

# DEPARTMENT FOR EVALUATION

Report 6/2022 COUNTRY EVALUATION BRIEF

## Democratic Republic of the Congo



### CONTENT

MAIN FINDINGS  
KEY FACTS  
MAP  
KEY EVENTS

1 INTRODUCTION

2 COUNTRY CONTEXT

3 DONOR  
ENGAGEMENT

4 EVALUATION  
FINDINGS

5 LESSONS

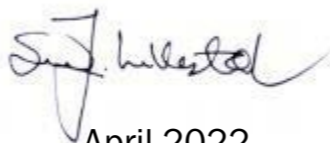
6 METHODOLOGY

REFERENCES  
ABBREVIATIONS

**The purpose** of this Country Evaluation Brief is to present relevant knowledge about donors' development efforts in Democratic Republic of the Congo.

The brief systematises relevant findings from existing evaluations of development interventions in the country. The idea is to present the findings to the reader in a succinct and easily accessible format.

Readers who want to explore key issues in depth can access the underlying reports through the reference list. At our website, you can also find a set of short "Evaluation Portraits" summarising the key contents of those documents. The Country Evaluation Brief was researched and produced by the consultancy here.



April 2022,

Siv J. Lillestøl, Acting Director,  
Department for Evaluation



## Main Findings

The report draws on findings presented in 25 evaluations and reviews published since 2016 of major donor-funded programmes and projects in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC).

- Whilst substantial donor assistance has contributed to development improvements, **multiple crises** on such an enormous scale means DRC faces funding shortages and an inadequate response to its vulnerable populations. An estimated 60 million persons live under the global poverty line of less than \$1.90 a day.
- Decades of civil war and widespread hunger gave rise to **humanitarian assistance** as the focus area of development aid. Almost half of the 2019 bilateral official development assistance was dedicated to the humanitarian sector.
- Many evaluations proved that donor projects and programmes were **effective**, but sustainability was a recurring challenge across the board. Programmes developed and implemented in close collaboration with

local actors were found to stand a higher chance of sustainable success.

- **Gender** was the most common cross-cutting issue included in the evaluations. Whilst some degree of change was observed in women's participation and reducing gender inequality, efforts mostly had a superficial impact in altering gender norms.
- Interventions in **forest protection** produced encouraging results in terms of sustainable forest use and community solidarity. Community-based development initiatives created real improvements in the livelihoods of forest dependent communities. Climate change and deforestation as a cross-cutting issue is lacking.
- A considerable number of evaluations were conducted in the **health** field. Donor efforts to tackle the country's inefficient and dysfunctional health system have produced some success in improving the quality and accessibility of health products and

services.

- Future efforts should be focused upon creating context-specific, gender mainstreamed interventions that create long-term resilience, local ownership and address the **root causes** of vulnerability.



## Key facts

# Democratic Republic of the Congo

**Estimated population: 89,561,404**  
(UNDESA 2019; 2020 est.)

**Population under the age of 15 (%): 45.8%**  
(UNDESA 2019; 2020 est.)

**Urban population (%): 45.6%**  
(UNDESA 2018; 2020 est.)

**Average Annual Rate of Change of the Urban Population (%): 4.53%**  
(UNDESA 2018; 2015-2020 est.)

**Human Development Index (HDI): 175/189**  
(UNDP Human Development Report 2020; 2019 data)

**Gender Inequality Index (GII): 150/162**  
(UNDP Human Development Report 2020; 2019 data)

**Corruption Perception Index: 19/100, rank 169 of 180**  
(Transparency International 2021)

**Poverty headcount ratio at USD 1.90 a day (2011 PPP) (% of population): 77.2%**  
(World Bank 2021; 2012 data)

**Life expectancy at birth (male/female): 60.2 (58.7/61.7)**  
(UNDESA 2019; 2015-2020 est.)

**Child mortality rate (under 5 mortality per 1,000 live births): 81.2**  
(UN Inter-agency Group for Child Mortality Estimation (UN IGME) 2020; 2020 est.)

**Internally Displaced Persons (new displacements associated with conflict and violence): 2,209,000**  
(World Bank 2021; 2020 data)

**Gross National Income (GNI) per capita, PPP (current international USD): \$1,110**  
(World Bank 2020; 2020 data)

**Adult literacy rate (15+) (%): 77%**  
(UNESCO 2020; 2016 data)

**Net ODA received (% of GNI): 6.2%**  
(World Bank 2020; 2019 data)

**Fragile States Index: 108.4, ranked 5th most fragile out of 179 countries**  
(The Fund for Peace 2021)

**Corruption Perception Index rank: 170/180**  
(Transparency International 2020; 2020 data)

**Mean years of schooling: 6.8**  
(UNDP 2020; 2019 data)

**GNI growth (annual %): 1.865%**  
(World Bank 2020; 2020 data)

**GNI per capita growth (annual %): -1.286%**  
(World Bank 2020; 2020 data)

**GINI index: 42.1**  
(World Bank 2020; 2012 data)

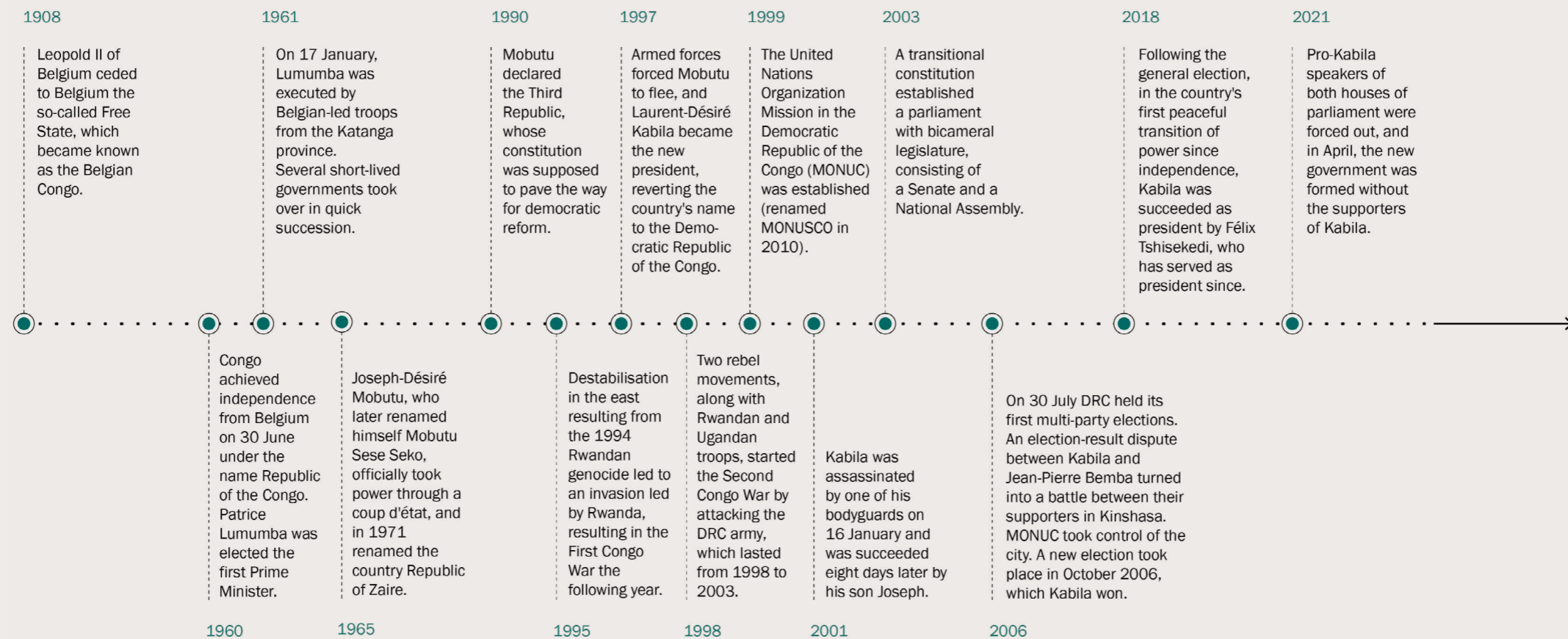
Portrait of female ecoguard / ranger,  
Salonga National Park, May 2017.  
Photo by Karine Aigner/ Nature Picture Library.



# Democratic Republic of the Congo



# Key events



## Introduction

The Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) is a large country in the heart of Africa endowed with natural resources indispensable to our modern age. Decades of colonial rule and exploitation, and prevailing conflict and corruption, have fuelled abject poverty and one of the largest hunger crises in the world.



DRC is the second largest country in Africa in terms of land mass and the estimated 89 million population makes it the fourth most populous African country (UNDESA 2019). The country hosts over 200 different ethnic groups and has significant geo-political importance as it shares borders with nine countries. DRC gained independence from Belgium in 1960 and was run as a one-party dictatorial state for many years. In the 1990s and the beginning of 2000s a succession of violent conflicts ravaged the country. An estimated 5.4 million deaths occurred between 1997 and 2007, making it the deadliest conflict since the second world war. The majority of deaths were due to infectious diseases, malnutrition and neonatal- and pregnancy-related conditions (Moszynski 2008). Following a 2002 peace agreement, the first democratic elections were held in 2006 but the first peaceful transition of power only occurred in 2018, with President Kabila succeeded by the democratically elected Felix Tshisekedi.

DRC has some of the richest and most diverse mineral endowments in the world, significant hydropower potential, an immense biodiversity and an enormous amount of non-forest land that could be cultivated. It has the second largest rainforest in the world (Congo

Basin) but is roughly equal to the Amazon in terms of carbon stock, and with annual net carbon sequestration actually six times higher than Amazon (Harris et al. 2021). Yet, poverty is widespread. According to the last available estimate, 77.2 per cent of the population (or 60 million persons) was living under the global poverty line of less than \$1.90 a day in 2012. This makes DRC the country with the third largest population of poor in the world (World Bank 2021). Furthermore, an estimated 27 million people face crisis and are acutely food-insecure (WFP 2021), human rights violations are common, access to health services is poor and many children are still out of school. Domestic resource mobilisation is extremely weak, representing a huge challenge to financing development. Overall, DRC remains highly dependent on financial, development and security aid as it is facing mounting development needs, exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic.



Local women weaving plants.  
Photo by Karine Aigner/ Nature Picture Library





## Country Context

Decades of protracted wars and instability have taken their toll on the country's political, economic and social conditions. As a fragile state still occasionally ridden by conflict, the country struggles to build a stable democracy and a solid economic base that can meet the basic needs of its people.



*Soldiers drive through the streets of Rutshuru in their cars days after clashes with the M23 rebels in Rutshuru, 70 kilometers from the city of Goma in eastern Democratic Republic of Congo, April 2022. Photo by Guerchom Ndebo/ AFP*

The country is home to a large population of young people. In the absence of a recent census, an estimated 65 per cent of the population is younger than 25 years (UNDESA 2019). Total fertility has hovered around an estimated six children per woman for years. According to the 2019 UN World Population Prospects, DRC is among the countries with the highest population growth worldwide in absolute numbers. The population is doubling every 20-25 years, representing a challenge to GDP per capita growth and the country's socioeconomic development.

Life expectancy at birth has increased by about 20 years since colonial rule, reaching an estimated 60.2 years. Infant mortality (death of an infant before his or her first birthday) has seen a steady decline and stands at about 64 infant deaths per 1,000 live births (UN IGME 2020).

The stringent Belgian colonial rule coupled with a chaotic and violent decolonisation process laid the foundation for widespread social disruption creating a complex political environment from the onset of the country's independence in 1960. Political turmoil, social unrest, civil war, corruption and a long

dictatorship by Mobutu followed. Under Mobutu's leadership, the strong centralist Zaïrean state (1971-1997) was established, clearing foreign influence and nationalizing foreign assets (Van Reybrouck, 2010). In 1999, the United Nations (UN) Organization Mission in the DRC (MONUC) was initiated to observe a permanent ceasefire, promote liaison and disengage forces (UN n.d.). In December 2021, the UN Security Council extended the UN Organization Stabilization Mission (MONUSCO) mandate in DRC to continue supporting peacekeeping efforts. Aiming to accelerate development, the 2006 constitution declared the country a decentralized state composed of the City of Kinshasa and 11 Provinces (26 since 2015) (Constitute 2011). After repeatedly postponed elections, in January 2019, President Tshisekedi peacefully became the country's new president, succeeding Joseph Kabila who had reigned the country for 18 years. With persisting violence in the Eastern part of the country and the continuing need to address the root causes of tensions and violence, the peace process and implementing comprehensive peacebuilding measures remains a key challenge in the country (Global Observatory 2022).

Potential for rapid poverty reduction and sustained

growth is possible as DRC has the richest and most diverse mineral endowments in the world, including vast deposits of copper, cobalt, coltan, diamonds, gold, tin, iron ore, zinc and oil. The extractive sector drove gross domestic product growth to 4.4 per cent in 2019, which decelerated to 1.7 per cent in 2020 due to the COVID pandemic (World Bank 2021). The country also has significant hydropower potential, immense biodiversity, and a large domestic market (World Bank 2021). It is estimated that currently, only 10 percent of arable land is farmed, and that there is over 22.5 million hectare of low population density, uncultivated, unprotected, non-forested land (Deininger et al. 2011, World Bank 2018).

Despite its massive potential, the country's gross national income per capita stood at a mere \$1,110 (current international \$) in 2020. The 2019 human development index – based on a country's life expectancy, education and per capita income indicators – ranked the DRC 175th of a total of 189 countries. About 7.6 million children aged 5-17 were still out of school in 2018 and nearly half of children are malnourished (World Bank, 2021). The pandemic and persisting conflict have plunged a record number



of people into acute hunger. Roughly 27.3 million or a quarter of DRC's population face acute malnutrition and hunger, giving DRC the highest number of persons in urgent need of food security globally (WFP 2021).

Congolese women and girls experience major impediments to their human rights, including sexual violence and child marriage and lack of access to contraception and family planning services. Sexual violence against women and girls is widespread; one in two women have experienced domestic violence (UN Women n.d.). It has particularly been concentrated in the conflict-ridden eastern provinces, where rape has been systematically used as a weapon of war. Figures on child marriage vary, but an estimated 37 per cent of women were married as children and 10 per cent before the age of 15 (Girls not Brides n.d.).

The conservation of the Congo Basin – the world's second-largest rainforest – is crucial for tackling global climate change and hunger. In November 2021, at the UN Climate Conference, DRC's President Tshisekedi and the United Kingdom's Prime Minister Johnson endorsed a landmark agreement (2021-2031) to protect the Congo Basin, with multi-donor investments totalling \$500 million to be released in the first five years as part of the Central African Forest Initiative

(CAFI 2021).

Overall, DRC remains highly dependent on the donor community for financial, development and security aid as it faces mounting development needs. Much of the development aid is channelled outside or in parallel to the national government system. Weak institutions, a very small national budget, extremely weak domestic resource mobilisation, poor transport and infrastructure, unreliable communication, generalised corruption and limited absorption capacity make an effective response to disease outbreaks, deforestation, humanitarian crises and emergencies, women's rights and gender inequality, education, and conflict, challenging and complex.



## Donor engagement

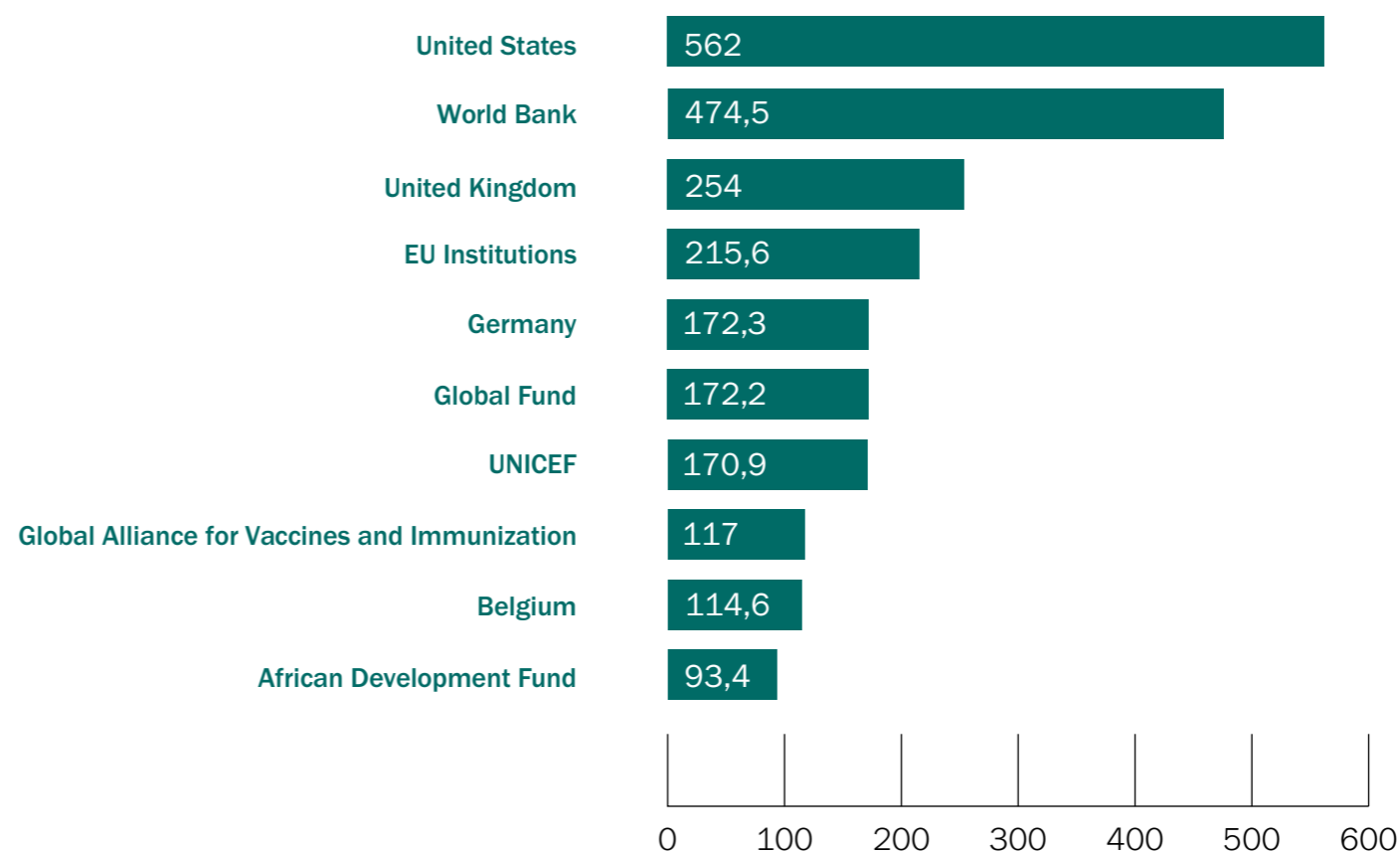
The high levels of poverty, disease, and violence within the DRC attract and bring foreign aid into the country. The bulk of support goes to short term humanitarian aid and food security. The poor living conditions are often linked to government inefficiency and corruption.



Through structural adjustment programmes in the 1990s, the International Monetary Fund (IMF) provided the DRC with a \$551 million loan under the Heavily Indebted Poor Countries (HIPC) Initiative, and in conjunction with the World Bank provided \$12.3 billion in debt relief under HIPC and Multilateral Debt Relief Initiative. Economic growth, increased life expectancy and improved access to primary education are attributed to the debt programs funded by the IMF and World Bank, as well as other development partners (Smith 2018).

In 2011, DRC was the world's largest ODA recipient (Devinit n.d.) and in 2019 it ranked eighth (OECD 2021a). Development funding rapidly declined following the 2011 elections. With further destabilisation and government corruption, foreign aid organisations became more hesitant to work in the DRC (Smith 2018). Nevertheless, due to urgent and persisting humanitarian challenges, international aid has been scaled up again in recent years. Total gross ODA in 2019 was almost USD 3.2 billion.

Figure 1: Top Ten Donors of Gross ODA for Democratic Republic of the Congo, 2018-2019 average, USD million

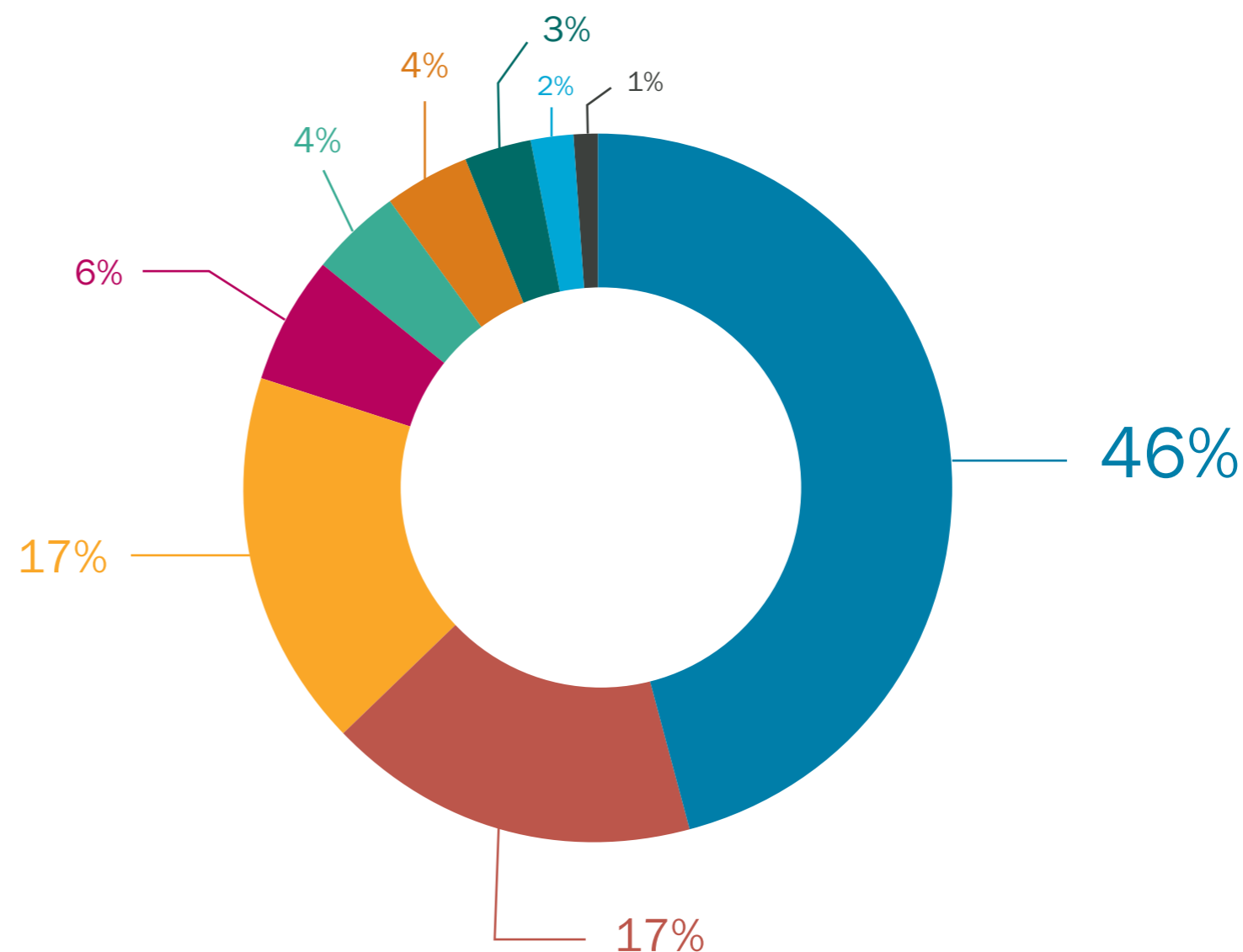


Total gross ODA in 2019 was almost USD 3.2 billion. The United States (US) was the top donor of gross ODA for 2018-2019 (averaging \$562 million), followed by the World Bank and the United Kingdom (figure 1). Development partners are focusing their efforts in unstable and poor regions (OECD 2021b).

The four largest donors provided 70 per cent of all ODA as debt relief in 2011. In 2021, in terms of bilateral ODA per sector, almost half was classified as humanitarian aid (figure 2) (OECD 2021b).

Figure 2: Bilateral ODA per Sector, 2018-2019 average (%)

- Humanitarian
- Health and population
- Other social infrastructure and services
- Education
- Multisector
- Programme assistance
- Other/unallocated/unspesific
- Production
- Economic infrastructure and services



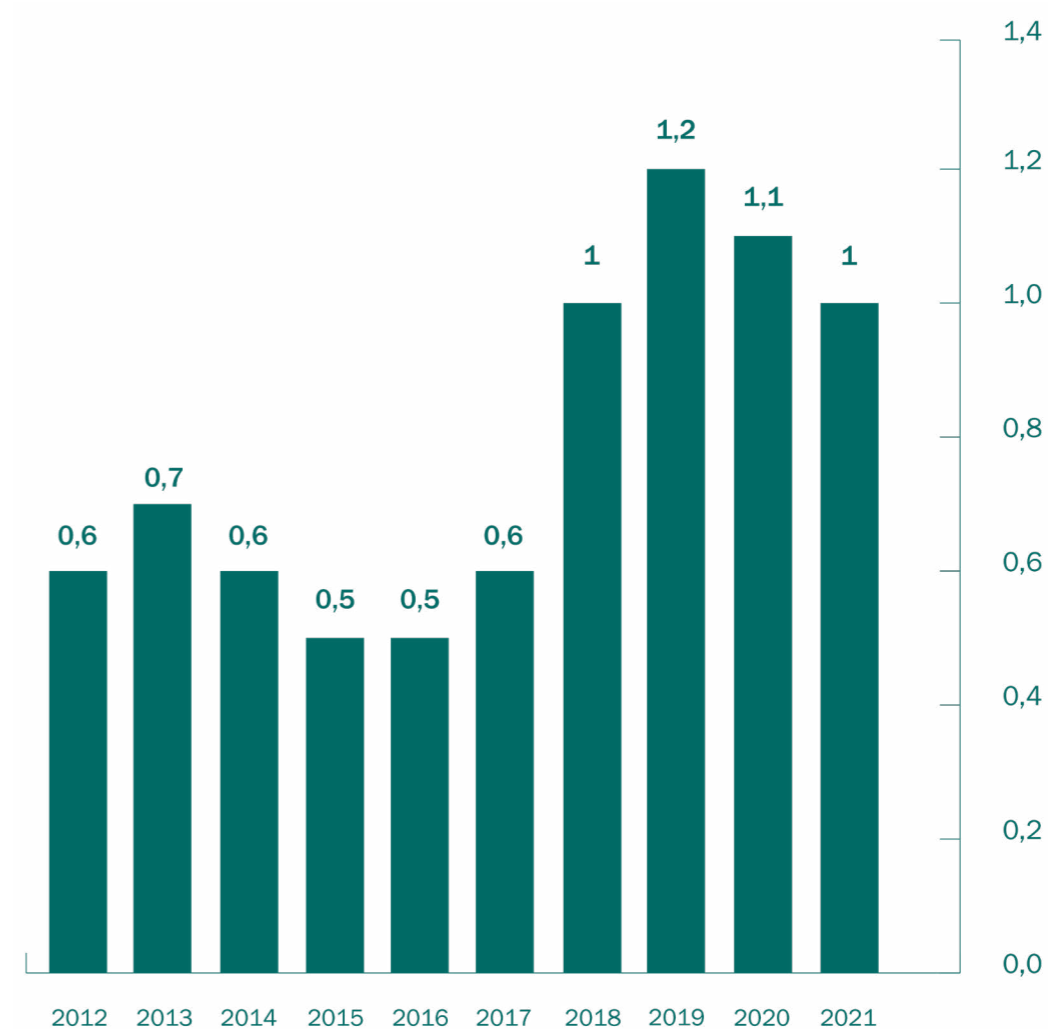
The Humanitarian Response Plan is a unified appeal of more than 400 operational partners working in collaboration with the DRC Government for humanitarian response. In 2021, a total of \$1.98 billion was requested to respond to the urgent needs of 9.6 million Congolese; however, only 37.6 per cent of the requested amount has been funded (OCHA 2021). Almost 58 per cent of the total humanitarian funding of \$952.6 million in 2021 came from the United States, followed by the European Union (8.4 per cent), Germany (7.4 per cent) and the United Kingdom (6.5 per cent). Norway ranked ninth with funding totalling \$22 million. The largest part of humanitarian aid was unspecified (26.9 per cent), the second largest part went to food security (\$216.2 million, representing 22.7 per cent) and 7.3 per cent was allocated to nutrition. WFP is by far the largest recipient, receiving \$270.2 million in 2021 (28.9 per cent of the total humanitarian funding) (OCHA 2021, data as of 29 December 2021). Figure 3 shows the funding trend for humanitarian aid in the past decade.

Table 1: The total net ODA in \$US from Norway to DRC in the period 2015-2020 according to OECD.

Year	Amount
2019	24,38 million
2018	30,15 million
2017	28,76 million
2016	19,46 million
2015	24,27 million

Source: OECD (n.d.)

Figure 3: Humanitarian funding to DRC (total reported funding (US dollars bn))



Source: OECD (2021b)

## Evaluation findings

*Aerial view of tropical rainforest and meandering river, Salonga National Park, Democratic Republic of Congo May 2017. Photo by Karine Aigner/ Nature Picture Library.*





## Humanitarian aid and emergency response.

The country's humanitarian crisis remains urgent and complex, with 19.6 million Congolese in dire need of assistance and protection in 2021.

Development partners and the DRC Government have combined efforts to respond to those affected by conflict, natural disasters, disease outbreaks and chronic underdevelopment, but underfunding remains the largest constraint (OCHA n.d.).

In 2017-2018, the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) responded to a level 3 emergency (activated during major emergencies) in DRC. Overall, the evaluation found that its prioritisation of shelter and protection was appropriate, but the response was inconsistent with the expected level of effort in an L3 emergency (Baker et al. 2018). UNHCR's response was guided by the national protection strategy, but lack of funding and coordination affected the quality, coverage, and timeliness of the response due to insufficient capacitated staff and delayed deliveries. Key response gaps included delayed partner selection, a lack of protection protocols, incoherent protection working groups, weak data management, staff turnover and unharmonized standards.

The *Rapid Response to Population Movement (RRMP) Mechanism* is a large-scale integrated assistance package provided to vulnerable and hard-to-reach populations. It proved to be a relevant 'first resort response', but the lack of strong relationships and data disallowed RRMP to adequately respond, monitor impact, and build local capacity (DARA 2018). Short-term living conditions were improved, though the extent to which context-specific needs were addressed was inconclusive. The programme design, low Non-Governmental Organisation (NGO) capacity, insufficient resources and short duration were the main obstacles to sustainability, though long-term impact on habits, behaviours and living conditions was not the intention.

A longer-term approach with good potential is the *Multi-Year Humanitarian Funding Approach*, which was funded by DFID (Sida et al. 2018). It supported a UN Children's Fund (UNICEF) programme in the Kivus that distributed cash and vouchers to people returning from displacement. The evaluation demonstrated that one large payment over several small ones was preferred, as it provided greater choice, flexibility and can enhance people's livelihoods in the medium term. Many cannot escape chronic poverty due to the ongoing low-level conflict, insecurity and state collapse. Health shocks are the most frequent and have the greatest impact on

living conditions.

Between 2008 and 2015, *European Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid Operations (ECHO)* funded 41 actions in Child Protection (CP) and Education in Emergencies (EiE) in DRC. ECHO's evaluation (2016) reported substantial results: access to education was provided to thousands of children, particularly refugees and displaced persons; developed CP infrastructure; provided psycho-social support; successfully integrated protection within EiE actions; raised awareness on risks; etc. (Wilkinson et al. 2016). Shortcomings identified by the evaluation included insufficient local, partner or ECHO's capacity and expertise; insufficient global policy engagement and parental involvement; and low security in intervention areas.

## Food security, agriculture and rural development

With DRC experiencing one of the largest hunger crises in the world, food security, agriculture and rural development are major focus areas for donors.

In 2019, the WFP responded to the chronic needs of the food insecure population in 10 of DRC's 26 provinces. *The WFP Interim Country Strategic Plan*



2018-2020 evaluation showed that provision of food assistance (in kind and, increasingly, in the form of cash-type transfers), improved food security in areas where tensions were easing but continued to deteriorate in areas with conflict or emergencies. WFP aid probably curbed this deterioration (Shaheen et al. 2020). The number of schools receiving school feeding support increased significantly. Due to delayed funds and logistical difficulties, the number of beneficiaries of acute and chronic malnutrition prevention activities including generalised dietary supplementation were significantly lower than expected. As emergency assistance was prioritised, less technical assistance was provided to smallholder farmer organisations and the number of beneficiaries of resilience-focused activities was lower than planned.

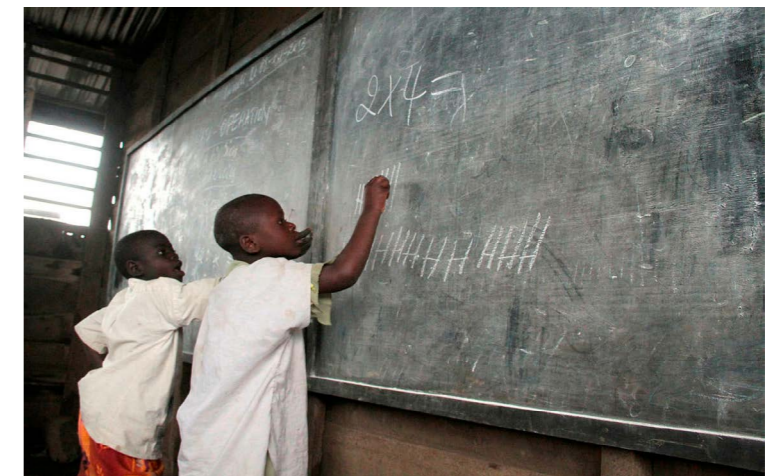
The *Nutrition Emergency Pool in DRC*, a large five-year nutrition and water, sanitation and hygiene programme, had a very different approach and focused on community involvement, accountability, and building resilience. The evaluation found that the community understands malnutrition as an endemic issue, rather than as an 'emergency' (Ellina 2017). Local health centres reported being well supported and had improved practices and capacities with potential to last but differed significantly in their capacities and

commitment. The pool did not address root causes in a longer-term manner. Most people did not think the water component of the programme responded to the issue they faced and suggested investment in structural solutions (e.g., improved water sources).

The *International Fund for Agricultural Development strategic programme* emphasised the transition from humanitarian aid to development in the period 2003-2015. Operating in areas with a highly precarious baseline situation, the programme's short-term impact on agricultural productivity, food security and access to education and health care services was quite significant as it focused on quick-impact areas, such as road and river access, improved seed material and social infrastructure (Carbon and Ahmedou 2017). The evaluation documented, however, that the programme's impact was severely reduced by poor programme effectiveness and efficiency caused by institutional hurdles and weak project planning and management.

The *African Development Bank's* overall objective is to ensure equitable and sustainable economic growth to fight poverty and build peace. The evaluations of its strategies and programmes between 2004 and 2015 found its operations in transport and social development sectors were most effective, though

outputs and outcomes were moderately or fully satisfactory for economic and social infrastructure projects as well (Aide à la Décision Economique 2017). Agricultural and rural development sector results were less satisfactory. Efficiency was moderately unsatisfactory due to project implementation delays related to government and bank responsibility. Sustainability was seen as unlikely due to the lack of support strategies after projects end and dysfunctional sector policies.



*Education in Emergencies programme, by the Norwegian Refugee Council, partly supported by ECHO and partly by the Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs/ Norad. Photo by Jan Speed/ Bistandsaktuelt*

## Education

Between 2015-2018, the DRC government budgeted about 18 per cent of its total expenditure on education

annually (Universalis, 2020). It placed equity, quality and good governance and management at the heart of its sector plan, jointly developed by the four ministries in charge of education. According to the 2016-2019 evaluation of the Global Program for Education (GPE), there has been slow progress since the endorsement of the plan, attributed to election postponement and a 2016-2018 interim government; lack of accountability; unfamiliar approach; lack of annual plans; limited ownership; and complex governance in a decentralised country (Universalis, 2020). GPE's greatest contribution was to a more inclusive, transparent and participatory planning process. GPE's advocacy somewhat increased domestic funding, but donor funding was not harmonised.

*The Valorisation de la Scolarisation de la Fille (VAS-Y Fille!)* project tackled financial barriers by providing scholarships which improved school attendance for girls who would have otherwise been rejected. Furthermore, village savings and loans associations, business skills training and gender-sensitive parent group discussions increased parents' ability to cover school and other costs (IRC, n.d.). Teacher skills development, community awareness, pedagogical exchange forums and school improvement grants tackled educational, safety and sociocultural barriers. Teaching French as a

second language and adequately supporting students' differing needs remained challenging. Tutoring and alternative learning programmes for out-of-school girls were a cost-effective way to improve access to education and learning outcomes.

## Health

The country's sheer geographic size and large population make for a complex response to its main health challenges, including communicable, maternal, neonatal and nutritional diseases and non-communicable diseases (IHME, 2020).

The United States Agency for International Development (USAID) is the largest bilateral donor to DRC's health sector (USAID 2021). It implemented a Gender-Based Violence (GBV) Primary Health Care and Protection project to improve access to emergency primary health care and respond to GBV in displaced and host communities in North-Kivu. Community sensitisation and volunteers trained on the management of common diseases and referrals increased registered and handled sexual violence cases three-fold, and epidemiological data reporting by 10 per cent (USAID 2019).

Childhood Illness kits and Childbirth kits along with improved community-based health care were part of a Government Acceleration Framework for Millennium Development Goals 4 & 5 which contributed to a sharp drop in maternal and under-five mortality in 44 of the 515 health zones. The project focused more on access to services than performance and had less impact on the quality of care. There were shortcomings in the supply and management of kits and equipment (Act for Performance 2020). Reliable transportation was often challenging, as with many interventions across DRC.

Decentralising HIV and AIDS services in primary healthcare, through patient referral to health centres offering a service package, setting up community distribution points for antiretroviral drugs, and using a scale-up strategy, resulted in consistent treatment and avoided stockouts. Nevertheless, staff turnover and transportation also threatened the interventions' success (Christelle and Msellati 2020).

The H4+ *Joint Programme Canada and Sweden* likely contributed to improving the quality of reproductive, maternal, new-born and child health services, though causality was difficult to confirm (Buck von Schroeder et al. 2017). It supported family kits, vouchers for women to access cheaper services and free pre-



school consultations, as well as training on emergency obstetric and new-born care. Though effective, the program did not sufficiently trickle down to the provincial and health zone level due to poor coordination, low engagement and insufficient demand.

## Gender

Gender inequality is pervasive in the DRC due to deep-seated attitudes and social norms. Women often face discrimination and GBV is increasingly commonplace, and particularly volatile in Eastern provinces (Inter-agency humanitarian evaluation, 2021). The National Strategy for Combating Gender-based Violence was revised to address this (UN Women, 2020). Gender equality is a cross-cutting issue (see below), but also often the main focus of programmes.

UN Women's strategy is deployed in 8 out of 26 provinces, and an evaluation assessed its contribution to gender equality and the empowerment of women in DRC (UN Women 2017). Its support to the Ministry of Gender, Family and Children at the national and provincial levels has resulted in increased visibility and multisectoral coordination on gender issues. It plays a visible role in the field of sexual violence prevention and women's leadership in the process of peace,

security and humanitarian response. It did, however, not sufficiently seize its mandate to strengthen partner capacity and effectively integrate gender in partner interventions. Budget deficits compared to planned activities also reduced impact. To build and maintain momentum for change, the evaluation recommended an expansion of investment in knowledge management and communication.

CARE's gender equality project included village saving and loan associations for women, which helped create microenterprises and improve their socioeconomic position. The project's evaluation showed that women better knew their rights and were more resilient. Engaging males to promote positive masculinity and challenge gender norms tackled misconceptions and improved how gendered social division of labour was regarded. However, lasting change in gender dynamics was not achieved and female participation in decision-making processes remained low (CARE, 2019).

An evaluation of the situation and response to gender-based violence during the crisis in the Kasai region documented a link between an upsurge in sexual violence, early marriage, and the ongoing humanitarian crisis (UNFPA RDC 2017). Violence against young girls was sometimes not denounced to avoid transgressing

certain rigid marriage customs, for fear of reducing the chances of marriage for single girls, or in favour of amicable settlements. The police often limited perpetrator punishment to the payment of fines. The communities denounced the kidnappings of young girls, often organised with the complicity of community leaders and resulting in forced marriages. This revealed the limited impact civil society organisations' (CSO) efforts had on behaviour change and community engagement to reduce GBV.

## Social cohesion and social services

The government has to a large degree failed to establish sustainable social services and a social security system, though several international NGOs have aimed to close this gap. About 17 per cent of the ODA is allocated to 'other social infrastructure and services'.

Search for Common Ground, in partnership with the Dynamique de la Société Civile, implemented a project to strengthen basic social services (electricity, water, education, sanitation, health, security and administrative services) by promoting community participation in the management of these services. As a result, some community members were able to



overcome fear and mistrust of community participation in governance (Kern and Sloan 2017). Concrete actions to improve at least one basic social service were carried out in almost all targeted municipalities. In practice, however, service providers were not more accountable. Actions were sometimes carried out only because they were easy and inexpensive and not for their potential impact.

A rapid response project implemented by UNDP aimed to contribute to the stabilisation and social cohesion of target areas in South Kivu and l'Ituri through community rehabilitation, capacity building of young people and improvement of food security. The evaluation found that relevance, design, efficacy, sustainability and impact were (very) satisfying (Onana and Mushizi 2018). Efficiency was moderately satisfying. The conceptual approach of the project was distinguished mainly by the quality of the interventions. At the end of the preparatory phase, all the tools necessary for start-up, implementation and monitoring and evaluation were in place. Based on the changes or early signs of change in its environment and targets, the project appears to have real impact.

A Community Driven Development programme (Tuungane 1) implemented by CARE and International

Rescue Committee funded health, education, transport, livelihoods and infrastructure projects in villages and communities. The programme evaluation revealed that after five years, villages which received grants had health and school facilities that were built and better stocked than non-programme areas (Laudati et al. 2018). There was no evidence that service provision improved, and incentives for teachers and healthcare professionals also did not produce the desired change. Whilst the quality of infrastructure was improved and more supplies were available, improvements did not produce socio-economic impact. Long-term improvements in sectors other than health and education were not found.

## Forest protection and climate change

Due to the vast forests and their key role in mitigating climate change, significant attention and resources have been placed on DRC's environmental conservation and preservation.

The Midterm Evaluation of Phase III of the USAID *Central Africa Regional Program for the Environment (CARPE)* conducted in 2017, covered DRC, the Republic of Congo and Rwanda. It found that CARPE

was instrumental in reducing rainforest loss (Integra Government Services International 2017). CARPE had a catalytic role in forest monitoring that benefited the global conservation community. It influenced the establishment of Africa's first major forest carbon climate change mitigation programme, the Mai-Ndombe REDD+ Programme. By comparing with areas having similar attributes, the evaluation showed that the protection of many vulnerable species improved. Weaknesses were found in the overall programme design, particularly in strategies to reduce emissions.



*WWF-organised march for women in conservation in Malebo, DRC.  
Photo by Karine Aigner/ Nature Picture Library*



Livelihood alternative initiatives were too limited in scope, under-conceptualised, and poorly executed to be effective in reducing deforestation and forest degradation, as well as defaunation driven by high levels of bushmeat consumption and trade. CARPE's ability to influence the behaviour of logging concessionaires was mixed, and often limited. DRC Government buy-in was limited and the support was declining.

In contrast, the *Improving Livelihoods and Land-use in Congo Basin Forests project*, which was implemented by a group of NGOs, had significant positive impacts on sustainable forest use, community solidarity, local income-generating activities, and community-based development initiatives. Previously marginalised community members, such as women and indigenous populations, were now integrated and empowered. The evaluation found that the project was well-conceived, relevant, and effectively implemented (Alcayna-Stevens et al. 2019). It built on Rainforest Foundation UK's award-winning 'Mapping for Rights' project (2012-2017) and its long-term community engagement in pilot sites. The establishment of national and provincial roundtables provided a highly effective forum for stakeholders to share learning experiences and build consensus. Real improvements could be seen in the

livelihoods of forest-dependent communities. Their ownership and initiative suggest that if the project can accompany communities to the management phase, it stands to leave autonomous and sustainable community management of forest resources.

The *Conservation et Réhabilitation des Ecosystèmes Forestiers network* was successful in four primary areas: pure knowledge of the secretariat; soft skills adapted to on-the-ground realities and effective task completion; know-how of the activity plan; and professionalism (Kabusa and Mayele 2017). The Network's weakness related to managing the numerous activities according to the strategic plan with a reduced secretariat team. Member organisation challenges included weak technical and managerial capacities, absence of an accountability culture and good governance, decreased focus on reforestation activities by partners, insufficient technical human resources, lack of a strategic plan to enact strategic objectives, and limited internal fundraising capacity.

## Peace and security

MONUSCO is the UN peacekeeping force established in 1999 to protect civilians, humanitarian personnel and human rights defenders threatened by violence.

It supports the government's stabilisation and peace consolidation efforts and is an extension of MONUC. The 2019 evaluation of the *effectiveness of the long-term MONUC/MONUSCO peacekeeping efforts* found a lack of national buy-in for a political framework. The growing reluctance from the government decreased the missions' political primacy and role in the country's elections (Novosseloff et al. 2019). During tension, they were successful in encouraging political compromise and coordinating regional and international support of a national process, but weak in demanding implementation of political commitments. The missions' effectiveness to protect and stabilise varied from successfully protecting civilians and deterring violence, to failing to act (appropriately). The missions' work improved the Congolese army's methods to identify child soldiers and no longer recruit them.

The British organisation Conciliation Resources cooperated with local partners to establish the '*Civil society-led conciliation, LRA demobilization and peacebuilding*' project. According to the evaluation (2011-15), local populations found the establishment of local peace committees which monitor the LRA's activities, report and solve local conflict and raise awareness useful (Corneliussen et al. 2017). The project was deemed more sustainable at community



level as opposed to regional and national level whereby a discontinuation of external funds and coordination stalled cross-border dialogue. The development approach used proved successful and could be replicated to other projects. Advocacy on the national and regional level produced fewer tangible outcomes and there is little evidence to suggest that the project contributed to major policy changes.

## Cross-cutting issues

Gender was the most common cross-cutting issue in the selected evaluations. Gender was most commonly integrated in evaluations on health, education, and peacekeeping, but was often merely mentioned and interventions had a superficial effect. The WFP strategic plan for example, addressed gender mainly through the preferential naming of women as beneficiaries on distribution lists of food and cash-based transfers, but further action on changing gender dynamics were not taken (Shaheen et al. 2020). *The International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) strategic programme* project design recognised that gender equality and women's empowerment were key components of poverty reduction, but the programme evaluation found that none of the projects had an adequate approach (Carbon and Ahmedou 2017). Whilst gender was

commonly mentioned but not thoroughly included in the evaluations, a joint UN Gender strategy and humanitarian gender strategy would aid in harmonising efforts on gender mainstreaming to address short- and long-term needs by donor and implementing agencies (UN Women, 2020).

Poverty reduction was also included as a cross-cutting issue in some evaluations. Besides humanitarian aid that was helping people to meet their basic needs, village saving and loans associations which provided support for local income-generating activities were included in interventions on health, education, agriculture and forest protection. It is notable that none of the selected evaluations included climate change and deforestation, or anti-corruption, as a cross-cutting issue.



## Lessons

Civil war and instability continue to challenge the impact of development work in DRC. Nevertheless, over the years development partners have made significant contributions to the development of the country, particularly with regards to social sectors, gender, humanitarian aid, forest protection and peacekeeping. Urgent humanitarian response has often taken the front seat over other development issues.



*View from pirogue canoe, navigating the waterways of Bekalikali Bai, Salonga National Park, 2017. Photo by Karine Aigner, Nature Picture Library.*





## Strengths

Most evaluations deemed the interventions as relevant and effective and found that they were often in line with national and international policies (e.g., national development strategy, Agenda 2030).

Many positive results were reported with some of these results having had a lasting and sustainable, positive impact on beneficiaries' lives. Overall, evaluations which reported close consultation and collaboration with local authorities and communities revealed more opportunities for sustainability. All the included evaluations of programmes which had an integrated poverty reduction dimension were also deemed more sustainable than those that lacked such a dimension.

## Weaknesses

The main weaknesses identified by many evaluations are insufficient coordination, limited sustainability and a lack of financial and human resources. Funding was also too often ad hoc with a short-term nature limiting the impact on social norms and behaviour. Improvements and progress made during the intervention period often quickly faded after funding ended, since the government was not able (or willing)

to continue the financing. Particularly concerning humanitarian aid, lack of funding and coordination affected the quality, coverage, and timeliness of the responses.

The widespread violence, poverty, hunger and gender inequality are structural problems, and programmes failed to address the larger political issues that drive these huge challenges. Weak implementation of political commitments added a burden to the task and low government involvement contributed to a lack of ownership on behalf of the national, regional and local authorities of donor driven programmes.

## Gaps

It should be noted that the evaluations included in this brief do not fully represent the development sector in DRC. Some appraised evaluations may not have been included due to the strict selection criteria that were applied.

A considerable number of evaluations also found limited appropriate data to monitor impact. The GPE evaluation, for example, found that the paucity of system level data made a detailed analysis of what had changed and why, almost impossible. Most of the

available evaluations depended only on qualitative methodologies (primarily desk studies, with in-person or remote key informant interviews). In combination with a lack of solid monitoring systems it leaves many questions in terms of quantitative indicators of change and progress. Implementing projects and programmes without sufficient local involvement can be rather futile and is a significant gap identified across the board.

The ever-present corruption is not addressed by the 25 evaluations included in this review. Several evaluations mention in the background section that this is a problem, but no evaluation in our sample addressed this as a systemic problem. An example is the forest protection programme CARPE for which a critical assumption was that "Corruption will be contained and reduced" (Integra Government Services International 2017, p.19). Still, the evaluation did not assess how the programme addressed the issue or how corruption affected its implementation and results.

## Looking ahead

The peace process and democratic institutions in the DRC are fragile. External resources should create incentives for national partners to build strong institutions and should further emphasise measures



to reduce systemic corruption through a holistic approach. The high prevalence of corruption in DRC implies a strong need to include specific anti-corruption measures in programmes, and to treat anti-corruption as an important cross-cutting issue.

For emergency responses there is a need to ensure good coordination of humanitarian action and to have reliable data in line with international standards, while strengthening national capacities to ensure sustainability and multi-year funding (cf. UNFPA DRC 2017, DARA 2018).

Donors have expressed continued interest in promoting resilience and long-term approaches to addressing the root causes of vulnerability (cf. WFP strategic plan evaluation). A general recommendation based on the findings presented in this CEB is to fine-tune programmes to the local context, building on community involvement and ownership. Institutional reforms, an emphasis on holistic peacebuilding, and a people-centred approach to stabilisation should be given high priority (cf. Ilunga 2021).

The Covid-19 pandemic may lead to a decline in, and reallocation of, development resources. Even if many programmes struggle to achieve their objectives

and make a longer-term impact, many vulnerable people have been helped, and progress has been made in forest protection, health and education that development partners should build on and scale-up, rather than abandon.

After the elections in 2018 Tshisekedi has sought to reengage more closely with the European Union, the US and IMF, which for the first time in more than a decade has a country programme in DRC. This an important development with regards to the donor engagement in the country and will likely open new opportunities.



## Methodology

This Country Evaluation Brief is a synthesised presentation of 25 evaluations and reviews published since 2016 of major donor-funded programmes in DRC.



The evaluations reviewed for the brief were identified through a systematic search of global development co-operation databases, websites and report databases of multilateral and bilateral donors and CSOs. Through this search, a total of 114 evaluations exclusively conducted in DRC, and 17 multi-country evaluations including DRC were found, and subsequently narrowed down to 25 by applying rigid selection criteria.

The selection of the 25 evaluations ensured that:

- a) the main sectors and areas for development co-operation were covered;
- b) a good balance between different sources and channels of ODA existed;
- c) the evaluations were of high scientific quality, and
- d) a good mix of evaluations commissioned by large bilateral donors, multinational organisations and major international CSOs was achieved.

While this approach resulted in a balanced sample, the fact that the evaluation briefs are, by definition, based on evaluations constitutes a degree of limitation, as the available reports do not always cover all crucial areas of development co-operation. To mitigate these limitations, the evaluation brief also draws on some relevant policy studies, government publications, and other types of assessment. It should also be noted that the selected evaluations for this CEB represent a broad mix of intervention types, each operating at various levels,

scope, size, and with different ambitions. Interpreting and comparing their level of impact and change should therefore be done with caution.



## References

### REVIEWS AND EVALUATIONS

The key conclusions of the 25 evaluations in this report are set out in the separate Country Evaluation Portrait.

Act for Performance: Évaluation sommative et formative du Cadre d'accélération des Objectifs du Millénaire pour le Développement (CAO) 4&5 en République Démocratique du Congo (2013 - 2017). UNICEF, 2020. <https://evaluationreports.unicef.org/GetDocument?fileID=13391>

Aide à la Décision Economique (ADE): Democratic Republic of Congo: Evaluation of the Bank's Country Strategy and Program 2004–2015. Summary Report. Independent Development Evaluation (IDEV), African Development Bank Group, 2017. <https://www.oecd.org/derec/afdb/afdb-iDEV-DRC.pdf>

Alcayna-Stevens, Lys, Tilly Alcayna, Suzanne Philipps: Final evaluation of ILLUCBF project – Democratic Republic of Congo. Futureproof Ideas, 2019. <https://www.rainforestfoundationuk.org/media.ashx/rfuk-evaluation-report-fpi-final.pdf>

Baker, Jock, Caroline Saint-Mleux, and Grace

Rubambura Bahati: Independent Evaluation of UNHCR's Response to the L3 Emergency in the Democratic Republic of Congo. UNHCR 2018. <https://reliefweb.int/sites/reliefweb.int/files/resources/5c5419fe4.pdf>

Boulanger, Christelle and Philippe Msellati: Evaluation of the HIV decentralisation Initiative DRC. Stockholm Evaluation Unit, MSF, 2020. <http://evaluation.msf.org/evaluation-report/evaluation-of-the-hiv-decentralisation-initiative-kinshasa-drc-in-engfre>

Boumas, Guennolet, David Thadila, Annie Bipendu, Dada Bia: Evaluation du portefeuille pays / Evaluation of the 2014-2017 strategy. UN Women, 2017. <https://gate.unwomen.org/EvaluationDocument/Download?evaluationDocumentID=9130>

Carbon, Michael and Hamdi Ahmedou: Country Strategy and Programme Evaluation for the Democratic Republic of the Congo. Independent Office of Evaluation, IFAD, 2017. <https://www.ifad.org/en/web/ioe/-/democratic-republic-of-the-congo-country-strategy-and-programme-evaluation-2016->

CARE: Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment Program II (GEWEP II) 2016-2019 DRC Endline. CARE, 2019. <http://careevaluations.org/wp-content/uploads/>

[Rapport-Evaluation-finale-GEWEP II.pdf](#)

DARA: Evaluation of the Rapid Response to Population Movement (RRMP) Mechanism based on Performance. UNICEF, 2018. Retrieved from <https://gdc.unicef.org/media/231/download>

Ellina, Mariagni: Nutrition Emergency/ Nutrition Emergency Pool in DRC (PUNC)/ DR-Congo. Action Against Hunger, 2017. <https://punceval.wordpress.com/2017/11/17/final-report/>

Hagen, Gisle and Hans Inge Corneliusen: Final review of the 'Civil society-led conciliation, LRA demobilization and peacebuilding' project 2011 - 2015. Norad, 2017. <https://www.norad.no/globalassets/publikasjoner/publikasjoner-2015-/norad-collected-reviews/final-review-of-the-civil-society-led-conciliation-lra-demobilization-and-peacebuilding-project-2011--15.pdf>

Integra Government Services International, LLC: Midterm Evaluation of Phase III of the USAID Central Africa Regional Program for the Environment. USAID, 2017. <https://www.climatelinks.org/resources/midterm-evaluation-phase-iii-usaid-central-africa-regional-program-environment>



International Rescue Committee (IRC): Evaluating the Impact of Academic and Economic Interventions on Student Learning Outcomes and Attendance in the Democratic Republic of the Congo: Evidence from the RCT of VasYFille! International Rescue Committee, n.d. <https://rescue.app.box.com/s/zedwfa9dbz6d8rfvyebdsk6ae97wg3rq>

Kabusa, Raphael Kasongo, Mazambi Mayele, and Marine Gauthier: Rapport d'Évaluation Externe du Plan Stratégique 2013-2017. Réseau CREF, 2017. <https://www.norad.no/globalassets/publikasjoner/publikasjoner-2017/sivsa-evalueringer/rapport-devaluation-externe-du-plan-strategique-2013-2017.pdf>

Kern, Martin and Edward Sloan: Evaluation finale de l'exécution du projet « Evaluation participative pour l'amélioration des services sociaux de base en RDC-Phase II». Search for Common Ground, 2017. <https://www.sfcg.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/07/SFCG-SSB-Rapport-final.pdf>

Laudati, Ann, Eric Mvukiyehe, Peter van der Windt: Participatory Development in Fragile and Conflict-affected Contexts: An Impact Evaluation of the Tuungane 1 Program in the Democratic Republic of the Congo. International Rescue Committee (IRC)

and CARE International, 2018. <https://www.rescue.org/sites/default/files/document/3746/tuungane1-evaluationfinalreport.pdf>

Meysonnat, Aline and Ignacio Torrano: Prospective evaluation of GPE's country-level support to education (final report). Universalia, 2020. <https://www.globalpartnership.org/content/country-level-prospective-evaluation-year-2-democratic-republic-congo>

Muanda, Mbadu, Gahungu Ndongo Parfait, Raoza vololona, Isaac Muyonga, Seth Aparna, Kalyanpur Anushka: Rapport d'évaluation finale du projet de soins de sante primaire et protection/VBG. USAID and CARE, 2019. <http://www.careevaluations.org/evaluation/rapport-devaluation-finale-du-projet-de-soins-de-sante-primaire-et-protection-vbg/>

Novosseloff, Alexandra, Adriana Erthal Abdenur, Tomas Mandrup, Aaron Pangburn: Assessing the effectiveness of the United Nations Mission in the DRC (MONUSCO). Norwegian Institute of International Affairs (NUPI), 2019. <https://effectivepeaceops.net/wp-content/uploads/2019/06/EPON-MONUSCO-LowRes.pdf>

Onana, Raymond and Charles-Mugagga Mushizi. Évaluation finale du Projet Réponse rapide pour la cohésion sociale et la relance économique dans les provinces du Sud Kivu et de l'Ituri. UNDP, 2018. <https://erc.undp.org/evaluation/evaluations/detail/10029>

Shaheen, Robina, Emery Brusset, Cleo Chevalier, Danielle Deboutte, Pascal Mweze, Samuel Niki, Blanche Renaudin: Evaluation of Democratic Republic of the Congo WFP Interim Country Strategic Plan 2018-2020. World Food Programme, 2020. <https://docs.wfp.org/api/documents/WFP-0000119817/download/?ga=2.182935791.872655921.1631565371-67177639.1631565371>

Sida, Lewis, Bill Gray, Basia Benda and John Ntalemwa: A Multi-Year Thematic Evaluation of DFID's Multi-Year Humanitarian Funding Approach in the Democratic Republic of Congo. Valid Evaluations, 2018. [https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/media/5d5d5ef6e5274a07b8fe70bc/VE\\_DRC\\_SumReport\\_finalR.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/media/5d5d5ef6e5274a07b8fe70bc/VE_DRC_SumReport_finalR.pdf)



United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA): Evaluation de la situation et de la réponse aux violences basées sur le genre dans la crise du Kasai (Kasai Central, Kasai Oriental et Kasai). UNFPA RDC, 2017.

[https://www.humanitarianresponse.info/sites/www.humanitarianresponse.info/files/documents/files/rapport\\_evaluation\\_sc\\_vbg\\_-\\_grand-kasai\\_vf.pdf](https://www.humanitarianresponse.info/sites/www.humanitarianresponse.info/files/documents/files/rapport_evaluation_sc_vbg_-_grand-kasai_vf.pdf)

Buch von Schroeder, Camilla, Prince Kimpanga, Léon Tshiabuat, Ted Freeman: End line evaluation of the H4+ joint programme Canada and Sweden (SIDA) 2011-201. UNFPA Evaluation Office, 2017. [https://www.unfpa.org/sites/default/files/admin-resource/H4JPCS\\_DRC\\_Country\\_Note\\_Final.pdf](https://www.unfpa.org/sites/default/files/admin-resource/H4JPCS_DRC_Country_Note_Final.pdf)

Wilkinson, Charu, Laura Eid, Laura Hayward, Nataliya Nikolova et. al.: Final Report - Evaluation of DG ECHO's Actions in the Field of Protection and Education of Children in Emergency and Crisis Situations (2008-2015), ICF, 2016. <https://op.europa.eu/en/publication-detail/-/publication/0fee6b4c-aa44-11e6-aab7-01aa75ed71a1>



## Other references

Central African Forest Initiative (CAFI) (2021). Landmark USD 500 M Agreement Launched at COP26 to Protect the DR Congo's Forest. Retrieved from <https://www.cafi.org/countries/democratic-republic-congo/decisive-usd-500-m-agreement-cop26-protect-dr-congos-forest>

Chatzianni, S. (2020). The Congo Literacy Project (The Democratic Republic of Congo). UIL. (Accessed on: 12 January 2022). Retrieved from <https://uil.unesco.org/case-study/effective-practices-database-litbase-0/congo-literacy-project-democratic-republic-congo>

Constitute (2011). Congo's (Democratic Republic of) Constitution of 2005 with Amendments through 2011. Retrieved from [https://www.constituteproject.org/constitution/Democratic\\_Republic\\_of\\_the\\_Congo\\_2011.pdf?lang=en](https://www.constituteproject.org/constitution/Democratic_Republic_of_the_Congo_2011.pdf?lang=en)

Development Initiatives (Devinit) (n.d.). Democratic Republic of Congo. Retrieved from <http://devinit.org/wp-content/uploads/2013/09/Investments-to-End-Poverty-Chapter-10-Congo-Dem-Rep.pdf>

Deininger, K., & Byerlee, D. (2011). Rising global interest in farmland: can it yield sustainable and equitable benefits? World Bank Publications. Retrieved from <https://openknowledge.worldbank.org/bitstream/handle/10986/2263/594630PUBOID1810Box358282B01PUBLIC1.pdf?sequence=1&isAllowed=y>

The Fund for Peace (2021). Fragile States Index 2021. Retrieved from <https://fragilestatesindex.org/>

Girls not Brides (n.d.). Girls' Parliaments to end child marriage in DRC. Retrieved from <https://www.girlsnotbrides.org/take-action/donate-our-members/girls-parliaments-end-child-marriage-drc/>

Global Observatory (2022). What can MONUSCO do to better address the political economy of conflict in DRC? Retrieved from <https://theglobalobservatory.org/2022/01/what-can-monusco-do-to-better-address-the-political-economy-of-conflict-in-drc/>

Harris, N. L., Gibbs, D. A., Baccini, A., Birdsey, R. A., et al. (2021). Global maps of twenty-first century forest carbon fluxes. *Nature Climate Change*, 11(3), 234-240. <https://research.wur.nl/en/publications/global-maps-of-twenty-first-century-forest-carbon-fluxes>

Ilunga, Yvan Yenda. (2021). MONUSCO's 2021 Mandate Renewal: Transition and exit. Norwegian Institute of International Affairs. Retrieved from <https://effectivepeaceops.net/publication/monuscos-2021-mandate-renewal-transition-and-exit/>

Institute for Health Metrics and Evaluation (IHME) (2020). Democratic Republic of the Congo. Retrieved from <https://www.healthdata.org/democratic-republic-congo>

Inter-agency humanitarian evaluation (2021). Inter-agency humanitarian evaluation on gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls. Companion piece. Retrieved from <https://reliefweb.int/sites/reliefweb.int/files/resources/The%20Inter-Agency%20Humanitarian%20Evaluation%20%28IAHE%29%20on%20Gender%20Equality%20and%20the%20Empowerment%20of%20Women%20and%20Girls%20%28GEEWG%29-Report.pdf>

Moszynski, P. (2008). 5.4 million people have died in Democratic Republic of Congo since 1998 because of conflict, report says. *BMJ (Clinical research ed.)*, 336(7638), 235. <https://doi.org/10.1136/bmj.39475.524282.DB>





Norad (2021). Bistandsresultater: Dem. Rep. Kongo. <https://resultater.norad.no/geografi/afrika/dem-rep-kongo?show=bistand>

Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) (n.d.). Aid (ODA) disbursements to countries and regions (DAC2a). Retrieved from <https://stats.oecd.org/Index.aspx?DataSetCode=TABLE2A>

Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) (2021a). ODA to developing countries – summary. Retrieved from <https://www.oecd.org/dac/financing-sustainable-development/development-finance-topics/Developing-World-Development-Aid-at-a-Glance-2021.pdf>

Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) (2021b). Interactive summary charts by aid (ODA) recipients. Retrieved from [https://public.tableau.com/views/OECDDACAidataglancebyrecipient\\_new/Recipients?:embed=y&:display\\_count=yes&:showTabs=y&:toolbar=no?&:showVizHome=no](https://public.tableau.com/views/OECDDACAidataglancebyrecipient_new/Recipients?:embed=y&:display_count=yes&:showTabs=y&:toolbar=no?&:showVizHome=no).

Smith, A. N. (2018). Foreign Aid and development in the Democratic Republic of the Congo: an analysis of

international barriers to development. *Perceptions*, 4(2), 19-19.

Transparency International 2021. Retrieved from <https://www.transparency.org/en/cpi/2021/index/cod>

United Nations (n.d.). United Nations Organization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (MONUC). Retrieved from <https://peacekeeping.un.org/mission/past/monuc/>

United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) (n.d.). Education. Retrieved from <https://www.unicef.org/drcongo/en/what-we-do/education>

United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UNDESA) Population Division (2019). World Population Prospects 2019, Online Edition. Rev. 1. Retrieved from <https://population.un.org/wpp/>

United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UNDESA) Population Division (2018). World Urbanization Prospects: The 2018 Revision, custom data acquired via website. <https://population.un.org/wup/>

United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO). Institute for Statistics. Education Expenditures. Retrieved from <http://uis.unesco.org/en/country/CD>

United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) (2021). Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC). Retrieved from <https://fts.unocha.org/countries/52/summary/2021>

United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) (n.d.). About OCHA DRC. Retrieved from <https://www.unocha.org/democratic-republic-congo-drc/about-ocha-drc>

United States Agency for International Development (USAID) (2021). Health fact sheet. Retrieved from <https://www.usaid.gov/democratic-republic-congo/fact-sheets/usaid-drc-fact-sheet-health>

UN Women (n.d.). Democratic Republic of Congo. Retrieved from <https://africa.unwomen.org/en/where-we-are/west-and-central-africa/democratic-republic-of-congo>



UN Women (2020). DRC takes a step towards zero tolerance against gender-based violence. Retrieved from <https://africa.unwomen.org/en/news-and-events/stories/2020/09/drc-takes-a-step-towards-zero-tolerance-against-gender-based-violence>

Van Reybrouck, D. (2020). Congo Een Geschiedenis. De Bezige Bij. Amsterdam. Retrieved from: <https://www.davidvanreybrouck.be/?q=nl/content/congo-ee-geschiedenis>

World Bank (2018). Democratic Republic of Congo Systematic Country Diagnostic. Retrieved from <https://openknowledge.worldbank.org/bitstream/handle/10986/30057/DRC-SCD-FINAL-ENGLISH-06132018.pdf?sequence=1&isAllowed=y>

World Bank (2020). Congo, Dem. Rep. Data. Retrieved from <https://data.worldbank.org/country/congo-dem-rep>

World Bank (2021). The World Bank in DRC. Retrieved from <https://www.worldbank.org/en/country/drc>

World Food Programme (WFP) (2021). Food security crisis in the Democratic Republic of the Congo could worsen in the coming months. Retrieved from <https://>

[www.wfp.org/news/food-security-crisis-democratic-republic-congo-could-worsen-coming-months](https://www.wfp.org/news/food-security-crisis-democratic-republic-congo-could-worsen-coming-months)



## Abbreviations

ADE	Aide à la Décision Economique	RRMP	Rapid Response to Population Movement
AIDS	Acquired Immunodeficiency Syndrome	UN	United Nations
CAFI	Central African Forest Initiative	UNDESA	United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs
CARPE	Central Africa Regional Program for the Environment	UNDP	United Nations Development Program
CP	Child Protection	UNESCO	United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation
CSO	Civil Society Organisation	UNFPA	United Nations Population Fund
DRC	Democratic Republic of the Congo	UNHCR	United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees
ECHO	European Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid Operations	UNICEF	United Nations Children's Fund
EiE	Education in Emergencies	UNIGME	United Nations Inter-agency Group for Child Mortality Estimation
GBV	Gender-Based Violence	USAID	United States Agency for International Development
GPE	Global Partnership for Education	VAS-Y Fille!	Valorisation de la Scolarisation de la Fille
HIV	Human Immunodeficiency Virus	WFP	World Food Program
IFAD	International Fund for Agricultural Development		
IHME	Institute for Health Metrics and Evaluation		
IMF	International Monetary Fund		
IRC	International Rescue Committee		
MONUC	Mission de l'Organisation des Nations Unies en République Démocratique du Congo		
MONUSCO	Mission de l'Organisation des Nations Unies pour la stabilisation en République Démocratique du Congo		
NGO	Non-Governmental Organisation		
Norad	Norwegian Agency for Development Cooperation		
OCHA	Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs		
ODA	Official Development Assistance		
OECD	Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development		



### Commissioned by

The Evaluation Department

### Carried out by

hera

### Written by

Joar Svanemyr, Marianne Eelens

### Supported by

Leen Jille (quality assurance)

This report is the product of the authors, and responsibility for the accuracy of data included in this report rests with the authors alone. The findings, interpretations, and conclusions presented in this report do not necessarily reflect the views of the Department of Evaluation.

April 2022



# DEPARTMENT FOR EVALUATION



Norwegian Agency for Development Cooperation

[www.norad.no](http://www.norad.no)

[evaluation@norad.no](mailto:evaluation@norad.no)

Cover photo: Alexis Huguet/ AFP

ISBN 978-82-8369-102-3

April 2022