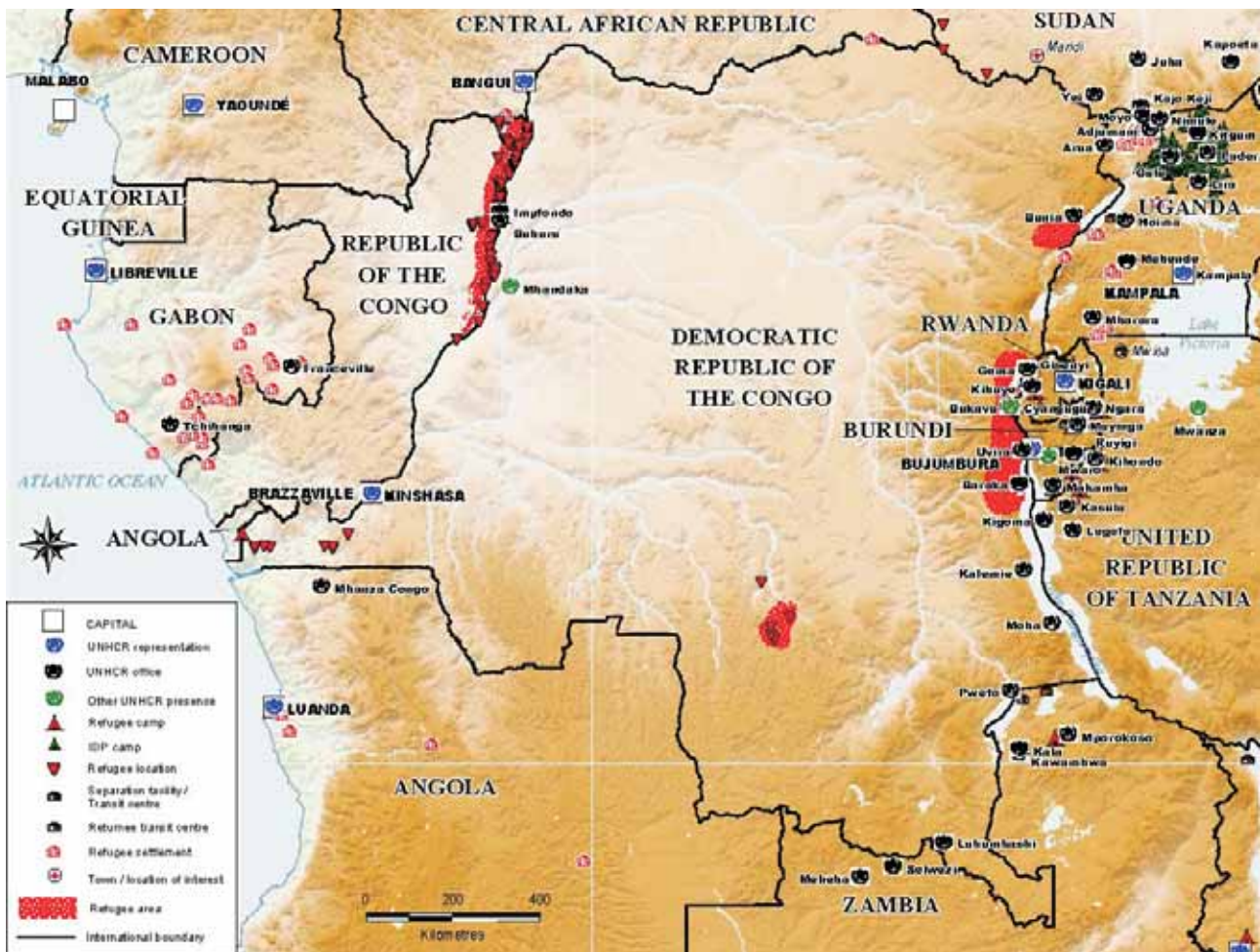


Democratic Republic of the Congo



Working environment

The context

The Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) continues to face great political challenges. Security remains precarious, especially in the eastern provinces. Currently, 1.15 million DRC citizens have been uprooted within the country, while another 300,000 are refugees in neighbouring States. The DRC also hosts more than 140,000 refugees from other countries in the region.

The past two years have seen some political progress: the elections of 2006 were successful; disarmament, demobilization and reintegration continue; and many internally displaced persons (IDPs) and refugees have returned to their places of origin. Agreements reached in 2007 with several renegade groups have led to a reduction in violence in the north-eastern district of Ituri and the Katanga province, while parts of South Kivu province remain stable.

However, North Kivu is facing the worst displacement in three years. Renewed ethnic tension and heavy fighting displaced 300,000 people between January and September 2007. At the time of writing, there were more than 650,000 IDPs in this eastern province.

In 2006, UNHCR was asked to respond to the plight of IDPs in addition to its responsibilities towards refugees. The Office co-leads the protection and early recovery clusters with the United Nations peacekeeping mission, *Mission des Nations Unies en République Démocratique du Congo* (MONUC), and UNDP. In North Kivu UNHCR and OCHA co-chair a working group that assists IDPs in settlements.

The needs

All groups of concern to UNHCR in many areas of the DRC fear for their physical safety and cannot enjoy their basic human rights. The *de facto* impunity of armed groups – including government forces – leads to abuse,

including sexual violence, even in areas where fighting has stopped. Conditions in all sectors are below acceptable standards. Affected people suffer from land spoliation, food insecurity, inadequate shelter and lack of clean water. There is limited access to educational and health services. Poverty forces some IDPs and refugees to engage in prostitution and child labour.

In the face of its many political, economic and social challenges, the Government of the DRC finds it difficult to address refugee and IDP problems. It is committed to the return of all Congolese refugees, and the Constitution has clear provisions on nationality. However, the implementation of the nationality law needs to be monitored to prevent statelessness.

Total requirements

2008: USD 40,922,027

2009: USD 64,161,295

(Annual programme only. The financial requirements for the supplementary programme for IDPs are being finalized.)

Main objectives

- Reduce displacement and human rights violations and promote the peaceful coexistence of all groups of concern and the host population.
- Strive to achieve durable solutions and improve living conditions for IDPs, Congolese refugees and refugees hosted by the DRC.
- Support the voluntary return of Congolese refugees in safety and dignity and help returnees rebuild their lives.
- Promote and organize the voluntary repatriation of Rwandan and Burundian refugees to their countries.
- Facilitate the legal integration of refugees who wish to stay in the DRC and improve the socio-economic situation of urban refugees.

UNHCR's Supplementary programme for IDPs in the DRC will:

- Identify protection gaps and community recovery needs, mobilize resources and coordinate responses.
- Build the capacity of national institutions and civil society to protect civilians.
- Contribute to improved security for IDPs, help to fight the impunity of violators of human rights and perpetrators of sexual violence, and create conditions for voluntary return.
- Improve the living conditions of IDPs, particularly those staying in settlements, and help returned IDPs rebuild their lives.

Key Targets for 2008 and 2009

Annual programme

- 72,000 DRC refugees repatriate in 2008 (60,000 in 2009), and all receive a basic return kit. All organized returns are voluntary and based on informed decisions.
- At least 60 per cent of returnees have access to basic health care and 80 per cent live in adequate shelter three months after arrival.
- The enrolment rate in primary schools is above 60 per cent and girls represent at least 40 per cent of all pupils.
- All refugees wishing to stay in the DRC receive documents as a first step towards local integration.
- Some 60 per cent of assisted urban refugees are able to meet their food and accommodation requirements and the primary education needs of their children by the end of 2009.

Supplementary programme for IDPs

- The protection and reintegration/community recovery clusters show tangible achievements in the protection and reintegration of IDPs.
- National institutions and civil society are more involved in protecting people of concern.
- Participatory assessments and human rights reports show a reduction in violence and violations of the human rights of specific populations, while more legal and administrative action is taken against perpetrators of these crimes.
- Some 231,000 IDPs in 2008, and 144,000 in 2009 benefit from UNHCR's assistance.

Strategy and activities

Returnees

UNHCR plans to organize voluntary repatriation to Equateur, South Kivu, Katanga and Orientale provinces and, if conditions permit, to North Kivu. The Office will monitor returnees and the implementation of the nationality law to prevent and, if needed, address a potential situation of statelessness. Refugees will be provided with information on their areas of origin through "go and see" visits organized by UNHCR, news bulletins and radio programmes. Returning refugees will be transported to their home villages after receiving documents from the DRC authorities. They will also receive a return package containing domestic items,



UNHCRS. Schulman

Internally displaced persons in Katanga Province, in the DRC.

plastic sheeting, sanitary materials, food provided by WFP, and seeds and agricultural tools from the FAO.

In the main return areas, UNHCR will support some 30 health centres in 2008. This number will be reduced to 20 in 2009, with increased involvement of other actors. Also, the Office plans to rehabilitate 10 to 15 health facilities each year. Returnees can benefit from HIV and AIDS information, access to condoms, safe blood

transfusions and the treatment of opportunistic infections and sexually transmitted diseases. Voluntary HIV counselling and testing as well as anti-retroviral medication will be available in some centres. UNHCR will also train security forces and key administrators to prevent and address sexual and gender-based violence, sensitize communities to the issue, and provide victims of such violence with medical, material, psycho-social and legal aid.

Planning figures

Type of population	Origin	Jan 2008		Dec 2008-Jan 2009		Dec 2009	
		Total in country	Of whom assisted by UNHCR	Total in country	Of whom assisted by UNHCR	Total in country	Of whom assisted by UNHCR
Refugees	Angola	82,300	2,000	75,000	1,500	65,000	750
	Rwanda	27,310	190	17,310	190	7,310	100
	Burundi	13,780	790	8,780	600	3,780	200
	Various	18,990	440	16,000	250	14,000	150
Returnees		100,000	89,500	100,000	72,000	64,000	60,000
IDPs		1,126,000	220,000	800,000	231,000	500,000	144,000
Total		1,368,380	312,920	1,017,090	305,540	654,090	205,200

In addition, the Office will assist about 300 schools in 2008 (250 in 2009). Reduced fees for children of all groups of concern will be negotiated in exchange for support. UNHCR will either provide a shelter kit or implement a community-based shelter programme for returnees with specific needs and vulnerable members of the host population. Income-generation programmes will be implemented in the form of cash grants for micro-projects, donations of tools, seeds or animals, and micro-credit schemes.

Refugees

UNHCR will promote the return of Rwandan and Burundian refugees, for whom a dozen assembly points will be maintained. Information on return conditions will be disseminated through civil-society networks and the media. On the completion of the organized return programmes, UNHCR will advocate for the distribution of identity documents for the remaining refugees, mainly from Angola, the Republic of the Congo and Sudan, to begin their naturalization process.

The Office will continue to assist urban refugees, who often live in difficult conditions. Those who have been in the DRC for more than two years will receive free primary education and health care, while successful students will be given assistance to continue their secondary and tertiary education. Eligible urban refugees will be helped to engage in income-generating activities.

Internally displaced persons

As co-leader of the protection and the reintegration and community recovery clusters, UNHCR will organize working group meetings at the national and regional level and help administer the two clusters. The Office will ensure that assessments are regularly scheduled and carried out, and will provide information for strategic planning and reviews. Monitoring teams in the eastern provinces of the country will identify protection needs and responses.

Under the supplementary programme for the internally displaced, UNHCR will reduce protection risks and human rights violations by intervening with local authorities and MONUC. The Office will call for measures against perpetrators of violence, request the deployment of mobile teams where required and seek

the establishment of safe areas. It will also focus on site management, emergency distribution of non-food items and multi-sectoral reintegration assistance in IDP return areas. Community-based projects will promote peaceful coexistence and resolve property disputes. These efforts will involve sensitization campaigns; the training of key actors, including traditional judges; and legal aid for victims if mediation fails.

Constraints

UNHCR's operations, including the transport of returning refugees, face many challenges. These range from the sheer size of the country, its difficult geographic environment, inadequate transport and infrastructure to political insecurity and the lack of services such as banking. Security measures often restrict access to groups of concern.

Organization and implementation

Management structure

	2008	2009
Number of offices	14	12
Total staff ¹	198	196
International	41	46
National	144	137
UNVs	12	12
JPOs	1	1

¹ Annual programme only. Staff and budget requirements for the IDP Supplementary Programme are currently under review.

Coordination

UNHCR and its NGO partners participate in the humanitarian coordination mechanisms established by the UN Country Team led by the Humanitarian Coordinator and the Deputy Special Representative of the United Nations Secretary-General for the DRC. These include the Humanitarian Action Group and national and provincial inter-agency committees. The Office also coordinates its activities with the *Commission Nationale pour les Réfugiés*, its main government counterpart, and key local authorities.

Partners

Implementing partners

Government agencies: *Gouvernorat du Nord-Kivu, Commission Nationale pour les Réfugiés*

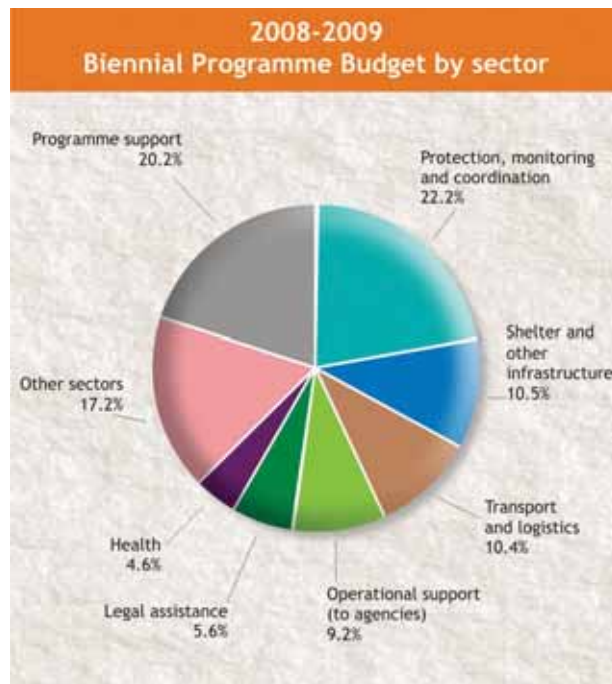
NGOs: *Action Humanitaire Afrique, Actions et Interventions pour le Développement et l'Encadrement Social, Agency for Technical Cooperation and Development, Arche d'Alliance, Association Africaine de Défense des Droits de l'Homme, Association pour la Solidarité et le Développement, Association pour le Développement Social et la Sauvegarde de l'Environnement, Atlas Logistique/Handicap International, Caritas, Catholic Relief Services, Centre for Victims of Torture, Comité de développement intégré, Comité de Liaison de l'Ituri, Humanitas, International Medical Corps, Johanniter, Médecins du Monde, Memisa-Belgique, Norwegian Refugee Council, Oxfam-Québec, RCN-Justice et Démocratie, Regroupement des institutions du système de financement décentralisé du Congo, Save the Children-UK, Search for Common Ground, Solidarités, Synergies d'Associations et réseaux impliqués dans le DDR, Women for Women International.*

Others: *Deutsche Gesellschaft für Technische Zusammenarbeit, IOM*

Operational partners

Government: Ministry of Interior, Ministry of Human Rights, Defence Ministry, Police Department, Ministry of Women and Social Affairs

Others: *FAO, ICRC, ILO, MONUC, UNDP, UNHCHR, UNICEF, UNOCHA, WFP.*



Budget (USD)

Activities and services	2007			2008	2009
	Annual Programme Budget	Supp. Programme Budget	Total	Annual Programme Budget	Annual Programme Budget
Protection, monitoring and coordination	3,808,352	13,206,057	17,014,409	10,866,673	12,490,069
Community services	157,890	1,449,624	1,607,514	1,740,000	1,630,000
Crop production	27,250	0	27,250	160,000	160,000
Domestic needs	239,468	4,035,000	4,274,468	2,104,000	2,510,000
Education	125,903	1,679,067	1,804,970	1,000,000	1,030,000
Food	2,120	78,944	81,064	366,000	445,000
Forestry	50,048	84,096	134,144	110,000	1,110,000
Health	237,670	2,055,369	2,293,039	1,997,000	2,855,000
Income generation	170,493	2,368,814	2,539,307	1,749,000	3,050,000
Legal assistance	176,563	4,533,207	4,709,770	1,696,500	9,362,500
Livestock	0	26,400	26,400	250,000	250,000
Operational support (to agencies)	242,173	4,013,961	4,256,134	4,163,000	5,485,000
Sanitation	1,950	36,197	38,147	72,500	162,500
Shelter and other infrastructure	55,084	5,216,688	5,271,772	2,090,000	3,830,000
Transport and logistics	430,088	9,132,784	9,562,872	5,498,000	5,400,000
Water	4,300	270,930	275,230	125,000	100,000
Total operations	5,729,352	48,187,138	53,916,490	33,987,673	49,870,069
Programme support	5,791,398	589,364	6,380,762	6,934,354	14,291,226
Total	11,520,750	48,776,502	60,297,252	40,922,027	64,161,295

Note: The Supplementary Programme Budget excludes a 7 per cent support cost that is recovered from contributions to meet indirect costs for UNHCR.