



COI QUERY

Country of Origin	DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO
Title	Treatment of people living with HIV/AIDS
Reference period	January 2023 to 16 September 2025
Topic(s)	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Legislation and implementation2. Societal attitudes towards people living with HIV/AIDS3. Healthcare and support services
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Cite as: EUAA, Country of Origin Information Query, DRC, Treatment of people living with HIV/AIDS, 17 September 2025, [url](#)



COI QUERY RESPONSE – DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO (DRC)

Treatment of people living with HIV/AIDS

1. Legislation and implementation

Law No. 08/011 of 14 July 2008 for the protection of the rights of people living with HIV/AIDS and affected persons sets out legal protections for people living with and affected by HIV/AIDS in the DRC.¹

More specifically, Article 1 states that [informal translation] ‘the purpose of this Law is to establish the fundamental principles relating to the protection of the rights of people living with HIV/AIDS and those affected’ and aims to:

- ‘1. Combat the spread of the HIV/AIDS pandemic;
2. Combat all forms of stigmatization or discrimination against people living with HIV/AIDS and those affected by it;
3. Guarantee and protect the rights of people living with HIV/AIDS and those affected by it;
4. Provide support and education to people living with HIV/AIDS, those affected by it, and other vulnerable groups;
5. Reaffirm the fundamental rights and freedoms of these categories of people’.²

Article 3 states that [informal translation] ‘any behavior that deliberately tends to discredit, scorn, or ridicule a person living with HIV/AIDS, their sexual partners, their children, or any relative because of their known or suspected HIV status constitutes stigmatization’.³

Article 4 states that [informal translation] ‘any differential treatment, distinction, restriction, or exclusion of a person living with HIV/AIDS, their sexual partners, their children, or any parent based on their known or suspected HIV status constitutes an act of discrimination’.⁴ Article 7 states that [informal translation] ‘people living with HIV/AIDS and those affected have full legal capacity and enjoy all the rights recognized by the Constitution, laws, and regulations of the Republic’.⁵

Information on implementation of legislation could not be found among the sources consulted by EUAA within time constraints.

¹ Democratic Republic of the Congo, Loi n° 08/011 du 14 juillet 2008 portant protection des droits des personnes vivant avec le VIH/SIDA et des personnes affectées, 14 July 2008, [url](#)

² Democratic Republic of the Congo, Loi n° 08/011 du 14 juillet 2008 portant protection des droits des personnes vivant avec le VIH/SIDA et des personnes affectées, 14 July 2008, [url](#), p. 2

³ Democratic Republic of the Congo, Loi n° 08/011 du 14 juillet 2008 portant protection des droits des personnes vivant avec le VIH/SIDA et des personnes affectées, 14 July 2008, [url](#), p. 3

⁴ Democratic Republic of the Congo, Loi n° 08/011 du 14 juillet 2008 portant protection des droits des personnes vivant avec le VIH/SIDA et des personnes affectées, 14 July 2008, [url](#), p. 4

⁵ Democratic Republic of the Congo, Loi n° 08/011 du 14 juillet 2008 portant protection des droits des personnes vivant avec le VIH/SIDA et des personnes affectées, 14 July 2008, [url](#), p. 4



2. Societal attitudes towards people living with HIV/AIDS

Sources stated that the DRC had an estimated 520 000 people living with HIV,⁶ and in 2023, around 11 000 people lost their lives to AIDS-related illnesses.⁷

According to the 2023 Country Report by the United States Department of State (USDOS), the ‘law prohibited discrimination based on HIV status, but social stigma continued’.⁸ The same source, citing a 2020 Ministry of Health study on discrimination against people living with HIV, conducted by the World Health Organization and other organizations, reported that ‘approximately 40 percent gave their HIV status as a reason to have moved during the previous 12 months’ and ‘25 percent said they lost a job or source of revenue during the previous 12 months due to their HIV status’.⁹

According to local news sources from 2023, citing a study from the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS), 33 % of respondents living with HIV lost work or an income as a result of stigma and discrimination.¹⁰ Citing data from the same study, both adults and children have faced expulsion, suspension, or denial of access to educational institutions and more than half of people living with HIV had to change their place of residence or were entirely unable to rent accommodation.¹¹

A 2024 article by Le Monde, a French news source, also described that many parents in the DRC delayed disclosing their child’s HIV status, since HIV ‘is still taboo’ in DRC.¹²

3. Healthcare and support services

Concerning healthcare access and HIV-related stigma, the study from the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS), cited in local news sources from 2023, stated that 6 % of respondents living with HIV reported being denied access to health care, including dental care, due to their HIV status.¹³

⁶ UN, UN agency warns of ‘surge’ in AIDS deaths without US funding, 24 March 2025, [url](#); DNDI, New HIV project in the DRC brings life-saving care closer to people with advanced HIV disease, 10 July 2025, [url](#); Democratic Republic of the Congo, National Multisectoral Program for the Fight Against HIV/AIDS, Rapport National de Suivi de la Riposte au VIH/Sida, 31 August 2024, [url](#), p. 25

⁷ DNDI, New HIV project in the DRC brings life-saving care closer to people with advanced HIV disease, 10 July 2025, [url](#)

⁸ USDOS, 2023 Country Report on Human Rights Practices – Democratic Republic of the Congo, 23 April 2024, [url](#), p. 56

⁹ USDOS, 2023 Country Report on Human Rights Practices – Democratic Republic of the Congo, 23 April 2024, [url](#), p. 56

¹⁰ ACP, RDC : 21.000 personnes infectées par le VIH en 2023 (ONUSIDA), 1 December 2024, [url](#); DRC Actu, RDC : 21.000 personnes infectées par le VIH en 2023 (ONUSIDA), 2 December 2024, [url](#)

¹¹ ACP, RDC : 21.000 personnes infectées par le VIH en 2023 (ONUSIDA), 1 December 2024, [url](#); DRC Actu, RDC : 21.000 personnes infectées par le VIH en 2023 (ONUSIDA), 2 December 2024, [url](#)

¹² Le Monde, VIH en RDC : « Grâce aux traitements, on peut expliquer aux enfants qu’ils auront une vie normale », 30 May 2024, [url](#)

¹³ ACP, RDC : 21.000 personnes infectées par le VIH en 2023 (ONUSIDA), 1 December 2024, [url](#); DRC Actu, RDC : 21.000 personnes infectées par le VIH en 2023 (ONUSIDA), 2 December 2024, [url](#)



Further, sources from 2024 affirmed that stigma surrounding HIV often discouraged individuals from accessing healthcare services.¹⁴

A May 2024 article by Le Monde, described that people living with HIV in the DRC are helping each other by distributing medication through community centres, to avoid the stigma of going to clinics.¹⁵ The article added that some patients travel to other districts to receive treatment far from where they live, so as to not be seen at local health centers.¹⁶

A 2024 article by the local news source Actualite, quoting the National Commissioner of the DRC's National Human Rights Commission (CNDH) responsible for people living with AIDS and other vulnerable groups, stated that out of the 400 000 patients receiving antiretroviral (ARV) treatment in the DRC, 120 000 people living with HIV/AIDS are not following their treatment due to misinformation and the stigma they face.¹⁷

Concerning the availability of healthcare, UN Aids in June 2025, affirmed that 'an estimated 91% of adults living with HIV in the DRC are on antiretroviral therapy, thanks to strong collaboration between the government, civil society, affected communities, and key partners'.¹⁸

A November 2023 article by the local news source, Agence Congolaise de Presse (ACP), affirmed that 'more than 400,000 people living with HIV have access to antiretroviral treatment' in the DRC.¹⁹ The same source, quoting Dr. Aimé Mboyo, director of the PNLS (National AIDS Control Program), stated that antiretroviral treatment for HIV/AIDS is available free of charge in all provinces of the DRC.²⁰

According to the 2023 report by USDOS, 'the government continued to run its National Multisectoral Program for the Fight Against HIV/AIDS', which 'supported persons living with HIV and AIDS, reduced social stigmas, and improved testing, treatment, and care'.²¹

In January 2023, ACP, noted that six health zones in Kinshasa, Lingwala, Kokolo, Kinshasa, Limete, Kingabwa, and Kingasani, have been selected by the Provincial Health Division for a

¹⁴ Columbia University, ICAP, ICAP in DRC Provides HIV Health Services, and Supportive, Safe Spaces to Key Populations, 19 January 2024, [url](#); Global Fund (The), Dr. Rosette is Breaking Down Stigma and Discrimination in DRC, 9 October 2024, [url](#)

¹⁵ Le Monde, Lutte contre le VIH en RDC : dans les « podi », des malades bénévoles au plus proche des patients, 31 May 2024, [url](#)

¹⁶ Le Monde, Lutte contre le VIH en RDC : dans les « podi », des malades bénévoles au plus proche des patients, 31 May 2024, [url](#)

¹⁷ Actualite, RDC : Au moins 120 000 personnes vivant avec le VIH/Sida refusent les traitements en raison de la stigmatisation et de la désinformation, [url](#)

¹⁸ UN Aids, President Félix Tshisekedi to Launch National Initiative to End Pediatric AIDS in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, 9 June 2025, [url](#)

¹⁹ ACP, RDC : plus de 400.000 personnes vivant avec le VIH accèdent au traitement antiretroviral, 30 November 2023, [url](#)

²⁰ ACP, RDC : plus de 400.000 personnes vivant avec le VIH accèdent au traitement antiretroviral, 30 November 2023, [url](#)

²¹ USDOS, 2023 Country Report on Human Rights Practices – Democratic Republic of the Congo, 23 April 2024, [url](#), p. 56



program focused on monitoring and caring for people living with HIV/AIDS, including the collection of data and information on the quality of healthcare provided.²²

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²² ACP, Kinshasa : 6 zones de santé ciblées dans un programme de prise en charge des PVVIH, 15 January 2023, [url](#)

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