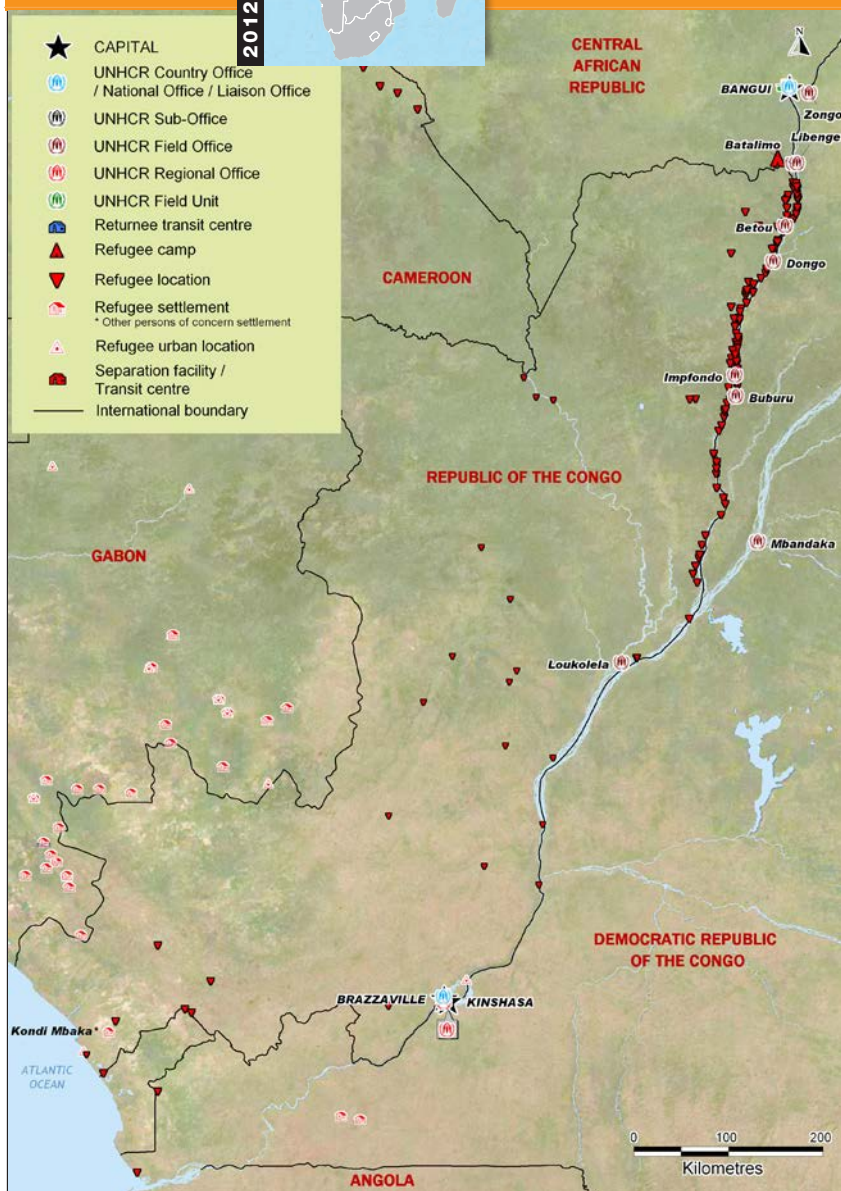


CONGO (REPUBLIC OF THE)



UNHCR's presence in 2012	
Number of offices	4
Total staff	76
International staff	9
National staff	49
UNVs	18

Partners

Implementing partners

Government agencies:

Comité national d'assistance aux réfugiés

NGOs:

African Initiative for Relief and Development, *Agence d'assistance aux rapatriés et aux réfugiés au Congo*, *Commission d'entraide pour les migrants et les réfugiés*, International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, International Partnership for Human Development, *Médecins d'Afrique*

Others:

UNV

Operational partners

Government agencies:

International Co-operation and Francophonie, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ministry of Public Health, Ministry of Social Affairs, Humanitarian Actions and National Solidarity

NGOs:

International Partnership for Human Development, *Médecins Sans Frontières-France*

Others:

IFRC, UNDP, UNESCO, UNFPA, UNICEF, WFP, WHO

| Overview |

Operational highlights

- Following tripartite meetings between representatives of the Republic of the Congo (the Congo), the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) and UNHCR, the return of some 46,300 refugees living in the DRC to the Congo was organized.
- UNHCR assisted the *Comité national d'assistance aux réfugiés* to build capacity in refugee status determination (RSD), registration and case-file management.
- Some 2,500 refugee children from the DRC living in the north-east of the Congo were provided with birth certificates.
- UNHCR supported the finalization of an asylum law which is coherent with international standards and that is to be adopted in 2013.
- The Government invoked the cessation of refugee status for Angolan refugees on 30 September 2012.
- An information campaign was launched for Rwandan refugees in anticipation of the cessation of their refugee status in 2013.

People of concern

In this operation the main groups of people of concern to UNHCR were refugees who fled ethnic violence in the DRC's Equateur Province and sought refuge in north-eastern Congo in 2009-2010; and a mixed urban population of refugees and asylum-seekers, the majority of whom are from the DRC and Rwanda.

Type of Population	Origin	Total	Of whom assisted by UNHCR	Per cent female	Per cent under 18
Refugees	Dem. Rep. of the Congo	89,400	89,400	52	56
	Rwanda	8,400	8,400	42	49
	Various	600	600	41	39
Asylum-seekers	Dem. Rep. of the Congo	2,600	2,600	46	42
	Rwanda	220	220	50	29
	Chad	160	160	29	25
	Central African Rep.	140	140	28	26
	Various	210	210	15	12
Others of concern	Angolese refugees under the cessation clause	600	600	49	37
	Various	390	390	51	99
Returnees (refugees)	Various	50	50	49	38
Total		102,770	102,770		

| Report on 2012 results |

Achievements and impact

Fair protection processes and documentation

- Some 2,500 refugee children from the DRC living in north-eastern Congo were registered and their data transferred to the Civil Registration Office for the provision of birth certificates.
- Capacity building activities were undertaken for civil registration officials.

Security from violence and exploitation

- Training on ways to address sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV) was conducted for medical, psychosocial and legal partners in rural and urban areas. The aim was to improve the referral system and the identification and documentation of cases.
- In Impfondo, Betou and Brazzaville, more than 160 victims of SGBV received medical treatment and/or psychosocial counselling and had access to legal assistance if requested.
- A total of six Women's Centres were built in 2012 to provide moral, material and legal support to victims of SGBV.

Basic needs and essential services

- Through joint efforts by UNHCR and its partners, some 83 per cent of refugee children in urban areas were enrolled in primary schools in 2011 and 2012. Almost 90 children received financial support. In rural areas, some 78 per cent of refugee children were enrolled in primary education.
- In the north-eastern town of Betou, nurses were trained to identify early signs of cholera. Emergency first aid kits and stocks of medicines were placed at each health post.
- Regarding hygiene, latrines were provided for the use of some 1,700 rural refugees and all communal buildings had

adequate water and sanitation facilities. All women who were repatriated received sanitary materials.

- HIV and AIDS awareness sessions were organized, particularly for pregnant women and women of childbearing age. UNHCR also encouraged refugees to participate in HIV screening. Refugees who tested positive received anti-retroviral treatment.
- Urban refugees received training in various areas such as soap making and cutting and sewing in order to improve their livelihood opportunities. A total of 60 groups of refugees were trained in market gardening. Refugees were also provided with tools, seeds, pesticides, nets and canoes.

Durable solutions

- Four cross-border meetings and four "go and see" visits were conducted for refugees from the DRC living in the Congo in preparation for their repatriation, which started in May. By the end of the year, some 95 per cent (nearly 46,400) of the 49,000 refugees who intended to repatriate had done so. Transport by boat was arranged for refugees who wished to return home in organized groups, while others who wished to travel on their own received a transportation allowance.
- Information campaigns were organized in anticipation of the application of the cessation clause for Rwandan refugees on 30 June 2013. More than 500 refugees as well as local authorities in Brazzaville and the north of the country were provided with information about voluntary repatriation, local integration and exemption procedures.
- Former Angolan refugees were provided with information on the cessation of their refugee status, and the intentions of more than 440 of them regarding integration or repatriation were registered by the Government and UNHCR.
- A decision was taken to provide refugees with biometric travel documents, the production of which will begin in 2013.

Logistics and operational support

- UNHCR improved its data management system in the Congo by rigorously recording the distribution of all non-food items (NFIs) and conducting inventories of assets in its offices in Brazzaville, Impfondo and Bétou.
- A total of 46 repatriation convoys were organized by UNHCR for the repatriation of refugees from the DRC.

Assessment of results

In 2012, through concerted efforts with its partners and in close collaboration with its offices in the DRC, UNHCR successfully implemented its repatriation programme, which will continue in 2013. As the response of the refugee population to repatriation was overwhelmingly favourable, UNHCR had to reallocate some of its resources from other programmes to fully fund the repatriation operation.

Birth certificates were issued to some 2,500 children, 500 more than originally planned, as additional children in need of documentation were identified in Liranga and areas surrounding Pointe Noire.

Owing to an inadequate asylum framework, progress on pending RSD cases was slow. More than 3,300 people were awaiting a decision on their status in 2012. The Eligibility Commission and Appeal board met once and approved 27 cases, a recognition rate of 14 per cent. UNHCR worked with the *Comité National d'Assistance aux Réfugiés* to assess asylum cases and to develop a fairer and more transparent RSD system. UNHCR began developing standard operating procedures for RSD in 2012. These will be finalized in 2013.

Working with others

In 2012 UNHCR worked with six implementing partners, including local and international organizations, and one governmental partner. UNHCR was part of the UN Country team and participated to the preparation of the United Nations Development Action Framework. UNHCR also worked in close collaboration with several government departments, such as the *Comité national d'assistance aux réfugiés*, as well as with UNICEF, WFP and WHO.

Constraints

Repatriation was hampered for many months by low water levels in the Congo River, which prevented boat travel between the Congo and the DRC. The high cost of fuel imported from Bangui put an extra strain on UNHCR's limited resources in the Congo.

Difficult access to some areas, such as Liranga, hindered the delivery of birth certificates to refugee children.

The Eligibility Commission and Appeal Commission met only once in 2012, leading to an increase in the number of pending asylum claims.

There is no adequate judicial system in the north to hear SGBV cases. Moreover, as there are no post-exposure prophylaxis kits in some rural areas, treating rape survivors within a 72-hour period is impossible.

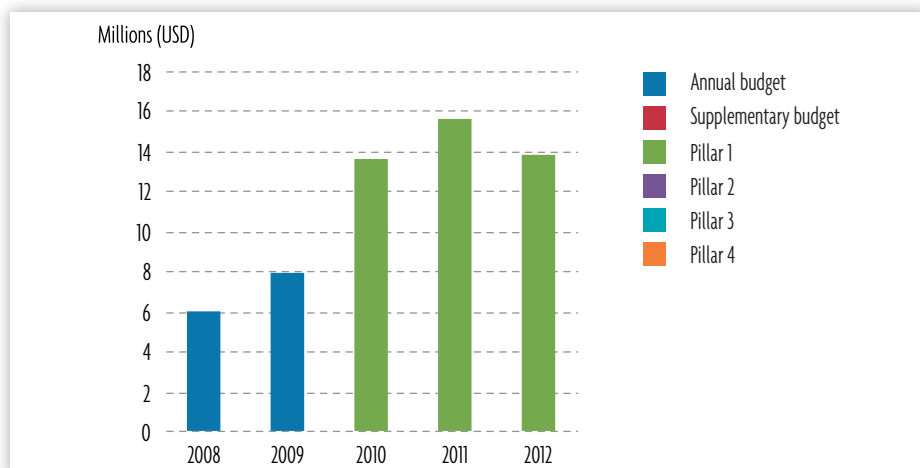
Unmet needs

- Only some 5,000 out of 18,000 refugee children in rural areas, and 224 out of 720 refugee children in urban areas, had access to secondary education.
- Approximately 860 refugee children in Liranga could not be provided with birth certificates.
- Some 1,120 refugees in urban areas lacked access to livelihood projects, thus leaving them entirely dependent on humanitarian assistance.
- Nearly 2,400 refugees from the DRC could not be repatriated in 2012.

| Financial information |

Expenditures for Congo | 2008 to 2012

The financial requirements for UNHCR's operation in the Congo amounted to USD 30.6 million in 2012. The level of funding available allowed the operation to expend USD 13.9 million. The high demand for repatriation as a durable solution and the related growth in logistical costs required a significant reallocation of available resources. This affected UNHCR's assistance to refugees, particularly in the areas of education, health care and livelihoods.



Budget, income and expenditure in the Congo | USD

	PILLAR 1 Refugee programme	Total
FINAL BUDGET	30,582,224	30,582,224
Income from contributions ¹	871,657	871,657
Other funds available / adjustments / transfers	13,005,401	13,005,401
TOTAL FUNDS AVAILABLE	13,877,058	13,877,058
EXPENDITURE BREAKDOWN		
<i>Favourable Protection Environment</i>		
Law and policy	25,109	25,109
Administrative institutions and practice	22,956	22,956
Public attitude towards persons of concern	164,136	164,136
Subtotal	212,200	212,200
<i>Fair Protection Processes and Documentation</i>		
Reception conditions	369,728	369,728
Individual documentation	546,306	546,306
Civil registration and status documentation	148,641	148,641
Subtotal	1,064,675	1,064,675
<i>Security from Violence and Exploitation</i>		
Prevention and response to SGBV	725,147	725,147
Protection of children	312,856	312,856
Subtotal	1,038,002	1,038,002
<i>Basic Needs and Essential Services</i>		
Health	1,851,417	1,851,417
Reproductive health and HIV services	358,371	358,371
Nutrition	165,084	165,084
Water	925,780	925,780
Sanitation and hygiene	537,077	537,077
Basic and domestic items	331,979	331,979
Services for people with specific needs	282,414	282,414
Education	1,265,043	1,265,043
Subtotal	5,717,164	5,717,164
<i>Community Empowerment and Self-Reliance</i>		
Community mobilization	88,765	88,765
Self-reliance and livelihoods	313,352	313,352
Subtotal	402,117	402,117
<i>Durable Solutions</i>		
Comprehensive solutions strategy	82,068	82,068
Voluntary return	1,390,603	1,390,603
Integration	44,382	44,382
Resettlement	44,832	44,832
Subtotal	1,561,886	1,561,886
<i>Leadership, Coordination and Partnerships</i>		
Emergency management	44,382	44,382
Donor relations and resource mobilization	44,383	44,383
Subtotal	88,765	88,765
<i>Logistics and Operations Support</i>		
Logistics and supply	657,810	657,810
Operations management, coordination and support	1,087,217	1,087,217
Subtotal	1,745,027	1,745,027
Balance of instalments with implementing partners	2,047,220	2,047,220
Total	13,877,057	13,877,057

¹Income from contributions includes indirect support costs that are recovered from contributions to Pillars 3 and 4, supplementary budgets and the "New or additional activities – mandate-related" (NAM) Reserve. Contributions towards all pillars are included under Pillar 1.