



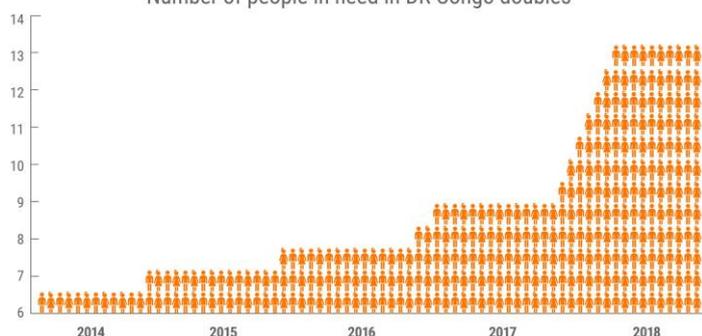
Credit: Ephrem Chiruz/NRC

### SOME OF THE WORST HUMAN SUFFERING ON THE PLANET

The crisis in the Democratic Republic of the Congo continues to deteriorate and the number of people in need has more than doubled since 2014:

- Over 13 million people are in need
- 2.2 million children suffer from severe acute malnutrition
- 4.5 million people are internally displaced
- More than 700,000 Congolese fled to neighbouring countries
- 9.9 million people need food assistance & 7.7 million are acutely food insecure

Number of people in need in DR Congo doubles



### NEEDS DOUBLING, TEPID FUNDS RECEIVED

Aid organizations need \$1.7 billion to respond to the needs of 10.5 million people targeted for assistance in the Humanitarian Response Plan for 2018

1. Needs more doubled from almost 6.3 million people in need in 2014 to over 13 million in 2018.
2. Non-traditional donors must work with existing donors to share the responsibility of humanitarian financial costs.

### CONSEQUENCES OF FAILING TO HELP DR CONGO

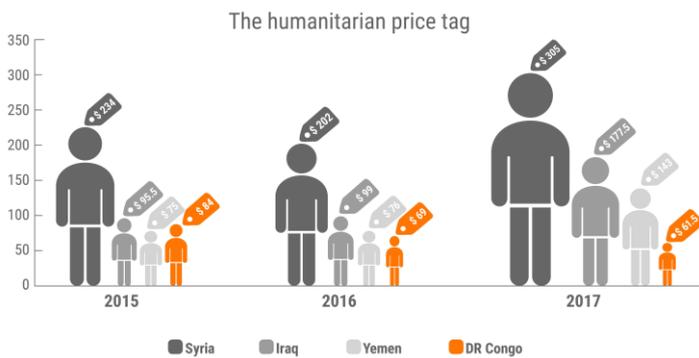
- Vital sectors such as water and sanitation, education, shelter and protection, have been neglected which already had a serious domino effect on **nutrition, health and overall security**.
- The number of people **facing severe food insecurity** has increased by 71% since 2015 and **rising levels of child malnutrition** could not be contained. More than 2 million children suffer from severe acute malnutrition.
- A **rapid increase in epidemics**. Last year, DR Congo faced one of the worst cholera outbreaks in a decade. **Cholera cases increased by 92%** between 2016 and 2017 (from 28,162 to 54,002 cases).
- The lack of assistance to vulnerable populations forces them to create **poor coping mechanisms** that expose them to greater protection risks.
- There has been a **reduction in humanitarian actors on the ground** in North-Kivu. Between June and November 2017, there was a **44% reduction** (from 45 to 25) of protection actors in the province.
- If the response remains underfunded, it will inevitably lead to dire, if not, **fatal consequences** for tens of thousands of displaced and refugee Congolese in the near and distant future.

## AT LEAST FOUR AREAS OF CONCERN

Various types of violence, both ethnic conflicts and battles between armed groups are raging in at least 4 well-identified areas: **Greater Kasai region, the Kivus, Tanganyika and Ituri**. Violence is now spreading to new areas.

## DR CONGO RANKS LAST IN HUMANITARIAN CONTRIBUTION PER PERSON

Of last year's Level 3 emergencies – the highest classification for humanitarian crises – **DR Congo was the only country where the humanitarian contribution per person targeted for assistance has gone down from \$84 in 2015 to \$61.5 in 2017**. This is the direct result of increasing needs coupled with insufficient funding.



## RECOMMENDATIONS

- In order to meet the required amount of the HRP for 2018, the international community needs to create the conditions for a response that adequately addresses the scale of the humanitarian crisis in the DR Congo.
- In addition to existing donors, new donors must come forward to share the responsibility of the humanitarian financial costs. Donors who have been more inclined to allocate funding to development as well as donors who have been largely absent from the DR Congo donor roster should consider supporting relief efforts in the country.

## NRC RESPONSE IN DR CONGO IN 2017

- NRC provided humanitarian assistance in the following areas: **Education, Food, Shelter, WASH** (Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene), **ICLA** (Information, Counseling, and Legal Assistance) and **Emergency Relief**.
- NRC increased its reach of people in need by **61 per cent between 2016 and 2017**. A total of 614,390 people in need received our assistance in Ituri, Kasai, Kasai-Central, Maniema, North Kivu, South Kivu and Tanganyika.
- NRC launched an **innovative pilot project in humanitarian protection and mediation** to allow for greater participation of communities in need in program development, foster conflict resolution and lead to sustainable solutions.
- NRC provided nearly **202,000 USD in cash assistance** reaching 57,816 persons.

## IN 2018, WE WILL ...

- Increase our work on protection to reduce the risk for the affected populations.
- Scale up our response in the hard to reach areas and areas with newly displaced persons.
- Deploy additional mobile emergency teams to be flexible and agile in our response.



Credit: Alex McBride/NRC

## Democratic Republic of the Congo – Event Timeline 2012–2018

2012

November

M23 rebel group captures Goma. Tens of thousands of people flee their homes.

2013

August

U.N. peacekeeping force in DRC, MONUSCO, becomes first UN force with an offensive combat mandate.

October

Number of internally displaced people reaches 2.75 million.

December

M23 rebel group signs peace deal with government. The same month, violent rebellions in Katanga province, displace 400,000 people.

2015

June

Over 8 million people are affected by violence and conflicts throughout the country, of them 5 million are children.

2016

September

In Kinshasa, demonstrators oppose Joseph Kabila's decision to delay elections. The UN reports dozens of people killed.

December

19th December marks the end of President Joseph Kabila's second five-year term, yet no elections are held.

2017

January

DRC tops the list of countries with the highest numbers of new displacements related to conflict in 2016. Violence is the main cause of their displacement.

May

Clashes in the Kasai displace more than 1 million people.

September

DRC faces one of the worst cholera outbreaks in a decade. Out of 55,000 cases recorded, 1000 resulted in death.

2018

\$ 1.68 billion are needed to offer humanitarian assistance to 10.5 million people.

January

Surge in violence in the eastern DRC drives several thousands of Congolese to flee eastwards to neighbouring Burundi, Tanzania and Uganda.

March

4.5 million people are internally displaced and over 600,000 have fled to neighbouring countries. It is estimated that 70 armed groups are active in the country. The UN warns that 2 million malnourished children risk death.