

International Standard for Archival Description

1.1 Reference code	UNHCR 51
1.2 Title	Records of the Offices in the Democratic Republic of Congo
1.3 Dates of creation	1990-1997 (predominant 1995-1997)
1.4 Level	Fonds
1.5 Extent (quantity)	1.2 m
2.2 Administrative/Biographical history	<p>UN operations in the Democratic Republic of Congo were initially conducted under the administration of the United Nations Organization in the Congo (UNOC). Prior to 1961, UNHCR seconded staff members to UNOC. In 1962 the High Commissioner appointed a Chargé de Mission to coordinate assistance to Angolan refugees who had started to arrive in the Congo in early 1961. The early role of UNHCR in the Congo was defined by the General Assembly in Resolution 1671 (XVI) in which the HC was requested to “lend his good offices in seeking appropriate solutions to the problems arising from the presence of Angolan refugees.” In addition to refugees from Angola, large numbers of Rwandan refugees arrived in Kivu between 1959 and 1961, and by the end of 1964, Sudanese fleeing civil war.</p> <p>The Branch Office in Kinshasa opened in 1973.</p>
2.3 Archival history	<p>When UNHCR was expelled from Goma by the DRC government in October 1997, the records were transferred to BO Kinshasa and subsequently to the Great Lakes Unit at Headquarters. In 2001 they were transferred to UNHCR Archives.</p>
3.1 Scope and content	<p>The files reflect the unsettled conditions in Democratic Republic of Congo, and in particular in the region around Goma, on the border with Rwanda. They include information on the human rights situation in Burundi and Rwanda as well as situation reports and files with regard to protection and security.</p>
3.3 Accruals	Accruals are expected.
3.4 Arrangement	<p>The records are arranged in two series: Series 1 Records of the Office in Goma Series 2 Records of the Office in Uvira</p>
4.1 Conditions governing access	Records are subject to the General Restriction Policy of the UNHCR Archives
4.2 Conditions governing reproduction	Records are subject to the Copyright Policy of UNHCR
4.5 Finding aids	Series 1 File unit list available
7.2 Rules or conventions	Internal UNHCR rules
7.3 Date of description	15 February 2006