

MONTHLY UPDATE

IN TRANSFORMATION
INITIATIVE

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DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC
OF CONGO (DRC)



MAIN STORIES

Understanding the
New US Terrorism
Designations in Africa

Is the Islamic State
Really Operating in
Eastern DRC?

Climate Crisis and
the Congo Basin

DRC Refugee
Response Plan
January–December
2021

HIGHLIGHTS

- The United States' designation of some armed groups as 'ISIS-DRC' could be counterproductive, by favouring military over socio-political solutions.
- The DRC's natural resources will be critical to the existential climate change battle.
- The United Nations' (UN) DRC Regional Refugee Response Plan (RRRP) remains the essential tool towards solutions for Congolese refugees across Africa.
- Several weeks of negotiations eventually led to the creation of a new Sacred Union government.
- Alleged arms dealer, Alexander Zingman, linked to former President Joseph Kabila, was arrested but released following diplomatic pressure.
- Protest action across towns in eastern DRC against the United Nations Organisation Stabilization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo's (MONUSCO) alleged lack of protection against Allied Democratic Forces (ADF) militants, led to loss of life while ADF attacks continue unabated.
- The DRC's army is working with counterparts in neighbouring countries to develop strategies for permanently resolving insecurity in the Great Lakes region.
- The International Criminal Court (ICC) upheld the war crimes conviction and 30-year sentence imposed on a Congolese warlord Bosco Ntaganda.
- The government officially launched Entreprise Générale du Cobalt (EGC) to support the commercialisation of artisanal cobalt.

DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO (DRC)



- As of 19 April 2021, the DRC had recorded 28 956 coronavirus cases, 2 370 active cases, 745 deaths and 25 841 recoveries.
- The World Food Programme (WFP) says 27.3 million Congolese face acute hunger, due to conflict and the economic effects of COVID-19.
- Russia's Coordination Committee for Economic Cooperation with Africa (AFROCOM) has chosen Africa Oil & Power (AOP) as a strategic partner for market entry into the DRC.
- US\$500 million has been approved by the World Bank for the Kinshasa Multisector Development and Urban Resilience Project.
- The UN Security Council welcomed positive developments in the DRC, albeit expressing concern over violence in the east and the dire humanitarian situation.
- The DRC and Qatar signed a deal on an expected "massive" influx of Qatari investment into the country.
- The UK government has halted aid funding for Oxfam following allegations of sexual misconduct against staff in the DRC.

