

UN support to the Democratic Republic of the Congo

Advancing sustainable development as humanity's ultimate prevention tool

The Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) is endowed with enormous human potential and exceptional natural resources. However, political upheaval and conflict have led to one of the most protracted, severe, and neglected humanitarian crises in the world, with 27 million people in need of assistance and close to 6 million internally displaced. The DRC has remained ranked 179th of 191 countries (2021) in terms of human development, and despite recent economic improvements, progress is insufficient to catalyse the major transformations needed to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Given the presence of multiple competing needs, the Resident Coordinator (RC) performs a 'triple-hatted' role – simultaneously advancing development, humanitarian and peace priorities in a coherent way that makes full use of all available resources and partnerships. Never losing sight of the bigger picture – sustainable development under the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the African Union's Agenda 2063 – the Resident Coordinator also works to ensure immediate humanitarian, protection, and peacebuilding needs.



23

Number of entities in the UN country team



US\$ 1.3B

UN country team's support through the Cooperation Framework (2021)

1. Delivering coherent results across development, humanitarian and peace priorities

Sustainable development that leaves no one behind is humanity's ultimate prevention tool. It is the only way to address the underlying drivers of conflict and humanitarian needs. It is the only sure footing for peace. As one of the world's largest peacekeeping operations winds down in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, the Resident Coordinator plays a crucial role in ensuring that the country's sustainable development priorities remain front and centre. This means advancing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and Africa's Agenda 2063. It means working to support DRC's efforts leading their own sustainable development path, ensuring the United Nations' (UN) joined-up action across the humanitarian, peace, and development pillars so all partners are pointing in the same direction.

Formally speaking, the Resident Coordinator performs this role as a Deputy Special Representative of the Secretary-General, Resident Coordinator and Humanitarian Coordinator (DSRSG/RC/HC). This 'triple-hatted' mandate empowers leadership that can address the multidisciplinary, interlinked drivers of vulnerability. It includes an essential convening role to bring together key partners to chart shared pathways forward on key policy priorities. To this end, a joint transition mechanism co-chaired by the DSRSG/RC/HC and the Minister of Planning was instrumental in developing the Joint Transition Plan. Within the UN, the DSRSG/RC/HC chairs the Integrated Transition Team, involving both the UN Organization Stabilization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (MONUSCO) and the UN country team (UNCT). The RC also serves as a co-chair of the donor coordination group. This has enabled the

elaboration of strategic initiatives such as a joint programme by MONUSCO, the Joint Human Rights Office and the UN Development Programme (UNDP), which resulted, amongst others, in much stronger justice sector capacities in Kasai and Tanganyika.

The Resident Coordinator also co-leads the cross-pillar coordination infrastructure, with national and provincial multi-stakeholder teams in the Kasai and Tanganyika provinces. This enables a much stronger strategic approach that sees the bigger picture and can deliver programming that addresses root causes while still meeting urgent needs. This includes delivering results that address chronic food insecurity and supporting the return and/or resettlement of internally displaced people. Building on these successes, this programming will be expanded to Ituri and South Kivu later this year.

Looking forward, the formulation of the next UN Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework (2025-2029) – a "roadmap" to advance the SDGs, jointly agreed with the host Government – will present a landmark opportunity to further consolidate the UN's support and partnership around the needs and priorities of the Democratic Republic of the Congo. As a new generation Cooperation Framework, it will provide the vehicle for organising all United Nations assets and workstreams in a way that delivers more than the sum of its parts. It is our best chance to drive the urgent transitions needed to accelerate progress and realise national development ambitions.



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Population fleeing their villages due to fighting between the Forces Armées de la République Démocratique du Congo (FARDC), and rebel groups, Sake, North Kivu.

2. Delivering to all corners – sustainable development in the provinces

The 2030 Agenda and Agenda 2063 apply to all people, not just those who happen to live in the capital city or an urban centre. The United Nations partners with the Government of the Democratic Republic of the Congo to deliver sustainable development throughout the country, from the province to the village to the household. The Resident Coordinator and the United Nations country team are crucial to making this happen.

Tanganyika, the third largest province in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, provides a good example of this principle in action. As the MONUSCO presence was gradually withdrawn in 2022, the Resident Coordinator and the country team made sure to learn from the best practices and opportunities missed in the earlier drawdowns in the two Kasai provinces.

As a result, they pioneered the ‘Tanganyika Cooperation Framework’ which is an innovative, province-based mechanism that is based on the provincial development plan and genuine engagement with local authorities.

The Resident Coordinator and the country team conducted a joint resource mobilisation exercise to give life to this framework. It resulted in delivery across the joint priorities of security for returnees, protection of civilians, access to justice and the rule of law, while paving the way for a smooth MONUSCO transition in the province. The resulting improvement in coherence and collaboration has led to an agreement to apply this model for the transition in the three remaining provinces where MONUSCO is still present.



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Jeannette, 20, uses monetary transfers she receives from the UN to develop her small business, despite being displaced. She lives in the Kalunga site in Kalemie, Tanganyika Province.



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UN Deputy Representative of the Secretary-General/Resident/Humanitarian Coordinator in the DRC, Bruno Lemarquais, discussing with internally displaced persons (IDPs) in Tanganyika, in the south-east of the DRC.