

# REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO

## | Working environment |

### o The context

More than half the population of Congo lives below the poverty line and confronts high unemployment as well as a lack of adequate health care and educational services. Such problems also affect persons of concern to UNHCR in the country, notably the steady influx of asylum-seekers from the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), particularly from Equateur province, of whom some 115,000 live in the Likouala department in the northern region of Congo.

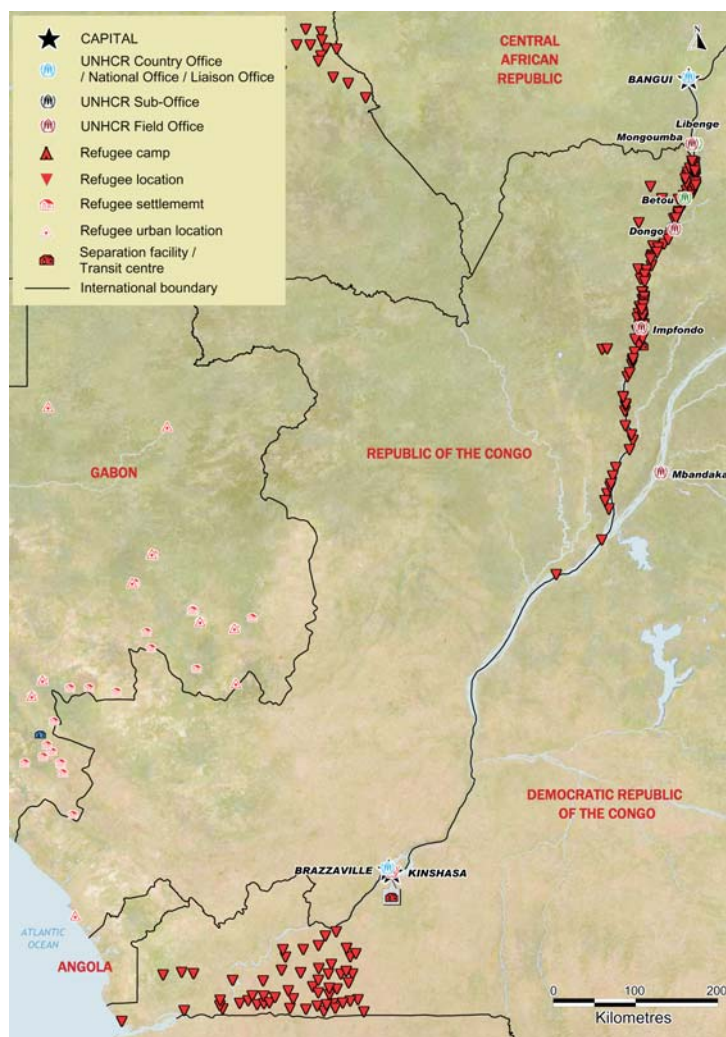
However, there have also been some positive political developments. National elections were conducted successfully in 2009, and the Government's efforts to consolidate peace and reinforce democracy have helped to create a climate of good governance.

### o The needs

Refugees and asylum-seekers continue to need international protection and assistance, and, in particular, documentation. In the urban context, refugees and asylum-seekers regularly face problems in obtaining access to medical care, housing and livelihood opportunities. UNHCR will continue to provide urban refugees with primary health care, and to support the most vulnerable among them—who rely entirely on UNHCR's assistance.

Some 1,000 claims to refugee status determination (RSD) are still under examination, prior to their submission to the eligibility commission. There is a need to accelerate this process, for which technical and financial aid will be required in order to strengthen the national asylum system.

The 115,000 recently arrived refugees from the DRC in the northern part of the country need protection and assistance pending the determination of appropriate durable solutions. The



living conditions at the refugee sites need to be improved through urgent measures to meet shelter, health, nutrition, hygiene, water and sanitation needs. UNHCR will also endeavour to improve refugees' self-reliance, and reduce their dependency on food distribution

## Planning figures for the Republic of the Congo

TYPE OF POPULATION	ORIGIN	JAN 2011		DEC 2011	
		TOTAL IN COUNTRY	OF WHOM ASSISTED BY UNHCR	TOTAL IN COUNTRY	OF WHOM ASSISTED BY UNHCR
Refugees	Angola	700	700	600	600
	Dem. Rep. of the Congo	116,300	116,300	96,200	96,200
	Rwanda	7,000	7,000	6,800	6,800
	Various	240	240	210	210
Asylum-seekers	Dem. Rep. of the Congo	4,700	4,700	6,000	6,000
	Chad	300	300	290	290
	Côte d'Ivoire	120	120	100	100
	Various	200	200	170	170
Returnees (refugees)	Congo	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000
<b>Total</b>		<b>130,560</b>	<b>130,560</b>	<b>111,370</b>	<b>111,370</b>

## Main objectives and targets

### Fair protection processes

- Refugees are provided with individual documentation.
  - ☞ Some 85 per cent of adults are provided with individual protection documents.

### Security from violence and exploitation

- The efforts to ensure protection from gender-based violence are intensified.
  - ☞ Prevention and response mechanisms for sexual and gender-based violence are in place in all refugee sites.

### Basic needs and services

- Access to water is ensured.
  - ☞ At least 15 litres of water are provided per person per day in the refugee site in Betou.
- Basic domestic and hygiene items are provided.
  - ☞ All the needs among refugee women for sanitary materials are met.

- Access to primary health care is ensured.
  - ☞ All refugees have access to adequate primary curative and preventative health care services.
- Access to education is ensured.
  - ☞ All refugee children have access to primary education.

### Community participation and self-management

- Refugees' self-reliance and livelihoods are improved.
  - ☞ Advocacy for access to land is conducted.

### Durable solutions

- Voluntary returns are promoted.
  - ☞ All refugee candidates for voluntary repatriation are assisted.
  - ☞ Cash grants are provided to all repatriated refugees.
- Local integration is supported.
  - ☞ A local integration framework and strategy are proposed.

The Office will also continue to advocate for the local integration of 10,000 Rwandan refugees who had opted to remain in Congo following the voluntary repatriation exercise that ended in 2008.

## Strategy and activities in 2011

UNHCR will seek to ensure international protection and to provide assistance to all people of concern in Congo, while

looking for appropriate durable solutions. The implementation of the tripartite agreement that has been concluded in June 2010, addressing the voluntary repatriation of recently arrived refugees from the DRC as well as the needs of some of those who opted to remain in Congo in 2008, will continue in 2011, provided the security situation in the DRC improves. UNHCR will also consider providing transport for those who wish to be transferred to other sites in the country.



Refugee girls travel in groups when collecting water from a stream in the forest to protect themselves.

UNHCR / F. NOY

## UNHCR's presence in 2011

□ Number of offices	3
□ Total staff	71
International	10
National	48
UNVs	10
Others	3

## PARTNERS

### Implementing partners

#### Government agencies:

*Commission Nationale d'Assistance aux Réfugiés (CNAR)*

#### NGOs:

*Agence d'Assistance aux Rapatriés et Réfugiés au Congo*

*Commission d'Entraide pour les Migrants et Réfugiés*

*Médecins d'Afrique*

#### Others:

International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

### Operational partners

#### Government agencies:

Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Ministry of Health

Ministry of Humanitarian Action

#### NGOs:

*Médecins Sans Frontières – France*

#### Others:

UNDP

UNESCO

UNFPA

UNICEF

WFP

WHO

The Office will pursue its advocacy in support of local integration and will offer resettlement opportunities to a limited number of refugees in need of continued international protection.

Age, gender and diversity considerations will be at the core of UNHCR's programme in Congo. Special attention will be given to the needs of women, children, victims of violence or torture, vulnerable individuals with specific needs and people living with HIV and AIDS.

#### ○ Constraints

Complex logistics and a volatile security situation remain the primary challenges in Congo. The precarious socio-economic conditions in the country do not allow refugees to enhance their self-reliance.

Any deterioration in the political and security situation in the neighbouring DRC could lead to a new influx of asylum-seekers into Congo and affect UNHCR's capacity to carry out its planned activities.

## Organization and implementation

#### ○ Coordination

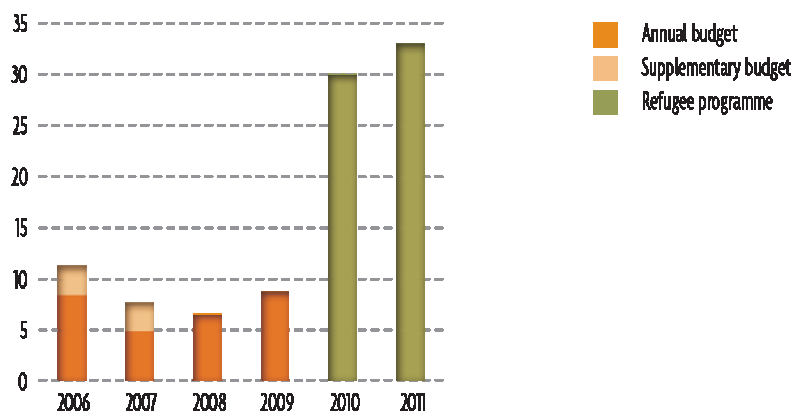
UNHCR will work with the Government, the UN Country Team and will continue to play a pivotal role in the protection of refugees and returnees. The Office will also seek to expand its group of implementing partners.

## Financial information

The introduction of the comprehensive needs assessment has led to a significant increase in the budget for Congo. In order to respond to the needs of some 115,000 refugees who fled from the DRC in late 2009, UNHCR increased its 2010 budget to USD 20.4 million. For 2011, the budgetary requirements amount to USD 32.6 million to allow UNHCR to respond effectively to the protection and assistance needs of refugees and asylum-seekers.

## UNHCR's budget in the Republic of the Congo 2006 – 2011

Millions (USD)





## 2011 UNHCR Budget for the Republic of the Congo (USD)

RIGHTS GROUPS AND OBJECTIVES	REFUGEE PROGRAMME PILLAR 1	TOTAL
<b>Favourable protection environment</b>		
National legal framework	125,329	125,329
National administrative framework	466,209	466,209
Environmental protection	337,339	337,339
Subtotal	<b>928,876</b>	<b>928,876</b>
<b>Fair protection processes and documentation</b>		
Reception conditions	2,967,969	2,967,969
Registration and profiling	1,528,468	1,528,468
Access to asylum procedures	25,964	25,964
Fair and efficient status determination	212,845	212,845
Family reunification	193,633	193,633
Individual documentation	230,597	230,597
Civil status documentation	222,597	222,597
Subtotal	<b>5,382,074</b>	<b>5,382,074</b>
<b>Security from violence and exploitation</b>		
Impact on host communities	338,539	338,539
Gender-based violence	480,385	480,385
Protection of children	198,807	198,807
Non-arbitrary detention	197,721	197,721
Subtotal	<b>1,215,452</b>	<b>1,215,452</b>
<b>Basic needs and essential services</b>		
Water	2,461,420	2,461,420
Basic domestic and hygiene items	5,108,030	5,108,030
Primary health care	2,323,922	2,323,922
HIV and AIDS	215,922	215,922
Education	1,943,922	1,943,922
Sanitation services	836,420	836,420
Services for groups with specific needs	1,699,226	1,699,226
Subtotal	<b>14,588,859</b>	<b>14,588,859</b>
<b>Community participation and self-management</b>		
Participatory assessment and community mobilisation	416,873	416,873
Community self-management and equal representation	282,775	282,775
Self-reliance and livelihoods	1,943,479	1,943,479
Subtotal	<b>2,643,127</b>	<b>2,643,127</b>
<b>Durable solutions</b>		
Durable solutions strategy	193,943	193,943
Voluntary return	2,462,278	2,462,278
Resettlement	124,164	124,164
Local integration support	646,653	646,653
Subtotal	<b>3,427,039</b>	<b>3,427,039</b>
<b>Logistics and operations support</b>		
Supply chain and logistics	2,207,740	2,207,740
Programme management, coordination and support	2,246,190	2,246,190
Subtotal	<b>4,453,929</b>	<b>4,453,929</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>32,639,356</b>	<b>32,639,356</b>
<b>2010 Revised budget</b>	<b>29,614,412</b>	<b>29,614,412</b>

## Consequences of a 20 – 40 per cent funding shortfall

- Half of the adult refugee population will not be provided with individual protection documentation.
- Half of the refugee population will not have access to adequate primary curative and preventative health care services.
- Only 10 litres of water will be provided per person per day at the refugee site in Betou.
- Some 50 per cent of refugee children will not have access to primary education.
- Half the number of refugees who apply for voluntary repatriation will not receive assistance.