

Democratic Republic of the Congo

March 2024

The Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) hosts **nearly 7 million internally displaced people** and more than **523,000 refugees**, mainly from the Central African Republic (CAR), Rwanda, South Sudan and Burundi. More than 75 per cent of this population live in rural environments, with 23 per cent residing in camps and just 2 per cent living in urban locations.

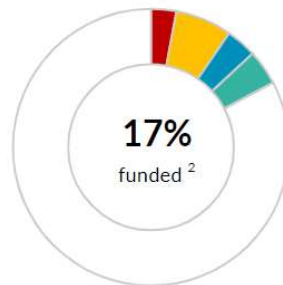
The cyclic and protracted nature of the various displacement situations in the country impact some of the most remote, poverty-stricken regions, **72 per cent of the Congolese population lives on less than USD 1.90 a day**. UNHCR strives to ensure that refugees can live in safety and dignity by assuring their inclusion in national services and by harnessing opportunities to build resilience.

UNHCR is an active contributor to the large-scale response to internal displacement in eastern DRC. It works closely with partners and other stakeholders, including the Government, to provide **lifesaving protection, shelter, non-food items and camp coordination services** to internally displaced women, men, girls and boys.

FUNDING UPDATE | 2024

\$249.7 million

UNHCR's financial requirements 2024 ¹



DEMOCRATIC REP OF THE CONGO

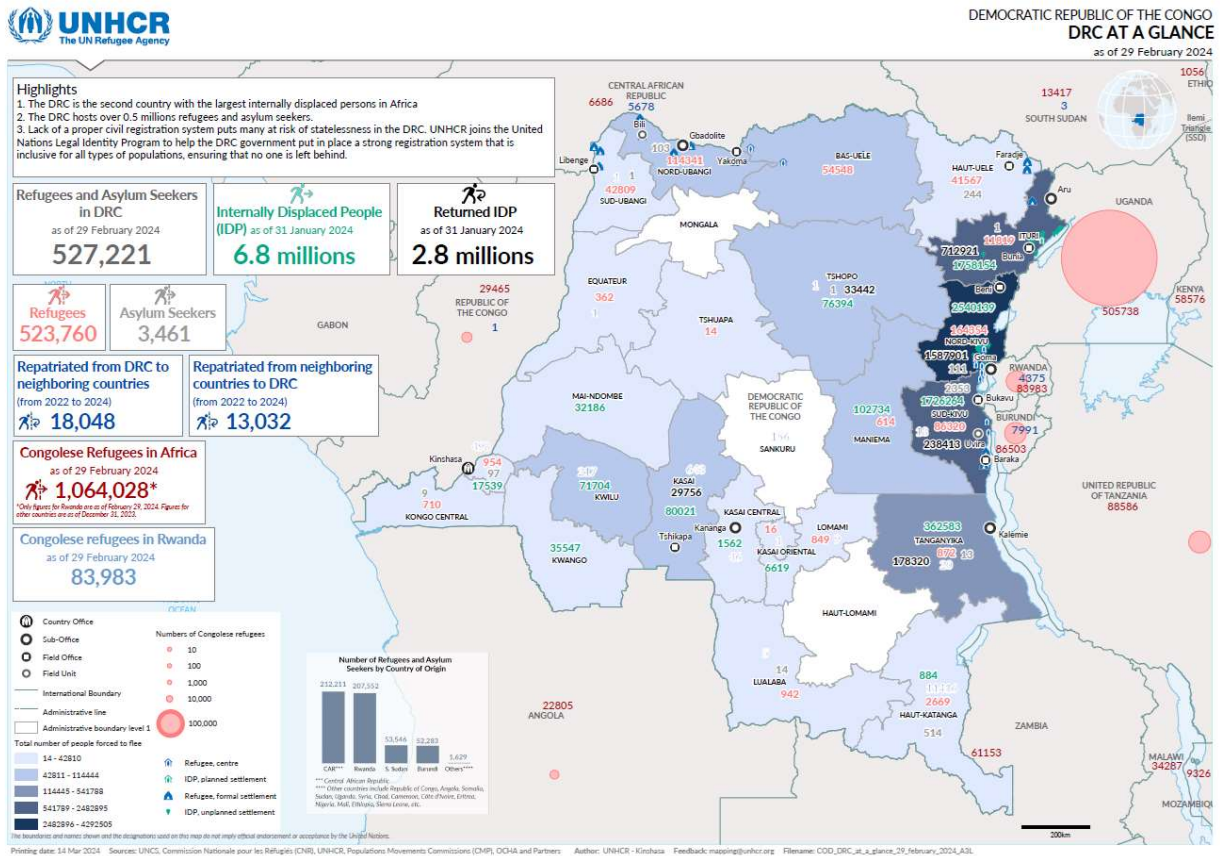
as of 31 March 2024

- Tightly earmarked
- Earmarked
- Softly earmarked (indicative allocation)
- Unearmarked (indicative allocation)
- Funding gap (indicative)

Emergency Response in Eastern DRC

In June 2023, humanitarian actors declared a large-scale emergency for the internal displacement crisis in eastern DRC due to soaring rates of gender-based violence (GBV), epidemics and food insecurity. In the six months of the response, **3.9 million** affected people were reached with assistance out of the 5.11 million targeted. Despite declaring the highest level of system-wide emergency, this effort remained underfunded, with critical sectors like Camp Coordination and Camp Management (CCCM) only receiving 14 per cent of the necessary budget by year end. Conflict continued in early 2024, necessitating that humanitarian actors stay and deliver.

Despite additional logistical challenges and the inherent insecurity of many operating zones, UNHCR's work with cluster partners continues to address the immediate and desperate needs of displaced and host communities.



Response for IDPs

As part of a coordinated approach to the needs of nearly 7 million IDPs, the UNHCR plays a leadership role in the Protection, Camp Coordination and Camp Management, and Emergency Shelter Clusters.

Protection:

- In 2023, the Protection Cluster had supported:
 - 60,090 people forced to flee with psychosocial support.
 - Sensitised 1.14 million community members on the risks from explosives.
 - Provided legal assistance to 23,065 on housing land and property.
 - Supported 15,754 survivors of gender-based violence with medical assistance within 72 hours of assault.
- UNHCR’s community-based protection programmes enabled communities to respond to protection needs themselves and enhance social cohesion. To date in 2023, 95 community structures were strengthened and 28 Quick Impact Projects have been implemented like small scale bakeries near Goma and other projects.



IDPs fleeing to Goma during an intensification of conflict in North Kivu Province in February 2024.

Shelter and Non-Food Items (NFIs):

- In collaboration with its partners, UNHCR continues to construct emergency shelters at planned sites. In 2023, **562,464 individuals** had received shelter assistance in Eastern DRC (North Kivu, South Kivu and Ituri).
- Distribution of NFI kits has been fragmented over the course of 2023 due to heavily restricted humanitarian access, but by December 2023 the cluster had distributed materials benefitting 94,301 individuals.

Camp Coordination and Camp Management

- A primary focus of CCCM was the transfer of families from communal shelters and informal settlements to Shelter Cluster constructed new shelters. Four schools on the Kanyaruchinya axis (North Kivu province) were decongested by transferring displaced people to the official Bushagara site (North Kivu province). This resulted in **15,065 people** benefitting from new shelters and local children being able to return to regular studies at the local school.
- The shortfall in funding to the humanitarian response in the eastern provinces significantly impacted this Cluster. Inadequate access to land for sites as a result of inadequate funds to reimburse landowners contributed to alarming increases in cholera and gender-based violence in overcrowded informal displacement sites in North Kivu in 2023.

The 2024 Humanitarian Response Plan for the DRC requires USD 2.6 billion to assist 8.7 million people.

Refugee Response

UNHCR prioritized initiatives that improved favourable protection environments, assisted refugee populations in realizing their rights, empowered communities and secured solutions. In 2024, the following key results were achieved:

- **Identity documents and civil status registration** have been secured for **23,590** refugees and asylum seekers and 13,550 asylum seekers have been granted refugee status.
- **Long-term shelter** was provided to 475 Central African refugee families in North and South Ubangi.
- **School enrolment** of identified school-aged refugee children **increased by 4 per cent** in Haut Uele and Ituri provinces and across the country **23,259** refugee children were able to access primary education.
- In Haut Uele and Ituri, increased number of refugees supported by agriculture livelihood programmes surged, yielding **1,425 tons of groundnut seeds valued at US\$ 54,655**. Entrepreneurship initiatives aided 400 individuals, and financial services were extended to 1,606 people.
- Efforts to improve the water and sanitation facilities for asylum seekers and refugees in South Kivu, where a cholera outbreak took place in 2023, included the construction of a 120m³ water reservoir at Lusenda camp and **556 family latrines** for Lusenda and Mulongwe sites. In addition, 11 latrines for persons with specific needs and 30 community sanitary blocks were constructed.
- **418 individual cases for resettlement were submitted to resettlement countries**, including 159 Burundian refugees, 81 Central African refugees, and 152 South Sudanese refugees. A further **8,770 refugees returned** in safety and dignity from the DRC to their countries of origin (Burundi, CAR, Rwanda).

Special thanks to the major donors

United States of America | France | CERF | Germany | Japan | Sweden | European Union | Education Cannot Wait | Norway | UN Peacebuilding Fund | Canada | Spain | Vodafone Foundation | UN Trust Fund for Human Security | UN Programme on HIV/AIDS | UN Organization Stabilisation | Other private donors

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