

UNICEF Democratic Republic of Congo

One Thousand Classroom Initiative

Modular, Scalable and Sustainable Classrooms
for Children in the DRC



Children in newly constructed
classroom in Kasai Central province.
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Draft Concept Note
December 2021

CONTEXT **unicef**  | **for every child**

The DRC is one of the largest sub-Saharan countries, with a population of 85 million estimated to grow by 3.1 per cent per year. A stagnant economy, political fragility and various social crises, along with deeply rooted poor governance issues, have not allowed the country to achieve universal primary education. However, sweeping government education reforms from September 2019 introduced **free basic education, enabling an additional 2.5 million children from the most disadvantaged backgrounds to attend for free primary school and the first two years of lower-secondary school**¹. While the free basic education policy attempts to reduce the economic barriers to education, it has had an unintended consequence of classroom overcrowding. Further measures are needed to **ensure the sustainability of this policy, including additional infrastructures to contribute to a quality education for all children in the DRC.**

ONE THOUSAND CLASSROOM INITIATIVE

In alignment with UNICEF’s overall Education Programme outcome (2020-2024)², UNICEF committed to support the Ministry of Education in adapting education facilities to the increased demand, by rolling-out the Modular Classroom Initiative whereby UNICEF commits to construct 1,000 classrooms per year over a three year period, targeting 150,000 children. . This initiative **facilitates an efficient, sustainable and flexible response to education infrastructure-related needs across the DRC, including within emergency contexts**. In this respect, our modular classrooms, endorsed by the DRC government at the end of 2020, are designed to adapt to three different settings – emergency, transitional and development – and can be promptly adjusted to one context to another, as well as being built with local construction materials.

Target provinces

- Bas Uele,
- Maniema
- North Kivu
- Ituri
- Tanganikya
- Tshuapa
- Sankuru
- Kasai
- Nord Ubangi
- Equateur

Modular classroom models

The figure below depicts all three modular classroom options respectively adaptable to emergency, transitional and development contexts:

Emergency Context Modular Classrooms

- Modular construction of three classrooms (3x56 m2)
- Three weeks to be finalized
- Average cost: **USD 4,000** per classroom (excluding furniture)



¹ Source: World Bank, 2020

² By 2024, all children, especially out-of-school children and adolescent girls and boys aged 5–17 years, acquire competencies through access to quality and inclusive learning.

Transitional Context Modular Classrooms

- Modular construction of three classrooms (3x56 m2)
- Six weeks to be finalized
- Average cost: **USD 7,000 per classroom** (excluding furniture) – USD 3,000 if scaling up an emergency module



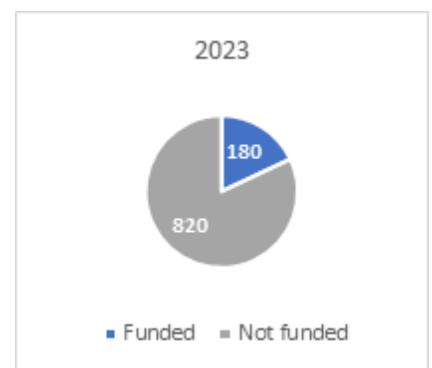
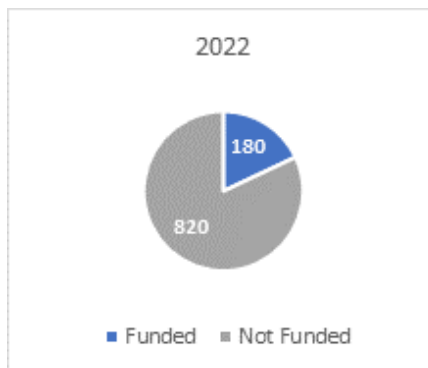
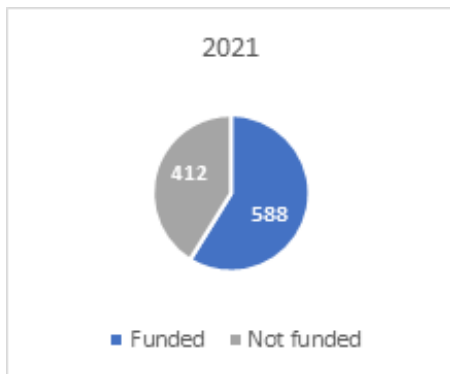
Development Context Modular Classrooms

- Modular construction of three classrooms (3x56 m2)
- Nine weeks to be finalized
- Average cost: **8,500 per classroom** (excluding furniture) – USD 1,500 if scaling up a transitional module



INVESTMENT

UNICEF DRC quantified the most urgent needs for classrooms to be 1,000 per year over the period 2021-2023, for a total budget of USD 39 million (13 million average annual budget). As of early September 2021, around 30% per cent of the initiative's financial requirements for 2021-2023 have been already funded by several partners, such as Education Cannot Wait, the Global Partnership for Education, Norway and the United Kingdom and UNICEF is appealing for additional **USD 27 million** to support access to education for **150,000 children**.



Overall Budget (preliminary as of 1 Sep 2021)

Costs (in USD)	2021	2022	2023
Construction costs (including latrines)	11,407,308	10,040,000	10,040,000
Supervision costs	1,140,731	1,004,000	1,004,000
Field project support costs (incl. field coordination, advocacy & communications, programme planning, oversight, M&E, operational costs)	627,402	552,200	552,200
Total Programming costs	13,175,441	11,596,200	11,596,200
Indirect Support Costs (8%)	1,054,035.28	927,696.00	927,696.00
TOTAL BUDGET	14,229,476	12,523,896	12,523,896
Funding received (as of 24 Aug 2021)	7,336,239	2,277,000	2,277,000
Funding Gap	6,893,237.226	10,246,896.000	10,246,896.000

COMMUNICATIONS

UNICEF DRC plans to organize the below communications activities as part of UNICEF's school re-opening campaign to be rolled out between end September and end October 2022.

- Virtual Field Trip (tentatively mid-October)
- Field trip options will strongly vary in light of the evolution of the Covid-19 context