Refugees Country Briefing
Democratic Republic of Congo

This presentation was developed in the framework of the EU-funded project “Refugees and Recognition – REACT” by the ENIC-NARIC centres of Norway, Italy, the Netherlands, Ireland and the Germany.
French is the official language of the DRC whereas Lingala, Kikongo, Swahili and Tshiluba are the national languages.

Current political situation in DRC

- The Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), République Démocratique du Congo, bordered by Congo, Angola, Zambia, the United Republic of Tanzania, Burundi, Rwanda, Uganda, South Sudan and the Central African Republic.
- The population of the DRC was estimated to be around 80 million in 2016.
- Second largest country in Africa, covering over 2.3m square kilometres.
- Divided into provinces in 2015 the provinces were restructured, from 11 (including the city of Kinshasa) to 26.
- The country's GDP per capita for 2014 was around US$480. The DRC is rich in arable land and minerals, such that major exports include coffee, gold, copper, cobalt, crude oil, wood products and diamonds.
Context

• Despite wealth socioeconomic problems, high infant and maternal mortality rates, malnutrition, poor vaccination & access to water and sanitation.

• Ongoing conflict, mismanagement of resources, and a lack of investment/food insecurity;

• Basic public services – education, health, sanitation limited with regional and rural/urban disparities.

• DRC a source and host country for refugees: Congolese refugees and from Rwanda, the Central African Republic, and Burundi.
# Chart of the Educational System

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ENSEIGNEMENT MATERNEL</th>
<th>ENSEIGNEMENT PRIMAIRE</th>
<th>ENSEIGNEMENT SECONDAIRE</th>
<th>ENSEIGNEMENT SUPERIEUR ET UNIVERSITAIRE</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1 2 3</td>
<td>1 2 3 4 5 6</td>
<td>Cycle court</td>
<td>Graduat (1er cycle)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Licence (2e cycle)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Cycle long</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Ecole d'arts et metiers</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>1 2 3 4 5 6</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Ecole professionelles (EP)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>1 2 3 4 5 6</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Ecoles techniques (ET),</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Ecoles generales (EG),</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Ecoles normales (EN)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3 4 5</td>
<td>6 7 8 9 10 11</td>
<td>&lt; Age theorique &gt;</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>12 13 14 15 16 17</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The right to a school education is in the constitution of the DRC and six years of primary education is in principle compulsory and free at state schools.

The medium of instruction at all levels is French and the academic year runs from October to June.

Primary, secondary, technical and professional education is overseen by the Ministère de l’Enseignement Primaire, Secondaire et Initiation à la Nouvelle Citoyenneté.

Higher education lies with the Ministère de l’Enseignement Supérieur et Universitaire.
Primary

• Compulsory primary education age 6 to 12 and is in principle free of charge at state schools. Primary education two cycles of three years.

• At this level, the curriculum includes Art, Civic instruction, French, Geography, History, Mathematics, Moral and religious education, National languages, Physical and natural sciences, Physical education.

• Completion of primary education leads to the Certificat d'Etudes Primaires (CEP), which grants access to secondary education.

• To obtain the CEP, pupils must sit the Test National de Fin d'Etudes Primaires (TENAFEP), a national end-of-primary examination covering French language, general culture, science and mathematics. The TENAFEP accounts for 40% of a pupil's final grade, with the remaining 60% determined by results achieved in class.

Previous structure

• Primary education was previously structured in three two-year cycles, called elementary grade (degré élémentaire), middle grade (degré moyen) and terminal grade (degré terminal) respectively. This structure may still be followed at some institutions.
Qualifications Awarded: Secondary

- Most students study for five to six years from the age of 12 to 17/18.
- General secondary education, requiring the *Certificat d'Etudes Primaires* (CEP) for entry, entails six years of study:
  - Two years common to all students and referred to as the *Tronc Commun* (common core) or *Cycle d'Orientation* (orientation cycle); and
  - Four years, the *Cycle Long* (referred to as *Humanités*) in a humanities, science, technical or teacher training stream. Professional and vocational fields tend to be shorter and are referred to as *Cycle Court*.
- *Cycle Long* programmes of study conclude with a final four-day national examination *Examen d'Etat* (State Examination).
- A score of 50% and above confers the *Diplôme d'Etat d'Etudes Secondaires du Cycle Long* in the chosen stream (*section*) and specialisation (*option*). This diploma has been in its current form since 1988 and enables access to higher education.
Admission Requirements HE

• The Diplôme d'État d'Études Secondaires du Cycle Long or equivalent is required for admission to university education.

• An admissions examination is also often required, though some institutions will waive this requirement for those students with higher than average grades.

• Depending on the area of study, those students unsuccessful in the entrance examination may complete a preparatory year to access first year of their chosen degree programme.

• Education in the DRC is governed by the Loi-Cadre 14/004 de l'Enseignement National (National Education Framework Law) of 2014, which determines the general structure and objectives of all levels of education.

• The Democratic Republic of Congo has no formalised National Framework of Qualifications.
Technical and Vocational Education (UK NARIC)

• Technical and vocational education in the DRC is the responsibility of the Ministère de l'Enseignement Primaire, Secondaire et Initiation à la Nouvelle Citoyenneté (Ministry of Primary and Secondary Education and New Citizenship Initiation).

Secondary programmes

• Typically, students begin studying technical and vocational courses at age 12 following completion of the Certificat d'Etudes Primaires. Courses are described either as Cycle Long (long cycle) or Cycle Court (short cycle), depending upon their duration.

• Six-year Cycle Long technical programmes (incorporating the two-year Cycle d'Orientatio) confer the Diplôme d'Études Secondaires du Cycle Long, which grants access to higher education. Programmes are available in industrial, commercial, health and social care fields. More information is included in the School section.

• Four- to five-year Cycle Court professional programmes lead to the award of the Brevet d'Aptitude Professionnelle.

• Shorter programmes are also available: arts and crafts (arts et métiers) programmes with durations of between one and three years, leading to the Brevet d'Aptitude Professionnelle; and professional specialisation courses of one to two years in length.

• Secondary level training for nurses is available either as a two-year post-primary qualification leading to a Brevet or the Diplôme A3, or as a programme of study deemed comparable to the Diplôme d'Études Secondaires du Cycle Long and conferring the Diplôme A2.
REMISE OFFICIELLE DES DIPLOMES D'ETAT SESSION 2012

C'est depuis le mois de mai 2017 que le Ministère de l'Enseignement Primaire Secondaire et Professionnel grâce à un partenariat avec la Banque Centrale du Congo a disponibilisé les diplômes d'État de la session 2012 et 2013, après 5 années de litige.

Attestation de réussite

• Proof of graduation

• Issued by the inspectorate

• Often used for admission to HE while waiting for the diplôme to be issued

• Usually no security features
• Marks sheet for secondary education

• Issued by the secondary school

• No security features
Diplôme d’Etat

• Issued 1-5 years after graduation
• National model
• Printed on security paper
Other examples: 1994
Useful information sources

- Result checker on the website of the Ministry of Primary, Secondary and Professional Education: https://www.eduquepsp.education/resultat

- Graduation lists on the website of the Ministry of Primary, Secondary and Professional Education: https://www.eduquepsp.education/palmares-exetat

- Before 2008, paper graduation lists were distributed by the inspectorate.
Higher education (GLD)

- Doctorat (3-5 years)
- DES/DEA (2 years)
  Spécialisation en médecine (4-6 years)
- Licence / Ingénieur civile (2 years)
  Docteur en médecine (3 years)
- Graduat / ingénieur technicien (3 years)
LMD-reform

• 2014 - Loi-Cadre de l'Enseignement National (National Education Framework Law)

• Licence (3) – Master (2) – Doctorat (3-5)

• Gradual restructuring
Higher education institutions

• Incomplete list: http://www.minesu.gouv.cd

• Private institutions allowed since the early 90’s
  ➢ Authorisation à fonctionner => authorisation to operate
  ➢ Agrément (provisoire or définitif) => award degrees

• Limited number of institutions can organize 3rd cycle
# Tableau 8 : Nomenclature et frais des documents académiques

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>N°</th>
<th>LIBELLE</th>
<th>FRAIS EN FRANCS CONGOLAIS</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>01. FRAIS LIES A LA SCOLARITE</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>01.1.</td>
<td>Attestation de fréquentation</td>
<td>3.210</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>01.2.</td>
<td>Fiche d'orientation</td>
<td>1.605</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>01.3.</td>
<td>Relevé de cotes</td>
<td>3.210</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>02. PROGRAMME (DÉTAILLE) DES COURS</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>02.1.</td>
<td>Graduat</td>
<td>8.025</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>02.2.</td>
<td>Licence</td>
<td>8.025</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>02.3.</td>
<td>DES/DEA</td>
<td>16.050</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>03. FRAIS LIES A LA FIN DES ÉTUDES</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>03.1.</td>
<td>Entéiniment ou homologation des diplômes</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>03.1.1.</td>
<td>1er cycle</td>
<td>12.0375</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>03.1.2.</td>
<td>2ème cycle</td>
<td>12.0375</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>03.1.3.</td>
<td>Agrégation du degré moyen</td>
<td>32.100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>03.1.4.</td>
<td>Diplôme en Santé Publique</td>
<td>8.025</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>03.2.</td>
<td>Troisième Cycle</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>03.2.1.</td>
<td>DES/DEA</td>
<td>160.500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>03.2.2.</td>
<td>Doctorat</td>
<td>321.000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>03.2.3.</td>
<td>Agrégation en Médecine</td>
<td>321.000</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: instruction académique
N°020/MINESU/CAB,MIN/SMM/BLB2018 du 04 octobre 2018
Attestation de réussite

- Proof of graduation
- Usually signed by secrétaire général académique
- Usually no security features
Relevé des cotes

- Transcript of results
- Usually no security features

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Percentage</th>
<th>Descriptor (mention)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>90 - 100</td>
<td>La plus grande distinction</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>80 - 89</td>
<td>Grande distinction</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>70 - 79</td>
<td>Distinction</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>50 - 69</td>
<td>Satisfaction</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Below 50</td>
<td>Fail</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

UNIVERSITE DE KINSHASA
FACULTE DE DROIT
B.P. 204 KINSHASA XI
République Démocratique du Congo

RELEVE DES COTES
Nous soussignés, Professeurs Marie-Thérèse KENGE NGOMBA TSHILOMBAYI et Irénée Ange MVAKA NGUMBU, Doyenne et Secrétaire Académique de la Faculté de Droit de l'Université de Kinshasa, déclarons et attestons par la présente que le (la) nommé (née) a suivi les cours prévus au programme de la DEUXIEME ANNEE DE GRADUAT EN DROIT pour l'année académique 2004-2005 et a obtenu, en 2ème session, les points suivants :

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>MATIERES</th>
<th>VOLUME HORAIRE</th>
<th>COTES</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. Droit coutumier congolais</td>
<td>45H 15H</td>
<td>40/60</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. Organisation et compétence judiciaires</td>
<td>30H 15H</td>
<td>36/60</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. Droit pénal général</td>
<td>30H 15H</td>
<td>30/60</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4. Droit pénal spécial</td>
<td>30H 15H</td>
<td>30/60</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5. Comptabilité générale</td>
<td>30H 15H</td>
<td>24/60</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6. Législation en matière économique</td>
<td>30H 15H</td>
<td>42/60</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7. Initiation à la recherche scientifique</td>
<td>30H 15H</td>
<td>24/60</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8. Histoire du droit et des idées pol. et écon.</td>
<td>30H 15H</td>
<td>30/60</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9. Finances publiques</td>
<td>45H 15H</td>
<td>40/60</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10. Droit constitutionnel congolais</td>
<td>45H 15H</td>
<td>40/80</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11. Droit civil : Les biens</td>
<td>45H 15H</td>
<td>40/80</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12. Le Droit, les struct. et les inst. trad. africaines</td>
<td>30H 15H</td>
<td>30/60</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

TOTAL PONDERE : 406/800
POURCENTAGE : 51%
MENTION : SATISFACTION

Fait à Kinshasa, le 01/02/2016

Le Secrétaire Académique,
La Doyenne

Irénée Angebota MVAKA NGUMBU
Professeur associé

Marie-Thérèse KENGE NGOMBA TSHILOMBAYI
Professeur Ordinaire

3/28/2019
Diplôme homologué

- Issuing can take months or even years
- Co-signed by minister
- Security paper
Useful information sources

• Some institutions mention graduate lists on their website

➢ Université de Kinshasa – faculty of medicine: https://facmed-unikin.net/decanat/secretariat-academique-diplome-signé

➢ Institut Supérieur d’Informatique et de Gestion de Goma : https://www.isig.ac.cd/isiggoma/valve.php?slug=palmares
Verifying authenticity

If the applicant considers it safe, you can contact the awarding institution directly:

- Secondary education: contact the Ministry directly: http://eduquepsp.education

- Higher education: contact the secrétaire général académique or the directeur général of the institution
Glossary of Terms

• Attestation - Confirms completion of a programme of study, awarded (temporarily or permanently) in lieu of a final diploma
• Bulletin - Mark sheet awarded at the school level
• CO - Cycle d'Orientation (also known as Cycle Inférieur or Tronc Commun), the first two years of secondary education common to all Cycle Long students
• Cycle Court - Professional or vocational programmes, typically four to five years in duration
• Cycle Long - Also known as Cycle Supérieur or Humanités, four years of secondary study following the CO
• D1, D2, D3 - Denotes the first, second and third year of second-cycle Doctorat programmes respectively
• DRC - Democratic Republic of the Congo
• G1, G2, G3 - Denotes the first, second and third year of the Graduat programmes respectively
• L1, L2 - Denotes the first and second year of Licence programmes respectively
• LMD - Licence-Master-Doctorat, the name given to higher education reforms following the Bologna model
• Mention - Qualitative descriptor of academic performance, most commonly at the higher education level
• MINESU - Ministère de l'Enseignement Supérieur et Universitaire, the Ministry of Higher and University Education
• Propédeutique - Pre-university preparatory course
• Relevé des Cotes - Academic transcript
• TENAFEP - Test National de Fin d'Etudes Primaires, the national examination taken after six years of primary education and leading to the Certificat d'Etudes Primaires
• Zaire - Former name of the DRC between 1971 and 1997
References

Thank you for your attention!

Any Questions?

The European Commission support for the production of this publication does not constitute an endorsement of the contents, which reflects the views only of the authors, and the Commission cannot be held responsible for any use, which may be made of the information contained therein.