

“A Refugee Camp in the Heart of the City”
Fact Sheet: Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC)

Internally Displaced People (IDPs)	1.4 million (fourth highest in the world) ¹
Refugees	370,000 ²
Refugees fled to	Angola, Congo Republic, Rwanda, Burundi, Tanzania, Uganda, Zambia
Conflict began in	1997
Doctors Without Borders/Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF) began working there in	1981
MSF staff on the ground	3,084
MSF activities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Primary health care • Treatment of sexual violence <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • HIV/AIDS programs • Water-and-sanitation programs <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • War surgery • Treatment of malnutrition • Epidemic response <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Vaccination • Mental health care
MSF concerns	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Violence against civilians in eastern region • High levels of sexual violence and mental trauma • Constant renewed displacements of already exhausted and traumatized people • Epidemic outbreaks of cholera and measles

- War officially ended in November 2006, but the country has yet to recover from over a decade of conflict.
- The great majority of the population has limited or no access to health care, epidemics break out with regularity, and violence continues to have a devastating impact on people’s lives, particularly in the east of the country.
- MSF operates hospitals and medical clinics in the provinces most affected by violence: North Kivu, South Kivu, Katanga, and Ituri, as well as in the capital, Kinshasa. People living in these areas face violence, rape, torture, arbitrary arrest, arson and systematic looting carried out by armed groups. Tens of thousands of women and girls are still subject to rape and sexual abuse.
- DRC has been on the Doctors Without Borders annual “Top Ten Most Underreported Humanitarian Stories” every year since 1999.

For more information visit <http://www.doctorswithoutborders.org/drc>

For media inquiries:

Emily Linendoll, Press Officer
Doctors Without Borders/ Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF)
Direct: 212-763-5764. Cell: 646-206-9387
emily.linendoll@newyork.msf.org

###

¹ SOURCE: Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre: “Internal Displacement: Global Overview of Trends and Developments in 2007” (April 2008). For latest data visit <http://www.internal-displacement.org>

² SOURCE: UNHCR: “2007 Global Trends” (June 2008)