

CONGO (REPUBLIC OF THE)

| Working environment |

o The context

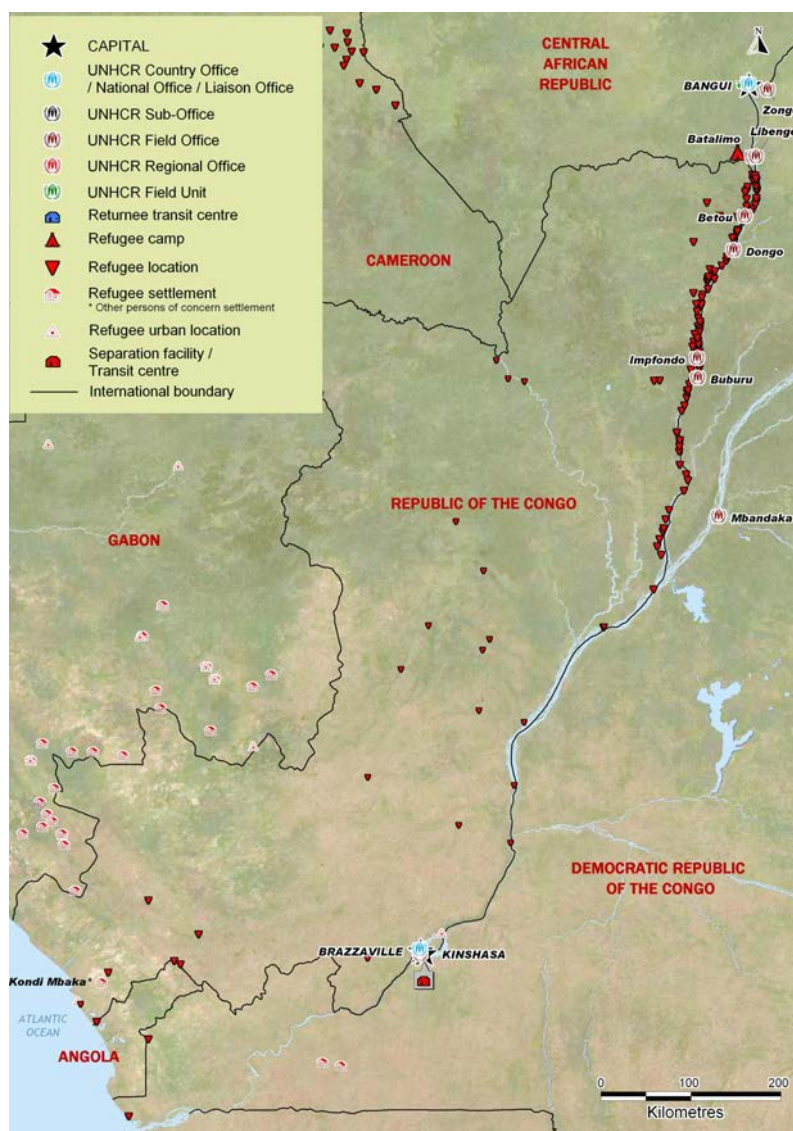
The political situation in the Republic of the Congo (the Congo) remains relatively stable. Despite the Congolese Government's efforts to implement a five-year plan to fight poverty, high unemployment persists and has led to considerable hardship, especially among young people. In these circumstances, refugees and asylum-seekers in urban centres and rural communities are forced to rely on the limited amounts of assistance available from UNHCR.

The Congo hosts some 121,000 refugees and asylum-seekers, mainly from the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) and Rwanda, but also from Angola, Burundi, the Central African Republic (CAR) and Chad.

The protection environment has seen some improvements with the establishment, by the Government, of a working group tasked to develop an asylum law compliant with international standards. UNHCR participates in the group and also supports the Government's efforts to improve refugee status determination (RSD) procedures.

o The needs

A socio-economic study conducted in 2012 showed significant gaps affecting urban refugees in the areas of health care, housing and livelihoods. To fill them, UNHCR seeks to strengthen its activities aimed at improving refugee self-sufficiency.



Planning figures for the Congo

TYPE OF POPULATION	ORIGIN	JAN 2013		DEC 2013	
		TOTAL IN COUNTRY	OF WHOM ASSISTED BY UNHCR	TOTAL IN COUNTRY	OF WHOM ASSISTED BY UNHCR
Refugees	Angola	700	700	730	730
	DRC	82,650	82,650	50,650	50,650
	Rwanda	8,400	8,400	200	200
	Various	340	340	360	360
Asylum-seekers	CAR	150	150	120	120
	Chad	170	170	150	150
	DRC	2,800	2,800	2,000	2,000
	Various	460	460	530	530
Returnees (refugees)	Congo	100	100	50	50
Others of concern	Angola	190	190	200	200
	Rwanda	140	140	8,250	8,250
	Various	130	130	140	140
Total		96,230	96,230	63,380	63,380



Refugee children in 15th April camp in Betou.

UNHCR / D. BICIU

Advocacy with the authorities needs to be intensified to pave the way for the gradual reduction of assistance to refugees and, ultimately, their local integration. The most vulnerable individuals, such as women at risk of violations of their human rights, for whom other durable solutions are not an option, will be referred for resettlement.

The repatriation of refugees from the DRC, which started in 2012, will continue in 2013, when it is expected that some 32,000 people will return home.

More than 1,000 asylum claims are still pending with the country's Eligibility Commission; action is needed to speed up refugee status determination procedure and reduce the backlog.

| Strategy and activities |

UNHCR works closely with the Government and offers its expertise to ensure that national legislation on protection and asylum adheres to international standards. The Office will continue

Main objectives and targets for 2013

Security from violence and exploitation

- The risk of sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV) is reduced and the quality of the response is improved.
 - ☞ All known SGBV survivors receive support.

Fair protection process and documentation

- Civil-registration and civil-status documentation are strengthened.
 - ☞ All children under 12 months of age are issued birth certificates by the authorities.
- The level of individual documentation is increased.
 - ☞ All people of concern are provided with identity documents.

Durable solutions

- The potential for voluntary return is realized.
 - ☞ All refugees who express an intention to return to their countries of origin return voluntarily.

- ☞ All people of concern opting for local integration are able to do so.

Basic needs and essential services

- The population has optimal access to education.
 - ☞ All children of concern aged 6-11 are enrolled in school.
- The population has optimal access to reproductive health and HIV and AIDS services.
 - ☞ All people of concern living with HIV and AIDS and eligible for anti-retroviral treatment receive it.
 - ☞ All births are attended by skilled personnel.
- The supply of potable water is increased or maintained.
 - ☞ An average of 15 litres of potable water per person per day is made available.

UNHCR's presence in 2013

□ Number of offices	3
□ Total staff	80
International	10
National	50
UNVs	20

to lobby for the accelerated processing of pending asylum claims and aid the process by building the capacity of its governmental and national partners.

The voluntary repatriation of Congolese refugees to the DRC will continue to be facilitated by UNHCR. Some 32,000 individuals are expected to benefit from this programme in 2013. UNHCR will also advocate for the local integration of some 10,000 refugees in the north-east of the Congo who have opted to remain in the country.

With the invocation of the cessation clauses for Angolan refugees on 30 June 2012, and for Rwandans in 2013, UNHCR will assist those within these groups willing to return while providing protection to those still in need of it. For those not wishing to return, local integration will be promoted as a durable solution.

UNHCR will continue to monitor cases of arrest and detention of people under its mandate, intervene in all cases of arbitrary arrest and detention, and liaise with government counterparts in cases of discriminatory treatment.

As in 2012, UNHCR will provide medical, psychological and judicial support to survivors of SGBV and include them in livelihood activities in order to strengthen their economic independence.

○ Constraints

The remoteness and lack of infrastructure in some parts of the country are major challenges faced by UNHCR and its partners.

The deterioration of the security situation in some parts of the DRC, as well as in the CAR, could trigger a new refugee influx into the Congo.

Organization and implementation

○ Coordination

In addition to collaborating with the Government and non-governmental organizations, UNHCR will cooperate with UNDP, UNESCO, UNFPA, UNICEF, WFP and WHO in food distribution and nutritional and health support. General coordination meetings, including sectoral meetings in field offices, will be held regularly.

Financial information

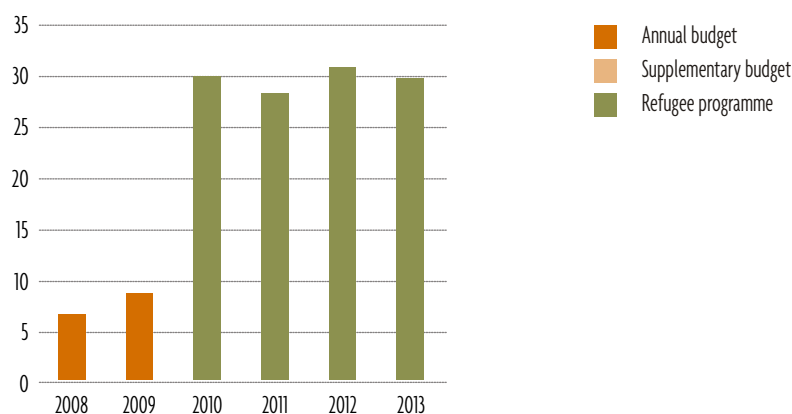
UNHCR's financial requirements for the Congo have seen a steady increase due to high costs for logistical support, assistance for refugees from the DRC and voluntary return programmes for Angolans, refugees from the DRC and Rwandans. As a consequence, in 2013, UNHCR's budgetary requirements for its refugee programme in the Congo will amount to USD 29.6 million.

Consequences of a funding shortfall

- Only 55 per cent of the 32,000 people who have expressed their intention to return would be repatriated.
- Only 30 per cent of SGBV survivors would benefit from medical care and psychological and legal supports.
- Only 40 per cent of children aged 6-11 would be enrolled in primary school.
- Only an average of 7 litres of water would be available per refugee per day.
- Refugees' access to primary health care would be limited.

UNHCR's budget in the Congo 2008 – 2013

Millions (USD)



2013 UNHCR's budget in the Congo (USD)

BUDGET BREAKDOWN	REFUGEE PROGRAMME PILLAR 1	TOTAL
Favourable protection environment		
Law and policy	101,180	101,180
Administrative institutions and practice	107,180	107,180
Subtotal	208,361	208,361
Fair protection processes and documentation		
Registration and profiling	123,980	123,980
Refugee status determination	104,605	104,605
Individual documentation	269,866	269,866
Civil registration and civil status documentation	219,585	219,585
Subtotal	718,036	718,036
Security from violence and exploitation		
Prevention and response to SGBV	834,501	834,501
Protection of children	316,010	316,010
Subtotal	1,150,511	1,150,511
Basic needs and essential services		
Health	3,433,099	3,433,099
Reproductive health and HIV services	790,167	790,167
Nutrition	473,485	473,485
Water	3,005,855	3,005,855
Sanitation and hygiene	793,930	793,930
Basic domestic items	228,477	228,477
Services for people with specific needs	369,681	369,681
Education	1,491,800	1,491,800
Subtotal	10,586,494	10,586,494
Community empowerment and self-reliance		
Self-reliance and livelihoods	6,224,335	6,224,335
Subtotal	6,224,335	6,224,335
Durable solutions		
Voluntary return	5,509,008	5,509,008
Integration	355,595	355,595
Resettlement	220,361	220,361
Subtotal	6,084,963	6,084,963
Leadership, coordination and partnerships		
Coordination and partnerships	107,477	107,477
Emergency management	67,595	67,595
Donor relations and resource mobilization	99,977	99,977
Subtotal	275,048	275,048
Logistics and operations support		
Logistics and supply	3,298,876	3,298,876
Operations management, coordination and support	1,038,176	1,038,176
Subtotal	4,337,052	4,337,052
Total	29,584,799	29,584,799
2012 Revised budget (as of 30 June 2012)	30,608,224	30,608,224

PARTNERS

Implementing partners

Government agencies

Comité national d'assistance aux réfugiés

NGOs

African Initiative for Relief and Development
Agence d'assistance aux rapatriés et réfugiés
Commission d'entraide pour les migrants et les réfugiés
 International Partnership for Human Development
Médecins d'Afrique

Others

United Nations Volunteers

Operational partners

Government agencies

Ministry of Foreign Affairs
 Ministry of Humanitarian Action
 Ministry of the Interior

NGOs

International Partnership for Human Development,
Médecins Sans Frontières-France

Others

UNDP
 UNESCO
 UNFPA
 UNICEF
 WFP
 WHO