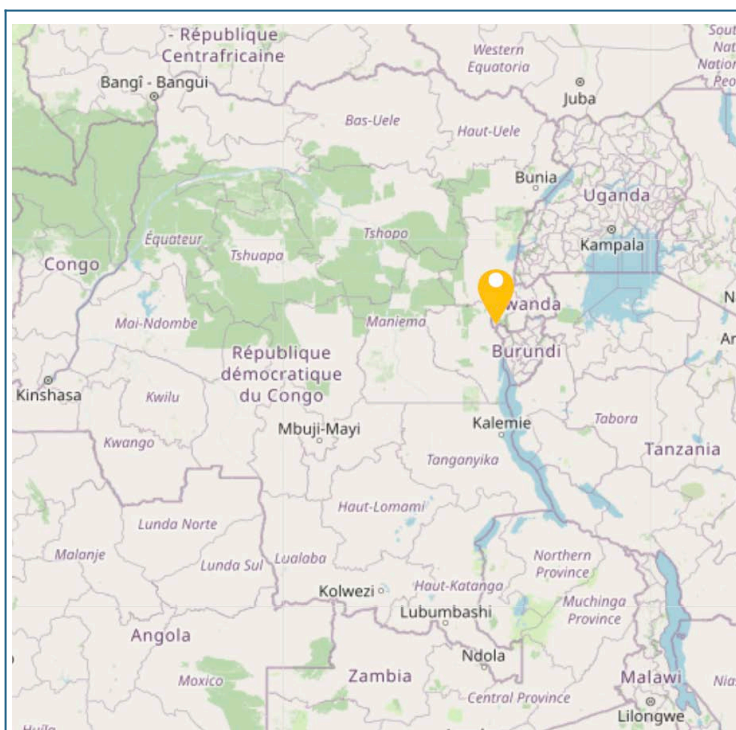


Congo (Democratic Republic) Immigration Detention Data Profile



Quick Facts	
Immigration detainees (2019)	Not Available
Detained minors (2017)	Not Available
International migrants (2015)	545,700
New asylum applications (2019)	8,612

NOTES ON USING THIS PROFILE

- Sources for the data provided in this report are available online at: <https://www.globaldetentionproject.org/countries/africa/congo-democratic-republic>
- "Observation Dates" indicate the timeframe statistical data correspond to or other data were last validated. More than one statistical entry for a year indicates contrasting reports.

STATISTICS

Detention, expulsion, and incarceration statistics

		Observation Date			Observation Date
Total number of immigration detainees by year	Not Available	2019	Total number of detained minors	Not Available	2017
Criminal prison population	20,550	2015	Prison population rate (per 100,000 of national population)	29	2015
				33	2010

Demographics and immigration-related statistics

		Observation Date			Observation Date
Population	89,600,000	2020	International migrants	545,700	2015
	77,267,000	2015			
International migrants as a percentage of the population	0.7	2015	Refugees	523,733	2019
				529,061	2018
				537,087	2017
				451,947	2016
				383,095	2015
				119,754	2014
Ratio of refugees per 1000 inhabitants	5.67	2017	Total number of new asylum applications	8,612	2019
	1.6	2014		423	2016
				131	2014
Refugee recognition rate	25	2014			

DOMESTIC LAW

LEGAL TRADITION

	Name	Observation Date
Legal tradition	Civil law	2017
	Customary law	2017

COVID-19 UPDATES

	Update Status	Observation Date
<p>Latest Update</p>	<p>As of 12 October 2020, the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) had detected 10,851 cases of COVID-19 and recorded 276 deaths due to the disease. In addition to outbreaks of cholera, the Ebola virus, and measles, the country now has to grapple with the coronavirus pandemic. The International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) said that “this latest crisis, whose socio-economic and health consequences will be felt for some time, is overloading systems of health care and essential services that are already struggling, particularly in the east of the country where armed violence and conflict continues to exact a heavy toll on the local population.” The World Food Programme (WFP) estimated that four in ten of DRC’s 100 millions people are food insecure, with 15.6 million suffering “crisis” or “emergency” hunger. According to the UNHCR, following the fifth extension of the state of emergency on 4 July, 14 provinces are now affected by the virus, with notable numbers of cases in the eastern provinces of South Kivu (141 cases) and North Kivu (106 cases), which host refugees and internally displaced persons. UNHCR said that there were growing fears that COVID-19 may also reach refugee-hosting areas of northern DRC. The UN Refugee Agency also reported that in early June, there were repeated incursions by the South Sudanese army into refugee-hosting areas in DRC despite border closures, leading refugees and locals to flee. On 17 and 18 May, around 45,000 people had attempted to flee towards the Ugandan border with the DRC shortly after deadly militia attacks on civilians in Ituri province. Many have been left unable to return to their homes and in consequence, on 1 July, Uganda agreed to temporarily open its borders. Approximately 1,500 asylum-seekers entered the country through Guladjo and Mount Zeu crossing points. UNHCR reported that it was installing handwashing stations in refugee camps and IDP sites across DRC, while distributing soap and disinfecting community infrastructures. By 29 June, 3,125 handwashing stations had been installed across DRC (including 269 donated to authorities and 441 to health structures), over 102,000 people received soap, and 2,069 community infrastructures had been disinfected. UNHCR estimated that a total of 1.2 million refugees, internally displaced persons, and host community members had been reached by awareness-raising sessions on COVID-19 by 29 June. Following the DRC Government’s request to close displacement sites in Kalemie (Tanganyika province), UNHCR provided assistance for the voluntary return of a total of 9,003 people living in Kaseke and Kakomba displacement sites. More recently, the organisation reported that it had assisted authorities in establishing medical checkpoints and containment sites. UNHCR also stated that the country currently hosts over half a million refugees - mainly from Rwanda, Burundi and the Central African Republic (CAR), and South Sudan. In South Ubangi’s Mole Refugee camp, further resources are required to ensure that 15,000 refugees from CAR have access to the minimum water requirement of 20 litres per person per day. UNHCR said this was “particularly important now, when, in addition to the COVID-19 pandemic, refugees and their host communities need potable water to protect them against endemic cholera and what is now the world’s longest running measles crisis.” The ICRC stated that it had requested that DRC authorities reduce overcrowding in prisons and release vulnerable detainees who are serving a short sentence and are at greater risk from COVID-19 (i.e. those who are ill or old). DRC jails are among the world’s most overcrowded according to the UN, with inmates living in squalid conditions and meagre rations. In September 2020, the UN reported that 52 inmates at the Bunia prison had starved to death so far this year as a result of the government’s failure to devote enough funding. The prison operates at nearly 500% capacity. Malnutrition is reportedly common in DRC jails as food portions are allotted based on the facilities’ normal capacity, rather than their real population. The ICRC said that it had engaged in dialogue with prison and judicial authorities on respect for detainees’ rights and judicial guarantees, and monitored detainees’ treatment and conditions. In a bid to alleviate overcrowding and protect prisoners from an outbreak of COVID-19, authorities have released certain detainees. On 14 August, 73 people detained at the Kalemie prison were released by a presidential decree. Another decree from 30 June led to the release of 79 people from the Kangbaya prison as well as the release of 129 detainees from the Bunia prison. On 14 May, Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF) provided 4,000 face masks to the Ndolo prison and the World Health Organisation (WHO) installed two isolation tents within the Makala prison facility to care for ill detainees. Many coronavirus cases have now been detected within the country’s prison system. The first case was identified in the Kayiti prison on 10 June and in response, the facility was isolated and movement to and from the facility was completely suspended. Yet, in August, a testing campaign in the Amuru prison revealed that 153 prisoners tested positive for the virus among the 205 prisoners. A staff member also tested positive and in consequence, the whole facility was confined during 28 days. Subsequently on 9 and 11 September, 76 prisoners at Kitgum prison and 30 others at the Moroto prison tested positive for the virus. While authorities have taken certain measures to alleviate overcrowding in the country’s criminal prisons and reduce the risk of spreading COVID-19, the GDP has been unable to find reports indicating that authorities have adopted any measures to assist migrants. The GDP has also been unable to establish the extent to which detention facilities are used in the DRC as part of immigration enforcement policies or obtain any details about whether any COVID-19 related measures have been taken in the country to safeguard people who are in custody for immigration reasons, including as part of deportation proceedings.</p>	<p>2020</p>

INTERNATIONAL LAW

Relevant international treaties and date of ratification

	Name	Ratification Year
International treaties	OPCRPD, Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities	2015
	CRPD, Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities	2015
	OPCAT, Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment	2010
	CTOCTP, Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children	2005
	CAT, Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment	1996
	CRC, Convention on the Rights of the Child	1990
	CEDAW, Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women	1986
	ICCPR, International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights	1976
	ICESCR, International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights	1976
	VCCR, Vienna Convention on Consular Relations	1976
	ICERD, International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination	1976
	PCRSR, Protocol to the Geneva Convention Relating to the Status of Refugees	1975
	CRSR, Geneva Convention Relating to the Status of Refugees	1965

Ratio of relevant international treaties ratified	13/19
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Relevant international treaties and date of ratification

	Name	Acceptance Year
Individual complaints procedure	CRPD, Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities	2015
	ICCPR, First Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, 1966	1976

Relevant international treaties and date of ratification

	Number	Observation Date
Ratio of complaints procedures accepted	1/7	2017

Regional treaties, regulations, and directives

	Name	Year of Ratification (Treaty) / Transposed (Directive) / Adoption (Regulation)
Regional legal instruments	ACHPR, African Charter on Human and Peoples Rights	1987
	APRW, Protocol to the African Charter on Human and Peoples Rights on the Rights of Women in Africa (Maputo Protocol)	2008

Non treaty-based international human rights mechanisms

Relevant recommendations of the UN Universal Periodic Review	Recomendation Issued	Year Issued	Observation Date
	No	2010	2017
	No	2014	2017

INSTITUTIONAL INDICATORS

More information about immigration detention in Congo (Democratic Republic) is available at the website of the Global Detention Project (www.globaldetentionproject.org)

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