




DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO REGIONAL REFUGEE RESPONSE PLAN


January-December 2023

Current situation and protection and solutions strategy

 **916,300**
targeted refugees
and asylum-seekers
from the DRC
in seven countries

 **584,600**
targeted host
community
members

 **69**
partners involved
in the 2023 DRC
Regional RRP

 **\$605M**
Inter-agency
financial require-
ments for 2023

The crisis in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) is one of the most complex humanitarian situations in the world. As of November 2022, some 5.5 million people were displaced within the country and over a million had crossed borders to seek asylum, the majority of whom were being hosted by Angola, Burundi, Republic of the Congo, Rwanda, Uganda, United Republic of Tanzania, and Zambia. The drivers of displacement in the DRC, including threats from armed groups, intercommunal violence, human rights violations, and development challenges, are expected to persist. Thus, in 2023, newly-displaced refugees from the DRC and those in long-term situations will continue to require protection and assistance, as well as durable solutions and development support.

In many countries, refugee settlements exceed capacity and basic services in refugee-hosting areas are stretched to their limits. Food insecurity is also a growing concern due to rising prices and funding shortages. As a result, refugees are increasingly vulnerable to exploitation and abuse and more frequently resort to harmful coping strategies to meet their basic needs.

During the 2019 Global Refugee Forum (GRF), many host countries pledged to strengthen asylum spaces, improve refugee protection and solutions, and promote resilience among affected communities. Since then, some governments have adopted policies safeguarding refugees' freedom of movement and socioeconomic rights such as the rights to work, own property, and access national services. In contrast, some countries continue to promote encampment policies and impose restrictions on refugees' fundamental rights. Despite this, refugees from the DRC are expected to continue benefiting from international protection in 2023, and several new and additional commitments are anticipated at the 2023 GRF.

2023 Regional targets



68,129
refugees receive legal assistance



7,766
children at high risk are reached with best interests procedure



62,440
trained participants increase their GBV knowledge



132,001
refugee children are enrolled in primary education



761,645
people receive food assistance



734,349
refugees are provided with healthcare services



258,900
people receive livelihood support



86,930
people receive emergency shelter



21
average litres of potable water per person per day are provided

See all regional and country-level targets in the full 2023 DRC Regional RRP.

While around 4,300 refugees, mainly living in Angola, the Republic of the Congo, and Zambia, are expected to repatriate in 2023 if conditions allow for a safe and dignified return, most refugees from the DRC will likely remain in their countries of asylum. Resettlement will be promoted within the scale-up approach of the Government of the United States of America and other resettlement countries.

Strategic objectives

- **Enhance the protection situation:** RRP Partners will engage with governments to safeguard refugees' unhindered access to asylum and the enjoyment of their rights. Partners will ensure attention to age, gender, diversity, and accountability to affected populations. Support to persons with specific needs and persons with disabilities will be enhanced.
- **Provide multi-sector assistance:** RRP Partners will work to maintain minimum standards for multi-sector assistance. Where possible, responses will be anchored in national systems, development plans, multi-year strategies, and regional frameworks. Partners will also seek to mitigate the environmental impacts of interventions.
- **Promote self-reliance and social cohesion:** RRP Partners will seek to promote refugees' livelihoods and economic inclusion to reduce dependence on humanitarian assistance and build resilience, in line with national development plans. Social cohesion and peaceful co-existence between refugees and host communities will be encouraged.
- **Invest in durable solutions:** RRP Partners will promote conditions that facilitate durable solutions, including voluntary repatriation for those wishing to return home, resettlement for those who qualify, and local integration for those who wish to remain in host countries.

Coordination

The DRC Regional RRP is a planning, coordination, and fundraising tool developed through collaboration between 69 humanitarian and development partners and the Governments of seven RRP countries. In the spirit of the Global Compact on Refugees and in accordance with the Refugee Coordination Model, host governments steer the provision of protection, assistance, and durable solutions to refugees, while RRP Partners, led by UNHCR, support and complement national and regional strategies, working closely with development actors, the private sector, and refugee-led organizations, among other stakeholders.

More information

The full 2023 DRC Regional RRP can be downloaded from [Global Focus](#), and funding details can be found on the [Refugee Funding Tracker](#).

For more information, please contact the UNHCR Regional Bureau for Southern Africa at RBSAEXT@unhcr.org.