

Congolese Refugees in Sub-Saharan Africa

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RSC Africa has been processing significant numbers of Congolese refugees for many years. In FY13, departures of Congolese refugees to the United States from RSC Africa reached 2,514 individuals. This is a significant increase from 1,799 individuals in FY12.

The Congolese refugees processed by RSC Africa largely come from eastern Congo in the North and South Kivu regions and seek asylum in the great lakes region of East Africa (about 58% of all applicants are currently found in either Uganda or Rwanda); however, in FY13 RSC Africa resettled Congolese applicants from 20 different countries in Sub-Saharan Africa.

Arrivals of Congolese Applicants by Fiscal Year

FY08		FY09		FY10		FY11		FY12		FY13		FY14		Total	
Case	Ind	Case	Ind	Case	Ind	Case	Ind	Case	Ind	Case	Ind	Case	Ind	Case	Ind
264	709	374	1,118	1,188	3,150	361	947	621	1,799	825	2,514	393	986	4,026	11,223

Current Pipeline

Approximately **21% of all individuals in the RSC Africa pipeline are of Congolese nationality**. Currently there are 2,742 Congolese cases comprising 8,345 individuals in the pre-CIS RSC Africa pipeline. In addition, there are 1,572 Congolese cases comprising 4,996 individuals in the post-CIS RSC Africa Pipeline.

Case Composition

Congolese applicants processed by RSC Africa have an **average travel group (hard cross-reference) size of five individuals**. Over 53% of Congolese applicants are under the age of 18. Only slightly over a quarter (27%) of all Congolese applicants are older than 26 years of age.

Education, Language, and Religion

Only 16% of Congolese applicants have completed secondary schooling and 3% have completed some level of higher education.

36% of all Congolese applicants speak Kinyarwanda as a native language. Following Kinyarwanda, 32% speak Kiswahili. Slightly less than 38% of all applicants have no English speaking capacity and an additional 24% have only some competency in English. The native language breakdown of Congolese applicants emphasizes that many refugees processed by RSC Africa come from eastern Congo as opposed to western Congo where Lingala and French are more commonly spoken (Lingala and French combined only make up 4% of the overall native language count.)

More than 90% of all Congolese applicants identify with a particular Christian denomination. The largest group is Seventh Day Adventists at slightly over 23%, closely followed by Pentecostals at 23%, Catholics at 13%, and about 36% identifying with another Protestant Christian denomination. There were 439 Muslim individuals (3%) and 16 applicants identifying themselves as Bahai (<1%).

Processing

Congolese currently do not require an SAO background check. In FY13, the average processing time was 604 days from the time a case was received to arrival in the US. **In FY14, the average processing time for Congolese arriving in the US is currently 609 days.**

Minors

Congolese minors account for 8% of all Congolese cases currently in processing. Below is a breakdown of the current Congolese minor pipeline by minor code:

M2	M3	M4	M5	M6	M7	Total
253 ind	17 ind	39 ind	16 ind	5 ind	0 ind	330 ind