

## **Release Statement**

### **Modelled gridded population estimates for the Democratic Republic of Congo version 4.4.**

22 December 2025

## **Abstract**

This data release provides gridded population estimates (spatial resolution of 3 arc-seconds, approximately 100-metre grid cells) for the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), along with uncertainty estimates. The data is a mosaic of gridded population estimates produced for all 26 provinces namely Bas-Uele, Equateur, Haut-Katanga, Haut-Lomami, Haut-Uele, Ituri, Kasai, Kasai-Central, Kasai-Oriental, Kinshasa, Kongo-Central, Kwango, Kwilu, Lomami, Lualaba, Mai-Ndombe, Maniema, Mongala, Nord-Kivu, Nord-Ubangi, Sankuru, Sud-Kivu, Sud-Ubangi, Tanganyika, Tshopo and Tshuapa. The project team used the Pre-Distribution Registration Survey (PDRS) data from the National Malaria Control Programme (PNLP) collected as part of anti-malarial campaigns in the DRC, settlement extent and geospatial covariates to model and estimate population numbers at grid cell level using a Bayesian statistical hierarchical modelling framework. Please note that PNL data were collected across the DRC, except in Kasai, Kasai Central, Kasai Oriental, Kwango, Nord Ubangi and Lualaba, where the modelling utilised observations from neighbouring provinces.

These data were produced by the WorldPop Research Group at the University of Southampton. This work was part of the GRID3 – Phase 2 Scaling project, with funding from the Gates Foundation (INV-044979). Project partners included GRID3 Inc, the Center for Integrated Earth System Information (CIESIN) within the Columbia Climate School at Columbia University, and WorldPop at the University of Southampton. The PDRS data from the malaria insecticide treated net (ITN) distribution campaigns was collected, processed, anonymised and shared by the PNL and its implementing partners. The settlement extent data was prepared and shared by CIESIN. The provincial data has been clipped to GRID3-CIESIN health zone boundaries (version 8.0) (CIESIN, 2025).

This data consists of twenty-six province-specific data sets, also mosaiced together, listed here with their reference year and Data Object Identifiers:

Name	Reference year	DOI
Bas-Uele province	2023	doi: 10.5258/SOTON/WP00852
Equateur province	2022	doi: 10.5258/SOTON/WP00853
Haut-Katanga province	2023	doi: 10.5258/SOTON/WP00854
Haut-Lomami province	2023	doi: 10.5258/SOTON/WP00855
Haut-Uele province	2023	doi: 10.5258/SOTON/WP00856
Ituri province	2023	doi: 10.5258/SOTON/WP00857
Kasai province	2023	doi: 10.5258/SOTON/WP00858
Kasai-Central province	2023	doi: 10.5258/SOTON/WP00859
Kasai-Oriental province	2024	doi: 10.5258/SOTON/WP00860
Kinshasa province	2023	doi: 10.5258/SOTON/WP00861
Kongo-Central province	2023	doi: 10.5258/SOTON/WP00862
Kwango province	2023	doi: 10.5258/SOTON/WP00863
Kwilu province	2022	doi: 10.5258/SOTON/WP00864
Lomami province	2022	doi: 10.5258/SOTON/WP00865
Lualaba province	2023	doi: 10.5258/SOTON/WP00866
Mai-Ndombe province	2024	doi: 10.5258/SOTON/WP00867
Maniema province	2022	doi: 10.5258/SOTON/WP00868
Mongala province	2023	doi: 10.5258/SOTON/WP00869
Nord-Kivu province	2023	doi: 10.5258/SOTON/WP00870
Nord-Ubangi province	2023	doi: 10.5258/SOTON/WP00871
Sankuru province	2022	doi: 10.5258/SOTON/WP00872
Sud-Kivu province	2023	doi: 10.5258/SOTON/WP00873
Sud-Ubangi province	2023	doi: 10.5258/SOTON/WP00874
Tanganyika province	2023	doi: 10.5258/SOTON/WP00875
Tshopo province	2023	doi: 10.5258/SOTON/WP00876
Tshuapa province	2023	doi: 10.5258/SOTON/WP00877

Individual province dataset can be downloaded using this link:

<https://data.worldpop.org/repo/wopr/COD/population/v4.4/Province/>

The projection for all GIS files is the geographic coordinate system WGS84 (World Geodetic System 1984). Grid cells with values of NA represent areas that were mapped as unsettled according to building footprints data or being outside the national boundary.

For more detailed information on these datasets, kindly refer to the readme files for each province.

*The authors followed rigorous procedures designed to ensure that the used data, the applied method and thus the results are appropriate and of reasonable quality. If users encounter apparent errors or misstatements, they should contact WorldPop at [release@worldpop.org](mailto:release@worldpop.org).*

*WorldPop, University of Southampton, and their sponsors offer these data on a "where is, as is" basis; do not offer an express or implied warranty of any kind; do not guarantee the quality, applicability, accuracy, reliability or completeness of any data provided; and shall not be liable for incidental, consequential, or special damages arising out of the use of any data that they offer. These data are operational population estimates and are not official government statistics.*

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## **SUGGESTED CITATION**

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## **Reference**

Center for Integrated Earth System Information (CIESIN), Columbia University, Ministère de la Santé Publique, Hygiène et Prévention, Democratic Republic of the Congo, and GRID3. 2025. GRID3 COD - Health Zones v8.0 Unpublished