

Risk Mapping Congo (DRC)

Sector Disaster Risk Reduction & Emergency Aid

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Appendix: hazard map DRC

Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC)

Fast Facts¹

Capital: Kinshasa Population: 70 mln Population Density: 29 people/sq.km Administrative regions: 11 provinces, in urban areas: <i>mairies, cities, commune, quartier</i> . In rural areas: <i>territoriale, district, territoire, cite, quartier, chefferie/sector, groupement, village</i> Major ethnic groups: Kongo, Luba and Mongo Major religion: Christianity, trad. religion	Official language: French. Nat.languages: Kikongo, Lingala, Tshiluba, Swahili Climate: tropical hot and humid. Rains: south of equator: Oct-May, north of equator: April-Nov. Eastern highlands more temperate Pop. Affected by natural disasters (average/year/mln people): 1288 Nr. of refugees: 368 000, nr. of IDPs: 1.7 mln. Cordaid sectors: CT, DRR, H&W, Entrepreneurship (pilot)
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Hazards

Conflicts²

The Democratic Republic of Congo has gone through a long period of war and conflicts. The 'Second Congo War' - sometimes called Africa's World War since several foreign armies were involved - started in 1998. The war took lives of millions of people. A peace agreement was signed in 2003 and today most of the country is at peace, yet various conflicts with various roots continue and stability remains weak, especially in the eastern provinces. Of biggest concern today are:

National elections

Presidential elections took place in DR Congo in November 2011. Joseph Kabila was re-elected, but the process was described as disorganised, fraudulent and violent. Opposition candidates asked for invalidation of the elections, but Kabila nevertheless installed himself. Continuing violence gives rise to concern that instability will become worse.³

North and South Kivu and Orientale

Ever since the Rwandan war and genocide started, Rwandans have crossed the porous border with DR Congo, especially in North and South Kivu and in Orientale. Today, these resource-rich areas are home to several armed groups who fight over control of the natural resources. Major parties in the conflict are the Congolese army (FADRC), - backed by the UN stabilization mission (MONUSCO)- the Democratic Forces for the Liberation of Rwanda (FDLR), the Allied Democratic Forces-National Army for the Liberation of Uganda (ADF/NALU), and the Mai Mai rebels. All sides have been accused of violation of human rights. In 2011, 116 attacks have taken place against humanitarian actors, who have become a target in the fighting.⁴

Ituri district

The Ituri conflict between the agriculturalist Lendu (backed by the Nationalist and Integrationist Front - FNI) and the pastoralist Hema (supported by the Union of Congolese Patriots - UPC) started initially as a land dispute. Clashes were most severe between 1999 and 2003. Tensions increased because of the

¹ Based on http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Democratic_Republic_of_the_Congo and <http://hdrstats.undp.org/en/countries/profiles/COD.html>, viewed on 31.10.2011

² For an extensive historiography of the DR Congo (in Dutch), see D. van Reybrouck. *Congo. Een geschiedenis*. Amsterdam: De Bezige Bij.

³ <http://www.crisisgroup.org/en/regions/africa/central-africa/dr-congo.aspx>, viewed on 18.12.2011

⁴ International Crisis Group. *DR Congo Conflict History*, <http://www.crisisgroup.org/en/key-issues/research-resources/conflict-histories/dr-congo.aspx>, viewed on 1.11.2011. USAID. 29 Sept. 2011. *The Democratic Republic of Congo : Complex emergency*, http://www.usaid.gov/our_work/humanitarian_assistance/disaster_assistance/countries/drc/template/fs_sr/fy2011/drc_ce_fs03_09-29-2011.pdf

Lendu's identification with the Hutu and the Hema's identification with the Tutsi. The region has vast natural resources, such as gold, diamonds, coltan, timber, and coffee. Therefore, many actors are interested in gaining control. Armed conflict, displacement, lack of food and diseases are said to have caused the death of about 60 000 people in the region.⁵

Lord's Resistance Army

Driven out of Uganda, the Lord's Resistance Army (LRA) partly operates from the Garamba National Park in the Orientale Province. LRA's attacks on civilians cause a climate of fear and internal displacements. Violent attacks, often involving killings and rape, have been on the rise in 2011.⁶

Natural resources

The DR of Congo is extremely rich in natural resources, with over 10 % of global reserves of copper, and over 35% of global reserves of cobalt. Diamonds, oil, gold, and various precious minerals such as coltan and cassiterite can be found.⁷ The following is an overview of the most resource rich provinces.

Province	Resource ⁸
Katanga (esp. east)	Cobalt, copper, tin, radium, uranium, diamonds
Orientale Province (esp. Ituri)	Coltan, gold, diamonds, petroleum
Kasai Occidental	Timber, diamonds, gold
Kasai Oriental	Iron, nickel, chrome, diamonds, gold
North Kivu	Gold, coltan, cassiterite, zinc, tungsten, diamonds
South Kivu	Coltan, diamonds

Not coincidentally, the areas with rich resources are also the areas where conflicts are most persistent. Precious minerals and metals on the one hand increase the interest of various parties to gain control over the area. On the other hand, the benefits from exploiting these resources provide the means to continue the conflict as mines are often in the hands of armed groups and profits are frequently used to purchase new arms. Benefits are not channelled to the local population, which provokes high levels of inequality and social tensions.⁹

Epidemics

Three-quarters of the Congolese population lives under the poverty line. As a result, most people are extremely prone to poverty related diseases such as malaria, cholera, typhoid and Ebola. Yellow fever is still endemic in DRC. Recent outbreaks of Ebola haemorrhagic fever have occurred in Kasai Occidental in 2009 and 2007. Pneumonic plagues regularly occur in the Haut Uele district of Province Orientale.¹⁰ Ituri is considered by the WHO as the 'most active focus of human plague worldwide'¹¹. Water-borne diseases tend to spread rapidly via the country's waterways. Cholera is still endemic in the provinces of Katanga, Maniema, North Kivu and South Kivu. A cholera epidemic in 2011 also reached Bandundu, Equateur, Kinshasa and Orientale.¹² Also measles and polio outbreaks continue to take their toll in the country.¹³

⁵ Drake, K. 2006. *Gold and Ethnic Conflict in the Ituri Region of the Democratic Republic of the Congo*, <http://www1.american.edu/ted/ice/ituri.htm>, viewed on 1.11.2011

⁶ OCHA, 13 Sept. 2011. *Democratic Republic of the Congo: Insecurity and displacement*. http://reliefweb.int/sites/reliefweb.int/files/resources/SS_2011_COD_0913.pdf, viewed on 1.11.2011.

⁷ <http://www.fataltransactions.org/What-Where/Countries/The-Democratic-Republic-of-Congo-DRC>, viewed on 1.11.2011.

⁸ NIZA/Fatal transactions. 2010. *Factsheet Congo & Grondstoffen*, http://www.niza.nl/documenten/factsheet_congo_2010.pdf and http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Democratic_Republic_of_the_Congo, viewed on 1.11.2011.

⁹ NIZA/Fatal transactions. 2010. *Factsheet Congo & Grondstoffen*; <http://www.fataltransactions.org/What-Where/Countries/The-Democratic-Republic-of-Congo-DRC>, viewed on 1.11.2011.

¹⁰ <http://www.who.int/csr/don/archive/country/cod/en/>, viewed on 8.11.2011.

¹¹ http://www.who.int/csr/don/2006_06_14/en/index.html, viewed on 8.11.2011.

¹² IRIN, DRC: *Fighting cholera*, <http://www.irinnews.org/report.aspx?reportid=94028>, viewed on 31.10.2011

¹³ IRIN, DRC: *Cholera deaths and cases soar*, <http://www.irinnews.org/report.aspx?reportid=93910>, viewed on 31.10.2011.

Natural Hazards

Floods

Rain-induced floods occur almost annually, especially between February-May and October-December.¹⁴ The Congo river and its tributaries are essential for the country's economy and transport network. Flooding reduces accessibility and therefore has a great impact on people's daily lives. It is said that, as a result of climate change, rain levels will go down further, which might reduce the number of floods in the future (which at the same time will negatively impact on agricultural output).¹⁵

Volcanoes and earthquakes

The east of Congo is located at the western fault line of the Great Rift Valley, resulting in incidences of earthquakes and volcano eruptions especially in the Kivu provinces. DRC's major volcanoes are in the Virunga Mountains of the DRC. The Nyamuragira is considered the most active volcano in Africa.¹⁶ Most recent eruption was in 2010. Fortunately, the lava flows did not reach the nearby city of Goma. Nevertheless, ash and gas emissions did cause health problems to local residents. Another major volcano is the Nyiragongo. The last major eruption of this volcano was in 2002 when quickly flowing lava reached the city of Goma and affected 110 000 people. Another potential risk is a limnic eruption of Lake Kivu. The lake contains vast amounts of dissolved carbon dioxide and methane that could explode from the lake and threaten the lives of the two million people living at the shores, including the town of Bukavu.¹⁷

Vulnerability

Indicators¹⁸

Human Development Index (out of 187)	187	Adult literacy rate (% aged >15)	66.8
GDP per capita (USD)	290	Mean years of schooling (of adults)	3.5
Living below 1,25 (USD) a day (% pop)	59.2	Gender inequality index	0.710
Life expectancy at birth (years)	48.4	Global hunger index (>20 alarming)	39.0
Infant mortality rate (per 1000 live births)	199	Corruption perceptions index (10 = clean)	2
Gini coefficient	44.4		

Although officially, the Second Congo War has come to an end, fighting continues especially in the eastern parts of the country. This is also the region where the health situation tends to be worst and people are most prone to epidemics. The number of *IDPs* remains high with an estimated 1.7 million people. Armed attacks against humanitarian assistants greatly hamper the provision of support. *Women* constitute an especially vulnerable group within the conflict regions as rape is habitually used as a terrorizing weapon of war by all armed groups. Once raped, women often are stigmatized and get abandoned by their husbands and family. Fistulas and traumas are additional problems. Being alone, these women often lack resources

¹⁴ WFP Emergency Preparedness and Response Branch. 2011. *Seasonal and hazards calendar*, <http://www.hewsweb.org/download/SHC7Dec2010.pdf>, viewed on 31.10.2011.

¹⁵ Rep. Democr. du Congo, ministere de l'environnement. Sept. 2006. *Programme d'Action National d'Adaptation au Changement Climatique de la République Démocratique du Congo*, http://www.preventionweb.net/files/8509_cod01.pdf, viewed on 31.10.2011.

¹⁶ Smithsonian Institution's Global Volcanism Program, <http://www.volcano.si.edu/world/volcano.cfm?vnum=0203-02>, viewed on 2.11.2011.

¹⁷ http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lake_Kivu, viewed on 2.11.2011.

¹⁸ UNDP, 2011. *Congo Democratic Republic Country Profile: Human Development Indicators*, <http://hdrstats.undp.org/en/countries/profiles/COD.html>, viewed on 18.12.2011 and <http://www.ifpri.org/sites/default/files/publications/ghi11.pdf> and <http://cpi.transparency.org/cpi2011/results/#CountryResults>, viewed on 20.12.2011.

and are extremely vulnerable.¹⁹ Rape of men is less regular and much less at the centre of attention of humanitarian interventions. Yet these men often suffer from severe traumas.²⁰

An estimated number of 600 000 *Pygmy* people live in the extended forest areas of the DRC. Mbuti pygmies constitute the major group. Due to continuous conflict and deforestation, the pygmies are threatened in their livelihoods and often live in extreme poverty. In the aftermath of the Second Congo War Mbuti pygmies have claimed that genocide has taken place against them with armed parties hunting and eating them as a way of oppression and to obtain magical powers from these people who were seen as ‘subhuman’.²¹

Capacity

Government

The DRC has a National Crisis Committee, which has as its mission to focus on prevention and management of emergencies. The Committee is chaired by the Ministry of the Interior and joined by representatives of various ministries, UN agencies, multi-lateral agencies, donors and (i)NGOs. After the signing of the peace agreement, a decree on transitional government was adopted in 2003, which included a disaster management framework. DRR is not formally integrated in national plans of poverty reduction. The Committee is largely dysfunctional and has not yet proceeded to map disaster risks, vulnerability and capacities. For some disasters, emergency plans are in place (eruption of Nyiragongo volcano, Congo River floods), but they are usually not tested.²² Coordination is further hindered by the fact that the central government is located in Kinshasa, whereas the humanitarian situation is generally worst in the east of the country. Poor infrastructure is a serious problem.

MONUSCO

The MONUSCO is the United Nations Organization Stabilization Mission in the DRC (previously named MONUC), which has a presence of more than 20 000 staff members, based mainly in North and South Kivu and Orientale Provinces. The mission’s mandate is to protect ‘civilians, humanitarian personnel and human rights defenders under imminent threat of physical violence and to support the Government of the DRC in its stabilization and peace consolidation efforts.’²³

Civil society

Congolese NGOs are widespread over the country, and often have a presence in areas where international humanitarian actors are largely absent.²⁴

International coordination

The cluster approach was introduced in the DRC in 2006. The following division was made:

Cluster	Lead agency	Co-facilitator
Education	UNICEF	Save the Children UK
Food security	FAO/WFP	ACF
Health	WHO	

¹⁹ See for instance BBC News, 15 May 2010, *Haunted by Congo Rape Dilemma*, <http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/africa/8677637.stm>, and Al Jazeera, 12 May 2011. *Rape of women in DR Congo ‘tops 1000 a day,’* <http://english.aljazeera.net/news/africa/2011/05/2011511231649539962.html>, viewed on 2.11.2011.

²⁰ Johnson et al. 2010. *Association of Sexual Violence and Human Rights Violations With Physical and Mental Health in Territories of the Eastern Democratic Republic of the Congo*. JAMA, 304(5): 553-562. See also IRINNews, *DRC-Uganda: Male sexual abuse survivors living on the margins*, <http://www.irinnews.org/report.aspx?reportid=93399>, viewed on 2.11.2011.

²¹ BBC News, 23 May 2003. *DR Congo Pygmies appeal to UN*, <http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/africa/2933524.stm>, viewed on 2.11.2011.

²² Plan general de soumission d’information sur la prevention des catastrophes: rapport de la RD Congo. http://www.preventionweb.net/files/833_Democratic-Republic-Congo-report.pdf, viewed on 2.11.2011.

²³ <http://www.un.org/en/peacekeeping/missions/monusco/mandate.shtml>, viewed on 8.11.2011.

²⁴ Mowjee, T. 2008. *NGOs and Humanitarian Reform Mapping Study: Democratic Republic of Congo Report*. <http://www.icva.ch/doc00003652.pdf>, viewed on 2.11.2011.

Logistics	WFP	Acted
NFI/Shelter	UNICEF	CRS
Nutrition	UNICEF	ACF
Protection	UNHCR	Save the Children UK
Returns and reintegration	UNHCR	UNDP
WatSan	UNICEF	PSI/ASF

Coordination mechanisms vary between provinces.²⁵

Cooperation with the government and local NGOs

Local government institutions in the DRC are also involved in the clusters, especially in the areas with limited presence of international organisations. Cooperation between INGOs and local NGOs is limited, which is said to be because INGOs feel local NGOs have limited capacity to engage in humanitarian activities.²⁶

Cordaid Partners

Sector: Health & Wellbeing

Name and kind of org.	Geo location	Core business	Strategy	turnover	staff
IPASC ARU	ITURI - Province Orientale	Knowledge institute	Public health care and Community care	100,000-500,000	10-50
BDOM MAHAGI NIOKA	ITURI - Province Orientale	service delivery	Public health care and community care	100,000-500,000	10-50
BDOM KISANGANI	Province Orientale	Service delivery	Public health care and community care	100,000-500,000	10-50
BDOM KINSHASA	Kinshasa Stad	Service delivery	Public health care and community care	>500,000	>50
SPS CARITAS	Kinshasa	Network organisation, lobbying/advocacy	Public health care and community care	>500,000	>50
BDOM KANANGA	Kasai occidental	Service delivery	Public health care and community care	<100,000	<10
BDOM Mbuji Mayi	Kasai oriental	Service delivery	Public health care and community care	<100,000	<10
BDOM Kabinda	Kasai oriental	Service delivery	Public health care and community care	<100,000	<10
BDOM BUKAVU	Sud Kivu - Bukavu	Service delivery	Public health care and community care	100,000-500,000	10-50
ESP BUKAVU	Sud Kivu - Bukavu	Knowledge institute	PBF cursus	<100,000	<10
AAP SUD KIVU	Sud Kivu - Bukavu	Zorg inkoop (PBF)	Public health care and community care	>500,000	10-50
BDOM BOMA	Bas Congo	Service delivery	Public health care and community care	<100,000	<10

Sector: entrepreneurship

Name and kind of org.	Geo location	Core business	Strategy	turnover	staff
LOFEPACO	Nord KIVU	Women's interest in agriculture	Lobby and value chain development	< 100.000	< 10
VECO	Sud KIVU	International development	Strengthening local producers	100.000 - 500.000	10-50 staff

²⁵ Mowjee, T. 2008. *NGOs and Humanitarian Reform Mapping Study: Democratic Republic of Congo Report*. <http://www.icva.ch/doc00003652.pdf>, viewed on 2.11.2011.

²⁶ *ibid.*

		organisation	organisations		
ADEV	Bas Congo	Think tank and sensitization	Studies and sensitization communities	< 100.000	< 10

Several partners may be added to this list by end 2012, so update is required.

Sector: CT

Name and kind of org.	Core business
Radio Maendelo	vredeseducatie en media
Afem	vrouwen en media
Uefa	vrouwen en vrede
Centre Olame	vrouwen en vrede
Recic	vrouwen en vrede
Vision Sociale	vrouwen en justitie
Ocet	vrouwen en justitie
RFDP	vrouwen en justitie
Campagne Tout Droit	vrouwen en justitie
CJR	vrouwen en vrede, justitie
IFDP	veiligheid en community
LAV	veiligheid en community
ICJP	veiligheid en community
CDJP Mahagi	veiligheid en community
GNWP	veiligheid en community
RHA	veiligheid en community
Observatoire de la Paix	vrouwen en governance
Groupe Lotus	vrouwen en governance
VICO	Leiderschap vrouwen en iga's
Acodepa	Leiderschap vrouwen en iga's
Capes	Leiderschap vrouwen en iga's
GNWP	vrouwen en governance
Rio	Vredeseducatie & media; mining

Synthesis

The DRC has a wealth of natural resources, but also conflict. Recent elections have shown that stability is still an illusion. The following points illustrate the main risks in this country based on hazards, vulnerability (as population exposed) and history.

- The main threat for Congo DR is the exacerbation of violence and increase of insecurity in the east and a spill-over across the eastern borders. This can be related to the movement of IDPs and refugees but also of rebel groups working in the border regions. We expect the number of IDPs and refugees to rise as violence increases in DRC and its neighbouring countries.
- Conflict may also occur in the area of politics, as we have seen late 2011. The political landscape is very unstable, which might cause insecurities in the capital of Kinshasa in the west. Violence and conflict can be intensified by continued weak governance, human rights abuse and high inequality.
- A potential natural hazard is the eruption of Mt. Nyiragongo near the city of Goma. It has affected more than 100 thousand people in the past. It can affect over 300 thousand people in a future eruption.

Resources and contacts

- Portal about humanitarian assistance in DRC: <http://www.rdc-humanitaire.net/>
- <http://www.crisisgroup.org/en/key-issues/research-resources/conflict-histories/dr-congo.aspx>

National platform focal point, ministère de l'intérieur, <http://interieur.cd/index.php?option=com>, tel.
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