



COUNTRY PROFILE: DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF 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 led a rebel movement to power. The DRC has been at the center of a broader regional conflict as other governments were drawn in, backing either the government or rebel movements. Further, it has been party to neighboring conflicts by supporting armed incursions from its territory.

Demobilization and Reintegration Program (DRP)

National Program On December 18, 2003, the Transitional Government of the DRC established by decree a national framework for DDR composed of the following three entities: i) an Inter-Ministerial Committee, the policy body; ii) a national commission for DDR (CONADER), the implementation body; and iii) a Financial Management Unit. The President appointed a National Coordinator and a deputy in March 2004, opening the way for further recruitment and increasing the momentum in preparation for implementation of the national program.

The overall program is expected to cost US\$200 million and benefit 150,000 ex-combatants. MDRP donors endorsed a grant of US\$100 million in early May 2004 to complement IDA financing of the same amount, for which World Bank Board approval will be sought on May 25, 2004. The Government will contribute land, office space, security and other in-kind support.

Special Projects Grant agreements have been signed with six organizations for the implementation of five special projects: two for the demobilization and reintegration of child soldiers, one for Community Recovery and Reintegration of ex-combatants and one for a Rapid Response Mechanism. Another two special projects focusing on the demobilization and reintegration of child ex-combatants have been approved by the Local Ad-hoc Committee and are currently being processed by the World Bank.

Major Peace Agreements / Cease-fire Agreements

<u>AGREEMENT</u>	<u>DATE</u>	<u>MAIN POINTS</u>	<u>SIGNATORIES</u>
Kinshasa (Acte d'engagement)	May 2004	Cessation of hostilities; Re-launching of the Ituri peace process	PUSIC, FNI, FPDC, FAPC, UPC, Ituri Pacification Commission, GoDRC
Dar-es-Salaam	May 2003	Cessation of hostilities; Re-launching of the Ituri peace process	PUSIC, FNI, FPDC, FAPC, UPC, Ituri Pacification Commission, GoDRC
Sun City – The Final Act	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	GoDRC, RCD, MLC, RCD-K/ML, RCD-N, Mai-Mai, political opposition, active forces

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Major Peace Agreements / Cease-fire Agreements (continued)

<u>AGREEMENT</u>	<u>DATE</u>	<u>MAIN POINTS</u>	<u>SIGNATORIES</u>
<u>Accord global et inclusif</u> (Pretoria) (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	GoDRC, RCD, MLC, RCD-K/ML, RCD-N, Mai-Mai, political opposition, active forces
<u>Luanda Peace Agreement</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	GoDRC, GoUganda
<u>Pretoria Peace Agreement</u>	July 2002	DRC will disarm ex-FAR and Interahamwe; Rwanda will withdraw forces from DRC	GoDRC, GoRwanda
<u>Lusaka Ceasefire Agreement</u>	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	The Governments of: Angola, DRC, Namibia, Rwanda, Uganda, Zimbabwe; <i>Mouvement de Libération du Congo</i> (MLC)

Links with other conflicts in the region

<u>Country</u>	<u>Involvement</u>
Burundi	Burundian rebel forces have in the past used the DRC to launch cross-border attacks. These forces have since withdrawn from DRC territory.
Rwanda	Armed groups of former Rwandan Armed Forces combatants (ex-FAR) and <i>Interahamwe</i> militia involved in the 1994 Rwandan Genocide remain in eastern DRC. In the past, Rwanda has alleged that in addition to not actively working to disarm these groups, the DRC has provided support to them. Rwandan Defence Forces (RDF) that had deployed in eastern DRC during the 1998 conflict withdrew during late 2002. However, there have been allegations of their continued presence. Following the establishment of the transitional government in the DRC, further discussion between the two countries has led to an increase in the repatriation of ex-FAR to Rwanda under the regional Demobilization, Repatriation, and Reintegration Program.
Uganda	Armed groups, including the Allied Democratic Forces and the Lords Resistance Army, 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. Military clashes between Uganda and Rwanda, as well as between their proxy forces, followed. Nonetheless, the UPDF completed their withdrawal from eastern DRC in May 2003.

Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) and Refugees

IDPs	Approximately 3.4 million (OCHA, March 2004)
Refugees	As of March 2004, approximately 234,000 refugees from other countries resided in the DRC (OCHA) and an estimated 380,000 refugees from the DRC resided in other countries (UNHCR).