

REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO



HEALTH SECTOR NEEDS ASSESSMENT

Instability in the Great Lakes region has led tens of thousand of refugees to seek haven in the North of the Republic of the Congo (RoC), while internal conflicts have cause internal displacement. Most of those residing near Brazzaville have returned to their homes, but they still face the daunting task of re-constructing their livelihood. More than 130,000 persons have returned to the Pool region, in the southeast, where services and infrastructure such as road networks, water and power supplies have been destroyed or badly damaged.



HEALTH INFRASTRUCTURE: Only nine of the 16 health facilities in the Pool region are functioning. In Kinkala district, the conflict has destroyed 13 health centres and 12 remain operational. Clinics are in dire need of medical equipment, drugs, equipment and supplies for laboratories and blood banks, and viable epidemiological surveillance and health information systems. There is a lack of qualified staff, which limits health coverage in the whole region.

DISEASE SURVEILLANCE AND CONTROL: The region's population lacks access to potable water, resulting in a high incidence of waterborne diseases and gastrointestinal infections. People are also affected by diseases like respiratory infections and malaria, the latter being responsible for over one-third of morbidity rates. Vaccination coverage rates range from nonexistent to poor and are estimated to be only two-thirds of the national rates. Poor nutritional and health status, combined with the destruction of communities and traditional coping mechanisms, has resulted in high mortality rates.

REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH: Maternal mortality is high due to the poor quality of reproductive health care. Thousands of women and young girls victim of sexual violence during the conflict cannot obtain adequate assistance and psychological care. HIV/AIDS prevalence, estimated at 5% nationwide and at 2.6% in Kikala, may significantly increase as sexual violence continues.

HEALTH SECTOR PRIORITIES FOR 2006

- Strengthen coordination in the health sector
- Rehabilitate basic social and health structures and improve health coverage care in the Pool region
- Reduce and control epidemic outbreaks
- Reduce HIV and STI transmission

WHO Proposed Projects in the CAP 2006	Funds Requested *	Implementing Partners
Prevention and control of waterborne diseases in the Pool region through laboratory support, training, information management and coordination ROC-06/WS02	308,990	MoH, UNICEF, Ministry of Water and Energy
Reduction of HIV/AIDS and STI transmission in the Pool region ROC-06/H09	209,880	UNFPA, UNAIDS, MoH and NGOs
Management of anti-retroviral therapy for persons living with HIV/AIDS in the Pool region ROC-06/H10	244,860	UNAIDS and MoH

* Amounts given in US dollars.

Total Funds Requested: USD 763,730

2005 Donors: No voluntary contributions were received for the Republic of the Congo in 2005