



DR CONGO HUMANITARIAN CRISIS

INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATION FOR MIGRATION

SITUATION REPORT • 24 February - 26 March 2018



Highlights

IOM staff talking to a displaced woman in Kibabi Buporo during IOM's monitoring mission, North Kivu.

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■ IOM distributed 124 tarpaulins to vulnerable households transferred to Kalunga displacement site from EP La Gloire collective centre.

■ IOM conducted a monitoring mission in North Kivu to monitor and evaluate its implementing partners' work, the conditions in the displacement sites, as well as to meet and talk with IDPs.

■ IOM conducted rapid sites assessments in three spontaneous displacements sites in Bunia, Ituri province.

Situation Overview

The inter communal violence between the Hema and Lendu ethnic communities in the north-eastern province of Ituri has continued to force people into displacement during the reporting period. Attacks on villages and civilians have forced approximately 343,000 persons into displacement within the province. Around the provincial capital of Bunia, there are three spontaneous displacement sites hosting approximately 23,600 Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs). In addition, some 40,000 Congolese have crossed Lake Albert into Uganda from Ituri to escape the violence.

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IOM RESPONSE



CAMP COORDINATION AND CAMP MANAGEMENT

On 27 February, IOM transferred 115 IDPs (81 women and 34 men) from Ecole Primaire (EP) La Gloire collective centre to Kalunga displacement site in Kalemie in Tanganyika province. These households had been living in the collective centre for nearly a year. The collective centre which was created spontaneously by the fleeing communities in Tanganyika province did not comply with local Camp Coordination and Camp Management (CCCM) standards. Thus, many of the shelters were not bigger than four square metres and built very close to one another, increasing the risk for fires and spread of diseases. To address these living conditions, the IDPs could choose between: relocating to a structured displacement site, integrating in an area of their choice, or returning voluntarily to an area of their choice.

The majority of IDPs living in EP La Gloire had expressed their wish to be relocated to Kalunga displacement site, a couple of kilometres outside of Kalemie. The 115 IDPs (62 households) transferred on 27 February were the first IDPs to be transferred to the site. They had been identified as the most vulnerable households and had to meet one of the following criteria: single headed households, elderly, persons with disabilities, or large families.

The 62 vulnerable households were greeted warmly by the IDPs already living at Kalunga displacement site when they arrived at the site. As their shelters weren't yet constructed they spent one or two nights in the two hangars constructed in Kalunga. The same day as their arrival, IOM distributed shelter kits to the transferred vulnerable households which included tarpaulins, sticks, ropes and nails. To enable the households to construct shelters complying with the local CCCM standards, IOM sensitized the households on how to build proper shelters and those households too vulnerable to build their own shelters were assisted in the construction by IOM.

In North Kivu, IOM coordinates 13 displacement sites, housing 43,300 IDPs. Through its implementing partners, IOM ensures a permanent presence in the sites. From 7 to 9 March, IOM conducted a monitoring mission to monitor and evaluate its implementing partners' work, the conditions in

the displacement sites, as well as to meet and talk with IDPs. During the mission, IOM visited two displacement sites in North Kivu (Kibabi Buporo and Katale) hosting a collective total of 8,029 IDPs. In both sites IOM met with the IDP committees and the elected president for each site.



IOM distributes shelter kits to the most vulnerable households in Kalunga displacement, Kalemie. © IOM 2018 (Photo: Carin Atterby)

During these meetings, the IDPs had the opportunity to speak freely with IOM to raise issues and concerns of their own. In both sites, IDPs raised the issue of the lack of livelihoods due to limited access to land; especially since WFP recently had to suspend their food distribution to the most vulnerable households in the sites due to shortage of funding. As the IDPs do not own any land around the sites themselves they cannot farm the land on their own but are forced to work as daily workers with an average salary of around CDF 1,600 per day, equivalent to USD 1. The limited possibilities for self-sufficiency hampers the IDPs' resilience and sustainability. Based on the outcomes/concerns raised, IOM will support the most vulnerable households with income-generating activities. As a limited number of household will benefit from this assistance, IOM along with its implementing partners will continue to advocate for more space for the IDPs which could allow them to farm land and become more resilient.



PROTECTION

In Kalemie, IOM along with Congolese authorities identify unaccompanied and separated children in the displacement sites in and around Kalemie and facilitate

family tracing and reunification. On 19 December 2017, IOM along with its partners identified a fourteen-year-old unaccompanied and separated girl in EP La Gloire collective centre. The girl who was being hosted by a displaced family in the same collective centre was originally from Goma, a city 700km from Kalemie. IOM and its partners began the tracing of her family and on 28 February, she was reunited with her mother in Goma.

IOM has identified 100 unaccompanied and separated children in Kalemie; 62 children have been successfully reunited with their families and 12 children are awaiting reunification. For the remaining 26 children, their families have been traced to inaccessible areas due to insecurity. Thus, the Congolese authorities with the support from IOM have placed them temporarily in host families.



INFORMATION MANAGEMENT

Following the surge of ethnic violence in the north-eastern province of Ituri and the influx of IDPs into the provincial capital of Bunia, IOM conducted three rapid sites assessments in three spontaneous sites HGR Bunia, ISP Bunia, and Telega from 19 to 23 March. The assessments included information on:

- The estimated number of IDPs and households per site.

- The mapping of available assistance and humanitarian actors present at each site.
- The identification of gaps in the following sectors: water, hygiene and sanitation, CCCM, shelter, food security, health, education and protection. These gaps need to be urgently addressed to meet the pressing humanitarian needs.

On 23 March, IOM shared the site profiles with OCHA to inform the humanitarian community on the conditions inside the sites, humanitarian needs, and assistance available.



IDPs registering to relocate to a structured displacement site, Kalemie.
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Hélène's Story

In December 2017, Hélène was identified by IOM in Kalemie. Hélène was sent to live with her uncle in Uvira, South Kivu but as she didn't know her uncle she decided to continue towards Kalemie where her grandparents were living. However, once she arrived in Kalemie she was informed that the village where her grandparents had lived had been emptied of its inhabitants following the inter-ethnic violence that surged in Tanganyika in early 2017. Hélène could not find her grandparents and knew no one in Kalemie. As she knew that her grandparents had lived close to EP La Gloire she installed herself in one of the abandoned shelters where she was later found by IOM.

In coordination with Congolese authorities, IOM traced Hélène's family and she was reunited with her mother in Goma on 28 February 2018. The day of the reunification was a happy day and both the girl and her mother thanked IOM and its partners for their work.

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