Democratic Republic of the Congo

October 2021

Highlights

- UNHCR and partners facilitated the **voluntary repatriation of 391 Burundian and Rwandan refugees** to their country of origin.
- On 22 October, UNHCR relaunched the voluntary repatriation of CAR refugees in the DRC. **768 CAR refugees were repatriated from Mole camp (South Ubangi) to Bangui** as of 31st October.
- **UNHCR and the CNR officially launched the biometric enrollment of vulnerable people in Tshikapa, Kasai Province.**
- **UNHCR distributed core relief items to 12,560 CAR refugees and vulnerable host community members in Nzakara and Limasa, North Ubangi.**



A Central African refugee who voluntarily repatriated with the support of UNHCR from Mole camp, South Ubangi, arrives at Port Amont, Bangui © UNHCR/Ghislaine Nentobo

Refugees

PROTECTION

- In October 2021, **UNHCR and its partner CNR facilitated the voluntary repatriation of 162 Rwandan refugees and 229 Burundian refugees from North and South Kivu Provinces** to their countries of origin. So far 1,590 Rwandan refugees and 7,015 Burundian refugees have been repatriated in 2021.
- **UNHCR and CNR distributed refugee identity cards to 5,607 Central African refugees in North and South Ubangi and in Bas Uele Provinces** during the month of October. The identity card is equivalent to a residence permit: it grants its holders the rights to work, to education, access to healthcare, and freedom of movement within the country. Over 12,669 refugee ID cards have been distributed so far by the UNHCR in the three provinces affected by the CAR refugee influx.
- **As of 30 October 2021, UNHCR and the CNR have physically verified the presence of 29,777 people at the Mole (14,253) and Boyabu (15,524) refugee camps**, exceeding the initial target of 29,000 people. This exercise provides UNHCR with reliable statistics and help UNHCR and its partners to facilitate the distribution of humanitarian assistance.
- **In October, UNHCR and partners relocated 258 more CAR refugees from Yakoma to Modale development hub, North Ubangi Province, bringing to a total of 5,033 persons (1,431 households) moved to the site since 17 April 2021.** This represents about the 78% of the 6,455 refugees who had been registered in Yakoma. Newly relocated refugees are receiving multisectoral assistance from UNHCR and its partners. UNHCR has suspended the relocations to Modale for one month, to assess the effectiveness of ongoing activities, improve living conditions for refugees and plan relocations from Limasa, another refugee hosting location in Yakoma territory, North Ubangi Province.

- During October, **UNHCR and its government partner CNR carried out the registration and physical verification of urban refugees in Haut Katanga and Lualaba Provinces. 3,576 people were registered including 3,278 refugees and 298 asylum seekers:** 27% of them were identified as people living with serious medical condition and 24% of children as well as 27% of women were identified as at-risk individuals. In addition, **1154 refugee cards were issued** to ensure protection of refugees during the implementation of this activity.

**HEALTH**

- **UNHCR and partners continue to support access to essential healthcare to the refugee population.** Through the provision of health insurance, UNHCR allowed over 2,700 refugees to have access to medical care during the month of October.

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

- **In October, UNHCR partner ACTED completed 14 additional latrines at the Modale development hub, bringing the total of communal latrines blocks built for refugees since the beginning of the year to 294.** 40 other latrines for vulnerable host community members are under construction. These latrines improve sanitation conditions, strengthen peaceful cohabitation and prevent the spread of diseases.

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

- During the month under review, UNHCR partner **ACTED completed 60 semi-durable shelters for people with special needs at the Modale development hub, North Ubangi Province.**
- **UNHCR and partner ADSSE distributed core relief items to 8,411 refugees and vulnerable members of the host community (1,956 households) in Nzakara,** about 30 km from Gbadolite, North Ubangi Province. These included mosquito nets, soap, solar lamps and tarpaulins. The same items were also distributed to other **4,416 individuals both from the refugee and vulnerable host community in Limasa, North Ubangi Province.**
- In October, **148 Burundian refugee families of 404 beneficiaries who arrived at Mulongwe settlement from the Kaminvira transit centre during 2021 received technical and financial support from UNHCR partner AIRD to build their own shelters and latrines** inside the settlement.

**FOOD SECURITY AND NUTRITION**

- **Thanks to UNHCR advocacy efforts, in North and South Ubangi Provinces, 23,053 persons (4,650 households) including 9,784 refugees (2,405 households) benefitted from a World Food Programme resilience project that provides Food Assistance for Assets (FFA),** a form of conditional cash assistance for income generating activities and activities to strengthen social cohesion and peaceful cohabitation between refugees and their hosts. FFA aims to address people's immediate food needs with cash, vouchers or food transfers while improving their long-term food security and resilience.
- **In the Mulongwe settlement and Lusenda camp, the World Food Programme (WFP) and UNHCR partner AIDES assisted 30,919 Burundian refugees (7,034 households) with cash-for-food assistance** which was distributed through the TMB counters installed in the two sites hosting Burundian refugees.

**CASH-BASED INTERVENTIONS (CBI)**

- **UNHCR and partner AIDES provided cash support to 50 CAR refugee survivors of sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV) inside and outside of Inke camp and at the Modale development hub (North Ubangi),** enabling them to resume school and facilitating their socio-economic reintegration. Most of the 307 documented cases of SGBV in North Ubangi, South Ubangi and Bas Uele Provinces continue to receive multi-sectoral assistance, including psycho-social support from UNHCR's partners.



COMMUNITY EMPOWERMENT AND SELF RELIANCE

- **Thanks to UNHCR advocacy efforts, 180 hectares of land in Wenze, South Ubangi Province, were made available by local authorities to relocate the refugees from CAR** who have been living since January 2021 in the Sambolola area, Congo Rive, Mbaye, Sagila etc. near Zongo. UNHCR partners together with members of local communities have already started construction and rehabilitation works for the development of Wenze. This include the construction of a borehole, five blocks of latrines and a dormitory to host the first refugees which will be soon relocated to the development hub.
- Thanks to the South Sudanese Refugee Empowerment Project, **51 people participating in the poultry and fish farming projects implemented with the support of UNHCR's partner ADSSE, started to sell eggs and fish** at the Biringi site market, in Ituri Province.

Statelessness

- As part of its activities to prevent and mitigate statelessness, **UNHCR in collaboration with the CNR facilitated the birth registration of 88 refugee children and the delivery of 71 birth certificates in Meri site,** Haut-Uele Province.
- As part of the efforts to support the government implementation of the national roadmap to combat statelessness, UNHCR and provincial authorities signed letters of understanding to **facilitate the delivery of a total of 3,500 birth certificates for internally displaced children, returnees and children of the host community in the localities of Tshikapa, Monkamba, Kapinga Nkundi and Shamusanda, Kasai Province.**

Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs)



PROTECTION

- **In October, UNHCR protection monitoring partner INTERSOS, recorded 761 protection incidents in Beni and Lubero Territories, North Kivu Province.** UNHCR partners CADHIDO (Commission des Agriculteurs de la Défense des Intérêts et des Droits de l'Homme) and SAFDF (Solidarité des Associations des Femmes pour le Droit des Femmes et de l'Enfant) provided legal, medical and psychological support to 91 victims of human rights violations, including 26 internally displaced survivors of gender-based violence (GBV).
- **In South Kivu Province the security context in Fizi territory has worsened in the month of October** due to confrontations between non-state armed groups and the Congolese FARDC in Bibokoboko, in the Hauts Plateaux of Fizi, **forcing over 15,000 people to flee to Baraka and surrounding villages between 13 and 31 October.** Lusenda refugee camp was used as a transit-way by the different armed actors which increased

the feeling of insecurity among Burundian refugees and risked compromising the civilian character of the refugee camp. Following advocacy by UNHCR the FARDC stopped using the camp as a transitway but risks of Burundian refugees being caught up in the conflict close to the camp remain.

- **In October, UNHCR partner INTERSOS recorded 198 protection incidents, which resulted in 624 human rights violations.** The majority of these incidents consisted of violations of the right to property as well as cases of extortion, assaults, killings, torture, and inhumane treatment and rape. According to INTERSOS protection monitoring reports, the territories of Kalemie, Kongolo and Nyunzu territories were the most affected in the Tanganyika Province.
- **On 19 October, the provincial authorities of Kasai, with the support of the UNHCR and the CNR, officially launched the biometric enrolment of vulnerable people in Tshikapa** which has reached 6,587 people (1,232 households) by the end of the month. The enrolment operation is currently ongoing in the cities of Kamonia, Kamwasha, Luebo and Mweka/Kakenge and in eight territories in Kasai Central Province and it will continue until December 2021. **The DRC is one of the pilot countries for this project which aims to enroll 40,000 households (200,000 people), including IDPs, returnees and vulnerable host community members.** The Grand Kasai is the first region in the DRC to implement this biometric enrolment operation, which will allow to have a database to facilitate the targeting of humanitarian interventions.



Biometric enrolment of an internally displaced child living with his family in Tshikapa, Kasai Province. © UNHCR/Clarissa Kounduono

- **Between 2 and 11 October, UNHCR together with its government partner CNR and implementing partners AIRD, CARITAS, INTERSOS carried out a registration operation for the IDPs living in the Kigonze and ISP sites in Bunia, Ituri Province.** Out of a total of 22,981 targeted IDPs, 20,667 participated in the exercise and were registered, including 772 people with special needs.
- **From October 18 to 23 UNHCR and its partner AIDES conducted capacity building trainings for 32 community leaders and protection actors including psycho-social assistants and health providers in Kongolo Territory, Tanganyika Province.** The training focused primarily on the management of gender-based violence cases (GBV), as well as on the importance of providing mental health care and psychological support for GBV survivors and were organized with the aim to reinforce the capacity of local actors to provide a holistic response to GBV cases.



SHELTER AND CORE RELIEF ITEMS (CRIs)

- **UNHCR and partner AIDES provided life-saving emergency assistance to 103 displaced families in Kahololo, South Kivu Province;** the core relief item kits consisted of tarpaulins, sleeping mats, blankets, soap and jerrycans.
- **UNHCR, through its partner AIDES, distributed construction tools to 400 households in Mangina and tokens for the cash assistance to 362 households in South Lubero, North Kivu Province,** with the aim to provide them with the means to build their own homes and to live in safety.
- **902 displaced households benefitted from emergency and transitional shelters in Kahe, Mungote, Mweso and Kizimba sites, North Kivu Province, provided by UNHCR through its partner AIDES.** These shelters allow them to live in safety and dignity.

- During the month of October, **UNHCR's partner AIDES has built 260 individual emergency shelters for internally displaced households in the Plaine Savo site, Ituri Province.** The partner also launched the construction of 350 transitional shelters and 350 latrines for displaced persons living with host families in the Komanda health zone in Irumu Territory.

\$ CASH-BASED INTERVENTIONS (CBI)

- Within the framework of a shelter project implemented by UNHCR with the support of its partner AIDES, **UNHCR distributed the second instalment of conditional cash and multi-purpose cash grants to 65 households of 430 people in the health zone of Dibaya, Kasai Central Province.** The people who benefitted from this activity are mainly former IDPs who have returned to their villages of origin and members of the host population.
- **Through its partner SAFDF, UNHCR provided cash for protection support to 64 girls at risk of exploitation and abuse or survival sex in Oicha, Mangina, Kasindi and Butembo Territories, North Kivu Province,** in order to give them the means to meet their needs.
- **In Miriki, North Kivu Province, UNHCR through its partner AIDES provided cash assistance to 300 IDPs households, who already benefitted from transitional shelters in September.** This money will allow them to buy basic household items to complete their new homes



DURABLE SOLUTIONS

- **UNHCR, through its implementing partners, is continuing the relocation of 600 households of Congolese returnees benefiting from the relocation project in Kasai, specifically in the villages of Kapinga Nkundi (200 households) and Shamusanda (400 households) where they are receiving core relief items and shelter assistance before the construction of semi-durable shelters is finalized.** At the Shamusanda site, UNHCR and its partner AIDES distributed 254 land plots for relocated households which the traditional and provincial authorities made available to the 400 families being relocated to the site

Clusters and Working Groups

- **Between 6 and 7 October 2021 in Mahagi Territory, Ituri Province, the Protection Cluster organized in collaboration with the United Nations Joint Human Rights Office (BCNUDH), awareness-raising days on the guiding principles relating to the displacement of people within their own country.** 30 members

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