

# Republic of the Congo

Protection and assistance for new influx of refugees from the Democratic Republic of the Congo



Donor Relations and Resource  
Mobilization Service  
March 2010



**Cover photo:**

UNHCR /

# Republic of the Congo

***To address the needs of newly arrived refugees from the Democratic Republic of the Congo in Republic of the Congo, UNHCR has revised its 2010 operations plans and budgets. These new plans and budgets require additional resources of almost USD 22 million above those originally included in UNHCR's Global Appeal for 2010-2011.***

Since March 2009, a dispute between two ethnic groups in the Equateur Province of the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) has escalated into open conflict between the authorities and members of the Enyele tribe, resulting in the flight of over 100,000 people from the DRC into the Likouala Department in the Republic of the Congo (RoC).

The majority of these refugees have settled along the Oubangui River in some 100 sites. Many of them are living with the local population in towns and villages.

According to Government figures, the population of the Likouala has doubled as a result of the influx, placing a heavy burden on existing services and facilities. The area also hosts some 10,000 refugees who arrived years earlier.

Approximately 15,000 people who fled an insurgent attack on the town of Dongo are currently living in difficult conditions in a school and an abandoned factory building in the town of Betou, some 80 kilometres from the border with the Central African Republic (CAR).

Inter-agency assessment missions, including UN agencies and the

Government, were conducted in Impfondo and Betou in November and December 2009. These missions identified registration and profiling, shelters, health care, potable water and sanitation, food, education as the priority needs.

In December 2009, UNHCR released USD 2.8 million from its Operational Reserve to cover the most immediate needs of approximately 35,000 new arrivals from the DRC.

Since October, UNHCR has delivered 161 metric tons of assistance including plastic sheeting for shelter, sleeping mats, blankets, kitchen sets, jerry cans, buckets, and mosquito nets with support of Congolese Red Cross.

UNHCR is supporting the local non-governmental organization (NGO) Médecins d'Afrique (MDA), that has opened seven new health posts in major refugee sites (in addition to eight existing posts), and has launched mobile clinics to cover smaller sites.

UNHCR is also supporting the local NGO Agence d'Assistance aux Rapatriés et Réfugiés au Congo that is building latrines, waste disposal sites, wells and showers in the refugee sites, and is establishing a temporary site in Bétou for up to 6,000 refugees.

In January, UNHCR began registering the refugees and identifying and assisting people with specific needs, including unaccompanied minors, victims of sexual and gender-based violence, women heads of household, older people, and people with disabilities. Once the registration exercise is completed, disaggregated data on the refugee population and their specific needs will be available.

UNHCR has a sub-office in Impfondo with three international and 13 national staff members. The Field Office in Bétou was re-opened through the support of a UNHCR Emergency Team of four temporary international and seven national staff. International and local staff for the Betou office are currently being recruited.

Given the UN Country Team's readiness to provide support to the refugee situation and in order to avoid having several appeals launched simultaneously, it was agreed that UNHCR, together with the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs would develop and launch an ad-hoc Consolidated Appeal for the Republic of Congo.

## The needs

The lack of prospects for repatriation in the short term due to the security situation in Equateur province makes

lasting solutions difficult to envisage at this stage. Not all refugees have been registered and their status in RoC

remains uncertain. The refugees location also poses important logistical challenges. Furthermore, UNHCR will

need additional partners to help implement its programme.

As the conflict in Equateur province continues, the number of refugees from the DRC is likely to increase in the forthcoming period. Already, the number of refugees is almost equal to that of the local population (120,000 people reside in the prefecture of Likouala). Authorities have highlighted the strain this influx is causing on the local population and resources. As RoC has been hosting refugees from the same areas in the DRC during the last decade, UNHCR is concerned by the possibility of “asylum fatigue.”

UNHCR will continue promoting free access to the RoC territory for people

from the DRC and advocating for granting refugee status to all asylum-seekers from the DRC in Likouala. UNHCR will ensure that the rights of refugees are respected and that no refoulement occurs.

UNHCR will oversee the registration of refugees and asylum-seekers conducted with the government counterpart, CNAR.

In addition, UNHCR will be responsible for providing shelter and for the delivery of non-food items for all refugees. Together with other UN agencies and partners, UNHCR will also ensure that refugees have access to medical care, potable water, sanitation and education.

UNHCR and partners will encourage refugees to manage their communities and participate in delivery of services. Separated children and other people with specific needs will be identified and assisted.

UNHCR will be responsible for (international and local) procurement of non-food items, vehicles, boats, equipments and fuel necessary for the implementation of this project. The airstrip in Betou will need to be rehabilitated, with the participation of World Food Programme and Government authorities. Additional warehouse space, rub halls and other storage facilities for fuel will be identified in Impfondo and Bétou.

## Strategy and activities

To implement these activities, UNHCR will coordinate closely with the Government of RoC, the UN Country Team and NGO partners in the capital, as well as in Bétou and Impfondo. Government and local authorities will be responsible for the overall security in the sites and UNHCR will provide logistical support to all partners.

UNHCR will implement its programme with its current partners, including CNAR, Médecins d’Afrique and Agence d’Assistance aux Rapatriés Réfugié au Congo and will work to identify additional partners.

The UN Country Team will ensure that the refugee emergency is addressed in

a coordinated manner, together with on-going development programs including support to the host community.

This project will benefit from inter-agency cooperation and contributions described in Consolidated Appeal for RoC.

### UNHCR is implementing following activities:

- Advocating for free access to RoC territory for people from the DRC and granting of refugee status to them; monitoring of arrivals from across the river; ensuring that refugees can enter the RoC in close collaboration with CNAR who will be increasing their presence in the refugee hosting areas.
- Registration of over 100,000 refugees. In a first stage, refugees will receive a ration card and, depending on how the situation evolves, refugee identity cards will be issued.
- Construct of one new camp to host some 6,000 refugees in Bétou.
- Provision of essential services and non-food items. All households will receive a standard NFI package and a plastic sheet to build temporary shelter with local materials.
- 16 health posts are planned under this project including personnel, medical supplies and an additional mobile clinic.
- The construction of 90 wells is foreseen, as well as the purchase of products for the purification of river water. The project also includes the construction of over 19,600 household latrines.
- Protection monitoring, including UNHCR direct implementation of the standard operation procedures on countering sexual and gender-based violence;
- Working closely with the UN Country Team and the Government to address the emerging situation, while

also creating, wherever possible, durable structures and mechanisms to provide social services to all populations.

- Community mobilization, reconciliation and peaceful co-existence with local population.

### **Key targets for 2010**

- Refugees from the DRC are allowed into RoC where they are safe from violence;
- All refugees have access to timely and continuous registration and documentation;
- All refugees have access to effective protection and legal assistance;
- All new arrivals are assisted with essential non-foods items and have access to clean, potable water, basic health services and education;
- Refugees develop self-management strategies and have the means to live peacefully with each other and the host community; and
- Separated children and other refugees with specific needs are identified and assisted.

## 2010 UNHCR Budget for Republic of Congo (USD)

Rights groups and objectives	Original 2010 budget	Revised 2010 budget
	Refugee programme	Refugee programme
	Pillar 1	Pillar 1
<b>Favourable Protection Environment</b>		
National Legal Framework	34,190	34,190
National Administrative Framework	157,680	576,304
Co-operation with Partners	2,071,632	2,071,632
Public Attitudes Towards Persons of Concern	17,176	17,176
Non-Refoulement	69,774	69,774
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>2,350,451</b>	<b>2,769,075</b>
<b>Fair Protection Processes and Documentation</b>		
Reception Conditions	186,701	186,701
Registration and Profiling	172,066	662,939
Access to Asylum Procedures	26,813	26,813
Fair and Efficient Status Determination	168,069	568,937
Individual Documentation	120,266	226,799
Civil Status Documentation	92,201	92,201
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>766,114</b>	<b>1,764,388</b>
<b>Security from Violence and Exploitation</b>		
Impact on Host Communities	82,048	82,048
Gender-Based Violence	113,918	363,316
Protection of Children	83,428	283,428
Freedom of Movement	34,048	34,048
Non-Arbitrary Detention	81,618	81,618
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>395,059</b>	<b>844,457</b>
<b>Basic Needs and Essential Services</b>		
Water	49,790	662,700
Shelter	0	1,180,215
Basic Domestic and Hygiene items	260,426	11,133,139
Primary Health Care	577,740	2,839,529
HIV/ AIDS	81,640	154,075
Education	736,319	2,052,687
Sanitation Services	37,010	1,940,358
Services for Groups with Specific Needs	203,680	413,151
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>1,946,604</b>	<b>20,375,853</b>
<b>Community Participation and Self-Management</b>		
Participatory Assessment and Community Mobilisation	102,241	163,241
Community Self-Management and Equal Representation	112,401	182,401
Self-Reliance and Livelihoods	412,776	412,776
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>627,417</b>	<b>758,417</b>
<b>Durable Solutions</b>		
Voluntary Return	877,576	877,576
Resettlement	112,934	112,934
Local Integration Support	140,576	140,576
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>1,131,086</b>	<b>1,131,086</b>
<b>Logistics and Operations Support</b>		
Supply Chain/ Logistics	870,132	870,132
Programme Management, Coordination and Support	1,050,903	1,050,903
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>1,921,035</b>	<b>1,921,035</b>
<b>SUBTOTAL</b>	<b>9,137,767</b>	<b>29,564,312</b>
7 per cent support cost		<b>1,429,858</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>30,994,170</b>

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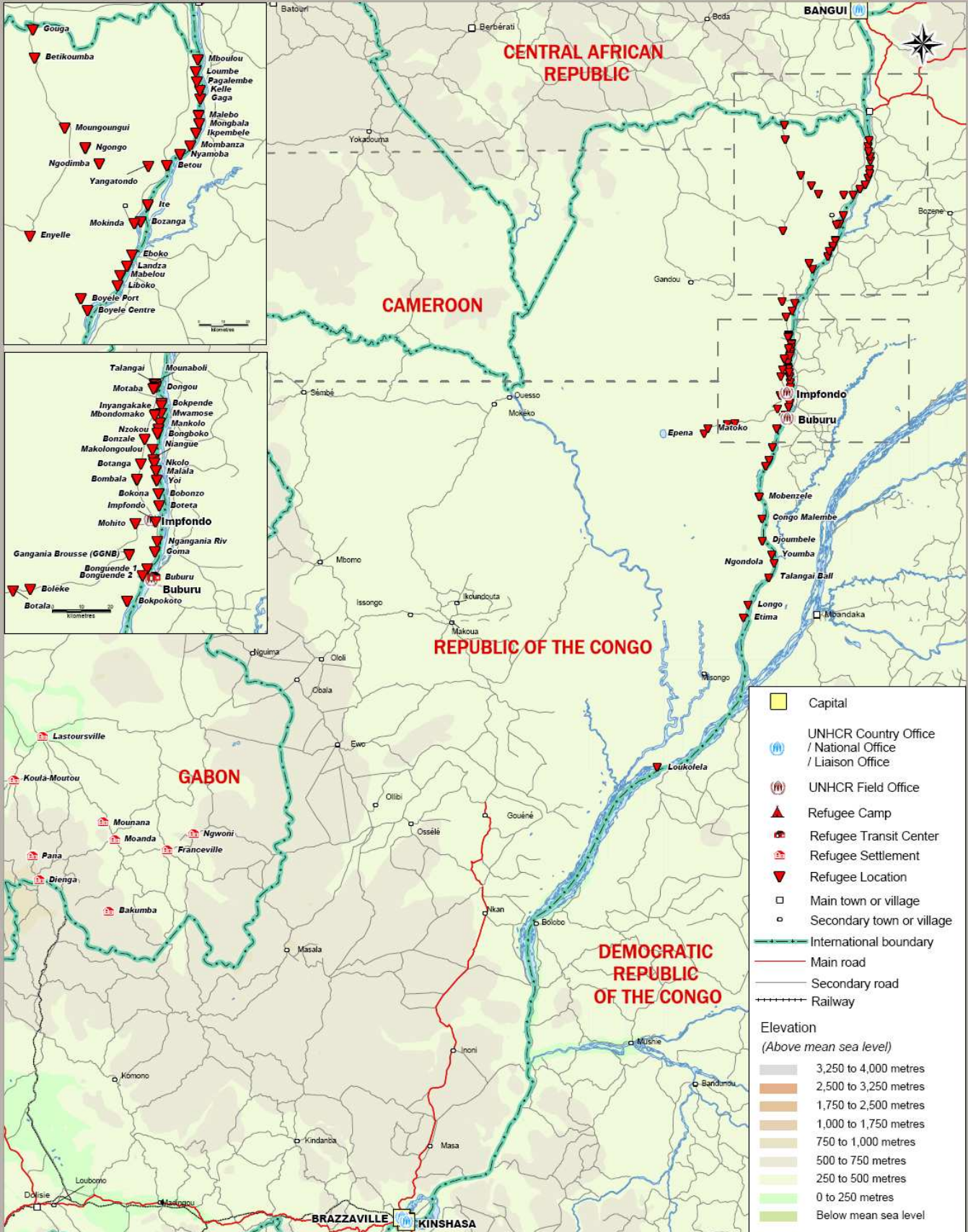
As of December 2009



**FISS**  
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Sources:  
UNHCR, Global Insight digital mapping  
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	Capital
	UNHCR Country Office / National Office / Liaison Office
	UNHCR Field Office
	Refugee Camp
	Refugee Transit Center
	Refugee Settlement
	Refugee Location
	Main town or village
	Secondary town or village
	International boundary
	Main road
	Secondary road
	Railway

**Elevation**  
(Above mean sea level)

	3,250 to 4,000 metres
	2,500 to 3,250 metres
	1,750 to 2,500 metres
	1,000 to 1,750 metres
	750 to 1,000 metres
	500 to 750 metres
	250 to 500 metres
	0 to 250 metres
	Below mean sea level

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