



CONGOLESE SITUATION

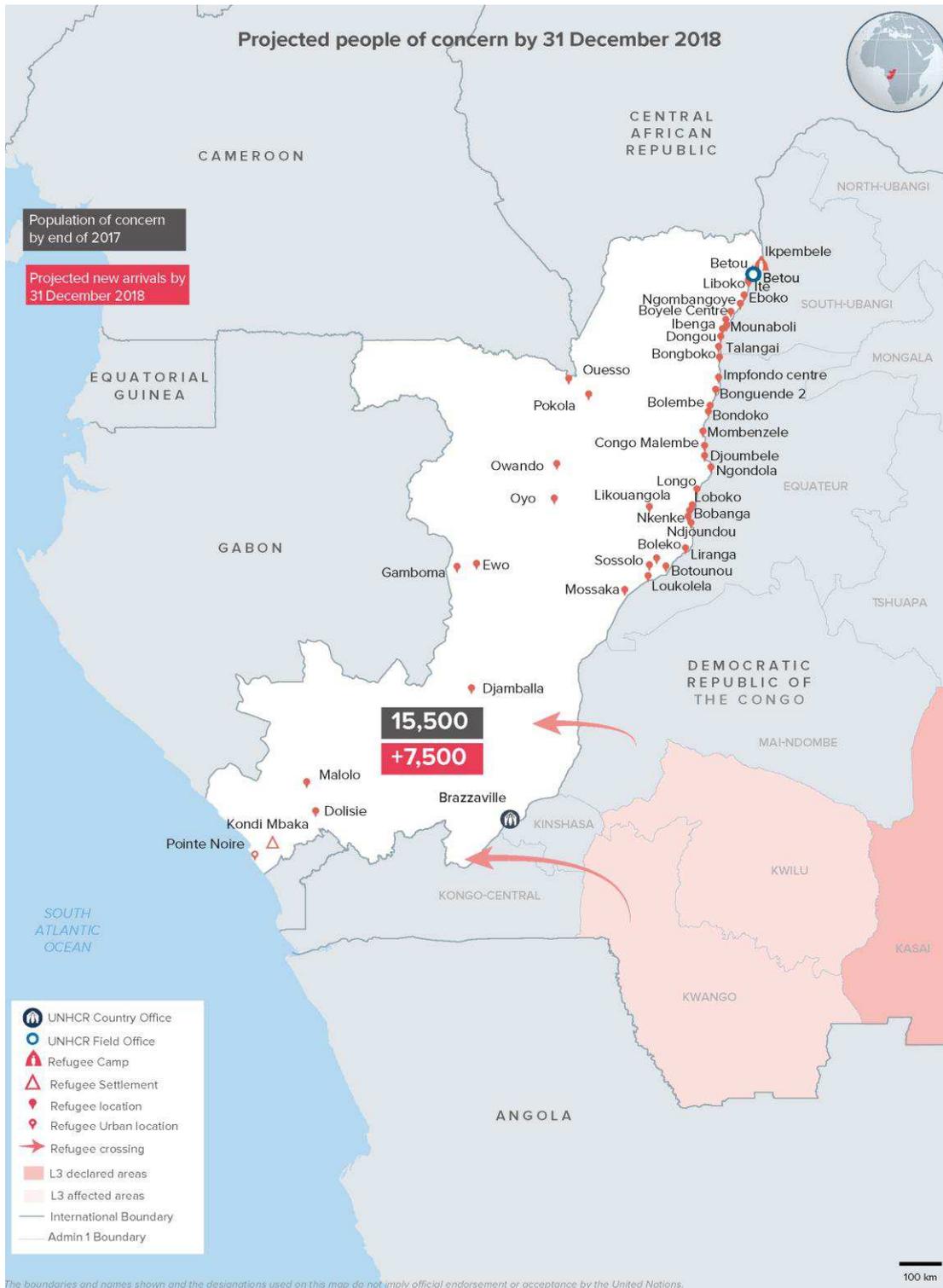
RESPONDING TO THE NEEDS OF DISPLACED CONGOLESE AND REFUGEES

ANNEX - REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO

Supplementary Appeal
January - December 2018

Republic of the Congo

Map of the area covered by this appeal



Overview



807,000

Congolese refugees expected to be hosted in the region by end 2018



23,000

Congolese refugees expected to be hosted in the Republic of Congo by end 2018



71%

Of Congolese refugees are women and children



UNHCR Presence

60 existing national and international staff

2 offices in the country

The Republic of the Congo country annex is part of the supplementary appeal for Congolese situation, which outlines UNHCR's protection interventions planned in 2018 and respond to additional and most urgent needs of people of concern fleeing from the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC).

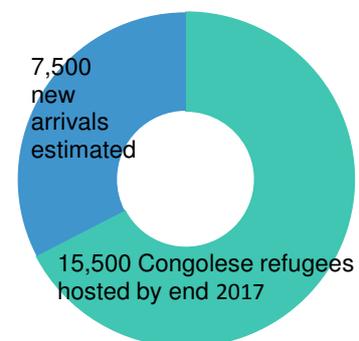
The Republic of the Congo hosts more than 50,000 refugees from different nationalities—including some 15,500 Congolese refugees who have fled insecurity in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC).

The Republic of Congo is a signatory to several international conventions on protection of refugees, including 1951 Refugee Convention relating to the status of refugees and its Protocol of 1967. As responsible of the refugee status determination process in the Republic of Congo, the CNAR (National Committee for Assistance to Refugees) is in charge of the reception of asylum claims. UNHCR will continue to support the CNAR to ensure international protection of refugees.

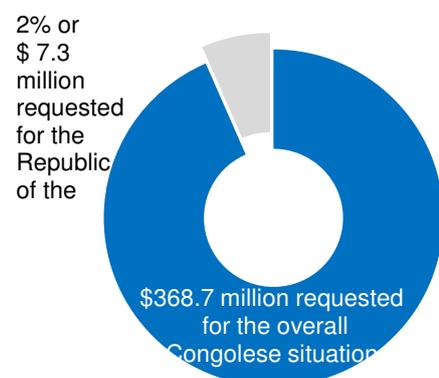
The situation remains volatile in the DRC, and UNHCR considers refugee flows will continue with 7,500 new Congolese refugees in Congo, bringing the overall Congolese refugee population to 23,000 by the end of December 2018.

UNHCR's strategy response will focus on ensuring access to territory and protection and provision of multi-sectoral assistance to refugees.

Population of concern



Financial requirements



Needs and response

Identified needs

Since 2016, the Republic of Congo has been facing unrest and violence as the army and former militiamen (so-called 'Ninjas') clash in the Pool Province. These clashes have led to large displacement. In addition, the economic crisis that Congo is currently facing is affecting refugees negatively. For example, reduced investment in the building sector, where many refugees worked, have led to their being laid-off or otherwise impacted.

Since the 1970s, the Republic of Congo has been a country of asylum for waves of refugees from different countries. A large majority of Congolese refugees have settled in the Likouala department, which is now facing huge challenges in development and access to basic services, such as health and education.

Despite this longstanding tradition of asylum, the Republic of Congo's capacity to handle such refugee situations is limited. The country has always relied on international support to provide multi-sectoral assistance to people of concern to UNHCR living on its territory. It is expected that the same will continue for the DRC situation.

In addition, the Republic of Congo is itself going through a humanitarian crisis, in which some 108,000 people have been forcibly displaced from Pool Province. In parallel to the humanitarian crisis which started in 2016 following political tensions during the electoral campaign, there is a serious economic crisis. The fall in oil prices has had significant impact on the country and, *ipso facto*, on the protection environment which is becoming more challenging as economic resources in the country are ever more restricted.

Response

Throughout 2018, UNHCR interventions will be guided by the following strategic priorities to respond to protection and immediate needs of Congolese refugees:

Ensure refugees access to the territory—In case of influx or of a moderate refugee inflow, there are two major potential entry points: those entering through Brazzaville might be hosted in host families or requesting support for housing. The Government has identified a refugee site 100km from Brazzaville which could host refugees whilst decisions are made on their final destination. Refugees arriving in Congo from other entry points in Betou or Impfondo will be taken to an existing refugee settlement near the entry points or placed in host families. UNHCR will build capacity of local authorities—police, army and immigration—and support the CNAR, which is primarily responsible for the asylum procedure in order to ensure asylum-seekers access to territory and refugee status determination and prevent any refoulement risk. In addition, the Office will conduct individual and biometric registration and documentation and support the local authorities for the issuance of civil documentation (e.g. birth certificates to children born in Congo).

Protection and multisectoral assistance—UNHCR will ensure timely identification and assistance of vulnerable cases, including children at risk and SGBV survivors. It will strengthen protection and multisectoral interventions for new arrivals and protracted rural and urban Congolese refugees. Emergency shelters will be built for the new arrivals and most vulnerable refugees in settlement areas, and shelter toolkits and core relief items will be provided to other people of concern.

Self-reliance and livelihoods improved—Refugees will be supported to engage in income-generating activities and assisted to have access to land. Activities will be promoted for both refugees and local populations to facilitate peaceful co-existence among the two communities.

Key intervention areas



Protection

UNHCR will focus on ensuring access to territory, registration, facilitating access to protection services, prevention and respond to SGBV and addressing the protection needs of unaccompanied and separated children and other key vulnerabilities. UNHCR will:

- Ensure refugee access to territory and to asylum procedures and prevent risk of *refoulement*.
- Carry out protection monitoring at the 4 entry points of areas with a high concentration of refugees to identify and respond to protection needs of new arrivals.
- Conduct Level 2 biometric registration of Congolese refugees and provide individual identification documentation.
- Ensure that Congolese authorities maintain civilian character of asylum.
- Strengthen prevention of and response to SGBV—including identification of SGBV survivors and ensuring referral to multisectoral assistance such as appropriate medical, psychosocial and material assistance—and set up SGBV committees.
- Strengthen child protection interventions: Unaccompanied and separated children will be identified during registration. Best interest assessments will be conducted, and temporary care arrangements will be made with support of host families.
- Identify and assist people with specific needs.



Shelter and NFIs

Bearing in mind the parameters set by the Government of the Republic of the Congo, UNHCR will:

- Increase the capacity of host families through the distribution of domestic equipment.
- Support 1,000 households with distribution of core relief items—including blankets, mats, mosquito nets, jerry cans, kitchen utensils, buckets, etc.
- Distribute sanitary materials to refugees.



Health

UNHCR will strengthen, expand and support the health services to meet the health needs of the refugees. UNHCR will:

- Ensure refugee access to primary health care and support all cases with moderate and severe malnutrition.



Community empowerment and self-reliance

UNHCR will strengthen the local capacity to host refugees and promote peaceful coexistence among refugees and with host communities. UNHCR will:

- Empower refugees with income-generating activities.

Coordination and working in partnership

UNHCR will continue to support the Government through the Ministry of Social Affairs, Humanitarian Affairs and Solidarity to strengthen its coordination capacity for the refugee response, and support CNAR as its Government counterpart.

UNHCR will also work with local authorities, UN agencies, national and international NGOs, and host communities, and will serve as an interface for donors, civil society and other stakeholders for the response to Congolese refugees.

Financial requirements

UNHCR's 2018 ExCom budget for the Republic of the Congo in response to the Congolese situation amounts to **\$7,297,087**, presented below. No additional requirements are requested in this appeal.

	Congolese situation		
	ExCom Budget and subsequent adjustments related to the Congolese situation	Additional requirements	Total
Favourable protection environment <i>Access to the territory and risk of refoulement</i>	50,000	-	50,000
Fair protection processes and documentation <i>Reception conditions Registration and profiling Individual documentation</i>	653,016	-	653,016
Security from violence and exploitation <i>Prevention of and response to SGBV Protection of children</i>	407,098	-	407,098
Basic needs and services	4,161,932	-	4,161,932
<i>Health</i>	2,098,301	-	2,098,301
<i>Food security and nutrition</i>	250,000	-	250,000
<i>Shelter and infrastructure</i>	240,000	-	240,000
<i>Basic and domestic items</i>	181,963	-	181,963
<i>Education</i>	656,410	-	656,410
<i>People with specific needs</i>	675,258	-	675,258
<i>WASH</i>	50,000	-	50,000
Community empowerment and self-reliance <i>Community mobilization Self-reliance and livelihoods Peaceful co-existence</i>	693,848	-	693,848
Durable solutions <i>Potential for integration Voluntary return Resettlement</i>	208,711	-	208,711
Logistics and operations support <i>Programme management, coordination and support</i>	1,087,482	-	1,087,482
Leadership, coordination and partnerships <i>Coordination Camp management Donor relations and resource mobilization</i>	35,000	-	35,000
SUBTOTAL	7,297,087	-	7,297,087
Support costs (7 per cent)		-	
TOTAL	7,297,087	-	7,297,087

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UNHCR
hqfr00@unhcr.org

P.O. Box 2500
1211 Geneva 2

www.unhcr.org
reporting.unhcr.org

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Displaced and struggling to survive. © UNHCR/John Wessels