

MEASURE Evaluation in The Democratic Republic of the Congo

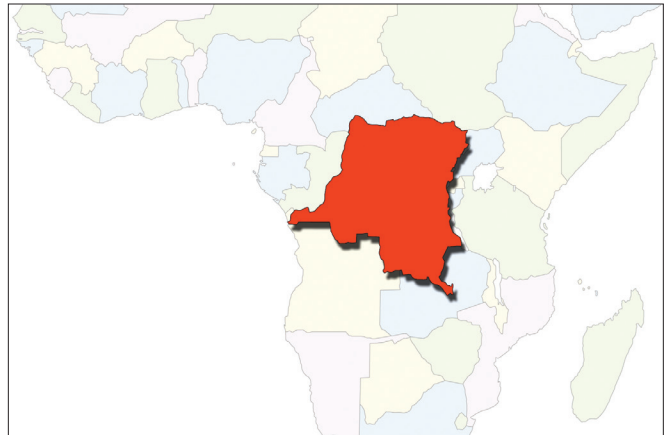
The Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) is one of Africa's largest countries, both in population and land area. Rich natural resources flourish throughout this Central African nation, but a long history of war and civil conflict has made life difficult for many Congolese. Death rates soar in areas where fighting continues, and poverty and poor health indicators prevail throughout the country.

HIV/AIDS, malaria, acute malnutrition, diarrheal diseases, and limited access to safe drinking water present major obstacles to the health of DRC's population. Nearly 200 of every 1,000 children die before the age of 5, and infant and maternal mortality remain very high as well. Life expectancy hovers around 46 years, one of the lowest in the world. The adult HIV/AIDS prevalence rate was 1.3 in 2007, according to USAID, with indications that the rate is rising.

MEASURE EVALUATION IN DRC

MEASURE Evaluation has been working in DRC since 2009, with David Boone serving as Country Focal Person since 2010. Monitoring and evaluation (M&E) activities in DRC have focused on tuberculosis, malaria, reproductive health and family planning, and water sanitation.

DRC has one of the world's highest tuberculosis infection rates. Moreover, HIV-tuberculosis co-infection is prevalent, complicating the treatment of both diseases. MEASURE Evaluation has been working with partners in DRC to improve the quality of data related to tuberculosis countrywide. In January 2011, MEASURE Evaluation conducted a national level "training of trainers" aimed at improving measurement and



COUNTRY FLAG



DEMOGRAPHY

Population: 71,712,867

Population Growth Rate: 3.208%

Age Structure:

0–14 years: 44.4%

15–64 years: 53.0%

65 years and over: 2.6%

Death Rate: 11.06 deaths/1,000 population

HIV-RELATED DATA

Adult HIV Prevalence: 1.5% (2007 est.)

People Living with HIV: 450,000

OTHER RELEVANT DATA

Infant Mortality Rate: 129 infant deaths/1,000 live births (2006 est.)

Total Fertility Rate: 5.24 children born/woman

Maternal Mortality Ratio: 670 maternal deaths/100,000 live births (2009 est.)



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maintaining good data quality for TB reporting, with the future goal of conducting regional trainings throughout the country. A new tuberculosis data quality tool is being developed, and the project will conduct a data quality audit (DQA) to assess routine data sources on behalf of the National Tuberculosis Program (NTP).

The Congolese also face a high risk of malaria infection. In an effort to ensure that everyone in need of malaria treatment receives it, DRC has a community-level distribution program for artemisinin combination therapies (ACT), the drugs used to treat malaria. MEASURE Evaluation is designing and undertaking an assessment to help USAID understand the effectiveness of this program. To help USAID monitor the coverage of malaria commodities, including treatment drugs and bed nets, MEASURE Evaluation is developing a software tool to facilitate the tracking of malaria commodities distribution.

Recently, MEASURE Evaluation assisted in drafting an M&E plan for the Ministry of Health's Cellule d'Appui et du Gestion (CAG), the Principal Recipient (PR) for a round-9 grant from the Global Fund for Health Systems Strengthening (HSS).

"We helped develop an M&E framework and indicators in response to requirements that the Global Fund asks to see prior to funding," Boone explained.

MEASURE Evaluation continues to assist USAID in DRC in updating its performance monitoring plan, an important tool for planning, collecting, and documenting data collection.

Activities planned for the future include data quality assessments for a water sanitation program, and providing M&E training for Family Planning and Reproductive Health implementing partners in DRC.