

COUNTRY PROFILE:

DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO (DRC)

Nature of Conflict

The DRC has been the main battlefield of the Great Lakes conflict since 1996 with, a combination of internal and regional aspects. It has been an internal struggle for political control, between armed rebel groups and Laurent Kabila who himself attained power through a rebel movement. It has also been part of a broader regional conflict as other governments were drawn in, backing either the government or the rebel movements. Further, the DRC has been party to neighboring conflicts by supporting armed incursions from its territory.

Links with other conflicts in the region

| <u>Country</u> | <u>Involvement</u> |
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| Burundi | Burundian rebel forces have in the past used the DRC to launch cross-border attacks. Currently, these forces seem to have withdrawn from DRC territory. |
| Rwanda | Armed groups of former Rwandan Armed Forces combatants (ex-FAR) and <i>Interhamwe</i> involved in the 1994 Rwandan Genocide are still located in eastern DRC. Rwanda has alleged that in addition to not actively working to disarm these groups, the DRC is actually supporting them. Rwandan Defence Forces (RDF) that had deployed in eastern DRC during the 1998 conflict withdrew during late 2002. However, there are new allegations that the RDF is remobilizing. |
| Uganda | Armed groups, including the Allied Democratic Forces have used DRC territory to launch cross-border attacks, which combined with the general instability of eastern DRC was used as the rationale for Uganda's deployment of troops to the DRC. This has resulted in military clashes between Uganda and Rwanda, as well as between their proxy forces. Nonetheless, the UPDF completed their withdrawal from eastern DRC in May 2003, leading to a struggle for control of Bunia in Ituri Province between Hema and Lendu militias. |

Internally Displaced and Refugees

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| Internally Displaced Persons | Approximately 2.7 million (OCHA, Jan. 2003) |
| Refugees from Other Countries | Approximately 330,000 refugees from seven countries reside in the DRC, with the majority from Angola (UNHCR, Feb. 2003) |
| DRC Refugees in Other Countries | Approximately 390,000 refugees from the DRC currently reside in neighboring countries (UNHCR, Feb. 2003) |

Major Peace Agreements / Cease-fire Agreements

| <u>AGREEMENT</u> | <u>DATE</u> | <u>MAIN POINTS</u> | <u>SIGNATORIES</u> |
|-------------------------------------------------|-------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <u>Sun City – The Final Act</u> | April 2003 | Respect of previously signed peace/cease-fire agreements; Respect 36 resolutions adopted at ICD; Respect Transition Constitution; Installation of transition government as soon as possible | DRC, RCD, MLC, RCD-K/ML, RCD-N, Mai-Mai, political opposition, active forces |
| <u>Pretoria</u> (in French) | Dec. 2002 | Cessation of hostilities; withdrawal of foreign troops; disarmament of irregular forces and militias; formation of a transitional government; organization of elections; reform of national army; national reconciliation; passing of an amnesty law | DRC, RCD, MLC, RCD-K/ML, RCD-N, Mai-Mai, political opposition, active forces |
| <u>Luanda</u> | Sept. 2002 | Withdrawal of Ugandan forces from DRC territory; cooperation on security measures and defense; Joint Pacification Committee on Ituri; Joint Ministerial Commission for Cooperation | DRC, Uganda |

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| Pretoria | July 2002 | DRC will disarm ex-FAR and Interahamwe; Rwanda will withdraw forces from DRC | DRC, Rwanda |
| Lusaka Ceasefire Agreement | July 1999 | Cessation of hostilities in DRC; release/exchange of prisoners; withdrawal of foreign forces; normalization of borders; control of illicit arms trafficking and infiltration of armed groups; Inter-Congolese Dialogue; army restructuring; disarmament; repatriation of foreign combatants; Joint Military Commission (JMC); UN peacekeeping force | Angola, DRC, Namibia, Rwanda, Uganda, Zimbabwe; <i>Mouvement de Libération du Congo</i> (MLC) |

Demobilization and Reintegration Program (DRP)

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| National Program | No activities are currently underway within the framework of the MDRP. There are, however, activities for demobilized combatants (especially child soldiers), in place or being planned. An interim national strategy for demobilization and reintegration is being developed with UNDP support, a national demobilization and reintegration strategy for child soldiers has been proposed by UNICEF, and several activities for former child soldiers are being funded as special projects. They will be integrated into a comprehensive national program once in place. |
| Special Projects | Two special project proposals for the Demobilization and Reintegration of Child Ex-Combatants and one for the Community Recovery and Reintegration of Ex-Combatants in eastern DRC have been approved and are currently being processed. Another proposal for a Rapid Reaction Mechanism has been recommended for approval. |
| Regional Activities | A regional activity on DRC-Rwanda Cross-Border Sensitization is ongoing. Both countries have formally endorsed the joint communication and sensitization strategy and some progress has been made toward its implementation, including the preparation of some materials for dissemination (brochures, leaflets, comic strips, etc.). |

Local Multi-Donor DDR Coordination Committee – International Member Organizations

| <u>Bilateral Partners</u> | | <u>Others</u> | <u>UN Agencies</u> |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Belgium• European Union• France• Germany• Germany (GTZ)• Italy• Japan• The Netherlands | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• South Africa• Spain• United Kingdom (DFID) | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• MDRP• The World Bank | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• International Labour Organization (ILO)• UN Children’s Fund (UNICEF)• UN Development Programme (UNDP)• UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR)• UN Population Fund (UNFPA)• World Food Program |

DDR Contacts

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Government Agency

A government agency for DDR coordination and implementation has not yet been officially established.

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