



Country sheet

DRC

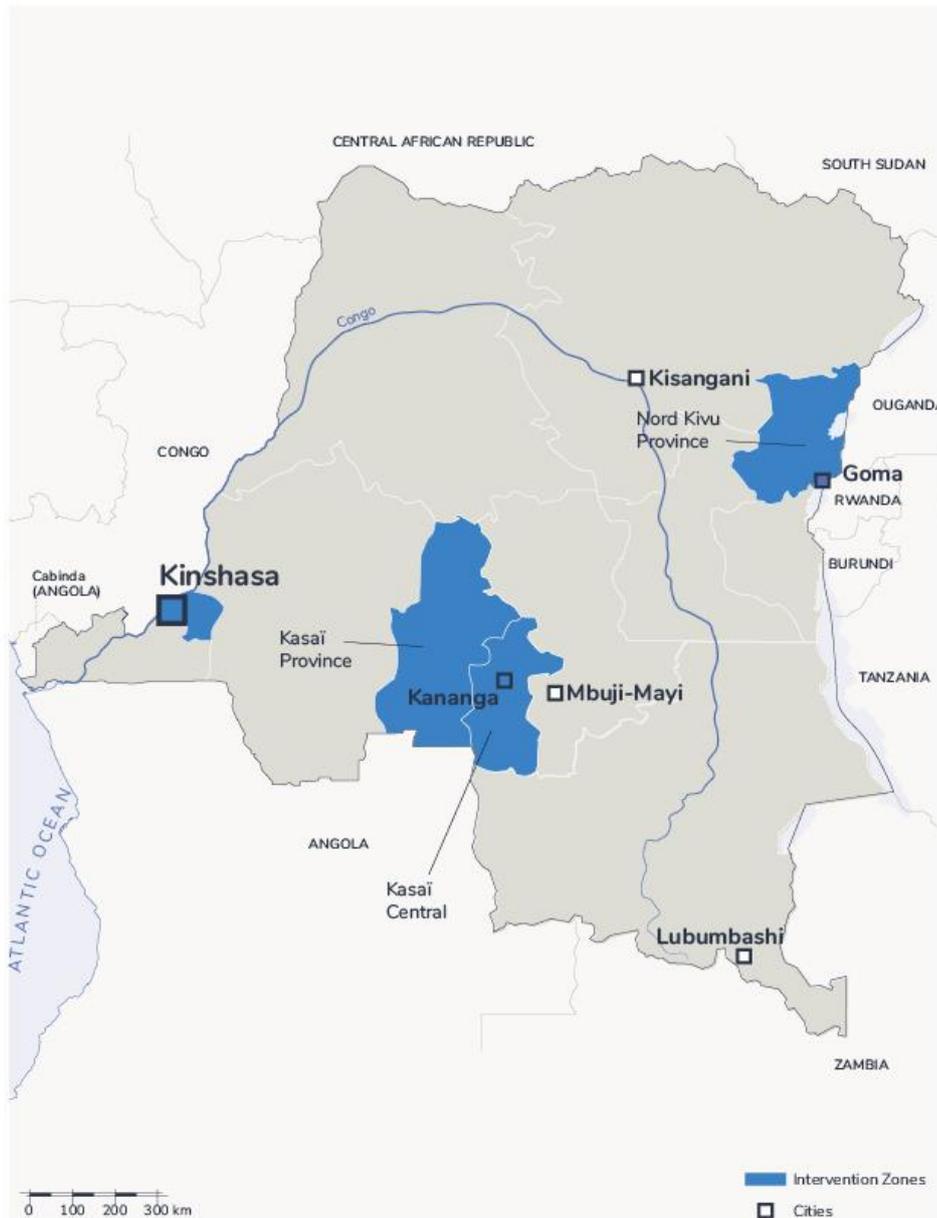




HI's team and areas of intervention

There are 150 employees in HI's team in DRC.

Democratic Republic of Congo





General Country Data

a) General data

DATA	DRC	Rwanda	BELGIUM
Population	99	13.7	11.7
HDI	0.341	0.402	0.874
Gender development index	0.885	0.954	0.978
Maternal mortality	547	259	5
GINI index	42.1	43.7	26
Population under UNHCR mandate	6.063.761	149.218	195.883
INFORM index	7.8	4.5	1.7
Fragile states index	107.2	82.3	31.4
Population covered by at least one measure of social protection (%)	14.1	9.8	100
Official Development Assistance received (\$ million)	3535.7	1314.7	0

b) Humanitarian law instruments ratified by the country

Humanitarian law instruments	Status
Mine Ban Treaty	Ratified on 02/05/2002
Convention on Cluster Munitions	Signed on 18/03/2009
UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities	Signed on 13 September 2015

c) Geopolitical analysis

Social, cultural and demographic context

The second largest country in Africa, four times the size of France and eighty times the size of Belgium, the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) is a country with a history marked by power struggles over its wealth that are still the main cause of most of its troubles today.



The DRC is facing a major humanitarian and health crisis that affected more than 25.6 million people in 2020, including over 15 million children. The crises are the consequence of decades of local and regional insecurity, particularly affecting the country's eastern provinces. Over the years, armed conflicts and multiple intercommunity violence have left the population very vulnerable. In the province of North Kivu, the end of 2022 and the beginning of 2023 were marked by the resurgence of the M23 armed group in, triggering massive population displacements in the area. In the Kasai region, inter-community conflicts caused by increased competition for access to political and customary power persisted throughout 2022, as did tensions over the control of economic and land resources. Finally, in the Mai-Ndombe province, in the west of the country, a new crisis emerged, with violent inter-community clashes in the Kwamouth territory since June 2022.

These clashes are thought to be mainly due to land issues and customary taxes. The violence has gradually spread to the neighbouring provinces of Kwilu and Kwango, with the first signs of trouble in Kinshasa.

Multi-sectoral humanitarian needs persist, particularly in health and nutrition, including for the treatment and prevention of acute malnutrition (an estimated 3.6 million people are suffering from acute malnutrition in 2023), access to water and hygiene, food security and protection. The humanitarian crisis in the DRC is above all a crisis of protection: violations of the laws of war (deliberate targeting of civilians during clashes) and human rights (recruitment of children into armed groups, forced labour in mines, rape in territories occupied by armed groups or "pacified" by the FARDC) are virtually systematic in every conflict zone, but also in transition zones¹.

Since 2018, there have also been repeated outbreaks of Ebola, measles, cholera and Covid-19, in several provinces, undermining an already weakened population and health system.

With regard to Ebola, the fifteenth outbreak was declared by the health authorities on 21 August 2022 (the outbreak ended on 22 September) in Beni in the province of North Kivu, and a single case was recorded.

Since 2022, there have also been outbreaks of mpox (also known as monkeypox) in several provinces of the DRC: 5,740 cases have been reported, with 230 deaths.

The delivery of humanitarian aid is severely hampered by the security situation, with violence perpetrated by armed groups on the one hand, and inter-community and inter-ethnic conflicts on the other, all against a backdrop of increased political instability. The accessibility of the provinces varies according to the dynamics of the conflicts. Between January and September 2022, 485 humanitarian access incidents were reported, and 151 of these incidents involved violence against humanitarian workers. 19 humanitarian workers were injured, four killed and 19 abducted, mainly in the provinces of North and South Kivu, which are the most affected by abductions and hold-ups of humanitarian vehicles.²

¹ [https://www.msf-azg.be/sites/default/files/imce/2021_07_13_MSF%20RDC_RAPPORT%20VIOLENCES%20SEXUELLES%20\(FR\)%20\(1\).pdf](https://www.msf-azg.be/sites/default/files/imce/2021_07_13_MSF%20RDC_RAPPORT%20VIOLENCES%20SEXUELLES%20(FR)%20(1).pdf)

² HNO 2023



Economic situation

There are still no signs of the significant improvements in the socio-economic situation long hoped for by DRC's population, despite the obvious presence of wealth and therefore financial resources. However, the country moved up 11 places in the HDI rankings in 2015, from 186th out of 187 countries in 2013 to 176th out of 188 countries in 2014, and then to 175th out of 189 countries in 2021.

Progress can be seen in terms of life expectancy (increasing from 49 years in 1997 to 59 years in 2015 and to 60.1 years in 2021), school enrolment (28% in 1995 to 44% in 2014 for secondary education) as well as gross national income per capita (\$338 in 1997 to \$392 in 2015). But this modest progress in socio-economic indicators does not reflect the reality of much of this vast country and inequalities remain a major cause for concern in most places.

Between 2016 and 2018, during the political crisis linked to a shift in the presidential majority, inflation rose again. Despite a smooth handover of heads of the State in January 2020, the health crisis caused by Covid-19 had a strong impact on the country's socio-economic indicators. In March 2016, 1 US dollar was exchanged for 900 Congolese francs against r 2,500 Congolese francs in August 2023. Purchasing power is declining and basic consumer prices are rising.

Global inflation since 2022 has also had an impact on the Congolese economy, with an inflation rate of 13.1% in 2022 and 20% since the start of 2023. In August 2023, the exchange rate stood at 2,470 Congolese francs to 1 US dollar.



Summary of HI's work in the country

HI has been working in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) since 1995, and currently has three operational bases in Kinshasa (as well as a coordination office), Goma and Kananga.

In Kinshasa, HI is implementing a project that integrates the development of children aged 0-12 years with a mother and child health component, a rehabilitation component, an inclusive education component and personalised support for the families of vulnerable children. This project is based on partnerships with local actors and the health and education authorities. HI has also implemented a project to support women's clubs, in order to strengthen women's role as community actors in the prevention of Covid-19 and the promotion of health.

In the province of North Kivu, HI is implementing two rapid health response projects in partnership with Première Urgence Internationale, and is delivering mental health care to people affected by the crises in the provinces of Petit-Nord-Kivu, incorporating early rehabilitation into the new project. HI also has an operational sub-base in Mweso where it is implementing a risk prevention, protection and multi-sector emergency response project and an integrated mental health rehabilitation project for people with disabilities or people injured in conflicts. This project includes stimulation therapy for children suffering from malnutrition. Finally, HI is also implementing Atlas Logistics projects, with a civil engineering project implemented in the Mweso health area and a logistics platform project managed out of Goma.

In the province of Kasai Central, HI has implemented various food security and agricultural recovery projects. Since 2023, the programme has been developing the inclusive education sector in Kasai province, with the effective start-up of an inclusive education project focusing on girls' education, in consortium with Save the Children.



Overview of current projects

Sectors in which HI is running projects, with a focus on beneficiaries and operating partners

Project title and main sectors of intervention	Main activities:	Beneficiaries	Partners	Location	Project start and end date	Donors funding the project
<p>Project for the prevention of multiple risks and violations incurred by vulnerable populations and multi-sectoral response to protection and assistance needs in the face of shocks</p> <p>Protection Mental health and psychosocial support Light civil engineering</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Community multi-risk prevention, reduction and mitigation plans • Awareness-raising and education on risks prioritised by community relays • Assessment and covering of basic needs in response to shocks using modalities adapted to the context • Assistance with psychological first aid, psychosocial support • Identification and referral of cases for specialist care and follow-up • Rehabilitation of roads • Capacity building for organisations of people with disabilities on inclusion standards in emergency humanitarian response at community level 	Host population, displaced people, returnees and refugees		North Kivu Mweso health area, Masisi territory)	11.2021 – 10.2023	Directorate-General for Development Cooperation and Humanitarian Aid (DGD H)
<p>Support to improving humanitarian access and services in Mweso health area)</p> <p>Light civil engineering</p>	Rehabilitation of roads	Humanitarian organisations working in the area	Office des Voies de Desserte Agricole [Agricultural Service Roads Office]	North Kivu (Mweso Health Area)	07.2022 - 10.2023	Luxembourg Ministry of Foreign Affairs



<p>Rehabilitation, inclusive humanitarian action, mental health and psychosocial support and stimulation therapy for vulnerable groups in crisis-affected areas of sub-Saharan Africa</p> <p>Physical and functional rehabilitation , Mental Health and Psychosocial Support</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provision of rehabilitation care (including prostheses, orthoses and mobility aids) and psychosocial support • Individual stimulation sessions for malnourished children attended by their parents/guardians, as well as psychosocial support • Organisational and technical support for hospital rehabilitation services to ensure quality services for people referred for rehabilitation. • Raising awareness of the importance of early rehabilitation, stimulation therapy, disability and inclusion, and psychosocial and mental health support 	<p>People with functional limitations and people with disabilities, including : host populations, displaced people, returnees and refugees</p>	<p>Ministry of Health Action Contre la Faim Médecins Sans Frontières</p>	<p>North Kivu (Mweso Health Area, Masisi Territory; Rutshuru Territory and the IDP camps around the city of Goma)</p>	<p>07.2022 – 06.2024</p>	<p>German Humanitarian assistance</p>
<p>Emergency response project for medical and psychosocial assistance to vulnerable populations affected by sudden onset and multiform crises in the remote areas of Petit Nord Kivu</p> <p>Mental health and psychosocial support</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Alert management and identification of areas most exposed to the arrival of internally displaced people • Exploratory missions to analyse needs and provide a mobile mental health response • Raising community awareness of mental health • Psycho-education and psychosocial support sessions • Training on mental health and active listening for key people in the community and health facility staff 	<p>Displaced and host populations</p>	<p>Première Urgence Internationale</p>	<p>Petit Nord-Kivu Territories</p>	<p>08.2022 – 07.2024</p>	<p>Crisis and Support Centre (CDCS)</p>
<p>Strengthening logistics operations for the humanitarian community in Petit Nord-Kivu</p> <p>Shared transport and storage platforms</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Setting up of a shared road transport service to facilitate the delivery of humanitarian aid • Establishment of a shared storage service for humanitarian organisations in Goma, to facilitate the storage and transport of humanitarian goods. • Strengthening the capacity of actors in the humanitarian aid delivery chain 	<p>Humanitarian actors</p>		<p>Petit Nord-Kivu Territories</p>	<p>05.2023 - 04.2024</p>	<p>European Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid Operations (ECHO)</p>



<p>Nurturing Care Kinshasa : Together for the harmonious development of our children</p> <p>Physical and functional rehabilitation Inclusive education</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strengthening functional rehabilitation and physical therapy services • Improving access to rehabilitation services by building and equipping rehabilitation spaces in health areas • Prevention and early detection of disabilities or delayed development disorders • Capacity building of educational, health and social sector actors to support children with disabilities • Strengthening the capacity of carers to provide attentive care and to support children's learning • Improved access to rehabilitation services for children with disabilities and/or at risk of developmental delay, through the introduction of a third-party payment system. 	<p>Children aged 0-12 yrs (with disabilities or at risk of developmental delays)</p> <p>Pregnant women or women having just given birth</p> <p>Carers of children aged 0-12 yrs</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provincial Health Division • Ministry of Primary, Secondary and Technical Education • Ministry of Social Affairs? Humanitarian Action and National Solidarity • National Community-based Rehabilitation Programme • National Nutrition Programme • National Reproductive Health Programme • Congolese National Association of Parents of Children with Intellectual Disabilities • Congolese Association for the Liberation and Development of Mothers with Disabilities 	<p>Kinshasa (Municipalities of Bumbu, Nguiri, Montngafoula Selembao)</p>	<p>01.2022 – 12.2026</p>	<p>Directorate-General for Development Cooperation and Humanitarian Aid (DGD H)</p> <p>Jos & Mimieke Foundation Fondation Roi Baudouin (FRB)</p>
<p>Access and Equality for Girls' Education</p> <p>Inclusive education</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improved access to education • Accessible schools • Strengthening the capacities of education actors in the field of inclusion • Inclusion awareness-raising 	<p>Children aged 6 to 12 yrs, including children with disabilities</p>	<p>Association of support to people with disabilities;</p>	<p>Kasai province</p>	<p>08.2023-07.2027</p>	<p>Foreign Commonwealth & Development Office(FCDO)</p>



Donors

<p>DGD</p>  <p>Belgique partenaire du développement</p>	<p>MAE Luxembourg</p>  <p>LUXEMBOURG AID & DEVELOPMENT</p>	<p>FCDO</p>  <p>UKaid from the British people</p>
<p>GFFO</p>  <p>german humanitarian assistance DEUTSCHE HUMANITÄRE HILFE</p>	<p>CDCS Avec la participation de</p>  <p>MINISTÈRE DE L'EUROPE ET DES AFFAIRES ÉTRANGÈRES <i>Liberté Égalité Fraternité</i></p>	<p>ECHO</p>  <p>Financé par l'Union européenne Aide humanitaire</p>
	<p>FRB</p>  <p>Fondation Roi Baudouin <i>Agir ensemble pour une société meilleure</i></p>	