

## First of 33,000 Congolese refugees relocated to new settlement in Angola – UN agency

15 August 2017 – More than 1,500 Congolese refugees who have fled violence and ethnic tensions in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) have been relocated from reception centres in northern Angola to a newly established settlement, the United Nations refugee agency today said.

Addressing journalists in Geneva, Adrian Edwards, a spokesperson for the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Refugees ([UNHCR](#)), said the Lóvua settlement was created to improve the living conditions of refugees.

Built on about 33 km<sup>2</sup> of land allocated by the Government of Angola, the site allows refugees to receive a plot of land to build shelters and to grow food to supplement their food rations.

UNHCR and partners plan to relocate tens of thousands of Congolese refugees to the new site, which is some 100 km inland from the border with the DRC.

While the security situation in the Kasai region remains volatile, the Angolan authorities and UNHCR with partners [are ready to provide](#) protection and assistance for up to 50,000 Congolese refugees by the end of 2017 at Lóvua, Mr. Edwards said.

Some 33,000 refugees are currently in reception centres that Mr. Edwards termed over-crowded.

The UN agency has called for financial support to assist the refugees. A humanitarian appeal for \$65.5 million launched in June is only about 32 per cent funded.

Additional funding is urgently needed to continue developing infrastructure and services for refugees in Lóvua settlement, Mr. Edwards said.

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## UN rights chief urges Kenyan leaders to act responsibly, avoid further

# violence

15 August 2017 – Calling on the Kenyan authorities to avoid violence, the United Nations human rights chief today urged the Government to make an immediate announcement that it will cooperate and ensure accountability for reported abuse by security forces which has led to deaths and injuries, including among children.

“Kenya is at a critical juncture,” said UN High Commissioner for Human Rights Zeid Ra’ad Al Hussein. “The country’s political leaders must do their utmost [to calm a volatile political climate](#). If there are claims to make about the conduct of the elections, they should be made through constitutional and legal means.”

He noted that people have the right to assemble and protest peacefully, and the authorities have a responsibility to ensure they can do so.

“The Government also has a responsibility to ensure that security forces prioritize dialogue, non-violent means and exercise restraint, using proportionate force only when unavoidable,” the UN High Commissioner said.

He decried the use of violence by protesters, but also stressed that political leaders should send clear messages to their supporters urging peaceful conduct.

“All acts of violence, including the serious allegations of excessive use of force by security forces, must be promptly and independently investigated,” he added.

As part of that effort, the High Commissioner called on the Government to make an immediate announcement that it will cooperate fully and unequivocally with the Independent Policing Oversight Authority and with subsequent efforts to ensure accountability.

There are media reports that Kenyan security forces used live ammunition against protesters, and stories of alleged police brutality, leading to several deaths and injuries, including children.

Protests erupted after the Independent Electoral and Boundaries Commission (IEBC) announced on 11 August that Uhuru Kenyatta was the President-elect.

UN [Secretary-General](#) António Guterres this weekend stressed the importance of dialogue to diffuse the conflict.

He said the UN, in close collaboration with the African Union and other multilateral and bilateral partners, is fully engaged with Kenya’s political leadership and relevant stakeholders to facilitate the successful conclusion of the electoral process.

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## Fighting famine: 'unprecedented crisis' putting 20 million people at risk, warns UN agency

14 August 2017 – Twenty million people risk dying of hunger in South Sudan, Somalia, Yemen and the north-east of Nigeria, including 1.4 million children suffering from severe malnutrition, the United Nations food relief agency said, spotlighting today its worldwide campaign to fight famine.

Famine is declared when there is evidence of extreme conditions regarding food access, child malnutrition and an increase in the death rate, stated the UN World Food Programme (WFP), while launching in Spain a global [Fighting Famine](#) campaign in Spain to warn about this unprecedented food crisis.

Commending the intense response mounted by the humanitarian community, WFP said the famine declared in two counties of South Sudan in February had been overcome and, to date, Somalia, Yemen and northeast Nigeria have averted it.

Nonetheless, the agency cautioned, the situation is still critical.

WFP pointed out that apart from Yemen, the other three countries are entering the lean season – the time of year when the previous season's harvest has run out and food stocks are at their lowest. Also, the rains are making access by land difficult, and even impossible. While air transportation may sometimes be possible, it costs up to seven times more.

The severe food crisis in Yemen is caused by the consequences of armed conflict devastating the country, according to the UN agency.

WFP has implemented emergency response mechanisms that include food airdrops in remote areas in South Sudan and trucking in supplies to areas where people have fled from Boko Haram in Nigeria.

In June, agency assisted 11.8 million people in the four famine-facing countries, underscoring that almost half of them are in Yemen, where lack of funding has meant that WFP has been forced to make the difficult decision to reduce the amount of food each person in order to stretch resources further.

To shine a spotlight on the unprecedented food crisis, WFP is taking part in a worldwide [#FightingFamine](#) campaign.

The UN agency noted that in Spain, Mastercard and MediaCom have donated

resources and advertising space so that the initiative is channeled through press, online media, digital screens and street furniture.

WFP is funded entirely by voluntary contributions, and with this campaign, it urges the private sector and individuals to take action to help prevent a looming humanitarian disaster.

As WFP depends on the generosity of donor governments, supporters and partners to quickly deliver food to affected people in these four countries, it urgently needs \$900 million to meet immediate needs and avoid the spread of famine for the period of August to January 2018.

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## [UN chief Guterres condemns terrorist attack in Burkina Faso](#)

14 August 2017 – United Nations [Secretary-General](#) António Guterres has condemned the terrorist attack carried out yesterday in Ouagadougou, the capital of Burkina Faso.

The Secretary-General stresses that there can be no justification for such acts of indiscriminate violence, [said](#) his Deputy Spokesperson, Farhan Haq, in a statement.

Further to the statement, Mr. Guterres extended his heartfelt condolences to the Government and people of Burkina Faso and wished a speedy recovery to the injured.

Media reports suggest that gunmen killed nearly 20 people and wounded several others during an overnight attack on a restaurant in Burkina Faso's capital.

The Secretary-General reiterated the UN's support to Burkina Faso in its fight against violent extremism and terrorism.

He also reaffirms the Organization's commitment to the countries of the G5 Sahel as they scale up efforts to tackle multiple security challenges in order to promote peace and development in the sub-region, [concluded](#) the statement, referring to the so-called Group of Five (G5) countries – Burkina Faso, Chad, Mali, Mauritania and Niger – that have deployed a joint force to tackle the threat of terrorism, as well as the serious challenges posed by transnational organized crime in Africa's restive Sahel region.

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## Amid soaring food insecurity in DR Congo, UN agencies call for food aid, supplies

14 August 2017 – More than one in ten people living in rural areas of the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) are hungry due to escalating and prolonged conflict and displacement, United Nations agencies today reported, warning that the situation will worsen unless urgent support comes in time.

“7.7 million people face [acute hunger](#) – a 30 percent increase over the last year,” said the UN Food and Agriculture Organization ([FAO](#)) and the World Food Programme ([WFP](#)) said.

In a new report, the UN agencies said that between June last year and June this year, the number of people in “emergency” and “crisis” levels of food insecurity – levels that precede “famine” – rose by 1.8 million, from 5.9 million to 7.7 million.

[The Integrated Food Security Phase Classification \(IPC\) analysis](#) released today also notes that the humanitarian situation has worsened due to the spread of fall armyworm infestations, and cholera and measles outbreaks.

In conflict-ridden areas, over 1.5 million people are facing “emergency” levels of food insecurity according to the IPC report, which means people are forced to sell everything they have and skip or reduce their meals.

“In conflict-ridden areas, farmers have seen their villages and fields pillaged. They have not been able to plant for the last two seasons. There is a lack of local markets providing for their food needs,” said Alexis Bonte, FAO Representative ad interim in DRC.

“The situation is set to get worse if urgent support does not come in time.”

Farmers, especially those displaced – the majority of whom are women and children – are in urgent food aid, as well as in need of tools and seeds so that they can resume farming, the UN agencies said.

In several areas, people only eat once a day. The meal is often based on corn, cassava or potatoes, which does not meet their daily nutritional and calorie needs.

“In some cases, diets are limited to starches and leaves,” FAO and WFP said.

Chronic malnutrition affects 43 per cent of children under five – more than 7 million – in DRC, according to the report.

The situation is particularly difficult in the Kasai region, where growing insecurity has worsened the poverty and food insecurity.

FAO and WFP call for an urgent increase in the provision of lifesaving food and specialized nutrition assistance to combat malnutrition as well as seeds and tools so that farmers can plant again and regain their livelihoods, the UN agencies said.