

International Rescue Committee Democratic Republic of the Congo: Strategy Action Plan





V Salsi / IRC

IRC2020 GLOBAL STRATEGY OVERVIEW

The International Rescue Committee's (IRC) mission is to help the world's most vulnerable people survive, recover, and gain control of their future. The aim of our global strategy, IRC2020 (see right), is to make measurable improvements in health, safety, education, economic wellbeing, and decision-making power. Therefore, the IRC had made investments to design more effective programs, use resources more efficiently, reach more people more quickly and better respond to beneficiaries' needs.



DRC OVERVIEW

Although the DRC has recently made slight economic progress and improvements to education and health services, the country continues to struggle with recurrent crises affecting over 15 million people, which represents nearly 20% of the population.

In the conflict-affected eastern provinces, communities are forced to flee from their homes. At the end of June 2017, there were approximately 3.8 million internally displaced people (IDP). In such conflict zones, people are extorted, kidnapped and forced to fight or work. Furthermore,

gender-based violence is widespread throughout the country.

The health system is poorly staffed, organized, funded, and supplied. Cholera and measles are prevalent and few people are vaccinated against preventable diseases. Mothers die in 13 out of every 1,000 deliveries¹, and many children die before their first birthday.

Many girls and boys do not attend school, and any instruction they do receive is often poor quality. Early marriage and pregnancy cause

girls to drop out of school, making it harder to earn a living later in life.

Nearly 64% of the population lives in poverty and very few people earn living wages². Subsistence agriculture is widespread, but key inputs such as tools, seeds, and incentives for accessing markets are in short supply.

The IRC's new strategy for the DRC illustrates its commitment to improving the health, education, safety and economic well-being of crisis-affected people in the DRC.

¹ http://www.unicef.org/wcaro/Countries_1749.html

² <http://data.worldbank.org/indicator/SI.POV.NAHC?locations=CD>

IRC'S STRATEGIC PROGRAMMING

With a presence in the DRC for over 20 years, the IRC has become a leader in improving health, education, women's empowerment, governance at community level and protection. With offices in Katanga, Kasai, North, and South Kivu, the IRC provides assistance where and when it is needed most.

From now until the end of 2020, the IRC's new strategy in the DRC will prioritize keeping women and girls healthy and safe, improving the quality of education, and building economic wellbeing (see Figure 1). The IRC will reach 8.4 million people in DRC by the end of 2020, specifically targeting IDPs, host communities, women and children, victims of gender-based violence, and the economically and socially disadvantaged.

The IRC will continue to promote training to reduce the risk of maternal and child mortality due to preventable causes. As a leader in gender-based

violence response and prevention, the IRC will also strengthen its response to violence against women and girls at home and in the school system.

Working with local government and communities, the IRC will help to enroll and keep vulnerable children in school. National and provincial advocacy will also improve school governance.

To build communities' long-term economic resilience, the IRC will invest in business and vocational skills training and economic recovery projects. These projects will emphasize women's empowerment as a means to reduce gender inequality.

The IRC's commitment to gender equality strives for equal outcomes for women and girls, and men and boys. To narrow the gender gap, the IRC will incorporate gender-focused programming into all activities.

Figure 1: Priority Outcomes and Future Programs

| | Priority Outcomes in DRC | Future Programs |
|--------------------|---|---|
| HEALTH | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> > Women and girls are protected from and treated for the consequences of gender-based violence > Women and adolescent girls prevent unintended pregnancy | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> > Integrate gender-based violence response and prevention into all programs > Promote best practices in contraception and family planning |
| SAFETY | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> > People are safe in their communities and receive support when they experience harm | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> > Strengthen emergency response to address violence in schools and homes > Advocate for greater availability of services and support initiatives aimed at securing legal redress for survivors |
| EDUCATION | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> > 6 - 14 year olds have literacy, numeracy, and social-emotional skills, according to their developmental potential | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> > Reduce barriers for children to attend school through school rehabilitation, tutoring, financial assistance, and infrastructure upgrades |
| ECONOMIC WELLBEING | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> > People meet basic needs and avoid negative coping strategies | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> > Adapt business skills and vocational training initiatives to promote economic recovery and resilience |

COMMITMENTS FOR IMPACT

In order to maximize impact and achieve the priority outcomes, the IRC in the DRC is making new investments to use resources more efficiently, react more quickly when crisis strikes, be more responsive to beneficiaries and partners, expand program reach, and improve program effectiveness. The IRC made the following commitments to strengthen programming and improve the lives of the people it serves in DRC.

Figure 2: Commitments to Ensure Impact



Best Use of Resources

- > Focus on hiring, promoting, and retaining female employees to encourage equity between male and female employees, especially in supervisory and management roles
- > Decentralize decision-making to provincial offices, resulting in lower costs at the national level



Speed & Timeliness

- > Develop an emergency response roster for potential staff to be deployed more quickly when crisis strikes



Responsiveness

- > Better identify beneficiaries' needs by involving them in local contextual analysis and project design, providing spaces specifically for women and girls to be heard



Scale & Reach

- > Develop the IRC's partnership network in the DRC to increase its ability to reach more people, through new partner recruitment and partner capacity building



Effectiveness

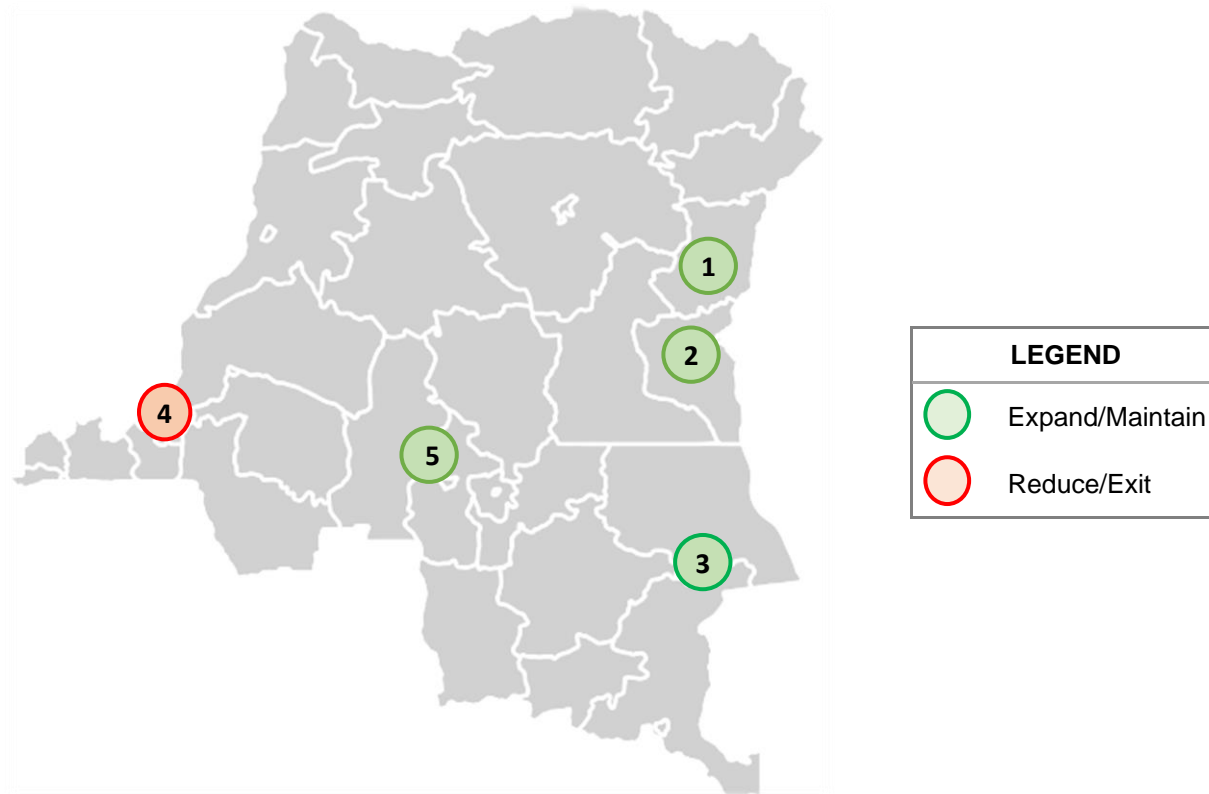
- > Implement an enhanced Monitoring and Evaluation System based on IRC's measurement standards and processes to generate evidence on program impact and improve program quality



IRC'S STRATEGIC PRESENCE

From now until the end of 2020, the IRC will expand, maintain, and reduce its presence at sites across the DRC based on an analysis of where the greatest need is and where the IRC can create the biggest impact.

Figure 3: The IRC's Geographic Transitions in DRC



| Location | Geographic Transition |
|---------------------------|---|
| 1 North Kivu | Expand operations in Beni and Walikale to respond to urgent needs, while maintaining the capacity to respond in Lubero, Masisi, and Nyiragongo |
| 2 South Kivu | Respond to the emergency needs of Burundian refugees in Uvira and Shabunda and maintain IDP support in Kalehe and Fizi |
| 3 Former Katanga Province | Expand emergency support to Nyunzu, Manono, Mitwaba, Pweto, Moba and Malemba-Nkulu through strategically located offices in Kalemie, Kabalo, and Lubumbashi |
| 4 Kinshasa City | Maintain an office to continue relationships with the national government and other stakeholders, but wind down interventions in the capital |
| 5 Kasai | Respond to acute emergency through integrated programming targeting Kasai central. |



E Graybill / IRC

The IRC in the DRC



[Sarah Terlouw](mailto:Sarah.Terlouw@rescue.org), Country Director
Sarah.Terlouw@rescue.org



[Rescue.org/where/DRC](https://rescue.org/where/DRC)



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