

Country Profiles for Population and Reproductive Health:

Policy Developments and Indicators 2003



United Nations Population Fund



Population Reference Bureau

Congo, Democratic Republic of the

Overview

Following a decade of political turmoil and war, the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) has experienced relative stability and progress since the ceasefire agreement in July 1999. Unfortunately, the war and ensuing tensions have resulted in significant loss of human life, approximately two million internally displaced persons, and a number of formidable population and reproductive health challenges. The Republic ranks 155th on the 2002 Human Development Index.

The Government considers the high rate of population growth (which outpaces food production) to be an obstacle to human development. It therefore aims to reduce this rate to 2.5 per cent a year by 2020. UNFPA is funding a programme for the 2002-2006 period to assist the DRC in achieving its population and development goals. The Inter-agency Working Group on Refugee Reproductive Health and the Reproductive Health for Refugees Consortium have implemented programmes to increase refugees' access to reproductive health services. Additionally, the World Bank, in collaboration with the Government, is currently preparing an interim Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper, and chairs the twice-yearly technical update meetings including multiple stakeholders.

HIV/AIDS, which affects over 5 per cent of the population, is of major concern to the Government. Incidence rates are higher in regions of conflict, displacement and military deployment.

Another challenge is in the area of gender equality. Significant inequalities persist in the areas of education and literacy.

Statistics

POPULATION

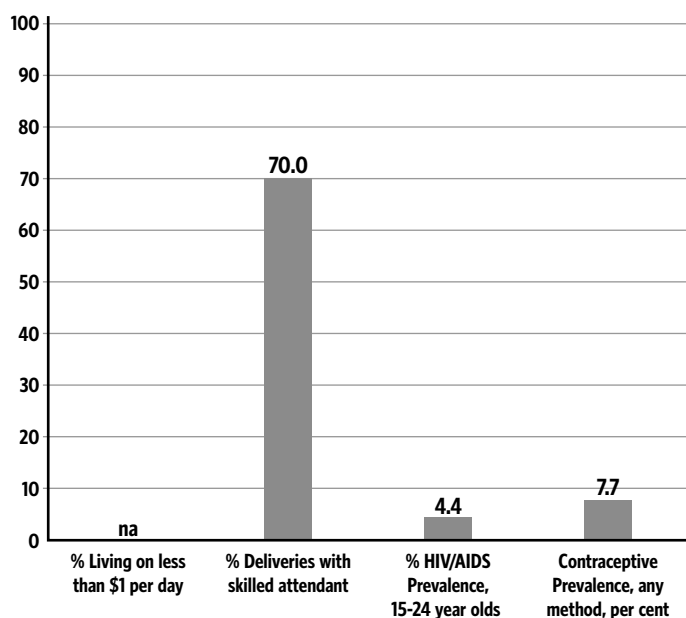
Population in Thousands, 2001, Total, Male	26,924.9
Population in Thousands, 2001, Total, Female	27,349.9
Population Growth Rate, Per Cent	2.6
Crude Birth Rate per 1,000 Population	47.7
Crude Death Rate per 1,000 Population	15.0
Urban Population, Per Cent	31.3
Sex Ratio at Birth, Male Births per Female Birth	1.03
Women 15-49, Thousands	11,578.8
Women 15-49, Per Cent	42.3
Total Fertility Rate per Woman 15-49	6.70
Contraceptive Prevalence Rate for Women 15-49, Modern Method, Per Cent	2.0
Contraceptive Prevalence Rate for Women 15-49, Any Method, Per Cent	▲ 7.7
Maternal Mortality Ratio per 100,000 Live Births (MMR)	●▲ 940
MMR, Lower Bound	●▲ 390
MMR, Upper Bound	●▲ 1,800
Infant Mortality Rate per 1,000 Live Births	●▲ 90.6
Under Age 5 Mortality Rate, Total	●▲ 128
Under Age 5 Mortality Rate, Female	●▲ 120
Under Age 5 Mortality Rate, Male	●▲ 136
Life Expectancy at Birth, Combined, Years	●▲ 50.5
Life Expectancy at Birth, Female, Years	●▲ 51.9
Life Expectancy at Birth, Male, Years	●▲ 49.2
Population 60 Years and Over, Per Cent	4.5

Estimated Annual Resource Requirements for Population Programmes

Years 2005-2015 (in millions \$US)

Date	2005	2010	2015
Cost	193.82	251.53	324.36

Indicators for Population and Reproductive Health



Indicators

SOCIO-ECONOMIC & HEALTH

Gross Domestic Product Per Capita, Purchasing Power Parity, International Dollars	na
Gross Domestic Product Growth Rate, Annual Per Cent	na
Income Group per World Bank Classification	Low income
UNFPA Country Priority Classification	A
Population Below \$1/Day, Per Cent	▲ na
Access to Improved Water Supply, Per Cent	▲ 45
Deliveries Attended by Skilled Attendants, Per Cent	● ▲ 70
Family Planning Programme Effort Index, 1999 (Total Mean Score)	na
Illiteracy Rate, Per Cent of Population Age 15 and Over, Male	27
Illiteracy Rate, Per Cent of Population Age 15 and Over, Female	50
Primary School Enrolment, Gross % of School Age Population, Male	● ▲ 48
Primary School Enrolment, Gross % of School Age Population, Female	● ▲ 44
Secondary School Enrolment, Gross Per Cent of School Age Population, Male	● ▲ 24
Secondary School Enrolment, Gross Per Cent of School Age Population, Female	● ▲ 13
Children Underweight Under 5, Male, Per Cent	35
Children Underweight Under 5, Female, Per Cent	34
Stunted Children Under 5, Moderate, Per Cent	45
Stunted Children Under 5, Severe, Per Cent	25
Wasted Children Under 5, Moderate, Per Cent	10
Wasted Children Under 5, Severe, Per Cent	4

● ICPD Goals ▲ MDG Indicators

ADOLESCENT REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH

Proportion of Population 15-24	19.0
Age-Specific Fertility Rate per 1000 Women, 15-20	230.5
Mean Age at Marriage, Male	na
Mean Age at Marriage, Female	na
HIV/AIDS Prevalence, 15-24, Lower Bound, Female	● ▲ 4.3
HIV/AIDS Prevalence, 15-24, Upper Bound, Female	● ▲ 7.6
HIV/AIDS Prevalence, 15-24, Lower Bound, Male	● ▲ 2.1
HIV/AIDS Prevalence, 15-24, Upper Bound, Male	● ▲ 3.7

GENDER EQUALITY

Labour Force Participation Rate, 15-64, Total	74.4
Labour Force Participation Rate, 15-64, Male	85.8
Labour Force Participation Rate, 15-64, Female	63.4
Women in Managerial or Technical Positions, Thousands	na
Seats in Parliament Held by Women, Per Cent	na

REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH COMMODITY SECURITY

Projected Increase/Decrease in Women of Reproductive Age 2000-2015, Thousands	7,613.3
Projected Increase/Decrease in Women of Reproductive Age 2000-2015, Per Cent	70.6
Unmet Need for Family Planning, Spacing, Per Cent	● na
Unmet Need for Family Planning, Limiting, Per Cent	● na
Unmet Need for Family Planning, Total, Per Cent	● na
Unmet Need for Family Planning, Thousands	● na

INTERNAL DISPARITIES

Total Fertility Rate per Woman 15-49:

Urban	na
Rural	na
No Education/Primary	na
Highest Level of Education	na
Provincial Low	na
Provincial High	na
Poorest	na
Richest	na

Infant Mortality Rate per 1,000 Live Births:

Urban	na
Rural	na
No Education/Primary	na
Highest Level of Education	na
Provincial Low	na
Provincial High	na
Poorest	na
Richest	na

Age-Specific Fertility Rate, 15-19 Years:

Urban	na
Rural	na
Poorest	na
Richest	na

Adolescent Women 15-19 Begun Childbearing:

Urban, Per Cent	na
Rural, Per Cent	na
No Education/Primary, Per Cent	na
Highest Level of Education, Per Cent	na
Provincial Low, Per Cent	na
Provincial High, Per Cent	na
Poorest, Per Cent	na
Richest, Per Cent	na

Deliveries Attended by Skilled Attendants:

Urban, Per Cent	na
Rural, Per Cent	na
No Education/Primary, Per Cent	na
Highest Level of Education, Per Cent	na
Provincial Low, Per Cent	na
Provincial High, Per Cent	na
Poorest, Per Cent	na
Richest, Per Cent	na

Modern Contraceptive Prevalence Rate for Women 15-49:

Urban, Per Cent	na
Rural, Per Cent	na
No Education/Primary, Per Cent	na

Highest Level of Education, Per Cent	na
Provincial Low, Per Cent	0.0
Provincial High, Per Cent	4.6
Poorest, Per Cent	na
Richest, Per Cent	na

Children Underweight Under 5, Moderate:

Urban, Per Cent	na
Rural, Per Cent	na
No Education/Primary, Per Cent	na
Highest Level of Education, Per Cent	na
Provincial Low, Per Cent	na
Provincial High, Per Cent	na
Poorest, Per Cent	na
Richest, Per Cent	na

Children Underweight Under 5, Severe:

Urban, Per Cent	na
Rural, Per Cent	na
No Education/Primary, Per Cent	na
Highest Level of Education, Per Cent	na
Provincial Low, Per Cent	na
Provincial High, Per Cent	na
Richest, Per Cent	na
Poorest, Per Cent	na