



# **ADDRESSING HIV NEEDS OF DISPLACED POPULATIONS IN THE DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO**

**PCB, UNAIDS, Lusaka, Zambia**

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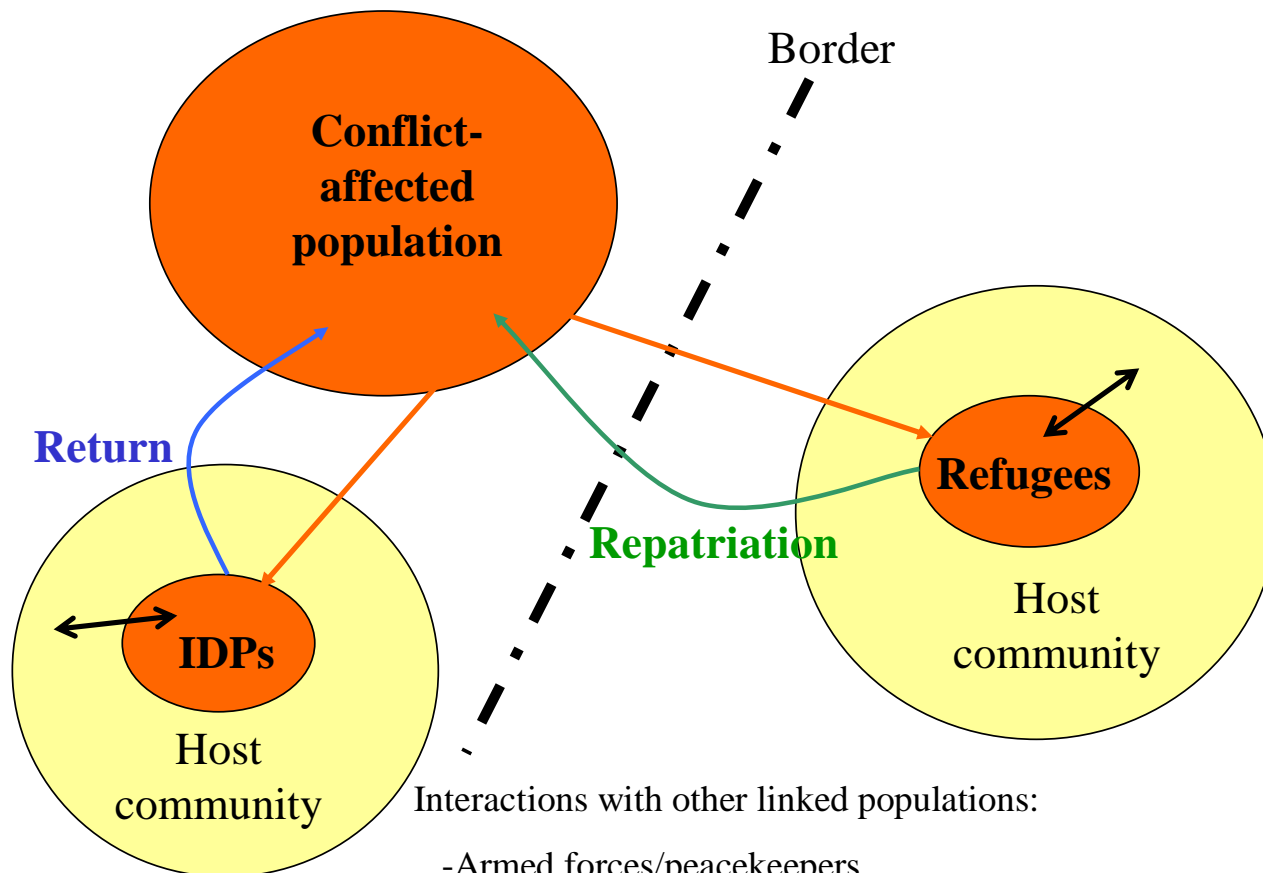


# Role of UNHCR

- **1951 Refugee Convention:** ‘State parties shall accord to refugees in their territories access to the same ‘public relief and assistance as their nationals, including medical care.’
- Became UNAIDS cosponsor in June 2004
- Lead organisation for HIV and displaced persons (IDPs and refugees) acc. to UNAIDS div. of labour
  - Complimentary to HCR’s lead role in Protection, Shelter and Camp Mgt within humanit. reform process



# Displacement Cycle



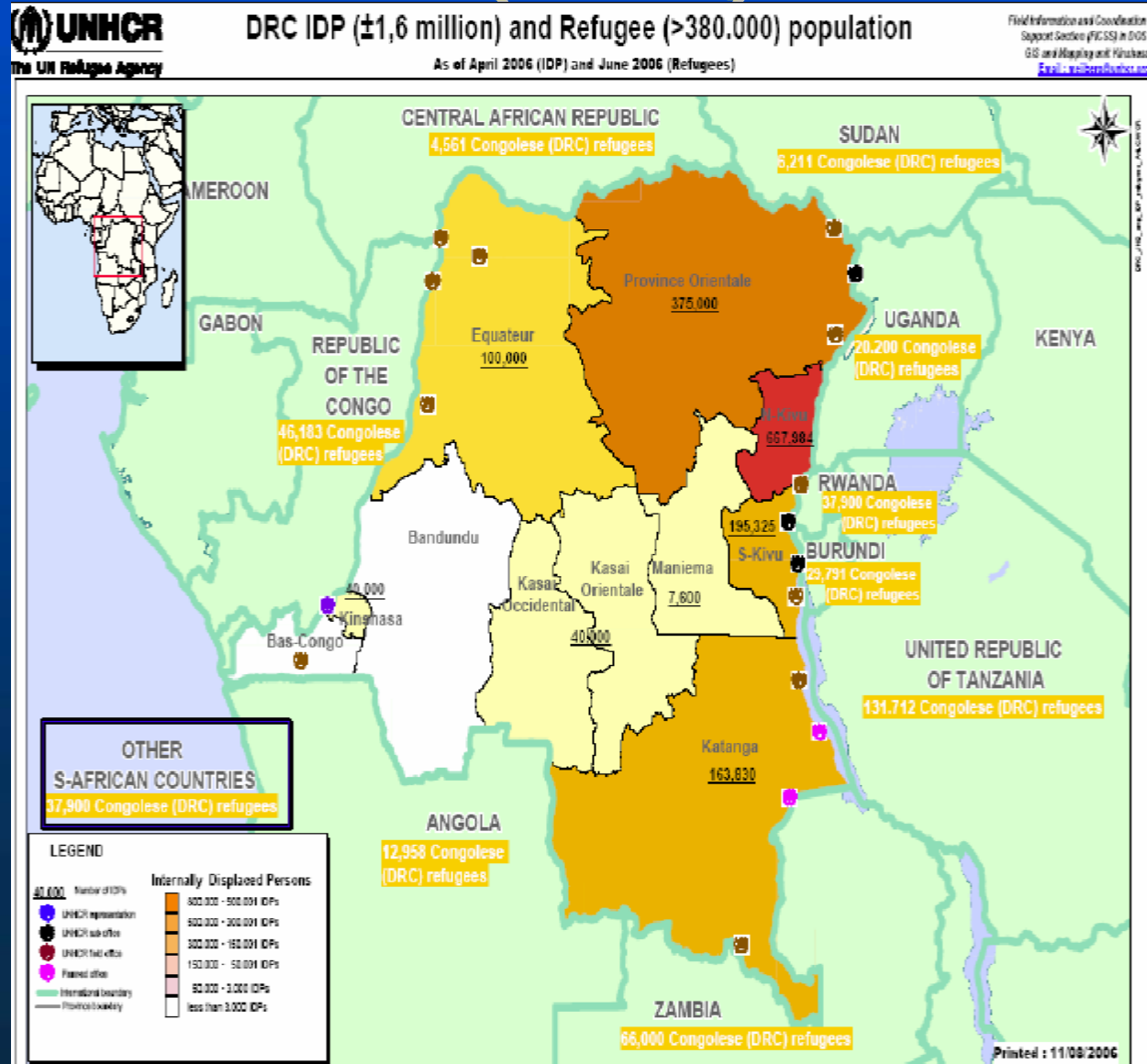
Interactions with other linked populations:

- Armed forces/peacekeepers
- Sex workers



# Refugee and Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) in DRC

- UNHCR provides assistance to:
  - Refugees 224,000
  - Returnees 82,000
  - IDPs 1.6 million
- IDPs often worse off than refugees who enjoy protection under 1951 Convention





# Impact of Conflict and displacement

- Pre-existing poverty exacerbated
- Community social structures broken and ability to cope compromised
- Often struggle for survival
- Women and children most vulnerable incl. sexual gender-based violence (SGBV)
  - In DRC, wide scale rape
    - Rape survivors stigmatised and shunned by partners and communities
- Drugs and alcohol abuse common



# IDPs Fleeing Conflict in Central Katanga





# Return and Reintegration Programs

- UNHCR in DRC is implementing the following:
  - Medical screening.
  - HIV/AIDS awareness campaigns
  - Condom distribution
  - Provision of counselling services to returnees
- In some instances, PLWAs advised to delay return until ART available in areas of origin
- Every returnee educated about HIV through mass information activities in host country and/or on arrival in country of origin



# Collaboration

- UNHCR collaborates with UNAIDS Country Coordinator and team, cosponsors, Gov, int'l and nat'l NGOs and donors
- Various for HIV interventions for displaced persons are mapped out w aim of strengthening nat'l and regional initiatives
  - Integrated approach w host comm.
  - e.g. World Bank funded GLIA project and World Bank MAP for DRC





# Challenges

- Sustained stability in DRC:
  - Critical for return and reintegration
  - National plans can take hold in more comprehensive fashion
  - Basic support infrastructure can be put into place
  - Requires increased resources
- HIV is cross-cutting issue that requires improved coordination, advocacy, and resources with active involvement of Gov, donors, UN agencies, NGOs and beneficiaries
- Flexible funding to change acc. to IDP/ref sit'ns
- Gathering reliable data at nat'l and regional level