

*For God so loved
the world...
shouldn't we?*

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***Praying for the World
One Country at Time***



**Congo
October 2, 2011**

Congo

Full Name

Republic of the Congo

Capital

Brazzaville



Location

Western Africa, bordering the South Atlantic Ocean, between Angola and Gabon.

Leadership

Republic. President Denis SASSOU-Nguesso (since 25 October 1997, following the civil war in which he toppled elected president Pascal LISSOUBA). The president is both the chief of state and head of government.

Overview

Civil wars and militia conflicts have plagued the Republic of Congo, which is sometimes referred to as Congo-Brazzaville. Upon independence in 1960, the former French region of Middle Congo became the Republic of the Congo. A quarter century of experimentation with Marxism was abandoned in 1990 and a democratically elected government took office in 1992. A brief civil war in 1997 restored former Marxist President Denis SASSOU-Nguesso, and ushered in a period of ethnic and political unrest. Southern-based rebel groups agreed to a final peace accord in March 2003, but the calm is tenuous and refugees continue to present a humanitarian crisis. The Republic of Congo was once one of Africa's largest petroleum producers, but with declining production it will need new offshore oil finds to sustain its oil earnings over the long term.

Population

4,243,929 (estimates for this country explicitly take into account the effects of excess mortality due to AIDS; this can result in lower life expectancy, higher infant mortality, higher death rates, lower population growth rates, and changes in the distribution of population by age and sex than would otherwise be expected)

Religion

Christian 50%, animist 48%, Muslim 2%



Economy

The Republic of the Congo is one of sub-Saharan Africa's main oil producers, though 70 percent of the population lives in poverty. Oil is the mainstay of the economy and in recent years the country has tried to increase financial transparency in the sector. The economy is a mixture of subsistence agriculture, an industrial sector based largely on oil and support services, and government spending. The current administration presides over an uneasy internal peace and faces difficult economic challenges of stimulating recovery and reducing poverty. The drop in oil prices during the global crisis reduced oil revenue by about 30%, but the subsequent recovery of oil prices has boosted the economy. Main exports in addition to oil are timber, plywood, sugar, cocoa, coffee, and diamonds.

Prayer Concerns

Poverty is devastating; oil profits do not benefit Congo's citizens due to widespread corruption; civil war militias are still active in the southern region and have largely turned to banditry. Infant mortality rate is one of the top 20 in the world. Life expectancy is only 54 years. Three and a half percent of adults is HIV positive resulting in shrinking population despite the staggering birth rate of 5 children born to an average woman (11th highest birth rate in the world). Diamond production is universally believed illicit.