



## Country Profile: Congo, Democratic Republic of the

The Democratic Republic of the Congo (Congo-Kinshasa) located in central Africa, is the third largest country on the continent. The capital is Kinshasa. French is the official language. Years of civil war and corruption have badly damaged the country's infrastructure. Read the Department of State [Background Notes](#) on the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) for additional information.

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### COUNTRY OVERVIEW



Country Name:	Congo, Democratic Republic of
Continent:	Africa
Capital City:	Kinshasa
Boundary Countries:	Angola, Burundi, Central African Republic, Republic of the Congo, Rwanda, Sudan, Tanzania, Uganda, Zambia
Recommended Hospitals in Capital:	Pointe-Noir: Hospital de Loandjili
Main Cities:	Kinshasa, Banana, Kikwit, Likasi
Country Size:	2,345,410 sq km
Population:	62,660,551

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### COUNTRY GENERAL INFORMATION

Language:	French (official), Lingala (a lingua franca trade language), Kingwana (a dialect of Kiswahili or Swahili), Kikongo, Tshiluba
Currency:	Congolese Franc (CDF)
Predominant Religions:	Roman Catholic 50%, Protestant 20%, Kimbanguist 10%, Muslim 10%, other syncretic sects and indigenous beliefs 10%
National Holidays:	Independence Day, 30 June (1960)
Economic Status:	The economy of the Democratic Republic of the Congo - a nation endowed with vast potential wealth - is slowly recovering from two decades of decline. Conflict, which began in August 1998, dramatically reduced national output and government revenue, increased external debt, and resulted in the deaths of more than 3.5 million people from violence, famine, and disease. Foreign businesses curtailed operations due to uncertainty about the outcome of the conflict, lack of infrastructure, and the difficult operating environment. Conditions began to improve in late 2002 with the withdrawal of a large portion of the invading foreign troops.
Security:	Army, Navy, Air Force
US Presence:	<a href="#">U.S. Embassy in Kinshasa</a> 310 Avenue des Aviateurs Kinshasa, Gombe Democratic Republic of the Congo Telephone: 081 556-0151

<b>Major Airports:</b>	Airports: 234, Airports w/paved runways: 25  Kinshasa-N'Djili Airport (FIH/FZAA) Kinshasa Airport, Congo (Democratic Rep.), BP 10124, Kinshasa 24, DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO Kinshasa Airport, Congo (Democratic Rep.), N'djili, Kinshasa, DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO Tel: +242 12 6131
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