

The Republic of the Congo

September 2021

In addition to **52,631 refugees and asylum-seekers**, there are **304,430 IDPs** and **199,400 people at risk of statelessness** in the Republic of the Congo (RoC).

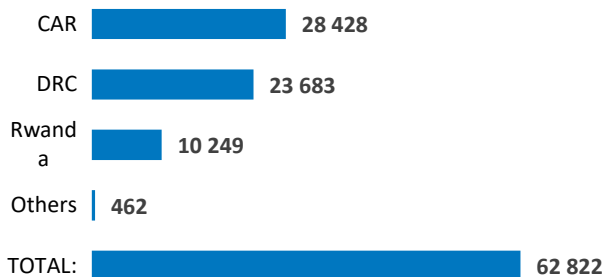
Some 2,000 vulnerable refugee families receive cash-based assistance through the Lisungu Project, which aims to improve income-generating opportunities for people with specific needs.

UNHCR's priorities in RoC are to: **strengthen the protection framework; support the issuance of 5,200 birth certificates; and enhance development opportunities.**

POPULATION OF CONCERN (AS OF 31 AUGUST)

566,652*

REFUGEES AND ASYLUM-SEEKERS BY COUNTRY OF ORIGIN

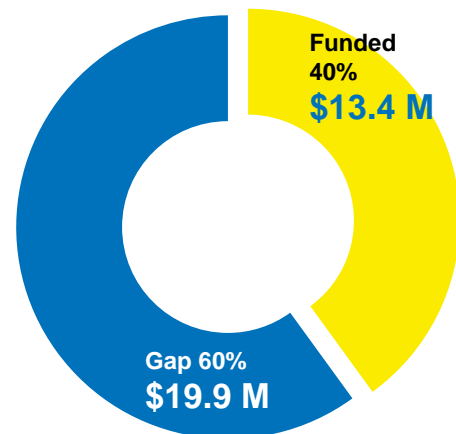


* The total population of concern also includes 304,430 internally displaced people (IDPs) and 199,400 people at risk of statelessness as well as 62,822 refugees and asylum-seekers.

FUNDING (AS OF 13 SEPTEMBER)

USD 33.3 million

Requested for the Republic of the Congo situation



UNHCR PRESENCE

Staff: 65

- 43 National Staff
- 8 International Staff
- 9 Volunteers
- 5 Emergency support staff



New arrivals from CAR at an orientation session with UNHCR in Bétou. © UNHCR/ Danielle Dieguen

OPERATIONAL STRATEGY

Based on the alternative-to-camp policy, UNHCR promotes the search for solutions through the inclusion of refugees and other persons of concern into national socio-economic systems, and advocates for increased partnership in line with the Global Compact on Refugees.

WORKING WITH PARTNERS

UNHCR works closely with the National Commission for the Assistance of Refugees (CNAR), national and local and local authorities, UN agencies, international and national NGOs, and development and private actors to provide protection and assistance to refugees and other persons of concern.

MAIN ACTIVITIES

Protection

- Some 209 identification documents were issued to refugees and asylum-seekers aged 16 years and older since January 2021. Holders of ID documents can access medical services, education, and financial assistance.
- Some 120 members of the authorities, media and other key actors involved in birth registration participated to three workshops organized in Brazzaville, Ouessou and Ewo.
- A statelessness awareness campaign launched in the department of Brazzaville with the support of 20 community relays trained on the issues of statelessness and birth registration reached around 20,000 households. To guard against the risk of statelessness, some 1,500 birth certificates were issued with UNHCR's support in the first half of 2021, including for 350 refugee children (170 girls and 130 boys).
- Child protection activities focus on promoting and raising awareness about children's rights, including the right to health, education, documentation, and protection against all forms of violence and child labor. Awareness raising activities have reached 130 households (475 people) in refugee-hosting areas of Bétou and Mougoungui, on the border with the Central African Republic (CAR).
- To prevent and respond to gender-based violence (GBV), UNHCR and partners provide training and capacity building for the authorities, civil society actors and the refugee and host communities. In 2021, 30 community outreach workers have been recruited and trained to raise awareness in the communities, and a secure discussion platform was established. Awareness raising efforts have reached 504 people in urban refugee and host communities since the start of the year, including 372 women.

Education

- Some 77 per cent of primary-school aged refugee children are enrolled in the primary schools across the country.
- Some 30 teachers were recruited to provide 1,011 refugee children newly arrived from CAR with refresher courses and school materials in preparation for the 2021-2022 academic year.

Health and Nutrition

- UNHCR conducts awareness raising on health and social health issues affecting the refugee community. Since January 2021, some 3,674 refugee youth were reached by peer educators on topics related to GBV, HIV/AIDS, sexually-transmitted infections and family planning. Some 1,764 people from the refugee and host communities were sensitized on the prevention of HIV/AIDS countrywide since the start of the year.
- Refugees and asylum-seekers are included in the national COVID-19 vaccination plan. As of the end of August, 1,655 refugees and asylum-seekers and 2,065 IDPs are vaccinated in RoC.
- A nutritional surveillance system operates at reception points for new arrivals as well as in established refugee communities to ensure systematic nutrition screening. Since January, some 3,150 children aged under 5 were screened, of whom 242 displayed severe acute malnutrition and 463 displayed moderate acute malnutrition. Malnourished children are admitted to the care programme for treatment, with a curative rate of 96 per cent.

Livelihoods and Self-reliance

- To promote refugee self-reliance, UNHCR is advocating with the Government to include refugees and asylum-seekers in the National Development Plan, and is rolling out a project with the authorities and the World Bank - the Lisungu Project - to support the socio-economic situation of the most vulnerable refugees and host communities in Pointe-Noire, Brazzaville, and in the Likouala department, which houses the CAR refugees. Some 2,000 vulnerable households receive cash assistance through the Lisungu project.
- In Bétou, some 180 market gardeners including 162 refugees received tillage kits including seeds and fertilizers to support their livelihoods strategy.

Shelter and Core Relief Items (CRIs)

- In Likouala, UNHCR and partners rehabilitated 37 semi-durable shelters for persons with specific needs and their families, and set up 331 refugee housing units in Mougoungui and Bétou for persons with specific needs.
- In Plateaux, 200 refugee housing units were set up, and an additional 100 housing units were reinforced to withstand bad weather. Transitional shelters were provided for 199 families who relocated to Bouemba site.
- Some 2,368 recently arrived CAR refugee families in Likouala department received essential household and hygiene items.

Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH)

- Risk communication to prevent the spread of COVID-19 reached 3,956 refugees in the Likouala department and 5,266 people in Plateaux.
- An additional 7,652 refugees were sensitized on water, food, body, clothing, environmental, and hand washing hygiene.

FINANCIAL INFORMATION

UNHCR is grateful for donor contributions to the RoC operation.

Canada | Denmark | France | Germany | Luxembourg | Norway | Private donors | Republic of the Congo | Spain | United States of America | UN Programme On HIV/AIDS

UNHCR is also grateful for unearmarked contributions, which allow UNHCR critical flexibility in how best to reach persons of in the greatest need and at the greatest risk.

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