

WHY DR CONGO?

Eastern DR Congo is still recovering from a massive multi-nation war that ended in 2003. Today, chronic insecurity still plagues the country, and an estimated 3.8 million people have been displaced, fleeing from ongoing violence between numerous armed groups. The UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs estimates that there are over 2.1 million people in need in North Kivu and Ituri provinces alone (Dec 2016).

Internal displacement creates an enabling environment for rapidly spreading cholera, measles, and typhoid fever epidemics. The UN predicts that almost 6.4 million people in the DR Congo are vulnerable to these and other epidemics due to lack of access to safe water and health care (OCHA, Dec 2016). Poorly maintained roads make it difficult to reach vulnerable populations in the greatest need.



Roughly the size of Western Europe, the DR Congo is one of the poorest and least-developed countries in the world. It regularly ranks in the bottom five for the UNDP's Human Development Index.

WHERE WE WORK

Medair provides relief to conflict-affected communities North Kivu and Ituri provinces, where violence among armed groups displaces hundreds of thousands of people every year.

Medair works in hard-to-reach communities off the beaten track, going where few other NGOs will venture. Many project sites are accessible only on foot, which means project materials like medicines, construction materials, and even a solar fridge must be carried on foot through muddy and mountainous jungle.



Medair is based in Goma with additional project implementing bases in Kashebere, Kirumba, Beni, and Bunia.

WHAT WE DO

Essential Emergency Health Services

Medair provides essential health services that save lives, reduce the spread of and incidences of illness, and improve the long-term quality of health care in the country by providing:

- Free health care for the most vulnerable people, especially young children, pregnant women, and new mothers
- Support, training, and supervision of local health professionals to improve quality of care, especially in the diagnosis and treatment of diarrhoea, respiratory infections, and malaria – the three leading causes of death of young children
- Medical treatment for survivors of sexual violence
- An Emergency Response Team to respond to acute crises such as population movement and disease outbreaks

Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene Where It Matters Most

To help prevent the spread of disease and infection, Medair works mostly with health clinics to increase access to safe water, sanitation, and hygiene by:

- Improving access to and protecting sources of safe water
- Upgrading health facilities to include handwashing stations, latrines, safe disposal sites, and bathing facilities
- Teaching patients and staff about good hygiene practices, such as handwashing
- Training staff about safe disposal of medical waste

**Infrastructure: Opening Access to Aid**

DR Congo's poor infrastructure makes it extremely difficult for aid organisations to respond to humanitarian crises in the country. To enable aid to reach vulnerable communities faster, Medair hires local labourers to rehabilitate roads that are impassable when wet. This work provides much-needed income to communities who cannot access their farms due to insecurity and where few other employment opportunities are available.

"Because of the fighting we had been hiding in the bush close to our fields, but then we came to the village because I needed help when I gave birth. It has been very difficult for us. Medair gave me somewhere to go in a time of distress."

- José, IDP and new mother who gave birth in a Medair clinic

IMPACT HIGHLIGHTS for 2017 (January to August): 209,842 DIRECT BENEFICIARIES

- 172,350 patients treated at Medair-supported clinics
- 70,524 people gained improved access to safe drinking water
- 21,311 people received improved latrines or bathing facilities
- 2,714 people benefited from the income from cash-for-work projects
- 4 bridges built

ORGANISATIONAL AND PRIVATE DONORS

Medair's humanitarian response in DR Congo is supported by the US Agency for International Development, Medicor Foundation, Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation, United Nations Population Fund, European Commission, United Nations Children's Fund, Common Humanitarian Fund, Migros, and the generous support of private donors.

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