

Democratic Republic of the Congo

The UNHCR-WFP Joint Hub Country Support Brief

The Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) hosts **7.5 million forcibly displaced people**, including 517,000 refugees and 6.9 million internally displaced Congolese (UNHCR, 2024). The country faces a protracted humanitarian crisis with **28 million people facing acute food insecurity** (WFP, 2025).

JOINT HUB SUPPORT

Since 2020, the Joint Hub has supported WFP and UNHCR operations in **DRC to develop a shared understanding of the food and socio-economic needs of Burundian, Central African Republic, and South Sudanese refugees**. The aim was to enable **needs-based targeting of assistance and support refugee self-reliance** through strong community engagement in the planning and implementation of livelihoods and assistance programmes.

KEY SUPPORT AREAS



Assessment and Analysis



Self-Reliance and Inclusion



Accountability to Affected People



Learning



Coordination

ASSESSMENT AND ANALYSIS

Assessments conducted in 2021 and 2022 revealed that refugees' vulnerability levels were extremely high. As a result, the **shift to needs-based targeting for assistance was postponed and efforts focused on strengthening self-reliance and socio-economic inclusion**.

JOINT ASSESSMENTS

- [Census of Burundian refugees in South Kivu \(2021\)](#)
- [Census of South Sudanese refugees in Ituri \(2021\)](#)
- [Joint Needs Assessment for in-camp CAR Refugees \(2022\)](#)
- [Joint Needs Assessment for the new influx of CAR Refugees out of camp \(2022\)](#)

SELF-RELIANCE AND INCLUSION

UNHCR and WFP, supported by the Joint Hub, developed the Joint Strategy for Strengthening Refugees' Livelihoods and Resilience in the DRC (2025-2029) to support refugees of all nationalities across the country. The five-year strategy is accompanied by an action plan and budget for implementation. During 2023, the United Nations

Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) formally joined the collaboration and the strategy has since been led jointly by the three agencies.

The strategy targets almost 300,000 refugees in Ituri, Haut Uelé, South & North Ubangi, South Kivu with a total budget of US\$272 million.

Internal Documents

- [Tripartite Self-Reliance Strategy](#) (French)
- [Budget of the Tripartite Self-Reliance Strategy](#) (French)
- [Implementation Plan](#) (French)
- [Synthetic description of the Tripartite Self-Reliance Strategy](#) (French)

ADVOCACY AND PARTNERSHIPS

Since 2024, the Joint Hub has been supporting UNHCR and WFP country operations in DRC through **strategic engagement with donors, other UN agencies and development partners** continued with the aim of fostering broader support for the implementation of the multi-actor joint strategy.



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ACCOUNTABILITY TO AFFECTED PEOPLE (AAP)

The Joint Hub provided support to develop joint information sharing materials on **existing feedback mechanisms and cash assistance** in South Kivu. In addition, the referral of questions, feedback and complaints between UNHCR and WFP feedback mechanisms has been strengthened **through joint referral tools, and community communications and sensibilization** have been developed.

Internal Documents

- [AAP & Protection DRC](#)

COORDINATION

Throughout the support period, the Joint Hub has coordinated weekly online meetings with WFP, UNHCR and FAO. A Joint Hub-supported **Livelihoods and Economic Inclusion Officer was deployed to DRC** for most of 2023, directly supporting the collaboration and technical work of WFP and UNHCR in-country. The Joint Hub continued to provide **remote coordination support through regular online meetings**, with participation from country offices and regional bureaux.

In 2025, after nearly five years of Joint Hub engagement and the completion of a broad scope of planned deliverables, the Joint Hub has concluded its support through a phased handover and the completion of final documentation.

LEARNING

In 2021, the Joint Hub conducted a learning review exercise, culminating in a briefing with WFP and UNHCR management to present the results and reflect strategically on the way forward. Throughout the duration of its support, the Joint Hub has contributed to knowledge management and reinforced learning by rigorously documenting all aspects of joint work.

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