

UN PLAN 2002



Together...

Republic of Congo (Brazzaville)



UN COUNTRY TEAM

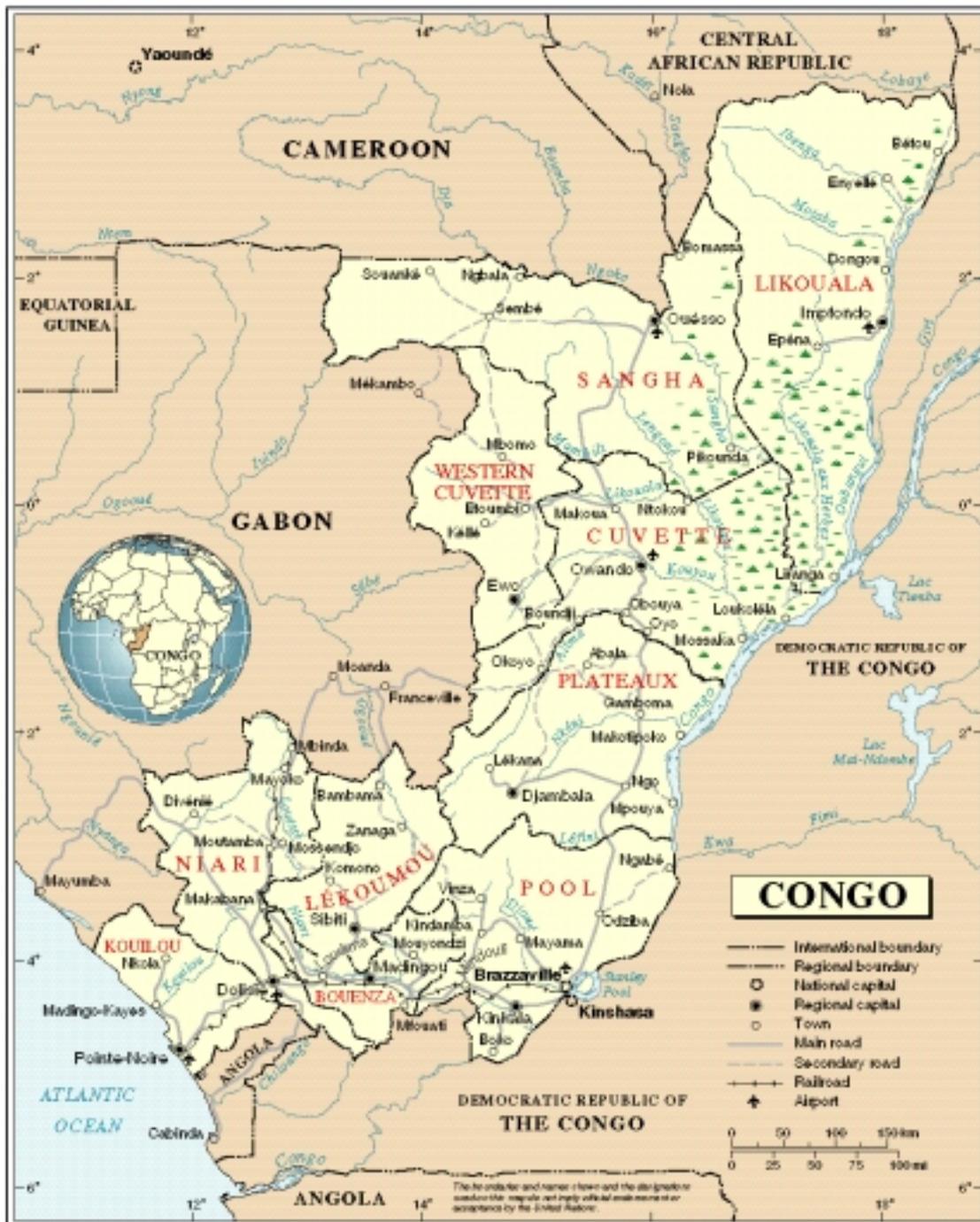


REPUBLIC OF CONGO

Published by the Office of the United Nations Resident
Coordinator and Humanitarian Coordinator
BP 465, Avenue Foch, Brazzaville, Republic of Congo
Telephone: (242) 81 03 88
Facsimilie: (242) 81 16 79
E-mail: un.brazzaville@undp.org

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...from the
ground up



Map No. 2410 Rev. 2 UNITED NATIONS
November 2000

Department of Public Information
Cartographic Section

Congo is located in western central Africa astride the equator. It borders Gabon, Cameroon, the Central African Republic, the Democratic Republic of Congo, and the Angolan exclave of Cabinda, with a short stretch of coast along the South Atlantic. Congo is divided into 11 administrative regions (Brazzaville, the Capital, constitutes a region).

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FOREWORD

Friends,

This is the second year that we have produced an all-in-one 'UN Plan' for our work in Republic of Congo, fusing together the elements of the United Nation's humanitarian appeal, its common assessment, and its development framework into a unitary approach. The goal is to plan the full spectrum of activities in one process, bringing together all that we do.

This year we have also strengthened the link between our objectives and activities. We have been careful not to be 'speculative'. This is a plan. This is what we intend to do.

The United Nations Secretary-General, Kofi Annan, encouraged us in his report of July 2001, 'Strengthening of the coordination of emergency humanitarian assistance in the United Nations', calling our single 'UN Plan' for Republic of Congo *'an innovative approach'*. The challenge, he wrote, *'is to avoid multiplication of tools and to ensure that an integrated strategy is undertaken in the recovery phase, including political, security, humanitarian and development dimensions'*.

The year 2001 was one of miraculous improvement in Republic of Congo, compared to the war and population displacement of previous years. While many still suffer from the effects of war, or seek refuge in Congo from neighbouring wars, the large-scale humanitarian emergency is over. As a result we are working together with more dimensions of Government, more energetic civil society organisations and many good implementing partners. Nine guests from donor countries and international organisations, including four NGOs, attended our two-day senior planning retreat in September 2001. Six further consultations were held on the text of different sections, especially with Congolese governmental and civil society organisations. Thank you to all, for your help and continuing partnership.

The transition to peace is seldom a perfect one. Where required we will continue to lobby for improvement or change. We are continually impressed with the value the Congolese people have placed on their present opportunity to create a lasting peace. Everyone recognises that peace in Congo is to be treasured and encouraged. Many a visitor has commented on the exceptional speed with which Congo has consolidated its cessation of hostilities and revitalised itself to date. In 2002, we are fortunate to be accompanying a people who are intent on rebuilding their lives and their country *from the ground up...*

The UN Country Team

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

THE UN PLAN, ITS GOALS AND SPECIFIC OBJECTIVES FOR THE REPUBLIC OF CONGO IN 2002 AIM AT REALISM, SUSTAINING PEACE AND HELPING THE CONGOLESE REBUILD THEIR COMMUNITIES

The international community has been challenged to keep up with the pace of events in Republic of Congo in the 1990s. From single party rule to multiparty democracy, from a controlled economy to an open market, and now from war to what will hopefully be a lasting peace, events have unfolded with remarkable speed.

While life-saving and other emergency needs have now declined, there is a new urgency in international assistance - maximising the chances for a successful transition. The cease-fire accords signed in 1999 continue to underpin Congo's peace process. A genuine re-launching of Congolese democracy faces significant challenges in the months ahead, most notably the holding of a constitutional referendum, presidential and then legislative elections, all planned to take place before mid-2002.

The correlation between the maintenance of peace and economic stability is an important one. Economic and political recovery could be harmed by the long-term projected decline in the oil sector, ineffectiveness of the public service, stagnation of the national privatisation programme, damaged electricity supply and road infrastructure, and a lack of transparency in the government's economic management.

Based on its common assessment of the country's situation, the Country Team identified a set of cross-sector themes and objectives that require intervention across the board. In 2002 there are five cross-sector themes:

1. Responding to Emergency – while the country continued to stabilise in 2001, the Country Team has nevertheless identified four emergency scenarios, to prepare itself to respond to potential emergencies;

2. Gender Equity – women continue to be subject to widespread discrimination at home, in the workplace, before the law, and in public institutions;

3. HIV/AIDS – the HIV/AIDS situation is a looming national catastrophe with an adult infection in 1995 of already 8% and rising since then; the UN threshold for containment of the disease is 4%;

4. Human Rights – restoration of the rule of law is vital, underpinning the fight against corruption, emphasising the need for transparency in public office and an end to the culture of impunity;

5. Poverty Reduction – the causes of poverty are manyfold. For instance, the provision and quality of health and education services in Congo is among the worst in the developing world, particularly in marginalised rural communities. Already in 1995, before the last two civil wars, absolute poverty had reached 70% in Brazzaville, making poverty reduction a number one priority.

To address all these themes, the United Nations has planned activities in 10 Sectors. For each, we identify needs, outline objectives, detail action taken in 2001, and make reference to United Nations projects for 2002:

1. Agriculture, Food Security and Nutrition – despite the vast potential for agriculture, structural weaknesses, notably destroyed road infrastructure, render Congo a net importer of food, cultivating just two per cent of arable land;

2. Children and Family – children and families are slowly piecing together their lives after they were so violently torn apart during a decade of civil war, which caught children in the line of fire in so many ways;

3. Culture and Communications – for stability, a culture of peace must prevail; the modernisation of the communications sector is urgently required to allow Congo to take advantage of technological advances;

4. Education and Science – although Congo identified specific targets from the 1990 UN Global Conference on Education in Jomtien, by 2001 virtually no progress has been made;

5. Employment and Income-Generation – the lack of employment opportunities or sustainable livelihoods is a major preoccupation of rural and urban populations, in particular youth;

6. Environment – new threats to Congo's impressive, largely untouched environment are mounting daily;

7. Health – no new medical staff have been hired since 1985, no epidemiological surveillance system exists, medical equipment and facilities are destroyed or at best archaic and decaying, and medicines are in short supply;

8. Refugees – over 100,000 refugees require ongoing assistance and in some cases repatriation, and/or resettlement;

9. Reintegration of Ex-Combatants – ex-combatants are potentially the most destabilising force in Congo, with over 10,000 still awaiting reintegration assistance;

10. Water, Hygiene and Sanitation – the majority of Congolese do not have access to clean drinking water and basic sanitation.

Congo's highly urbanised structure, and relatively small population of almost 3 million, lends itself favourably to well-targeted and swiftly implemented projects. One-page summaries of 42 United Nations projects, seeking funding in 2002 and beyond, are presented by Sector (with a special inter-agency one for HIV/AIDS). Agency core budgets are not shown. Resource mobilisation needs for 2002 total US\$ 46.2 million.

Five NGO partners have annexed descriptions of their own activities in Congo.

GLOBAL GOALS OF UN ASSISTANCE 2002

CONTRIBUTE TO SUSTAINABLE PEACE THROUGH THE RE-ESTABLISHMENT OF RULE OF LAW, POVERTY REDUCTION, AND EMERGENCY RESPONSE CAPACITY.

FOCUS ON ASSISTING:

- **DEVELOPMENT OF INCOME GENERATING ACTIVITIES, PARTICULARLY FOR THE VULNERABLE**
- **RE-ESTABLISHMENT OF BASIC SOCIAL SERVICES**
- **GLOBAL MOBILISATION FOR THE FIGHT AGAINST HIV/AIDS**
- **THE REBUILDING OF GOVERNMENT AND COMMUNITY CAPACITIES**

GLOBAL GOALS OF UN ASSISTANCE IN 2002

The Global Goals for the United Nations Congo Team in 2002 seek to reverse the negative trends in humanitarian and development indicators outlined in the United Nations global conferences of the 1990's, including those enunciated at the Millennium Summit.

In determining the Global Goals the Country Team assessed the historical and prevailing, social, economic and political conditions in Congo. It is presented as follows in the UN Plan 2002:

COUNTRY BRIEF

The Country Brief provides a summary of the country's key historical, social, political, economic and military events;

CROSS THEMES

Drawing on each agency's expertise, the Country Team identified a set of cross-sector themes and objectives that require cross-agency intervention. These themes will be mainstreamed throughout all United Nations activities in Congo. The cross-sector themes for 2002 are: Responding to Emergency, Poverty Reduction, Human Rights, HIV/AIDS and Gender Equity; and,

SECTORS

Analysis of each sector of United Nations operations identifies the peoples' needs, detailed action taken in 2001, and refers to United Nations projects in 2002 that require funding. The Country Team has articulated objectives for each sector: Agriculture, Food Security and Nutrition, Children and Family, Culture and Communications, Education and Science, Employment and Income Generation, Environment, Health, Refugees, Reintegration of Ex-Combatants, and Water, Hygiene and Sanitation.

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HISTORY

**FIRST INHABITANTS**

Originally inhabited by pygmies, the Republic of Congo was settled between 1000 and 1500 AD by Bantu kingdoms, notably Kongo, Loango and Teke. The end of slave trading in the late 18th century signalled the demise of these kingdoms.

FRENCH COLONISATION

Between 1879 and 1891, French explorer Pierre Savorgnan de Brazza secured treaties with local rulers, placing their lands under French protection.

In 1908 the French colonies of Middle Congo, Gabon, Chad and Oubangui-Chari (present-day Central African Republic) were combined to form French Equatorial Africa. Brazzaville was the capital.

Early colonial development centred on natural resource extraction by French companies. Pointe-Noire became a key trading port and supply line to Brazzaville once the railway connecting the two opened in 1934. Using forced labour, 15-20,000 Africans perished.

During World War II (1940-43) Congolese free French forces sided with Charles De Gaulle against the Vichy regime and Germans, making Brazzaville the symbolic capital of free France. At the *1944 Brazzaville Conference*, renewed and intensified calls were made for the reform of colonial rule.

Congo became an overseas territory of France in 1946, with a Territorial Assembly and representatives in the French Parliament. Ten years later, the *Loi Cadre* (framework law) ended dual voting for colonial subjects, resulting in self-government for overseas territories.

In 1958 the four territories voted to become autonomous republics, dissolving French Equatorial Africa. The Middle Congo, renamed Republic of Congo, gained independence from France on 15 August 1960.

INDEPENDENCE

Two major parties existed in 1960: the African Socialist Movement (MSA) and the capitalist Democratic Union for Defence of African Interests (UDDIA). Respectively, the parties pitted north against south, a political division promoted, in-part, by the colonial prioritisation of the south.

Congo has had six presidents since independence. The first presidency, that of Fulbert Youlou from the UDDIA, was marred by accusations of impropriety. Later plagued by trade union agitation, he was overthrown and replaced by Alphonse Massamba-Debat in 1963.

Massamba-Debat established one-party rule, founded the National Revolutionary Movement (MNR) and aligned Congo with the Soviet Union and China. In 1968, tensions between Massamba-Debat and the army led to a rebellion led by Captain Marien N’Gouabi. N’Gouabi shifted power away from the south, instituted Marxist rule, and created the Congolese Labour Party (PCT), the successor of the MNR. N’Gouabi was assassinated in 1977.

The PCT created a military committee headed by Army General Joachim Yhomby-Opango. Corruption and clashes with the PCT members undermined and ultimately ended his presidency. In 1979 he was replaced by Vice President and Defence Minister, Colonel Denis Sassou-Nguesso. The PCT took immediate steps to build a more Marxist-Leninist society, while the new president sought to improve relations with Western nations, notably France.

MULTI-PARTY DEMOCRACY

The Communist embrace produced a tightly controlled economy dependent upon oil revenues and external borrowing. With the collapse of the Soviet Union in the 1980s, plummeting oil prices, and burgeoning domestic debt, the nation’s development strategy soured.

Social and budgetary imperatives obliged the government to review its political and economic policies. By 1990, Sassou-Nguesso had ended Marxist rule and implemented economic reforms with required austerity, including civil service reductions and privatisation of state-enterprises. The economy, however, deteriorated further. In 1991, the Government abandoned key aspects of its reform and ceased paying creditors.

The faltering economy spurred social and political unrest which resonated with the worldwide “perestroika” phenomenon affecting single-party states.

In 1991, the Government embarked upon a democratic agenda. A new constitution was approved by referendum on 15 March 1992 (96 percent assent).

Internationally observed multi-party presidential elections were held in August 1992. In the first round Sassou-Nguesso came third. In the second round, Pascal Lissouba of the Pan-African Union for Social Democracy won a clear victory (61.3 percent) over Bernard Kolelas (38.7 percent) of the Congolese Movement for Integral Democracy and Development. Lissouba was inaugurated as the sixth President on 31 August 1992.

POPULATION

Congo has approximately 3 million inhabitants, 60 percent of whom live in an urbanised cities of Brazzaville and Pointe Noire. The Bantu Bakongo make up nearly half the population, living primarily around Brazzaville. Pygmies live in the northern forests.

RELIGION

There are 15 major ethnic groups in Congo. About half of the Congolese people practice traditional religions, the rest are primarily Christian, although there is a small Muslim minority.

LANGUAGE

French is the country’s official language, however many African languages are widely spoken, most commonly Lingala and Kikongo.

CIVIL WAR

FIRST TROUBLES

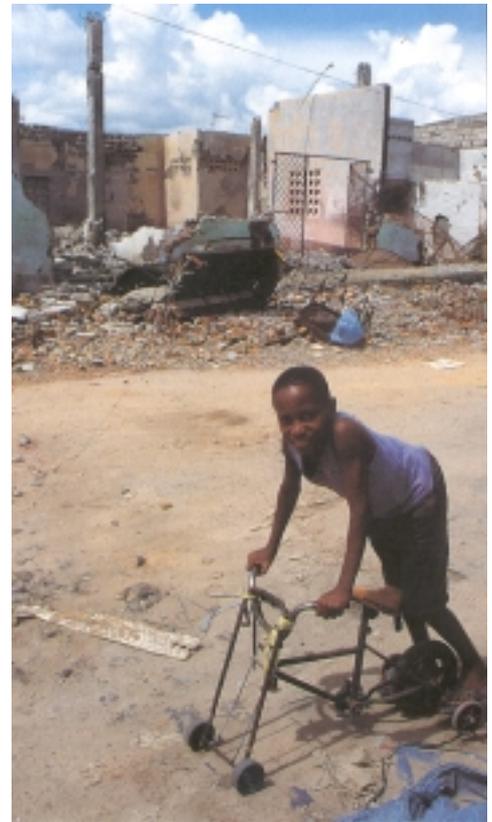
Fledgling Congolese democracy experienced severe trials in 1993 and 1994. President Lissouba dissolved Parliament in late 1992 and called for new legislative elections in May 1993. The results of those elections were disputed, sparking civil unrest. All-out war was averted through the establishment of the *1994 Libreville Peace Accord* mediated by France, Gabon and the Organisation of African Unity. Although stability was restored, a pattern of partisan violence through private militias had been established.

CIVIL WAR OF 5 June 1997

Elections planned for July 1997 were derailed in June when tensions between Lissouba's militia (Cocoyes), Kolelas' militia (Ninjas) and Sassou-Nguesso's militia (Cobras) exploded into a deadly five-month war that destroyed much of Brazzaville. By late-October Angolan troops came to the aid of Sassou-Nguesso. President Lissouba fled into exile. Sassou-Nguesso assumed the presidency on 25 October 1997.

In November the new "National Union Government" dispensed with the 1992 Constitution. In January 1998 the Sassou-Nguesso Government held a 1,420 delegate National Forum for Reconciliation to determine the nature and duration of the political transition, adopting the Government's proposed interim constitution, the *Fundamental Act*.

The *Fundamental Act* established a highly centralised presidential system of government. The National Forum also elected a 75-member unicameral National Transition Council (NTC) to serve as interim parliament, and work toward democratic legislative and presidential elections within a flexible three year timetable. As there is no provision for replacing members who vacate their position, there were 69 members in 2001.



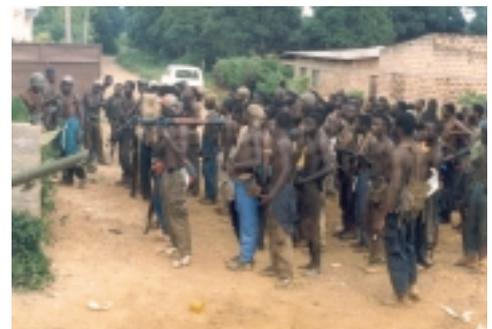
CIVIL WAR OF 18 DECEMBER 1998

In mid-1998, fighting broke out between government forces and rebels in the southern regions of Bouenza, Niari and Pool. By December, a major rebel offensive targeted Brazzaville. Over 250,000 people fled their homes. 170,000 fled south of Brazzaville, 80,000 fled north. The neighbourhoods of Bacongo and Makélékélé, where fighting was fierce, were extensively looted and destroyed. At its zenith, fighting displaced 800,000 people in the south of the country:

For the first time, rebel militia approached within 60-70km of the largely unscathed Pointe Noire.

CEASE-FIRE

Commencing in earnest in mid-1999, warring parties entered into dialogue seeking a resolution. An amnesty for all combatants was announced in August 1999, followed by the signing of a cease-fire between the army and some militia representatives in November. On 29th December 1999, with President Omar Bongo of Gabon mediating, a broader cease-fire was signed. Fighting stopped almost immediately.



FOUNDATIONS FOR PEACE

IN A WORLD OFTEN MORE ADEPT AT PERPETUATING THE CYCLE OF VIOLENCE THAN ENDING IT, THE ACHIEVEMENT OF PEACE IN CONGO IS HIGHLY COMMENDABLE.

PEACE ACCORDS

In late 1999 numerous militia leaders and Government representatives signed a set of cease-fire and cessation of hostilities accords. The Accords were negotiated by military chiefs and do not present a guide for political reform. They did however, establish the foundations for stability and offered, for the first time in almost a decade, the prospect of lasting peace. Key tenets of the Accords included:

AMNESTY FOR COMBATANTS

The Government declared an amnesty for combatants' acts between 5 June 1997 and 29 December 1999. The amnesty did not apply to crimes which were not an *Act of War* as defined in the *Geneva Conventions*. While numerous war crimes were reported, at the time of this report no charges had been made (see Gender Equity and Human Rights).

SECURITY FORCES, DEMILITARISATION AND WEAPONS COLLECTION

The Government has reassigned public security forces to abandoned zones and/or located them in formerly government and rebel areas. Approximately 1,800 ex-combatants have been reintegrated into the armed forces as part of the demobilisation programme, including the demilitarisation of political parties and their affiliated militia. 14,000 weapons were collected by the Follow-up Committee of the Accords (for UN process see *Reintegration of Ex-Combatants*). The progressive return of security has been facilitated by these measures.

NATIONAL DIALOGUE

The "national dialogue" took place in two phases. Through 19-31 March 2001, "decentralised dialogue" took place across the country's eleven regions, although poorly attended by opposition parties. In each region the Government's draft constitution and proposed *Peace and Reconstruction Convention* was examined and commented upon for alteration.

During 11-14 April 2001, a three day national convention was held. Of the 1,570 delegates, the majority came from the government, but political parties and civil society were also represented. Mediated by the President of Gabon, Omar Bongo, the Convention's facilitation was left principally to government organisers. Delegates examined the amendments proposed to the draft constitution and the convention for peace by the decentralised debates.

The National Convention's Report, "accepted by acclamation from the assembled participants", was submitted to the Government. After modification of the draft constitution by the Government's Drafting Committee, the text was forwarded to the National Transition Council (NTC) for approval. In September 2001, after minor amendments, the NTC approved the draft on 7 September 2001.

Convention participants also accepted the text of the *Peace and Reconstruction Convention*, signed by the Gabonese and Congolese Presidents at the closing ceremony. The *Peace and Reconstruction Convention* declares the Government's support for democracy and peace.



PARTICIPATION

The majority of exiled opposition leaders attended the National Convention. Absenteeism could have easily resulted in political marginalisation. Participants included 14 local opposition parties, the Council for National Resistance (CNR) led by Colonel Emmanuel Bounouandza, and Paris-based exiles from the Patriotic Front for National Dialogue and Reconciliation (FPRDN). FPRDN delegates included Augustin Poignet, the former president of the senate, Claudine Munari, Lissouba's former cabinet director, Jean-Michel Bokamba Yangouma, former union leader and ex-leader of the economic and social council, and three former prime ministers, Charles Ganao, Stephane Bongho-Nouarra and Andre Milongo. Only one militia leader, Pasteur Ntoumi (Ninja), Chairman of the National Council for Resistance, did not participate.

Opposition calls for a new amnesty to include all exiled politicians, and an appeal to form a government of national unity, were rejected.

From exile in London, former president Pascal Lissouba condemned the dialogue. Former prime minister Bernard Kolelas, for his part, reportedly made two attempts to enter Congo during the National Convention. Pascal Lissouba and Bernard Kolelas had been previously convicted in absentia for crimes they were accused of committing during the civil wars (see Human Rights - war crimes).

INTERNAL SECURITY - CAUTIONARY OPTIMISM

The speedy return to stability and relative peace, particularly in Brazzaville and Pointe Noire, is an exceptional accomplishment.

With only limited assistance from the international community, the cease-fire continues to succeed beyond expectations. Optimism however, must be tempered with caution. Low-level clashes have occurred.

In Mindouli, Pool Region, fighting in May 2001 between Ninja and army forces resulted in six deaths, 20 injuries, looting and the temporary evacuation of the staff of an international NGO. During the same week in Mossendjo, Niari Region, Cocoye militia paraded their weapons after a dispute with local police. Sporadic clashes by militia are inextricably linked with their state of poverty and lack of economic opportunity, compounding their sense of abandonment.

Army members also provoke confrontation at times, frequently associated with past grievances.

In August 2001, Pasteur Ntoumi, Chairman of the Council of National Resistance, agreed to allow his reported 2,500 Ninjas to participate in an arms collection and reintegration programme, having previously refused (see Reintegration).

Units of the Angolan armed forces are still stationed in Congo. These forces will remain for sometime longer under a renewed agreement struck between the Government of Congo and Angola on 11 September 2001.

Zimbabwean and DRC soldiers, and Rwandan mercenaries, formerly in refugee camps in the country, remain in the country. They no longer officially participate in official military operations.

BUILDING DEMOCRATIC INSTITUTIONS

Progress toward the establishment of democratic institutions should continue throughout 2002. By the end of 2001 the Government is scheduled to complete its national census and conduct a constitutional referendum. Presidential and legislative elections should be over by mid-2002 if all goes according to plan.

REFERENDUM

In preparation for the elections, the Government commenced a census in July 2001, the first since 1991/92. President Sassou-Nguesso announced in August 2001 that the government would hold the referendum on the new draft constitution before the end of the year.

EXECUTIVE AND LEGISLATIVE BRANCH

The draft constitution provides for a bicameral parliament, comprising a legislative assembly and a senate. Members of the assembly are elected to serve for a six year term, senators are elected to serve a five year term. Assembly and senate members are ineligible to become a minister or hold other public office. Furthermore, once elected, assembly members cannot change parties without losing their seat.

Presidential authority is sufficiently strong in the draft constitution that it does not permit the removal of the head of state by the parliament. The President is elected to serve a seven year term, previously five, limited to two terms, and without a vice-president or prime minister. A President must be elected by an absolute majority, otherwise a second round is required. Presidential eligibility criteria prohibits candidates under 40 years of age. Eligibility clauses also exclude any citizen from presidential candidacy who has not been a "continuous" resident for two years when the election is declared.

JUDICIARY

The draft constitution establishes a judiciary with a supreme court and a system of lower level tribunals, whose judges are nominated by the president on the recommendation of the Council of Magistrates.

The president presides over the Council of Magistrates, whose composition will be determined by a future law. A constitutional court is also proposed, separate from the judiciary, comprising at least nine members (three are directly nominated by the president). The other members are nominated by the president on the recommendation of the parliament, two from each chamber, and two nominated by the supreme court. Former presidents are automatically court members.

FORTHCOMING ELECTIONS

President Sassou-Nguesso has stated that the constitutional referendum will be held before the end of 2001, with presidential and legislative elections in early 2002. For logistical reasons, the best time to conduct elections is during the dry-season months of July/August.

President Sassou-Nguesso's Congolese Labour Party face a considerable challenge in order to win the election. Approximately 70-80% of the population live in the south of the country, including Brazzaville, traditionally a Kolelas stronghold. Opposition is divided however, especially among factions loyal to exiled former president Lissouba, former prime minister Bernard Kolelas, and those who have cooperated with President Sassou-Nguesso.

A decision to provide international observers and other assistance for the elections has not yet been made by the United Nations. A United Nations mission to Congo is expected to take up the question, most likely following the constitutional referendum.

ECONOMIC MANAGEMENT

TRANSPARENCY

Transparency in the Government's economic management is an ongoing concern. In the absence of transparency, particularly of revenue and expenditure accounts, significant questions concerning propriety will continue to be raised.

Under agreements with the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and World Bank (WB), improved financial transparency, including budget expenditure and disclosure of revenue from the oil sector, remain key areas of concern.

The Government's Public Finance Law 2000 governs transparency and public management.



ECONOMIC OUTLOOK 2002

CONGO'S SHORT-TERM ECONOMIC PROSPECTS ARE DEPENDENT ON THE NATION'S ABILITY TO MAINTAIN PEACE. LONG-TERM PROSPERITY IS HIGHLY DEPENDENT UPON THE GOVERNMENT'S EMBRACE OF FINANCIAL TRANSPARENCY AND RESPECT FOR DEMOCRATIC INSTITUTIONS AND PRINCIPLES.

CONGO'S "OIL DEPENDENCY" REINFORCES THE NATION'S ACUTE NEED TO DIVERSIFY ITS REVENUE BASE AND ENCOURAGE ALTERNATE SECTOR DEVELOPMENT, NOTABLY OF THE AGRICULTURAL SECTOR. ECONOMIC DIVERSIFICATION AND GROWTH ARE EXPECTED TO LEAD TO GREATER INDIVIDUAL ECONOMIC PROSPERITY, INCREASED POLITICAL STABILITY AND AN OVERALL REDUCTION IN POVERTY.

"FISCAL SLIPPAGE"

The IMF has been critical of serious fiscal "slippage". Expenditure targets for 2001 were exceeded for at least the first three months of the year, facilitated through diverting funds away from public expenditure, accumulation of domestic and international arrears, raising suspicions of diversion of oil revenue. The Government is supposed to deposit "surplus" oil revenue from recent higher international prices into a dedicated Bank of Central Africa account.

A civil service census completed in mid-2000 also revealed discrepancies. The public sector detailed a payroll comprising 60,000 employees, although payroll costs were considerably higher. The Government originally claimed that the additional spending was required for "reconciliation issues" but, in response to the IMF's criticisms, a commission was established to investigate in May 2001. On 5 October 2001 the commission reported that 9,710 civil servants had been suspended after their preliminary investigations found there were discrepancies.

A memorandum of understanding that includes transparency of oil accounts and an external audit of the national oil company, National Society for Congo Petroleum (SNPC), is being negotiated between the IMF and Ministry of Finance.

AN ECONOMIC LIFELINE

In July 2001, US\$37 million in post-conflict recovery from the World Bank's transitional support strategy (TSS) was approved for Congo. These funds were applied towards accumulated arrears with the World Bank, paving the way for future assistance. At the World Bank's Board meeting on 8 August 2001, the Bank allocated US\$5 million to fund continued reintegration and disarmament of ex-combatants. Before these funds can be deposited, the Government must first satisfy conditions of effectiveness, including provisions for transparency and monitoring mechanisms.

A NEW START

A US\$7.5 million *Congo Transparency and Good Governance* project funded by the World Bank is currently being negotiated. Key components are being finalised with the government. If approved, funds may be available in the first half of 2002. Principal objectives of the project include transparency in the budget process and management of natural resources, capacity building in government and civil society, support for re-establishment of basic public services, particularly health and education, and combating the spread of HIV/AIDS. These initiatives are encompassed in the first draft of a Poverty Reduction Strategy produced in July 2001.

In addition to the *Transparency and Good Governance* project, negotiations are also underway for US\$ 40-45 million, to improve living standards through improved infrastructure.



FACTS AT A GLANCE

- Railway: 795 km
- Highways: 12,800 km
- Paved: 1,242 km

• Waterways

The Congo and Ubangi (Oubangui) rivers provide 1,120 km of commercially navigable water transport, other rivers are used for local traffic only

- Ports and Harbours: Brazzaville, Impfondo, Ouessou, Oyo, Pointe Noire

- Airports: 40 (4 paved)

ECONOMIC MANAGEMENT

BANKING

The Republic of Congo does not have its own central bank. The Bank of the States of Central Africa (BEAC) controls monetary policy and currency for the Republic of Congo, Cameroon, Gabon, the Central African Republic, Chad and Equatorial Guinea. The common currency is the CFA franc.

The small commercial banking sector in Congo is essentially state-owned, although most banks have been scheduled for eventual privatisation. Reforms to date include the liquidation of the Congolese Commercial Bank and the privatisation of the Congolese Union of Banks. The commercial banks, Credit for Agriculture Bank and the International Bank of Congo, are both targeted for privatisation.

The fragile banking sector prevents the flow of credit to small businesses, widely cited as an impediment to economic growth. Middle and long-term credit availability dropped by 76 percent between 1980 and 1998, hence the emergence in micro-financing. The largest micro-financing institution, MUCODEC, boasts 130,000 members and has offices country wide.

DECENTRALISATION

Congo's 11 administrative regions are administered by a *préfet* nominated by the government. Regions are subdivided into districts, headed administratively by *sous-préfets*. In four major towns a mayor is also appointed (Brazzaville, Dolisie, Nkayi and Pointe Noire). The decentralisation law foresees financial transfers to regions and districts. However, in practice the law is seldom implemented.

ELECTRICITY INDUSTRY

Congo is increasingly reliant upon electricity imports to substitute for its diminished generation capacity, despite an abundance of hydroelectric generation opportunities.

Plans to construct a hydroelectric dam were announced by the President in August 2001. In a deal signed with a Chinese company, the dam, 900 kilometres north of Brazzaville, will drive a 120-mw power station, doubling the current generating capacity of the country. The Government has also allocated \$US71 million to rehabilitate its 55-mw Moukou-koulou power station, and thereby offset the immediate cost of importing power from the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC). In the interim, Congo's electricity utility, the National Electricity Company of Congo-Brazzaville, has begun repayment of its DRC debt of \$US21 million, by barter arrangement, transacting 6,000 tonnes of eucalyptus as part-payment.

Throughout many parts of Congo, particularly in rural areas, there is no electricity. Much of the infrastructure was destroyed, and often powercables and metal structures were disassembled and sold during the civil wars. Even in Brazzaville and Point Noire, most families do not have a regular source of electricity, with power shortages and blackouts a common occurrence.

FOREIGN DEBT

Congo remains a highly indebted country. As of 1 September 2001, Congo's external debt stood at \$US 5.7 billion. In 1998, when Congo was \$US 5.1 billion in debt, the government spent more than \$US150 per capita on debt service repayments, as compared to approximately \$US30 for education and \$US10 for health.

FOREIGN ASSISTANCE

In May 2001 the European Union (EU) signed a \$US35.6 million development assistance agreement with the government over 2001-2003. These funds will mainly be used to establish a national transportation strategy and rehabilitate roads, to fund micro-business and income-generating activities, and to support democratisation and the promotion of human rights. The EU is also active in other sectors including health, agriculture and environmental protection. France is the largest bi-lateral donor in Congo. In 2001 its development assistance totalled almost US\$7 million. Its main areas of participation are: Consolidation of the law of rule (judiciary, national human rights commission, police and law enforcement, defence); Improvement of living conditions (health, education, integration of youth, sport and culture, crafts, saving and credit); And public administration (public service, economic and financial management, transport sector). The United States of America has provided US\$2.9 million in 2001, working in partnership with the United Nations on agricultural and humanitarian assistance, and with NGOs in the areas of health and human rights. The Chinese government agreed to a debt-cancellation package of \$US59 million, undertook to repair the 50,000 seat Alphonse Massamba-Debat stadium, and provided loans to construct new government buildings.

AID CONTRIBUTIONS TO CONGO IN 2001

European Union	34%
France	28%
USA	13%
Japan	10%
Sweden	6%
Norway	5%
Canada	1%
Italy	1%
Others (Luxembourg 0.8%, Belgium 0.5%)	
Private (Chevron, Nomeco, Rotary International)	1%

(NOTE: LIMITED DATA AVAILABLE FOR CHINA - SEE TEXT)

FORESTRY

Forestry, which led Congolese exports before the discovery of oil, continues to generate 10 percent of export earnings. The country's rainforests are the source of timber.

In 2001 the government forecast an increase in the production of logs to 850,000 tonnes, up from 650,000 tonnes in 2000. The government has targeted half of this production for local transformation, which they believe could result in the creation of 10,000 jobs locally. Production in the worst war-affected southern central areas, such as Lekoumou Province and Niari Province, is expected to double with the return of peace, while Northern production is expected to remain stable. Post-war growth has also been stimulated by increased foreign investment in the industry, particularly from Malaysian corporations.



AFRICAN UNION

In July 2001, Congo co-ratified the creation of the African Union (AU), at the Organisation of African Unity (OAU) Heads of State Assembly held between 2-11 July, replacing the former Organisation of African Unity (OAU). The AU seeks to create a pan-African parliament, court of justice, African central bank, monetary fund and investment bank. Modelled on the European Union in concept only, the Union anticipates closer economic ties, defence cooperation and standardised communications policies.

ECONOMIC MANAGEMENT

OIL AND GAS SECTORS

Congo's formal economy is based primarily on its petroleum sector, which remains by far the country's major revenue earner. In this highly politicised sector, revenue management is somewhat opaque.

The return of political stability has, according to the oil companies, had little impact on the pace of exploration and drilling activity, underlining the extent to which the offshore energy sector is isolated from conditions in the country.

The Congolese oil sector is dominated by the French oil company Total Fina Elf, accounting for 70 percent of the country's annual oil production. From a 283,000 barrels a day peak in 2000, independent consultants estimate oil production will decline gradually over 2001-2004. Congo is believed to have exceeded Gabon as Sub-Saharan Africa's third largest oil producer in 2001, principally because Gabon's oil sector is in faster decline than Congo's. If substantial discoveries are not made in the next two to three years, Congo's oil sector is forecast to enter long-term decline.

MINING

Pending finalisation of financing, a US\$500 million magnesium mine and 60,000 ton-per annum processing plant near Pointe Noire will be operational by 2004.

PRIVATISATION

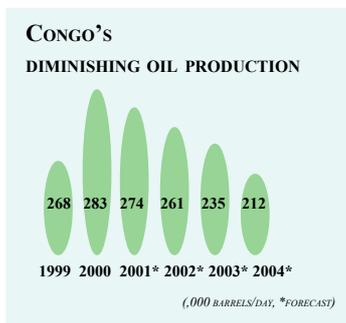
A privatisation programme, supported by the World Bank and the French Development Agency, is in place under the direction of a national committee. Five major state companies are on the priority list for privatisation, including the oil refinery (Congolesse Refinery) and distribution company (Hydro-Congo) and principal government enterprises in the areas of telecommunications, electricity, water and transport. Throughout 2001, the government has been slow to implement its reform agenda. In a limited number of instances, tender bids are being examined. In most instances, the Government is implementing (notably the port in Pointe Noire).

In April 2000, a joint mission of bilateral and multilateral donors reviewed the privatisation programme, emphasising the need for increased transparency and increased autonomy on the part of the National Privatisation Committee. Some of the Committee's recommendations have been overturned by technical Ministries which have considerable control over the process.

TRANSPORT AND INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECTS

Five large infrastructure projects have been announced by the Government in 2001. They include the construction of an inland river port at Lekety on the Alima river in the far north to facilitate timber exportation via Gabon, reconstruction of six railway bridges connecting Brazzaville to Pointe Noire, modernisation of Pointe Noire Airport, rehabilitation of Pointe Noire port and a new international airport at Ollombo. Completion of the first-phase, emergency rehabilitation of the Brazzaville-Kinkala Highway is expected in 2002.

The planned creation of an international airport at Ollombo, with a 3.3km runway capable of receiving Boeing 747s, has been widely criticised. Ollombo is near President Sassou-Nguesso's home village of Oyo. Facilities are designed to handle 300,000 passengers annually.



UNIONS

In July 2001, the Confederation of Congolese Trade Unions and the Confederation of Congolese Workers signed a two year accord with the Government. The unions agreed to refrain from making statements "likely to cause the deterioration of hard-earned peace". The Government agreed to reinstate teachers who were dismissed during a strike in May 2001, and undertook to include unions in planning their privatisation programme.



RESPONDING TO EMERGENCY

ALTHOUGH THE COUNTRY CONTINUES TO STABILISE, THE UNITED NATIONS COUNTRY TEAM HAS IDENTIFIED FOUR EMERGENCY SCENARIOS TO PREPARE ITSELF TO RESPOND TO POTENTIAL ECONOMIC, POLITICAL, SOCIAL OR NATURAL EMERGENCIES. FOR EACH OF THESE SCENARIOS THE TEAM IDENTIFIED NECESSARY MEASURES TO ENSURE A RAPID AND EFFICIENT RESPONSE:

1

DESTABILISING REGIONAL FACTORS:

- Intensified fighting in Angola leading to the arrival of 80,000 refugees (50,000 in Niari region, and 30,000 refugees from Cabinda in Kouilou region).
- Following unrest in the Democratic Republic of Congo the present number of refugees doubles (90,000 in late 2001).
- Instability in the Central African Republic results in 40,000 refugees along the Oubangi river.
- Following political unrest in Gabon, 5,000 refugees flow into Bouenza and Lekoumou regions.

REQUIRED HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE

- Food assistance, health care, water and sanitation.
- Security conditions must permit safe refugee access.
- The intervention must have adequate logistical capacity.
- The response should be carried out in partnership (UN, NGO and government).

PREPARATION

- Establish an early warning system (formation of a crisis committee, coordination meetings).
- Pre-position food and non-food resources.

2

INSTABILITY LINKED TO MILITIAMEN:

- Possible renewal of conflicts linked to tensions between ex-militia and armed forces could generate chronic instability in such areas as Vindza, Nyanga, Sibiti, or Owando.
- Local populations hide in the forest or flee.

REQUIRED HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE

- Protection of local and/or displaced population.
- Food, health care, shelter, water and sanitation.
- On-site mission to analyse conditions and promote peaceful solutions.
- Conflicting parties must permit access and guarantee the safety of UN teams.

PREPARATION

- Constant monitoring of the situation and living conditions of ex-militia and local communities.
- Continue preventive ex-militia reintegration.
- Develop inter-agency initiatives for community assistance to these regions.
- Maintain contact with all actors to facilitate communication during a crisis.

3

LOCAL OR NATIONAL INSTABILITY:

- A deterioration of the economic, political or social environment results from: The political transition (contested census, referendum or election); Faltering economy (low oil prices, corruption); Social instability (unemployment, poverty).

REQUIRED HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE

- Seek a peaceful resolution through dialogue between all parties.
- Provide emergency assistance to affected populations (see Scenario 2).

PREPARATION

- Establish an interagency contingency plan.
- Identify UN staff ready to operate in a crisis environment and train them in specialised roles so they can be operational immediately.
- Maintain communication with all actors in a crisis.
- Preposition food.
- At the political level, promote transparency, support a legitimate electoral process, conduct civic information/update campaigns.
- At the economic level, assist fighting corruption, encourage privatisation, support social plans for re-trenched employees.
- At a social level, train law enforcement personnel in public order and human rights. Human rights campaign for military officers.

4

NATURAL CATASTROPHES:

- Floods devastate local economies and cause major health problems directly and indirectly.
- Flooding occurs between September and December in northern regions.
- Epidemics threaten the health and well-being of populations.

REQUIRED HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE

- Floods - Establishment of a coordination committee, relocation of populations in pre-identified sites, installation of communication systems, health centres and temporary latrines, distribution of food and non-food assistance, and vaccination of all children.
- Epidemics - Provision of health care personnel and medication, epidemiological surveillance, and creation of an emergency coordination team.

PREPARATION

- Floods - Establishment of systems to monitor climatic conditions and vulnerability indicators, pre-positioning of food and non-food resources.
- Epidemics - Establishment of a reliable epidemiological surveillance system, increase the population's access to clean water and sanitation infrastructure, train the population in good hygiene practices.

ACTIVITIES PLANNED IN 2002

In the first three months of 2002, the Country Team will update an inter-agency contingency plan that prepares for all these scenarios, establish monitoring mechanisms and prepare members of the Team to respond to emergency. In addition, all UN activities take into account the possibility that these scenarios will unfold. Remaining humanitarian needs in Congo are linked to the presence of refugees (see Refugees).

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OBJECTIVES 2002

PROMOTE AWARENESS OF INEQUITY BETWEEN WOMEN AND MEN, AND THE APPLICATION OF WOMEN'S RIGHTS, IN PARTICULAR:

- ACCESS TO THE MEANS OF INCOME-GENERATION
- ACCESS TO HEALTH-CARE ADAPTED TO THEIR NEEDS
- EDUCATION OF GIRLS AND ILLITERATE WOMEN
- INCREASED AWARENESS OF VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN
- GREATER PARTICIPATION IN LOCAL AND NATIONAL DECISION-MAKING

THERE IS SEVERE INEQUALITY BETWEEN WOMEN AND MEN

THE GAP

In the absence of major cultural changes in traditions and customary norms which infringe upon the rights of women in favour of men, the status of women will stagnate at an unacceptably low level. Cultural change in the way women are treated by men is key to reversing the inequality gap.

Congo has many laws that undermine the status of women. Men are by law the head of the family; the *Penal Code* prohibits adultery by women, but not for men; and taxation law assess a husband's tax liability inclusive of his wife's. These gross inequities institutionalise what is in reality widespread discrimination. In some areas, however, women are equal before the law, including labour law, family law, social security law and via international treaties such as the ratified Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women.

The Human Development Index confirms the inferior position of Congolese women. In two of the three basic measures the status of Congolese women compares unfavourably to men. Women's per capita wealth is estimated at only 54 percent of that of men. Adult women literacy stands at 73 percent, compared to 86.6 percent for men. Only in life expectancy do women outperform men 53.3 versus 49 years, as is the case worldwide.



WOMEN IN THE WORKFORCE

Although women comprise 52 percent of the population, they remain largely confined to family farming, petty commerce and child-rearing responsibilities. Women are the majority of those active in the informal sector. In fact, only 14.2 per cent of salaried positions are held by women. Even then, waged women are routinely underpaid in comparison to males, in spite of their legal entitlement to equal pay for equal work under the *Fundamental Act*.

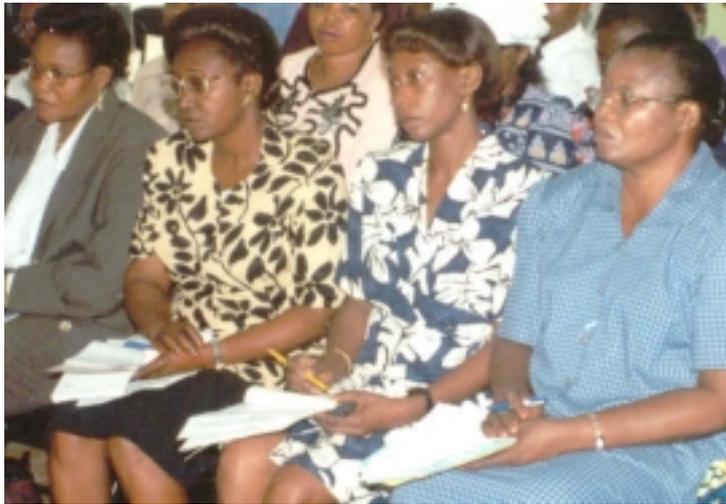
Women constitute 70 per cent of agricultural 'subsistence' labour (market gardening and fresh produce) producing 60-80 per cent of food crops and assuming the responsibility for nearly 100 per cent of food transformation. As a consequence of their prevalence and high reliance upon the agricultural sector, the structural and infrastructure problems which affect the sector (see Agriculture) impact on women more severely. Often the burden of caring for children rests almost entirely with women, who many times struggle with being a single parent, or raising children orphaned by other relatives. A United Nations study showed that 70 percent of households receiving food assistance were headed by women.

Those women who have diplomas and qualifications also find themselves trapped in the informal sector. With the diminished role of the state and the embryonic nature of the private sector, the job market, flooded with unemployed men, has contracted substantially. Women are obliged to engage in any economic activity in order to provide for the immediate needs of the family. These women are invariably caught in a cycle that offers no income security.



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WOMEN IN PUBLIC OFFICE

The 1995 Beijing Conference for women emphasised the need for women to play an increased role in politics. As a result, the percentage of public office posts (cabinet and parliamentary) held by women has become a global indicator.

In Congo women hold just eight of 69 seats in the National Transition Council, and only two out of 25 positions in the Cabinet. More strikingly however, at the regional level there are no women *préfets* and only one woman secretary general (chief administrator to the *préfet*). One level below, at the District, there are virtually no women *sous-préfets* or secretaries general for nearly 90 Districts. The role that women should play, particularly within the local authorities, is important as they wield significant power over women's lives.

At the last elections in 1992, a mere 3.8 percent of representatives elected were women. Cultural acceptance by both sexes of women in public office will be necessary for the 11 percent ratio in the current National transitional Council to be maintained or even improved upon.

Women are also under-represented within the judiciary. In 1999, only three out of the 23 members of the Congolese Supreme Court were women. None of the country's four Courts of Appeal are presided by a woman, and only one out of four Attorney General positions is occupied by a woman (Pointe Noire). The situation is equally disproportionate at the County Court level, with one women presiding out of 14.

VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN

Estimates suggest that as many as 60,000 women were raped during the conflicts, 25 per cent of which were aged between 12 and 15 years. In some regions, such as Pool, rape appears to have been a systematic practice of war. In other instances women who had not fled were forced to become "war wives", exchanged among combatants like commodities. In Dolisie authorities estimate up to 40 percent of the city's women were raped.

The long term impact on women and children is now being assessed by a United Nations study. An earlier pilot study in Brazzaville revealed that 22 per cent of raped women had an STD (including HIV), 12.8 per cent had been physically injured and 22 per cent suffer from depression and/or other psychological troubles.

The widespread rape of women during 1998-1999 ceased in 2000. In partnership with international and local NGOs, the United Nations continues to provide victim counselling, training, HIV/AIDS education, and micro-credit opportunities for sexually abused and traumatised women and girls.

Violence against women in the domestic environment is reportedly widespread, but is handled within the framework of an extended family. Only the most extreme incidents are brought to police.



GENDER INEQUALITIES

GDP per Capita US\$ (Adjusted for PPP)

Female	516
Male	946

Adult literacy rate %

Female	73.0
Male	85.7

School enrolment % (Primary and Secondary)

Female	56.0
Male	69.0

Life Expectancy at Birth (years)

Female	53.3
Male	49.0

Women in Public Office %

NTC (Parliament)	11.6
Ministry	8.0
Ambassadors	0.0

Source: National Human Development Report 2001

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OBJECTIVES 2002

CONTRIBUTE TO HALTING THE SPREAD OF HIV/AIDS BY SUPPORTING:

- AIDS AWARENESS AND EDUCATION
- EPIDEMIOLOGICAL MONITORING
- PROMOTION OF CONDOM USE AND HIV TESTING
- ACCESS TO TREATMENT AND ASSISTANCE FOR THE AFFECTED
- NATIONAL CAPACITY AND SUSTAINABLE FUNDING

THE HIV/AIDS SITUATION IN CONGO IS A LOOMING NATIONAL CATASTROPHE

In Congo the United Nations Country Team has assumed a leadership role by integrating HIV/AIDS prevention across all of its operations in 2002-2003, cognisant of the global United Nations goal to halt, and begin to reverse, the spread of HIV/AIDS by 2015.

The first AIDS cases in Congo were diagnosed in 1983.

In 1995 it was estimated that Congo's adult AIDS infection rate was 7.8%. The UN threshold for containment of the spread of the disease is 4%. The epidemic in Congo has increased over the years. Almost 55% of adults living with AIDS in 1999 were women. In Brazzaville the rate of AIDS-related deaths increased from 14% in 1991 to 21.5% in 1996, with the highest death rates in the armed forces. National surveillance of HIV/AIDS ceased in 1996, only recommencing in mid-2001.

In August 2001 a United Nations study found that 35 per cent of beds in urban and semi-urban hospitals were occupied by AIDS patients, who invariably take more than half of staff time. In addition to this finding, based on limited studies in the Brazzaville morgue, the proportion of adult female AIDS cases is significantly higher than the proportion of males cases, 30.2% versus 21.0%. Moreover, female cases were significantly younger than male cases, median-age 32 versus 42 years. Consequently the impact of AIDS is stronger on female life expectancy.

FIGHTING HIV/AIDS

Pre-1990s Congo was a pacesetter in the fight against the HIV/AIDS in Central Africa Region. This progress has been annulled by the economic turmoil and civil wars. Congo had previously mounted a strong campaign against the epidemic; by 1987 the National AIDS Control Programme was established within the Ministry of Health.

In collaboration with the United Nations, awareness and training of health personnel for notification of AIDS cases and blood donor screening for HIV through the national transfusion centre has now recommenced. An innovative preventative programme, *Presiec*, aims to change high risk behaviour and has been implemented in primary and secondary schools. 18 teacher-trainers, specialists in psychosocial skills, have been trained to develop new teaching methods adapted to HIV/AIDS. Using workshops, peer-education, theatre and participatory research, the project increases self-confidence and decision-making skills among students, effectively reducing their risk and vulnerability to HIV/AIDS. The Ministry of Education announced in August 2001 that it would supply 40 teachers to bolster coverage and impact for the forthcoming school year. Manuals for teachers and 'peer educators' have been developed for distribution throughout the system. The programme is supported by the UN, government, and donors, including private oil companies. The Ministry of Education is also working on integrating HIV/AIDS into the national curriculum.

UN STUDY ON HIV/AIDS

An inter-agency *Strategy to Support the Government Plan Against HIV/AIDS* was drafted, based on an independently commissioned HIV/AIDS Situation Analysis. The strategy determined that what produces positive results in the control of HIV/AIDS is a multi-sectoral response based on a comprehensive national strategic plan that emerges from national leadership and involves all stakeholders. Core components of the inter-agency strategy include:

- Reduce the sexual transmission of HIV/AIDS, notably through promoting the use of contraceptives and halting sexual violence against women;
- Assist AIDS orphans and reduce mother-to-child transmission;
- Reinforce the capacity of national structures to deal with the problem of HIV/AIDS, notably through the establishment of epidemiological surveillance and support measures to ensure safe blood transfusion;
- Mobilise the public and all possible sectors of society for the fight against HIV/AIDS;
- Provide complementary food assistance to the families of those living with HIV/AIDS; and,
- Support the coordination of UN action and mobilise support for the United Nations joint effort.

UN ASSISTANCE

The United Nations will sponsor additional initiatives which seek to stem the spread of the epidemic and mainstream the activities of all its partner agencies, providing a coherent and concerted effort to halt, and begin the reverse, of the spread of HIV/AIDS in Congo by 2015.

HIV/AIDS CASES REPORTED

1986 - 250
1987 - 1000
1988 - 330
1989 - 360
1990 - 465
1991 - 1077
1992 - 1785
1993 - 1126
1994 - 1380
1995 - 2450

Source: National AIDS Control Programme

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HUMAN RIGHTS

OBJECTIVES 2002

STRENGTHEN RULE OF LAW BY:

- INCREASING AWARENESS AND DEFENCE OF HUMAN RIGHTS
- REINFORCING THE JUDICIARY, HUMAN RIGHTS INSTITUTIONS, LAW ENFORCEMENT AND CIVIL SOCIETY
- ADVOCATING IMPLEMENTATION OF INTERNATIONAL CONVENTIONS

RESPECT FOR HUMAN RIGHTS AND RULE OF LAW ARE CENTRAL TO THE MAINTENANCE OF PEACE



The United Nations supports the establishment of mechanisms for promoting and defending human rights, both within the government as well as civil society, which in turn contributes toward the restoration of the rule of law, promotion of transparency and integrity in the management of public services and the administration of justice.

The widespread human rights abuses that were commonplace during the civil wars have now largely ceased. As 2001 drew to a close, there were many encouraging signs of emerging respect for basic human rights in Congo, including freedom of speech, media, assembly and association. Key areas of ongoing United Nations concern include: Restoration of rule of law; Prosecution of war criminals; Rights of indigenous people; Development of civil society, and; Capacity building of the judicial system.



WAR CRIMES

In 1998 the NTC passed a law on genocide, war crimes, and crimes against humanity. The only individuals charged, however, have been exiled political opponents of the Government. Convicted in absentia, former president Pascal Lissouba was sentenced to 20 years imprisonment in 1997 for “high treason”, while former Brazzaville Mayor and briefly Prime Minister, Bernard Kolelas, was sentenced to death in May 2000 for torture and other crimes.

In 1999 the Government announced its intention to create military tribunals to judge members of the armed forces for atrocities committed during the war. This has not occurred.

The estimated 60,000 rapes committed nationwide (1,724 documented in Brazzaville) during the civil wars continue to go unpunished (see Gender Equity – *Violence Against Women, Children and Family – Children and War*).

RESPECTING THE RULE OF LAW

The most important pre-condition for the attainment of basic human rights is respect for the rule of law. In the absence of the rule of law, anarchy rules, perpetrators go free, victims are silenced, and violence and corruption thrive.

The impact of the civil wars on the judiciary has left profound scars on the institution’s credibility, with far more damaging long-term consequences than its looted and physically destroyed infrastructure. In the view of many citizens, the individuals and groups that provoked the civil wars have acted with total impunity. This has resulted in widespread distrust of the judiciary as well as those who enforce the law, including the police, gendarmes and the army. Such an adversarial environment is incompatible with efforts to establish long term peace. Only an independent judiciary, free from executive and legislative interference and adequately resourced, can regain the confidence of the people, end the culture of impunity, and begin to heal the scars of war.

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INDIGENOUS PEOPLES

The *Fundamental Act* prohibits discrimination based on ethnicity. Congo is also a signatory to all major international conventions against discrimination. In practice, discrimination against indigenous pygmy groups is widespread.

Pygmy people, estimated to number in the tens of thousands, live primarily in the Northern forest regions. They do not enjoy equal treatment in the predominately Bantu society, compounded by the fact that they are seldom aware of their legal rights. Marginalized severely in the areas of employment, health and education, due in-part to their isolation in remote forests, they are treated as social inferiors and have no discernable political clout. There is no reliable analysis on the status of customary ties which bind pygmies to work as indentured servants to Bantu “patrons”.



The United Nations is currently implementing a collaborative pilot project in Ouessou, Sangha Region. The strategy is to develop integrated basic services within the pygmy communities that include food production, health, education, water supply and latrines.

DISAPPEARANCE

Many allegations of disappearances have occurred subsequent to the civil wars. One of the most publicised cases is the “disappearance” of 353 individuals upon their return to Brazzaville in May 1999. Their whereabouts remains unresolved, although actively pursued by the *Parents of the Disappeared Committee*. A local Brazzaville NGO, *The Congolese Observatory of Human Rights*, continues to lobby for an international inquiry into all disappearances during the civil wars. In September 2001, the President of the NTC, Justin Koumba, announced the creation of an 11 member Parliamentary Committee of Inquiry to investigate all cases of disappearance between 1992 and the signing of the Peace Accords. The Committee is due to report back to the Parliament in March 2002.

HUMAN TRAFFICKING

Currently Congo law does not specifically prohibit trafficking in people. In March 2000, a United Nations study indicated that regional traffickers transported children between neighbouring countries, including Congo.

The Government recognise the need for, and is currently working on drafting, a new law that would prohibit human trafficking.

CIVIL SOCIETY

While civil society is generally weak in Congo there remains vast potential for its future development.

Important civil society freedoms are stipulated in the *Fundamental Act*, including the freedom of assembly, and are generally respected in practice by the Government. As Congo emerges from its post-conflict recovery and adopts formal structures of government, judiciary and constitutionality, a new civil society will be better placed to actively engage these new institutions.

The United Nations will continue to support local non-government organisations and other civil society groups to build capacity and establish sustainable resource bases.

NATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION

The draft constitution provides for the establishment of a National Human Rights Commission. It is unclear what responsibilities the Commission will have, or what individuals it might comprise.

RESTORING JUSTICE

The Ministry of Justice has taken a number of measures to rehabilitate the judiciary and promote human rights.

The Minister recognised the high incidence of corruption among magistrates and judges. To counter this, the Minister implemented several changes. He retrenched and reshuffled staff, instituted a pay increase to make magistrates and judges less vulnerable to bribes, and precluded them from holding other official government positions. The Government also commenced the re-training of judges and magistrates and instituted a programme to reconstruct its demolished physical infrastructure, including courts and prisons.

A Department of Human Rights was established within the Ministry of Justice in 1999. It has few resources and minimal personnel, severely limiting its operational capacity.

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POVERTY REDUCTION

OBJECTIVES 2002

REDUCE POVERTY BY ASSISTING TO:

- OPEN RURAL ACCESS AND DEVELOP COMMUNITIES
- EMPLOY YOUTH ESPECIALLY IN MICRO-ENTERPRISES
- BUILD CAPACITY TO IMPLEMENT EFFECTIVE STRATEGIES, ADVOCATE TRANSPARENCY AND EFFICIENT RESOURCE MANAGEMENT, AND COMPILE ACCURATE STATISTICS

RURAL NEGLECT

Conditions in many rural communities continues to deteriorate, unabated by peace or political stability. Rapidly declining industrial and commercial activity over the last decade has further marginalised the rural sector. What few social services there are continue to crumble for lack of funds, while available resources are channelled to urban areas.

A poverty study in 1997 identified the exceptionally poor state of transport infrastructure as one of the greatest impediments to the reduction of rural poverty. In most cases, non-existent transport infrastructure severely impedes growth in the agricultural sector, the economic lifeline of rural households. The study also underlines the fact that high transport costs contribute to both rural and urban food insecurity; farmers are unable to sell their produce while urban consumers face high prices (see Agriculture).

The United Nations is assisting the Government to devise an interim Poverty Reduction Strategy (PRSP). When completed in early 2002, it will form the basis of a whole-of-Government attack on poverty.

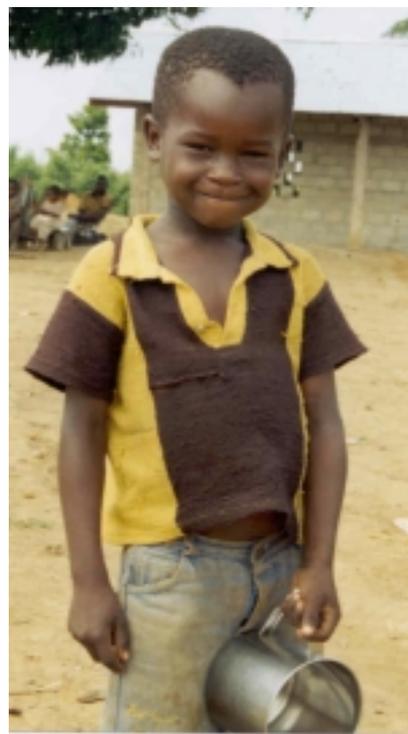
TO ACHIEVE A REDUCTION IN POVERTY AND CREATE INSTITUTIONS AND PRACTICES WHICH ADHERE TO MODERN CONCEPTS OF GOOD GOVERNANCE, GOVERNMENT LEADERSHIP REMAINS THE KEY

The Human Development Index reflects a worsening trend commencing as long ago as 1985. Congo's financial crisis in the mid-1980s contributed significantly toward the negative growth trend, particularly given the government's diminished capacity to provide quality education and health services. By 1995, absolute poverty had reached an alarming 70 percent in Brazzaville. The impact of two major civil wars has exacerbated an already perilous situation, erasing the development gains of earlier decades.

A POOR URBAN LIFE

Previous Marxist policies promoted public sector employment in concentrated urbanised centres. As a result, more than half of the population live in Brazzaville or Pointe Noire. When fighting during the third Civil War in 1998/1999 centered in and around Brazzaville, it created a massive urban-rural exodus. Altogether a total of 800,000 rural and urban inhabitants fled into neighbouring forests, rural areas and the coastal town of Pointe Noire. Rural communities, already severely impoverished, were simply unable to absorb the displacement. Rural conditions deteriorating even further.

Today, most people have returned to their urban dwellings. While some remain in rural communities, most have again severed their ties to rural life, and their inclination for agriculture. Many neighbourhoods however, are now full of families who survived internal displacement and hunger only to return and face continued poverty with little or no prospect for employment in the medium to long-term. A United Nations study in 1999 reveals that the lack of a source of income is the overriding concern for those formerly internally displaced receiving extended assistance.



The government will require capacity-building assistance in order to implement the PRSP. Training for staff in key government institutes such as the statistical office and the soon-to-be established Poverty Observatory will be a critical factor in ensuring that the PRSP is implemented according to plan, and that progress in fighting poverty is effectively monitored.

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OBJECTIVES 2002

CONTRIBUTE TO IMPROVED FOOD SECURITY AND NUTRITION THROUGH PROVIDING OR ASSISTING:

- REHABILITATION OF RURAL ACCESS ROADS
- SUPPLEMENTARY FEEDING FOR AT LEAST 170,000 VULNERABLE PEOPLE
- SEEDS AND TOOLS FOR 12,000 VULNERABLE HOUSEHOLDS, AND SEED PRODUCTION AND MULTIPLICATION
- PROMOTION OF AGRICULTURE, ANIMAL HUSBANDRY AND FOOD PROCESSING



STRUCTURAL WEAKNESS

Outside Brazzaville and Pointe Noire, most of the country's basic infrastructure remains destroyed or in a state of collapse due to lack of maintenance. It is not rare to spend over seven hours on an 80 km stretch of rural road because of its poor state. The rainy season makes matters even worse. Many agricultural areas are inaccessible and their residents isolated. Often farmers are unable to transport their produce to market, or receive the necessary technical assistance or agricultural inputs (such as seeds and tools) to augment their agricultural production. By the end of 1999, 50 percent of agricultural tools were destroyed and 75 percent of livestock lost.

In 2001, agriculture production accounted for just 10 percent of GDP, down from 13 percent in 1990. With improved access the agriculture sector is expected to recover in 2002, although falling well short of its potential. Between 1996 and 1999 the agricultural sector contracted by 20 per cent. Inaccessibility to reliable credit, and the lack of adequate storage facilities for produce, continue to undermine growth.

The United Nations, in cooperation with AGRICONGO (the national institute), is conducting a study of five regions to obtain vital data required to plan effective rural strategies. The data will be broken down by geographical and ecological zones, regarding production, prices, area under cultivation, transport and credit availability.

DESPITE THE VAST POTENTIAL FOR AGRICULTURE, CONGO IS A NET IMPORTER OF FOOD

BOUNTIFUL OPPORTUNITIES

In a land of boundless agricultural opportunity, war has ravaged what little capacity the sector had. In particular, the impact of ten years of civil war has profoundly reduced the nation's number of livestock, a vital source of commerce and food security. A concerted effort by the government to address historical structural weaknesses, provide adequate transport infrastructure and rebuild the social fabric of rural communities, their schools and education facilities, is urgently required.

A MERE TWO PERCENT OF CONGO'S ARABLE LAND IS ACTUALLY CULTIVATED



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FOOD SECURITY AND NUTRITION

Inherent structural weaknesses, worsened by two civil wars, have exacted a heavy toll upon the food security and nutritional condition of the Congolese. In early 2000, seventy percent of the 800,000 internally displaced were malnourished.

Widespread malnutrition and death were successfully averted in 2001, in part due to the combined efforts of the United Nations Team. The United Nations emergency feeding programme implemented with local partners has contributed to a dramatic improvement in the nation's nutritional situation, improving the lives of 170,000 war affected. As the country's security improved throughout the year, the focus of UN assistance shifted toward therapeutic, supplementary and institutional feeding, and "food-for-work" rehabilitation activities. The food-for-work programme enabled the reconstruction of numerous schools and health centres.

Global conference goals concerning nutrition sought to reduce severe and moderate malnutrition among children by one-half between 1990 and 2000. In Congo, this objective was obviously never met. The United Nations food security and nutrition programmes in Congo will continue to target the most vulnerable - returnees, the malnourished, pregnant, nursing mothers, orphans, abandoned children, the elderly, chronically sick, disabled, women and girls. These groups currently represent 70 percent of programme beneficiaries in Congo.



In 2001, major United Nations assistance included:

- Large seeds protection campaigns in southern and central areas, benefiting 12,500 families;
- Assistance to produce disease resistant manioc;
- Assistance to 2000 people to produce, multiply and redistribute maize, bean, peanut and soya seeds;
- Income-generating and food-for-work projects for 3,000 women and youth;
- Continued monitoring of food-aid distribution to ensure it reaches individual families.

AQUACULTURE

Aquaculture has a promising future in Congo although currently it is severely underdeveloped. Each Congolese consumes almost 30 kilograms of fish per annum (providing 60 percent of their total protein intake). Stimulating this industry, on a large commercial scale and at the local level, through micro-enterprise initiatives, is important in generating income, increasing food security and improving overall nutritional health.

**LAND RIGHTS – CONSTRICTING GROWTH**

Access to land remains uncertain and unpredictable and is therefore a key dilemma preventing the agricultural sector from expanding. Land use is administered by village chiefs, with land principally restricted to individuals with current ties to a particular region. Even then, small plots are granted and often only on a year to year basis. Attempts to liberalise the land law were made in 1983, but later retracted in 1991 after a revolt by village chiefs. Since that time the only attempt at legislative reform, in 1992, failed to progress past the drafting phase. Land reform remains highly sensitive.



Provided the improved security conditions remain, the United Nations work with local authorities in promoting food security will expand during 2002. The focus of our assistance is expected to increasingly encourage development projects that engender long term self-sustainability for Congolese:

- A pilot feeding programme for 50 schools, in the severely war-affected Pool, Plateaux and Kouilou regions, benefiting 15,000 students, of which 60 percent will be girls;
- A food assistance programme providing food to 35,000 AIDS patients. The food-for-work programme will also increase support for projects aimed at improving health care facilities for AIDS patients and for awareness and training programmes, in line with the UN's objective to begin to reverse the spread of HIV/AIDS by 2015;
- Support productive activities such as agriculture and income generation at community level;
- Support the reconstruction of socio-economic infrastructures (schools, health centres, feeder road);
- Maintain and improve the nutritional status of most vulnerable groups.

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OBJECTIVES 2002

SUPPORT NATIONAL EFFORTS TO:

- PROMOTE AWARENESS AND APPLICATION OF THE CONVENTION ON THE RIGHTS OF THE CHILD
- SUPPORT THE STRUCTURES THAT AID VULNERABLE CHILDREN AND FAMILIES, AND PROMOTE THEIR SOCIAL REINTEGRATION

CHILDREN AND FAMILIES ARE SLOWLY PIECING THEIR LIVES BACK TOGETHER AFTER THEY WERE SO VIOLENTLY TORN APART DURING CONGO'S CIVIL WARS WHICH CAUGHT CHILDREN, IN SO MANY WAYS, IN THE LINE OF FIRE



CHILDREN AND WAR

United Nations studies have shown that 40% of children who returned from the forests after the civil war suffer from post-traumatic stress syndromes. These children have witnessed grave acts of violence including summary executions, murder, rape and torture, often inflicted upon family members or themselves. In addition to our efforts to assist women and girls traumatised by war (see Gender Equity) the United Nations has trained over 200 individuals to provide specialist counselling for children. More than 10,000 children received counselling in 2001.

CHILD SOLDIERS

It is estimated that 5,000 children and adolescents were implicated in armed conflict during the civil wars. These child soldiers are facing considerable difficulty in reintegrating back into their families and society. They often live at the peripheries of the family unit, and prove a disturbance to their peers when they recommence schooling.

CHILDREN OF THE STREET

The United Nations will support local NGOs such as Espace Jarrot, and the International Rescue Committee's work with the estimated 1,500 children who work, or live, in the streets of Brazzaville and Pointe Noire. In May 2001, a United Nations survey of 1,014 "street children" revealed:

- 85 percent of the focus group were aged between 10-19 years;
- 165 children were under 10 years of age;
- 72 percent claim to have at least one parent;
- 36 percent sleep in the family home and return to the streets to work or beg; and,
- 22 percent originate from the DRC.



The "exodus to the streets" is partly explained by the dislocation of families during the wars, their subsequent demise, and the long term disruption of support mechanisms, including education and health services.

Two drop-in centres for children of the street have been established in Brazzaville. The Centres provide basic medical assistance, counselling and one meal per day for street children. Where possible, family reunifications are facilitated.

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OBJECTIVES 2002

SUPPORT NATIONAL EFFORTS TO:

- FACILITATE CULTURAL EVENTS THAT PROMOTE RECONCILIATION AND A CULTURE OF PEACE
- ENCOURAGE INTERNET ACCESS
- GUARANTEE FREEDOM OF SPEECH AND THE MEDIA

MODERNISATION OF THE COMMUNICATIONS SECTOR IS URGENTLY REQUIRED TO ALLOW THE CONGO TO TAKE FULL ADVANTAGE OF TECHNOLOGICAL ADVANCES

The Government has no telecommunications policy or strategy, with regulation predating the simplest technological advances. The relevant Ministry has neither the human resources or logistic capacity to respond to the emerging markets. The need to bridge the communications divide, re-equip, retrain and rebuild the telecommunications sector is not merely compelling, it is a vital element in the development and future prosperity of Congo.

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

The creation of a national internet node is a priority and will allow access via a local network provider. Congo is one of only five countries in the world (which includes Afghanistan and Somalia) not to have its own internet node.

TELECOMMUNICATIONS

With the return of peace several private operators have entered the telecommunications market. Libertis-Telecom and Celtel-Congo control more than 70 percent of the market accounting for 140,000 subscribers. Both companies specialise in the mobile telephone market, with Celtel offering internet connection from mobile telephones. Emerging telecommunications companies include Cyrus, Afripa Telecom, Internet 2000 and GAM 7. The national operator, The National Office of Telecommunications and Post, maintains eight internet lines and runs a small node with a capacity of 128 kilobits, serving 800 subscribers.

In spite of the existence of numerous operators, the market is still chronically underdeveloped, with telecommunications services virtually non-existent outside of Brazzaville and Pointe Noire. Where access to new technologies exists, high prices create a major barrier, excluding the vast majority of the population.



CULTURAL EVENTS

The 2001 Panafrican Music Festival (FESPAM) was successfully held in Brazzaville without incident. FESPAM provided Congo with a display of musical talent, while generating welcome economic activity for the people of Brazzaville, and providing much needed practical work experience for Congo's youth. United Nations sponsorship of FESPAM, and support for the arts, forms an important contribution toward the development of craft and artisan skills, preserving Congolese culture and providing income-generation opportunities for young people. Work in this area also helps engender a sense of goodwill among local people, perpetuating the "culture of peace" which is such a vital aspect of our work.

COMMUNICATIONS LAW

The Freedom on Information and Communication law provides a flexible legal framework that obliges information and communication professionals to present information from a balanced perspective. The legislation promotes private media and abolishes incarceration for defamation. Inciting war, ethnic hatred and violence remain jailable offences. Additionally, the legislation created the Media Superior Council for the Liberty of Communication, a regulatory body responsible for the communications sector, and the regulation of the fledgling information technology market.

PRESS AND BROADCAST

The *Fundamental Act* provides for freedom of speech and of the press, which the Government generally respects. There is a vibrant written press in Brazzaville and Pointe Noire producing approximately 15 private newspapers for sale weekly, albeit with a very limited distribution (maximum 2500 copies). Editorial opinions and articles are often critical of the Government and on occasion newspapers have even published letters written by exiled opponents of the Government. The state funds one newspaper and a news agency.

Most citizens however, obtain their news from broadcast media, which remain a government monopoly. Government-owned radio Radio Congo broadcasts via satellite 24 hours a day. "Congolese Radio-Television" is the state-operated agency responsible for radio and television broadcasting.

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EDUCATION AND SCIENCE

OBJECTIVES 2002

SUPPORT NATIONAL EFFORTS TO:

- RE-ESTABLISH 50 SCHOOLS, PRE-SCHOOLS AND RESEARCH INSTITUTES
- REDUCE SCHOOL DROP-OUT RATE, PARTICULARLY FOR GIRLS
- RE-TRAIN 500 TEACHERS AND PROMOTE TECHNICAL AND PROFESSIONAL TRAINING

THE ENTIRE UN CONGO TEAM PLAYS A VITAL ROLE IN EDUCATION

Whether making links between scientific research and seeds for farmers, technical training and micro-enterprise or improving female enrolment, United Nations agencies continued to cooperate to take advantage of natural synergies in education. The education system provides a forum for addressing diverse global issues from reproductive health, sexually transmitted diseases, drugs, human rights and the promotion of a culture of peace.

JOMTIEN 1990: CONGO'S EDUCATION OBJECTIVES

Increase preschool enrolment to 10%
(1990) 2.8% (2001) 1.2%

Reduce grade repeat rate by 50%
(1997) 36% (2000) 37%

EDUCATION TARGETS

Although Congo identified specific targets from the 1990 UN Global Conference on Education in Jomtien, by 2000-2001 virtually no progress has been made.

Since colonisation, Congo has had a strong education system characterised by high participation and literacy rates by Sub-Saharan Africa standards. Enrolment levels and the quality of education have been deteriorating for over a decade. With 15 separate Ministers, Secretaries of State and High Commissioners for Education assuming responsibility for policy at different times throughout the 1990s, administrative stability, reconstruction, material and personnel investment, and long-term planning are now urgently required.

EDUCATION FRAMEWORK

Education is divided into three levels, six years primary, seven years secondary college and University.

The United Nations National Human Development Report for 2001 concluded that the bulk of the education budget was allocated toward teacher salaries. Rehabilitation, infrastructure investment and maintenance remained grossly underfunded, if funded at all.



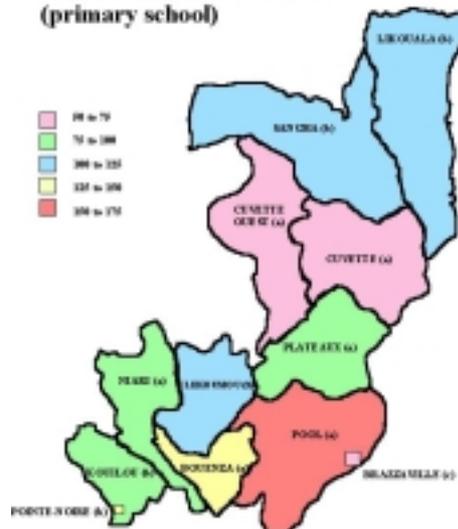
URGENT NEEDS

The quality of education has deteriorated dramatically over the last decade, categorised by poor learning environments, a lack of basic materials and furniture, poor sanitation, and a crippling shortage of teachers.

Generally, primary and secondary schools and vocational institutes are under-resourced, of insufficient quantity and low quality. This is particularly the case in rural regions. The depleted condition of state education in Congo is alarming: 1,097 schools need rehabilitation; 19 per cent decrease in primary school participation between 1980 and 2000; 247,500 primary school-aged children do not attend school.

Chronic teacher shortages result in almost counter-productive teacher-student ratios, particularly in the rural regions, averaging: 98 pupils to 1 teacher in Kouilou Region (2000); 100 to 1 in Likouala Region (2000); 174 to 1 in Pool Region (2001). In urban centres the ratios are highly varied, though no less dismal: 52 to 1 in Brazzaville (public and private in 2001), and an alarming 140 to 1 in Pointe Noire (2001). Repeater rates vary from 15 to 35 percent, while drop-out rates are high in urban and rural areas, due in large part to a combination of parents' poverty, teacher shortage and the poor quality of education.

Students per teacher ratio
(primary school)



(a) Data from an informal TES study with a panel of teachers conducted in September 2001
(b) Data from an informal TES study with a panel of teachers conducted in September 2001
(c) Data from the Ministry of Education, October 2000-2001, includes private and public schools

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RECONSTRUCTION

The continued rehabilitation and refurbishment of educational facilities severely damaged by the civil war remains the most pressing educational need.

Redressing the rural inequality gap, recruiting more teachers and strengthening each level of education provision remain core objectives. The areas most affected were those in the war affected southern regions of Bouenza, Lekoumou, Niari and Pool.

Innovative programme utilisation and integration of refugees and ex-combatants will in early 2002 assist with the reconstruction of damaged education and health facilities (see Reintegration of Ex-combatants). The United Nations has rehabilitated 20 schools, drawing funding from a variety of donors. The results from the rehabilitated schools are encouraging:

- Fifty percent increase in the enrolment and attendance of children;
- Willingness of communities to participate, despite their own impoverished condition; and,
- Vitamin A distribution and de-worming programme helped to improve the health status of 191,161 children.

A new project proposal has also been developed to re-equip and rehabilitate schools, using a low-cost, participatory community approach. The United Nations would provide technical expertise and construction materials not available locally.

TEACHER SHORTAGE – THE RURAL DIVIDE

Teacher shortage remains a major impediment to achieving education goals, particularly in rural areas where it is not uncommon for several grade levels to be taught simultaneously.

The National Education Council has also identified two personnel problems that compound the teacher shortage. First, the number of administrative staff, as opposed to teaching staff, is disproportionately high. Second, over 8,000 teachers have shifted departments since the civil wars, yet continue to remain on the education payroll, draining valuable educational resources.

The imbalance in teacher-student ratios between urban and rural areas is a major concern and has deteriorated further since the civil war. In some regions, teachers hired directly and paid for by parents comprise up to 45 percent of all primary teachers. These commendable efforts, consisting mostly of ad hoc arrangements between parents and teachers, are not however, conducive to long term, system-wide improvements.

The efforts of struggling Congolese communities must be supported. Structured initiatives aimed at encouraging the participation of parents and communities, represents a viable solution. Shared responsibility for education between the state, regions, and local communities is encouraged and vital in order to create a better education system. National authorities are working toward this goal.

**TECHNICAL TRAINING**

Independent Marxist Congo placed great importance on the education of a trained 'generalist' professional. Educational training catered to a workforce that prepared itself for a lifetime in the public service. To a large extent that ethos continues today. A majority, 87 percent, of students study as generalists, while a fraction, just 13 percent, study technical subjects of trade. As a result, Congo suffers from a shortage of trained technical and trade specialists. The need to encourage new entrants into these professions, and their importance in providing the reconstruction and specialist knowledge required to rebuild Congo, is vital.

UNIVERSITIES AND SCIENCE

Congo's principal University, Marien N'Gouabi University located in Brazzaville, reopened in December 1997. Due to the lack of resources slow progress is being made in restocking its looted materials. The student enrolment for 2001 is 26,000 with approximately 600 professors. This is 100 less professors than in 1996 teaching just 18,000 students. The five teacher training colleges, corresponding with each level of education, primary (3), secondary (1), post-secondary/ vocational (1), all suffer from the same lack of resources as the rest of the education system.

The revival of scientific and practical research institutes is the key to support and develop Congo's infant agricultural production, concurrently addressing in part, the poverty reduction and rural inequity issues that accompany a structurally weak agricultural sector. In the past agricultural research institutes, particularly the Institute for Rural Development, have provided valuable assistance and research with improved seeds and seed multiplication (especially cassava) and more efficient use of animal resources. Other key research institutes include:

- 1) The Office of Scientific and Technological Research Overseas - providing important cooperative international links, collaboration research, training and educational opportunities;
- 2) Loudima Agronomic Research Centre and its associated Agro-Congo activities - actively involved in agricultural technical research, experimenting with various crops and fish - including identification of cassava attacking diseases, and cattle grazing sustainability;
- 3) The National Institute for Pedagogical Research and Action - the publishing house of core textbooks for the primary and secondary school system; and
- 4) The Hydrobiological Research Centre of Mossaka conducts research on the shortage of fish in the Congo River and its tributaries.

FEMALE PARTICIPATION

While the number of females in school is significant, it is well below the number of males. This is particularly true in secondary education. Key reasons for their dramatically diminished participation rates include high teen-pregnancy rates, and the entrenched 'cultural' gender bias against women in the workplace (see Gender Equity).

Women are under-represented as teachers too, comprising 29 percent of primary teachers and only 8 percent of post-secondary professors or teaching assistants.

EMPLOYMENT AND INCOME GENERATION

OBJECTIVES 2002

PROMOTE EMPLOYMENT, PARTICULARLY OF YOUTH, THROUGH:

- LABOUR INTENSIVE WORKS EMPLOYING AT LEAST **8,000**
- TRAINING, CREDIT, MICRO-CREDIT AND SMALL BUSINESSES
- RESEARCH ON THE INFORMAL SECTOR AND DEVELOPMENT OF A NATIONAL EMPLOYMENT POLICY



YOUTH UNEMPLOYMENT

In peacetime, youth unemployment is a major problem. Out of approximately 965,000 young adults between the ages of 15 and 35, less than 2 percent have employment in the formal sector. Long-term unemployment will exacerbate their sense of frustration and exclusion from the economic system, promoting tension and instability. Congo's youth find themselves in an environment characterised by a lack of opportunity, urban unemployment, closed state enterprises, a public service which is too old but not hiring, and a marginalized rural sector that doesn't encourage a return to agriculture.

ENCOURAGING THE CREATION OF EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES, AND SELF SUSTAINING LIVELIHOODS MORE GENERALLY, IS SEEN AS AN OVERARCHING OBJECTIVE IN CONGO FOR THE UNITED NATIONS



Between 1984 and 1992 more than 23,700 jobs were lost.

Increased employment is at the centre of many overlapping challenges. How to help those who worked and/or aspire to work for the state, what to do with unemployed youth, how to improve women's employment conditions, particularly in the informal sector, prevent urban ghettos developing and end rural isolation.

Creating increased employment opportunities requires many ingredients. Macroeconomic policy must provide a stable environment for private investment, while transparency in government business will generate confidence and stability in the nation's long-term economic health. Microeconomic policy must target and attract labour intensive investment, while addressing structural weaknesses within the economy which affect its attractiveness to potential investors. Notably, investors require a good health and education system, a well trained and highly skilled workforce, and good transport infrastructure to enable access between rural communities and urban centres. (For women and employment see Gender Equity).



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ENVIRONMENT

OBJECTIVES 2002

SUPPORT NATIONAL EFFORTS TO:

- MANAGE FORESTS AND OTHER ECOSYSTEMS
- RAISE ENVIRONMENTAL AWARENESS IN COMMUNITIES
- BUILD GOVERNMENT CAPACITY TO ADHERE TO INTERNATIONAL CONVENTIONS
- ENCOURAGE USE OF ALTERNATIVE ENERGY SOURCES



MARITIME ECOSYSTEM

Drilling, wells, installations, maintenance and transfer of oil all contribute to the creation of polluting discharge that enters the water ways, rivers, estuaries and ocean. For an extended period, the oil terminal of Djeno discharged its liquid wastes in the Lobi lagoon. The Pointe Noire refinery, handling 70 tons of petroleum per hour, produces 26m³ of waste water hourly, which is pumped through an ocean outlet 500 metres off the Pointe Noire coast. The impact of these pollutants on the maritime ecosystem and its biodiversity is a major concern.

NEW THREATS TO THE IMPRESSIVE, LARGELY UNTOUCHED, CONGO ENVIRONMENT ARE MOUNTING DAILY

AN ENVIRONMENT UNDER ATTACK

Congo is rich in forests, wildlife and marine resources, with a substantial part of world's second largest tropical forest (after the Amazon). Along with Gabon, Congo shelters the world's largest population of gorillas and chimpanzees, large herds of forest elephants, hippopotami and many other species. The Congolese forest represents 10 percent of Africa's dense forest and covers 65 percent of the country's land. Intact or unexplored areas are estimated at 550,000 square acres in the south and 10 million hectares in the north. Water is abundant due to Congo's extensive network of tributary rivers feeding into the Congo's two major rivers, the Congo and Obangui, spanning almost the entire length of the nation.

Commercial logging has the potential to seriously damage Congo's pristine environment, its forests and the flora and fauna they protect. More than 20 million hectares of unprotected forests have been allocated to timber companies to exploit. Illegal timber harvesting, poaching and commercial 'bush meat' trafficking persist unabated, while offshore oil operations threaten the water supplies and the coastal and maritime environment.

In urban centres, particularly Brazzaville and Pointe Noire, water pollution, dumping of trash, accumulation of solid wastes and poor waste management facilities pose significant dilemmas for populations (see Water, Hygiene and Sanitation).

TREATY SIGNATORY

Congo is party to the Biodiversity, Climate Change, Desertification, Endangered Species, Ozone Layer Protection, Tropical Timber 83, Tropical Timber 84, and Wetlands international agreements. The Law of the Sea is signed but not ratified.

BIODIVERSITY

Congo remains a relative unknown from a biodiversity standpoint. Although the country has established protected areas, it is ill-prepared and ill-resourced to manage them effectively. The nation's natural resources and biodiversity face numerous threats, notably from poaching, traditional hunting practices, firewood collection, expansion of cultivated areas and exploitation of hard wood. To address these threats, the Congo must adapt a coordinated approach based on a national strategic framework, inclusive of government, NGOs, local communities and stakeholder groups.

CLIMATE CHANGE

Congo ratified the *United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change* in June 1996. As part of its obligation under the Convention, a national workshop was held in 2000, and a national inventory of greenhouse gas (GHG) emission sources and absorption patterns is scheduled for completion by the end of 2001. An Ozone Office has organised the training of trainers among teams of technicians responsible for repair and maintenance within the refrigeration industry.



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HEALTH

OBJECTIVES 2002

CONTRIBUTE TO THE NATIONAL HEALTH DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME BY ASSISTING TO:

- REHABILITATE, RE-EQUIP, STOCK AND IMPROVE SERVICES IN 180 HEALTH CENTRES AND HOSPITALS
- INJECT RENEWED EMPHASIS ON DIARRHOEA, MALARIA, STD'S AND OTHER KEY DISEASES
- PROMOTE CONTRACEPTIVE USE
- ESTABLISH A NATIONAL HEALTH INFORMATION, AND EPIDEMIOLOGICAL SURVEILLANCE SYSTEM

NATIONAL HEALTH POLICY

In July 2000 the Government adopted Congo's National Health Policy. Modelled on the 'Bamako initiative', the Health Policy was based on two principles. Its first principal is the establishment of networks of integrated health centres. The second principal is the inclusion of cost-recovery measures requiring minimal patient contributions. These contributions were intended to sustain the cost of treatment, while simultaneously freeing some funds to be redistributed toward vital infrastructure and other sector improvements.

In accordance with the Bamako principles, Congo's Health Policy seeks to implement the follow goals:

- Decentralisation of the health system;
- Promotion of the private sector;
- Access to health care for all; and,
- The development of alternative methods for financing the health system.

IN 2001 CONGO'S HEALTH NETWORK LAY UNDER RESOURCED, UNDERSTAFFED AND BADLY UNDER-FUNDED

CRITICAL CONDITION

Health services have deteriorated drastically, with former gains slowed or turning negative.

In 1997 the leading causes of death in Congo were estimated to be malaria (by far), diarrhoea-related illness, measles, tuberculosis and HIV/AIDS. Of major concern, HIV/AIDS was the leading cause of death among 19 to 45 year-olds. The current maternal mortality rate (MMR) is estimated at 810 per 100,000 live births, which places Congo among the highest MMR countries in the world (see Children and Family). The programme against leading causes of morbidity (HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis, malaria, acute respiratory infections, malnutrition), including the vaccination programme, has been neglected since the civil wars.

REBUILDING THE HEALTH SYSTEM

The Integrated Health Centre, the basic community level unit of the health system, is in dire need of rehabilitation.

In late-2000 an informal United Nations survey asked regional health authorities to identify the number of "health centres" currently operational. Of the 139 integrated health centres targeted to open in 2000-2002, the government assessed 115 of them in need of complete rehabilitation. The national health policy plans for 21 referral hospitals and four general hospitals (excluding one military hospital). Poor rural infrastructure, combined with a lack of funds, renders the referral system highly problematic, if not inaccessible, for many.

In 2001 the United Nations has rehabilitated, re-trained and re-equipped 58 integrated health centres. A total of 180 health centres, and 15 district hospitals, have been earmarked for assistance by this project in 2002.



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Doctors per 10,000 inhabitants



(a) Data from an informal UN study with regional authorities conducted in September 2000
 (b) Data from an informal UN study with regional authorities conducted in September 2000
 Based on population estimates from 1999

GLIMMERS OF HOPE

International assistance, albeit with limited funds, is achieving encouraging results.

The United Nations polio vaccination programme has been an outstanding success. Restarted in 2000, the first two rounds of vaccinations had coverage rates of 96 and 106 percent. In 2001, 600,000 children were immunised against polio, with particular focus on remote rural, and pigmy, villages. Not a single case of polio has been reported so far in 2001.

The World Health Organisation announced its intention to return to its regional headquarters (400 employees) in Brazzaville, and commenced the return in October 2001.

PRIVATE HEALTH SECTOR

In Brazzaville and Pointe Noire a considerable number of private pharmacies and health clinics have opened since the cessation of hostilities. Many of these clinics supplement, and in some instances complement, the shortage of state-provided health centres. A survey by the United Nations in late 2001, however, revealed that only 23 per cent of these services had obtained the necessary authorisation from the state. The dangers of an unregulated health system are well documented internationally. With almost 77 per cent of private health clinics unregulated, the quality of the service they dispense cannot be guaranteed. Regulation of the private health sector is necessary to safeguard the health and economic interests of an often vulnerable and unsuspecting, user-paying public, particularly against unscrupulous or rouge practitioners.

REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH

Almost a decade of conflict has exposed thousands of women and young girls to widespread rape. These violent crimes have intensified the needs of the population in terms of reproductive health. In 2002 the United Nations proposed projects that will place specific emphasis on addressing the medical and psychological needs of these women.

INTENSIVE CARE REQUIRED

During 2002, the Government will need to address the following crippling dilemmas.

First, the health sector must address its major shortage of qualified staff. According to Ministry of Health reports, no new medical staff have been hired since 1985. Of those employed, a United Nations partner report in 1997 identified the need to provide refresher training, as 15 percent of nurses had received either no, or insufficient, training. This figure is conservative. Reports also indicate that ageing health professionals are increasingly reluctant to retire and relinquish their main income source.

Second, viable epidemiological, and health data generally, is totally inadequate or non-existent, with early warning systems for the detection and response to epidemics largely dysfunctional. The fear of a new epidemic of sleeping sickness in September 2001 reinforces this urgent need. The United Nations will continue to assist and support the Ministry of Health in the implementation of its epidemiological surveillance system as a matter of urgency.

Third, overall administration of the health sector is poor. Increased transparency and improved resource management by the civil service should aid in the efficient and effective allocation of health resources and staff, particularly targeted toward neglected rural areas.

Fourth, a major constraint on the health system is the lack of medicine. Congo does not have the facilities to produce medicines, creating a costly import dependency which totals a staggering \$US24 million per annum. This cost, estimated at 30 per cent of the total health budget, drains the health system of vital funds. Medicine therefore, is in short supply, particularly in rural areas. The medicine that is available is very expensive, encouraging a thriving yet notoriously dangerous illegal market in ill-administered drugs. Often these illegal drugs are past their expiry date. Commencing in 2000, the United Nations, together with the other partners, continue to assist the Government's Centre for the Purchase of Essential Medicines in the purchase and distribution of medicines.

GLOBAL HEALTH CONFERENCE GOALS

Reduce infant mortality by one-third from 1990 levels by 2015
83(1990) 90 (1999)

Reduce child mortality by two-thirds from 1990 levels by 2015
110 (1990) 108 (2000)

Reduce maternal mortality by 50 percent between 2000 and 2010
890 (1991) 980 (1999)

Universal access to contraceptives (use rate)
2% (1999)



BASIC HEALTH CARE CENTRES

Region	Operational Centres		
	Operational Centres	Planned 2001-2002	Planned 2003+
Kouilou	45	23	54
Niari	57*	13	34
Bouenza	64*	18	36
Lekoumou	12	8	16
Pool	66	12	24
Plateaux	26*	9	29
Cuvette C.	45	10	10
Cuvette O.	23*	6	12
Sangha	14	6	10
Likouala	16	6	16
Brazzaville	n/a	28	60
Total	368	139	301

Based on an informal UN study in September 2000, with regional health authorities. Data marked (*) was updated in September 2001. The 'health centres' category also includes dispensaries and/or village health posts.



OBJECTIVES 2002

ASSIST BY:

- OFFERING INTERNATIONAL LEGAL PROTECTION TO **130,000** REFUGEES AND THE MOST VULNERABLE
- HELPING REFUGEES BECOME SELF SUFFICIENT
- REPATRIATING CONGOLESE REFUGEES
- FACILITATING VOLUNTARY REPATRIATION OF FOREIGN REFUGEES
- FACILITATE THIRD-COUNTRY AND/OR FAMILY REUNIFICATION

PEACE HAS ALLOWED IMPRESSIVE PROGRESS IN THE CARE, AND PROSPECTS OF REPATRIATION, FOR ALL REFUGEES

DISASTER AVERTED

Joint interagency cooperation has proved the key to our success in quickly preventing a human catastrophe in northern Congo.

The United Nations had successfully commenced delivering food aid to 50,000 refugees located in Loukolela and Impfondo, and by September 2001 moved further north to Betou where an estimated 26,000 refugees from the DRC were located.

By the end of 2001 an estimated 93,000 refugees from the DRC remained spread out along the western banks of the Oubangui river in far-North Congo, although the stable political situation and improved security conditions have now permitted greater access to refugees in formerly inaccessible areas. Throughout the year the United Nations was able to provide 45,000 refugees and 5000 vulnerable local population with 4,095 metric tonnes of supplementary food.

In 2001 the United Nations Country Team was able to assist 50,000 DRC Congolese, 6,000 Angolan, and 7,000 Rwandan and Burundians and other refugees in Congo. Following a tri-partite agreement signed in September, the UN plans to provide assistance for the reintegration of returning Congolese refugees.

Refugees fleeing political volatility in the neighbouring Central African Republic entered the Northern regions of Congo in mid-2001. Details are scarce, thus precise estimates of refugees are undetermined.

A NEW FOCUS

In the course of 2002 the emphasis in the South has shifted from life-sustaining assistance to rehabilitation. However, without imminent prospect of repatriation, complementary food aid in the North will still be required. The progressive political stabilisation in Congo will allow the UN to move toward medium-term, self-sustaining projects, including:

- Distribution of land by Congolese local authorities within the Likouala Region;
- Distribution of agricultural and fishing materials to the refugees; and,
- Distribution of seeds for income-generating agricultural purposes.

Agricultural and income generating activities will serve to increase refugees' self sufficiency, while programmes assisting local Congolese to rehabilitate their local health and education services through the refugee work-for food programmes will ease the tension cause by the influx of refugees on Congo's limited capacity.

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OBJECTIVES 2002

ASSIST:

- THE SUSTAINABLE REINTEGRATION OF **10,000** EX-COMBATANTS
- THE REPATRIATION OF **3,000** FOREIGN MILITIA
- THE COLLECTION AND DESTRUCTION OF **20,000** SMALL ARMS AND LIGHT WEAPONS

EX-COMBATANTS ARE VIEWED AS POTENTIALLY THE MOST DESTABILISING FORCE IN CONGO

ENDING THE MILITIA CULTURE

During the civil wars Congo's political leaders manipulated Congo's idle youth, tempting them into joining militia groups with the prospect of a better life, a sense of identity, belonging and reward in the spoils of victory. Militia manipulation was the most insidious tool used by Congo's leaders to gain political leverage over an opponent. The 'militia culture' must end if Congo is to sustain peace.

PHASE 1

The demobilisation and reintegration programme for ex-combatants exceeded its initial objectives in 2001 - reintegrating more ex-combatants than targeted with less funds than anticipated. As a result, significant inroads have been made toward diffusing this destabilising force. Completion of the programme's first phase in September 2001 reintegrated 7,000 former militia members back into civilian life and organised the collection of 10,817 weapons and ammunition. These weapons are in addition to the 14,000 firearms of all description previously collected by the Government's Follow-up Committee. An independent survey commissioned by the United Nations in September 2001 estimated that 41,000 weapons still remain in circulation. Many who turned in weapons, from all sides, are thought to have kept others "just in case".

A major break-through was negotiated in August 2001. Ninja militia leader, Pasteur Tata Ntoui, agreed to demobilise and reintegrate his 2,500 active Ninja combatants, and surrender their weapons and ammunition, as part of phase 2 of the demobilisation programme (see Reintegration-Phase 2). As Chairman of the National Council of Resistance, Ntoui had previously refused to let his militia participate in the demobilisation process.

CREATING STAKEHOLDERS IN PEACE

Ex-combatants are reintegrated through a combination of micro-enterprise projects and employment placements in private companies, most of them in the forestry sector. As of September 2001, 2,190 micro-enterprise projects, assisting 7,000 ex-combatants, commenced operation. Micro-enterprise projects now operate in every Congo region. With seed capital and technical assistance, these micro-enterprise projects engender a entrepreneurial spirit, forming the basis for self-sustaining and rewarding livelihoods. Mechanical work shops, restaurants and cafes, commercial activities such as pharmacies, small business proprietors, and agriculture ventures including livestock breeders, comprise the bulk of these new businesses.

A further 1,800 ex-combatants, mostly Cobras, have been integrated into the army. Initially the pro-government Cobra militia accounted for two-thirds of participants in the United Nations-led programme. However, by late 2001 Ninja and Cocoye militias had begun participating in much greater numbers. This participation imbalance is explained, in part, by the initial reluctance of opposition militias to demobilise.



PHASE 2

Completing Phase 2 remains a primary objective of the United Nations Congo Team in 2002.

It was estimated at the end of the war that 17,000 ex-combatants needed assistance to reintegrate into civilian life. Phase 2 would therefore assist the reintegration of the 10,000 remaining ex-combatants and collect at least 20,000 additional weapons. The focus of the programme will continuously evolve over 2002-2003. Future programmes will seek to address and raise awareness of HIV/AIDS among ex-combatants. The health implications for ex-combatants are significant, particularly given their high risk nature (see Gender Equity-Violence Against Women).

Providing funds are available, phase 2 is due to commence before the end of October 2001.



DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO REPATRIATION AND REINTEGRATION

Ex-FAZ (Zairian Army Forces) and other army and ex-combatants from DRC currently number 5,000 in the Republic of Congo, many of whom are still armed. Their continued presence in Congo is potentially destabilising. The United Nations, at the request of the DRC and Republic of Congo Governments, plans to set up a disarmament, repatriation to DRC and/or reintegration in RoC, programme in early 2002.

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REINTEGRATION OF
EX-COMBATANTS
AS OF JUNE 2001

- 7,000 reintegrated by UN
- 1,800 integrated into the army
- 10,000 awaiting demobilisation

OBJECTIVES 2002

ASSIST TO:

- INCREASE RURAL ACCESS TO CLEAN WATER FROM 11 TO 20 PERCENT, MAINLY THROUGH REPAIRS
- ESTABLISH A NATIONAL WATER QUALITY MONITORING NETWORK
- PROMOTE HEALTHY HYGIENE AND SANITATION PRACTICES

WATER AND HYGIENE

Despite the overall availability of sufficient water, Congolese on average have less access to potable water than Sub-Saharan Africans.

Less than half of Congolese have access to potable water. Access to water in Congo, albeit not always safe, depends largely upon whether you live in an urban centre (Table 19). High rates of urbanisation resulted in a public policy that has for decades focused on urban water supply. Access by rural communities to safe drinking water is just 11 percent as compared to 59 percent in urban centres. Moreover, they are often served by water sources that are contaminated and are major causes of gastro-intestinal diseases, notably, uncapped springs, uncovered wells and rain water collected in poorly maintained reservoirs or tanks, which are rarely disinfected. The general availability of water in rural areas, if only from rivers and streams, has made it easy for authorities to neglect the need to supply potable water for these communities.

In the most severely affected southern regions, where communities have returned post-conflict, one of the major challenges is ensuring access to safe drinking water and latrines.

Working with other international agencies, the United Nations in 2001:

- Constructed 16 large safe spring sources – serving 60,000 people;
- Rehabilitated 13 springs and 676 wells in Lekoumou Region – serving in excess of 50,000 people;
- Installed 17 hand-pumps throughout Bouenza, Niari and Lekoumou – serving 30,000 people; and,
- Constructed water supply facilities and latrines in nine primary schools in Brazzaville, complemented by basic hygiene education.

In the operation of all these activities the local communities displayed an enthusiastic willingness to participate in the rehabilitation process, buoyed by the existence, in several areas, of committed and active parent-teacher associations and strong NGO collaboration.

ACCESS TO SAFE WATER AND BASIC SANITATION IN BOTH RURAL AND URBAN AREAS IS VERY POOR

SANITATION

In rural areas the vast majority of the population has no toilets.

In 1996 a Ministry of Health survey in Brazzaville found that 15 percent of households had septic tanks, 28 percent had water closets, 42 percent had traditional latrines, and 15 percent did not have toilet facilities.



Brazzaville has only three waste collection trucks, even though the need is four times greater. Unable to meet demand, there is poor solid waste collection. As a consequence large quantities of solid waste, excreta and wastewater is dumped into ditches, drains and waterways. Inappropriate disposal has led to pools of polluted water which provide a breeding ground for mosquitos and transmittable diseases such as malaria. Worst affected neighbourhoods include Mougali, Ouenze, Poto Poto and Talangai.



WATER PRIVATISATION

Water is managed by the state national water company, which will finalise privatisation bids in December 2001. In 2001, the Government outlined its objectives for water management in the Water Code, which has been introduced to the NTC.



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AGENCY

FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANISATION

PROJECT

SUPPORT TO REINTEGRATE UNEMPLOYED YOUTH INTO AGRICULTURAL ENTERPRISE (PHASE II)

CODE

ROC-02-N01

OBJECTIVE

To reintegrate unemployed youth and ex-combatants in productive agricultural activity, thereby consolidating peace, facilitating increased high-nutrition food production and ending the costly importation of food

BENEFICIARIES

862 reintegrated youths

PARTNERS

Ministry of Agriculture and Animal Husbandry, NGOs and other UN agencies

DURATION

January 2002 - December 2002

SUMMARY

The reintegration of unemployed youth into productive agricultural enterprise would diminish their destabilising influence. Increased supply of high-nutrition food products, particularly eggs, poultry, fish and rice would also strengthen national food security. This new project will complement activities initiated under last year's UN Plan, which allowed a number of small producers' groups, unemployed youths and womens organisations to launch small projects in animal husbandry, vegetable growing, compost fabrication and food transformation. Phase II seeks to assist:

- 1) 90 small groups (5 youths per group) in the rehabilitation of poultry farming, through the supply of chicks, and a tool kit to produce animal food;
- 2) 16 small groups (16 youths per group) in Plateaux, Pool, Bouenza, Niari through the supply of fish and tools to rehabilitate ponds/aquaculture; and
- 3) 12 small groups (10 youths per group) in rice-producing areas (Niari, Bouenza, Pool, Cuvette West) receiving tools and a small start-up fund.

The Ministry of Agriculture and Animal Husbandry will be assisted to better monitor and evaluate various aspects of this project.

CONTACT DETAILS

Mr Amadou Ouattara, Representative, FAO
 Telephone: (242) 81 54 41
 Mobile: (242) 56 31 62
 Email: amadou.ouattara@undp.org

BUDGET

TOTAL REQUESTED

US\$ 631,000

	2002
Technical assistance	136,000
Training and follow-up	30,000
Equipment, production materials and tools	380,000
Administration and direct costs	85,000
Total	631,000

AGENCY

UN DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME

PROJECT

AGRICULTURAL FEEDER ROAD REPAIRS THROUGH INTENSIVE LABOUR

CODE

ROC-02-N02

OBJECTIVE

Permit the trucking to market of agricultural production from areas where destroyed roads are blocking access

BENEFICIARIES

400,000 people living in regions without minimum roads

PARTNERS

FAO, WFP, NGOs and the private sector (FAO, and the Government are important partners in identifying key roads in need of repair)

DURATION

January 2002 - December 2003

SUMMARY

Outside of Brazzaville and Pointe Noire, most towns, indeed whole rural regions can only be reached by 4-wheel drive vehicle, often only with a struggle. Older trucks, which constitute the majority of available vehicles for agricultural transport either have extreme difficulty passing, or in many cases are unable to pass at all. Until they can, there will be no economic revival in inaccessible rural areas.

This project will identify agricultural feeder roads in most need of repair in order to open access and enable the flow of commerce, especially transport of crops and agricultural products to market. Labour intensive, this project will employ large numbers of unemployed. The spirit will be 'money-for-work', although some food will also be provided by WFP. The repair of small bridges and large culverts will also be necessary, although it cannot always be done using manual labour.

CONTACT DETAILS

Mr Jacques Bandelier, Deputy Representative, UNDP
 Telephone: (242) 81 55 63
 Mobile: (242) 51 67 74
 Email: jacques.bandelier@undp.org

BUDGET

2002/2003

Engineer evaluation and planning	100,000
Sub-contractors for manual labour, with tools and transport	2,000,000
Sub-contractors for bridges and culverts	600,000
Support to market agricultural produce (FAO)	200,000
Project management and monitoring	500,000

TOTAL REQUESTED

WFP to supply food for workers and their households FUNDED

Total Requested 3,400,000

US\$ 3,400,000

AGENCY

WORLD FOOD PROGRAMME

PROJECT

**RELIEF AND RECOVERY ASSISTANCE
TO WAR-AFFECTED PEOPLE**

CODE

ROC-02-N03

OBJECTIVE

Provide emergency food assistance for war-affected populations and support the rehabilitation of infrastructure and primary economic recovery

BENEFICIARIES

171,000 beneficiaries in 2002

PARTNERS

UNICEF, ILO, FAO, UNESCO, CRS, ASU, CARITAS, ACF, IRC, MSF, and local NGO's and women's associations

DURATION

2001-2002 (two year operation)

SUMMARY

At its peak, the civil wars caused the displacement of 800,000 people. The most affected areas were the traditional "bread basket" food producing southern regions. Plantations were destroyed, looted and damaged. These actions had a disastrous impact on the country's food security and food generating capacity.

WFP's two phased strategy is devoted to extending relief assistance, and recovery. Relief assistance will target 108,000 people, providing 5,915 tons of food for nutritional recovery, institutional feeding, school feeding, HIV/AIDS patients, reinstallation of returnees, and seed protection rations for poor farmers. The recovery phase will target 63,000 people and provide 3,791 tons of food for the rehabilitation of community facilities and promotion of income-generating activities, especially for women.

CONTACT DETAILS

Mr Sory Ouane, Representative, WFP
Telephone: (242) 81 11 68
Mobile: (242) 66 15 00
Email: sory.ouane@wfp.org

BUDGET

TOTAL REQUESTED

US\$ 8,558,292

	2002
Cereals	1,969,380
Pulses	1,112,256
Oil	441,206
CSB	10,380
Salt	33,840
Sugar	4,640
Sub-Total (9,706 MT)	3,571,702
Maritime freight, insurance and control	1,560,261
LTSH costs	1,953,384
Direct support costs	853,700
Indirect support costs	619,245
Total	8,558,292

AGENCY

FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANISATION

PROJECT

ESTABLISHMENT OF A NATIONAL SYSTEM TO MONITOR AND EVALUATE FOOD SECURITY AND PROVIDE EARLY WARNING

CODE

ROC-02-N04

OBJECTIVE

Create a permanent national network for the monitoring and evaluation of indicators related to food security in every region

BENEFICIARIES

Local authorities, UN agencies, NGOs and donors

PARTNERS

Congolese Ministry of Agriculture and Animal Husbandry, NGOs and other UN agencies

DURATION

January 2002 - December 2002

SUMMARY

Despite unlimited agricultural potential, Congo has never been more dependent on food imports to feed its people than it is today.

The emergency agricultural programme that has been implemented since 1999 has helped many families survive immediate famine. However, the socio-economic conditions and nutritional condition of Congo's population remains extremely fragile and vulnerable. Long term, reliable monitoring mechanisms are urgently required. The most recent evaluation data on food security and agricultural production dates back to 1994. This project will create a system to monitor and analyse food security throughout Congo. Importantly, it will also establish an early warning system through the establishment of a permanent national network, employing rigorous monitoring and evaluation techniques and indicators to identify and avert future widespread catastrophe. Publication and dissemination of periodic food security reports are a key component of this project. A food security data base will also serve to harmonise and efficiently utilise and allocate resources across all sectors, identifying priority needs and targeting specialised responses.

CONTACT DETAILS

Mr Amadou Ouattara, Representative, FAO
 Telephone: (242) 81 54 41
 Mobile: (242) 56 31 62
 Email: amadou.ouattara@undp.org

BUDGET

	2002
Technical assistance	261,000
Training and follow-up	35,000
Equipment and production materials, tools	40,000
Administration and direct costs	81,000
Total	417,000

TOTAL REQUESTED

US\$ 417,000

AGENCY

FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANISATION

PROJECT

**REHABILITATION OF ANIMAL HUSBANDRY
(POULTRY AND RABBIT)**

CODE

ROC-02-N05

OBJECTIVE

Supply the southern regions of the country with poultry and rabbits as a means of income source diversification

BENEFICIARIES

7,000 vulnerable families in need of income-generating and self sustaining livelihoods

PARTNERS

Congolese Ministry of Agriculture and Animal Husbandry, NGOs and other UN agencies

DURATION

January 2002 - December 2002

SUMMARY

Rural producers in the southern regions of the country have lost most of their agricultural goods and production materials. The decimation of livestock has had a devastating impact, economically and nutritionally, upon thousands of subsistence farmers and their families. The reduction in agricultural and animal production has worsened the nation's already woeful food security condition. While vegetable growing activities have experienced an important renewal since the end of the war, animal production remains far below pre-war production levels. Due to scarcity, the market price of meat remains extremely high. Few people can afford to purchase meat. As a result, in rural areas the level of animal protein intake is very low. The renewal of animal husbandry represents a priority for the United Nations and the Congolese Government. The project will assist:

- 1) 2,500 vulnerable families, each receiving four chickens (three females)
- 2) 4,000 vulnerable families, each receiving five rabbits (four females)

This project does not plan to distribute veterinary products as the animals distributed will be healthy adults. Beneficiary families will supply evidence that the animal will be provided with adequate food. When possible, the chickens (10,000) and rabbits (20,000) will be purchased locally.

**CONTACT
DETAILS**

Mr Amadou Ouattara, Representative, FAO
Telephone: (242) 81 54 41
Mobile: (242) 56 31 62
Email: amadou.ouattara@undp.org

BUDGET

**TOTAL
REQUESTED**

US\$ 534,000

	2002
Technical assistance	54,000
Training and follow-up	20,000
Equipment and production materials, tools	370,000
Administration and direct costs	90,000
Total	534,000

AGENCY

FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANISATION

PROJECT

TOOL FABRICATION AND RAW MATERIALS ASSISTANCE IN ISOLATED AREAS (PHASE II)

CODE

ROC-02-N06

OBJECTIVE

Distribute tools and high quality vegetable seeds to vulnerable families in areas previously unassisted because of extreme isolation

BENEFICIARIES

30,490 vulnerable families and youth

PARTNERS

Ministry of Agriculture and Animal Husbandry, NGOs, and other UN agencies

DURATION

January 2002 - December 2002

SUMMARY

FAO's agricultural emergency coordination unit has assisted numerous vulnerable households through the supply of seeds and tools. Because of a lack of local supply, materials were purchased outside the country.

With the transition to an emphasis on development, the FAO and the Ministry of Agriculture and Animal Husbandry is ready to implement Phase II - a high-quality seeds multiplication programme targeted toward vulnerable isolated families. Until the national seeds control programme is re-established, the project will ensure quality seed distribution through selected multipliers. The programme will be complemented by the distribution of locally produced tools, using and training young blacksmiths. The project will assist:

- 1) 20,000 vulnerable families through the delivery of 400 tons of seeds;
- 2) 34 small groups of qualified multipliers (10 per group) in the country's main agricultural production zones, receiving seeds and technical assistance;
- 3) 30 small groups (5 unemployed youth per group) who will receive equipment and materials to produce tools (machetes, hoes); and,
- 4) 10,000 vulnerable beneficiaries who will receive these machetes and hoes.

CONTACT DETAILS

Mr Amadou Ouattara, Representative, FAO
 Telephone: (242) 81 54 41
 Mobile: (242) 56 31 62
 Email: amadou.ouattara@undp.org

BUDGET

	2002
Technical assistance	88,000
Training and follow-up	16,000
Equipment, production materials and tools	520,000
Administration and direct costs	60,000
Total	684,000

TOTAL REQUESTED

US\$ 684,000

AGENCY**UNITED NATIONS CHILDREN'S FUND****PROJECT****CREATION OF A LEISURE CENTRE****CODE****ROC-02-N07****OBJECTIVE**

Establish a centre of leisure (culture and sports) for children and youth in order to contribute to their physical and psychological well-being

BENEFICIARIES

The children and youth of Brazzaville

PARTNERS

Ministry of Sports and Youth and National Olympic Committee

DURATION

January 2002 - December 2003

SUMMARY

Young Congolese benefit from very few opportunities to completely enjoy their right to healthy and educational leisure activities. Their parents, caught in the battle for daily survival, rarely have the income or even the time necessary to play. Schools seldom contain playing equipment, while local municipalities are themselves barely functional. The only play space children have are the streets and alleys that surround their homes and neighbourhoods.

This project forms an initial contribution to a wider program instituted by the National Olympic and Sports Committee of Congo (CNOSC). CNSOC aims to promote peace and brotherhood by using sport to motivate youth to take part in broader development activities. It is proposed that a Olympafrica centre be established. In this centre, children and young people will find the necessary structures, equipment and the framework to participate in sports and cultural activities. UNICEF will supply materials, equipment, and resources to build the capacity of trainers. UNICEF will implement the project in close partnership with the national sports and cultural authorities, as well as with other UN agencies, such as UNESCO, WHO and UNDP.

**CONTACT
DETAILS**

Mr Raymond Janssens, Representative, UNICEF
 Telephone: (242) 81 50 24
 Mobile: (242) 66 35 66
 Email: rjanssens@unicef.org

BUDGET

2002/2003

Capacity building	30,000
Educational and play materials	100,000
Building and equipment	50,000
Programme support	20,000

Total	200,000
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**TOTAL
REQUESTED****US\$ 200,000**

AGENCY

UNITED NATIONS CHILDREN'S FUND

PROJECT

PSYCHOLOGICAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAMME FOR WAR-AFFECTED CHILDREN

CODE

ROC-02-N08

OBJECTIVE

Provide war-affected children with psychological counselling, targeted at reintegration into society

BENEFICIARIES

Children in Brazzaville, Pointe Noire, and the four heavily war-affected southern regions of Bouenza, Lekoumou, Niari and Pool

PARTNERS

Ministries of Health, Education, Social Action and Solidarity, and Youth, including NGO involvement

DURATION

January 2002 - December 2003

SUMMARY

This project builds upon our work with traumatised children throughout 2001. In 2002, we will continue to provide counselling and psychological rehabilitation to children.

CONTACT DETAILS

Mr Raymond Janssens, Head Representative, UNICEF
 Telephone: (242) 81 50 24
 Mobile: (242) 66 35 66
 Email: rjanssens@unicef.org

BUDGET

TOTAL REQUESTED

US\$ 750,000

	2002	2003
Training in trauma counselling	25,000	25,000
Organisation of communities	50,000	50,000
Support centres	100,000	100,000
Social reintegration	150,000	150,000
Project support	50,000	50,000
Sub-total	375,000	375,000
Total		750,000

AGENCY**UNITED NATIONS EDUCATIONAL,
SCIENTIFIC AND CULTURAL ORGANISATION****PROJECT****TRANSFORMATION OF THE POTO-POTO PAINTING
SCHOOL INTO A PUBLIC FOUNDATION****CODE****ROC-02-N09****OBJECTIVE**

Increase the visibility and understanding of Congolese culture

BENEFICIARIES

Painters and sculptors

PARTNERS

Ministry of Culture and Arts, in charge of Tourism

DURATION

January 2002 - December 2002

SUMMARY

Founded in the 1940s, the Poto-Poto Painting School is one of the most renowned promoters of Congolese art and African culture. The School has produced artists who have been characterised as representing the African soul in its spontaneity, its sensitivity, its softness and its violence. They have received numerous international distinctions and have been emulated and discussed internationally. However, the School is currently in a desperate state of disrepair and risks disappearing altogether. This project will re-staff and reinvigorate the School, while also assisting with production and maintenance costs.

**CONTACT
DETAILS**

Mr Ernst Fassbender, Representative, UNESCO
Telephone: (242) 81 18 29
Mobile: (242) 66 12 33
Email: uhcrv@congonet.cg

BUDGET

2002

Honoraria of two painters	15,000
Honoraria of two art historians	30,000
Honorarium of the project manager	30,000
Production of films and photographs	30,000
Communication	10,000
Management	25,000
Computer expertise and equipment	10,000

Total	150,000
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**TOTAL
REQUESTED****US\$ 150,000**

AGENCY
PROJECT
CODE
OBJECTIVE
BENEFICIARIES
PARTNERS
DURATION
SUMMARY

UN DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME

CREATION OF AN INTERNET NODE AND NATIONAL COMMUNICATIONS STRATEGY

ROC-02-N10

Support the creation of an internet node and national communications strategy

New internet users, commerce, and “priority users” (e.g. journalists, magistrates, university researchers, NGOs, parliamentarians, among others)

UNOPS, chambers of commerce, and private sector and government

January 2002 - December 2004

Modernisation of the communications sector is urgently required to allow the Congo to take full advantage of technological advances. The creation of a national internet node is a priority and will allow access via a local network provider. Congo is one of only five countries in the world (which includes Afghanistan and Somalia) not to have its own internet node. As a result, internet access is prohibitively expensive for most users. This project seeks to build an economic partnership comprising the government, stakeholders and private enterprise, that will work together to develop Congo’s own node. It will also train 300, and connect at least 500, priority users (journalists, magistrates, researchers, academics, NGOs, parliamentarians), directly, or through resource centres.

Given the absence of a government communications policy, and the severe lack of technical capacity and resources, this project will also help establish a national statutory framework.

CONTACT DETAILS

Mr Jacques Bandelier, Deputy Representative, UNDP
Telephone: (242) 81 55 63
Mobile: (242) 51 67 74
Email: jacques.bandelier@undp.org

BUDGET

TOTAL REQUESTED

US\$ 1,200,000

	2002/2004
Technical study	35,000
Elaboration of a regulatory framework	100,000
Support to the establishment of the internet node	665,000
Connection for priority users	300,000
Training	100,000
Total	1,200,000

AGENCY**UNITED NATIONS EDUCATIONAL,
SCIENTIFIC AND CULTURAL ORGANISATION****PROJECT****REHABILITATION OF CONGO'S HYDROBIOLOGICAL
RESEARCH CENTRE****CODE****ROC-02-N11****OBJECTIVE**

To assist in the renewal of fisheries research

BENEFICIARIES

Producers and consumers

PARTNERS

Congo's Hydrobiological Research Centre, Ministry of Agriculture

DURATION

January 2002 - September 2004

SUMMARY

Congo's Hydrobiological Research Centre was created to study the aquatic environments of the Congolese Cuvette, an area renowned for its aquaculture of fresh water fish. Despite a lack of financial resources and equipment the Centre has been able to identify 80 different species of fish. The Centre is in dire need of assistance, specifically equipment.

Rehabilitation and equipment will enable the Centre to: (a) Complete an inventory of the flora and fauna of the Congolese Cuvette; (b) Research development programmes that will provide sustainable management of fishery resources; (c) preserve natural aquatic environments from pollution; (d) contribute toward rectifying Congo's food security.

**CONTACT
DETAILS**

Mr Ernst Fassbender, Representative, UNESCO
Telephone: (242) 81 18 29
Mobile: (242) 66 12 33
Email: uhcrv@congonet.cg

BUDGET

2002/2004

Rehabilitation of laboratories	70,000
Computer equipment	15,000
Logistical equipment	90,000
Biological and Hydro-chemical equipment	50,000
Reporting mechanisms	25,000

Total	250,000
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**TOTAL
REQUESTED****US\$ 250,000**

AGENCY

**UNITED NATIONS EDUCATIONAL,
SCIENTIFIC AND CULTURAL ORGANISATION**

PROJECT

**SUPPORT IN PROMOTING SMALL
APPRENTICESHIP TRADES**

CODE

ROC-02-N12

OBJECTIVE

Assist young craftsman in acquiring the knowledge to improve the quality of their products, conduct promotional activities and create job opportunities

BENEFICIARIES

150 trained young craftsmen

PARTNERS

National Agency in charge of Crafts and Artisan's Trade Union

DURATION

January 2002 - December 2003

SUMMARY

Congolese craftsmen and artisans have been greatly affected by the succession of wars in the 1990s. As a consequence of looting and vandalism, numerous craftsmen have lost their tools of trade and almost half of their workshops have been burned down, badly damaged or destroyed. With stability there has been renewed artisan activity. However, poor product quality and weak marketing present clear obstacles in the development of this fledgling sector. This project intends to conduct training sessions for young craftsmen in order to improve product quality. It will also facilitate the acquisition of light equipment and tools and assist with organising exhibitions and publicity campaigns to advertise products.

**CONTACT
DETAILS**

Mr Ernst Fassbender, Representative, UNESCO
Telephone: (242) 81 18 29
Mobile: (242) 66 12 33
Email: uhcrv@congonet.cg

BUDGET

2002/2003

Training workshops	250,000
Exhibitions	100,000
Publicity campaigns	50,000
Management costs	50,000

**TOTAL
REQUESTED**

Total	450,000
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US\$ 450,000

AGENCY**UNITED NATIONS EDUCATIONAL,
SCIENTIFIC AND CULTURAL ORGANISATION****PROJECT****TRAINING OF SIGN LANGUAGE INTERPRETERS****CODE****ROC-02-N13****OBJECTIVE**

Increase access and participation of deaf people into daily life

BENEFICIARIES

Deaf and hearing-impaired people

PARTNERS

African Institute for Re-adaptation

DURATION

January 2002 - December 2003

SUMMARY

The deaf represent a relatively important portion of Congo's population. There exist two schools that cater to their specific needs, one in Brazzaville and the other in Pointe-Noire. Most deaf people from rural areas do not have access to these educational institutions. Deaf people face a myriad of obstacles in their every day life, often operating in a society that is not always sympathetic, tolerant or understanding of the difficulties they face. The simplest task can become very complicated. Access to, and adequate treatment within the health and education system remain key areas of concern.

This project will train 100 interpreters over a two year period. In addition, it will also embark upon an educational awareness programme promoting understand of deaf people and spreading knowledge of sign language.

**CONTACT
DETAILS**

Mr Ernst Fassbender, Representative, UNESCO
Telephone: (242) 81 18 29
Mobile: (242) 66 12 33
Email: uhcrv@congonet.cg

BUDGET

2002/2003

Public awareness campaign on sign language	15,000
Training courses and internships	15,000
Training of professional interpreters	15,000
Missions and travel	20,000
Equipment	35,000
Total	100,000

**TOTAL
REQUESTED****US\$ 100,000**

AGENCY
PROJECT
CODE
OBJECTIVE
BENEFICIARIES
PARTNERS
DURATION
SUMMARY

INTERNATIONAL LABOUR ORGANISATION

JOBS FOR PEACE

ROC-02-N-14

Involve youth in social rehabilitation activities to promote the consolidation of a culture of peace and provide them with an income source

2500 unemployed youth and ex-combatants, particularly those youth living in the southern regions

UNESCO, WFP, WHO, youth associations, local authorities

January 2002 - December 2002

Young adults constitute the most active segment of Congolese population. They have been at once victims and actors in the repeated armed conflicts, many of them through joining militias and participating in the destruction of socio-economic infrastructure.

The reconstruction of the country following the conflicts requires the rehabilitation of destroyed socio-economic infrastructure. Rehabilitation work provides an opportunity for youth to participate in the restoration of better living conditions for affected communities. It is also an opportunity to restore their sense of responsibility, work, and the common good. Unemployed youth, including ex-combatants, will participate in public works. This will provide them with income to assist their reintegration, and also an opportunity to learn to work together again.

All implementation partners will be trained in labour-intensive rehabilitation works, as well as other techniques such as waste management.

CONTACT DETAILS

Ms Dayina Mayenga, Director/Representative, ILO
Telephone: (243) 33407
Mobile: (243) 88 00 955
Email: mayenga@kinshasa.ilo.sita.net

BUDGET
TOTAL REQUESTED
US\$ 495,000

	2002
Training	75,000
Rehabilitation sub-contracts with NGOs and youth associations	375,000
Programme support	45,000
Total	495,000

AGENCY**INTERNATIONAL LABOUR ORGANISATION****PROJECT****ECONOMIC REINTEGRATION OF
VULNERABLE GROUPS****CODE****ROC-02-N15****OBJECTIVE**

Provide vulnerable groups who have been victimised by the war with sustainable livelihoods through a process of economic integration

BENEFICIARIES

4,000 war-handicapped widows and orphans

PARTNERS

Local NGOs

DURATION

January 2002 - December 2002

SUMMARY

One of the lasting impacts of war has been an increased vulnerable population, notably war-handicapped (mutilated), widows and orphans. Studies carried out by ILO among persons receiving FAO food aid in March 2000 revealed that most of these beneficiaries were widows or orphans. This project targets the reintegration of these vulnerable groups.

ILO aims to assist widows, orphans and war-handicapped persons in starting income generating activities to promote their own reintegration. This project will promote a community-based reintegration process for handicapped people, who will also receive orthopaedic equipment. Beneficiaries will also receive micro-business management training. Several pilot projects will be launched in health insurance.

**CONTACT
DETAILS**

Ms Dayina Mayenga, Director/Representative, ILO
Telephone: (243) 33407
Mobile: (243) 88 00 955
Email: mayenga@kinshasa.ilo.sita.net

BUDGET

	2002
Sub-contracts with vocational training institutions	80,000
Reintegration assistance (micro-credit)	600,000
Orthopaedic assistance and trauma counselling	100,000
Programme support	80,000
Total	860,000

**TOTAL
REQUESTED****US\$ 860,000**

AGENCY

INTERNATIONAL LABOUR ORGANISATION

PROJECT

INCOME-GENERATION AND EMERGENCY SOCIAL PROTECTION FOR WAR-AFFECTED YOUTH AND WOMEN

CODE

ROC-02-N16

OBJECTIVE

Assist women and youth in communities most affected by war in the creation of income-generating activities

BENEFICIARIES

3,000 women and unemployed youth

PARTNERS

NGOs, local communities, women's and youth associations

DURATION

January 2002 - December 2002

SUMMARY

Struck by chronic unemployment, young adults have been at once victims and actors in the repeated armed conflicts. Unemployed youth represent a threat to the establishment of a durable peace in Congo. The economic integration of this particular group is a priority.

Throughout the conflicts, women continued to be responsible for the survival of entire families. The reinforcement of the economic role of women is therefore a priority for the post-conflict transition period.

This project will improve the living conditions of women and youth by providing support for income generating activities. The process of economic reintegration will include vocational training, support in the creation of micro-businesses, and counselling.

CONTACT DETAILS

Ms Dayena Mayenga, Director/Representative, ILO
 Telephone: (243) 33 407
 Mobile: (243) 88 00 9555
 Email: mayenga@kinshasa.ilo.sita.net

BUDGET

2002

Training for reintegration (vocational and management training)	60,000
Start-up funds for micro-credit businesses	450,000
Individual counselling and assistance	30,000
Programme support	54,000

Total	594,000
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TOTAL REQUESTED

US\$ 594,000

AGENCY

UN DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME

PROJECT

PROTECTION OF MARITIME ECOSYSTEMS

CODE

ROC-02-N17

OBJECTIVE

To support the efforts of government in the protection of maritime ecosystems

BENEFICIARIES

People living in the vicinity of maritime ecosystems

PARTNERS

GEF, UNEP, private sector and Ministry for the Environment

DURATION

August 2002 - December 2004

SUMMARY

Congo has a small coastline on the Atlantic Ocean which extends over 170 km. Although one of the shortest on the west African coast, it takes on a considerable economic importance for the country. However, for more than two decades the pollution created by the exploitation of oil has threatened the biodiversity of the maritime ecosystem.

The government adopted a national action plan for the environment in 1991, aimed at guaranteeing the protection of all ecosystems, and particularly marine ecosystems. This project will facilitate the establishment of a surveillance system for maritime ecosystems within the Ministry for the Environment. A ministerial department will be staffed with trained officials and equipped to insure the implementation of the action plan, with the objective of reducing pollution levels by 25 percent. A key element in the project includes the implementation of a pilot environmental clean-up initiative.

CONTACT DETAILS

Mr Jacques Bandelier, Deputy Representative, UNDP
 Telephone: (242) 81 55 63
 Mobile: (242) 51 67 74
 Email: jacques.bandelier@undp.org

BUDGET

2002/2004

Establishment of a computer system	400,000
Training and equipment	500,000
Pollution monitoring and control	800,000
Pilot initiatives	500,000
Total	2,200,000
Required funding for 2002 only	400,000

TOTAL REQUESTED

US\$ 2,200,000

AGENCY

UN DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME

PROJECT CODE

**ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AND EDUCATION
ROC-02-N18**

OBJECTIVE

Build and support an environmental constituency committed to protection, management and enhancement of the country's natural resources

BENEFICIARIES

All Congolese

PARTNERS

UN Foundation, GEF, GTZ, NGOs, private sector, Ministry of Forestry

DURATION

August 2002 - July 2005

SUMMARY

The Republic of Congo is rich in forests, wildlife and marine resources. Congo and Gabon shelter the world's largest population of gorillas and chimpanzees. Commercial logging, however, is moving into full swing. 20 million hectares of unprotected forests have been allocated to timber companies. Illegal timber harvesting, poaching and commercial 'bush meat' trafficking persist. Off-shore oil operations threaten the coastal and maritime environment. The opportunity is ripe to cultivate and support effective environmental management. This project has two main components:

Promoting an environmental constituency: An environmental forum, education and research centre, established in the *Patte d'Oie* forest in Brazzaville, to promote: dialogue, environmental education, research and civic support for responsible use of Congo's natural heritage, and regional cooperation such as on trans-boundary parks. The centre will train teachers and educate students, develop educational materials, initiate and support environmental clubs, 'twin' with partners, and develop a network of senior, influential patrons, including representatives of timber, oil and other companies. The Ministry of Forestry will substantially contribute.

Forest protection: Partners will be contracted to: a) extend and reinforce park buffer zones, b) train and provide eco-guards; c) Collect illegal arms and support alternative-livelihoods for ex-hunters and; d) Reinforce law-enforcement against up-stream traffickers of ivory, rare species and illegal 'bush meat'. Support will be provided to a newly created, independent, National Authority for Protected Areas.

CONTACT DETAILS

Mr Jacques Bandelier, Deputy Representative, UNDP
Telephone: (242) 81 55 63
Mobile: (242) 51 67 74
Email: jacques.bandelier@undp.org

BUDGET

TOTAL REQUESTED

US\$ 4,950,000

	2002/2005
Environmental Centre	
Physical rehabilitation/construction of centre	500,000
Fencing	400,000
Maintenance and operations	400,000
Environmental education and research	550,000
Forest Protection	
Sub-contracts for eco-guards, arms collection, alternative livelihoods for hunters, and other projects	2,800,000
National capacity-building	300,000
Total	4,950,000
Required funding for 2002 only	1,550,000

AGENCY**UNITED NATIONS CHILDREN'S FUND****PROJECT****"COMMUNICATING WOMEN" - INCREASING
CAPACITY, REDUCING THE GENDER GAP****CODE****ROC-02-N19****OBJECTIVE**

Empower women, and bring about attitudinal change in the way women are treated by men in the community through the use of radio communication

BENEFICIARIES

50,000 women in the regions of Niari and Plateaux

PARTNERS

Congolesse Government Ministries of Communication, Promotion of Women, Education and Health, including community groups and associations

DURATION

January 2002 - December 2003

SUMMARY

Based on the success of similar projects in Africa (Senegal, Burkina Faso) community radio, with content developed by women for women, provides an invaluable tool for improving education, health and hygiene advice and a forum for sharing income-generating ideas. These women can access information that relates to their everyday life, while providing practical training and education, such as soap, candle and paint making. These broadcasts will also raise consciousness on the disparity between women and men.

**CONTACT
DETAILS**

Mr Raymond Janssens, Representative, UNICEF
Telephone: (242) 81 50 24
Mobile: (242) 66 35 66
Email: rjanssens@unicef.org

BUDGET

2002/2003

Vocational training qualification	20,000
Training	50,000
Equipment	150,000
Production of material	30,000
Capacity building	100,000
Total	350,000

**TOTAL
REQUESTED****US\$ 350,000**

AGENCY

UNITED NATIONS POPULATION FUND

PROJECT

**EXTENSION OF ACTIVITIES
TO PROMOTE THE STATUS OF WOMEN**

CODE

ROC-02-N20

OBJECTIVE

Intensify dissemination of legal texts regarding the status of females

BENEFICIARIES

Congolese women and girls

PARTNERS

Directorate charged with the National Promotion of Women in collaboration with the General Directorate in charge of Population

DURATION

January 2002 - December 2002

SUMMARY

Congolese women continue to be subject to traditional customs which contradict and undermine their legal status. It is hardly surprising that Congolese women and girls were the main victims of the civil wars.

This project will contribute to the objectives of the Draft Program for Population and Development 2001-2002. Specifically it will raise the awareness of girls and women of the various legal texts that spell out and protect their rights, collate data on the representation of women in decision-making bodies and socio-economic sectors, and train staff of the Directorate in charge of the National Promotion of Women. In addition it will also propose new legal texts and adapt current statutes that institutionalise their inferior status.

The Directorate in charge of Population, which is responsible for the coordination of activities related to population in Congo, will coordinate the above-mentioned activities and the Directorate in charge of the National Promotion of Women will be responsible for the project's execution.

**CONTACT
DETAILS**

Mr Fidelis Zama Chi, Representative, UNFPA
Telephone: (242) 81 568 91
Mobile: (242) 64 77 28
Email: f.zamachi@undp.org

BUDGET

**TOTAL
REQUESTED**

US\$ 207,500

	2002
Inventory and analysis of legal texts	25,000
Equipment and supplies	50,000
Training	30,000
Studies and research	40,000
Meetings	50,000
Administration	12,500
Total	207,500

AGENCY**FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANISATION****PROJECT****PILOT PROJECT TO STUDY AND ESTABLISH SMALL/
MEDIUM FOOD TRANSFORMATION BUSINESSES****CODE****ROC-02-N21****OBJECTIVE**

Assist and support Congolese women, particularly the efforts of rural women, trying to establish small/medium food transformation businesses

BENEFICIARIES

Women in rural areas

PARTNERS

Congolese Ministry of Public Administration and Administrative Reforms (responsible for the promotion of women), rural associations, local and international NGOs

DURATION

January 2002 - December 2002

SUMMARY

This project will support the development of a national programme aimed at reinforcing the capacity of rural Congolese women to generate incomes. The programme will support the technological transfer of western African manioc, and assist Congolese women in their efforts to establish small and medium food transformation businesses. The project's objectives are to contribute to:

- 1) Rehabilitation of productive and income generating activities in the agricultural sector;
- 2) Establishment of small commercial units; and,
- 3) Improvement of the nutritional status of children and beneficiary populations.

**CONTACT
DETAILS**

Mr Amadou Ouattara, Representative, FAO
Telephone: (242) 81 54 41
Mobile: (242) 56 31 62
Email: amadou.ouattara@undp.org

BUDGET

2002

Technical assistance	135,000
Training (national and international expertise and administration)	35,000
Equipment for three pilot units	92,700
Reports and Communication	300

**TOTAL
REQUESTED**

Total	263,000
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US\$ 263,000

AGENCY

UN DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME

PROJECT

PROMOTING EQUITY BETWEEN WOMEN AND MEN - PHASE II

CODE

ROC-02-N22

OBJECTIVE

Promote equity between women and men, in legal status and in practice, and encourage women to play an equal role in social, economic and political life

BENEFICIARIES

National and local women's organisations and 28,000 women through micro-credit assistance

PARTNERS

UNOPS and NGOs

DURATION

December 2001 - November 2003

SUMMARY

Phase I

Over 100 micro-projects aimed at promoting income generating activities for women have been implemented, reaching over 5,500 beneficiaries. Working conditions have also improved through the acquisition of primary resources, equipment and materials, used to increase their income. Training has included 55 lawyers; and 400 women in market gardening, cloth colouring and soap production, micro-commerce management, and credit union managers. A legal centre for women was established, receiving 25 women per day.

Phase II

Commenced in June 2001. The next phase of the project is undertaking to; (a) Establish a network of women's credit unions; (b) Mobilise credit funds for the women's credit unions; (c) Provide management and technical training, particularly in new technologies, for at least 1000 women; (d) Create resource centres for women election candidates; (e) Train trainers within women's organisations; and, (f) Conduct an awareness campaign on women's rights.

CONTACT DETAILS

Mr Jacques Bandelier, Deputy Representative, UNDP
 Telephone: (242) 81 55 63
 Mobile: (242) 51 67 74
 Email: jacques.bandelier@undp.org

BUDGET

2002/2003

Support for women's credit unions and micro-projects	625,000
Support to civil women's organisations' active in democracy	340,000
Support to women's research/capacity building	130,000
Project management, including project monitoring	170,000

Sub Total	1,265,000
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Already Funded	
Canada 192,000, Republic of Congo 100,000, UNDP 400,000	692,000

Total Requested	573,000
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TOTAL REQUESTED

US\$ 573,000

AGENCY

WORLD HEALTH ORGANISATION

PROJECT

**INTEGRATED COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT
IN PERIPHERAL NEIGHBOURHOODS OF
BRAZZAVILLE AND DOLISIE**

CODE

ROC-02-N23

OBJECTIVE

Contribute to the reduction of poverty through the promotion of health and of a salubrious environment

BENEFICIARIES

100,000 people in the neighbourhoods of Brazzaville (Madibou, Mfilou-Ngamaba, Talangai), and Dolisie

PARTNERS

NGOs and local development committees

DURATION

December 2001 - December 2002

SUMMARY

The peripheral neighbourhoods of Brazzaville and Dolisie are characterised by the same problems as rural areas in Congo: access to health care is difficult; clean water supply is insufficient; basic sanitation is severely lacking (only 4% of families have access to a latrine at home); and morbidity rates are highly linked to the deterioration of the environment, notably to faecal waste (diarrhoeal illnesses including cholera), malaria and other illnesses.

The fragile state of their living environment leaves these populations in a vicious cycle of poverty and bad health. This project, which aims to reduce poverty through improving health, requires the beneficiaries' participation in project design, implementation, monitoring and evaluation. The project will: improve access to health care, increase the supply of drinking water and access to sanitation, and aid the social reintegration young ex-combatants.

**CONTACT
DETAILS**

Dr Lamine Cisse Sarr, Representative, WHO
Telephone: (242) 81 38 01
Mobile: (242) 66 33 40
Email: lamine-cisse.sarr@undp.org

BUDGET

**TOTAL
REQUESTED**

US\$ 545,000

	2002
Rehabilitation, construction, equipment of 5 integrated health centres	195,000
Supplies of medication	70,000
Construction of 5 mosquito net impregnation centres	25,000
Water installations	100,000
Promotion of the construction of ameliorated latrines	75,000
Creation of 4 units for the production of clean water	30,000
Training of community leaders in hygiene practices	25,000
Coordination, monitoring and supervision of activities	25,000
Total	545,000

AGENCY

UNITED NATIONS CHILDREN'S FUND

PROJECT

PSYCHOLOGICAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAMME FOR VICTIMS OF SEXUAL VIOLENCE

CODE

ROC-02-N24

OBJECTIVE

Provide psychological assistance to women victims of sexual violence

BENEFICIARIES

Women victims in Brazzaville, Pointe Noire, and the four heavily war-affected southern regions of Bouenza, Lekoumou, Niari and Pool

PARTNERS

Ministries of Health, Education, Social Action and Solidarity, and Youth, including NGO's involvement

DURATION

January 2002 - December 2003

SUMMARY

This project is vital in assisting women, traumatised mentally and physically, to recover from the devastating impact of civil war on their lives. By providing support structures, medical advice and medicine, we are able to assist women directly. A key part of our strategy in 2002 will be a media campaign to raise awareness of the impact of rape on women lives, specifically targeting the government, local communities and family units. We will also mobilise efforts toward legal support, while assisting in their immediate economic and social reintegration.

CONTACT DETAILS

Mr Raymond Janssens, Representative, UNICEF
 Telephone: (242) 81 50 24
 Mobile: (242) 66 35 66
 Email: rjanssens@unicef.org

BUDGET

TOTAL REQUESTED

US\$ 580,000

	2002	2003
Social services	25,000	25,000
Setting up case structures	75,000	75,000
Awareness campaign	50,000	50,000
Social reintegration	100,000	100,000
Project costs	40,000	40,000
Sub-total	290,000	290,000
Total		580,000

AGENCY

WORLD HEALTH ORGANISATION

PROJECT

INSECTICIDE-IMPREGNATED MOSQUITO NETS FOR UNDER 5's AND PREGNANT WOMEN

CODE

ROC-02-N25

OBJECTIVE

Encourage children under five years old and pregnant women to use insecticide impregnated mosquito nets

BENEFICIARIES

617,000 children under five years old and 134,000 pregnant women

PARTNERS

NGOs, churches, local development committees

DURATION

January 2002 - December 2003

SUMMARY

Malaria is not a new problem for humanity. In Congo, the most affected groups are children of less than 5 years old and pregnant women, among which the disease has devastating effects and provokes premature deaths, hindering economic growth and representing a serious obstacle to efforts aimed at reducing poverty. This project aims to distribute mosquito nets impregnated with insecticide to the target population. These nets play an important role in the efforts currently underway to limit the spread of malaria. Mosquito nets protect effectively against several vectorial transmission diseases, and can contribute to a 20 % reduction in overall child mortality. They are considered to be one of the essential tools for reaching the objective that Congo has set for itself, namely to reduce by half the burden of malaria by the year 2010. To achieve this objective, the two components of protection - availability and use of mosquito nets - must be multiplied by 30.

Activities will include training of young ex-combatants to become community agents, social mobilization and awareness-raising, the creation of centres for the impregnation and re-impregnation of mosquito nets and curtains, and the purchase of mosquito nets and insecticide. Community participation aims to ensure the sustainability of these activities at the community level.

CONTACT DETAILS

Dr Lamine Cisse Sarr, Representative, WHO
 Telephone: (242) 81 38 01
 Mobile: (242) 66 33 40
 Email: lamine-cisse.sarr@undp.org

BUDGET

2002/2003

Purchase of mosquito nets	50,000
Purchase of insecticide	100,000
Training	25,000
Mobilisation/awareness campaign	30,000
CAP study	6,000
Evaluation	4,000
Administrative costs	15,000
Total	230,000

TOTAL REQUESTED

US\$ 230,000

AGENCY

UNITED NATIONS CHILDREN'S FUND

PROJECT

REHABILITATION OF HEALTH STRUCTURES AND PROVISION OF NUTRITIONAL SUPPORT

CODE

ROC-02-N26

OBJECTIVE

Attend to the health and nutritional needs of women and children in the most deprived regions

BENEFICIARIES

1,025,000 (800,000 women and 325,000 children) in the Pool, Niari, Bouenza, Lekoumou, Likouala, Sangha and Brazzaville

PARTNERS

Local and international NGOs

DURATION

January 2002 - December 2003

SUMMARY

Health: The demise of health services and resulting decrease in vaccinations has lead to an outbreak of infectious diseases. Medicines and essential medical equipment will be distributed to 90 integrated health centres and 10 reference hospitals. Training will be provided to health personnel.

Nutrition: Our work will (a) Identify and record the nutritional condition of children under five, providing nutritional rehabilitation; (b) Equip 90 integrated health centres and 10 reference hospitals with nutritional supplies; (c) Supply therapeutic milk, vitamin A, Iron and Folic Acid; (d) Supply school children with supplementary nutritional rations; and (e) Undertake intensive capacity building re-education with medical and ancillary staff that will build each community's self sufficiency.

CONTACT DETAILS

Mr Raymond Janssens, Representative, UNICEF
 Telephone: (242) 81 50 24
 Mobile: (242) 66 35 66
 Email: rjanssens@unicef.org

BUDGET

TOTAL REQUESTED

US\$ 1,500,000

	2002	2003
Supply of essential medicines and vaccines	400,000	400,000
Food and micronutriments	50,000	50,000
Promotion of mosquito-nets	100,000	100,000
Rehabilitation of health centres	100,000	100,000
Re-training of staff	50,000	50,000
Programme support	50,000	50,000
Total		1,500,000

AGENCY

WORLD HEALTH ORGANISATION

PROJECT

STUDY ON THE PREVALENCE OF CERVICAL CANCER AMONG YOUNG WOMEN

CODE

ROC-02-N27

OBJECTIVE

Identify and treat women above twenty years old in the cities of Pointe Noire, Dolisie, Nkayi, Sibiti, Kinkala, Owando, Djambala and Impfondo

BENEFICIARIES

Women over twenty years of age

PARTNERS

NGOs, churches, local development committees

DURATION

January 2002 - December 2002

SUMMARY

For a long time ignored, the high prevalence of cancer in Congo has begun to attract the scientific community's interest, thanks to the work of the Cancer Register of Brazzaville. Indeed studies carried out by the centre of cancer research of the General Hospital of Brazzaville reveal that 17-21 percent of those women tested for cancer over the last 5 years were positive.

In most cases, patients arrive at the hospital only once the cancer is well advanced. Preventive action is insufficient, due to a lack of data about the prevalence of this disease. Patients are referred to the main General Hospital from all over the country. Knowledge about the prevalence of cervical cancer will allow the vital planning of decentralised cervical cancer treatment activities in the health districts.

CONTACT DETAILS

Dr Lamine Cisse Sarr, Representative, WHO
 Telephone: (242) 81 38 01
 Mobile: (242) 66 33 40
 Email: lamine-cisse.sarr@undp.org

BUDGET

	2002
Equip regions in medicines and testing material	170,000
Train health agents in testing and treating women	5,000
Train laboratory personnel in recognising suspected cases	10,000
Follow-up and treatment for cases detected	45,000
Supervision and monitoring	15,000
Administrative costs	32,000
Total	277,000

TOTAL REQUESTED

US\$ 277,000

AGENCY

UNITED NATIONS POPULATION FUND

PROJECT

**THE ROLE OF MEN IN REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH
IN A POST-CONFLICT CONTEXT**

CODE

ROC-02-N28

OBJECTIVE

Promote healthy and responsible sexuality

BENEFICIARIES

Congolese men and women

PARTNERS

National Directorate in Charge of Population

DURATION

January 2002 - December 2002

SUMMARY

In the current post-conflict context, new sexual behaviour seems to be appearing in Congo. An increase in sexual violence towards women has been noted. This violence results in increased transmission of STDs, unplanned pregnancies, and prostitution (as a result of economic conditions). Young adults in the urban and semi urban areas are the most affected. Unsurprisingly, health indicators reveal an increase in morbidity and maternal and child mortality, a low rate of the contraception use, high prevalence of STDs, and a particularly high prevalence rate of HIV/AIDS among pregnant women.

This project aims to reinforce the capacity of Integrated Health Centres to set up training programs that encourage healthy and responsible sexual practices, targeted in particular at the young men, individually or in groups.

CONTACT DETAILS

Mr Fidelis Zama Chi, Representative, UNFPA
Telephone: (242) 81 568 91
Mobile: (242) 64 77 28
Email: f.zamachi@undp.org

BUDGET

	2002
Awareness raising activities	105,000
Equipment and supplies	160,000
Training	22,000
Data collection and research	24,000
Administrative costs	18,000

TOTAL REQUESTED

Total 329,000

US\$ 329,000

AGENCY**UNITED NATIONS POPULATION FUND****PROJECT****REHABILITATION OF REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH CENTRES****CODE****ROC-02-N29****OBJECTIVE**

Improve access to reproductive health care services

BENEFICIARIES

Targeted populations in Loutété, Mossendjo, Makabana, Makoua, Ewo, Lékana, Boundji, Doungou, Mindouli, Kakamouéka

PARTNERS

National Directorate in charge of Population in collaboration with the Directorate of Health, the International Federation of the Red Cross (IFRC), the Congolese Association for the Health of Families (ACBEF), and the Evangelical Church of Congo (EEC)

DURATION

January 2002 - December 2002

SUMMARY

Almost a decade of conflict has exposed more than 27,000 women and young girls to rape and the possibility of STD infection. These violent actions have intensified the needs of the population, and its struggling health service, in terms of reproductive health. The Government and its partners are responsible for improving and facilitating access to reproductive care and health services, through the rehabilitation of health centres, notably those in rural areas.

This project will contribute to the objectives of the Draft Program for Population and Development 2001-2002. Activities will place specific emphasis on medical and psychological support to women victims of sexual violence in the specifically targeted and identified 11 villages/cities. Other key aspects of the project include; (a) Identify and evaluate the needs of centres designated for rehabilitation; (b) Undertake minor repairs to 11 health centres; (c) Train health centre personnel; (d) Equip health centres with mini-kits; (d) Offer medical and psychological care to women victims of sexual violence, and; (e) Provide a regular supply of medicines to the health centres.

CONTACT DETAILS

Mr Fidelis Zama Chi, Representative, UNFPA
 Telephone: (242) 81 568 91
 Mobile: (242) 64 77 28
 Email: f.zamachi@undp.org

BUDGET**TOTAL REQUESTED****US\$ 323,500**

	2002
Situation analysis	25,000
Minor repairs (11 centres)	150,000
Training of health personnel	30,000
Medical kits (contraceptives)	56,000
Medical and psychological care	50,000
Programme support	12,500
Total	323,500

AGENCY**UNITED NATIONS CHILDREN'S FUND****PROJECT****COMMUNITY BASED TREATMENT OF DISEASES AFFECTING CHILDREN THROUGH THE EDUCATION OF MOTHERS****CODE****ROC-02-N30****OBJECTIVE**

Reduce the rate of morbidity resulting from malaria, diarrheic diseases, respiratory infections and malnutrition among children under age five

BENEFICIARIES

35,000 children under five years old and 100,000 women in Brazzaville, Pointe Noire, Dolisie, Nkayi, Kinkala, Ouessou and Owando

PARTNERS

Doctors of Africa, Ministry of Health, Solidarity and Humanitarian Action, religious groups, local and international NGOs

DURATION

January 2002 - December 2003

SUMMARY

Each year thousands of Congolese children die before their fifth birthday (a majority of these children do not even reach one year of age). Out of these deaths, 70% are due to malaria, diarrheic diseases, smallpocks, respiratory infections and malnutrition. Many deaths are associated to other factors such as bad hygiene, AIDS, and lack of family planning.

The integrated approach to diseases affecting children as a key to improving child health, promoted by UNICEF and WHO, has so far focused on health care. This project aims to widen the approach to include community support and care at home. To do this, it will aim to raise the awareness of women, who are largely responsible for the health of the family. The project will train 2000 'relay mothers' through the country. In turn, they will train 100,000 mothers.

The training themes are: nutrition, community and home care, promoting impregnated mosquito nets, personal hygiene, the importance of a sanitized environment, HIV/AIDS, and family planning.

CONTACT DETAILS

Mr Raymond Janssens, Representative, UNICEF
 Telephone: (242) 81 50 24
 Mobile: (242) 66 35 66
 Email: rjanssens@unicef.org

BUDGET

2002/2003

Training of community relays and health education for women	200,000
Basic and generic medication	50,000
Promotion of impregnated mosquito nets	100,000
Sanitation and hygiene infrastructure	100,000
Programme Support	50,000

TOTAL REQUESTED

Total 500,000

US\$ 500,000

UNITED NATIONS INTER-AGENCY EMERGENCY INITIATIVE

AGENCIES

OBJECTIVE

BENEFICIARIES

DURATION

SUMMARY

**CODE:
ROC-02-N31**

WHO/UNFPA/UNICEF/WFP/UNDP

To contribute to halting the spread of HIV/AIDS

All Congolese

November 2001 - October 2003

HIV/AIDS is spreading at an alarming rate in Congo. As a result of the consecutive civil wars, notification of the number of AIDS cases has not been carried out systematically for years. In 1995 HIV/AIDS prevalence already stood at 7.8 percent, well above the UNAIDS threshold of 4 percent for downward control. Years of violence, including large-scale sexual violence, and the disruption of the health care system, suggest that this percentage is much higher today, as results of various recent studies suggest. An infection rate of between 10 and 12 percent may still be a conservative estimate. If unchecked, this epidemic will annul all the benefits of peace and post-war reconstruction. Urgent action is therefore required.

Five UN agencies have created this project to join and multiply their efforts in the fight against HIV/AIDS, but UNESCO and other UN agencies will contribute to mobilising the public. This project comprises emergency measures to slow down the spread of HIV/AIDS, accompanied simultaneously by investment in national capacity for the long term. Activities are focused on "quick-win" interventions and specific target groups at risk (such as youth), vulnerable groups (orphans, women victims of sexual violence) while also building the capacity to produce recent and reliable data on HIV/AIDS in Congo. The expected results are the following:

LEAD AGENCY

EXPECTED RESULTS

UNFPA	Reduce the sexual transmission of HIV/AIDS, notably through promoting the use of contraceptives and halting sexual violence against women
UNICEF	Assist AIDS orphans and reduce mother-to-child transmission
WHO	Reinforce the capacity of national structures to deal with the problem of HIV/AIDS, notably through the establishment of epidemiological surveillance and measures to ensure safe blood transfusion
ALL AGENCIES	Mobilise the public and all possible sectors of society for the fight against HIV/AIDS
WFP	Provide complementary food assistance to the families of those living with HIV/AIDS
UNDP	Support the coordination of UN action and mobilise support for the UN joint effort

CONTACT DETAILS

Ms Genevieve Boutin, Head of Coordination Unit, UNDP
Telephone: (242) 81 03 88, (31) 20 5407 183
Mobile: (242) 68 73 16
Email: genevieve.boutin@undp.org

Contributions to this inter-agency project can be made through one of the following channels: (1) by funding directly the agency responsible for a specific activity; (2) by transferring earmarked funds (for an activity and/or and agency) to an inter-agency trust fund; (3) by transferring non-earmarked funds to an inter-agency trust fund (the agencies will decide together on fund allocation, according to needs).

**SEE
NEXT PAGE**

HIV/AIDS

UNITED NATIONS INTER-AGENCY EMERGENCY INITIATIVE

To attain each of the expected results and, in so doing, contribute to halting the spread of HIV/AIDS, the partner agencies plan to carry out the following activities:

WHO

Capacity-building for national institutions is a critical aspect of the fight against HIV/AIDS. WHO proposes to lead efforts in that field, placing specific emphasis on the establishment of a reliable epidemiological surveillance system. Moreover, WHO will promote research on HIV/AIDS and assist the development and implementation of safe blood transfusion practices.

UNFPA

Two thirds of Congo's population is aged between 15 and 24 and are the highest risk group for STDs and HIV/AIDS. UNFPA has designed youth targeted projects and works through NGOs, religious groups and community-based organisations to train peer-educators for youth, establish HIV/AIDS prevention clubs in schools, and provide sexuality education and information for behavioural change and RH services. This includes the availability, accessibility and use of contraceptives, especially male and female condoms.

UNICEF

The HIV/AIDS epidemic has left at least 65,000 children orphaned in Congo. Due to the lack of reporting and appropriate support structures for those affected, the number is no doubt significantly higher. UNICEF proposes to work in close partnership with NGOs to provide support for these children. Special attention will be placed on testing, awareness raising, and treatment for pregnant women, aimed at reducing the incidence of mother-to-child transmission.

WFP

Treatment for those affected by STDs, including HIV/AIDS, is not easily accessible. When it is accessible, the costs of the treatment are often too high for most families, especially those living in absolute poverty. Anti-retroviral treatments, when they become available, will also be too expensive for most. WFP proposes to deliver food aid to families affected by STDs and HIV/AIDS to enable them to devote a portion of their limited resources to paying for treatment.

UNDP

UNDP will contribute to the inter-agency effort through the implementation of the second phase of a project to prevent HIV/AIDS in the schools of Congo. Based on teacher training and peer education, this project was implemented in Brazzaville during 2001. It will now operate throughout the country. UNDP will also facilitate the coordination of UN agencies, and their efforts to fight HIV/AIDS, taking the lead in mobilising resources for this inter-agency emergency programme.

BUDGET

**TOTAL
REQUESTED**

US\$ 5,190,000

	2002/2003
Prevention of sexual transmission	1,150,000
Care for orphans and prevention of mother-to-child transmission	1,450,000
National capacity-building (including epidemiological surveillance and blood security)	1,775,000
Social mobilization	540,000
Coordination and resource mobilization	275,000
Food assistance	FUNDED
Total	5,190,000

AGENCY

PROJECT

CODE

OBJECTIVE

BENEFICIARIES

PARTNERS

DURATION

SUMMARY

UN DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME

SUPPORT TO PARLIAMENTARY INSTITUTIONS

ROC-02-N32

Support the transition from the National Transition Council to a professional, fully functioning parliament, able to fulfil its legislative functions and represent citizens in a way that promotes sustainable human development

Future parliamentarians and their constituencies

Association of West European Parliamentarians and the National Transition Council

June 2001 - May 2003

This project is providing support for the creation of a democratic national parliamentary institution. The project has already held an International Conference of African and European Parliamentarians in Brazzaville in 2001 that produced the “Brazzaville Declaration” on the role of parliamentarians in the fight against poverty. Taking account of the continuing political transition and in order to minimise risks, the project will be implemented in three phases and will emphasise capacity building. The project seeks to achieve:

Phase 1: (a) Specialised training of parliamentary civil servants and staff at the Magistrates National Administrative School; (b) Training and organisation of a series of seminars and workshops on specific topics for current National Transition Council Members.

Phase 2: (a) Training of parliamentary civil servants and NTC Members; (b) Equipping the Parliamentary Documentation Centre with relevant documents, reference books and other materials

Phase 3: (a) A strategy to reinforce the relationship between parliament and the press; (b) Capacity-building for the parliamentary communications service; (c) If elections are held, training of the elected parliamentarians.

CONTACT DETAILS

Mr Jacques Bandelier, Deputy Representative, UNDP
 Telephone: (242) 81 55 63
 Mobile: (242) 51 67 74
 Email: jacques.bandelier@undp.org

BUDGET

TOTAL REQUESTED

US\$ 200,000

	2001/2003
Training, workshops and exchange with other parliamentarians	400,000
Dialogue, consultation, elections	230,000
Management, including project monitoring	70,000
Sub Total	700,000
Already Funded	
UNDP 400,000, UNDP/GPPS 100,000	500,000
Total	200,000

AGENCY
**UN DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME AND
HIGH COMMISSION FOR HUMAN RIGHTS**
PROJECT
JUSTICE AND HUMAN RIGHTS
CODE
ROC-02-N33
OBJECTIVE

Reinforce rule of law, improve justice mechanisms to promote and protect human rights, and fight corruption in public bodies, particularly the judiciary

BENEFICIARIES

Judges, magistrates, police officers, lawyers, human rights and other civil society organisations, journalists, victims and the accused

PARTNERS

Ministry of Justice, national NGOs for human rights

DURATION

October 2001 - September 2003

SUMMARY

Accessibility to fair courts and the abolition of impunity are of critical for confidence in peace building. This project is now underway, to:

Promote the rule of law and reinforce national institutions:

- Prepare and distribute a national plan of action for the promotion and protection of human rights 2001-2003;
- Establish legal aid clinics in Brazzaville and Pointe Noire to offer free legal assistance to vulnerable individuals;
- Human rights training for at least 100 judges, lawyers, journalists and NGOs;
- Establishment of a network of human rights trainers.

Reinforce transparency and professionalism in public institutions:

- Organisation of at least one assessment mission to Congo by an international organisation specialised in corruption detection and analysis;
- Completion of a report on corrupt practices within the judiciary; and,
- A national campaign to promote transparency, and anti-corruption initiatives within the judiciary and law enforcement institutions.

Consolidate civil society's role in defending human rights:

- Creation of a resource centre for human rights and interested NGOs; and,
- Establishment and equipping of a Human Rights Documentation Centre.

**CONTACT
DETAILS**

 Mr Jacques Bandelier, Deputy Representative, UNDP
 Telephone: (242) 81 55 63
 Mobile: (242) 51 67 74
 Email: jacques.bandelier@undp.org

BUDGET

2002/2003

Training and workshops on respect for human rights	450,000
Capacity-building for Directorate and NGOs	390,000
Civic campaigns	140,000
Management, including project monitoring	160,000

**TOTAL
REQUESTED**

Sub Total	1,140,000
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US\$ 450,000

Already Funded	
UNDP 462,000, HCHR 140,000, Republic of Congo 88,000	690,000
Total Requested	450,000

AGENCY**UNITED NATIONS CHILDREN'S FUND****PROJECT****PROVISION OF BASIC SERVICES FOR
INDIGENOUS PYGMIES****CODE****ROC-02-N34****OBJECTIVE**

Improve the health and nutritional condition, and educational status of the pygmies, while providing self-sustaining means-of-production advice and assistance

BENEFICIARIES

50,000 pygmy families (150,000 children) in the regions of Sangha, Likouala, Plateaux and Lekoumou

PARTNERS

Local and national administrative and health authorities, including international NGO's and local communities

DURATION

January 2002 - December 2003

SUMMARY

Pygmies constitute the most vulnerable, and the most marginalised, segment of the population. This project represents a concerted effort by UNICEF to improve pygmies' general living conditions, through better access to health-care (establishing community health centres), education (establishing community schools), and providing means-of-production advice and assistance (agricultural tools, seeds and micro-credit).

**CONTACT
DETAILS**

Mr Raymond Janssens, Representative, UNICEF
Telephone: (242) 81 50 24
Mobile: (242) 66 35 66
Email: rjanssens@unicef.org

BUDGET

2002/2003

Equipment and supplies	300,000
Economic activity support	40,000
Basic materials	30,000
Awareness and information campaign	10,000
Follow-up and evaluation	20,000
Programme Support	100,000
Total	500,000

**TOTAL
REQUESTED****US\$ 500,000**

AGENCY

UN DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME

PROJECT

**COMMUNITY ACTION FOR
POST-CONFLICT RECOVERY**

PROJECT CODE

ROC-02-N35

OBJECTIVE

Assist communities victimised by war with their own efforts to reintegrate households, restore peace and re-build a normal life that is economically and socially sustainable

BENEFICIARIES

580,000 people

PARTNERS

NGOs, United Nations agencies and the private sector

DURATION

May 2000 - December 2002

SUMMARY

This project is ongoing and seeks continued support.

Rehabilitation to date has included: 71 classrooms for 5,000 students, health facilities serving 28,000, 20 wells or boreholes serving 25,000, three cisterns, four bridges and over 100 micro-projects employing over 4,000 people, half in the agricultural sector.

The following activities are being implemented through sub-contracts established with national and international NGOs: (a) Support to rural communities; (b) Access to clean water; (c) Employment and community development; (d) Agricultural inputs and tools; (e) Rehabilitation of schools and health centres; (f) Rehabilitation of the Djoumouna aquacultural station, and; (g) Promotion of honey production.

Since February 2001, the project has been given the job of managing a World Bank Post-Conflict Fund of a total of one million dollars (500,000 has been received so far).

CONTACT DETAILS

Mr Jacques Bandelier, Deputy Representative, UNDP
Telephone: (242) 81 55 63
Mobile: (242) 51 67 74
Email: jacques.bandelier@undp.org

BUDGET

TOTAL REQUESTED

US\$ 2,000,000

2000/2002

Sub-contracts, re-establishing income-generation and social services	3,164,000
Sub-contract, community consultation and mobilisation	300,000
Management, including project monitoring	700,000
Sub Total	4,164,000

Funding Received	
Chevron 39,000, Italy 230,355, Nomeco 25,000, Republic of Congo 200,000, Sweden 369,645, UNDP 800,000 and World Bank 500,000	2,164,000

Total requested in 2002	2,000,000
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AGENCY

**INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATION
FOR MIGRATION**

PROJECT

**MIGRATION INITIATIVE FOR DEVELOPMENT IN
AFRICA (MIDA)**

PROJECT CODE

ROC-02-N36

OBJECTIVE

Establish linkages between Republic of Congo and nationals abroad

BENEFICIARIES

Public and private institutions in Republic of Congo and nationals abroad
(over 5,000 beneficiaries from the projects partnerships)

PARTNERS

Republic of Congo Foreign Ministry and other public institutions and NGOs

DURATION

January 2002 - December 2002

SUMMARY

The purpose of MIDA is to match the assessed skill needs of African countries with available skills and other resources of Africans in the Diaspora, and to facilitate the utilization of these capacities for the development efforts of participating African countries.

In the Republic of Congo, MIDA will set up dynamically updated, and interlinked, databases of; (a) Skills needs in priority development areas or programs in RoC, both at the government level or in NGOs and private firms, and; (b) Existing skills, and financial or other resources of Congolese in the Diaspora. A key element of this networking effort will be a dynamic Internet site, as the centrepiece of an intensive communications strategy both in RoC and abroad. Partnerships will then be developed between the interested parties in order to facilitate the transfer/exchange of skills, knowledge and/or resources in a mutually beneficial manner.

The project targets at least 250 Congolese nationals of the Diaspora, and at least 25 local public/NGO or private institutions to be identified and integrated into the network, and their demand/supply of skills and resources communicated to all parties. At least 20 partnerships will be established in the first year, and more than 50 partnerships in the second year.

**CONTACT
DETAILS**

Mr Maximo Halty, Manager of Programme, IOM
Telephone: (242) 81 07 66
Mobile: (242) 68 67 36
Email: maximo.halty@undp.org

BUDGET

	2002	2003
Skills/resource identification in host countries	50,000	35,000
Skills/resource needs identification in RoC	15,000	10,000
Outreach, information, database, internet site, transport	55,000	45,000
Operational	15,000	15,000
Sub Total	135,000	105,000
Total		240,000

**TOTAL
REQUESTED**

US\$ 240,000

AGENCY**UNITED NATIONS HIGH COMMISSIONER
FOR REFUGEES****PROJECT****MULTI-SECTORIAL ASSISTANCE TO REFUGEES
LIVING IN CONGO AS WELL AS REINTEGRATION AS-
SISTANCE TO CONGOLESE RETURNEES****CODE****ROC-02-N37****OBJECTIVE**

To ensure international protection; to offer assistance to the voluntary return and reintegration of Congolese refugees; to facilitate the voluntary repatriation and reinstallation/reunification when applicable

BENEFICIARIES

87,200 refugees from the DRC, 10,000 Angolans, 6,700 Rwandans, 100 Burundians, 1,625 Central Africans, 2,300 urban refugees, and 23,555 individuals from the Republic of Congo

PARTNERS

WFP, IRC, GTZ, IFRC, CEMIR and others

DURATION

January 2002 - December 2002

SUMMARY

Political stability in Congo is expected to allow for the voluntary return of numerous Congolese refugees living in Gabon and DRC in 2002.

Congolese refugees outside of Republic of Congo: The signing of a Tripartite return between RoC, Gabon and UNHCR on 11 September 2001 has facilitated the return of Congolese living in Gabon. This operation will commence by the end of 2001 and is expected to continue throughout 2002.

Refugees from DRC: Dialogue in late December may result in resolutions that would guarantee the voluntary return of DRC refugees currently living in RoC.

Angolan refugees: The progressive disengagement of local equipment and voluntary return of refugees to Angola will be facilitated.

Central African refugees: we will assist the refugees from CAR currently living in Betou and Impfondo to integrate locally. For all urban refugees in Brazzaville, HCR is planning temporary subsistence and education assistance.

Burundian and Rwandan refugees: In 2002, UNHCR will continue to facilitate the voluntary return of those who so desire.

**CONTACT
DETAILS**Mr Ngolardje Mbaidjol, Regional Representative, UNHCR
Telephone: (243) 45615
E-mail: mbaidjol@unhcr.ch**BUDGET****TOTAL
REQUESTED****US\$ 6,772,150**

Protection, follow-up and coordination	2,132,499
Food, household needs, water and sanitation	152,762
Transport/logistics and shelter/other structures	916,762
Health/nutrition, community services and education	647,736
Agriculture and forestry/environment	126,959
Income generation	37,742
Protection	118,744
Support to the implementation agency	506,447
Programme support	2,132,499
Total	6,772,150

AGENCY

WORLD FOOD PROGRAMME

PROJECT

FOOD ASSISTANCE FOR DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO REFUGEES IN THE REPUBLIC OF CONGO

CODE

ROC-02-N38

OBJECTIVE

Pursue the emergency food assistance for war-affected populations and support the rehabilitation of infrastructure and primary economic recovery

BENEFICIARIES

80,000 affected people in 2002 (71,000 refugees from DRC comprising 70 percent women and children, 9,000 local vulnerables, particularly children, pregnant and lactating mothers and serious ill people.

PARTNERS

WFP, UNHCR, CEMIR, IRC

DURATION

January 2002 - December 2002

SUMMARY

The internal conflicts in the Democratic Republic of Congo resulted in great numbers of refugees fleeing toward the northern regions of the Republic of Congo beginning in 1999. By 2001, approximately 93,000 refugees had fled and crossed the river into RoC (Likouala region).

This joint WFP/UNHCR project will provide 71,000 refugees from DRC, and 9,000 vulnerable locals (children, pregnant and lactating mothers) with 9,6552 MT of supplementary food in Loukolela, Impfondo and Betou. Additional activities will include WFP assisted Government land allocation, distribution of agricultural and fishing materials and seeds.

CONTACT DETAILS

Mr Sory Ouane, Representative, WFP
 Telephone: (242) 81 11 68
 Mobile: (242) 66 15 00
 Email: sory.ouane@wfp.org

BUDGET

	2002
Rice	1,436,400
Beans	792,000
Salt	9,720
Sub-Total	2,238,120
Maritime freight and insurance	556,920
LTSH costs	1,205,568
Direct support costs	162,175
Indirect support costs	324,698
Total	4,487,481

TOTAL REQUESTED

US\$ 4,487,481

AGENCY

PROJECT

CODE

OBJECTIVE

BENEFICIARIES

PARTNERS

DURATION

SUMMARY

UN DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME & INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATION FOR MIGRATION

REINTEGRATION OF EX-COMBATANTS AND SMALL ARMS COLLECTION - PHASE 2

ROC-02-N39

Assist communities to reintegrate ex-combatants and collect and destroy small arms

10,000 more ex-militia members, their households and communities

World Bank, Congolese Government, NGO's, Congo's High Commission for Reintegration of Ex-combatants, and other United Nations agencies

December 2001 - December 2002

In 2001, Phase I reintegrated 7,000 ex-combatants, collected 11,000 small arms, light weapons, explosives, and financed 2,190 micro-enterprise projects.

There are an estimated total of at least 17,000 'hard core' former fighters, thus 10,000 more are targeted under Phase II. The emphasis in reintegration projects will vary, from supporting an individual ex-militia member's micro-enterprise with a micro-grant, to support for labour-intensive works. Phase II includes expanding the most successful micro-projects from Phase I.

The organisation *Small Arms Survey* conducted detailed research for UNDP (Congo) in 2001 that estimated 41,000 small arms and light weapons remain in circulation. A total of 16,000 small arms have been collected to date by either government or IOM/UNDP project. The collection/destruction of 20,000 arms under Phase II will mean that the majority of such weapons will be eliminated.

In close cooperation with the World Bank, Phase II will also assist the building of the newly-created national *High Commission for the Reintegration of Ex-Combatants*. Ex-combatants, disarmed and reintegrated, still remain a force to contend with in the long-term, thus a long-term national institution is needed.

CONTACT DETAILS

Mr Maximo Halty, Manager of Programme, IOM
 Telephone: (242) 81 07 66
 Mobile: (242) 68 67 36
 Email: maximo.halty@undp.org

BUDGET

TOTAL REQUESTED

US\$ 5,200,000

Phase 1 **COMPLETED**

(US 500,000, Congo 400,000, Norway 600,000, Sweden 500,000 UNDP/ERD 350,000) Total 2,925,000

Phase 2	2002
Income generating projects for ex-combatants and their communities	3,250,000
Additional support to ex-combatants (training, employment referral)	800,000
Collection and destruction of arms	550,000
Project management and monitoring	600,000
Total	5,200,000

AGENCY

**INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATION
FOR MIGRATION (IOM)**

PROJECT

**SMALL ARMS COLLECTION, REPATRIATION AND
REINTEGRATION OF DRC EX-COMBATANTS**

CODE

ROC-02-N40

OBJECTIVE

To disarm, repatriate and reintegrate Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) former Zaire Army Forces ex-combatants (Ex-FAZ) residing in Republic of Congo, thereby contributing to the maintenance of stability and peace in the Republic of Congo, and the DRC

BENEFICIARIES

5,000 Ex-FAZ, and local northern populations impact by the Ex-FAZ presence

PARTNERS

UN Development Programme

DURATION

January 2002 - December 2003

SUMMARY

The project is to disarm these DRC ex-combatants currently in RoC, repatriate those that are willing, and settle locally those unwilling to return. Those who opt to settle in Republic of Congo will be supported in their efforts to reintegrate in a way that is both economically and socially sustainable. The main project activities will be: (a) voluntary arms collection from at least 3,000 DRC ex-combatants; (b) repatriation/reintegration support through either job-creation and/or income-generating projects for 5,000 ex-combatants, to be undertaken individually or in small groups; (c) repatriation to DRC or formal residence status in RoC, and; (d) training and technical assistance to assure sustainability of the reintegration projects.

CONTACT DETAILS

Mr Maximo Halty, Manager of Programme, IOM
Telephone: (242) 81 07 66
Mobile: (242) 68 67 36
Email: maximo.halty@undp.org

BUDGET

	2002	2003
Registration, arms collection and screening	100,000	50,000
Repatriation and reintegration	1,270,000	730,000
Training, technical assistance and supervision	110,000	140,000
Operational and administration	220,000	180,000
Sub Totals	1,700,000	1,100,000
Total (2002-2003)		2,800,000

TOTAL REQUESTED

US\$ 2,800,000

AGENCY

UN COORDINATION UNIT

PROJECT

EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS

CODE

ROC-02-N41

OBJECTIVE

Ensure that the United Nations and its partners are capable of responding to emergencies in an effective and timely manner by facilitating data collection and analysis, and coordination efforts

BENEFICIARIES

UNCT, populations in affected regions, government

PARTNERS

UN Country Team, OCHA, government

DURATION

January 2002 - December 2002

SUMMARY

While peace and security have constantly improved since 1999, a number of factors may lead to destabilisation or even a renewal of conflict. The international community must be prepared to respond to the emergency needs of the population if this were to occur.

The UN Coordination Unit has been functioning since August 2001. One of its main objectives is to ensure that the UN and its partners prepare for, and respond to, emergencies, swiftly and effectively.

Through this project, the Unit will gather and analyse information on issues that are key to the elaboration of appropriate contingency plans. The following studies will be carried out: (1) A study on the patterns of internal displacement during the 1990's, including provisions of possible displacement patterns in the future; (2) Studies in zones likely to receive refugees and /or IDPs to identify existing infrastructure and needs (in terms of preparation and response); (3) Studies in areas where destabilisation may occur due to the ex-militia problem, to identify the populations likely to require assistance, existing resources and needs, and monitor the security situation, and; (4) An evaluation to identify storage sites for food and non-food items all over the country.

CONTACT DETAILS

Ms Genevieve Boutin, Head of Coordination Unit
 Telephone: (242) 81 03 88 - Satellite Telephone: (31) 20 54 07 183
 Mobile: (242) 68 73 16
 Email: genevieve.boutin@undp.org

BUDGET

TOTAL REQUESTED

US\$ 36,500

	2002
Study on internal displacement	13,500
Studies on response to refugee and IDP situations	8,000
Studies in zones of concentration of ex-militia	10,000
Evaluation and identification of storage sites	5,000
Total	36,500

AGENCY**WORLD HEALTH ORGANISATION****PROJECT****REHABILITATION AND REINFORCING OF WATER AND FOOD ANALYSIS LABORATORIES****CODE****ROC-02-N42****OBJECTIVE**

To reduce the health risk from the presence of pollutants in drinking water

BENEFICIARIES

Population in Brazzaville, Pointe-Noire, Dolisie, Nkayi, Owando, Ouesso, Djambala, Kinkala, Sibiti, Loutété, Mossendjo, Makoua, Boundji, Madingou, Ewo, Gamboma and Oyo

PARTNERS

Ministry of Health and Humanitarian Action

DURATION

January 2002 - December 2003

SUMMARY

In Congo, the low rate of access to drinking water (approximately 59% in urban areas and 11% in rural areas) forces the population to use water from non-protected wells, rain collected in dirty reservoirs or containers that are not disinfected. In addition, the proliferation of small restaurants and the heavy reliance on street food does not ensure consumers are purchasing safe food.

The morbidity phenomenon in Congo is dominated by illnesses linked to environmental degradation, notably malaria, water and food related illnesses - diarrhoea, typhoid fever, intestinal parasites and dysentery. Children and the poor are the most heavily impacted by these diseases. Insufficient supply of drinkable water and the lack of food hygiene are among the major causes of the spread of these diseases. This project will work toward prevention measures, including the establishment of monitoring and control systems for water quality and food, and the staffing of laboratories with qualified personnel.

CONTACT DETAILS

Dr Lamine Cisse Sarr, Representative, WHO
Telephone: (242) 81 38 01
Mobile: (242) 66 33 40
Email: lamine-cisse.sarr@undp.org

BUDGET

2002/2003

Equipment and supplies for the central hygiene laboratory	100,000
Equipment and supplies for peripheral laboratories	125,000
Building the competencies of personnel	15,000
Coordination, monitoring and supervision of activities	25,000
Administrative costs	15,000

Total 280,000

TOTAL REQUESTED**US\$ 280,000**

INTERNATIONAL RESCUE COMMITTEE



INTERNATIONAL RESCUE COMMITTEE
REPUBLIC OF CONGO PROGRAMMES
 P.O. Box 1410
 Telecel: 8803683 · Cyrtel: 42 22 68
 e-mail: ircbrazzaville@yahoo.com



Founded in 1933, the International Rescue Committee is the leading non-sectarian, voluntary organization providing relief, protection, and resettlement services for refugees and victims of oppression or violent conflict. IRC is committed to freedom, human dignity, and self-reliance. This commitment is reflected in well-planned resettlement assistance, global emergency relief, rehabilitation, and advocacy for refugees.

PROGRAMMES

The IRC (Congo) has its head office in Brazzaville as well as operational bases in Dolisie and Betou. The IRC works closely with the government, United Nations agencies and local non-governmental organizations. The IRC's programs focus on rehabilitating health structures destroyed by the war, assisting street children in urban centers, providing shelter, water, sanitation, and health care to refugee populations, providing education and schooling facilities to refugee and local children, and protecting and ensuring the well-being of vulnerable members of the refugee and local populations, including female victims of sexual and gender based violence.

HEALTH

The IRC works with the Ministry of Health to rehabilitate 21 health centers and train its national staff in the war-affected southern districts of Dolisie and Lekoumou. The IRC helps to provide basic health care to approximately 35,000 refugees from the Democratic Republic of Congo along the Oubangui and Congo river.

STREET CHILDREN

The IRC provides a day-time safe haven for children living on the streets of Brazzaville, reunifying them with their families when possible and offering them schooling and apprenticeships opportunities.

EDUCATION

The IRC constructs informal schools and organizes curricular and extra-curricular activities for over 5,000 refugee and local children in the region of Betou.

COMMUNITY SERVICES

The IRC assists the vulnerable individuals of the DRC refugee population by implementing small-scale income generating activities and reunification and reintegration activities for unaccompanied minors.

SEXUAL AND GENDER BASED VIOLENCE

The IRC raises awareness in the northern regions, on sexual and gender violence, concentrating on the education of public and paramilitary forces. The IRC assures that victims receive medical and psychological care.

WATER AND SANITATION

The IRC constructs wells, water systems and latrines for the DRC refugee populations residing in and around Betou.

SHELTER

The IRC provides shelter, non-food items and food to the DRC refugee populations dispersed along the banks of the Oubangui and Congo rivers.



EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE ASSOCIATION (ASU)

M. Bertil Ahman, National Director, Brazzaville
 Tel 51 32 80, 58 82 16
 E-mail stenman@congonet.cg

Emergency Assistance Action is an international NGO. It was created at the initiative of the Evangelical Churches of Sweden, Norway and Congo. Its objective is to contribute to the improvement of the socio-sanitary and humanitarian living conditions of Congo's population.

During the period of 1999 to 2001, ASU implemented projects to assist victims, strictly from a humanitarian perspective. The main aspects of this assistance were: nutrition, health, assistance to traumatised women, youth and children, agriculture, micro-credit, and resettlement.

These activities have been funded mostly by the Swedish International Development Agency, the Norwegian Foreign Affairs Ministry, and United Nations agencies. In order to ensure the sustainability of its assistance, ASU would like, in the future, to implement the following:

- 1) Continue efforts already undertaken to assist reintegration of war-affected populations and fight poverty;
- 2) Provide humanitarian assistance in response to man-made or natural disasters; and,
- 3) Implement capacity-building activities for government officials and NGOs in the humanitarian sector.

DOCTORS WITHOUT BORDERS -FRANCE

Doctors Without Borders has been active in Congo-Brazzaville since 1999.

As other organizations, MSF must make operational choices. To do so, it builds on efforts by the Ministry of Health and the Regional Directorates. Where implementation strategies allow health structures to rapidly become autonomous, MSF gradually withdraws its assistance and support the transition through donations in essential medicines and equipment. Where the situation remains more precarious, MSF maintains a longer term engagement through supplying the technical and human resources necessary to respond to the health problems of vulnerable populations.

Although curative treatment is our central concern, psychological and psychiatric care is offered for trauma victims. This aspect is also taken into account through the programme to assist victims of sexual violence. MSF supports this programme at the Makelekele Hospital and the maternal ward « Blanche Gomez » of Brazzaville. In addition to this programme, efforts are continuously made to raise the awareness of civil society and public authorities on the fact that rapes continue to be committed despite the end of hostilities.

MSF in collaboration with health authorities is pursuing its activities for the benefit of Congo's population by maintaining a presence where sanitary risks are the highest.

PROGRAMME I

Mindouli (Pool region): Support to health structures (potential beneficiaries: 45000 people)

MAIN ACTIVITIES

Support to the Mindouli hospital and to four peripheral health centres, including two in the northern areas (ninja), and restart PEV and epidemiological surveillance, supply in basic medicines and equipment.

Specific objectives: Reduce mortality rates for this hospital through, reinforcing medical presence, recommencement of services (emergency, consultations), improvement of nursing services and promoting better management of stocks; Continue support to health centres; Vaccination and epidemiological surveillance.

- *MSF's work in Congo is in accordance with the Ministry of Health, Solidarity and Humanitarian Action*
- *In 2000, ECHO funded MSF's activities in Sibiti (€450 000)*
- *In 2001, MSF's operational budget will total about €1 600 000*
- *160 national staff and 18 internationals work on MSF projects in Congo*



MSF

Philippe CACHET, chef de mission
136, rue Charles Foucault Brazzaville
Tel : (242) 81 55 28 / 51 53 93
msffbraz@congonet.cg

PROGRAMME II

Brazzaville : Support to the national programme to fight sexual violence (potential beneficiaries: women and girls aged between 4 and 40 years).

MAIN ACTIVITIES

Medical and psychological treatment and monitoring of victims, preventive treatment for HIV (through ARVs), STDs, pregnancy (day-after pill), and support to voluntary interruption of pregnancy when required. Follow-up with children born as a result of rape. Establishment of the rape certificate and taking into account cultural factors.

Social support for victims, informing them about social reintegration networks and opportunities

Study of the legal status of rape in Congolese law and possibilities for recourse to justice.

Specific objectives : Support quality medical assistance; Reinforce psychological assistance to women and/or mother and child; Increase the ability of medical personnel to detect psychological assistance needs for children; Reinforce local networks of associations that provide adequate assistance; Encourage legal recognition of the rights of victims; Extend this activity to other reference hospitals, and; Compile data on sexual violence.

PROGRAMME III

Bétou (Likouala region): assistance to refugees and health structures (potential beneficiaries 12-15,000)

MAIN ACTIVITIES

Initiated in response to the refugee problem, this project evolved into a larger programme to rehabilitate regional health centres that were badly deteriorated due to isolation and lack of communication. This project started in the context of a national structure, but due to lack of human resources is now run by MSF. The established structures offer a larger array of services than regular integrated health centres. Medical dispensaries have also been established in zones of high-refugee concentration. Water, hygiene and sanitation are also provided.

Specific objectives: To provide high-quality treatment to reduce death from a number of illnesses through: The improvement of medical/nursing services offered at the health centre; The control and medical supervision of nurses working in dispensaries along the river; The establishment of secured blood transfusion mechanisms; The extension of vaccination coverage to populations living along the river; Treatment of those in need of emergency surgery; Epidemiological surveillance; Monitoring of the quality of water, hygiene and sanitation to ensure better quality, and; Encouraging Health Ministry personnel to reintegrate the health centre.

INTERNATIONAL MEDICAL AID



Aide Médicale Internationale

Contact in Congo :
Fabienne FAUQUEREAU
Head of Mission
Tel : 00 242 62 14 70
e-mail : amicongo@voilà.fr

France
Rémi POILLERAT
Programme Officer
Tel : 00 33 1 46 36 04 04
e-mail: r.poillerat@amifrance.org

Because access to at least basic health care should be one of the fundamental rights of every human being, International Medical Aid (AMI) fights, since 1979, worldwide to improve or set up systems of health accessible to the most deprived populations. The thread of our actions has always been training. The priority objective of our programs is the medical self-reliance of populations. A punctual health care assistance is gratifying for those who dispense it, but it is an illusion to imagine it can create long terms change if there is no relay between the expatriate and local medical teams. Only a real transfer of our medical knowledge, adapted to the regional and cultural realities, will allow the establishment of a long-term sanitary policy.

In the spirit of these principles, AMI has introduced, since April, 2001, a program of support to the reference hospital of Impfondo, in the north of Republic of Congo. The program has three main components: Rehabilitation of the surgery service, maternity, medicine et paediatrics; Donation of equipment and medicines, and; Training of the medical personnel, organisational support and monitoring, and health education campaigns for the population

Beneficiaries: Hospital personnel, 78,000 local people, 50,000 refugees from DRC and Central Africa.

The sanitary situation of the inhabitants of the Likouala region, including the prefecture of Impfondo is very precarious, and is further threatened by the epidemiological risks that result from an influx of refugees. Existing infrastructures are completely insufficient and the staff are not sufficiently qualified to face this situation. AMI thus intends to develop similar programs in Integrated Health Centres in Dongou, north of Impfondo, and Epena, to the south.

After 6 months of operations at the Reference Hospital, we were able to implement a number of activities (rehabilitation, donations of equipment, training). We would like to build on these actions to achieve the self-reliance of populations. We are therefore currently searching for external funding so as to ensure the long term viability of these activities.

DOCTORS WITHOUT BORDERS - HOLLAND

Sonja van Osch MD.
Head of Mission
Tel: 00 242 81 0 6 14
E-mail: msfh-brazzaville-hom@amsterdam.msf.org

EXISTING PROJECT THAT CONTINUES INTO 2002:**1) GAMBOMA HUMAN AFRICAN TRYPANOSOMIASIS PROJECT**

In October 2000, MSF-H established a presence in Gamboma (Plateau region) to investigate the magnitude of the sleeping sickness epidemic in the region. By September 2001, after 11,430 people were screened, the disease was found in epidemic proportions. This project seeks to reduce mortality due to Human African Trypanosomiasis by actively finding, screening and treating HAT patients, while simultaneously lobbying the health authorities to assume responsibility, both on project and national levels.

NEW PROJECT TO START IN 2002:**1) BOUENZA HUMAN AFRICAN TRYPANOSOMIASIS PROJECT**

Since the beginning of MSF trypanosomiasis activities in RoC the objective has been to reduce mortality due to HAT and lobby for increased coverage by the national authorities. In the Bouenza region, where the epidemic prevalence is believed more widespread than in the Gamboma focus there is minimal health authority action. MSF will undertake to start up the active screening and treatment components of the programme and encourage the National programme to establish additional (control) services.

TARGET POPULATION:

Total population of Bouenza Region is estimated at 234,000. The HAT affected area has a population of 155,400, of which 100,000 are estimated to be at risk for sleeping sickness. The population of the catchment area of Madingou and Nkayi CDT is approximately 80,000. Target population for screening in 2002: 50,000 and anticipated number of patients: 1800 (est. prevalence 4%). Ratio P1/P2 is estimated at 60/40.

BUDGET REQUIRED: 1.5 MILLION EURO

UN PLAN 2002

UN COUNTRY TEAM



REPUBLIC OF CONGO