

# Democratic Republic of the Congo

August 2024

The Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) is home to **6.4 million internally displaced individuals (IDPs) and 525,630 refugees**, primarily from the Central African Republic (CAR), Rwanda, South Sudan and Burundi.

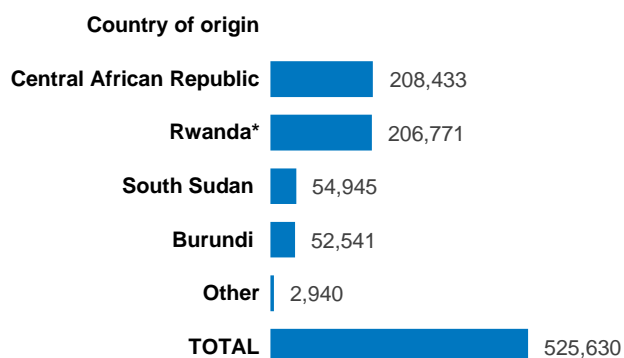
The ongoing and recurring displacement situations in the country affect some of its most isolated and impoverished areas. **UNHCR works to ensure that refugees can live safely and with dignity** by facilitating their access to national services and creating opportunities for resilience.

UNHCR collaborates closely with partners and stakeholders in eastern DRC, including the government, to **deliver essential and lifesaving protection, shelter, relief items and camp coordination services** to IDPs.

## POPULATION OF CONCERN

**523,710** refugees and **1,920** asylum-seekers in DRC

Source: UNHCR 31 August 2024

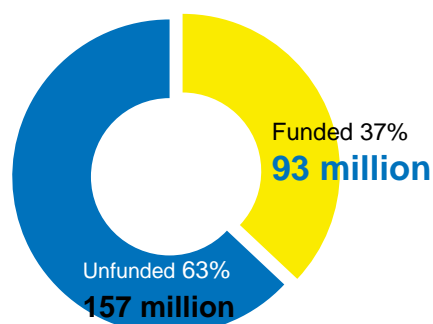


\*The DRC Government reported a pre-registration initiative conducted by the National Commission for Refugees in 2014-2015 identified 245,052 Rwandan refugees. Since 2018 on-going voluntary repatriation efforts have led to a reduction in this number to 206,771, of which 75,096 individuals are registered biometrically.

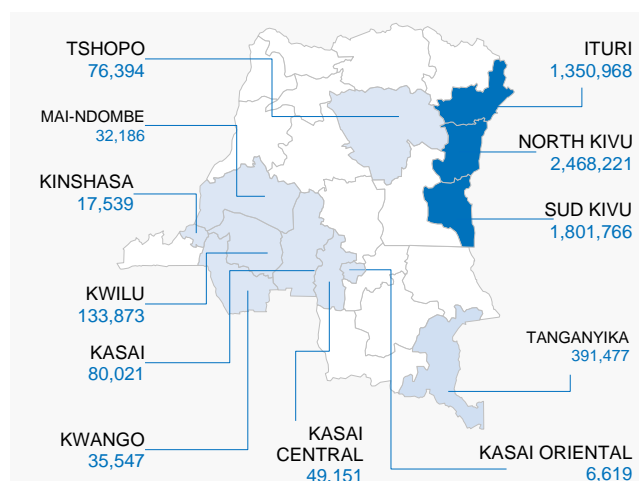
## FUNDING AS OF 31 AUG 2024

**USD 249.7 million**

requested for the DRC operation



## 6.4M Internally Displaced People (IDP)



Provinces of displacement  
 Source: OCHA 31 July 2024.

Want to learn more?

**More Data & Statistics here:** DRC Data Portal

**Social Media:** X @UNHCR\_DRC; Facebook LeHCRenRDC;

**Questions:** Mapendo Simon Lubuku, lubuku@unhcr.org, Tel: +243 81 950 0202  
 Or Rachel Criswell, criswell@unhcr.org, Tel: +243 81 700 9484

# Humanitarian Response to Internal Displacement

In 2024, the DRC continues to grapple with ongoing humanitarian challenges due to increasing insecurity in certain areas and deep-rooted structural issues that heighten the needs of vulnerable populations. The 2023-24 Humanitarian Response Plan (HRP) emphasizes strategic, multisectoral emergency assistance. This response aims not only to address the most pressing needs but also to build resilience and strengthen connections with development and peace-building initiatives, aligning with the nexus and durable solutions framework. Within this response, UNHCR holds leadership roles in the Shelter, Protection, Camp Coordination and Camp Management Clusters as well as the Durable Solutions Task Team.

## Protection

- In 2024, the efforts of protection stakeholders are focused on enhancing the protection, dignity and fundamental rights of forcibly displaced persons. Key interventions include protection monitoring and analysis, coupled with direct engagement with the communities we serve through the implementation of Community-Based Protection Approaches. These actions primarily encompass individual case management, counselling, and psychosocial support delivered through individual or group follow-up, as well as legal assistance, referrals, and advocacy.
- In the first half of 2024, protection monitoring reached **296,660** individuals (target: 870,505).
- UNHCR reached **420,824** internally displaced persons (target: 630,000) with protection services from January to July 2024,
- As of 30 June 2024, some **34,776** women and girls (target: 89,051) accessed, under the Protection Cluster, essential case management services. Between January and July 2024, UNHCR provided specialized GBV programs to **38,819** IDPs, nearing its target of 46,000.

## Camp coordination and management

- The Camp Coordination and Management (CCCM) Cluster focuses on improving the coordination and management of sites, collective centres, and areas of high IDP concentration within host communities. CCCM actors establish and maintain mechanisms for multisectoral interventions at these sites, ensuring active participation from internally displaced persons (IDP) committees. Periodic profiling and/or registration exercises are also conducted, particularly during new influxes into the sites.
- As of 30 June, **654,418** individuals (target: 487,361) were residing in collective sites and facilities, benefiting from site management, administration, or multi-sectoral assistance. Between January and July 2024, a total of **9,032** IDPs (target: 17,000) utilized UNHCR-supported feedback and response mechanisms to express their needs, concerns, and provide feedback.
- Between January and July 2024, a total of **281,615** IDPs (target: 629,844) were individually registered.

### Shelter and non-food items

- The Shelter Cluster and the Non-Food Item (NFI) Task Team are focused on addressing essential needs for the physical and mental well-being of IDPs, as well as improving the living conditions of vulnerable IDPs, IDP returnees, and their host communities.
- As of June 30, 2024, the Shelter Cluster reported that **211,834** internally displaced persons (IDPs) accessed emergency shelter (target: 360,882). From January to July 2024, UNHCR assisted **21,962** IDPs with shelter and housing (target: 60,000).
- As of June 30, 2024, a total of **13,954** returnees, displaced individuals, and members of vulnerable host families and communities accessed non-food items (NFIs) through the Shelter Cluster (target: 1,225,999). From January to July 2024, UNHCR provided NFIs to **28,130** IDPs (target: 72,000).

## UNHCR's multi-sectoral response to the needs of refugees, stateless people and returnees

Nearly all refugee populations in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) have been in the country for five years or more. The response for these groups is founded on sustainable programming and organized around four main pillars: **protection and assistance**, **inclusion**, **self-reliance and resilience**, **durable solutions**, **institutional capacity building** and partnerships with humanitarian, development and peace actors (the nexus approach).

### Protect

- The country's civil registration and vital statistics system is underdeveloped, with for example only 41% of births being registered. In response, UNHCR is partnering with government and civil society organizations to raise awareness, advocate for birth registration and mitigate the risks of statelessness.
- From January to July 2024, UNHCR provided protection services to **182,145** refugees and asylum-seekers (target: 407,039), with **15,904** obtaining civil status, identity documentation, or legal status documentation.
- Between January and August 2024, support was extended to **120** ex-refugees (returning Congolese refugees) for acquiring civil status, identity, or legal documentation. Additionally, **35,515** refugees received specialized gender-based violence (GBV) support (target: 75,200), while 1,131 children and caregivers accessed child protection services (target: 2,673).

### Empower

- Durable solutions like resettlement and voluntary repatriation are accessible to only a limited number of refugees in the DRC each year. Consequently, the DRC emphasizes sustainable programming that promotes self-reliance and resilience for individuals and communities.
- During the first half of 2024 (January-July), UNHCR-supported feedback and response mechanisms were utilized by **120,147** refugees (target: 220,000). In terms of educational support, **22,836** refugee students

received assistance for basic education programming (target: 32,590). Additionally, **19,045** refugees and asylum-seekers benefited from economic inclusion interventions (target: 28,850).

### Assist

- While refugee services are incorporated into national frameworks, the vulnerability of these systems requires continuous assistance from humanitarian organizations in areas such as health, education, social protection, and housing.
- From January to July 2024, a total of **6,499** refugees and asylum-seekers (target: 12,000) received cash-based assistance. In contrast, **47,785** refugees (target: 47,785), particularly those in regions affected by severe flooding—the worst in a century—received non-food items (NFIs) like cooking pots, mosquito nets, and blankets, meeting the target.
- During the same period, **215,613** refugees and asylum-seekers (target: 380,260) accessed water and sanitation services, while **46,166** individual health consultations were provided (target: 30,540).

### Resolve

- Although the annual return of Congolese refugees to the DRC is limited, UNHCR, the government, and partners collaborate to facilitate their reception and promote sustainable reintegration.
- From January to July 2024, a total of **13,500** individuals (target: 20,000) received counselling and information on voluntary repatriation. Meanwhile, **7,996** refugees (target: 15,000) successfully returned to their home country.