

Republic of Congo (RoC)

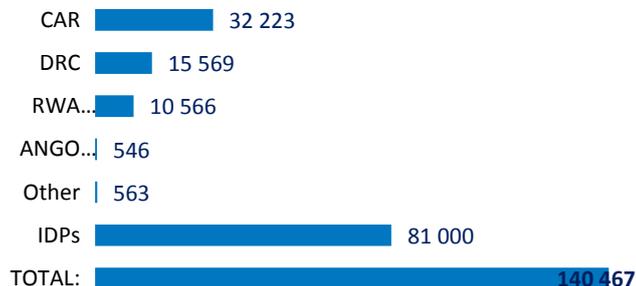
Rwandan refugees: The cessation clause invoked by the Republic of Congo (in June 2013) has come to effect on 1st January 2018. The cessation process impacted about 9,200 Rwandan refugees who were living in RoC since 1997.

CAR refugees: A cross border meeting was organized with UNHCR CAR to prepare the repatriation of 600 CAR refugees.

IDPs: 6 670 internally displaced persons (IDPs) from Pool Department have been assisted.

POPULATION OF CONCERN (AS OF 31ST DECEMBER)

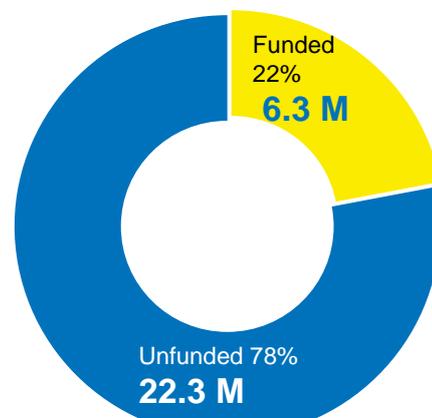
Country of origin



FUNDING (AS OF 31ST DECEMBER)

USD 28.6 M

requested for the refugee situations in Republic of Congo



UNHCR PRESENCE (AS OF 31ST DECEMBER)

Staff:

- 37 National Staff
- 08 International Staff
- 07 UN Volunteers
- 01 Consultant

Offices:

- 01 Country Representation
Brazzaville
- 01 Field Office Bétou.



Working with Partners

UNHCR works closely with the Government, in particular the CNAR (National committee for refugees' assistance) to ensure protection programs and solutions are developed and implemented for refugees and asylum seekers in the Republic of Congo. Other partners include: CEMIR, AARREC, AIRD, TSF, APSDC and CARITAS. UNHCR also partners with UN agencies to implement programs, in particular WFP, UNICEF and WHO. UNHCR is also implementing a project to assist the Pool Department's internally displaced persons (IDPs).

Main Activities

RWANDAN REFUGEE:

- A tripartite (Congo- Rwanda- UNHCR) meeting was organized in Brazzaville from 26th to 27th September on Rwandan refugees' situation. The conclusions of the meeting emphasized on the need for Rwandan refugees to apply for the solutions made available to them.
- A tripartite desk was set up to receive Rwandan refugees' requests regarding local integration. As of 31st December 2017, **18** requests have been received and are currently being processed.
- **802** refugees were exempted from the cessation. **457** refugee cards have been issued to exempted Rwandan refugees of 16 and above. These cards will be valid for three years following the new regulation provided by the revised Law of August 2017 related to Entry, Stay and Exit of foreigners.
- **200** refugees with mental health issues, who were not able to apply for any proposed options, and **20** children at risk (Unaccompanied Minors) who are not in capacity to apply for any of the proposed options have been identified. UNHCR is advocating for resettlements solutions (for children at risk) and adequate mental health care regarding refugees with mental health issues.
- **516** Rwandan asylum seekers are still registered with UNHCR.
- **17** people are waiting to be repatriated.

DRC SITUATION:

- A Contingency plan has been developed in RoC. Several workshops were organized for Congolese authorities (immigration officers, local authorities), national NGOs and immigration officers on emergency humanitarian responses and international protection. **95** participants from local authorities and NGOs staffs attended two workshops in Likouala department and **52** participants in Brazzaville.

- In the Contingency plan, four (04) main entry points were identified. Border monitoring missions were also conducted in Likouala department and at Maloukou-Trechot at 60 km from Brazzaville.

CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC (CAR) REFUGEES:

- In July, UNHCR Congo attended a regional meeting on CAR situation. CAR authorities attending the meeting expressed concerns about organizing repatriation to CAR due to the volatile situation prevailing in most parts of the country. **772** arrived in the Republic of Congo since January, 2017.
- However, more than **600** CAR refugees expressed the intention to be repatriated due to difficult living conditions they are facing in the Republic of Congo.

COLLABORATION WITH THE GOVERNMENT

- UNHCR signed with the Congolese Government on 21st November a Protocol of agreement including a Humanitarian Mechanism on strengthening authorities' capacities in the protection and assistance to refugees and IDPs in the Republic of Congo.
- **31** staff of relevant ministries were trained on the signed Protocol of agreement and its Humanitarian Mechanism. An Action Plan to operationalize the Protocol of agreement and its Humanitarian Mechanism was validated during a workshop organized from 27th to 28th December, by UNHCR and the Government of the Republic of Congo.

EDUCATION

- **1, 100** refugees were assisted with education kits in Brazzaville and **823** children received school uniforms in the Likouala department. The cash based interventions (CBI) was implemented in these operations.
- Considering the shortage of teachers in RoC, UNHCR is supporting the National education system by paying incentives for **60** teachers in Bétou. Their capacities were reinforced in pedagogy, child protection, UNHCR's code of conduct and education strategy.
- UNHCR supported the payment of school insurance for **5,430** primary school students; **629** secondary school students and **32** high school students in the Likouala department.
- **151** refugees were enrolled in Bétou vocational centre. UNHCR provided **50** sewing machines to support the centre.

HEALTH

- **116,015** children (under 15 years), refugees and host communities have been vaccinated against measles during the campaign funded by UNHCR in the Likouala department.
- **925** refugees (children and pregnant women) received routine vaccinations.
- **476** refugees have been hospitalized.
- **4, 560** refugees and **1, 913** host communities were consulted and received medical treatments.
- **153** new born were medically assisted.
- UNHCR handed over to local authorities **Liranga District's Integrated Health Center** funded by UNHCR.

FOOD SECURITY AND NUTRITION

- **485** severe acute malnutrition cases were assisted.
- **12,630** CAR refugees in the Likouala Department were assisted in partnership with WFP by cash-based transfers for delivering food assistance

WATER AND SANITATION

- **2** boreholes were constructed in Betou and Mouale in addition to the maintenance and chlorination operation of existing water collections points to improve the access to safe drinking water to refugees and host populations living in that area.
- **44** communal latrines and **28** communal showers maintained by UNHCR partner's hygiene promoters in 15 Avril and Ikpemgbele sites. The purpose of this routine activity is to create a healthy environment for refugees by providing a barrier against fecal contamination.
- From 14th to 27th December, a survey was carried out in Betou area where about **254** households were interviewed. The aim of this activity is to monitor WASH household indicators, provide data to inform WASH programs design and evaluate the level of satisfaction of the beneficiaries.
- **80** community relays and **06** Supervisors were trained on WASH

SHELTER AND NON-FOOD ITEMS (NFI)

- **6,670** internally displaced persons from Pool Department received shelter and non-food items in Kinkala and Bouenza Department, thanks to CERF funding.
- UNHCR received a funding from the People's Republic of China to assist **70, 000** IDPs from Pool Department. **50,000** will receive NFI's while **20,000** will be assisted with shelters.

LIVELIHOODS

- **20** refugees were selected to receive livelihoods assistance in Brazzaville.
- **10** refugee households in Likouala received also livestock for livelihoods activities in term of breeding and agriculture.

DURABLE SOLUTIONS

- As of 31st December 2017, **29** refugees were repatriated to their respective country of origin. 17 to Rwanda; 11 to CAR; 1 to South Sudan.
- **44** households of **106** people departed to resettlements countries (USA; Canada; France; Norway; Sweden) in 2017. Only 7 cases of 34 people were submitted this year.

INCLUSION IN DEVELOPMENT PLANS

- The Government of the Republic of Congo transmitted to the World Bank (WB) Board a policy letter indicating commitments towards medium and longer term solutions for refugees. Eligibility of the Republic of Congo to access International Development Association (IDA) funds, IDA 18 sub-window for Refugees and Host Communities, was confirmed by WB board in September 2017.
- UNHCR participated from 28th August to 7th September, at the elaboration of the National Development Plan. UNHCR specifically participated in the working groups focusing on Governance and Social Development (health, social protection and the insertion of disadvantaged groups).
- UNHCR advocated with PADEF (Programme d'Appui au Développement de Filières agricoles, funded by International Fund for Agricultural Development and the Congolese Government) which agreed to include Rwandan refugees in their program in several regions of the Republic of Congo. So far, **10 groups** have been identified to receive support of PADEF for cultivation activities. Discussions are underway to include refugees living in the Likouala region for the year 2018.

External / Donors Relations

Special thanks to the major donors for its operations in RoC:

CERF



PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA



UNITED STATES OF AMERICA



Private Donors in the United States of America

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LINKS

[UNHCR CONGO](https://www.facebook.com/UNHCR Congo) (<https://www.facebook.com/UNHCR Congo>)

Information and data contained in this document cover the period from July to December, 2017