



CONGOLESE SITUATION

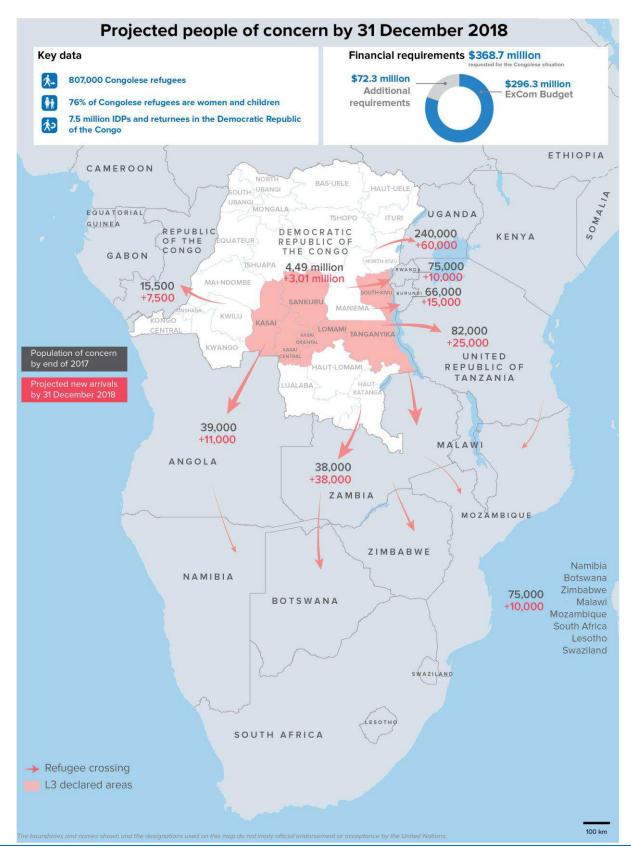
RESPONDING TO THE NEEDS OF DISPLACED CONGOLESE AND REFUGEES

Supplementary Appeal

January - December 2018



Map of the area covered by this appeal



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Overview



4.49 million

People displaced within DRC*



630,500

Congolese refugees hosted in the region**



78%

Of Congolese refugees are women and children

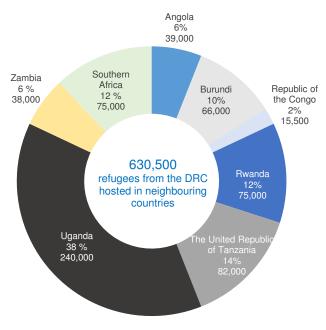


Countries covered in this Appeal

With some 630,500 Congolese refugees in the region and 4.49 million IDPs, the situation in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) is one of the world's most complex, challenging, protracted and forgotten crises. Since 2015, the number of people displaced internally has more than doubled, some 428,000 of these having been displaced in the past three months alone.

Intercommunal conflict in the Kasai region has been displacing thousands of people—with 8,000 people internally displaced per day since April 2017—and with tens of thousands having fled to Angola.

Major Congolese refugee-hosting countries | End 2017



**Source: UNHCR

The security situation has also continued to deteriorate in the eastern DRC, in particular in the provinces of Haut-Katanga, North and South Kivu and Tanganyika, due to incessant fighting between armed groups—much of it driven by intercommunal conflict—and the army. In October 2017, the Emergency Relief Coordinator declared an IASC System-Wide L3 Emergency Response for the DRC, focusing on the Kasai region, South Kivu and Tanganyika provinces.

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^{*} By end December 2017; source: OCHA



The on-going conflicts in the DRC have caused and continue to **cause internal and external displacement of populations, and loss of human life and property.** Violence in the Kasai region,
South Kivu and Tanganyika is estimated to have displaced 1.9 million people over the past year. The
province of North Kivu remains the most affected with more than 1 million IDPs, followed by South
Kivu and Tanganyika. Concurrently, and complicating the situation, some 1.8 million displaced
people have started returning to their home villages, including some 1.4 million in the Kasais, where
they are faced with abandoned services and destroyed infrastructure, including their own homes.

Over the past year, some 120,000 Congolese have fled as refugees to neighbouring countries—in Uganda, Angola, Zambia, the United Republic of Tanzania, Burundi, the Republic of Congo and Rwanda— joining the 510,000 already in exile. In addition, several thousand have also fled to southern Africa, and to countries such as Central African Republic, Chad, Kenya and South Sudan, and beyond Africa itself. Most governments in hosting countries are keeping their borders

open, allowing UNHCR access to the asylum seekers and refugees as they arrive.

The majority of the Congolese refugees are women and children, and nearly 53 percent of Congolese refugees hosted in neighbouring countries are under 18. UNHCR has also identified many unaccompanied and separated children, as well as older people at risk and female-headed households, all of whom require urgent protection.

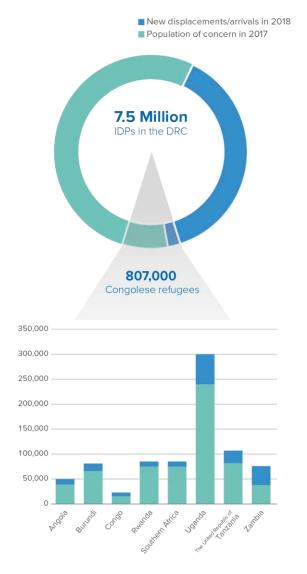
With militia activities widespread, and unrest

and violence fuelled by ethnic and political conflict affecting many areas within the DRC, the risk of further displacement is high.

OCHA expects 2.4 million newly displaced people within the DRC in 2018. At the same time, it is also estimated that some 650,000 IDPs will also return to their villages of origin.

UNHCR expects the influx to neighbouring countries will continue and that an estimated 176,500 people will likely seek refuge in 2018, bringing the estimated refugee population to 807,000—an increase by 28 per cent—by the end of December 2018.

Projected population of concern | End of 2018



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The challenges of getting aid to people in need are complex and growing fast. **Protection and assistance needs are enormous.** Newly arrived refugees and newly internally displaced populations come in addition to prior refugee and IDP populations for whom resources at the disposal of governments and UNHCR have been decreasing these last several years. **What is available is largely insufficient to cover basic needs.** For example, in Burundi, Rwanda, Uganda, the United Republic of Tanzania, and other countries of asylum, refugee settlements and camps are at full capacity. Funds for livelihood interventions are stretched, prolonging as such refugees' dependence on external assistance.

This Appeal presents UNHCR's strategic objectives and financial requirements for its response to current as well as expected Congolese refugees and IDP and returnee populations, and for which it is seeking \$368.7 million, including \$72.3 million in urgent additional requirements from January through to December 2018. Within the DRC, UNHCR is scaling up its protection and emergency response to people displaced within the Level 3 areas. At the same time, the urgent needs of displaced people in Haut Katanga, Ituri and North Kivu Provinces in particular will continue to be of concern to the Office.

While continuing to assist States protect and care for existing Congolese refugee populations in seven main host countries and other countries in Southern Africa witnessing secondary movements of Congolese refugees, UNHCR will focus its efforts on protection and lifesaving response in those countries receiving major influxes—Angola, Uganda, and Zambia—and it will continue preparedness activities in Burundi, the Republic of Congo, Rwanda, and the United Republic of Tanzania.

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Summary of financial requirements

UNHCR's Executive Committee (ExCom) budget for the Congolese situation in 2018 was \$296,346,140. To address the increasing protection and life-saving needs of people who have been displaced, UNHCR has established a supplementary budget to strengthen protection capacity and response in eight countries and for the UNHCR Southern Africa sub-region. Additional requirements presented in this appeal amount to \$72.3 million. The total revised 2018 requirements for the Congolese situation now amount to \$368.7 million, including support costs.

		CONGOLESE SITUATION			
OPERATION	ExCom budget not related to the Congolese situation	ExCom Budget and subsequent adjustments related to the Congolese situation	Additional requirements	Total	Total revised requirements
ANGOLA	2,602,287	-	27,720,129	27,720,129	30,322,416
BURUNDI	8,243,682	22,680,913		22,680,913	30,924,595
REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO	16,177,081	7,297,087		7,297,087	23,474,168
DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO	122,344,071	58,752,673	19,882,158	78,634,831	200,978,902
RWANDA	56,226,581	39,249149		39,249,149	95,475,730
UGANDA	298,210,014	118,322,138		118,322,138	416,532,152
THE UNITED REPUBLIC OF TANZANIA	91,480,550	34,448,670		34,448,670	125,929,220
ZAMBIA	230,000	12,049,067	20,000,000	32,049,067	32,279,067
SOUTH AFRICA REGIONAL OFFICE	26,900,848	3,546,443		3,546,443	30,447,291
SUBTOTAL	622,415,114	296,346,140	67,602,287	363,948,427	986,363,541
Support costs (7 per cent)		-	4,732,160	4,732,160	4,732,160
TOTAL	622,415,414	296,346,140	72,334,447	368,680,587	991,095,701

More details on individual operations covered by this Appeal are available in the country-annexes to this Supplementary Appeal and on the relevant country operations pages on the Global Focus website (http://reporting.unhcr.org).

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Strategic overview

UNHCR's overarching strategy for the Congolese situation will be in line with the Organization's Strategic Directions aiming at **protecting** the rights of people of concern, **responding** to continued and sudden population displacement, advocating for refugees' **inclusion** in national development plans and labour markets, **empowering** communities and **striving towards solutions** to refugee crisis.

While continuing to assist States protect and care for existing Congolese refugee populations in seven main host countries and other countries in Southern Africa witnessing secondary movements of Congolese refugees, UNHCR will focus its efforts on current emergency response in Uganda, Zambia and Angola, and it will continue preparedness activities in Burundi, the Republic of Congo, Rwanda and the United Republic of Tanzania. Within the DRC, UNHCR will scale up its emergency response to internally displaced populations within the Level 3 areas (the Kasais, North and South Kivus and Tanganyika). At the same time, the urgent needs of other internally displaced populations in Haut Katanga, Ituri and North Kivu Provinces, in particular, will continue to be of concern to the Office.

More specifically, interventions will be guided by the following goals:

STRATEGIC GOAL 1: Access to territory and protection

UNHCR will advocate with neighbouring countries to the DRC and countries in the Southern Africa sub-region to guarantee unhindered access to their territories for Congolese fleeing conflicts in the DRC as well as to ensure the civilian character of asylum. The Office will also continue to promote *prima facie* recognition of refugee status during refugee influxes, based on the 1951 Refugee Convention and the 1969 OAU Convention governing the specific aspects of refugee problems in Africa. UNHCR will ensure registration and documentation of refugees and protection of those most at risk. UNHCR will support Governments to protect children and people with special needs, to prevent sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV) and assist victims of violence. In the IDP context, the Office will call on the DRC to apply the Africa Union "Kampala Convention on the protection and assistance of Internally Displaced Persons in Africa".

STRATEGIC GOAL 2: Response to the immediate needs of refugees and IDPs

Taking into account the limited capacity of host communities and those States part of the Congolese situation, as well as the very poor conditions of populations on the move within and across borders UNHCR, in partnership with the governments and other humanitarian actors, will aim at ensuring access to services and immediate and effective response to basic needs of refugees, IDPs and host communities. Cash-based interventions will be preferred, whenever possible, as a more effective and dignified way to assist people of concern.

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STRATEGIC GOAL 3: Building partnerships for inclusion and solutions

Within the Comprehensive Refugee Response Framework (CRRF) "whole of society approach" and based on the commitments made by States in New York as well as the Sustainable Development Goals, UNHCR will advocate for refugees' inclusion in national development plans and frameworks as well as in mainstream national systems. It will also advocate for freedom of movement and right to work to increase livelihood opportunities for refugees. Within the principle of responsibility-sharing, UNHCR will also advocate for a sufficient number of resettlement opportunities for refugees in critical protection situations. Local integration opportunities will be pursued and, whenever the situation in the DRC will be conducive to returns, voluntary repatriation will be supported. The Office will assist IDPs rebuild their lives once back in their villages of origin and to build resilience while still in displacement. Investment will also be geared to communities as agents of protection.

Planning assumptions

- 1. Conflict in Kasai region, North and South Kivus and Tanganyika as well as in Haut Katanga and Ituri will continue—with varied degrees of intensity—and will generate internal displacement and possible outflows of asylum-seekers in neighbouring countries.
- Leading to the elections, insecurity may become more widespread, affecting urban areas in particular and leading further displacement inside and outside the DRC. An estimated 88,000 refugees currently living in the DRC will also be affected.
- 3. New arrivals in neighbouring countries will vary between 100 to 1,000 asylum-seekers crossing borders per week. At the same time, a limited number of Congolese refugees in Angola may continue to choose to return to their villages of origin or nearby locations.
- 4. By the end of 2018, the estimated cumulative number of Congolese refugees fleeing the violence in the DRC will reach close to 807,000, out of which an estimated 176,500 will be new refugees, while some 7.5 million Congolese will be internally displaced/recent returnees. OCHA estimates some 2.4 million people newly displaced in the course of 2018.

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