

Democratic Republic of Congo

The Democratic Republic of Congo has the 5th highest under-5 mortality rate in the world: 70 of out of 1,000 children will not reach their 5th birthday. Further, children who survive suffer from chronic levels of malnutrition with nearly three quarters of children stunted or severely stunted, impacting their long-term health and development. Helen Keller Intl has worked closely with the Ministry of Health since 2021 to improve health and nutrition outcomes for children across 9 provinces by improving health coverage, quality, and availability and reaching more families with vital services like vitamin A supplementation.



Number of staff: **24**

People reached annually: **19.3 million**



Office opened: **2021**

Operating budget: **\$7.4 million**

Challenges



61% of children suffer from vitamin A deficiency, impacting health, vision, and immunity.

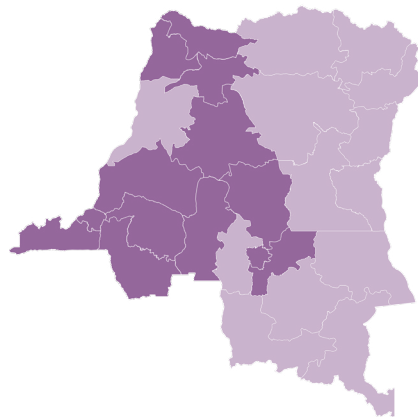


Many mothers and caregivers are not aware of the importance of vitamin A for their children.



3.9 million children and pregnant or breastfeeding women are acutely malnourished.

Where We Work



- Kasai
- Kasai Oriental
- Kinshasa
- Kongo Central
- Kwango
- Kwilu
- Lomami
- Mai Ndombe
- Mongala
- Nord Ubangi
- Sankuru
- Sud Ubangi
- Tshuapa

Our Solutions



Support the government in implementing vitamin A campaigns through community health workers, reaching at least 80% of children under the age of 5.



Train healthcare heroes to go door-to-door to educate about how vitamin A can protect children's health and sight.



Prioritize the first 1,000 days from conception to age 2, including malnutrition treatment, nutrition counseling, and breastfeeding support.



Our Impact

- ✓ Reached more than 5.8 million children – 99% of children under the age of 5 – with 2 doses of vitamin A across 9 provinces.
- ✓ 89% of households are educated about the advantages of vitamin A supplementation.
- ✓ Reached more than 400,000 pregnant women with multiple micronutrient supplements and nutrition counseling.

Key Partners: DRC Ministry of Health (PRONANUT), Vitamin Angels, IDE, UNICEF

About Helen Keller Intl

Helen Keller Intl partners with communities that are striving to overcome longstanding cycles of poverty. By delivering the essential building blocks of good health, sound nutrition, and clear vision, the organization helps millions of people create lasting change in their own lives. Working in 20 countries – across Africa, Asia, Europe, and the United States – and together with a global community of supporters, Helen Keller helps to ensure every person has the opportunity – as Helen did – to reach their true potential.

Contact Information

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