

CONGO (REPUBLIC OF THE)



UNHCR's presence | 2013

Number of offices	4
Total personnel	80
International staff	10
National staff	53
UN Volunteers	17

| Overview |

Operational highlights

- UNHCR assisted the voluntary repatriation of more than 62,800 Congolese refugees to the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) with transportation and cash grants.

- On June 30, 2013, the Government invoked the cessation clause for Rwandan refugees who had arrived in Congo between 1959 and 1994. UNHCR worked closely with the authorities to process more than 4,000 exemption applications received from Rwandan refugees seeking continued international protection.
- Following the ongoing crisis in the Central African Republic (CAR), more than 10,000 refugees were registered by UNHCR and the *Comité national d'assistance aux réfugiés* (CNAR). While the majority stayed within hosting communities along the Oubangui River, 40 per cent lived at two refugee sites.
- Following the influx of refugees from the CAR, the Government not only recognized their *prima facie* refugee status but identified land to establish a new site at Ikpengbele to accommodate them.

People of concern

The main populations of concern to UNHCR in Congo were: refugees who fled ethnic violence in the DRC Equateur Province and sought refuge in north-eastern Congo between 2009 and 2010; CAR refugees, the

majority of whom crossed the border in 2013 and were either living with host families or at the 15 Avril and Ikengbele sites; and Rwandan refugees who arrived in Congo at the end of the 1990s.

Type of population	Origin	Total	Of whom assisted by UNHCR	Per cent female	Per cent under 18
Refugees	DRC	31,900	31,900	50	53
	CAR	10,100	10,100	50	53
	Rwanda	8,500	8,500	43	50
	Various	500	500	41	38
Asylum-seekers	DRC	1,900	1,900	47	42
	Rwanda	240	240	50	31
	Chad	140	140	31	29
	Central African Rep.	120	120	34	32
	Various	240	240	16	10
Others of concern	Former refugees from Angola of concern to UNHCR	600	600	49	35
	Various	480	480	49	99
Returnees (refugees)	Various	30	30	36	75
Total		54,750	54,750		

| Results in 2013 |

Achievements and impact

The following matrix contains examples of objectives and targets set for UNHCR's programme interventions in this operation in 2013. Short commentaries on the

end-year results and impact on people of concern are provided, including indications of why targets may not have been met.

2013 activities	People of concern (PoC)	2013 comprehensive target	2013 year-end result
SECURITY FROM VIOLENCE AND EXPLOITATION			
Risk of sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV) reduced and quality of response improved			
Result/impact: SGBV survivors among the refugee population received legal, social, psychological and medical assistance from UNHCR and partners. Overall, the risk of SGBV was reduced and the quality of response improved, thanks to several awareness-raising campaigns, training sessions, and greater participation of refugee communities in education and prevention activities. The organization also continued to meet with the authorities to sensitize them on the importance of judging SGBV perpetrators.			
Gap: Despite UNHCR's continuous follow-up on SGBV cases, most law suits against the perpetrators of SGBV were dropped, owing to the lack of criminal court hearings, particularly in rural areas. Discouraged, most survivors used traditional settlement methods.			
Extent to which known SGBV survivors receive support	DRC and CAR refugees	100%	100%
Extent to which PoC are engaged in participatory assessment	DRC and CAR refugees	100%	100%

2013 activities	People of concern (PoC)	2013 comprehensive target	2013 year-end result
FAIR PROTECTION PROCESSES AND DOCUMENTATION			
Civil registration and civil-status documentation are strengthened			
<p>Result/impact: UNHCR promoted the provision of birth certificates to refugees born in Congo and supported the authorities responsible for civil registration, providing them with computers and printers. It also supported the Ministry of the Interior in training focal points for civil registration in remote localities. Moreover, refugees were sensitized about the importance of declaring births.</p> <p>Gap: A significant number of children were not registered as refugees for several reasons, including the limited capacity of the civil registration authorities and refugees' unfamiliarity with the process. According to the DRC authorities, some 16,000 repatriated children did not have birth certificates.</p>			
% of children under 12 months old who have been issued birth certificates by the authorities	DRC refugees	100%	37%
# of children who received birth documents under regular procedures	DRC refugees	3,500	1,294
DURABLE SOLUTIONS			
Potential for voluntary return realized			
<p>Result/impact: In 2013, more than 62,800 DRC refugees were successfully repatriated to their native country – almost double the initial 32,000 returnees planned. By year-end, more than 109,000 refugees had been repatriated since the operation's launch in May 2012 and everyone intending to return to their country of origin had safely and successfully done so. The repatriation operation was set to continue until 30 June 2014, to enable all those who had expressed an intention to return to be repatriated with safety and dignity.</p>			
% of PoC with the intention to return who had returned voluntarily	DRC refugees	100%	192%
# of PoC provided with safe and dignified returnee transport	DRC refugees	32,000	62,868
BASIC NEEDS AND ESSENTIAL SERVICES			
Population has optimal access to education			
<p>Result/impact: During the 2012-2013 school year, the primary school enrolment rate of refugee children aged 6-11 years in urban areas was estimated to be 76 per cent. For the 2013-2014 academic year, this rate increased to 77 per cent. Refugee girls represented 52 per cent of the total. In rural areas, the enrolment rate of refugee children in primary school was estimated at 38 per cent – 3,000 of the 8,000 children registered in the database (2,000 from DRC and 1,000 from the CAR). This represented a decline from 62 per cent compared to 2012 enrolment rates. Causes of the drop in enrolment included the fact that many registered students were repatriated during the second half of the year and that this repatriation led to the closure of many refugee schools in September 2013. This affected children's access to school for many due to the distance between their home and school.</p> <p>Gap: With limited resources, UNHCR could not reach its educational objectives and was forced to prioritize primary education. Secondary and post-graduate education projects were underfunded, which led to increasing frustration among refugee communities.</p>			
# of students enrolled in primary school	DRC refugees	18,000	15,000
Population has optimal access to reproductive health and HIV and AIDS services			
<p>Result/impact: In urban areas, 85.5 per cent of HIV-positive people of concern eligible for antiretroviral (ARV) drugs had received them and continued to access free social and medical services. This rate decreased in the second half of 2013 due to a national ARV shortage. People of concern to UNHCR also had free access to condoms.</p> <p>In rural areas, all HIV-positive people of concern eligible for ARV have received antiretroviral therapy and continue to access free social and medical services. An HIV sensitization and prevention campaign, particularly regarding mother-child transmission, was carried out among the refugee population country-wide: a positive behavioral change and approach to tackling HIV was noted among the targeted population.</p> <p>Gap: The national ARV shortage induced a negative impact on the free access to ARV therapy and social and medical services. UNHCR and its medical partners rigorously managed the remaining ARV stock, particularly in rural areas where 80 per cent of the refugee population resided, to ensure optimal access to HIV and AIDS services.</p>			
% of HIV-positive PoC eligible for ARV who received antiretroviral therapy	DRC and CAR urban refugees	100%	85.5%
	DRC and CAR refugees in rural areas	100%	100%
Supply of potable water increased or maintained			
<p>Result/ impact: Water, sanitation and hygiene activities focused on the rehabilitation of existing wells and latrines, the establishment and strengthening of committees charged with managing local wells, as well as weekly treatment of these wells. The quantity of water distributed in departure centres averaged 18.4 litres per person, per day.</p> <p>Gap: The high number of candidates for voluntary repatriation in 2013 caused the ratio of available water per person to fall short of international standards.</p>			
Average # of litres of potable water available per person per day	DRC refugees	20	18.4

Partners

Implementing partners

Government agencies:

Comité National d'Assistance aux Réfugiés

NGOs:

African Initiatives for Relief and Development, *Agence d'assistance aux rapatriés et aux réfugiés au Congo*, *Commission d'entraide pour les migrants et les réfugiés*, International Partnership for Human Development, *Médecins d'Afrique*

Operational partners

Others:

UNICEF, UNESCO, UNFPA, UNV, WFP, WHO

Assessment of results

UNHCR successfully repatriated more than 62,800 DRC refugees in 2013, almost double the initial 32,000 returnees planned. Considering the high number of refugees who returned in 2013, the Office hopes to complete the repatriation of DRC refugees by the end of June 2014. The large repatriation exercise prompted UNHCR to consolidate its assistance programme, closing some schools and health facilities that were mainly frequented by the refugee population.

The arrival of CAR refugees, which started in December 2012 and continued throughout 2013, created the need for new protection and assistance programmes, which were implemented for some 12,000 CAR refugees during the year.

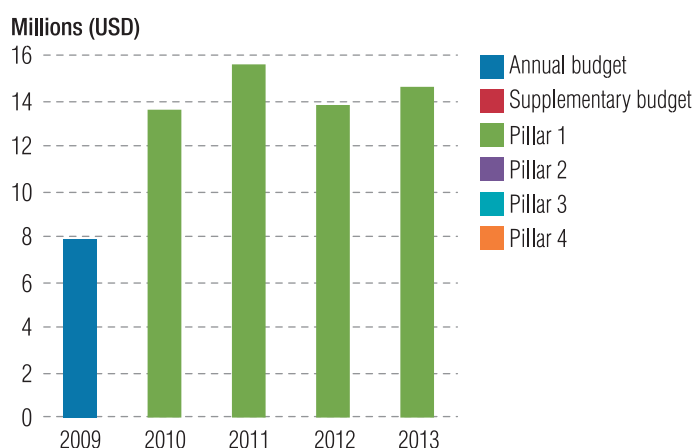
Working with others

UNHCR actively participated in the UN Country Team in Congo and worked in close collaboration with several Government departments, including the CNAR – its Government partner. A memorandum of understanding signed by UNHCR, UNDP, UNFPA, UNICEF and WFP aimed to ensure that gaps in respective sectors of assistance to refugees were adequately addressed. Finally, UNHCR worked with six implementing partners, including local and international organizations, and one governmental partner.

Financial information

The final comprehensive budget for UNHCR's operation in Congo in 2013 totalled USD 32 million. Compared to 2012, this represented an increase of 6 per cent. The revision of UNHCR's budget in Congo during 2013 was due to the establishment of a supplementary budget for emergency response to the influx of CAR refugees into Congo. The level of funding available for this operation allowed for overall expenditure of USD 14.7 million, corresponding to 46 per cent of overall requirements.

Expenditure in the Republic of Congo | 2009 to 2013



Budget, income and expenditure in the Republic of Congo | USD

Operation	PILLAR 1 Refugee programme	Total
FINAL BUDGET	32,086,000	32,086,000
Income from contributions ¹	45,700	45,700
Other funds available / transfers	14,641,882	14,641,882
Total funds available	14,687,582	14,687,582

EXPENDITURE BY OBJECTIVE

Favourable Protection Environment

Law and policy	73,313	73,313
Administrative institutions and practice	74,688	74,688
Access to territory and refoulement risk reduced	4,607	4,607
Subtotal	152,608	152,608

Fair Protection Processes and Documentation

Reception conditions	4,608	4,608
Registration and profiling	126,991	126,991
Status determination procedures	74,461	74,461
Individual documentation	425,331	425,331
Civil registration and status documentation	216,535	216,535
Family reunification	4,608	4,608
Subtotal	852,532	852,532

Security from Violence and Exploitation

Prevention and response to SGBV	518,189	518,189
Protection of children	244,645	244,645
Subtotal	762,834	762,834

Operation	PILLAR 1 Refugee programme	Total
<i>Basic Needs and Essential Services</i>		
Health	1,792,592	1,792,592
Reproductive health and HIV services	418,661	418,661
Nutrition	239,371	239,371
Food security	5,980	5,980
Water	468,391	468,391
Sanitation and hygiene	643,205	643,205
Shelter and infrastructure	42,982	42,982
Access to energy	5,099	5,099
Basic and domestic items	76,136	76,136
Services for people with specific needs	435,871	435,871
Education	751,638	751,638
Subtotal	4,879,925	4,879,925
<i>Community Empowerment and Self-Reliance</i>		
Community mobilization	4,607	4,607
Self-reliance and livelihood activities	298,521	298,521
Subtotal	303,128	303,128
<i>Durable Solutions</i>		
Voluntary return	2,183,155	2,183,155
Integration	36,657	36,657
Resettlement	209,801	209,801
Subtotal	2,429,612	2,429,612
<i>Leadership, Coordination and Partnerships</i>		
Coordination and partnerships	76,136	76,136
Camp management and coordination	9,215	9,215
Donor relations and resource mobilization	71,528	71,528
Subtotal	156,879	156,879
<i>Logistics and Operations Support</i>		
Logistics and supply	1,475,749	1,475,749
Operations management, coordination and support	1,384,180	1,384,180
Subtotal	2,859,930	2,859,930
Balance of instalments with implementing partners	2,290,133	2,290,133
Total	14,687,582	14,687,582

¹ Income from contributions includes indirect support costs that are recovered from contributions to Pillars 3 and 4, supplementary budgets and the "New or additional activities – mandate-related" (NAM) Reserve. Contributions towards all pillars are included under Pillar 1.