



Investing in women and adolescents: picking up the pace

Annual Report 2023 UNFPA-DR Congo



No one left behind

Annual Report 2023

Map of the Democratic Republic of Congo



Table of contents

ACRONYMS.....	6
MESSAGE FROM THE REPRESENTATIVE	8
KEY RESULTS.....	10
● ZERO UNMET NEED FOR FAMILY PLANNING.....	12
● ZERO PREVENTABLE MATERNAL DEATHS.....	13
● ZERO GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE	14
● UNLEASHING THE POTENTIAL OF YOUNG PEOPLE.....	15
PROGRESS ACHIEVED IN 2023.....	16
● ELIMINATING UNMET NEED FOR FAMILY PLANNING.....	17
● ELIMINATING PREVENTABLE MATERNAL DEATHS.....	21
● ELIMINATING GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE.....	25
● UNLEASHING YOUNG PEOPLE’S POTENTIAL.....	29
● DEMOGRAPHIC DYNAMICS.....	33
● HUMANITARIAN RESPONSE	37
AFFECTED POPULATION STRATUM.....	40
INNOVATION	47
MAJOR EVENTS.....	49
RESOURCE MOBILIZATION AND STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIPS.....	52
RESOURCE MOBILIZATION CHALLENGES.....	53
HUMAN RESOURCES.....	54
STAFFING SITUATION.....	55
SOUTH-SOUTH COOPERATION.....	56

Acronyms

AADPD	Addis Ababa Declaration on Population and Development
AIDS	Acquired immunodeficiency syndrome
CAFI	Central African Forest Initiative
CERF	Central Emergency Response Fund
CISM	Integrated multi-sector service center
CPD	Country Program Development
DD	Demographic dividend
ENV	National Voluntary Examination
ERM	Multi-sector rapid assessment
ESARO	UNFPA East and Southern Africa Regional Office
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
FP	Family Planning
FP2030	Family Planning 2030
FONAREC	National Victims' Reparations Fund
GBV	Gender-based violence
GROUND FLOOR	Democratic Republic of Congo
H6+	Grouping of United Nations Agencies working in Health
HIV	Human immunodeficiency virus
IASC	Interagency Standing Committee
ICPD	International Conference on Population and Development
INS	National Institute of Statistics
ISTM	Institut Supérieur des Techniques Médicales
LMA	Last Mile Assurance
MES/SRH	Minimum Emergency Service for Sexual and Reproductive Health
MNH	Maternal and neonatal health
NICTs	New Information and Communication Technologies
PA-CIPD	Programme of Action International Conference on Population and Development-
PMDSR	Perinatal maternal death surveillance and response
PNBSES	National curriculum for specific branches of special education
PROSANI	Integrated health project
CISM	Integrated multi-sector service center

PSEA	Preventing sexual exploitation and abuse
RGPH2	Second General Census of Population and Housing
SDG	Sustainable Development Goals
SEA	Sexual Exploitation and Abuse
SH	Sexual harassment
SONU	Emergency obstetric and neonatal care
STI	Sexually Transmitted Infection
UG-PDSS	Health System Development Program Management Unit
UN	United Nations
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNFPA	United Nations Population Fund
UNHCR	United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees
UNICEF	United Nations Children's Fund
USAID	United States Agency for International and Development
WCBA	Women of childbearing age
WFP	World Food Program
WHO	World Health Organization



Foreword



“

As we move towards the end of the programming cycle, it is important to capitalise on all the achievements by documenting successful experiences and drawing all the lessons from them for the next cooperation program, because despite the progress made, the challenges remain enormous.

”

Mrs Suzanne Mandong
Representative a.i UNFPA-DRC

UNFPA supports initiatives for adolescent girls with disabilities, to protect them from violence, preserve their health and strengthen their schooling with a view to help them acquire the necessary practical skills....



Keys results



ZERO unmet need for family planning



2.842.545

New users of modern contraceptive methods



1.695.253

Unwanted pregnancies prevented



3.993.019

Couple years of protection (CYP) provided



ZERO preventable maternal deaths



2.640

Midwives trained at the Institut Supérieur des Techniques Médicales (ISTM)



3.056

Maternal deaths avoided



1.006

Cases of obstetric fistula repaired

Principaux résultats



ZERO gender-based violence



209.600

Survivors of GBV received holistic care



36

Integrated multi-sector service centers offering care services established



1.4 million

People sensitized on GBV



Unleashing the potential of young people



2.640

Adolescents and young people
educated about STI/HIV/AIDS and
family planning



138.760

New users of modern contraceptive
methods among young people



118,000

Young people received
comprehensive sexuality education
and information on and reproductive
health at school

Progress achieved in 2023





Eliminate unmet need for family planning



2.842.545

New users of modern Family Planning methods



8.819.530

USD contribution from UNFPA Supply Partnership



3.993.019

Couple Years of Protection (CYP) provided



224.398

Unsafe abortions averted



1.695.253

Unwanted pregnancies averted



3.056

Maternal deaths averted



Main interventions

Family planning services

In the humanitarian context, in response to the various crises resulting from armed conflict and natural disasters, UNFPA acquired and distributed products (contraceptives, maternal and newborn health medicines including emergency reproductive health kits, dignity kits, tents and other medical materials and equipment) worth \$3,052,997, during the activation of level 3 of the humanitarian emergency response (Scale-Up), in Eastern DRC from June 16 to December 31, 2023.

Family planning has been integrated into resilience projects in partnership with FAO, WFP and UNICEF to benefit farmers living in rural areas. Supervisors of peasant organizations were trained in community-based contraceptive distribution in Mwenga, Kaniola, Walungu, Lemera, Ruzizi and Kalehe.

Supply chain management and Last Mile Assurance

- We supported the capacity building of health providers to create demand for and supply of family planning services to increase contraceptive prevalence in the provinces of Maniema, Kasai, Tshopo, and Sankuru.
- We provided family planning services in humanitarian situations to 30164 women and girls living in IDP sites in the provinces of North Kivu, South Kivu and Ituri, through mobile clinics and community-based distribution.
- We innovated with the use of new technologies (Africhain mobile application) software developed by AfriYAN-DRC for efficient contraceptive supply chain management and data collection.
- We pre-positioned and distributed contraceptive products, emergency reproductive health kits, dignity kits, tents and other maternal and newborn health medicines, especially in humanitarian and hard-to-reach areas.

Mobilizing resources for modern family planning commodities and supplies

The budget for the National Reproductive Health Program (PNSR) includes a budget line for the purchase of contraceptives and other reproductive health drugs, to which the government has committed to FP2030 and UNFPA's COMPACT 2023 to allocate US\$5 million each year for the purchase of contraceptives.

Progress achieved in 2023



Prenatal consultation and skilled care during delivery can help prevent all the complications that lead to maternal and newborn deaths.



Eliminating preventable maternal deaths



2.640

Midwives trained in higher education institutions (ISTM)



3.056

Maternal deaths averted



1.006

Women received free obstetric fistula repair



38

Healthcare facilities rehabilitated and equipped



8

Midwifery training instituted capacitated to administer the conversion of nurses to midwives program



2.640

Health care providers trained in various thematic in sexual and reproductive health care and management



Main interventions



Leadership and advocacy for maternal health

- We organized the first ever Mother and Newborn Week as part of the H6+ partnership under the patronage of the distinguished First Lady of the DRC.
- We strengthened the technical and institutional capacities of health care facilities in the supported Health Zones, contributing to 138,760 deliveries assisted by skilled birth attendants.
- An EmONC network has been set up in Maniema province, with the identification of priority interventions for the network's operationalization validated by all the province's stakeholders.
- We trained two (2) surgical teams from the provinces of Lomami and Haut-Katanga in obstetric fistula repair, bringing to 22 the number of provinces with at least one surgical team capable of operating on obstetric fistula in routine mode.
- We pre-positioned reproductive health kits, dignity kits, tents, life-saving drugs including contraceptives, medical equipment and materials that

helped to provide emergency response to the needs of women and girls of childbearing age living in IDP sites.

- We advocated and obtained the enacting of the law creating, organizing and operationalizing the DRC's national midwifery order promulgated by the Head of State on December 4, 2023.
- We advocated and obtained the declaration in September 2023 by the Head of State of free maternity and newborn care for the province of Kinshasa to be gradually enrolled to the rest of the 26 provinces of DRC



Maternal and perinatal death surveillance and Response

- We contributed in efforts to raise the skilled birth attendance from 85.9% in 2018 to 90.5% in 2023.
- We supported the national PMDSR (Perinatal maternal death surveillance and response) committees in elaborating the annual report of 2022 on x maternal and perinatal death surveillance and response
- We strengthened provincial PMDSR committees in 16 provinces of the DRC

Progress achieved in 2023





Eliminating gender-based violence



36

Integrated multisectoral service centers offering quality care established



17.900

Women and girls benefited from Dignity Kits to prevent GBV in areas affected by humanitarian crises



9.200

GBV survivors supported with income-generating activities to ensure their reintegration into the community and protection against GBV



209.600

GBV survivors received holistic care at treatment centers in line with national and international norms and standards



3.464

Online users later referred to facilities offering care via the inter-agency green line 495555



1,4 million

People informed about the risks of gender-based violence and how to obtain assistance



32

Safe spaces created in IDP sites and communities to protect women and girls from GBV and provide them with community-based psychosocial support



Main interventions



Leadership and Coordination

- To ensure repair for survivors of conflict-related sexual violence and other victims of serious crimes and crimes against humanity, the Fonds National de Réparation des Victimes (FONAREV) was created in July 2023.
- In addition, by presidential decree in 2023, the government institutionalized integrated multi-sector service centers for the holistic care of survivors of GBV.
- National GBV Coordination ensured the positioning of the fight against violence in the humanitarian programming cycle and in the context of scaling up the humanitarian response in the provinces of North Kivu, South Kivu and Ituri.
- Significant progress was recorded in the area of protection against sexual exploitation and abuse (PSEA) in the implementation of humanitarian and development projects thanks to the commitment of other institutions, notably the Ministries of Health, Social and Humanitarian



GBV/SGBV prevention

- A mechanism for alerting and referring cases of gender-based violence is operational through the 49 55 55 hotline.
- 3,464 sensitive complaints relating to gender-based violence were processed through this hotline, including 755 from schools, 2,663 from the community and 27 in humanitarian situations.
- A training module for legal actors on legal aid and the complaints management mechanism in the fight against sexual abuse and exploitation has been developed.



Legal support

A training module has been developed for legal actors on legal assistance and the complaints management mechanism in the fight against sexual abuse and exploitation.

Progress achieved in 2023



Today and every day, let's support young people and stand shoulder to shoulder with them in building a fair and sustainable world.



Unleashing the potential of young people



138.760

New users of a modern contraceptive method



2.640

Adolescents and young people educated about STI/HIV/AIDS and family planning



2.433.804

Out-of-school girls received comprehensive sexuality education and entrepreneurial skills



118.000

Adolescents and young people received comprehensive training and information on sexuality and reproductive health at school



1.889.327

Adolescents and youth (in and out of school) were able to access and to use high-quality reproductive health services

GET THEM

LEAD



Main interventions

With the aim of leaving no one behind, in 2023 UNFPA, with funding from Norway, supported the process of integrating comprehensive sexuality education into the National Program of Specific Branches of Special Education («**NBSES**» for short in French). This gave the opportunity to adolescents and young people living with disabilities to access information and receive education on sexual and reproductive health.

UNFPA has also supported the integration of comprehensive sexuality education into the national vocational training program.

60 teenagers from the UNFPA's Women's Leadership Academy benefited from inspirational coaching and experience-sharing sessions with women leaders, including Ambassadors, Heads of UN agencies and corporate business executives, to encourage young and teenage girls to pursue and realize their dreams.

UNFPA supported the civil society youth organizations in the prevention against violence campaign during the 2023 elections through:

- High-level international conference on the implementation of United Nations Security Council Resolution 2250 on youth, peace and security in 2023.
- 4 safe spaces for regular consultations, mechanisms and platforms on peace and security in communities
- Campaigns to combat fake news, hate speech, misogyny and discrimination on the Internet and in the media during the electoral process.
- Involvement and securing of formal commitment of more than 1,000 young IDPs in favor of intercultural social cohesion, on a community mechanism for conflict prevention and management in IDP camps.

Progress achieved in 2023



Achieving demographic dividend
requires a healthy population



Population Dynamics



General Population and Housing Census (GPHC2)

- UNFPA provided technical support to the government in preparation for the second Population and Housing Census (2nd CPH), through the consolidation of methodological documents for census mapping, questionnaires, guidelines and IT applications.
- The National Institute of Statistics (INS for short in French) benefited from capacity building in terms of sharing of census experience and training in geo-spatial data analysis and census data visualization.
- UNFPA helped strengthen the INS in developing methodological guidelines for producing vital statistics (on births, deaths, marriages, and divorces) and improving coordination and data sharing between the institute and relevant ministries.
- UNFPA contributed in the preparation of a Voluntary National Review (VNR) report on progress towards the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and DRC's participation in the High-Level Political Forum on the SDGs held in New York in July 2023.
- Rapid multi-sectoral assessments (RMAs) in humanitarian crisis situations were carried out on GBV risks, land and community conflicts (Kamonia, Kasai Central and Kasai Oriental, Rutshuru territory, Masisi, Mahagi, Nyiragongo, Kalehe).
- The report on the ten-year review of the Addis Ababa Declaration on Population and Development (AADPD@10/ (ICPD@30) was drawn up. The country participated in the AADPD@10 review meeting and also supported the development of a demographic dividend roadmap for five provinces. In collaboration with the Ministry of Gender Equality, the office is improving the national database on gender-based violence.



A man in a blue uniform and cap is talking to a woman in a colorful patterned dress and a young boy in a blue shirt. The background is a blurred outdoor setting with palm trees.

Constraints

- Lack of financial resources to carry out key activities aimed at harnessing the demographic dividend and the ICPD PoA. Much remains to be done to achieve full implementation of the AADPD and to seize every opportunity to realize the ICPD's inclusive, equitable and sustainable vision.
- Accurate, up-to-date and nationally disaggregated data in various sectors remains a critical challenge . As far as the population census is concerned, the government's failure to disburse financial resources for census mapping is having an impact on achievements. With the support of the ESARO Regional Office, it is urgent to organize a round table to mobilize resources and create partnerships for the second population and housing census.

Progress achieved in 2023



Humanitarian crises, including armed conflict, natural disasters and pandemics, exacerbate the vulnerability of affected populations, especially in terms of health.

Response to humanitarian crises

The Inter-Agency Standing Committee (IASC) activated the scaling-up of the L3 system in the DRC, following a prolonged and unprecedented crisis that has been raging in the eastern part of the DRC for several decades, compounded by epidemics and natural disasters. A fragile humanitarian situation that forced some 6.3 million displaced and disaster-stricken people into deplorable conditions.

To ensure a more effective, large-scale response, UNFPA aligned itself with this scaling-up and intensified its humanitarian interventions in the provinces of North Kivu, South Kivu and Ituri to urgently address the scale of unmet needs.

Humanitarian Response In the area of Reproductive Health

- **60** mobile clinics were created to support access to reproductive health information and services, including family planning and the use of mobile ultrasound.
- **7 403** women gave birth in health facilities with maternity services supported by UNFPA
- **24 632** new acceptors of a modern short-acting contraceptive method were recruited through community-based distribution;
- **5 532** new acceptors of a modern long-term contraceptive method were recruited;
- **26 722** STI cases were managed using the syndromic approach;
- **16 399** births were assisted by qualified personnel;
- **2 569** cases of childbirth-related complications were referred to general hospitals, including 1,476 caesarean sections performed and managed;
- **34 448** prenatal consultations were carried out;
- **310 600** people were educated about RH, FP, GBV, HIV, etc;
- **322 370** male and female condoms were distributed;
- **9 686** individual delivery kits were distributed.

Progress achieved in 2023



In crisis situations, UNFPA teams make mobile health centers available to women and girls living in the most inaccessible areas, providing them with reproductive health care and protection services.

Humanitarian Response

In reproductive health



60

Mobile clinics set up to support access to reproductive health information and services, including family planning and the use of mobile ultrasound.



7.403

Women gave birth in health facilities with maternity services supported by UNFPA.



24.632

New acceptors of a modern short-acting contraceptive method were recruited through community-based distribution.



5.532

New acceptors of a modern long-term contraceptive method were recruited



26.722

STI cases were managed using the syndromic approach



16.399

Births were assisted by qualified personnel



2.569

Cases of childbirth complications referred to general hospitals, including 1,476 caesarean sections performed and managed



34.448

Prenatal consultations were carried out



9.686

Individual delivery kits distributed

Progress achieved in 2023



Humanitarian Response

In the prevention and protection against GBV



28

Integrated multi-sector service centers (IMSC) made operational to provide multi-sectoral services for survivors of GBV and SEA



276

Medical providers and 434 psychosocial assistants acquired skills in survivor-centered quality care



7.557

Victims of sexual violence and SEA received medical treatment, including 4,581 within 72 hours.



17.166

Victims of sexual violence and SEA received psychosocial support



574

Victims of sexual violence and SEA received legal support



420.875

People sensitized about GBV / ASR



3.860

Vulnerable people including GBV/ASV victims benefited from socio-economic and educational reintegration



21.086

People benefited from dignity kits



2.001

Service providers trained on GBV

AFFECTED POPULATION STRATUM

North Kivu Province

2.300.163	Displaced populations
736.052	Teenagers and young people (aged 10-24)
552.039	Sexually active men
538.238	Women of childbearing age (FAP)
112.708	Pregnant women
101.207	Newborns
16.906	Pregnancy complications and childbirth
5.579	Caesarean section
55.204	Cases of sexual violence
10.765	STI cases



South Kivu Province

1.356.376	Displaced populations
434.040	Teenagers and young people (aged 10-24)
325.530	Sexually active men
317.392	Women of childbearing age (FAP)
66.462	Pregnant women
59.681	Newborns
9.969	Pregnancy complications and childbirth
3.290	Caesarean section
6.348	Cases of sexual violence
32.553	STI cases



Tanganyika Province

350.462	Displaced populations
112.148	Teenagers and young people (aged 10-24)
84.111	Sexually active men
82.008	Women of childbearing age (FAP)
17.173	Pregnant women
15.420	Newborns
2.576	Pregnancy complications and childbirth
850	Caesarean section
1.640	Cases of sexual violence
8.411	STI cases

Ituri Province

1630.535	Displaced populations
521.771	Teenagers and young people (aged 10-24)
391.328	Sexually active men
381.545	Women of childbearing age (FAP)
79.896	Pregnant women
71.744	Newborns
11.984	Pregnancy complications and childbirth
3.955	Caesarean section
7.631	Cases of sexual violence
39.133	STI cases



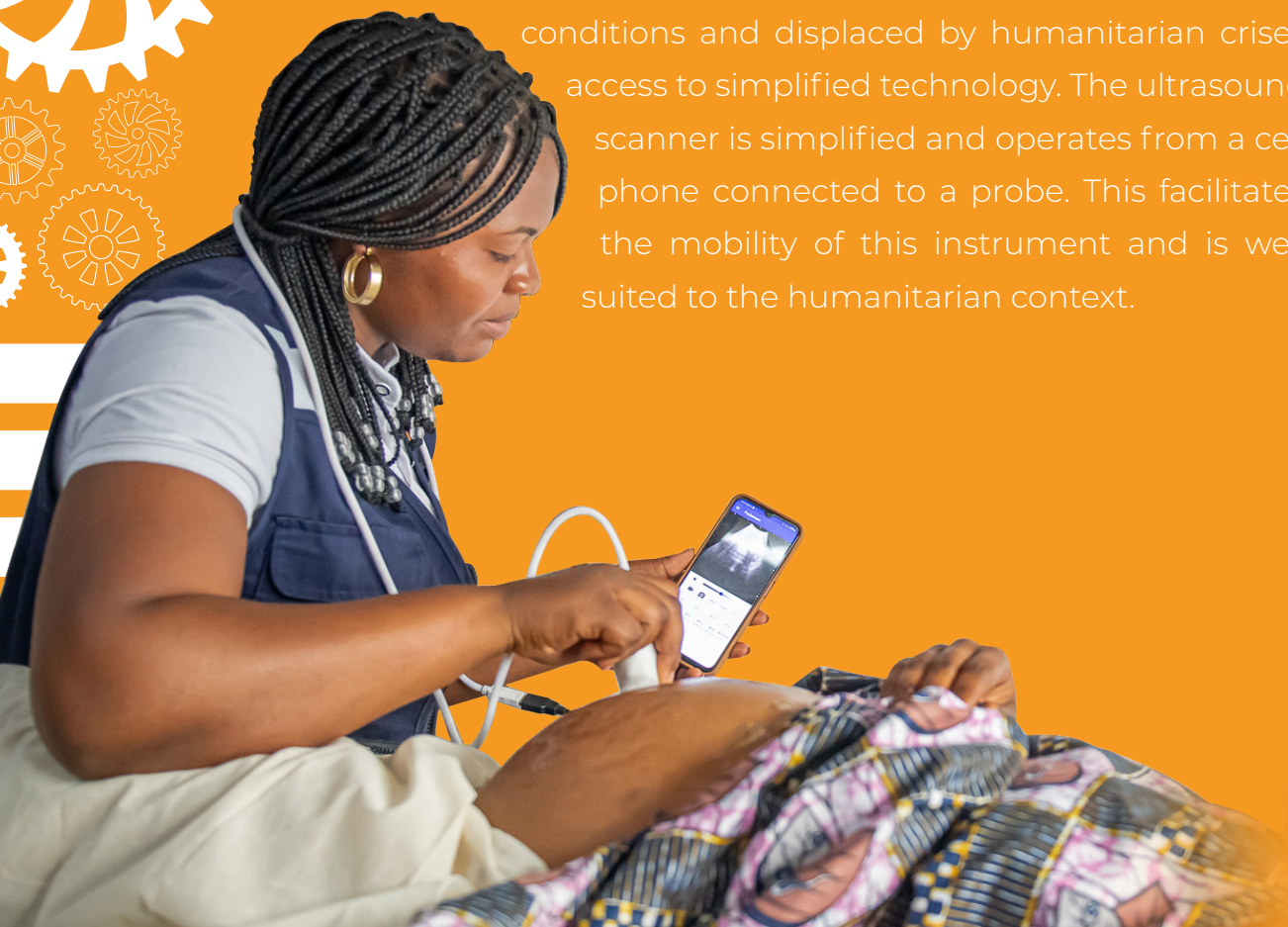


INNOVATIONS

Portable ultrasound for use in remote and difficult areas.

Thanks to support from Japan through SOIK, UNFPA has included a pilot on the use of portable ultrasound probes in humanitarian settings.

The portable ultrasound scanner helps to bridge the digital divide by giving women living in precarious conditions and displaced by humanitarian crises access to simplified technology. The ultrasound scanner is simplified and operates from a cell phone connected to a probe. This facilitates the mobility of this instrument and is well suited to the humanitarian context.

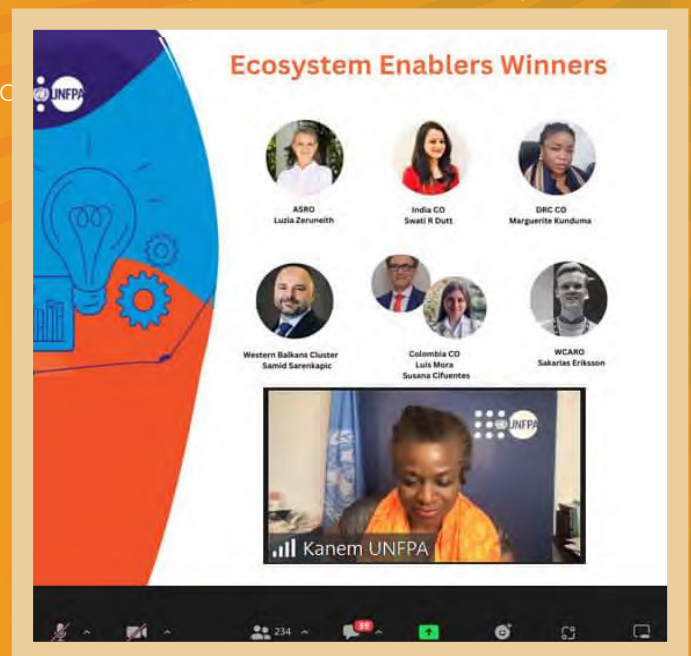


Partnership and use of NICTs for provision of quality maternal health in DRC

This innovation aims to improve the provision of maternal and neonatal health (MNH) services in rural areas through a public-private partnership using WhatsApp to monitor pregnant women in the provinces of Sankuru and Kasai-Central, which face major challenges in terms of the availability of equipment and specialized staff to ensure the provision of quality MNH services.

Strategies used to foster the innovation environment.

- Strengthening partnerships with the NGO PROSANI and USAID to ensure real synergy between our interventions.
- Recourse to the expertise of the University of Kinshasa's Faculty of Medicine for training providers in gynecological and obstetrical ultrasound.
- The use of new communication techniques through the WhatsApp platform to improve the quality of diagnosis and management of pregnancy-related complications.



Click to watch
the video

<https://unf.pa/3wBWGED>




Major events

Second Edition of the Henriette EKE Media Award

The second edition of the « **Prix Média Henriette Eke** » rewarded the 8 best journalistic productions addressing issues of sexual and gender-based violence, including cases of sexual exploitation, abuse and harassment in the DRC. The awards ceremony took place in December 2023 in Kinshasa.







Final evaluation of the 2020-2024 Country Program Document (CPD)

The year 2023 was marked by the kick off of the final evaluation of the cooperation program between the Democratic Republic of Congo and UNFPA for the period from 2020 to 2024. This independent evaluation began in September with external consultants. It followed the various phases required, including the start-up phase, the data collection phase and the reporting phase. The activity is being monitored by a reference group made up of representatives of state and non-state partners. The draft evaluation report is available and presents the results of the program as well as the lessons learned, which will help in the elaboration of the next CPD. The final version of the document will be available in 2024.



Designing the new cooperation program UNFPA-DRC (2025-2029)

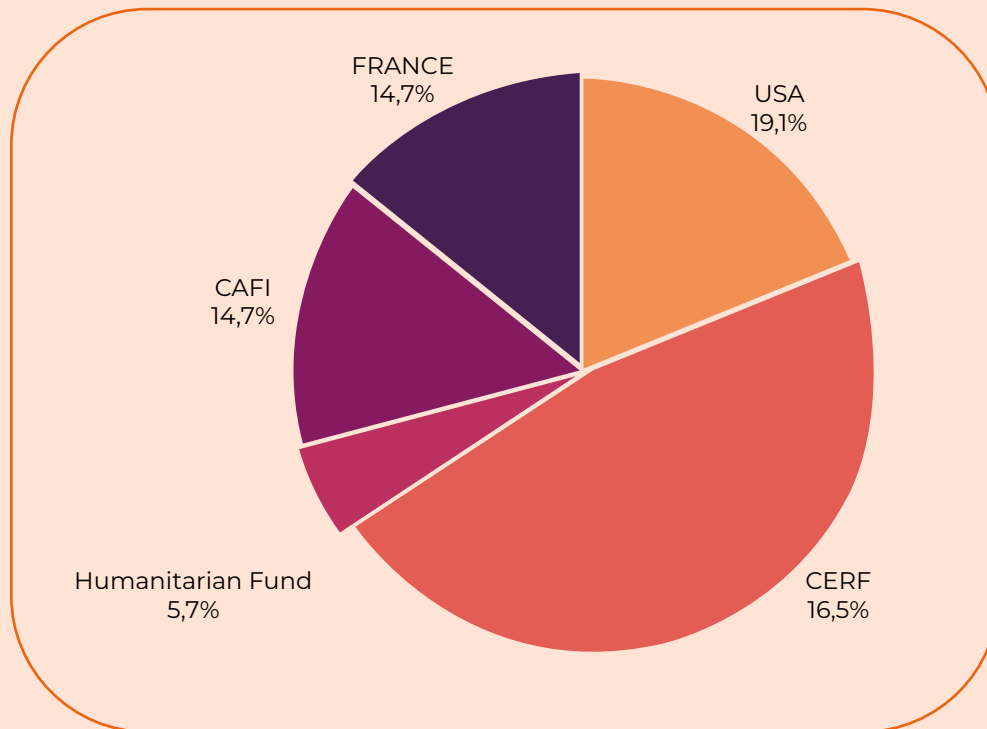
Getting to the final year of the 5th cooperation program (2020-2024), the Congolese Government and the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) embarked on the process of designing a new program that will define the main areas of UNFPA's support for the country's development for the period 2025-2029.

The process of developing the 6th DRC-UNFPA cooperation agreement comprises 5 main stages, from preparatory work (2023) to the production of the country program document (CPD), which will set out the program's main themes and priority activities.

Resource Mobilization and strategic partnerships

In 2023, UNFPA RDC mobilized a total **USD 11.6 millions** as follows :

- **2,599,869 USD** from the United States,
- **6,336,003 USD** from the Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF),
- **700,000 USD** from the Humanitarian Fund
- **1,998,366 USD** from the Central African Forest Initiative (CAFI) for cost extension.
- **2,000,000 EURO** from France



Resource mobilization challenges

The challenge of mobilizing resources and establishing partnerships remains significant. In terms of outlook, UNFPA DRC intends to proactively increase funding and expand strategic partnerships. The office also plans to diversify resource mobilization and strengthen relations with the private sector.

Our major donors

The image displays a grid of logos for major donors. The logos include:

- UNFPA (United Nations Population Fund)
- PERSE (Programme de Recherche et de Synthèse)
- Japan (Flag)
- Rwanda (Flag)
- USAID (United States Agency for International Development)
- Italy (Flag)
- UN COVID-19 MPTF (A UN global solidarity instrument to build back better)
- United Nations CERF (Central Emergency Response Fund)
- Nations Unies (United Nations)
- PN UD (United Nations)
- world pop FLOWMINDER.ORG
- FH RDC (Fonds Humanitaire en République Démocratique du Congo)
- Canada (Flag)
- Sweden (Flag)
- Norway (Flag)
- BANQUE MONDIALE (World Bank)
- Organisation mondiale de la Santé (World Health Organization)
- PAUL G. ALLEN FAMILY FOUNDATION
- South Korea (Flag)
- CAFI (Central African Forest Initiative)
- France (Flag)
- United Nations Trust Fund in Support of Victims of Sexual Exploitation and Abuse



Human resources

The UNFPA office in the DRC operated in 2023 with a staff of around 167, all contracts types combined, with a vacancy rate of 10%.

To support the intensification of the humanitarian response, the office deployed more than 20 staff with different skills in the three Eastern provinces affected by level 3 humanitarian emergency. In addition, 30 midwives were deployed to various health centers to provide RH services with a view to reducing preventable

maternal and newborn deaths.

The office organized capacity-building sessions for its staff and partners on Quantum and Quantum+, project management and results-based management.

During 2023, the office used interns to support programmatic, coordination and operations activities.



A total of 7 trainees, including two males and five females, completed 6-month internships, mainly in archive reconstitution, support for the recruitment process, assistance with file processing, management of the

Representative's agenda, processing of payments and participation in all activities relating to their field of internship.

Staffing situation

Permanent/fixed-term contracts (PA/FTA)	79
Temporary contract (TA)	9
Service contract (SC)	37
United Nations Volunteers (UNV)	19
Individual contract (IC)	33
Trainees	5
Total	182

SOUTH-SOUTH COOPERATION

1. Communication

In 2023, the office welcomed two communication specialist colleagues from Burundi and Niger. Queen Nyeniteka (Burundi) came to reinforce her skills in behavior change communication, digital communication and the production of communication content.

Souleymane Saddi Maazou, Communication and Advocacy Officer for the Niger Office, came to strengthen his skills as part of the implementation of the communication and advocacy plan to better support the promotion of evidence-based achievements, partnership and resource mobilization in Niger.

2. Support mission to the Kaduna sub-office (Nigeria)

Paulin TSHIMANGA, Population Dynamics Specialist at UNFPA-RDC, carried out a detail assignment in Nigeria. The aim of the assignment was to supervise the implementation of program activities in Kaduna State, and provide leadership to the sub-office.

3. Technical support in Rwanda and Guinea BISSAU

Antoine BANZA, Population and Data for Development Programme Specialist at UNFPA-DRC, provided technical support to the UNFPA office in Rwanda to improve the country's statistical system. And to the UNFPA office in Guinea Bissau, to help improve the country office's monitoring-evaluation system.

4. Support for GBV in Madagascar

Pascal Banza Kalama, GBV Program Officer at the UNFPA-DRC office, was deployed to support the gender unit of the UNFPA Madagascar office to train and set up a national pool of trainers and share the DRC's experience in implementing innovative, holistic approaches to the care of GBV survivors.



**Paulin TSHIMANGA
(DRC)**



**Queen
NYENITEKA
(BURUNDI)**



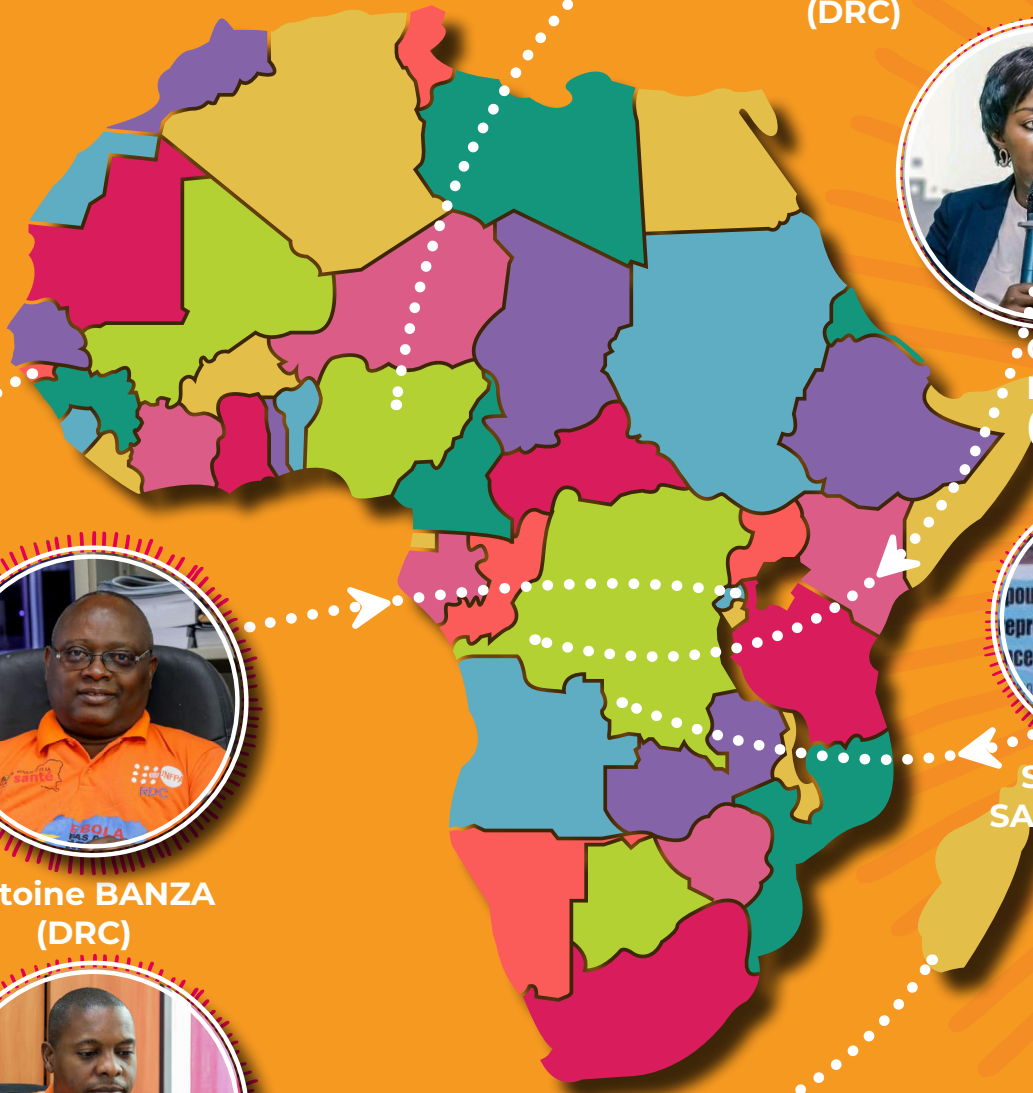
**Souleymane
SADDI MAZOU
(NIGER)**



**Antoine BANZA
(DRC)**



**Pascal BANZA
(DRC)**



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Vision 2030

Universal access to sexual and reproductive health and rights



Ending unmet need for family planning



Putting an end to preventable maternal mortality



Putting an end to gender-based violence and harmful practices

Leave no one behind





United Nations Population Fund
D.R Congo

UNFPA Democratic Republic of the Congo



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