

CONCERN IN DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO – 2024

Factsheet compiled in 2025

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After a focus group organized by Concern Zam-Zam Aziza from the CRM department, program participants sing songs and dance with joy to thank Concern for its intervention in Nyanzale. Photo: Samuel Isenge/Concern Worldwide, October 2024.

“This work is vital. Without it, people will be without drinking water and the risk of cholera outbreaks and other deadly diseases is extremely high.”

Antoine Sagot-Priez, Concern DRC Country Director

Humanitarian Overview

For decades, one of the world’s deadliest, longest-running crises has been unfolding in the Democratic Republic of Congo. Since the end of the Second Congo War (1998–2003), regional violence between rebel groups and government forces has uprooted millions of Congolese. In the first four months of 2024 alone, the UN estimates an additional 940,000 people were displaced across the country, 58% of which are children. More than 80% of these displacements were the result of armed attacks and clashes, and the overwhelming majority were displaced in the provinces of North Kivu and South Kivu.

In 2025, the UN estimates 305.1 million people will be in need of humanitarian assistance. Of those, over 21.2 million will come from DRC only.¹

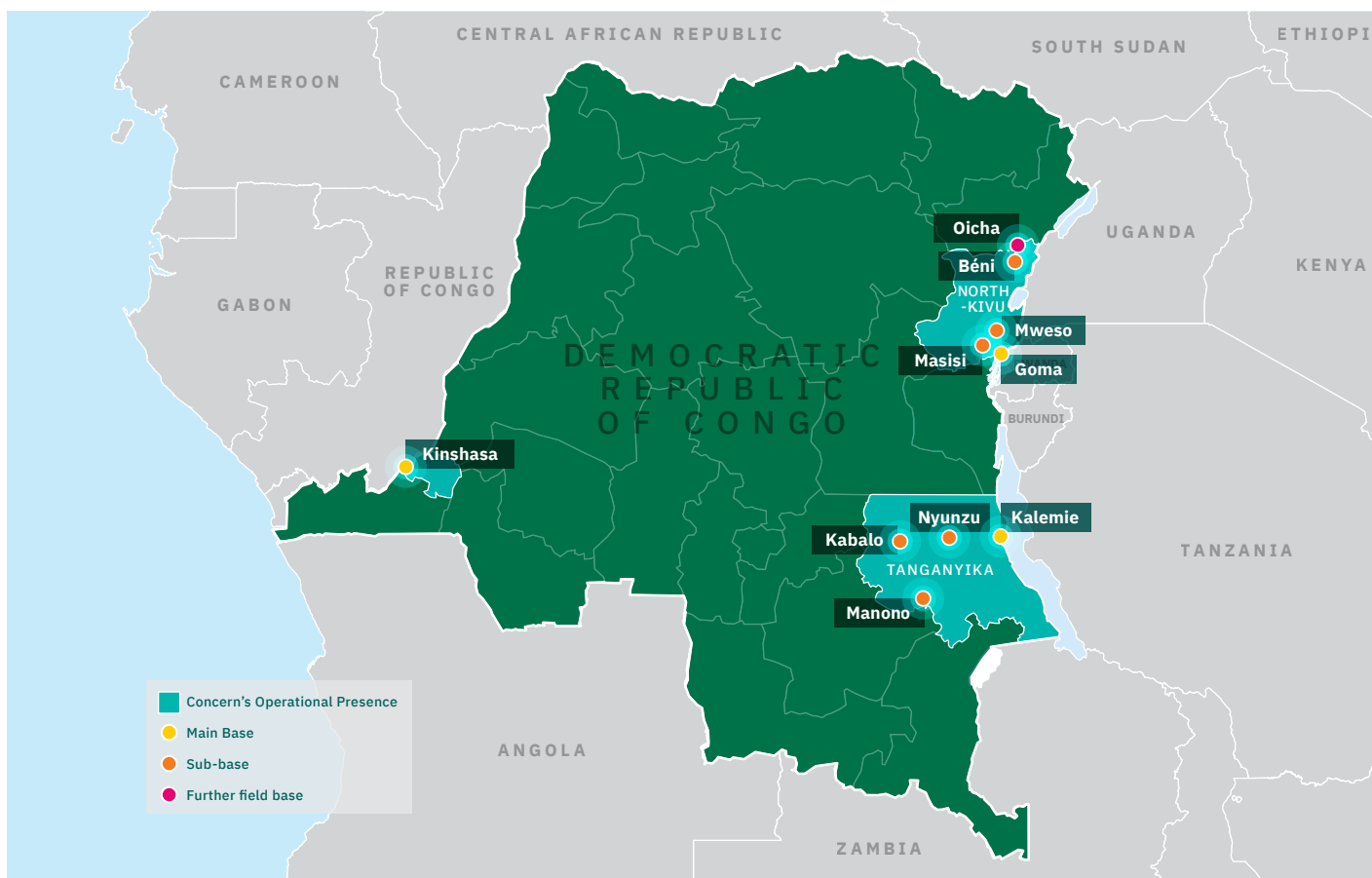
DRC is the theatre of mass displacement. In 2024, over seven million people were internally displaced, and the country hosted an additional 520,000 refugees from neighbouring countries. A further 160,000² Congolese are seeking asylum in other countries. Conditions in displacement camps are dire, with key concerns including safety, gender-based violence, access to clean water, disability inclusion, and adequate housing. Conflict and natural disasters have disrupted access to healthcare and education and deprived families of their livelihoods, which for the vast majority of Congolese are based on agriculture. Millions of people are unable to grow the food that they use for both sustenance and for generating income.

Concern Operations

Concern has been working in DRC since 1994. Part of our work has been to address the country’s decades-long humanitarian crisis, particularly in the east, by providing support for livelihoods, nutrition, gender equality, and water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH). In 2024, Concern saved or improved the lives of 630,000 people in displacement sites around Goma, and in the territories of Masisi, Beni, and Rutshuru

1. [OCHA 2025 Global Humanitarian Overview Report](#)

2. [UNHCR 2025 DRC Situation Report](#)



(North Kivu), Fizi (South Kivu), and Kalemie, Kabalo, Manono and Nyunzu (Tanganyika). Concern DRC is committed to integrating gender approaches in all phases of our emergency, resilience or development interventions. In 2025, our team will continue to work with the ambition to achieve the greatest possible impact for those left furthest behind.

OUR WORK IN 2024

Water, Hygiene and Sanitation (WASH)

The aim of Concern's WASH response is to improve the health, well-being and education of people affected by extreme poverty and security crises in the DRC. In 2024, Concern managed five WASH programmes in the provinces of North Kivu and Tanganyika. **Our WASH focused work has helped reduce water-borne diseases, improve hygiene practices, and increased individual and community resilience in the face of crises through training and by strengthening local infrastructure.** In 2024, Concern ensured access to sufficient quality and quantity of water, WASH kits and sanitation infrastructures for 25,000 people in the Buguri and Katale IPD sites.

KEY ACHIEVEMENTS IN 2024

855 latrines built/rehabilitated in the Bulengo IPD site, benefitting over 17,000 people

15,500 women hygiene kits distributed in the province of Tanganyika

200,000 people received 15 litres of clean water each day between July 2024 and January 2025 in the Bulengo IDP camp site, near Goma



Emergency Response

Conflict-related displacement in the DRC has reached record levels. Displaced populations often have limited or no access to the basic services and resources needed to cover their essential needs and are particularly vulnerable. **In 2024, Concern conducted 12 emergency interventions.** These included four multi-purpose cash distributions (allowing 133,420 people to meet their urgent and

basic needs such as food, household and hygiene items, education and health), five WASH interventions (including emergency showers and latrines or water point rehabilitation) and three protection interventions (individual protection and community protection activities).

KEY ACHIEVEMENTS IN 2024

- 242,141** received emergency support from Concern
- 108,721** people received emergency WASH assistance to support communities with access to water and basic hygiene and sanitation, and answer urgent needs for assistance due to conflicts



Food Security and Livelihood

DRC is among the five poorest nations in the world. In 2024 an estimated 73.5% of Congolese people were living on less than \$2.15 a day (World Bank). Concern's key activities include emergency economic recovery and agricultural support. Our programmes are designed to be sustainable and led by the local communities. Concern reached over **107,000** individuals through its Food Security and Livelihood programming in 2024. Working closely with households in communities affected by conflict and climate change, activities such as small business development, climate smart agriculture and training for savings and loans groups have greatly improved overall resilience against and in the aftermath of shocks.

KEY ACHIEVEMENTS IN 2024

- 1,712** households received agricultural kits in the province of Tanganyika
- 8,089** people benefitted from monthly cash-transfers for six months to support their basic needs and recover financially
- 703** households benefitted from Cash-for-work, which allowed the rehabilitation of 22km of road by the community



Nutrition

In DRC, approximately **4.45 million children under the age of five face acute malnutrition annually, with 1.39 million severely malnourished children in need of treatment** (IPC). Each year, more than 3.7 million pregnant and breastfeeding women suffer from acute malnutrition. In four health areas of Tanganyika Province Concern is carrying out activities such as malnutrition screening, mobilisation of community health volunteers and training of health care providers. Concern's work in Oicha allowed the Acceptable Food Consumption Scores of programme participants to go from 5.8% to 62.9%.

KEY ACHIEVEMENTS IN 2024

- 13,469** children between six months and five years old were screened for malnutrition
- 20** community support groups were created to encourage mutual aid
- 10,284** people benefitted from awareness-raising sessions on Infant and Young Child Feeding and the causes of malnutrition



Protection

In 2024, Concern's protection work made significant progress. Training sessions allowed us to integrate protection principles throughout all our activities, covering topics such as case management, gender-based violence, protection against sexual abuse and social inclusion. The focus of our protection activities is on improving the protection environment for displaced populations, build resilience and reduce vulnerability, and prevent and mitigate sexual and gender-based violence.

KEY ACHIEVEMENTS IN 2024

- 252** Concern staff and partners attended training sessions to integrate protection principles into all our activities in DRC
- 630** survivors of violence received assistance
- 58,961** people were educated to prevent rights violations in DRC

THE IMPACT OF OUR WORK

“This aid will enable my family to resume our normal life.”



Itotecho (65), father of eight, displaced in South Kivu province, eastern DRC. Photo: Rudy Kimvuidi/Mercy Corps

Itotecho is 65 years old. He is married, and a father to eight children. He lost a leg in a bomb blast 25 years ago, since when his mobility has been restricted. “As life became more and more difficult, my wife became the sole provider,” explains Itotecho. “I’m a tailor by trade, and a farmer. My family depended on this. **Now, some of our children are no longer in school for lack of funds.**” Itotecho and his family are among the seven million people internally displaced by violence and natural disasters in DRC. As a member of the SAFER emergency response consortium, Concern is providing support to internally displaced people in eastern DRC. The programme supports displaced families in the immediate aftermath of violent attacks, and includes cash distributions which allow people experiencing a crisis or disaster the agency to meet their self-assessed needs. **Over the course of nine days in March 2024, Concern, in partnership with the European Union (EU) and US Bureau for Humanitarian Assistance (BHA), distributed cash to nearly 60,000 people in the South Kivu province.** Itotecho’s family were among those who benefitted: “We will draw up a small list of priority needs – food, clothing, school fees. With the rest of the money, we will start a small business, **to help the survival of our family.**”

“I wouldn’t say that I have become an expert, but I already know the minimum, for example reading the number of shares in my account book.”



Marigo, a programme participant in Beni town. Photo: Samuel Isenge/Concern Worldwide

Concern is implementing a project with Irish Aid funding, working with conflict-affected communities in Beni territory, North Kivu Province to help them recover from shocks and build resilience. This support includes vocational trainings, literacy classes, and coaching on business skills; cash and asset transfers; and establishment of Village Savings and Loans Associations (VSLA). **This enables participants to launch their own income generating activities, helping them to become economically self-sufficient, improve household food security and build resilience.** In 2024, Marigo attended trainings on literacy and business planning, became a member of VSLAs and received cash transfers to cover her basic needs and invest: “Thanks to the monthly transfers I was able to buy trees, sheet metal and nails to build a house,” she said.

Marigo also accessed a loan which she used to set up her own small business selling avocados. She plans to use the income she earns to diversify her income further and sell fish as well. Along with 279 other programme participants, **Marigo has also benefitted from six months of functional literacy and numeracy classes**, important skills for the running and management of her income generating activity.

“I feel very happy to receive the training and support. What it means to me is that there is hope for a happy life.”



Mother-of-six Guilaine Masika Kavalea (30) is taking part in hairdressing training run by Concern Worldwide. Photo: Eugene Ikua/Concern Worldwide

The ‘Enabling Affected Communities to Survive and Thrive’ (EAST) Consortium is a 28-month programme funded by the UK. EAST works with individuals and communities affected by conflict in eastern DRC to address urgent protection needs and strengthen their resilience in face of continuing violence. **The EAST Consortium implements livelihoods, protection and nutrition activities aiming to support over 430,000 individuals including 65,000 people living with disabilities.** Guilaine Masika Kavalea is a mother of six, “My husband and I used to farm but had to move around a lot because of the war, and because making a living was hard. The day we fled, we were farming. We had planted beans and groundnuts, but we left all that and fled without anything.” Guilaine is taking part in hairdressing training run by Concern, which provides women with vocational skills to start up a small business. Through the financial support she receives to attend the training, Guilaine has been able to sell flour to earn additional cash. She hopes to open her own hair salon one day. **“My children are fine. My family is okay. They are able to get porridge in the morning.”**

“When I arrived here, my child was in a very bad condition. He was not healthy, but I received support.”



Mum-of-two Bernadette Kamanya (22) knew her two-year-old son David Nkulu was desperately ill. Photo: Eugene Ikua/Concern Worldwide

M’toa Health Centre is supported by Concern as part of the UK government-funded EAST programme which provides a package of nutrition, protection and livelihoods support across four provinces of eastern DRC. The clinic has a six-bed capacity and serves a population of almost 13,000 people. Bernadette received support for her baby through the Concern-led consortium. “My baby’s health was not okay. He had a fever, and everything pointed to him being unwell. He was really not healthy. I realised he was losing weight every other day.” When she took him to M’toa Health Centre, David was diagnosed as being severely malnourished and immediately started treatment. **“They provided food that very day.”** Since then, his weight has increased from three to seven kilos. **Concern’s support ensures free treatment and medication for pregnant mums and children under five, as well as the provision of therapeutic food for malnourished children.**

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 EXTREME POVERTY
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 IT TAKES**