

# REPUBLIC OF CONGO

## Health Sector Needs Assessment

The instability in the Great Lakes region has brought tens of thousand of refugees from the region's wars to seek safe haven in the Republic of Congo's (RoC) northern areas. There are over 100,000 IDPs and over 70,000 refugees in RoC. Since 1999, the succession of wars in the RoC, specifically in the Pool region, has caused significant destruction and loss of life: schools, health infrastructure and services, roads, and water and power supplies no longer exist because of destruction or looting during the conflict.

**Health infrastructure:** Over half of health posts in the Pool region have been destroyed or looted of equipment, drugs, and roof materials. Out of the sixteen health infrastructures that were operating in the Pool district, only nine are partially functioning. In Kinkala district, the conflict has destroyed thirteen health centres and only twelve infrastructures remain operational. Remaining clinics lack equipment, drugs, laboratories, blood banks, and viable epidemiological surveillance and health information systems. Another major constraint is the lack of qualified staff, which limits health coverage in the whole region.

**Disease surveillance and control:** The population of the Pool does not have access to potable water. Consequently, incidences of water-borne diseases and gastrointestinal infections are high. Preventable diseases like malaria and respiratory infections are ravaging the region's population. Over one-third of morbidity rates are due to malaria. The poor nutritional and health status of the population combined with the destruction of their traditional coping mechanisms and communities has resulted in high mortality rates as result of these diseases. Non-existent to poor vaccination coverage in the Pool region has meant high child mortality rates. In this region, average immunization rates are estimated to be two-thirds of those of the country.



**Reproductive health:** The quality of reproductive health facilities has also dramatically deteriorated, resulting in appalling high maternal mortality rates. Thousands of women and young girls who have been victims of sexual violence during the conflict lack the adequate assistance and psychological care. The HIV/AIDS prevalence, which is estimated at 5 % in the entire country and at 2.6% in Kikala, may significantly deteriorate as a consequence of the sexual violence perpetrated in the region.

### **Health Sector Priorities for 2005**

- Rehabilitate basic social and health structures and improve health coverage care in the Pool region
- Provide training for health personnel
- Reduce maternal and children mortality
- Develop an epidemiological sentinel surveillance and nutritional monitoring system
- Rehabilitate the health information system
- Reduce incidence of serious diseases: malaria, upper respiratory infections, diarrhoea
- Reduce HIV and STI transmission
- Progressive establishment of the Programme to Enlarge Vaccination (PEV)
- Strengthen coordination in the health sector

<b>WHO Proposed Projects for 2005</b>	<b>Funds Requested</b>	<b>Implementing Partners</b>
Reduce HIV and STD transmission [ROC-05/H02]	US\$ 209,880	MoH, UNICEF, UNFPA, MSF, CAM, other NGOs
Strengthening of reproductive health services in health facilities of the Pool Region (Reducing maternal mortality) [ROC-05H01B] Other appealing agency: UNFPA [see ROC-05/H01A-B]	US\$ 163,240	MoH, UNICEF, MSF, CAM, UDA, other NGOs
Coordination in the health sector [ROC-05/H07]	US\$ 256,520	MoH, UN agencies, NGOs
Reinforcing access to quality health services to meet the health needs of the affected communities [ROC-05/H08]	US\$ 664,620	MoH, UNICEF, UNFPA, MSF, CAM, other NGOs
Reduce excess mortality and morbidity due to hard environmental conditions related to the humanitarian situation [ROC-05H0/09B] Other appealing agency: UNICEF [see ROC-05/H09A-B]	US\$ 268,180	MoH, UNFPA, MSF, CAM, other NGOs
Relaunching PEV Activities [ROC-05/H06A] Other appealing agency: UNFPA [see ROC-05/H06A-B]	US\$ 81,620	Pool Health Department Office, PEV operational sector, Pool communities
Strengthen health partner capacity for case management of sexual violence [ROC-05/H10]	US\$ 186,560	MoH, UNICEF, UNFPA, MSF, CAM, other NGOs
Strengthen health information focusing on early warning system related to epidemic-potential diseases [ROC-05/H11]	US\$ 472,230	MoH, UNICEF, UNFPA, MSF, CAM, other NGOs

**Total Funds Requested: US\$ 2,302,850**

2004 Health Sector Major Donors: Australia, Belgium, Canada, European Commission, Japan, Norway, Sweden, United States