



Presbyterian Mission

**Presbyterian Ministry at the United Nations**

## **DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO**

### **The United Nations in the Democratic Republic of the Congo**

**UNAIDS:** This office coordinates the global response to the HIV epidemic. As of 2020, with assistance from UNAIDS, the DRC now provides antiretroviral therapy for approximately 75% of Congolese people with AIDS, while emission of mother-to child transmission coverage was increased up to 70%.<sup>1</sup>

**UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR):** Between October 2017 and September 2019, 5.01 million people have been displaced inside the DRC. As of February 2020, 918,000 Congolese refugees and asylum seekers are being hosted in African countries. UNHCR provides shelter, distributes aid, and offers protection to vulnerable populations experiencing displacement, in particular women and children that are more likely to experience abuse.<sup>2</sup>

**UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA DRC):** As violence in the DRC has led to food insecurity and an economic downturn, OCHA has coordinated the humanitarian through partner organizations and governments. In 2022, approximately 27 million people are in need of humanitarian assistance. Humanitarian organizations are in need of 1.88 billion to help 8.8 million Congolese in 2022.<sup>3</sup>

**The Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (UN Human Rights):** As political uncertainty grows in the DRC, the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights monitors the situation and creates influential reports which advocate for accountability by the international community.<sup>4</sup>

**UN Organization Stabilization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (MONUSCO):** As of March 31st, 2017, the UN Security Council extended the mandate of the United Nations mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, but reduced the number of troops. The body decided to keep the UN Organization Stabilization Mission until March 31st, 2018, but lowered numbers to 16,215 military personnel, 660 military observers and staff officers, 391 police personnel, and 1,050 personnel of police units.<sup>5</sup>

**UN Security Council:** As the primary UN body for peace and security, the Security Council decided to renew measures of the 2016 Resolution 2293 pertaining to an arms embargo, travel ban and asset freeze in the DRC until July 1st, 2022. "These measures require all States to refrain from, among other things, providing weapons to non-governmental entities operating in the Democratic Republic of the Congo."<sup>6</sup>

## The Presbyterian Church (USA) & The Democratic Republic of the Congo

**Presbyterian Mission:** Presbyterians have been engaged in the DRC for over 125 years. Partnerships continue today through the Presbyterian Community of the Congo and Presbyterian Community of Kinshasa as well as the Protestant umbrella organization, the Church of Christ in the Congo. Project collaboration has centered on the rights of women, micro-savings programs, reconciliation efforts, and education for 220,000 students in 1,000 schools. The Church supports two mission co-workers, Christi and Jeff Boyd, that support and facilitate this work with mission partners.<sup>7</sup>

**Congo Mission Network:** This is a grass-roots organization made up of congregations and presbyteries across the United States interested in strengthening communication and coordination for mission partnerships and projects across the Democratic Republic of the Congo.<sup>8</sup>

**PC(USA) Policy & The DRC:** The General Assembly of the PC(USA) has produced a body of policies related to the DRC in recent years. The 2022 General Assembly received an overture calling for the Presbyterian church (USA) to affirm the important role the U.S. can play in the Congo.<sup>9</sup> In 2016, the Assembly approved an overture supporting vigilance concerning the country's elections and remain in solidarity through prayer with mission partners in the Congo.<sup>10</sup> In many cases, the Presbyterian Ministry at the United Nations (PMUN) is asked to be an advocate these policies to the United Nations.<sup>11</sup>

## Presbyterian Ministry at the United Nations (PMUN)

Presbyterian Ministry at the United Nations is called to act on an issue when it meets three criteria: the PC(USA) has a policy regarding the topic, partner churches are in favor of action, and it appears on the UN agenda. In the case of the Democratic Republic of the Congo, PMUN has interpreted their ministry through a campaign to end the use of child soldiers and ecumenical advocacy to members of the Security Council. The Ministry also advocates against the use of child soldiers through its Red Hand Campaign and participates in Thursdays in Black, a campaign by the World Council of Churches about resisting attitudes and practices that permit rape and violence in around the world—including the DRC.<sup>12,13</sup>

**NGO Working Group on the Security Council:** The NGO Working Group was founded in 1995 to promote dialogue between the NGO community with foreign officials, policy experts, and members of the Security Council. PMUN involvement in the working group creates an exchange of information and perspective between the PC(USA) and the Security Council, which is responsible for all peacekeeping missions, including the U.N. Organization Stabilization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (MONUSCO).<sup>14</sup>

<sup>1</sup> <http://www.unaids.org/en/regionscountries/countries/democraticrepublicofthecongo/>

<sup>2</sup> <http://www.unhcr.org/en-us/dr-congo-emergency.html>

<sup>3</sup> <https://www.unocha.org/democratic-republic-congo-drc/about-ocha-drc>

<sup>4</sup> <https://www.ohchr.org/EN/Countries/AfricaRegion/Pages/CDIndex.aspx>

<sup>5</sup> [monusco.unmissions.org](http://monusco.unmissions.org)

<sup>6</sup> <https://www.un.org/press/en/2018/sc13402.doc.htm>

<sup>7</sup> <https://www.presbyterianmission.org/ministries/global/democratic-republic-congo/>

<sup>8</sup> <http://congopartners.org/about.asp>

<sup>9</sup> <https://www.pc-biz.org/#/search/6353>

<sup>10</sup> <https://www.pc-biz.org/#/search/3000775>

<sup>11</sup> <https://www.pc-biz.org/#/search/4893>

<sup>12</sup> <https://www.presbyterianmission.org/ministries/compassion-peace-justice/child/no-child-soldiers/>

<sup>13</sup> <https://www.oikoumene.org/en/get-involved/thursdays-in-black>

<sup>14</sup> <https://www.globalpolicy.org/ngo-working-group-on-the-security-council-4-24.html>