

# **Committee Overview**

Since 2002, the African Union has pushed a vision of "an integrated, prosperous and peaceful Africa, driven by its own citizens and representing a dynamic force in the global arena." This body has tackled some of the most pressing and long-standing issues facing the continent, including liberation movements, apartheid, continuing effects of colonialism, and many pressing

public health crises. Today, the body faces many more pressing issues and collective and immediate action is required. Climate change is rewriting the status quo for communities and livelihoods worldwide and the African continent is disproportionately affected by the effects of climate change. Conflict areas in the DRC, Ethiopia, South



Sudan, Cameroon, and Burkina Faso have created waves of immigrants and internally-displaced persons (IDPs). The most pressing of these areas are in the DRC and Congo, where food insecurity affects about a third of the countries' populations. As part of this body, you are tasked with creating progress and dialogue on these issues. It will not be easy to bring differing voices together and there are often no clear solutions to these issues. However, the current situation is too severe for inaction, and with the right approach, the African Union can yet again show its mettle and make the continent a better place.

#### State of the World

The current state of the world is one of turmoil and constant upheaval. The crisis in Ukraine has spiraled into a full-scale energy crisis that affects countries around the globe. China and the U.S. continue their soft-power escalation of tensions and climate change continues to bring unprecedented challenges to the international community. Delegates of the African Union interested in fulfilling their due diligence on broader topics facing the United Nations should refer to their State of the World brief for material related to the overarching themes and conflicts.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> AU in a Nutshell | African Union

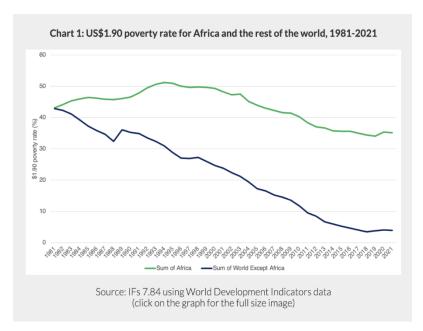
### Topic A: Coping with Energy and Food Shortages in a Globalized Market

# **Executive Summary**

The devastating effects of malnutrition are one of the most complex challenges facing the global community. Food insecurity worsened by shortages as well as global, regional and domestic crises alike lead to short-term concerns that require immediate relief. In addition to this, long-term challenges still remain and are related to the persistent poverty and growing inequality of many African nations. A growing body of evidence recognizes malnutrition and economic development as deeply interlinked. As one example of this interlinked problem, one estimate calculates that African economies are losing approximately 11 percent of their annual gross domestic product to malnutrition-related costs.

Energy shortages also continue to be a serious concern. There are four percent more people in

2021 without electricity than in 2019. a figure that includes about 600 million people disproportionately from Sub-Saharan Africa.<sup>2</sup> Almost 40 percent of the population in Sub-Saharan Africa is in extreme poverty which exacerbates the negative effects of the electricity shortage.<sup>3</sup> COVID-19 has pushed more than 20 African countries into debt distress which in return reverses the progress on expanding access to electricity into under-served areas.<sup>3</sup> The drastic increase in energy and food prices triggered by Russia's invasion of Ukraine is hurting most



severely in developing countries where people can least afford it.

#### **Historical Background**

As the members of the United Nation became more proactive in global progress during the 1940s and 1950s, the formation and growth of institutions like the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund led to certain political and economic interventions in undeveloped areas. These included structural adjustment programs (SAPs) and foreign direct investment among other plans. Investment in infrastructure occurring in Europe was very different from conditional, and

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> <u>Key findings – Africa Energy Outlook 2022 – Analysis - IEA</u>

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup> Africa Energy Outlook 2022

sometimes counterproductive, SAPs that enforced assumptions of the Washington Consensus onto countries leading to significant backlash. Consequently, there arose a counter-culture movement around anti-imperialism in the 1960s and 1970s. Delegates can reference influential texts like Frantz Fanon's 1961 *The Wretched of the Earth* or Walter Rodney's 1972 *How Europe Underdeveloped Africa*) to gauge how the culture happened in that era.

More recent contexts of development increasingly focus on 'sustainable development' and endogenous growth, meaning limited dependency. For instance, from a 2022 AU nutrition report, "Human capital is key for development as it leads to improved lives for individuals, higher earnings and improved incomes for countries." That same report cites goals of having healthy and well-nourished citizens by expanding access to quality health services, modern agriculture for increasing proactivity and production, and environmentally sustainable climate and resilient economies by managing the continent's rich biodiversity, forests land and waters by using adaptive measures to address climate change risks.<sup>4</sup>

#### **Current Situation**

Africa is facing the worst food crisis seen in 40 years.<sup>5</sup> A coronavirus-induced global recession has created a drop in world GDP, with the decline affecting primary commodity exporters. Consequently, government capacity to extend public services needed to respond effectively to crises is reduced. These losses will have repercussions on Africa's progress towards "Sustainable Development Goals and Africa's Agenda 2063." Nearly 60 percent of Africa's population depends on agriculture for their livelihoods.<sup>6</sup>

Africa imports about 85 percent of its food supply from outside the continent. With the disruption of trade, logistics, production, and value chains, food prices have increased rapidly. To combat some of the prices, some countries have reduced value-added taxes on their goods. However, export restriction policies and hoarding of short-circuit trade and distribution have led to an exacerbation of risks of food insecurity.

The Russian invasion of Ukraine has also impacted food insecurity. Russia and Ukraine have been called the breadbasket of Europe and provide over 40 percent of Africa's wheat supply. The World Food Programme (WFP) estimates an increase of "10 million people [experiencing] acute food insecurity... in regional [Southern Africa]."

In October 2022, OPEC announced a massive cut in oil production in the wake of the already dramatically increasing expensiveness and lack of accessibility to oil. This was seen as a way to support Russia.<sup>7</sup> The important role of natural gas in economic growth, and the limited ability of

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>4</sup> 2022: The Year of Nutrition | African Union

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>5</sup> Africa Hunger Crisis: 146 Million facing extreme hunger |BRC

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>6</sup> COVID-19: A threat to food security in Africa | UNCTAD

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>7</sup> U.S. delivers angry rebuke of massive OPEC+ production cut — and it could backfire for Saudi Arabia

other substitutes to take its place have created a conundrum for many African Union member countries.<sup>8</sup>

Aside from these crises, there are still other persistent concerns regarding economic dependency, exploitation, stability, and the ability of member nations to translate natural resources into enduring wealth. These problems vary throughout countries and throughout regions. For example, Somalia is scored 110.5 on the Fragile States index but Botswana only has a 56.1.9 Nonetheless, it is still fair to say that the region hasn't had the same scope of 'green revolutions' of agriculture compared to certain other regions nor 'miracles' of dramatic economic growth.

#### **Bloc Positions**

Countries with authoritarian or nondemocratic regimes may be less interested in committing to multilateral efforts. They may also be especially discerning in the involvement of NGOs and similar institutions. An example of this may be a government accepting aid but only giving directly to the government. In this situation, critics may allege that the funds could lead to misuse or misappropriation of resources. Isolationist and autarky-aspiring regimes might completely reject this premise and focus exclusively on the discussion of economic growth.

In October of 2022, OPEC made the decision to cut production targets. <sup>10</sup> Omar Farouk Ibrahim, Secretary-General of the African Petroleum Producers Organization, said the move was aimed at "ensuring stability in the global market and ensuring that prices don't fall too low." It was suggested that Saudi Arabia was working with Russia on the production target cut, as it would be a "big win for Russia." Russia, having continuously relied on oil revenue, needed the continued source of revenue to fund their war effort in Ukraine. Higher oil prices make it harder for the west to enforce and impose their sanctions on Russia. Many African countries depend on oil, and while this might stabilize oil markets, there are several African countries who could be drastically affected by the rise in oil prices in the short term. <sup>11</sup>

The role of OPEC's oil production cuts may be an important point of contention in its contribution to energy shortages. This is something important to keep in mind for OPEC countries (Congo, Angola, Algeria, Nigeria, Libya, Gabon, and Equatorial Guinea)<sup>12</sup> and OPEC countries (Sudan and South Sudan).

### WFP Regional Reports

- Southern Africa: <a href="https://static.hungermapdata.org/insight-reports/latest/rbj-summary.pdf">https://static.hungermapdata.org/insight-reports/latest/rbj-summary.pdf</a>
- Eastern Africa: https://static.hungermapdata.org/insight-reports/latest/rbn-summary.pdf
- Western Africa: https://static.hungermapdata.org/insight-reports/latest/rbd-summary.pdf

<sup>10</sup> African Oil Conference Delegates React to OPEC Cuts

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>8</sup> Kev findings – Africa Energy Outlook 2022 – Analysis - IEA

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>9</sup> Fragile States Index

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>11</sup> OPEC from the African Perspective — IR Review

<sup>12</sup> OPEC: Member Countries

 Middle East / Northern Africa: <a href="https://static.hungermapdata.org/insight-reports/latest/rbc-summary.pdf">https://static.hungermapdata.org/insight-reports/latest/rbc-summary.pdf</a>

#### **Key Terms**

**Continental Accountability Nutrition Scorecard**: A data-based advocacy tool that gives a snapshot of how African leaders are doing on delivering main nutrition indicators. "Hosted" by the African Development Bank and the African Union <sup>13</sup>.

**OPEC**: Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries. The goal is to coordinate and unify the petroleum policies of its Member Countries and ensure the stabilization of oil markets in order to secure an efficient, economic, and regular supply of petroleum to consumers, a steady income to producers, and a fair return on capital for those investing in the petroleum industry.<sup>14</sup>

African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA): The AfCFTA is the world's largest free trade area bringing together the 55 countries of the African Union (AU) and eight (8) Regional Economic Communities (RECs). The overall mandate of the AfCFTA is to create a single continental market with a population of about 1.3 billion people and a combined GDP of approximately US\$ 3.4 trillion. The AfCFTA is one of the flagship projects of Agenda 2063: The Africa We Want, the African Union's long-term development strategy for transforming the continent into a global powerhouse.<sup>15</sup>

#### **Additional Sources**

Russia's War in Ukraine Is Taking a Toll on Africa | United States Institute of Peace

HungerMap

In Africa, Putin's War on Ukraine Drives Food, Fuel and Finance Crises | United States Institute of Peace

Agenda 2063 | African Union

Africa Energy Outlook 2022

Continental Nutrition Accountability Scorecard | African Union

Africa Hunger Crisis: 146 Million facing extreme hunger |BRC.

<u>Implications of the Ukraine Crisis: - Food, Fuel and Fertiliser Prices in the Southern Africa Region</u>

The Continental Nutrition Accountability Scorecard

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>13</sup> Continental Nutrition Accountability Scorecard | African Union

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>14</sup> OPEC: Our Mission

<sup>15</sup> About The AfCFTA

### **Topic B: Protecting Africa's Biodiversity**

# **Executive Summary**

Africa is one of the most biodiverse regions on Earth, hosting a quarter of global biodiversity.<sup>16</sup> Yet global assessments show that 40 percent of global land is degraded, putting half of the world's population, not only humans but also other species, at risk.<sup>17</sup> With climate change as a major driving factor for biodiversity loss, the African Union must rethink its approach to climate change and biodiversity in order to keep pushing for sustainable, healthy, and protective African economies that are human, animal, and plant-centered.

### **Historical Background**

From the colonial age unto the present day, Africa has been the world's greatest source of natural resources, particularly minerals and other raw materials that can be extracted and used in the global economy. Africa possesses 30 percent of global mineral reserves, 8 percent of global natural gas reserves, and 12 percent of global oil reserves. In addition to energy resources, Africa has the largest reserves of cobalt, diamonds, platinum and uranium in the world. Furthermore, Africa contains 65 percent of agricultural land and 10 percent of renewable freshwater sources globally. European empires colonized Africa precisely for its rich land and environment. Accordingly, imperial activity on the continent impacted the land and its ability to recover from human activity.

In addition to the legacy of colonialism, the climate change crisis has seriously affected the biodiversity and environmental health of African countries. While materials and resources extracted from Africa powered the Industrial Revolution, Africa had minimal access to the economic gains and land protections developed by European countries over time. Therefore, climate change's effects on Africa are disproportionate and intensified compared to the rest of the world. The continent is experiencing the worst droughts, flooding, land erosion, and heat waves as a result of climate change worldwide. This is despite the fact that Africa's top carbon emitter and second-largest economy, South Africa, produced 436 million metric tons of CO2 in 2021, coming in only 7th globally. South Africa produced 6.6 percent as much CO2 as the United States and 3.5 percent as much as China. Expanding this comparison to the north of the continent, sub-Saharan African countries produce 0.8 tons of CO2 per capita, compared to the global average of 4.8 tons.

Climate change and harm to biodiversity are intricately linked. Humans are not the only organisms who are affected in their quality of life by droughts or land erosion. These changes in climate decrease or completely eliminate the environmental niches necessary for some species to

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>16</sup> Biodiversity loss in Africa: A critical risk and opportunity for impact

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>17</sup> Africa's role in saving the world's damaged lands and ecosystems | Africa Renewal

survive. Habitat loss is the primary cause of extinction rates for endangered species. <sup>18</sup> For example, two species native to South Africa, one of Africa's most powerful economies with the highest rates of modernization, were declared extinct in 2020. <sup>19</sup>

Despite these trends, conservation biology and international efforts to promote biodiversity have worked. Conservation efforts have reduced bird extinction rates worldwide by 40 percent.<sup>20</sup> They have also prevented dozens of bird and mammal extinctions over just the past few decades, keeping those species in the at-risk and endangered zone.

These conservation efforts, however, mostly refer to limited, if successful, domestic policies as well as the work of non-governmental organizations. The international community has not done enough to fuel these efforts or sustain them at high enough rates to make a more significant difference. For example, the 2010 Aichi Biodiversity Targets were not fully achieved by any country. The African Mid-term Review of the Aichi Biodiversity Targets, also known as the UNEP Report on the State of Biodiversity in Africa, found that Africa as a region has made progress in Targets 1, 11, 16, 17 and 18. African countries have also worked multilaterally to make progress in the Aichi targets together. Yet the most recent Global Biodiversity Outlook 5 finds that the natural world continues to deteriorate at an alarming rate, compromising Earth's living systems and endangering the future of all species. Beyond this outlook, the GEO-6 Regional Assessment for Africa also found that the environment in Africa is deteriorating at a faster rate than previously held by the international community.

Most recently, African environmental ministers met at the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment (AMCEN) and reaffirmed their commitment to green and sustainable energy that leads to positive outcomes for economic, social, and environmental priorities.<sup>24</sup> AMCEN is the main source of policy and strategic guidance for African countries, building on the work of UNEP to encourage cross-border collaboration on climate and biodiversity issues.

#### **Current Situation**

Africa is home to the world's most rapidly-growing population, as well as the highest rates of urbanization. Given that this continued transformation will require energy, it is important to understand whether Africa can pursue renewable energy policies or use fossil fuels in the same way European countries did during the 20th century. To fight the effects on biodiversity, addressing climate change is a key issue. World leaders must take African economic growth

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>18</sup> Why do animals and plants become endangered? | U.S. Geological Survey

What We've Lost: The Species Declared Extinct in 2020 - Scientific American

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>20</sup> BirdLife flock has a new Chief Development Officer

World fails to meet a single target to stop destruction of nature – UN report | Environment | The Guardian

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>22</sup> The State of Biodiversity in Africa: A Mid-term Review of Progress towards the Aichi Biodiversity Targets | LINEP

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>23</sup> Our work in Africa | UNEP - UN Environment Programme

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>24</sup> Triple planetary crisis, green recovery top agenda at African Ministerial Conference on the Environment

priorities seriously and avoid solutions that disable Africa from developing modern economies. A clean energy transition is vital to sustaining not only Africa but the world at large.

The 21st century is bringing significant developments in green technology that make it a more affordable and realistic option for growing economies. Energy from new renewable facilities in Africa is less expensive than coal in some areas. Dams that produce hydropower reserves are another option, but in many cases can lead to population displacement, geopolitical tensions, and new energy grids that are environmentally disruptive. A good case example of such a phenomena is Ethiopia's Grand Renaissance Dam.<sup>25</sup>

China is investing heavily in coal and less heavily in green energy across Africa. In China itself, the construction of coal-powered electricity plants is almost nonexistent, leading Chinese state-owned thermal-power firms to build coal-fired plants, such as the new plant in Kenya developed by the Power Construction Corporation of China. Of 100 coal plants currently in construction across the continent, half are financed by Chinese companies.<sup>26</sup>

In many cases, the diplomatic infrastructure for green energy development already exists, including the Africa Clean Energy Corridor, the Africa Renewable Energy Initiative, the Switch Africa Green Project, and the World Bank's Climate Business Plan. Domestic activists have also been successful in stopping the production of coal-based power plants as well as the use of oil and gas, such as the efforts of Chibeze Ezekiel, which led to the cancellation of a Chinese coal plant in Ghana. Africa could continue to exert pressure on domestic leaders and China itself in order to pivot funding currently being used for coal toward green energy initiatives, as the money is critically needed in the renewable energy sector. At present, it is being allocated in a way that works against global interests that seek to stop and even reverse climate change. With every coal plant that is constructed, biodiversity decreases further.

The global biodiversity conservation movement also largely neglects to address how conflict zones impede positive environmental change. During armed conflict, the environment suffers obvious damage from mining, pollution, or the movement of forces. Sometimes, the environment itself is weaponized or intentionally destroyed, illustrated by the case example of the Mesopotamian Marshes.<sup>27</sup> Poaching is a key biodiversity issue and is much more difficult to regulate and persecute in conflict zones, given that conflict is typically associated with the breakdown of institutions and effective governance.

### **Key Terms**

• Sustainable Development Goals (SDG): 17 UN goals to be achieved by 2030, maintained by the United Nations Development Programme, that outline a "shared blueprint for peace and prosperity for people and the planet, now and into the future."

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>25</sup> Africa's largest dam fills Ethiopia with hope and Egypt with dread - Washington Post

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>26</sup> As the World Cuts Back on Coal, a Growing Appetite in Africa

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>27</sup> Report: The past, present and future of the Mesopotamian marshes - CEOBS

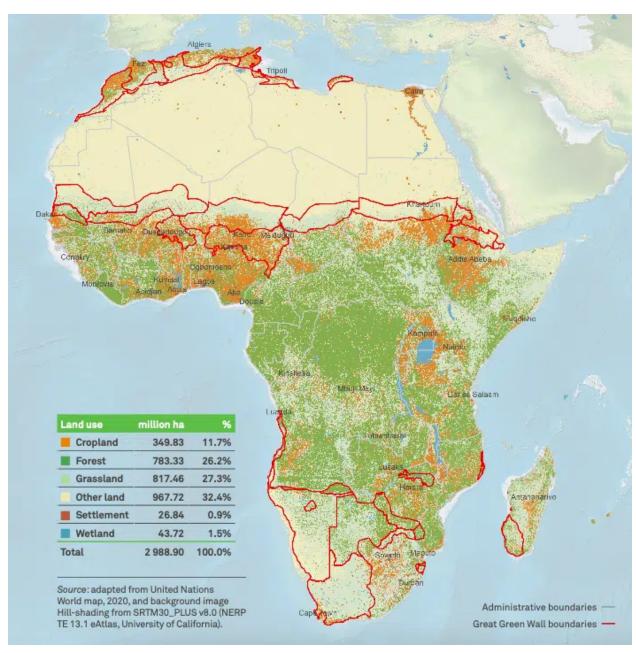
- Non-Governmental Organization (NGO): Any party that is working outside of formal government structures on a certain issue.
- COP-27: The 2022 United Nations Climate Change Conference, the 27th of its kind.
- Organization for Economic Co-Operation and Development (OECD): An intergovernmental organization with 38 member countries meant to stimulate world economic progress and trade.
- Convention on Biological Diversity: A multilateral treaty that seeks to accomplish three main goals: "the conservation of biological diversity, the sustainable use of its components, and the fair and equitable sharing of benefits from genetic resources".
- International Anti-Poaching Foundation: An NGO headquartered in Australia that leads conservation efforts, such as managing up to 8.5 million acres of wilderness<sup>28</sup>.

#### **Additional Resources**

- Sustainable Development Goals THE 17 GOALS | Sustainable Development
- Biodiversity loss in Africa a critical risk and opportunity for impact <u>Biodiversity loss in</u> Africa: A critical risk and opportunity for impact
- Africa's role in saving the world's damaged lands and ecosystems <u>Africa's role in saving the world's damaged lands and ecosystems | Africa Renewal</u>
- Savings Africa's Lungs <u>Saving Africa's forests</u>, the 'lungs of the world' | <u>Africa Renewal</u>
- International anti-poaching foundation about us <u>Our Team | We are here to end poaching.</u>
- Conflict and Climate Conflict and Climate | UNFCCC
- The Battle for Earth's Climate Will Be Fought in Africa | Wilson Center

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<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>28</sup> International Anti-Poaching Foundation



<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>29</sup> Deforestation in Africa: Causes, Effects, and Solutions | Earth.Org

#### Topic C: Mitigating the Effects of the DRC Refugee Crisis

# **Executive Summary**

The Democratic Republic of the Congo, also called DR Congo or the DRC, is the largest country in Sub-Saharan Africa with a wealth of natural resources and biodiversity. However, this has not translated into economic prosperity for the almost 90 million Congolese people. The country's long history of colonization and colonialism triggered much of the current instability that is seen today. After being colonized by Belgium in the 19th century, the DRC gained independence in 1960 but has since experienced a number of political upheavals, including multiple civil wars and a period of dictatorship. These conflicts have led to widespread violence and displacement, which continue to affect the country to this day. In fact, the DRC is home to the third largest group of internally displaced persons (IDPs), totaling 5.5 million people.<sup>30</sup>

### **Historical Background**

The Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) gained independence from Belgian colonial rule



in 1960, marking the end of a long period of foreign domination and sparking a sense of hope among Congolese people. After many years, they would finally be able to determine their own fate and build a better future for themselves and their country. However, this hope was short-lived, as the DRC was soon plunged into a series of civil wars, armed conflicts, and authoritarian rule. Throughout the late twentieth century, violence and human rights abuses – often fueled by competition for the country's rich natural resources, and ethnic and political tensions – have plagued the country since 1971. Despite the country's civil war officially ending in 2003, fighting continued in the eastern part of the DRC. As a

result, the DRC has struggled to maintain stability and build a strong, prosperous society.

Between 2003 and 2016, the refugee crisis soared as a result of ongoing conflicts and violence within the country. Over this period, it is estimated that over 4 million people were displaced within the DRC, and over 700,000 fled to neighboring countries such as Uganda, Rwanda, and Burundi. The crisis was fueled by competition for the country's natural resources, as well as by ethnic and political tensions.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>30</sup> <u>Democratic Republic of Congo Overview: Development news, research, data | World Bank</u>

In August of 2016, the Kasai region in the central part of the DRC was hit by a wave of violence, which was sparked by the killing of a tribal leader by the Congolese military. The violence quickly escalated in early 2017, with armed groups and government forces clashing in the region. Existing intercommunity tensions grew to fuel a wider conflict involving militias, armed groups, and security forces, across a region the size of Germany. Beyond Kasai, the humanitarian situation in the Democratic Republic of the Congo has deteriorated dramatically over the past year. This led to widespread human rights abuses, including forced displacement, arbitrary detention, torture, and extrajudicial killings. Over 3,300 people were killed and over 1.4 million were displaced as a result of the violence in the Kasai region. The crisis has caused a humanitarian disaster in the region, putting a strain on the DRC and its neighbors.

#### **Current Situation**

The Democratic Republic of the Congo continues to face a humanitarian crisis that is only exacerbated by a multitude of other factors, such as political instability and social unrest from a history of colonization and civil war, armed violence, lack of attention from the international community, and climate change.

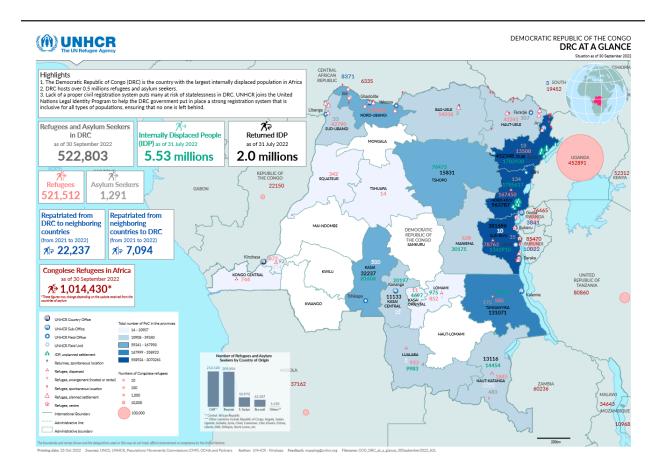
The armed violence is taking a devastating toll on the children of this region. The insurgent group, Kamuen Nsapu, have forced and even tricked thousands of children into fighting in the armed conflict. The government's response, a military campaign against the Kamuina Nsapu insurgency, ultimately took thousands of lives and displaced more than a million people, both within the Kasai region and into Angola. This crisis continues to worsen as more than 700,000 children are malnourished and require urgent assistance.<sup>31</sup>

In addition to the ongoing political instability, the DRC is also facing the impacts of climate change, which have contributed to the current humanitarian crisis. Climate change's effects on Africa are disproportionate and intensified compared to the rest of the world; the continent is experiencing the worst droughts, flooding, land erosion, and heat waves as a result of climate change worldwide. This has disrupted agriculture and led to widespread food insecurity. <sup>32</sup>

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<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>31</sup> The Stolen Childhoods of Kasai, DRC

<sup>32</sup> UNICEF



Infographic source from UNHCR Sep 30th, 2022<sup>33</sup>

Through a variety of initiatives, the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), the International Organization for Migration (IOM), the National Refugee Commission (NRC) have all been working to address the refugee crisis in the DRC. These include providing emergency assistance to refugees and internally displaced persons (IDPs), such as shelter, food, and medical care; supporting efforts to promote peace and stability in the region; and working with the DRC government and other partners to develop long-term solutions to the crisis. These bodies have also helped to raise awareness of the situation in the DRC and have called on the international community to provide support to those affected by the crisis.

Internally displaced persons (IDPs) within the DRC are in need of a range of assistance, including shelter, food, medical care, and protection from violence. Many IDPs have been forced to flee their homes due to armed conflict, natural disasters, and other forms of violence, and are in need of urgent support to meet their basic needs and ensure their safety. The international community must work with the DRC's government and other partners to provide IDPs with the assistance they need and to address the underlying causes of displacement in the country, and support long-term stability for persons throughout the region.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>33</sup> Democratic Republic of the Congo - DRC At A Glance - Situation as of 30 September 2022

### **Key Terms**

- Armed Conflict
- Colonization
- Colonialism
- Internally Displaced Person (IPD)
- Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC)
- Food Insecurity
- Kinshasa

# **Discussion Questions**

- The crisis has not caught the attention of the international community in the same way as other relevant crises (e.g. the situation in Ukraine). Why has this refugee crisis not received the same amount of attention and what actions can the African Union take to call attention to it?
- Armed violence is one of the major drivers of displacement, but this violence doesn't have one clear cause and has proved difficult to combat. Is it time to change the strategy?
- There are multiple refugee crises across the member nations of the African Union. Is there a form of action that can be taken across the bloc to alleviate the refugee crisis and if so, how would we go about exploring those options?
- Congo is rich in natural resources including diamonds, cobalt, copper, hydroelectric potential, and forest biodiversity. How can the African Union best support Congo in utilizing these resources without being exploited and ensuring the wealth created stays in the country?

#### **Additional Sources**

- The world bank in DRC Overview <u>Democratic Republic of Congo Overview:</u> Development news, research, data | World Bank
- UNHCR DRC Operational Update January 2020 <u>Document UNHCR DRC Operational Update (January 2020)</u>
- UNHCR DRC Emergency Summary DR Congo emergency
- Al-Jazeera DR Congo: The world's most neglected displacement crisis <u>DR Congo:</u> The world's most neglected displacement crisis
- Brittanica History of the DRC <u>Democratic Republic of the Congo | Culture, History, & People | Britannica</u>