

DRC Emergency: Update 01 – 30 December 2023



Shabindu Site after receiving a tarpaulin distribution from UNHCR and Shelter Cluster partners. ©UNHCR/Blaise Sanyila

OVERVIEW

Armed conflict continued to heavily impact the civilian population of North Kivu this month, with the town of Sake, a strategic junction for supply routes in the region and the entrance to the provincial capital city of Goma, being particularly impacted. A ceasefire for 2 weeks provided a brief reprieve for displaced people, before hostilities resumed at the end of the month, causing new displacement.

In connection to the conflict, growing criminality was noted Goma. As access by road to this city is now significantly restricted, residents, including the IDP population, witnessed a significant increase in the cost of living and shortages of basic supplies.

To the south of Sake and Goma, as many as 65,000 people arrived in Minova, Kalehe territory, South Kivu province, fleeing the fighting in North Kivu. South Kivu was also impacted by flooding and landslides this month, resulting in significant human and material damage in various territories including Kalehe.

SECTOR RESPONSE

In the coordinated humanitarian response under the leadership of the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, UNHCR is leading the Protection, Shelter and Camp Coordination and Camp Management (CCCM) Clusters in collaboration with UN agencies, NGOs, and government partners.



- In December, Protection Monitoring documented 2,299 human rights violations and abuses in the province of North Kivu. These incidents mainly concerned violations of the right to physical integrity, the right to liberty and the right to property. Returnees and internally displaced persons (IDPs) continue to be the most impacted. However, these results reflect a 23 per cent reduction in incidents compared to November. This reduction is attributed to the temporary ceasefire.
- A symposium on positive masculinity united 83 academic experts and practitioners (33 women and 50 men) in Goma on 27 December to reflect upon men's roles in preventing and mitigating Gender Based Violence risks and advancing gender equality. This event was organized by the Gender Working Group with the technical and financial support of UNHCR, UN Women, the University of Goma and the School for Training and Research on Gender.

CHALLENGES AND GAPS: Humanitarian access due to security reasons is a big challenge in some areas. Challenging road conditions in the recent rains/flooding are also impacting access to populations.



Shelter and Non-Food Items (NFI) Cluster

- In December, UNHCR distributed NFI kits to 3,648 households in Rusayo II and dignity kits to 3,568 women and girls of childbearing age.
- 1,000 tarpaulins were distributed to newly arriving IDPs at the Shabindu and Kashaka sites.

CHALLENGES AND GAPS: The efforts throughout the month to negotiate further land for IDP sites has not yet resulted in concrete results.



Camp Coordination and Camp Management (CCCM)

- UNHCR supported the National HIV/AIDS Programme in North Kivu with 15 mobile phones to carry out an HIV vulnerability surveys in five IDP sites: Rusayo, Bulengo, Nzulo, Bushangara and Lushangala.
- To enhance the capacity of those directly involved in managing the sites, UNHCR organized a training session on the CCCM approach for NGO staff and local government. IDP community leaders also participated in the training.
- A workshop to set up 10 women's groups was completed with support from the CCCM cluster and UNHCR. This activity was part of an effort to boost women's leadership in IDP sites in North Kivu.
- UNHCR ensured the monitoring and implementation of the CCCM action plan in Minova/Kalehe territory, South Kivu, which included monitored the population movement of 1,200 households, 600 of which are in sites and collective centers.
- The Provincial Division of Humanitarian Affairs provided basic consumable office kits to the Steering Committee of IDPs named to facilitate administrative activities in Kitalaga Site established by UNHCR and its partner AIDES in Minova.

CHALLENGES AND GAPS: Violations of the civilian character of the sites around Goma and Sake took place multiple times this month.

INTERAGENCY FINANCIAL NEEDS

The [Humanitarian Response Plan 2023](#) identifies more than 26.4 million people in need in the Democratic Republic of the Congo and calls for \$2.25 billion to support a targeted ten million people in need.

UNHCR requires \$233 million to respond to the needs of displaced people in DRC in 2023.

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