



## Fast Facts

**Country:** Democratic Republic of the Congo

**Duration:** November 2005 to May 2007

**Implementing UN Agency:** UNICEF

**Other Implementing Partners:** Ministry of Education; Ministry of Social Affairs; UNESCO; WFP

**Budget:** \$1,063,823.81

**Key Words:** Children; access to education

## BACKGROUND

Following decades of prolonged unrest and weak governance in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), many Congolese children were deprived of access to primary education. In 2005, national enrolment rates were at 51.5 per cent, however this average masked significant disparities between rural and urban areas. In certain rural provinces, less than 30 per cent of children were enrolled in primary education and the available education was often poor

in quality due to unqualified teachers, insufficient teaching materials and outdated curriculum. Furthermore, due to poverty and traditional practices, there were also disparities in enrolment between girls and boys. In view of these challenges, the DRC was in need of a comprehensive education strategy that could both improve the quality of education and enhance its equal access for children throughout the country.

## PROGRAMME OVERVIEW

### GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

The project sought to improve children's access to primary education in the provinces of Eastern Kasai, Western Kasai and Katanga. More specifically, project activities set out to (i) increase the enrolment rate of

girls in target primary schools; (ii) place children in care structures, nurseries and primary schools; and (iii) enhance the overall quality of primary education.

### BENEFICIARIES

The project targeted 150,000 under-five children from 100 community-based nurseries, villages and family care structures. Girls benefitted from an increased net enrolment rate of 30 per cent in 350 targeted schools, and in-school children received new school supplies and teaching materials. Moreover, 4,800 teachers were

trained in relevant subject areas, gender sensitivity and classroom management. Lastly, beneficiaries included parent committee members who were informed about the importance of girls' education through workshops and awareness-raising activities.