



Democratic Republic of Congo



Introduction to THE DRC

THE DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO is a vast nation of untouched wilderness and loosely aligned inhabitants located in the middle of Africa. Formerly known as Zaire, the DRC has struggled with volatile political instability and extreme poverty, and hasn't yet tapped into the potential wealth of its natural resources since its independence from Belgium in 1960.

The CONGOLESE people

Total population:	68,692,542
Children under 15:	32,199,325
Average Life Expectancy:	54.36 years
Per capita annual income:	\$300
% children in primary school:	N/A*
Average years of education:	N/A*
Literacy rate:	67.2%
Internet users:	290,000
Cell phones in use:	9.263 million
Major/official language(s):	French, Lingala, Kingwana, Kikongo, Tshiluba

Risk issues impacting children:

- Nearly one-third of children are underweight. Malnutrition and nutritional deficiencies are responsible for nearly half of deaths among children.
- Less than half the population has access to a safe source of clean drinking water.
- Many children are orphaned, school rates are declining, and child labor is increasing.
- Armed conflict poses many dangers to children.

More about THE DRC

Capital city:	Kinshasa
Type of government:	Republic
Square kilometers:	2,344,858
General terrain:	Vast central basin with eastern mountains
Major industries/jobs:	Agriculture, mining, mineral processing
National motto:	"Justice, Peace, Work"
Major airport(s):	Kinshasa

Reaching THE DRC

Currently classified as World C: Christian

Major religions:

Christian	- 70%
Muslim	- 10%
Kimbanguist	- 10%
Other	- 10%

Christian groups:

Roman Catholic	- 43.7%
Protestant	- 24.8%
Independent	- 23.4%
Other	- 7.3%
Anglican	- 0.7%
Orthodox	- 0.1%

Unreached People Groups:	4 (0.3% of pop)
Average annual Christian growth:	0.059
Average annual baptisms:	2,563,030
Foreign missionaries:	15,800
Per million:	268.98
National Christian workers/pastors:	65,000
Per million:	1,106.56
Number of churches/congregations:	77,807

Children's ministry in THE DRC

Specific children's ministry information has not been provided for the Democratic Republic of the Congo. The following information regards general children's ministry in Central Africa, and may not all be applicable to this nation.

- Overview:**
- Established churches tend to have an evangelistic heart towards children. Those in cities and towns have easier access to training for leaders, materials for outreach and other resources.
 - Rural areas face more obstacles to children's ministry, including a lack of training for leaders, few resources in indigenous languages and lack of education. Syncretism is another obstacle for children's ministry workers.
 - Civil war and political instability in some Central African nations put children at risk and make establishing organized, consistent ministry difficult.

Focus for Prayer

Training children's leaders for outreach in
77,807 congregations
 Strategies for reaching and discipling
32,199,325 children for Christ