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COI QUERY RESPONSE

DRC – SOCIO-ECONOMIC ISSUES

In September 2024 the *Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights* states that: “...poverty affects 74.7 per cent of the population...”¹

A report issued in October 2024 by the *World Bank* states that: “Poverty remains widespread, with relatively high inequality.”²

The *World Bank* in October 2024 states that: “The Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) has the world's second largest rainforest and vast metal deposits but is still struggling to spur economic development and make a dent in poverty. The country has a narrow export base (copper and cobalt account for 80 percent of the total export) and depends heavily on food imports despite its agricultural potential, making it vulnerable to external shocks. Weak institutions, poor governance, state capture by vested interests, vulnerability to natural hazards and climate change are hindering development prospects.”³

Amnesty International in October 2024 points out that: “...the DRC is among the five poorest nations in the world. It's estimated that 74.6 per cent of the country lives on less than US\$2.15 per day in 2023. The lack of economic opportunities is a barrier preventing people's access to their human rights to healthcare, food and education. It also fuels armed conflicts and intercommunal violence.”⁴

In November 2024 *Agence France Presse* states that: “Nearly half of the population is unemployed in DRC...”⁵

¹ Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (30 September 2024) Human rights situation and the activities of the United Nations Joint Human Rights Office in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (September 2024)

² World Bank (1 October 2024) Democratic Republic of Congo Poverty and Equity Brief : October 2024

³ World Bank (1 October 2024) Macro Poverty Outlook for Congo, Democratic Republic of : October 2024

⁴ Amnesty International (29 October 2024) Why is the Democratic Republic of Congo wracked by conflict?, p.4

⁵ Agence France Presse (8 November 2024) On Kinshasa's streets hairdressers make a quick buck

Business Monitor in December 2024 states that: “...Widespread poverty remains a key risk to social stability...”⁶

In December 2024 the *United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs* comments on: “...chronic developmental failures in the country, such as weak agricultural production, inadequate transport infrastructure, market dysfunction, underemployment...”⁷

This document also comments on: “...the widespread poverty affecting over 60 per cent of the population...”⁸

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⁶ Business Monitor (3 December 2024) *DRC Political Risk Key View*

⁷ United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (4 December 2024) *Global Humanitarian Overview 2025 - Democratic Republic of the Congo*, p.2

⁸ *ibid*, p.3

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