

Congo: Refugees from the Democratic Republic of the Congo (Mar 2010)



Since October 2009, some 114,000 refugees have fled armed clashes in Equateur Province in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) and found refuge in the Congo.¹

1 Background

The Equateur Province has experienced sporadic inter-ethnic violence over the past several decades, generated by tensions over limited resources, circulation of small arms and weak Government presence.¹

2 Recent clashes

March 2009: Armed clashes arose from disputes over farming and fishing rights in Sud-Ubangi district.

Oct 2009: Fighting displaced people to other parts of Equateur, with an influx of refugees in Central African Republic and the Congo. At least 270 civilians killed in Dongo.

Nov 2009: Civil unrest spread to a wider area in Equateur.

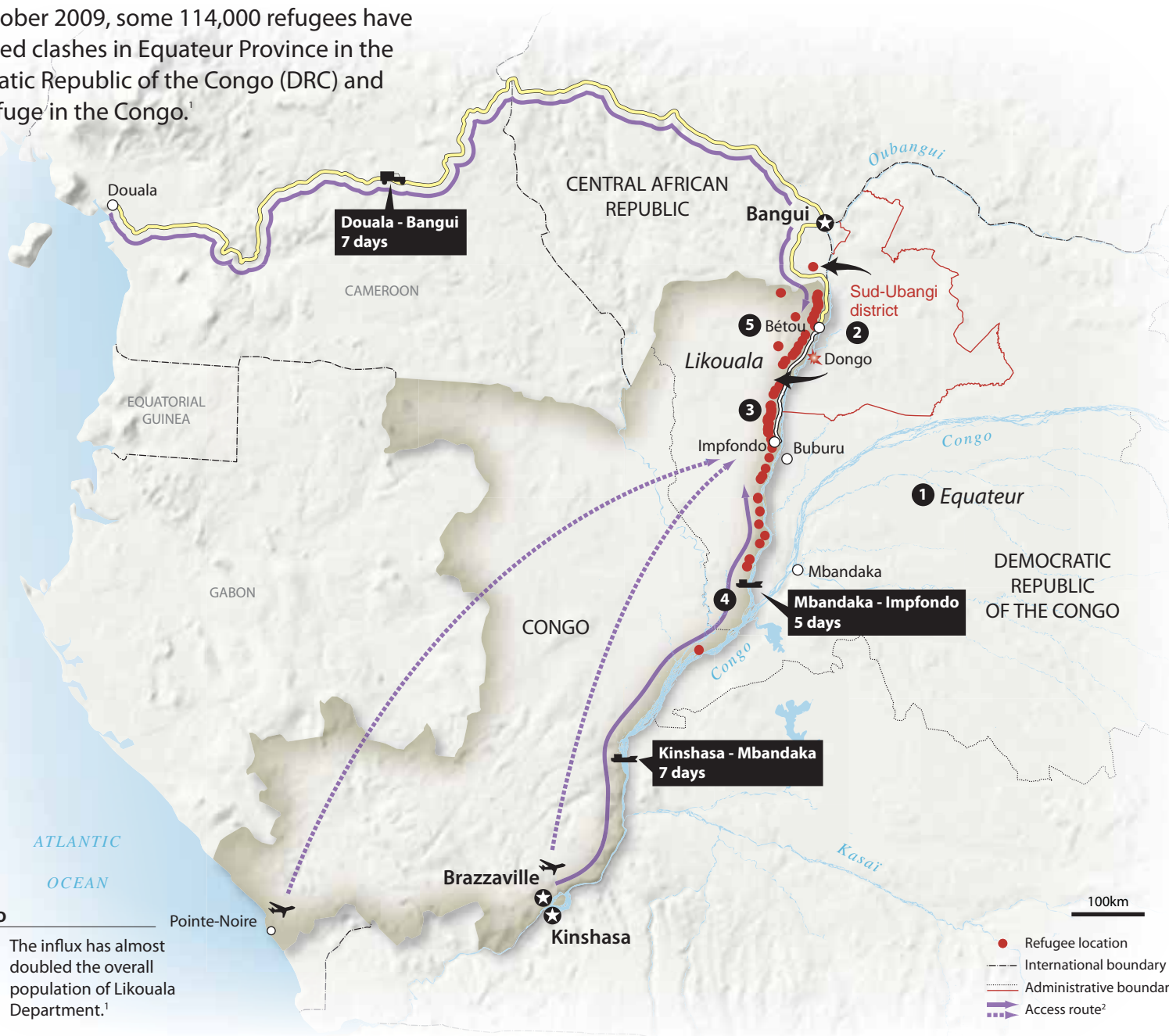
Dec 2009: The Armed Forces of the DRC (FARDC) intervened to re-establish Government control over the region, supported by the UN Peacekeeping Force.

Jan 2010 - now: The refugee caseload has stabilized.¹

3 Refugees in the Congo

Terrified by the violence, refugees from DRC crossed the Oubangui river and settled in more than 100 sites along the border in Congo.

The influx has almost doubled the overall population of Likouala Department.¹



Total Displacement from Equateur since Oct 2009

114,000 in Congo
60,000 in DRC
17,000 in Central African Republic



Logistics

The relief operation is logistically complex and expensive; the majority of sites can be reached only by plane or boat.

- Many boats are in disrepair and fuel is scarce and costly. Due to low water levels during the dry season, the river is only suitable for small craft.¹
- The road between Bétou and Impfondo is in poor condition and usable only during part of the dry season.¹

Disclaimer:
The boundaries and names shown and the designations used on all maps do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by the United Nations.

Creation date: 23 Mar 2010

Data sources: UNCS (int. boundary), USGS (DEM), Natural Earth (river), RGC (adm. boundary), UNHCR (road & refugees), Europa Technologies (road & populated place)

References:
¹OCHA. *Consolidated Appeal for Republic of Congo 2010*. 4 Mar 2010.
²Logistics Cluster. *Les corridors pour la zone Dongo/Dongou/Kungu*. 22 Nov 2009.

ReliefWeb
www.reliefweb.int
Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs
United Nations