



UNITED NATIONS POPULATION FUND

COUNTRY APPEAL

DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF
THE CONGO (DRC)

APRIL 2025

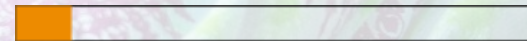
Snapshot

The Democratic Republic of Congo is facing a rapidly escalating humanitarian crisis, particularly in North and South Kivu, where conflict has displaced millions and severely disrupted health and protection services. Women and girls are especially vulnerable, with over 1.5 million women of reproductive age and more than 234,000 pregnant women at risk.

In response, UNFPA is urgently appealing for US\$42.3 million to provide life-saving sexual and reproductive health services, and prevention response to gender-based violence – US\$18 million for immediate emergency relief and US\$24.3 million to expand and sustain critical services nationwide.

\$42,300,000

TOTAL HUMANITARIAN APPEAL
TO REACH 1.3 MILLION PEOPLE IN 2025



6% funded

“I was eight months pregnant when I started bleeding profusely. There was no doctor, no ambulance to evacuate me. I was sure I was going to die with my baby. But Loti [the UNFPA-supported midwife] was there. He took charge, stopped the bleeding and encouraged me to hold on. Thanks to him, my son is alive.”

— Mariam, a displaced woman from Mugunga IDP Camp

Situation Overview

Since December 2024, the resurgence of conflict in North and South Kivu (driven by intensified clashes between M23 rebels and the Armed Forces of the Democratic Republic of Congo – FARDC) has led to widespread displacement, increased violence, and a deepening humanitarian crisis. As of March 2025, an estimated 7.1 million people are affected, including 1.5 million women of reproductive age and 234,833 pregnant women facing severe access constraints to essential healthcare services.

The destruction of health facilities, widespread sexual violence against women and girls, and the collapse of humanitarian supply chains have exacerbated an already dire situation. Over 70 per cent of health facilities in affected areas are non-functional or operating at limited capacity, leading to increased maternal deaths, unsafe deliveries, and heightened risks of gender-based violence (GBV).

As frontline responders, UNFPA DRC is leading the response to ensure uninterrupted access to life-saving sexual and reproductive health (SRH) services, GBV prevention and response programs including the Protection from Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (PSEA). However, urgent financial support is required to meet the critical needs of affected women, girls, and vulnerable populations.

Target Population



1,393,624
Total people
targeted



309,837
Women of
reproductive age



46,094
Estimated pregnant
women



933,728
People targeted with
SRH services



459,896
People targeted
with GBV
programmes

UNFPA Response Strategy

Prior to the latest escalation of violence, the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) was already experiencing one of the world's most complex and protracted humanitarian crises. With over 6.9 million internally displaced people, persistently high maternal mortality rates, and a growing prevalence of gender-based violence (GBV) in conflict-affected areas, millions – particularly women and girls – were already facing acute health, protection, and displacement-related challenges.

The current US\$18 million emergency response plan (covering February to August 2025) is not a standalone intervention but an urgent reinforcement and expansion of existing efforts. It addresses the intensified needs resulting from the crisis while tackling long-standing vulnerabilities that have only deepened. This emergency phase aims to reach at least 20 per cent of the total affected population, delivering immediate, life-saving care and protection services to the most at-risk groups in the provinces of North and South Kivu.

In parallel, the US\$24.3 million annual humanitarian plan is essential to maintain and expand continuity of care throughout 2025. It builds on UNFPA's Humanitarian Action Overview (HAO), launched in December 2024, which outlined a US\$40 million funding requirement for the DRC. This refined plan prioritises the most critical life-saving interventions – including SRH, GBV prevention and response, and protection from sexual exploitation and abuse (PSEA) – based on evolving needs and realities on the ground. Together, the US\$18 million emergency response and the US\$24.3 million

annual plan form a comprehensive, integrated strategy to deliver sustained, life-saving support to the most vulnerable, especially women, girls, and displaced populations. The combined effort **ensures continuity** of services while scaling up the response to meet growing and shifting needs across crisis-affected regions.

This appeal is fully aligned with the priorities and objectives of the 2025 DRC Humanitarian Response Plan (HRP), which is coordinated by OCHA in collaboration with humanitarian partners across all sectors. The HRP seeks to mobilise US\$2.5 billion to assist 11 million people across the country. While eastern provinces such as North Kivu, South Kivu, Ituri, and Tanganyika remain at the heart of the crisis, the HRP also acknowledges the broader national impacts of conflict, displacement, epidemics, and climate-related shocks. UNFPA's appeal contributes directly to the HRP's health and protection outcomes, ensuring that the specific needs of women, girls, and adolescents are prioritised and addressed within the broader humanitarian response framework.

Priority Areas

As the humanitarian situation in Eastern DRC rapidly deteriorates, UNFPA is urgently appealing for US\$42.3 million to scale up life-saving SRH services and GBV prevention and response, including PSEA.

Programmes	Immediate Emergency Needs (Feb-Aug 2025)	Scale Up / Post Humanitarian Needs (2025)	Total Funding Needed (USD)
Sexual & reproductive health	US\$10.2M	US\$18.3M	US\$28.5M
Gender-based violence	US\$7.8M	US\$6M	US\$13.8M
Total	US\$18M	US\$24.3M	US\$42.3M

Life-saving SRH Services (US\$28.5M)

UNFPA's response includes the deployment of humanitarian midwives and skilled birth attendants to conflict-affected areas, alongside the restoration of quality maternal and newborn care services, including emergency obstetric and newborn care with referral systems. Efforts also focus on the procurement and distribution of reproductive health kits and life-saving sexual and reproductive health (SRH) supplies, the provision of contraception and family planning services to prevent unintended pregnancies, and the expansion of mobile health clinics to reach displaced and returnee communities with essential care.

Gender-based violence Response and Protection (US\$13.8M)

UNFPA is expanding safe spaces for women and girls, offering psychosocial support and medical care, including clinical management of rape (CMR) and access to post-rape kits through survivor-centered services. The response also focuses on strengthening referral pathways and case management for GBV survivors, while scaling up cash and voucher assistance (CVA) to support transportation costs, protection, and income-generating activities for returnees. UNFPA is also working to establish and operationalize GBV Community Protection Mechanisms to enhance risk mitigation, prevent GBV incidents, and address sexual exploitation and abuse at the community level. Standardized GBV messages are also being developed to promote service uptake, raise awareness through community sensitization, and display key information at service delivery points.

A Proven Track Record

As the lead UN agency for sexual and reproductive health in crises, UNFPA DRC has a demonstrated capacity to deliver life-saving services, even in high-risk conflict zones. In the last three weeks alone, UNFPA's humanitarian response in Eastern DRC has achieved the following results.



13,761

People reached with essential SRH services



6,778

People supported through GBV prevention & response programmes



138

Humanitarian midwives deployed to scale up maternal care



615

Dignity kits distributed to vulnerable women and girls



26

Functional health facilities restored and supported

Despite recent successes, significant funding gaps jeopardize the continuation of critical programs. Without immediate financial support, tens of thousands of women and girls risk increased maternal deaths due to the lack of emergency obstetric care, a surge in sexual violence cases without access to survivor-centered support, and severe shortages of life-saving reproductive health supplies.

Call to Action

In 2025, UNFPA is urgently appealing for US\$42.3 million to sustain life-saving interventions in Eastern DRC, yet the appeal remains only 13 percent funded, underscoring the critical need for increased support. Flexible and multi-year funding is vital to enable a sustained, coordinated response to the escalating crisis. Support can come through direct funding commitments, in-kind contributions such as medical supplies, reproductive health kits, and dignity kits, or through advocacy and policy engagement to strengthen protection for women and girls in conflict settings. UNFPA also calls on partners to collaborate on joint programming to deliver integrated GBV and SRH services.



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