

Annual Results Report

2024

Congo

Acknowledgements

UNHCR would like to thank all the stakeholders that contributed data and evidence to this report and reviewed their progress against the joint results of the strategy, including forcibly displaced and stateless people, host communities and host governments, United Nations agencies, and international and national non-governmental organizations, civil society and private sector. Their contributions enable us to create positive changes in the lives of the people we serve.

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Note:

The baseline values presented in this document reflect previous year's progress when available. If such data is not available, strategy baseline values are used instead.

Downloaded date: 28/05/2025

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- 4.1 - Lessons Learned and Future Outlook

Section 1: Context and Overview

1.1 Changes to the Operational Context

The Republic of Congo's operational environment is marked by security stability, though the socio-political situation has become somewhat strained due to the strong calls from political opposition for reforms to ensure free and fair elections in 2026. Additionally, there have been threats from the Armed Forces of the DRC on Wakenze Island, leading to the displacement of over 496 individuals into the interior of the country. The insecurity in the Kwamouth area of Mai-Ndombe province also has consequences for the shared river between the two countries, reducing the operational capacity of UNHCR.

At end 2023, the number of refugees was 65,095 refugees (52% from Central Africans, 42% Congolese from the DRC, 5% Rwandans and 0.77% for other nationalities). In 2024, the Republic of Congo hosted 71,680 refugees including 49% from CAR, 45% from the DRC, 5% from Rwandans and 1% for other nationalities. The comparative analysis shows some changes in the main nationalities: an increase of 3% in the DRC population in 2024 compared to the year 2023 due to the influx of new arrivals and individuals who have been newly registered in ProGres V4; A Rwandan population has remained the same and has had no change; A decrease of 3% in the Central African population due to voluntary departures and Resettlement. The country's population, as per the 2023 census, is 6.1 million, with a large youth demographic, as 47% of the population is under 18. This means that one in every 100 people in the country is a refugee. The Republic of Congo is one of the least densely populated countries in Africa, with 14.8 people per square kilometre. Over half of the population lives in the cities of Brazzaville and Pointe-Noire, while 79% of refugees reside in rural areas, which is an important factor for development.

On the economic front, the Republic of Congo saw moderate growth in 2024, largely driven by the oil sector, which contributes half of the GDP and 80% of exports. The agricultural sector, which is the main livelihood for refugees, contributed just 9% to GDP in 2023, according to the World Bank, and occupies only 4% of the country's land. While inflation remained stable, a significant portion of the population lives below the poverty line, especially in rural areas that house 79% of the displaced persons.

Despite these challenges in 2024, the country's leadership has moved forward with structural reforms and played a role in addressing regional crises. On a national level, the adoption of a new law to combat cross-border crime and irregular migration, the creation of a national commission on statelessness, the Republic of Congo's co-chairing of the CAR Platform, and the March 2024 update of the country's development policy all demonstrates the President's commitment to progress.

Furthermore, the refugee protection environment has been strengthened through a joint verification and registration exercise, coupled with the collection of socio-economic data on refugees to include vulnerable individuals in the unique social registry (RSU). This step is crucial in enhancing sustainable solutions and promoting the empowerment and integration of refugees through reliable and up-to-date data. As of December 31, 2024, the operation registered the following statistics: 60,565 individuals, primarily from the Central African Republic (49%), the Democratic Republic of Congo (45%), and Rwanda (5%).

A situation of new influx is currently being monitored in the Plateaux and Pool regions, where populations from the DRC are fleeing ethnic conflicts in Bolobo and Kwamouth. This requires advocacy with various development stakeholders for better inclusion of refugees in national programs. This situation creates challenges related to humanitarian access and basic social services, increasing the vulnerability risks for host families in the Plateaux and Pool regions.

1.2. Progress Against the Desired Impact

1. Impact Area: Attaining Favorable Protection Environments

By 2024, all refugees, persons at risk of statelessness, internally displaced people enjoy their fundamental rights and live above the extreme poverty line while enjoying equitable access to basic social services.

Population Type	Indicator	
	Baseline	Actual (2024)
1.1 Proportion of people seeking international protection who are able to access asylum procedures		
Refugees and Asylum-seekers	96.95%	94.67%
1.2 Proportion of people who are able to move freely within the country of habitual residence		
Refugees and Asylum-seekers	99.99%	62.33%

As a result of trainings and dissemination of the Asylum Law No. 41-2021 of September 29, 2021, which defines the right to asylum and refugee status, among the country's authorities, UNHCR Congo reported no cases of refoulement in 2024, compared to three cases in 2023. The annual target of processing 300 cases was achieved. While 284 individuals applied for asylum in 2024, only 69 applicants received a positive response (68 from the Eligibility Commission and 1 from the Appeals Commission), which represents 24%. A significant number of applications were rejected, mainly because the applicants did not meet the necessary criteria to obtain refugee status. Thanks to our efforts, 69 asylum seekers were granted refugee status. In 2025, we will continue to advocate with the authorities to ensure that the remaining 7,418 cases also receive refugee status.

In 2023, 37,000 refugees in the Republic of Congo lacked identification documents, which made them vulnerable to police harassment and severely limited their access to essential services. However, a verification and registration operation carried out in 2023-2024 resulted in the issuance of over 8,000 identity cards, significantly improving the legal security of refugees and their access to healthcare, education, employment, and financial services. Thanks to our advocacy, asylum seekers and refugees now have freedom of movement across the country, and their fundamental rights are respected.

Despite these advancements, there is an urgent need to issue an additional 29,000 identity cards by 2025 to ensure full protection and support the integration of refugees. Without these documents, adult refugees face significant obstacles in exercising their rights and participating in community life. In 2025, the operation will continue to advocate with the authorities to encourage the adoption of the implementing decree for the Asylum Law to further strengthen refugee protection and rights in the Republic of Congo.

3. Impact Area: Empowering Communities and Achieving Gender Equality

By 2024, 50% of refugee's including women, youth and vulnerable groups, are able to enjoy productive decent lives and benefit from National Social Safety nets when needed.

Population Type	Indicator	
	Baseline	Actual (2024)
3.1 Proportion of people who have the right to decent work		
Refugees and Asylum-seekers	40.81%	40.00%
3.2a Proportion of children and young people enrolled in primary education		
Refugees and Asylum-seekers	87.02%	93.00%
3.2b Proportion of children and young people enrolled in secondary education		
Refugees and Asylum-seekers	12.94%	92.00%
3.3 Proportion of people feeling safe walking alone in their neighbourhood after dark		
Refugees and Asylum-seekers	50.63%	70.00%

Through advocacy, the intervention of the government, and the support of development partners, 2,509 refugees from the Likouala department, out of a total of 4,000, have been included in the national social safety net protection project, "Projet Lisungi." As a result, their weekly income has more than doubled, increasing from 5,500 CFA in May 2022 to 12,961 CFA today. Similarly, the income of indigenous households has also improved significantly, rising from 1,263 CFA in May 2022 to 6,848 CFA currently.

This inclusion has also enabled refugee children to access both primary and secondary education, leading to a substantial increase in school enrollment among children in the beneficiary households. Specifically, the enrollment rate for children aged 6-11 has risen from 87% in May 2022 to 93%, while the enrollment for children aged 12-18 has increased from 86% to 92%. There has been a particularly notable improvement in the enrollment of indigenous children, with the rate for children aged 6-11 increasing from 38% in May 2022 to 77%, and for those aged 12-18, the rate grew from 28% to 79%.

Thanks to the efforts of UNHCR in installing 18 solar-powered street lamps and other initiatives, the roads and refugee sites in Betou, Bouemba, and Ngabé are now well-lit, enabling refugees to move around safely at night. These efforts have contributed to a 42% decrease in violent incidents in the area, with cases dropping from 138 in 2023 to 58 in 2024. If resources are available in 2025, this initiative could reduce the number of cases by over 60%.

4. Impact Area: Securing Solutions

By 2024, at least 70% of refugees have enjoyed their desired durable and alternative solutions.

Population Type	Indicator	
	Baseline	Actual (2024)
4.1 Number of refugees who voluntarily return in safety and dignity to their country of origin		
Refugees and Asylum-seekers	0	46
4.2a Number of people who departed on resettlement		
Refugees and Asylum-seekers	11	20
4.2b Number of people who departed through complementary pathways		
Refugees and Asylum-seekers	9	11
4.3a Number of stateless people for whom nationality is granted or confirmed		
Stateless Persons	0	0
4.3b Number of refugees for whom residency status is granted or confirmed		
Refugees and Asylum-seekers	0	0

In 2024, as a result of UNHCR’s efforts and its strong partnership with WFP, 46 refugees from the Central African Republic (comprising 17 families) voluntarily returned, securing a lasting solution.

Through cooperation with the International Organization for Migration, 20 refugees were resettled in the United States from a pool of 540 cases, enhancing both their protection and economic opportunities. Furthermore, 11 refugees benefited from complementary pathways, marking a 22% increase compared to 9 in 2023.

UNHCR has been actively working on the naturalization of refugees in the Republic of Congo. A legal assistance strategy has been created for eligible refugees wishing to acquire Congolese nationality. To date, 100 refugees have been informed about the naturalization criteria, and a law firm has been engaged to provide them with assistance throughout the process.

In 2024, a total of 22,800 individuals, including more than 14,000 refugees, received primary healthcare at three UNHCR-supported health centers, reaching 74% of the target. This represents a decline from 2023, when 30,783 individuals received healthcare services. The decrease in performance was primarily attributed to lower attendance at healthcare facilities, due to a reduction in medical supplies and staff shortages. However, there was a notable improvement in healthcare outcomes, as the refugee population's mortality rate dropped from 22 deaths in 2023 to 9 in 2024. Additionally, mobile clinics played a key role in increasing measles vaccination coverage, raising the vaccination rate for refugee children under five from 40% to 70%.

The 2024 general population and housing census revealed that 46.8% of the Congolese population lives below the poverty line, with refugees, who make up 1% of the population, facing similar hardships.

Thanks to UNHCR's advocacy efforts, along with support from the government and UN agencies, 60.44% of refugees in reception areas have gained access to health centers, schools, and WASH facilities in Betou, Bouemba, and Ngabé.

Other Core Impact Indicators

Country	Population Type	Baseline	Actual(2024)
2.2 Proportion of people residing in physically safe and secure settlements with access to basic facilities			
Congo-Brazzaville	Refugees and Asylum-seekers	60.44%	70.00%
2.3 Proportion of people with access to health services			
Congo-Brazzaville	Refugees and Asylum-seekers	59.91%	74.08%

1.3 Challenges to Achieving Impacts

In 2024, UNHCR faced several significant challenges:
The operation received only 19.34% of the requested operational funding (OP) last year. Resource mobilization efforts by UNHCR, its partners, and the refugee community were insufficient and need to be strengthened.

There is a need to further strengthen and expand strategic partnership.

Advocacy for the issuance of a decree to promote Asylum Law No. 41-2021, which outlines the right to asylum and refugee status, should be more structured and impact-oriented.

Continued advocacy with the Ministry of Health is necessary for the transfer of three health facilities from UNHCR to the state. These facilities should be incorporated into the MDA partnership to ensure the full inclusion of refugees in the national system.

Advocacy with the Ministry of Water Resources is also required to ensure that refugee-hosting areas are included in national programs.

Difficult access in intervention areas has highlighted the need for reinforced community-based protection and the implementation of remote monitoring.

The limited presence of development actors, the private sector, the UN system, and government services in UNHCR Congo's areas of operation necessitates a more proactive approach from UNHCR to ensure refugees' inclusion in the United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework.

National fuel shortages pose a threat to the implementation of activities. UNHCR needs to improve its fuel storage capacity to mitigate such challenges in the future.

1.4 Collaboration and Partnerships

Thanks to excellent collaboration with sister UN agencies, UNHCR secured \$1.1 million from the CERF fund to support over 51,000 refugees and host populations affected by floods. The funding covered protection, shelter, WASH, food security, and health sectors. Additionally, UNHCR mobilized \$56,000 from UNAIDS, which enabled HIV care for 2,216 pregnant women living with HIV in 2024, up from 1,771 in 2023. Through UNHCR's advocacy with foreign embassies in Brazzaville, urban refugees were able to participate in various solidarity markets. Refugees were allocated up to 10% of the market stalls, which led to rapid promotion of their goods and showcased their talents, expanding their customer base immediately.

UNHCR works closely with national and local stakeholders to strengthen refugee protection and achieve durable solutions. Key partners include the National Commission for Refugee Assistance (CNAR), local NGOs such as "Médecin d'Afrique, Association des Professionnels en protection de l'enfant "APPE", and commission d'entraide pour les Migrants et les Réfugiés "CEMIR", as well as UN agencies within the UN Country Team and its working groups. This ensures coordinated efforts to integrate refugees into national programs and aligns with the UN SDGs, particularly the principle of "Leave No One Behind." In 2024, UNHCR successfully advocated for the inclusion of refugees in national project under World Bank loan projects in Gamboma and Likouala such as :

Funds raising for Refugee through World Bank project on education called "TRESOR", aiming to improving access to quality education in refugee-hosting areas.

Inclusion of refugees in the project called "Youth Social Inclusion (PSIPJ)" between government for the Republic of Congo and the World Bank.

Ongoing collaboration with the World Bank's Health and Ministry of Social Affairs "Kobikissa".

UNHCR advocacy resulted to the selection of Likouala to implement area-based approach (zone de convergence). UN agencies development projects and funds will be directed in area-hosting refugees in the UNSDCF (United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework).

UNHCR is also involved in the National Coordination Mechanism for Flood Response and aligns with regional plans, including the DRC Refugee Response Plan (2024-2025) and the CAR Solutions Support Platform (CAR-SSP). At the field level, UNHCR participates in the Likouala coordination meetings and contributes to the 2025-2029 Likouala Development Plan.

In collaboration with the Geneva Technical Hub, UNHCR has worked on flood risk mitigation in Likouala, including a mission to Bétou to build technical capacity and propose solutions. Additionally, UNHCR has partnered with the Washing Machine Project to provide eco-friendly laundry solutions that support refugees and host communities, especially women and girls, promoting empowerment and livelihood opportunities.

UNHCR continues to advocate with the World Bank to enhance the socio-economic inclusion of refugees, with a focus on education (TRESOR), social protection (Lisungi, National Social Nets Program, and PSIJ), health (Kobikisa), climate, and livelihoods (ProClimat). In collaboration with the French Development Agency (AFD), UNHCR is working to include refugees in national programs, particularly through the Mossala project, co-funded by the EU, which helps vulnerable youth integrate into the labor market.

Finally, advocacy with the diplomatic corps, including the EU Delegation and the Italian and Ivorian Embassies, enabled refugees to participate in solidarity markets, further promoting their integration.

Section 2: Results

2.1. Outcomes and Achievements

1. Outcome Area: Access to Territory, Reg. and Documentation

By the end of 2024, the implementation of the national legal framework will offer permanent access to territory, timely RSD procedures and will allow fair registration, profiling and documentation in line with international and regional conventions.

Core Outcome Indicators

Indicator			
Population Type	Baseline	Target (2024)	Actual (2024)
1.1 Proportion of refugees and asylum seekers registered on an individual basis			
Refugees and Asylum-seekers	97.04%	97.00%	59.17%
1.2 Proportion of children under 5 years of age whose births have been registered with a civil authority			
Refugees and Asylum-seekers	72.88%	80.00%	34.21%
1.3 Proportion of people with legally recognized identity documents or credentials			
Refugees and Asylum-seekers	93.00%	94.00%	29.18%

Core Output Indicators

Indicator	
Population Type	Actual (2024)
01.1.1 Number of people registered on an individual basis	
Refugees and Asylum-seekers	11,115
01.2.1 Number of people supported to obtain civil status, identity or legal status documentation	
Refugees and Asylum-seekers	8,200
Stateless Persons	21,433

Progress Against the Desired Outcome

Thanks to a comprehensive verification and registration operation conducted from July to December 2023 to July to October 2024, UNHCR successfully verified 60,565 individuals, including 11,115 new registrations on an individual basis in progress V4, bringing the total to 71,680 refugees, with a 96% improvement in the quality of demographic data.

In 2023, 37,000 refugees in the Republic of Congo lacked identity documents, making them vulnerable to harassment and severely limiting their access to essential services. However, a verification and registration operation in 2023-2024 successfully issued over 8,000 ID cards, improving refugees' legal security and their access to healthcare, education, employment, and financial services. Despite this, there is an urgent need to issue 29,000 more IDs by 2025 to ensure full protection and support refugee integration. Without these documents, adult refugees face significant barriers in exercising their rights and engaging in community life.

This strategic use of resources enabled the update of biometric enrollment, issuance of identity cards, and

preparation for planning for 2025-2026.

For preventing and combatting statelessness, Mobile courts have been instrumental in providing 21,413 rulings for both host and refugee populations, which positively impacted the lives of nearly 500 refugee students who received birth certificates enabling them to sit for national exams

In 2024, out of 284 asylum applications, only 69 were approved, with 68 granted by the eligibility commission and 1 by the appeals commission, resulting in a 24% approval rate. The majority of applications were denied due to applicants failing to meet the necessary criteria for refugee status.

Thanks to the awareness raising of refugees by the UNHCR and the government's partner CNAR, 40 asylum seekers were able to effectively access the appeal procedure by filing an appeal with the commission after their case was rejected in the first instance by the eligibility commission. Although only one case was approved by the appeals committee, thanks to this awareness-raising, asylum seekers have improved their knowledge allowing them to appeal to the judicial authorities on their own.

3. Outcome Area: Protection Policy and Law

By the end of 2024, the national legal framework offers permanent access to territory, timely RSD procedures and allows fair registration, profiling and documentation in line with international and regional conventions.

Core Outcome Indicators

Indicator			
Population Type	Baseline	Target (2024)	Actual (2024)
3.1 Extent national legal framework is in line with the 1951 Convention and/or its 1967 Protocol			
None	Broadly aligned	Progressing toward alignment	Progressing toward alignment
3.2 Extent national legal framework is in line with the 1961 Convention on the Reduction of Statelessness			
None	Broadly aligned	Broadly aligned	Progressing toward alignment

Core Output Indicators

Indicator	
Population Type	Actual (2024)
03.1.1 UNHCR has engaged in legislative and judicial processes to strengthen laws and policies for the protection of refugees, IDPs, returnees and stateless people and/or the reduction and prevention of statelessness	
Refugees and Asylum-seekers	Yes

Progress Against the Desired Outcome

UNHCR and partner CNAR organized advocacy and popularization activities of Law No. 49-2021 of 29 September 2021 on asylum status with the authorities. Thanks to the advocacy of UNHCR and its partner CNAR, the implementing decree was developed and adopted by the Council of Ministers. To date, the President of the Republic has signed this implementing decree.

Thanks to the three (3) workshops organized by the UNHCR and the partner CNAR in Brazzaville, Pointe-Noire and Ouessou on the popularization of Law No. 41-2021 of September 29, 2021, establishing the right of asylum and refugee status in the Republic of Congo, public and private civil and military authorities as well as at the level of banking institutions have improved their knowledge on the right of asylum and refugee status and this has made it possible to: reduce the problem of police harassment in the middle of traffic that refugees experience. Thanks to the development of the national asylum strategy by UNHCR with the support of its partner CNAR, the diagnosis of the asylum problem in the Republic of Congo has been made.

Thanks to UNHCR's advocacy and the interventions of the partner CNAR with the police and at the court level, several cases of refugees and asylum seekers arrested in police stations or having disputes at the level of the labour inspectorate or the courts have been able to have their cases resolved.

As part of the fight against statelessness, UNHCR's efforts have focused on a host population of 150,000 people who do not have identity documents. In addition, the operation provided 3000 birth certificate registers and computer equipment to the Government through the Ministry of Justice to facilitate the issuance of birth certificates to the 150,000 people at risk of statelessness. Thanks to the organization of mobile courts, 21,413 judgments have been issued to Congolese children, adults and elderly people without civil status documents to facilitate the acquisition of birth certificates.

UNHCR with the support of the National Committee for the Eradication of Statelessness, more of 20000 people were sensitized on the importance of birth registration and legal identity. UNHCR has supported the Government in the work of amending the Congolese Family Code, which will improve access to birth registration.

As a result, nearly 500 refugee students were able to obtain birth certificates, enabling them to participate in national exams.

4. Outcome Area: Gender-based Violence

By 2024, ROC Government can provide equal and adequate protection services enabling resilience opportunities for GBV survivors and Children.

Core Outcome Indicators

Population Type	Indicator		
	Baseline	Target (2024)	Actual (2024)
4.1 Proportion of people who know where to access available GBV services			
Refugees and Asylum-seekers	63.38%	100.00%	80.00%
4.2 Proportion of people who do not accept violence against women			
Refugees and Asylum-seekers	40.00%	93.00%	70.00%
4.3 Proportion of survivors who are satisfied with GBV case management services			
Refugees and Asylum-seekers	52.90%	75.00%	42.03%

Core Output Indicators

Indicator	
Population Type	Actual (2024)
04.1.1 Number of people who benefitted from specialized GBV programmes	
Refugees and Asylum-seekers	6,949

Progress Against the Desired Outcome

The UNHCR's Gender-Based Violence (GBV) awareness program reached 6,949 individuals across Brazzaville, Likouala, Plateaux, and Pool. As a result, the number of reported rape cases dropped by 42%, from 138 in 2023 to 58 in 2024. Survivors of these incidents received comprehensive medical, psychological, and social support. If funding is available in 2025, the program aims to reduce the number of cases by over 60%. Additionally, 5,814 women and girls of reproductive age in Likouala, Plateaux, and Pool were provided with dignity kits, which contained essential hygiene products.

A participatory evaluation conducted in 2024 in Brazzaville and Ngabe showed a significant increase in awareness among refugees and asylum seekers. The evaluation revealed that 42% of individuals knew where to report GBV, and 30% were aware of the necessary steps to report such incidents. If resources allow, UNHCR plans to extend this participatory evaluation to other refugee-hosting areas in 2025.

In 2024, 1,497 children benefited from child protection services, which included panels focused on the best interests of the child, case management, and support for at-risk children. The number of panels organized to determine the best interests of the child increased from 11 in 2023 to 20 in 2024, marking an 82% rise. This improvement is largely attributed to the CERF funding, which enabled the operation to assist children in Gamboma, Bétou, Ngabe, and Brazzaville. As a result, many children were placed in foster care or appropriate facilities (such as orphanages), ensuring their safety and well-being.

7. Outcome Area: Community Engagement and Women's Empowerment

By 2024, more women can play an active role for peaceful coexistence in all rural communities hosting Persons of concern.

Core Outcome Indicators

Population Type	Indicator		
	Baseline	Target (2024)	Actual (2024)
7.1 Extent participation of displaced and stateless people across programme phases is supported.			
Refugees and Asylum-seekers	Moderate	Moderate	Moderate
7.2 Proportion of people who have access to safe feedback and response mechanisms			
Refugees and Asylum-seekers	90.69%	93.00%	71.17%
7.3 Proportion of women participating in leadership/management structures			
Refugees and Asylum-seekers	10.00%	40.00%	20.00%

Core Output Indicators

Indicator	
Population Type	Actual (2024)
07.1.1 Number of people consulted through Participatory Assessments	
Refugees and Asylum-seekers	274
07.2.1 Number of people who used UNHCR- supported feedback & response mechanisms to voice their needs/ concerns/feedback	
Refugees and Asylum-seekers	2,135
07.3.1 Number of people who received protection services	
Refugees and Asylum-seekers	21,418

Progress Against the Desired Outcome

Thanks to the UNHCR's efforts, 56% of the refugee population actively participates in community activities, including social events, government activities, and worship and prayer.

Additionally, 49% of refugees believe that the management structure overseeing refugee affairs is representative, and 100% find the refugee support structures to be useful. Furthermore, 98% are aware of how to provide feedback or file complaints regarding UNHCR and other service providers.

8. Outcome Area: Well-Being and Basic Needs

By 2024, All refugees & asylum seekers identified in acute needs receive adequate basic assistance enabling their well-being in a sustainable manner

Core Outcome Indicators

Population Type	Indicator		
	Baseline	Target (2024)	Actual (2024)
8.1 Proportion of people that receive cash transfers and/or non-food items			
Refugees and Asylum-seekers	39.16%	80.00%	85.66%
8.2 Proportion of people with primary reliance on clean (cooking) fuels and technology			
Refugees and Asylum-seekers	15.00%	50.00%	20.00%

Core Output Indicators

Indicator		Actual (2024)
Population Type		
08.1.1 Number of people who received cash assistance		
Refugees and Asylum-seekers		651
08.2.1 Number of people who received non-food items		
Refugees and Asylum-seekers		6,093
08.3.1 Number of people supported with improved cooking options		
Refugees and Asylum-seekers		0

Progress Against the Desired Outcome

In 2024, 651 individuals received cash assistance to cover essential needs such as rent, food, children's education, healthcare, and small businesses, which helped improve the livelihoods of refugees.

Thanks to the UNHCR and its advocacy with UNICEF, the amount of potable water provided per person per day increased from 8.8 liters in 2023 to 17.59 liters, benefiting 23,700 people in the Likouala and Plateaux regions. Thanks to the efforts made to improve access to water for 23,700 people, the Congo has been spared the cholera epidemic and water-related infections. UNHCR's water treatment initiatives have also played a key role in preventing epidemics in the affected areas.

The UNHCR's water treatment initiatives also played a key role in preventing epidemics in affected areas. In 2025, if financial resources are available, efforts will continue to treat the 1,761 reported cases.

Through capacity building for 135 members of WASH committees and community relays, 51,442 refugees and host community members in Likouala, Plateaux, and Pool were educated on proper hygiene and sanitation practices.

Furthermore, the construction and rehabilitation of 444 shower latrines, the disinfection of 112 latrines, and the distribution of 1,242 latrine kits to 10,250 households in Likouala and Plateaux greatly improved refugees' living conditions. In response to flooding, UNHCR provided shelter kits to 1,000 families, supporting 5,681 individuals in Likouala and Plateaux. Additionally, 2 health center buildings and 83 shelter roofs were rehabilitated.

The installation of streetlights in refugee sites has helped to reduce incidents of gender-based violence, theft and crime, from 138 cases of rape in 2023 to 58 cases in 2024. To address erosion and improve green spaces in refugee-hosting areas, 673 trees were planted in Bouemba and Betou. In response to flooding in Likouala and Plateaux, 118 tents were provided to affected households. These initiatives have played a key role in enhancing the well-being of the populations and improving the living conditions for refugees.

10. Outcome Area: Healthy Lives

By 2024, all refugees and asylum seekers receive equitable, affordable and quality, both preventive and curative, healthcare services through the national health system.

Core Outcome Indicators

Population Type	Indicator		
	Baseline	Target (2024)	Actual (2024)
10.1 Proportion of children aged 9 months to five years who have received measles vaccination			
Refugees and Asylum-seekers	42.21%	47.00%	87.60%
10.2. Proportion of births attended by skilled health personnel			
Refugees and Asylum-seekers	98.94%	99.00%	99.86%

Core Output Indicators

Indicator	
Population Type	Actual (2024)
10.1.1 Number of individual consultations in UNHCR supported health care services	
Refugees and Asylum-seekers	22,800
10.2.1 Number of consultations in UNHCR supported mental health and psychosocial support services	
Refugees and Asylum-seekers	58

Progress Against the Desired Outcome

The operation's health strategy focuses on enhancing collaboration with the Ministry of Health and international partners (including the World Bank, UN agencies, and NGOs) to improve access to primary healthcare in refugee-hosting areas, benefiting both the local population and refugees through complementary interventions.

This partnership, along with additional funding from CERF, UNAIDS, and PRM, has facilitated the integration of refugees into the national health system. Ongoing discussions with health authorities and UN

agencies (UNICEF, UNFPA, WHO, WFP) have further reinforced the inclusion of refugees in the national healthcare system, ensuring they receive the same services as the host population.

UNHCR's advocacy efforts with the Likouala health department led to the handover of a building to the Ministry of Health. The establishment of a new health area will enhance access to healthcare services.

Collaboration with the district's rapid health teams and the provision of vaccines to supported health facilities have improved immunization coverage (1,604 children vaccinated out of 1,831 expected). The performance of assisted deliveries through mobile clinics has reached 99.86% (2,158 out of 2,161), with 12 mobile clinic activities helping to improve birth monitoring and the overall quality of health services.

11. Outcome Area: Education

By 2024, all refugees children in age of being in primary school have equal access to national education systems and enjoy quality education.

Core Outcome Indicators

Population Type	Indicator		
	Baseline	Target (2024)	Actual (2024)
11.1 Proportion of young people enrolled in tertiary and higher education			
Refugees and Asylum-seekers	0.00%		22.67%
11.2 Proportion of children and young people enrolled in the national education system			
Refugees and Asylum-seekers	66.68%	70.00%	35.02%

Core Output Indicators

Indicator	
Population Type	Actual (2024)
11.1.1 Number of people who benefitted from education programming	
Refugees and Asylum-seekers	11,749

Progress Against the Desired Outcome

The social safety net project has significantly improved the inclusion of refugee children in the Lisungi project, leading to a notable increase in enrolment rates for children in beneficiary households. The enrolment rate for children aged 6-11 rose from 87% in May 2022 to 93% in 2024, while the rate for children aged 12-18 increased from 86% in 2022 to 92% in 2024. A significant improvement was also seen in the enrolment rates of indigenous children, with the rate for 6-11-year-olds rising from 38% in May 2022 to 77% in 2024, and for 12-18-year-olds, it increased from 28% to 79%.

The positive impact of this inclusion was evident, as refugee households in May 2022 showed a higher priority placed on their children's school fees compared to Congolese and non-Congolese indigenous households. Over the six months preceding the survey, the amounts spent by refugee households (17,495 CFA), Congolese households (11,616 CFA), and non-Congolese indigenous households (6,886 CFA) reflected this shift. Indigenous households, which had spent just 2,176 CFA in May 2022, also saw improvement. This progress is largely attributed to communication and awareness-raising campaigns about the conditions tied to conditional cash transfers.

13. Outcome Area: Self Reliance, Economic Inclusion and Livelihoods

By 2024, 50% of youth and adults are able to carry out economic activities generating enough income to support the family basic needs.

Core Outcome Indicators

Population Type	Indicator		
	Baseline	Target (2024)	Actual (2024)
13.1. Proportion of people with an account at a bank or other financial institution or with a mobile-money-service provider			
Refugees and Asylum-seekers	71.19%	75.00%	71.19%
13.2. Proportion of people who self-report positive changes in their income compared to previous year			
Refugees and Asylum-seekers	88.46%	90.00%	87.00%

Core Output Indicators

Population Type	Indicator
	Actual (2024)
13.1.1 Number of people who benefitted from livelihoods and economic inclusion interventions	
Refugees and Asylum-seekers	317

Progress Against the Desired Outcome

Thanks to the UNHCR, the Government, and the Lisungi social safety net project, the living conditions of refugee households have significantly improved, increasing from 69% to 87%. This improvement is also reflected in the reduction of unemployed heads of refugee households, which dropped from 47% to 8%, thanks to the cash transfers provided. This support has greatly impacted weekly household income, which has more than doubled from 5,500 XAF in May 2022 to 12,961 XAF today. Indigenous households in the host population have also experienced a remarkable increase in income, rising from 1,263 XAF in May 2022 to 6,848 XAF today, primarily due to remittances.

With the support of the UNHCR and its partners, 80% of urban and rural refugees and asylum seekers of working age now have mobile money accounts with MTN and Airtel Money, while fewer than 6% hold accounts with microfinance institutions to help develop their business activities.

Thanks to the UNHCR's efforts and the success of the Lisungi project, 81% of refugees reported an increase in their income in 2024 compared to the previous year and now feel more financially stable.

14. Outcome Area: Voluntary Return and Sustainable Reintegration

By 2024, 100 per cent of refugees who opt for voluntary repatriation are granted support for return.

Core Output Indicators

Indicator	
Population Type	Actual (2024)
14.1.1 Number of people who received counselling and/or information on voluntary repatriation	
Refugees and Asylum-seekers	16,679

Progress Against the Desired Outcome

Following the refugee verification process carried out by the UNHCR in the context of voluntary repatriation, 24,433 refugees have expressed their intention to return to their home countries in safety and dignity. This includes 16,370 Central Africans (67%) and 7,574 Congolese (31%). In 2025, the UNHCR will mobilize funds and engage in advocacy with the government and partners to initiate the voluntary repatriation of both Central African and Congolese refugees from the DRC. The UNHCR will utilize the CAR platform for solutions to ensure alignment with the return guidelines set by the governments involved in the repatriation of Central African refugees.

15. Outcome Area: Resettlement and Complementary Pathways

By 2024, all refugees in acute need of adequate protection solutions are resettled, and alternative opportunities in third countries are offered

Core Outcome Indicators

Indicator			
Population Type	Baseline	Target (2024)	Actual (2024)
15.1 Number of refugees submitted by UNHCR for resettlement			
Refugees and Asylum-seekers	8	15	18

Core Output Indicators

Indicator	
Population Type	Actual (2024)
15.1.1 Country issues machine-readable travel documents	
Refugees and Asylum-seekers	Yes

Progress Against the Desired Outcome

In 2024, thanks to the work of UNHCR, 540 resettlement applications were submitted by refugees for processing compared to 2023 when 350 resettlement applications were filed. We have noted an increase in files in 2024 due to the 350 old files from 2023 that have been added to those from 2024

In 2024, the average processing time between the resettlement application submitted by refugees and the departure for resettlement in a third country was 4 years because the processing of the files of the 20 people who went on resettlement in 2024 dates back to at least 2020.

11 refugees benefited from complementary pathways, marking a 22% increase compared to 9 in 2023.

16. Outcome Area: Integration and other Local Solutions

By the end 2024, legal and socio-economic opportunities enabling local integration are available for refugees in Congo

Core Outcome Indicators

Population Type	Indicator		
	Baseline	Target (2024)	Actual (2024)
16.1 Proportion of people with secure tenure rights to housing and/or land			
Refugees and Asylum-seekers	20.00%	20.00%	25.00%
16.2 Proportion of people covered by national social protection systems			
Refugees and Asylum-seekers	62.73%	70.00%	41.05%

Core Output Indicators

Indicator	
Population Type	Actual (2024)
16.1.1. Government Social protection system is inclusive of forcibly displaced and stateless people	
Refugees and Asylum-seekers	Partially
16.2.1 Number of people supported by UNHCR to acquire nationality, permanent residency status or to access naturalization procedures	
Refugees and Asylum-seekers	0

Progress Against the Desired Outcome

Through the efforts of UNHCR and the Lisungi project, 87% of refugee households have experienced improvements in their living conditions, particularly in areas such as livelihoods, empowerment, health, education, and income-generating activities.

With the support of the World Bank and in alignment with the government's commitment to refugee inclusion and assistance to the host community as outlined in its development policy letter, 8,840 individuals, including 3,629 refugees, have been included in the national safety net program (Lisungi). These individuals have benefited from conditional cash transfers and financial aid for income-generating activities.

The sharing of socio-economic data from the Single Social Register (RSU) has provided the government with reliable data, allowing for better targeting of refugees and asylum seekers in the future and facilitating their integration into national social programs such as Kobikissa and others. Refugees and asylum seekers in the Republic of Congo have also gained from the Lisungi project through assistance for income-generating activities and conditional cash transfers for health and education.

Furthermore, advocacy efforts and partnerships with the private sector, NGOs, and bilateral partners have enabled refugees to enhance their livelihoods, including support for market gardening, capacity building, training, and in-kind contributions from the private sector to help with construction work involving both refugees and the local population.

In 2025, thanks to UNHCR's efforts, 25% of refugees and asylum seekers own some housing, shops, small businesses and some land in urban and rural areas.

Other Core Outcome Indicators

Population Type	Baseline	Target(2024)	Actual(2024)
2.1 Average processing time (in days) from registration to first instance asylum decision			
Refugees and Asylum-seekers	90.00	90.00	90.00
2.2 Proportion of people undergoing asylum procedures who have access to legal representation			
Refugees and Asylum-seekers	95.44%	95.00%	50.83%
2.3 Proportion of people undergoing asylum procedures who have access to an effective appeal mechanism after first instance rejection of their claim			
Refugees and Asylum-seekers	12.50%	14.00%	24.54%
5.1 Proportion of children at heightened risk who are supported by a Best Interests Procedure			
Refugees and Asylum-seekers	15.44%	60.00%	83.33%
5.2 Proportion of children who participate in community-based child protection programmes			
Refugees and Asylum-seekers	100.00%	100.00%	100.00%
5.3 Proportion of unaccompanied and separated children who are in an alternative care arrangement			
Refugees and Asylum-seekers	16.85%	50.00%	60.00%
9.1 Proportion of people living in habitable and affordable housing			
Refugees and Asylum-seekers	19.92%	100.00%	17.60%
9.2 Proportion of people that have energy to ensure lighting			
Refugees and Asylum-seekers	45.99%	90.00%	55.00%
12.1 Proportion of people using at least basic drinking water services			
Refugees and Asylum-seekers	51.00%	80.00%	79.00%
12.2 Proportion of people with access to a safe household toilet			
Refugees and Asylum-seekers	40.54%	70.00%	34.87%

Other Core Output Indicators

Population Type	Actual (2024)
02.1.1 UNHCR has provided capacity development support to strengthen the national status determination system(s), in accordance with international standards	
Refugees and Asylum-seekers	Yes
05.1.1 Number of children and caregivers who received child protection services	

Others of Concern	
Refugees and Asylum-seekers	1,497
06.1.1 Number of people who received legal assistance	
Others of Concern	0
Refugees and Asylum-seekers	3,688
09.1.1 Number of people who received shelter and housing assistance	
Refugees and Asylum-seekers	6,917
12.1.1 Number of people supported with access to water and/or sanitation services	
Refugees and Asylum-seekers	54,297

2.2. Age, Gender and Diversity

In 2023, 52 individuals were interviewed in Brazzaville as part of the AGD activity. However, in 2024, the operation carried out a participatory evaluation in both Brazzaville and Ngabe, conducting individual interviews with 274 refugees and host community members. Of these, 45% were women, 44% were men, 4% were boys, and 7% were girls.

The results of this evaluation identified key needs among the refugee population, including poor living conditions in the livelihoods sector, security issues such as police harassment, the lack of monitoring by UNHCR and its partners on their socio-economic status (with many not being paid for their work with private individuals), gender-based violence (support needed for court cases), education (difficulty paying school fees), health (struggles with medical costs, particularly for the sick), documentation (lack of TVC to leave the country due to precarious living conditions), and a need for resettlement.

The findings and collected data formed the basis for a situation analysis, which was used to inform the development of the 2025-2027 multi-year strategy and planning for 2025. The operation also faced challenges due to a short deadline provided by OCHA for the CERF Flooding project in Likouala, which hindered the ability to organize a participatory assessment in Bétou to identify protection risks within the refugee community.

Additionally, the AGD statistical report that was supposed to be generated by Power BI had some issues. It only included data for adult and child refugees and excluded information for the host population. As a result, out of 274 completed forms submitted via Kobo, only 268 appeared in the compiled report for the Republic of Congo, reducing the sample size and limiting the analysis. Furthermore, the operation was unable to extract separate results for the participatory evaluations in Brazzaville and Ngabe because the Kobo system combined both evaluations into one dataset.

Section 3: Resources

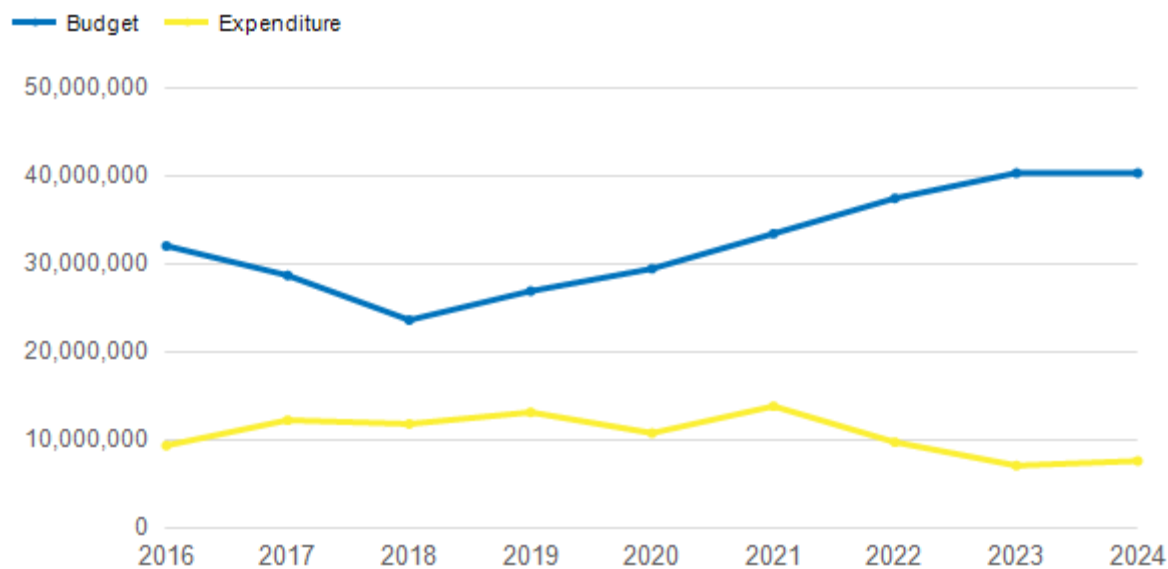
3.1 Financial Data

(Financial figures in USD)

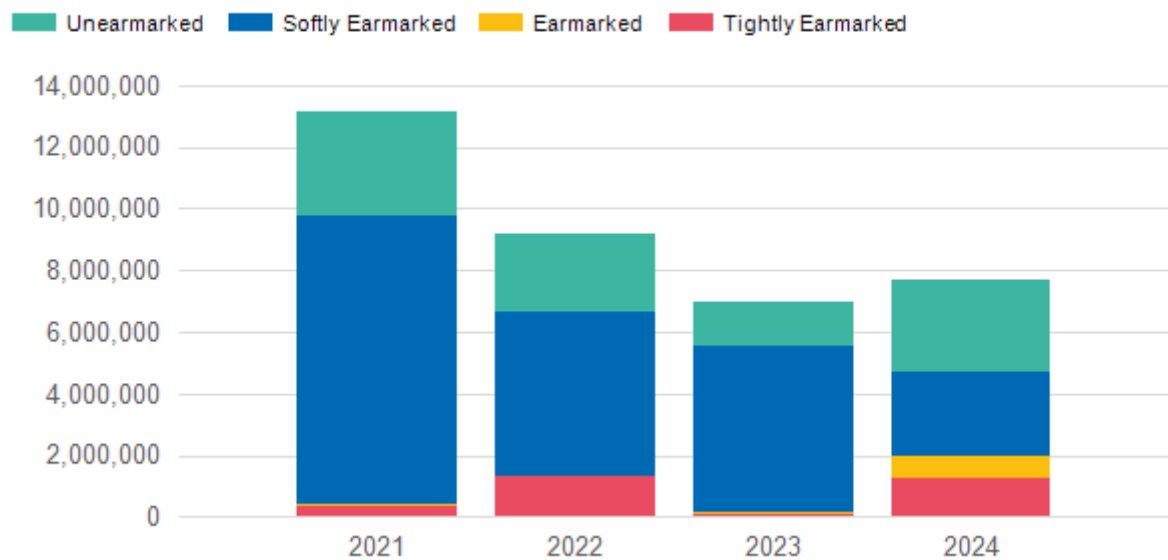
Impact Area	Final Budget	Funds Available	Funds Available as % of Budget	Expenditure	Expenditure as % of Funds Available
IA1: Protect	24,457,124	5,284,165	21.61%	5,209,995	98.60%
IA3: Empower	8,653,134	1,682,338	19.44%	1,682,338	100.00%
IA4: Solve	7,158,690	694,423	9.70%	694,423	100.00%
Total	40,268,949	7,660,926	19.02%	7,586,755	99.03%

Outcome Area	Final Budget	Funds Available	Funds Available as % of Budget	Expenditure	Expenditure as % of Funds Available
OA1: Access/Doc	100,232	1,280,347	1,277.39%	1,280,347	100.00%
OA3: Policy/Law	6,921,924	777,257	11.23%	777,257	100.00%
OA4: GBV	3,352,870	773,940	23.08%	773,940	100.00%
OA7: Community	903,569	181,336	20.07%	181,336	100.00%
OA8: Well-being	9,710,618	993,807	10.23%	919,637	92.54%
OA10: Health	5,601,896	681,844	12.17%	681,844	100.00%
OA11: Education	1,932,861	181,336	9.38%	181,336	100.00%
OA13: Livelihood	2,463,835	545,725	22.15%	545,725	100.00%
OA14: Return	4,215,612	233,618	5.54%	233,618	100.00%
OA15: Resettle	902,636	182,560	20.23%	182,560	100.00%
OA16: Integrate	2,040,443	278,245	13.64%	278,245	100.00%
EA18: Support	2,122,454	1,550,909	73.07%	1,550,909	100.00%
Total	40,268,949	7,660,926	19.02%	7,586,755	99.03%

Budget and Expenditure Trend



Contributions Trend by Type



3.2. Resources Overview

In 2024, the operation required a total of USD 40,268,969, but only 19% of the funds were received to cover activities across three categories: Ops, ABOD, and Staffing. As a result, 81% of the required funding was not provided by the end of the year, prompting the UNHCR office to reassess and prioritize its activities throughout 2024.

Of the 19% of funding received, 41% was allocated to Operations (Ops), while 16% went to ABOD. By year-end, Ops will have accounted for 94% of the total expenditures across the three categories, while ABOD's expenditure rate is 121%, compared to 92% for Ops.

Other ways of mobilizing resources were used by the operation in 2024. In addition to the mobilization of 1,100,000 USD in CERF funds to OCHA in collaboration with others UN agencies for protection, shelter, wash, food security and health sector to support over 51,000 refugees and host populations affected by floods in Likouala, Plateaux and Pool departments.

UNHCR also mobilized \$56,000 from UNAIDS, enabling HIV care for 2,216 infected pregnant women in 2024, compared to 1,771 in 2023.

With the support of the Regional Office, the operation mobilized USD 850,128 from the US government to support the livelihoods and economic inclusion project for refugees and the host population in the Republic of Congo.

Discussions began in 2024 within the framework of the CAR platform to mobilize funds for UNHCR Congo for the repatriation of Central African refugees.

In 2024, UNHCR successfully advocated for the inclusion of refugees in World Bank-funded projects in Gamboma and Likouala such as:

Funds raising for Refugee through World Bank project on education called "TRESOR", aiming to improving access to quality education in refugee-hosting areas.

Inclusion of refugees in the project called "Youth Social Inclusion (PSIPJ)" between government for the Republic of Congo and the World Bank.

Ongoing collaboration with the World Bank's Health and Ministry of Social Affairs "Kobikissa"

Due to these financial limitations, one significant consequence was the decision to relocate the office to a more affordable building. This move was essential to reduce operational costs and ensure the continued functioning of the office within the constrained budget. Unfortunately, the limited financial resources also led to delays or reductions in planned technological and operational improvements, ultimately affecting the office's ability to meet UNHCR's Minimum Operating Standards (MORS).

Section 4: Lessons Learned and Future Outlook

4.1 Lessons Learned and Future Outlook

Collaborating with various agencies and organizations has enhanced the effectiveness of interventions and improved responses to the needs of both refugees and host communities. In 2024, UNHCR proactively submitted a CERF funding request to address the impact of floods, emphasizing the value of close cooperation with other agencies. This collaboration facilitated a more rapid and effective response by combining expertise and resources to better support affected refugees and host populations.

There have been challenges in repairing and maintaining vehicles and maritime equipment necessary for operations. To address this, plans are in place to provide training for some drivers to conduct basic maintenance on vehicles and speedboats.

Another issue is the frequent rotation or turnover of key personnel with partners. To mitigate this, there is a need to further build the capacity of partners and staff on new tools available on the UNHCR platform. Additionally, UNHCR should strengthen thematic briefings for technical and financial partners to improve their understanding of refugee issues and secure funding. Involving donors in field missions will also help enhance their understanding of the specific operational context in Congo. Furthermore, the National Committee for the Eradication of Statelessness (CNEA) Secretariat should ensure that local authorities closely monitor the preparation of cases for efficient mission execution, such as submitting court requests in advance.

It is essential to continue advocating with national, regional, and local authorities for greater educational inclusion. Strengthening advocacy and maintaining communication with international technical and financial partners, the Government of the Republic of Congo, and United Nations agencies will help ensure that refugees and asylum seekers are included in national systems, development plans, and programs.



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