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Democratic Republic of Congo
Media and telecoms landscape guide
December 2012

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Introduction

The Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) has been plagued by conflict, corruption and poor governance since independence in 1960.

According to the United Nations, its 68 million inhabitants have the lowest standard of living in the world.

This former Belgian colony ranked bottom out of the 187 countries listed in the UN Human Development Index for 2011.

The World Bank estimates that 71% of the population lives in poverty.

There is no national network of all weather roads to unite this sprawling expanse of tropical rain forest and savannah grasslands.

River boats on the Congo and its tributaries and planes carrying passengers and freight provide the main link between many outlying regions and the capital Kinshasa.

The government provides few public services and its police and army are viewed as armed predators rather than trusted agents of law and order by much of the population.

Where health and education facilities exist, they are rudimentary.

Long distances, atrocious roads, weak government and poor security have led some of the peripheral regions of DRC to develop closer links with neighbouring countries than with Kinshasa.

The Swahili-speaking eastern provinces of North Kivu and South Kivu have strong economic ties with East Africa.

The governments of Rwanda and Uganda have often been accused of supporting the insurgent movements that operate there.

The copper and cobalt mining province of Katanga in southern DRC meanwhile relies on trade links through Zambia to the ports of Southern Africa.

Aircraft, mobile phones, national radio and television, financial networks and a doggedly persistent sense of national identity are the fragile threads that hold Africa's third largest country together.

Poverty and conflict have combined to create a dire humanitarian situation.



Administrative map of the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC)

Source: United Nations

The number of people displaced from their homes by fighting rose by 25% to 2.24 million during the first half of 2012, according to the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA).

More than half these people were forced to flee heavy fighting between the government army and rebel movements in the troubled eastern provinces of North and South Kivu.

The situation there became more serious after the Rwanda-backed M23 rebel movement captured Goma, the capital of North Kivu province, in November 2012.

Lack of security and poor roads frequently make it difficult for aid agencies to reach remote communities in need of help.

A UN peacekeeping force has been present in DRC since 2001. However, it has failed to stop fighting in the east and has often been unable to protect civilians.

Originally known by its French acronym MONUC, the force was renamed MONUSCO (*Mission de l'Organisation des Nations Unies de Stabilisation au Congo*) in 2010.

MONUSCO consisted of 17,000 troops and police in September 2012. It was the largest UN peacekeeping mission in the world.

Recent history

The first four decades of DRC's existence as an independent state were dominated by the dictatorship of Mobutu Sese Seko.

The former army commander seized power in 1965. He renamed the country Zaire and ruled with an iron hand until his overthrow in 1997

Mobutu imposed a one-party state and abolished political freedoms. He also promoted a cult of personality around himself.

At the same time, Mobutu ransacked the country's public enterprises, especially the mining companies which have long provided the backbone of the economy.

DRC's mineral resources range from copper and cobalt in the south to diamonds in the west and gold and coltan, an ore which provides valuable special metals used in electronics production, in the east.

Rampant corruption during Mobutu's 32-year rule reduced one of Africa's richest countries in terms of natural resources to a state of poverty and chaos.

Mobutu meanwhile became a billionaire with luxury residences all over the world.

The world's main powers, playing the politics of the Cold War, supported Mobutu until the collapse of the Communist bloc in the early 1990s.

This greatly reduced rivalry between Russia and the West in Africa rendered Mobutu irrelevant.

In 1992, with a wave of political liberalisation sweeping across Africa, Mobutu legalised opposition parties and held a national conference to discuss the political future of the country.

The conference lasted over a year. During this time Mobutu manipulated and paid-off many opposition politicians to block any real political change.

Many international donors and financial institutions stopped supporting DRC in the 1990s in protest at human rights abuses and the high level of corruption.

Their withdrawal landed Mobutu and his government in economic trouble.

By this time, the ageing dictator was suffering from prostate cancer and was steadily losing political control of the country.

Trouble spills over from Rwanda

In 1994 President Juvenal Habyarimana of Rwanda, a staunch Mobutu ally, was assassinated.

This event triggered the Rwandan genocide.

Up to one million Tutsi and moderate Hutus were killed by a hard line Hutu militia movement known as the Interahamwe.

The subsequent civil war in Rwanda had a profound effect on DRC.

A few months after the massacre, Interahamwe were defeated by a Tutsi-led rebel movement, the Rwandan Patriotic Army (RPA).

Over one million Hutu refugees, many of them hardcore members of Interahamwe, streamed across the border into eastern DRC as the RPA seized power.

The new Rwandan leader, Paul Kagame, perceived the concentration of Interahamwe militia and Hutu refugees in camps just a few kilometres from the border as a significant threat to his government's security.

Kagame repeatedly asked Mobutu to dismantle the camps, but he refused to do so, so Rwanda took matters into its own hands.

In 1996, a loose coalition of four Congolese rebel groups, calling itself the *Alliance des Forces Démocratiques pour la Libération du Congo (AFDL)*, launched a rebellion in eastern DRC. This received covert support from the Rwandan government.

Rebel forces soon captured the eastern cities of Bukavu and Goma.

Over the next six months, the AFDL, supported by regular military units from Rwanda, Uganda and Angola, defeated Mobutu's rag-tag army.

Laurent Kabila's government

They marched into Kinshasa in 1997 and Laurent Kabila, until then a relatively unknown, small-time warlord from the east, became President.

Mobutu fled abroad. He died in exile in Morocco a few months later.

The country was renamed the Democratic Republic of Congo.

It is now usually referred to in English as DRC to distinguish it from the Republic of Congo – a separate country whose capital Brazzaville is just across the Congo river from Kinshasa.

Mobutu's departure was initially greeted with great enthusiasm, but Kabila soon demonstrated his own authoritarian tendencies.

He repressed the political opposition and fell out with two of his erstwhile foreign backers – Uganda and Rwanda.

This prompted the outbreak a fresh civil war in 1998, with Uganda and Rwanda supporting the anti-Kabila rebels.

However, just as rebel forces backed by Rwandan troops were about to capture Kinshasa, Angola, Zimbabwe and Namibia sent in troops to support Kabila's beleaguered army.

This saved Kabila's regime, but the civil war continued for a further five years until 2003.

During this period, the Rwandan-backed rebel movement *Rassemblement Congolais pour la Démocratie (RCD)* – Rally for Congolese Democracy - remained in control of large areas of eastern DRC.

A new Ugandan-backed rebel force, *Mouvement de Libération du Congo (MLC)* - the Movement for the Liberation of Congo - led by millionaire businessman Jean-Pierre Bemba, meanwhile seized much of northern DRC.

Kabila was left in control of less than half the Congo's national territory.

His assassination in January 2001 changed the political situation dramatically.

Joseph Kabila takes over

Kabila's 29-year-old son Joseph Kabila, who had been educated in exile in Tanzania and Uganda, was hurriedly sworn in as DRC's new president.

He rapidly kick-started the peace process and within a few months UN peacekeepers started deploying throughout the country.

In 2003, following protracted negotiations at the Intercongolese Dialogue in Sun City, South Africa, an All-inclusive Peace Agreement was signed by the government, the rebel movements, the unarmed opposition and civil society.

Kabila was left in charge of a transitional government as head of state, but the leaders of the two main rebel factions, Jean-Pierre Bemba of the MLC and RCD leader Azarias Ruberwa, were appointed vice-presidents. Another vice-president hailed from the government side and a fourth from the unarmed opposition.

The transitional administration took three years to elaborate a new constitution, submit it to a national referendum and prepare presidential and legislative elections.

In 2006, the United Nations and the Independent Electoral Commission jointly organised DRC's first free and fair multi-party elections.

The elections were financed almost entirely by the international community. Despite manipulation of the media and some violence during the election campaign, the process of voting and vote counting was widely regarded as free and fair.

Kabila won the presidential election by a narrow margin after being forced into a second round vote against his main rival Bemba.

During the election campaign Kabila repeatedly used government troops to attack Bemba's TV and radio stations in Kinshasa.

In 2007, a pitched battle between government troops and Bemba's personal guard erupted in central Kinshasa, forcing Bemba to flee the country.

He was subsequently arrested in Belgium and sent to the International Criminal Court in The Hague. In late 2012 Bemba was on trial there for war crimes committed by MLC troops in the Central African Republic.

Kabila's first five-year term as elected president saw some progress on the economic front, with strong private investment in mining telecommunications, construction and, to a lesser extent, agriculture..

During this period China emerged as a leading investor in the mining sector.

However, there was little progress in reforming the security forces and rebel forces remained active in the east.

Kabila and his Alliance pour la Majorite presidentielle (AMP) - won the November 2011 presidential and legislative elections.

These elections were organised by the government rather than the United Nations and were denounced by the opposition as fraudulent.

Kabila's main challenger for the presidency in 2011 was veteran opposition leader Etienne Tshisekedi.

His *Union pour la Démocratie et le Progrès Social (UDPS)* – Union for Democracy and Social Progress – emerged as the largest opposition parliament in party in parliament

However Tshisekedi and his party boycotted the new legislature in protest at the alleged vote rigging used to secure Kabila's victory.

Provincial and municipal elections were due to take place in 2012, but were postponed indefinitely pending a promised reform of the electoral commission

Fresh rebellion in the east

In early 2012 the security situation in the volatile eastern DRC deteriorated following the emergence of a new rebel group.

This was composed of combatants from the former *Conseil National pour la Defense du Peuple (CNDP)*, an ethnic-Tutsi-led rebel group which had been integrated into the Congolese army under the terms of a 2009 peace deal.

Calling itself the M23 – after the March 23 2009 peace agreement - the new group claimed to be fighting for concessions granted by the government in the peace accord which were never implemented.

By the end of 2012, M23 controlled large areas of territory to the north of Goma along the DRC-Rwanda and DRC-Uganda border.

Goma itself fell to the rebels in November 2012 as the UN peacekeeping forces based in the city stood aside and looked on.

Several international organisations, including MONUSCO, Human Rights Watch and the UN Panel of Experts on the DRC Arms Embargo have documented links between M23 and senior civilian and military leaders in Rwanda.

Their reports have led to widespread condemnation of Rwanda's role in the conflict, and a regional peace initiative aimed at neutralising several armed groups operating in eastern DRC.

The main factions targeted by this initiative are:

- The Tutsi-led M23
- The Rwandan Hutu-led *Forces Democratiques pour la Liberation du Rwanda* (FDLR)
- The Ugandan rebel group Allied Defence Forces – National Army for the Liberation of Uganda (ADF-Nalu).

Language, culture and religion

The population of DRC is a mosaic of more than 250 ethnic groups speaking over 700 languages and dialects

The official language of government and business is **French**.

It was introduced by the Belgian colonial administration in the late 19th century and is an important unifying factor in the country.

All educated Congolese speak French.

Four African languages are also widely used for communication between people from different tribes:

- **Lingala** is the main language spoken in **Kinshasa** and north western DRC. It is widely understood throughout the country since Mobutu used Lingala as the working language of the army.
- **Swahili**, the lingua franca of East Africa, is widely spoken in Eastern DRC.
- **Kikongo** is the common language of south eastern DRC. It is also widely spoken across the border in northern Angola.
- **Tshiluba** is the main language of south-central DRC in the provinces of Kasai Oriental and Kasai Occidental.

About three quarters of Congolese are Christian.

The majority are Roman Catholic, but protestant missionaries have been active in Congo since the colonial era and a large minority of Congolese Christians belong to various protestant churches.

The largest of these is the Kimbanguist Church. It was founded by Congolese Baptist preacher Simon Kimbangu in 1921 and has several million followers.

Around 10% of the population is Muslim. A similar percentage of Congolese still adhere to traditional animist religious beliefs.

Despite the extreme poverty of DRC and the disruption to education caused by conflict, the adult literacy rate is relatively high.

Two thirds of adults can read and write in at least one of the five national languages, according to UNESCO. However, most have only received a few years of rudimentary primary education.

According to the UN Human Development Report on DRC for 2011, Congolese adults have only received an average of 3.5 years of schooling.

Nearly half the population lives in towns and cities.

The capital, Kinshasa, has an estimated population of eight to 10 million.

The economy

Mining and the felling of timber in DRC's tropical rain forests provide the mainstay of the economy and the bulk of government revenues.

The government has negotiated mining concessions and oil exploration agreements with a wide range of foreign companies, but much mining still takes place illegally.

The extraction of alluvial gold and diamonds and the digging of coltan is mainly carried out by artisanal miners operating in precarious low-tech mines with no environmental controls.

Illegal miners pay protection money to the local security forces or to the armed faction which controls the area where they operate.

Such rackets have long been used to finance rebel movements in the troubled east. In some cases, armed factions operate the mines directly.

High commodity prices in recent years have promoted strong investment in mining. This has been the main driver of economic growth.

In agriculture, the production of cash crops such as coffee and palm oil has revived after decades of neglect.

According to the World Bank, the economy of DRC grew by 7.2% in 2010 and 6.5% in 2011.

Growth of around 5% was expected in 2012.

However, very little of this prosperity has trickled down to ordinary people.

Most of the money has remained in the pockets of the ruling elite.

The country remains plagued by corruption at all levels.

Transparency International www.transparency.org ranked DRC 168th out of the 183 countries listed in its 2011 Corruption Perceptions Index.

Humanitarian crises

The principal cause of humanitarian crisis since the mid-1990s has been conflict in eastern DRC.

By mid-2012, more than 1.5 million people had been displaced from their homes by fighting in the troubled provinces of North and South Kivu, according to UN estimates.

Attacks by armed groups also continued in the southern province of Katanga and the Ituri district of Orientale Province in the northwest, near the Ugandan border.

The fighting has led to rampant human rights abuses and gender-based violence.

Poverty and a lack of basic health care mean that 20% of all children in DRC die before the age five.

Malnutrition is widespread and few people have access to clean drinking water or proper sanitation.

The population is exposed to frequent epidemics of cholera, measles and other communicable diseases.

According to OCHA, half the entire population of DRC remains vulnerable to disaster of one kind or another.

Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) at a glance

Population	67.8 million (World Bank 2011 estimate)
Main Languages	French, Lingala, Swahili, Kikongo, Tshiluba
Gross National Income (GNI) per capita	\$190 (World Bank 2011)
Percentage of population living in poverty	71.3% (World Bank 2006)
Life expectancy at birth	48.4 (UN Human Development Report 2011)
Adult literacy	66.8% (UNESCO 2010)
Mobile phone lines	15.7 million (ITU 2011)
Mobile phone penetration	23.1% (ITU 2011)
Percentage of population using the internet	1.2% (ITU 2011)
Ranking in UN Human Development Index 2011	187 th out of 187 (bottom of the table)
Ranking in Reporters Sans Frontieres World Press Freedom Index 2011-12	145 th out of total of 179

Media overview

Radio is the main source of news and information in DRC.

However, many parts of this vast country are beyond the reach of local radio stations broadcasting on FM.

In remote areas, people still rely heavily on the Short Wave broadcasts of international stations, particularly **Radio France Internationale (RFI)** and the **BBC World Service**.

Television is popular in the main towns and cities, but TV has little penetration in rural areas, where most people lack electricity.

There are several daily and weekly newspapers, but these have a very small circulation. Newspapers are only available in **Kinshasa** and a handful of other large cities.

Nearly all Congolese newspapers are published in **French**.

However, African languages, particularly **Lingala, Swahili, Kikongo and Tshiluba**, are widely used alongside French on radio and television.

This makes broadcasting much more accessible than the print media for the vast majority of Congolese who speak little or no French.

Newspapers are influential among the affluent and educated ruling elite. But even the largest dailies in Kinshasa such as **Le Phare, L'Avenir** and **Le Potentiel**, only print about 2,000 copies.

Newspapers cost at least US\$1 each and are simply too expensive for ordinary Congolese to buy on a regular basis. New

No daily newspapers are published outside the capital.

However, many provincial cities support a clutch of weekly, fortnightly and monthly newspapers that print and sell a few hundred copies.

Very few people have access to the internet.

Where internet access does exist, it is mainly via a direct satellite connection or through the mobile telecommunications network.

Internet speeds are slow and access costs are expensive.

Most Congolese internet users go online at internet cafes.

According to the International Telecommunications Union (ITU) www.itu.int , only 1.2% of the population used the internet in 2011.

Mobile phone use is widespread and growing, but network coverage is limited to the main towns and the rural areas close by.

The ITU reckoned there were 15.7 million active mobile phone lines in DRC at the end of 2011.

This gave a mobile penetration rate of 23%.

However, many handset owners have SIM cards for more than one network so these figures undoubtedly overstate the number of people who actually own a mobile phone.

DRC has a varied and vibrant media, but the standards of news reporting and radio and TV programme production are generally low.

Furthermore, the government often uses a heavy hand to clamp down on critical voices.

Radio and television stations that incur the government's displeasure are frequently shut down for periods which vary from two or three days to several months.

The DRC has several hundred radio stations, many of which broadcast from small and remote rural communities.

The country also has more than 80 TV stations, but most only cater for local audiences in the city where they are based.

National broadcasters

There are only two broadcasters with broad national reach:

- **Radio Télévision Nationale Congolaise (RTNC)** the state broadcasting corporation. In addition to its national radio and TV service, RTNC has local FM radio stations in 11 provincial cities. However not all them function. Most simply relay national network programming from Kinshasa. In theory, RTNC broadcasts nationwide by radio on Short Wave, but the organisation's Short Wave transmitters do not always work.
- **Radio Okapi** <http://radiookapi.net> a radio network operated by the UN peacekeeping force **MONUSCO** <http://monusco.unmissions.org> in partnership with the Swiss-based **Fondation Hironnelle** www.hironnelle.org. Radio Okapi broadcasts on FM from its headquarters in Kinshasa and from nine radio regional stations across DRC. The network claimed 14 million daily listeners in 2012. Many of its programmes are relayed by partner FM stations across the country. Radio Okapi also broadcasts for one hour a day on Short Wave.

Radio Okapi is generously financed by international donors. It pays good salaries to its journalists and operates to a much higher professional standard than the rest of the Congolese media.

Okapi is well respected for the accuracy and and balance of its news reporting.

The UN station consistently ranks as one of the two most listened to radio stations in audience surveys conducted in different parts of the country.

RTNC TV and two private TV stations – **Raga TV** and **Digital Congo TV** - broadcast nationwide by satellite.

However, only a minority of television owners have a satellite dish capable of receiving their signal.

There are several small privately owned multi-media groups in DRC which own a radio station, a TV station and a newspaper.

These multi-media groups run many of DRC's best known and best equipped media outlets. However, they only have a presence in Kinshasa and a handful of other large cities.

The boom in radio

Alongside the larger radio stations operated by multi-media media groups, there are several hundred small FM radio stations.

Many of these are operated by churches, schools and community associations in remote towns and villages. Others belong to prominent individuals in politics and business.

The number of private radio and TV stations on air has mushroomed since the overthrow of President Mobutu Sese Seko in 1997.

In 1996, the year before Mobutu's fall, there were just 20 radio stations in the whole country.

15 years later, in 2011, there were up 450 radio stations on air, according to Marie-Soleil Frère, a Belgian media researcher who has done extensive work in DRC (*The Democratic Republic of Congo Case Study on Donor Support to Independent Media 1990-2010* www.mediamapresource.org/wp-content/uploads/2011/04/DRC.pdf).

Earlier research by Frère established the existence of 341 operational radio stations in DRC in 2008.

In the same year, she also found 82 television stations broadcasting from the country's main cities. 51 of them were based in Kinshasa.

It is worth noting that radio and TV stations broadcasting from **Kinshasa** can easily be picked up in **Brazzaville**, the capital of the neighbouring Republic of Congo. This city lies just 3 km away on the north bank of the Congo river.

Likewise, broadcasts from Brazzaville are easily received in Kinshasa.

Many of the DRC's city-based radio and TV stations are owned by personalities who are prominent in business and politics.

These media outlets tend to slavishly reflect the political views and business interests of their owner.

In 2008, Frère found 104 radio stations on air that belonged to religious denominations - mainly protestant evangelical churches.

She also recorded 133 radio stations that belonged to not-for-profit organisations such as community associations and schools.

The Roman Catholic Church is a particularly influential player in the Congolese media.

It operates three television channels, 20 local radio stations and a news agency in DRC.

Access to media

According to a 2008 media audience survey conducted by the French media research organisation IMMAR - *Etude d'audience pour le projet Médias pour la Démocratie en RDC, DFID/FCI* - 97% of the population of **Kinshasa** had access to both radio and television.

The survey of 4,000 people across DRC found that access to radio was lower in rural areas, but was still quite high.

The lowest rate of access to radio recorded by IMMAR was 64% of the population in a small rural community in Orientale Province.

IMMAR found that access to television in the big cities ranged from 61% in **Kisangani** to more than 90% in **Kinshasa**, **Lubumbashi** and **Matadi**.

But access to television in the rural areas was much lower. It ranged from 10% to 48% of the population in the locations sampled.

Several media audience studies have been carried out in DRC in recent years.

IMMAR conducted major surveys in 2006, 2007 and 2008 which were financed jointly by the French and British governments.

Other media audience research has been conducted by the French market research organisation SOFRES, Radio Okapi, RFI and the BBC.

According to the 2008 IMMAR media audience survey, people in Kinshasa spend more time watching television than listening to the radio.

They also tend to listen to the radio in the early morning, but watch TV in the evening.

IMMAR also found that men spent more time listening to the radio, whereas women spent longer watching TV.

This is not surprising, since many women are at home during the day while the men of the family go out to work.

The 2008 IMMAR survey showed that women in Kinshasa spent an average of 196 minutes (more than three hours) per day watching TV, whereas men spent 158 minutes (just over two and a half hours) in front of the box.

Most TV viewing takes place in the evening, with a peak around 20.00.

IMMAR found that women in Kinshasa spent an average of 86 minutes per day listening to the radio, whereas men spent 105 minutes.

Radio audiences peak in the morning around 07.00.

All five national languages are widely used in broadcasting: **French, Lingala, Swahili, Kikongo and Tshiluba.**

The state radio and TV corporation, **RTNC**, uses all five, although they are not given equal air time.

Commercial and community broadcasters tend to use the languages that are most widely spoken in within their own coverage area.

International radio and TV stations

Paris-based **Radio France Internationale (RFI)** is the most popular international radio station in DRC. It broadcasts in **French** from FM relay stations in Kinshasa and eight provincial cities.

RFI programmes are also relayed by several local FM radio stations

The **BBC World Service** is also popular. It broadcasts in **English, French** and **Swahili** on FM in Kinshasa and four provincial cities.

BBC programmes are also relayed in several cities by **Raga FM**.

In eastern DRC, the BBC **Swahili** service is widely followed on Short Wave.

RFI and the BBC have both fallen foul of the government on several occasions because of their critical reporting of events in DRC.

The late President Laurent Kabila shut down the BBC's FM relay stations in DRC throughout his three-year rule from 1998 to 2001.

In December 2011, his son President Joseph Kabila shut down RFI's FM relay stations for a week to show the government's displeasure with RFI's reporting of the presidential and legislative elections held a few weeks earlier.

Only a minority of TV owners have satellite television, but the French TV channels **TV5** and **France 24** are available free of charge by satellite and are popular amongst those who do have a dish.

Low journalistic standards

The quality of most locally produced radio and TV programmes is very poor, both in terms of content and technical production.

Most radio and TV stations have outdated equipment and are run on very small budgets by staff who are poorly trained and badly paid.

Most journalists work without a contract. Many do not even receive regular salaries.

A large number of media owners expect their journalists to earn a living by broadcasting or publishing news reports in exchange for money. This widespread practice is known locally as *coupage* (taking a cut).

Financial inducements are routinely offered to journalists by politicians, businesses and NGOs seeking favourable publicity.

Some universities offer courses in journalism and other media skills, but their teaching resources are limited and their course material is outdated.

Since 2003 a stream of international NGOs and media training organisations have organised short-term training programmes for Congolese journalists.

However, the content of these courses is usually determined more by the advocacy agenda of the sponsoring organisation or the donor financing their activities than by local needs.

Very few trainees who attend these short courses are able to apply the knowledge and skills that they learn in their day-to-day work for local media organisations afterwards.

Most news reports lack balance and objectivity.

Journalists rarely check the information they are given.

Information given in official statements and press releases is accepted at face value and reported as fact.

News reports are often heavily loaded with editorial comment, making it difficult to distinguish them from pure opinion pieces.

There is no tradition at all of investigative journalism in DRC.

Any media organisation brave enough to undertake investigative reporting to expose wrongdoing would almost certainly be strongly sanctioned, either formally or informally.

The limits to free speech

The political allegiance of most media outlets in DRC normally reflects that of their owner

Even media outlets which attempt to remain politically neutral often run stories which have quite clearly been sponsored by an interested party.

The fact that they agree to do so reflects the chronic shortage of cash in most Congolese media organisations.

Certain newspapers do run critical pieces and some TV and radio stations have openly criticised government actions or the behaviour of individual ministers.

However, independent media organisations increasingly practice self-censorship.

Sometimes they couch criticism of the government in obtuse editorials.

Another trick is to balance criticism with laudatory coverage of other aspects of government action.

The government does not react to every critical report in the local media, but crackdowns are very frequent.

Critical journalists and those working for opposition media outlets are often harassed, intimidated and arrested.

Several journalists have have been killed in mysterious circumstances after publishing reports critical of the government. Their murderers are almost never tried and convicted.

TV and Radio stations which incur the government's wrath are often forced off air for a period.

The DRC ranked 145th out of the 179 countries listed in the Reporters Sans Frontieres www.rsf.org 2011-2012 World Press Freedom Index

There are several good human rights organisations which monitor and publicise violations of press freedom.

These include :

- **Journaliste en danger (JED)** www.jed-afrique.org, a Congolese media watchdog which also works regionally. It is an excellent resource on issues concerning media freedom and violations of free speech.
- **Association Africaine pour les Droits de l'Homme (ASADHO)** <http://asadho-rdc.net>
- **La Voix des sans Voix (VSV)** <http://www.vsv-rdc.org>.

Journaliste en Danger's 2011 annual report documented the assassination of a community radio journalist in Lubero, North Kivu, the incarceration or detention of 42 journalists and harassment or physical attacks against another 57 media professionals.

The report also recorded 17 incidents of administrative, legal or economic pressure on the media and 43 instances in which journalists were prevented from exercising their profession.

Most of these acts of repression followed the publication or broadcast of stories which were critical of local, provincial or national authorities.

They included the temporary closure of three opposition TV stations:

- **Congo Media Channel**, a Kinshasa TV station was shut down for four months before and after the November 2011 elections
- **RLTV**, a Kinshasa TV station favorable to opposition presidential candidate Etienne Tshisekedi, was attacked and set on fire. It was then shut down on at least two occasions by the government.
- **Canal Futur Television**, a Kinshasa television station owned by opposition leader and presidential candidate Vital Kamerhe, was shut down for several months after the November 2011 elections.

The media is supposed to be regulated by a parastatal body called **Conseil Supérieur de l'Audiovisuel et de la Communication (CSAC)** www.csac.cd – the Superior Council for Audiovisual and Communication.

However, in practice, the Ministry of Information often takes direct action to shut down radio and TV stations without reference to the CSAC.

Self-regulation bodies for the media do exist. But they are weak and lack the authority and the resources to make tangible improvements to the quality and standards of local journalism.

Advertising

There is a very small pool of advertisers in DRC. This makes it extremely difficult for media organisations to sustain themselves financially through commercial advertising.

The advertising market is dominated by the mobile phone companies and the breweries.

These account for about 75% of the total advertising spend in DRC and they direct most of their fire power at consumers in Kinshasa.

Frere estimated in her 2011 media study of the Congolese media that 80-90% of DRC's media advertising spend is concentrated in the capital.

Since there is not enough advertising to go round, the media are vulnerable to the influence and patronage of politicians, religious leaders and businesspeople.

A related problem is that most Congolese media lack good financial management or marketing skills.

Media development organisations

International media development organisations which have worked in DRC include:

- **GRET** www.gret.org, a French-based development NGO
- **Institut Panos Paris** www.panosparis.org, the French arm of the Panos, the international media development NGO
- **Search for Common Ground** www.sfcg.org, a US-based NGO that uses the media to help with conflict prevention and resolution
- **Fondation Hirondelle** www.hirondelle.org, the Swis-based media development NGO that runs Radio Okapi in partnership with the United Nations.
- **The Institute for War and Peace Reporting** <http://iwpr.net>, a US-based media development NGO that wokrs in situations of crisis and conflict.

- **International Research and Exchange (IREX)** www.irex.org, a US-based media development NGO
- **Internews**, www.internews.org a US-based media development NGO that mainly promotes the development of community radio stations in areas of crisis and conflict
- **BBC Media Action** www.bbc.co.uk/mediaaction , the international media development arm of the BBC.
- **Syfia International** <http://syfia.com> a French-based media development NGO that works mainly in Africa
- **Radio Netherlands Training Center (RNTC)** www.rntc.nl, the international media training arm of Radio Netherlands

The main international donors to the media sector are: the UK, France, Belgium, Switzerland, the United States, Sweden, Canada, the Netherlands, the European Union and the United Nations Development Programme UNDP).

Together with a number of smaller donors, they channelled \$US83 million to media support projects in the DRC between 2004 and 2010, according to research by Frere.

Media groups

Radio Television Groupe l'Avenir (RTG@) www.groupelavenir.cd

The Avenir media group owns a television station and a radio station which broadcast in several major cities of DRC, along with the Kinshasa daily newspaper **L'Avenir**.

The group is owned by Pius Muabilu, a pro-Kabila businessman and politician.

He started out as a protégé of Yerodia Abdoulaye Ndongbasi, a close associate of the late president Laurent Kabila.

Since 2006, Muabilu has been a member of parliament for the ruling for the coalition that supports his son, President Joseph Kabila.

All the Avenir media outlets are solidly pro-government and pro-Kabila.

Muabilu's media empire began with the Kinshasa daily newspaper **L'Avenir**. He subsequently expanded into radio and television.

His radio station **RTG@ FM** broadcasts on FM in **Kinshasa, Lubumbashi, Kisangani, Matadi, Goma** and **Mbandaka**.

His television station **RTG@ TV** broadcasts from studios in Kinshasa to the same cities.

Raga Group www.raga.cd

The Raga media group was established in 1996 by Zahir Versi, a Congolese investor of ethnic Indian origin.

It owns a radio station and two free-to-air television channels.

The Raga group has also expanded into satellite telecommunications, internet service provision and pay TV.

Its media outlets try to stay politically neutral, but they often shy away from reporting controversial stories.

Raga FM was founded in Kinshasa in 1996. It is one of the oldest and most established radio stations in the country.

It carries a lot of news and current affairs programming and relays radio programmes from the **BBC** and **Voice of America (VOA)**.

Raga FM has relay stations in **Goma, Lubumbashi, Kisangani, Matadi, Kikwit, Mbuji Mayi, Bukavu, Kindu** and **Mbandaka**.

Raga TV carries a broad range of television programming.

It broadcasts from **Kinshasa** and has relay stations in **Matadi, Boma** and **Mbuji-Mayi**,

Raga Plus, the group's second TV channel, focuses primarily on music and entertainment. It only broadcasts to **Kinshasa**.

The Raga group is expanding into the field of internet service provision field through its **RagaMax** subsidiary.

It also provides VSAT telecommunications services through its **RagaSat** offshoot.

The group offers a bouquet international television channels through its satellite TV enterprise **RagaTeledis**.

Multimedia Congo www.digitalcongo.net

Multimedia Congo is co-owned by the Croatian journalist Nicola Vadjon and President's Joseph Kabila's sister, Jaynet Kabila.

Its first media product was the information website www.DigitalCongo.net , which was launched in the late 1990s.

The group subsequently launched **Digital Congo TV** which broadcasts nationally by satellite, and has relays in all provincial capitals, and **Digital Congo FM**, which has the same broadcast footprint.

The radio station broadcasts in **French** and **Swahili**.

All three Digital Congo media outlets are widely seen as closely reflecting the views of the presidency.

Modeste Mutinga media group www.lepotentiel.cd

Veteran journalist and ruling party senator Modeste Mutinga, owns a daily newspaper, a radio station and a television station in **Kinshasa**.

He founded the daily newspaper **Le Potentiel** in 1982 and when on to establish the radio station **Radio 7** and a companion TV station **Tele 7**.

All three try to follow a neutral political line, but they often reflect the view of the government.

Radio 7 and Tele 7 only broadcast to Kinshasa.

Mutinga also owns several other publications, including **Economica**, which focuses on economic and business issues. It appears twice a month.

Mutinga served as president of the government media regulatory body *L'Haute Autorite des Medias (HAM)* – the High Authority for the Media - in the transitional administration which held power from 2003 to 2006.

He went on to become a senator for the political alliance that supported President Joseph Kabila in the 2006 elections.

Michel Ladi Luya media group

Michel Ladi Luya is a veteran journalist who owns **Le Palmarès** daily newspaper, the radio station **Mirador FM** and the television channel **Mirador TV**.

Ladi Luya has owned and edited Le Palmares since it was launched in 1990.

Following the fall of Mobutu in 1997 this Kinshasa daily became an overtly pro-Kabila newspaper.

After Laurent Kabila took power, Ladi Luya acted as a de facto press attaché for several of his ministers.

He created Mirador FM and Mirador TV in 2006, shortly before the national elections that year.

They only broadcast only in **Kinshasa**

Ladi Luya served as a member of parliament for the presidential alliance from 2006 to 2011.

Radio overview

Radio is the one channel of communication that reaches nearly everyone in the DRC.

According to one estimate cited by the Belgian media researcher Marie-Soleil Frère, there were more than 450 radio stations on air in 2011.

Even in remote rural communities, beyond the reach of the nearest local FM station, people listen in on Short Wave for news and information.

Radio Okapi <http://radiookapi.net>, the radio network run jointly by the UN peacekeeping force **MONUSCO** <http://monusco.unmissions.org> and the Swiss-based **Fondation Hirondelle** www.hirondelle.org, broadcasts nationwide on Short Wave for one hour a day to fill in gaps between its network of FM relay stations.

State-run **Radio-télévision Nationale Congolaise (RTNC)** also broadcasts on Short Wave, but its transmitters do not always work, so this service is frequently unavailable.

Many people also listen to the Short Wave broadcasts of **Radio France Internationale (RFI)** www.rfi.fr and the **BBC World Service** www.bbc.co.uk in **French** and **Swahili**.

However, wherever possible, most Congolese prefer to listen to radio on FM.

The largest audiences for Radio Okapi, RTNC, RFI and the BBC listen to these stations on FM, but they are concentrated in and around the country's main cities.

Radio listeners in small towns and villages can often only pick up one or two local FM stations.

The most common languages used in broadcasting by large city-based radio stations are the five national languages of DRC: **French, Lingala, Swahili, Kikongo** and **Tshiluba**.

However, smaller rural stations often broadcast in local languages.

The overwhelming majority of Congolese live within the broadcast coverage area of a local FM radio station that broadcasts in a language they can understand.

There has been an explosion of new privately owned FM radio stations since former president Mobutu Sese Seko was overthrown in 1997.

In 1996, the year before Mobutu's fall, there were just 20 radio stations on air in the whole country.

Fifteen years later, in 2011, there were up 450 radio stations broadcasting from towns and villages across DRC, according to Frère's report *The Media Map project, The Democratic Republic of Congo Case Study on Donor Support to Independent Media 1990-2010*, www.mediamapresource.org/wp-content/uploads/2011/04/DRC.pdf).

In **Kinshasa** alone there were more than 50 registered radio stations in 2012.

DRC's largest and best known radio stations are **RTNC**, **Radio Okapi** and the commercial stations, broadcasting from **Kinshasa** and the provincial capitals.

Most of the large privately owned radio stations are owned by politicians, businessmen with strong political connections or powerful evangelical Christian pastors who run successful ministries.

These larger radio stations often have a companion television station and the two work together closely.

The editorial policy of each radio station usually reflects the political allegiance and the business interests of its owner.

Most commercial radio stations are owned by pro-government figures, but some are controlled by opposition politicians.

Very few radio stations make an effort to remain politically neutral.

Notable exceptions include the **Kinshasa** stations **Raga FM** and **Top Congo**.

National radio stations

Only two Congolese radio stations have genuine nationwide coverage. These are:

- **Radio Okapi** <http://radiookapi.net>, the UN radio station. Radio Okapi has broadcasting studios and transmitters in 10 different cities across DRC. These local stations contribute to the network and produce and broadcast several hours of regional programming each day. Radio Okapi also has a network of 20 FM relay stations. Most of these are located in the troubled east of the country. In addition, selected Radio Okapi programmes are relayed by a network of 27 partner FM radio stations. Radio Okapi claims to cover 85% of the population and reach 14 million listeners every day. It broadcasts nationwide on Short Wave for one hour per day every morning.

- **Radio-télévision Nationale Congolaise (RTNC)**, the state broadcasting corporation. This acts as a propaganda mouthpiece for President Joseph Kabila and his government. In theory RTNC has the capacity to broadcast nationwide on Short Wave. It is also supposed to produce and broadcast regional programming at its studios in 11 provincial cities. But in reality most of RTNC's programming comes from **Kinshasa**. Its regional studios are in a state of disrepair and much of its transmission equipment has ceased to function due to poor maintenance.

At least four of the larger **Kinshasa** radio stations, have FM relay stations in several other large cities.

This gives them an embryonic national network.

The four main private radio stations with broad national reach are:

- **Raga FM** www.raga.cd This politically independent station broadcasts in **Kinshasa, Goma, Lubumbashi, Kisangani, Matadi, Kindu, Kikwit** and **Mbuji Mayi**. Raga FM carries a lot of news and current affairs programming. It also relays radio programmes from the **BBC** and **Voice of America (VOA)**.
- **RTG@** www.groupe.lavenir.cd This pro-government radio station broadcasts on FM in all the provincial capitals, i.e. **Kinshasa, Lubumbashi, Kisangani, Matadi, Goma, Mbandaka, Bukavu, Kananga, Mbuji-Mayi, Kindu, and Bandundu**, as well as in **Beni, Boma, Kikwit** and **Tshikapa** via relays.
- **Digital Congo FM** www.digitalcongo.net According to the radio frequency website www.fmscan.org, Digital Congo FM is on air in all the provincial capitals. The station is part-owned by President Joseph Kabila's sister Jaynet Kabila and reflects the view of the presidency.
- **Radio Liberté** This station is owned by opposition leader and former rebel leader Jean Pierre Bemba, who is now on trial at the International Criminal Court in The Hague. It broadcasts from transmitters in **Kinshasa, Mbandaka** and **Bunia** and several small towns in northern DRC, including **Gemena**. The north is the heartland of Bemba's *Mouvement pour la Libération du Congo (MLC)*. Radio Liberté is often subject to harassment from the authorities.

Local radio stations

Outside Kinshasa and the provincial capitals, there are dozens of local FM stations based in small towns and villages.

Many are owned by churches or religious leaders.

Others are owned by schools, colleges, local associations and other not-for-profit associations.

Some are owned by prominent local personalities.

Research by Marie-Soleil Frère in 2008 established the existence of at least 341 operational radio stations across DRC.

These included 91 commercial radio stations 133 non-commercial stations owned by community groups and not-for-profit organisations and 104 religious stations.

Religious radio stations

In Kinshasa and the provincial capitals many of the religious radio stations are run by evangelical churches or by individuals who have become successful evangelical preachers.

The Roman Catholic Church has a strong presence on the air waves. It runs 20 FM radio stations across DRC, along three television stations.

There are also many protestant radio stations that broadcast from small communities in remote areas and a handful of Muslim stations.

Most religious radio stations are staffed by volunteers who belong to the church that owns the station.

Congolese law states that religious radio stations should be apolitical. However, in reality many of them sided openly with particular parties and candidates during the campaigning for the 2006 and 2011 elections.

In Kinshasa, several evangelical radio stations were openly engaged in political campaigning in both elections.

Access to radio

A media audience survey conducted by the French media research organisation IMMAR in 2008 - *Etude d'audience pour le projet Médias pour la Démocratie en RDC, DFID/FCI* – found that 97% of the population of **Kinshasa** had access to both radio and television.

The survey of 4,000 people across DRC showed that access to radio was lower in rural areas, but was still quite high.

The lowest rate of access to radio recorded by IMMAR was 64% in a small rural community in Orientale Province in northeastern DRC.

The peak periods for radio listening are the early morning and the evening.

IMMAR found that in large cities, where television is widely available, people tend to listen to radio in the morning and watch TV at night.

Community Radio Stations

The proliferation of community radio stations in recent years and the arrival of mobile phones has helped to break the isolation of rural communities.

Most community radio stations discuss local issues which are of direct interest and relevance to their target audience.

Many rural radio stations which portray themselves as community or religious in ethos are actually owned by individuals. These are typically local politicians, religious leaders or business people.

The broadcast agenda of such stations tends to reflect the business and political agenda of the owner.

Many radio stations that are owned by genuine community organisations are also vulnerable to political manipulation.

This often takes the form of paid-for sponsored programming.

Cash-strapped community radio stations often agree to broadcast material that does not necessarily conform to their editorial policy because they are desperate for money.

Many also recognise that it is dangerous to resist political pressure from influential individuals in the local community.

However, a handful of dedicated and professionally-run community radio stations stand out for the quality and independence of their programming.

These include:

- **Canal Revelation** in **Bunia** (Orientale)
- **Radio Sauti ya Mkaaji a Kasongo** in **Kasongo** (Maniema), a radio station run by a local farming and handcrafts cooperative.
- **Radio Mandeleo** in **Bukavu** (South Kivu), which broadcasts on Short Wave and over the internet as well as on FM. It has been widely cited as a model community radio station in Central Africa.
- **Radio Communautaire Mwangaza** in **Kisangani** (Orientale)

- **OPED FM** – a radio station run by the local environmental NGO *Organisation pour la protection de l'environnement et le développement (OPED)* in **Kisangani** (Orientale).
- **Radio Colombe** in **Goma** (North Kivu)
- **Radio Télé Communautaire Maniema Libertés (RTC MALI)** in **Kindu** (Maniema)
- **Gunda FM** in **Kindu** (Maniema)
- **Radio Mont Carmel** in **Mbuji-Mayi** (Kasai Oriental)
- **Bandundu FM** in **Bandundu** (Bandundu)

Commercial radio stations

Most of the privately owned city-based radio stations described as “commercial stations” do not make enough money from advertising and programme sponsorship fees to be financially self-supporting.

According to research into media advertising by the French market research firm IMMAR in 2009, more than three quarters of the total media advertising spend in DRC is concentrated in the hands of four mobile phone companies and two breweries.

These dominant advertisers concentrate their firepower on media outlets in Kinshasa. They spend very little on media advertising in the provinces.

Most commercial radio stations therefore rely heavily on subsidies from their well-heeled owners.

Nearly all media owners are directly or indirectly involved in politics. They are therefore prepared to subsidise loss-making radio stations that promote their own views and interests.

Although there is a great diversity of media ownership in DRC, very few outlets are independent and unbiased in the way that they report news and information.

Radio licensing

There is no centralised system of radio licencing in DRC.

In Kinshasa, the Ministry of Post, Telephones and Telecommunications issues radio licences and allocates frequencies to radio stations based in the capital.

The Ministry of Information and Communication provides them with a separate authorisation to broadcast.

At the provincial level however, the licencing procedure is different.

Here, the local branch of the Ministry of Post, Telephones and Telecommunications issues radio licences and allocates frequencies, but the state intelligence agency – *Autorité Nationale des Renseignements (ANR)* gives the authorisation to broadcast.

Provincial radio licences are not registered in Kinshasa.

This makes it difficult to get an accurate and comprehensive picture of the total number of stations authorised to broadcast in the country as a whole.

International radio stations

Radio France International (RFI) is the most popular international radio station in DRC.

It broadcasts on FM in the following cities:

Kinshasa
Lubumbashi
Matadi
Mbuji-Mayi
Kisangani
Goma
Mbandaka
Bukavu
Bunia

RFI and can be heard nationwide on Short Wave.

The 2008 IMMAR media audience survey showed RFI to be the second most listened to station after Radio Okapi in Kinshasa and Lubumbashi.

However, RDI lagged well behind local radio stations in other provincial cities where it was available on FM

The **BBC** is also popular.

It broadcasts in **French** and **English** and **Swahili** on FM in

Kinshasa
Lubumbashi
Kisangani
Goma
Bukavu.

The Swahili service of the BBC is widely listened to on Short Wave in eastern DRC.

Programmes of **Voice of America (VOA)** are relayed by several partner FM stations, including **Raga FM**.

The Belgian government **French** language radio station **Radio Television Belge Francophone (RTBF)** broadcasts on FM in **Kinshasa**.

Radio stations

National and Kinshasa-based radio stations

Radio-télévision Nationale Congolaise (RTNC)

RTNC, the state broadcasting corporation, makes little attempt to be anything other than the voice of the President, the government and the ruling party.

Its flagship national radio service broadcasts nationwide from **Kinshasa** via a series of FM relay stations in the provincial capitals.

RTNC is also supposed to broadcast on Short Wave, but its poorly maintained Short Wave transmitters are not always in working order.

In theory, RTNC also broadcasts regional radio programming from its studios in each provincial capital.

However, in reality, much of its equipment has broken down and no longer works. Many of RTNC's regional studios no longer produce or broadcast any local programming.

Insiders say the radio division of RTNC only receives a small part of the organisation's annual budget. Most of the money goes to television.

This is paradoxical, because RTNC radio commands a much larger nationwide audience than its TV counterpart.

RTNC broadcasts in DRC's five national languages: **French, Lingala, Swahili, Kikongo** and **Tshiluba**.

The main morning news programme in **French** is goes out at 07.00 and lasts 30 minutes. The main evening news programme in **French** is broadcast at 20.00.

RTNC has radio and TV studios and FM relay stations in the following cities:

Kinshasa
Matadi
Bandundu
Mbandaka
Kananga
Mbuji Mayi
Lubumbashi
Kindu
Goma
Butembo
Kisangani
Bukavu

In recent years, several international donors have provided money, equipment and training to try and improve RTNC's output.

During the mid-2000's China rehabilitated part of RTNC's transmission network, including its Short Wave transmitters.

However, poor and sporadic maintenance following the completion of this work has again led to the malfunctioning of many RTNC's FM and Short Wave transmitters.

The Belgian media researcher Marie-Soleil Frere noted in her 2011 report on the Congolese media that in the vast southern province of Katanga, RTNC is only available on FM within 120 km radius of its transmitter in the provincial capital **Lubumbashi**. In the extreme south of the province

There was a noticeable improvement in the quality of RTNC programming following the launch of the rival UN radio station **Radio Okapi** in 2002.

However, this was short-lived. RTNC soon reverted to its former role as a crude propaganda mouthpiece of the government.

RTNC employs a vast bureaucracy of some 2,300 employees, including more than 1,000 in Kinshasa.

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Deputy Director Général - Nicole Dibambu Kitoko

Director of Information (Radio) - Kabongo Zizi

Journalist - Céline Butwena Landu
Mob: +243 999 927 526

Journalist - Mpoy Lungeni Kalala
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Radio Okapi <http://radiookapi.net>,

Radio Okapi is a national radio service run jointly by the United Nations Mission in the DRC MONUSCO and the Swiss media NGO **Fondation Hirondelle** www.hirondelle.org.

It began broadcasting in 2002 and rapidly gained a large nationwide audience.

Radio Okapi claimed on its website in October 2012 that it had 14 million daily listeners across DRC and a regular audience of 21 million.

The station said that one in three inhabitants of Kinshasa listened to its broadcasts.

The IMMAR media audience survey of 2008 found that Radio Okapi was the most popular radio station in **Kinshasa, Lubumbashi, , Mbuji Mayi, Kisangani, Bukavu and Goma.**

The French research company found that in the rural areas which it sampled, local radio stations tended to be more popular, but Radio Okapi was often in second place.

Radio Okapi pays higher salaries to its journalists than any other media organisation in the country and has a good record of accurate, balanced and fair news reporting.

Launched on February 25, 2002 at the start of the Intercongolese Dialogue in Sun City, South Africa, Radio Okapi reunited the country over the airwaves at a time when DRC was still divided into rebel-and-government-controlled areas.

Radio Okapi is headquartered in **Kinshasa.**

In late 2012, it also operated regional FM radio stations in the following cities:

Kinshasa 103.5 FM
Lubumbashi
Mbuji-Mayi 93.8 FM
Goma 105,2 FM
Bukavu95.3 FM
Bunia 104.9 FM
Kisangani 94.8 FM
Matadi 102.0 FM
Kindu 103.0 FM

Studios in the western cities of Gbadolite and Mbandaka were closed down as national political realities changed.

Radio Okapi's regional stations drop out of the national network twice a day to broadcast their own local programming.

In late 2012, Radio Okapi also operated 20 FM relay stations in other locations around the country.

These relays were located in:

Bandundu (Bandundu)
 Kikwit (Bandundu)
 Kalemie (Katanga)
Kananga (Kasai Occidental)
Kamina (Katanga)
Manono (Katanga)
Baraka (South Kivu)
Uvira (South Kivu)
Tshomo Ini (South Kivu)
Shabunda (South Kivu)
Butembo (North Kivu)
Beni (North Kivu)
Mahagi (Orientale)
Aru (Orientale)
Isiro (Orientale)
Lisala (Equateur)
 Boende (Equateur)
Gemena (Equateur)
Gbadolite (Equateur)
 Mbanza Nbgungu (Bas Congo)

Many of Radio Okapi's programmes are relayed by partner FM stations in other parts of the interior. Okapi said it had 27 relay partners in October 2012.

Radio Okapi's national FM service is also available by satellite on DSTV Channel 68 and is streamed live over the internet

The station broadcasts for one hour per day on Short Wave from 05.00 to 06.00 every morning on 11,690 Khz.

Radio Okapi employs over 200 staff, nearly all of whom are Congolese.

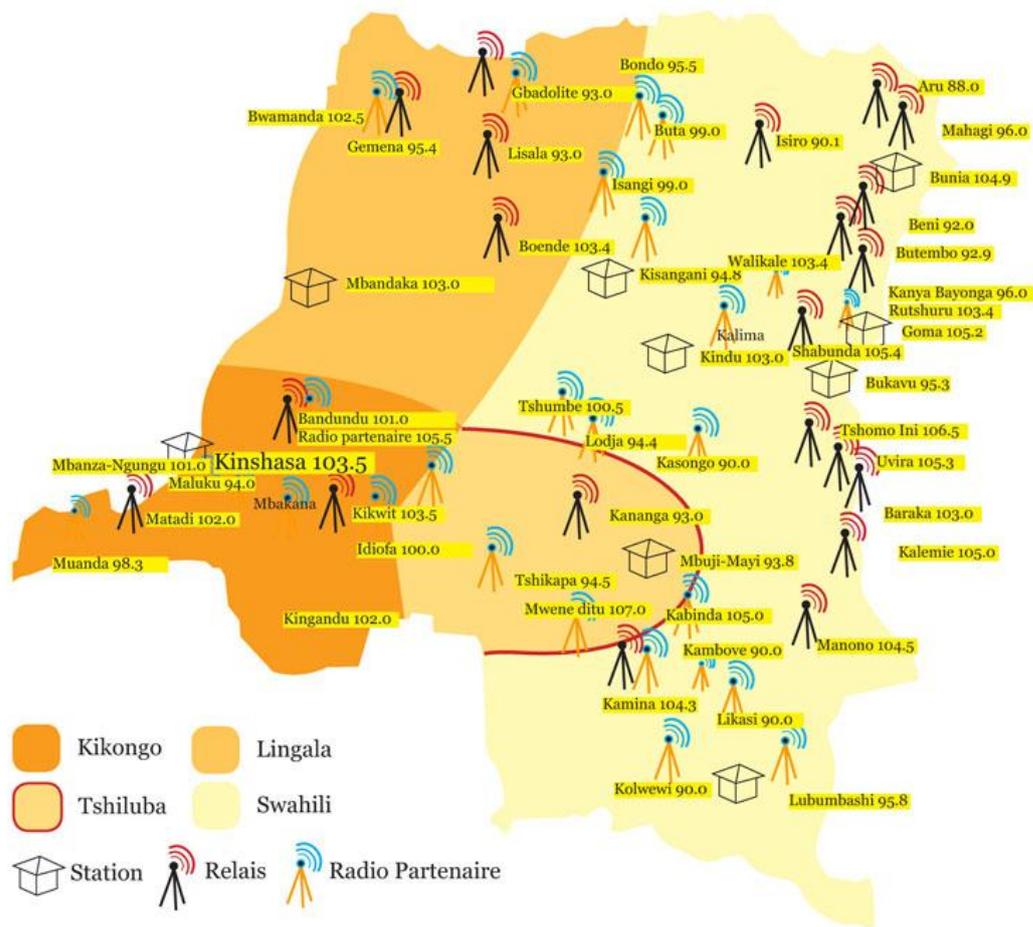
Its on-air presenters have always been 100% Congolese, but over the past 10 years, Congolese nationals have increasingly replaced expatriate staff in the radio station's senior management as well.

Radio Okapi broadcasts in the country's five national languages: **French, Lingala, Kikongo, Swahili** and **Tshiluba**.

The bulk of its programming is in **French**

Radio Okapi Déploiement

www.radiookapi.net



Radio Okapi broadcast coverage map (2008)

Source: Radio Okapi

Broadcast output ranges from news, current affairs and political debate programmes to lifestyle shows, humanitarian and educational programming and entertainment.

The main news programmes are broadcast at 05.00 and 17.00 Monday to Friday.

Radio Okapi carries a number of phone-in shows.

The UN Department of Peacekeeping Operations normally operates its own radio station in countries where UN peacekeeping forces are based.

In the past such stations have been shut down once the peacekeepers withdraw.

DRC was the first country in which the United Nations decided to set up a radio station in partnership with an independent media development organisation with a view to making it a more permanent feature of the local media landscape.

The United Nations established Radio Okapi as a joint venture with **Fondation Hirondelle** www.hirondelle.org, a Swiss-based NGO which specialises in supporting media in situations of conflict in order to enhance the radio station's editorial independence.

A second aim of the partnership was to encourage long-term planning for the radio station to remain on air as a sustainable broadcaster following the end of the UN peacekeeping mandate.

The station has so far been entirely funded by foreign donors.

Over the years, Radio Okapi has received substantial grants from Canada, France, the UK, Switzerland, the United States, Sweden, the Netherlands, and the European Union.

Its annual running costs have fallen as many expatriate staff have been replaced by Congolese nationals.

The Belgian media researcher Marie-Soleil Frère estimated Radio Okapi's budget for 2011 at around US\$8.5 million.

However, this is still a massive sum by Congolese standards.

It is difficult to see how the station could become financially self-sustaining through advertising and programme sponsorship in the near future, while at the same time maintaining its broad national network.

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contact@radiookapi.net

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Raga FM

Raga FM is a Kinshasa-based radio station that is strong on news and current affairs programming.

It broadcasts in **French** and **Lingala** on 90.5 FM in the capital.

Raga FM has FM relay transmitters in the following provincial cities:

Goma
Lubumbashi
Kisangani
Matadi
Kikwit
Mbuji Mayi
Bukavu
Kindu
Mbandaka

About one third of the station's broadcast output consists of news, information and current affairs programming. The rest is entertainment.

Raga FM relays **French** language programmes of the **BBC World Service** and **Voice of America (VOA)**.

The station was established in 1996 by Zahir Versi, a Congolese investor of ethnic Indian origin. It is one of DRC's oldest and most established radio stations.

Raga FM takes a neutral line in politics, but tends to steer clear of controversial stories. Its programme production quality and news gathering capacity are above average for DRC.

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Address : Raga FM, N°22 Avenue des Aviateurs, Kinshasa - Gombe

RTG@ FM www.groupelavenir.cd

RTG@ FM is one of DRC's largest commercial radio stations.

It forms part of the Radio Television Groupe l'Avenir (RTGA) media group owned by the pro-Kabila businessman and politician Pius Muabilu.

RTG@ FM broadcasts in **French** and **Lingala** on 88.1 FM in **Kinshasa**.

It has relay stations in all 11 provincial capitals and several other large towns:

Lubumbashi
Kisangani
Matadi
Goma
Mbandaka
Kindu
Bukavu
Kananga
Mbuji-Mayi
Bandundu
Beni
Boma
Kikwit
Tshikapa

RTG@ FM has limited news gathering capability, but it is above average by local standards.

The network has local production studios at its provincial relay stations. These feed material into national programming.

RTG@It has partnered with the US-based conflict resolution NGO Search for Common Ground www.sfcg.org on radio productions in the past.

The radio network has a companion TV station **RTG@ TV**.

The Kinshasa daily newspaper **L'Avenir** also forms part of the same group.

All the media outlets in the RTGA group are heavily pro-Kabila and pro-government.

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Digital Congo FM www.digitalcongo.net

Digital Congo FM is a commercial radio station that broadcasts from **Kinshasa** in **French** and **Swahili** on 106.5 FM.

It has FM relay stations in the following provincial cities

Lubumbashi
Mbandaka
Mbujui-Mayi
Kikwit
Matadi
Kindu
Kisangani
Goma

Digital Congo FM belongs to the Multimedia Congo media group. This is co-owned by the Croatian journalist Nicola Vadjon and President's Joseph Kabila's sister, Jaynet Kabila.

Multimedia Congo also owns **Digital Congo TV** which broadcasts nationally by satellite, and the information website www.DigitalCongo.net.

All three Digital Congo media outlets are seen as closely reflecting the views of the presidency.

Digital Congo FM has a good news-gathering capacity and is capable of good technical production quality, but its news and information output consists mainly of pro-government propaganda.

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Radio-télévision Kin Malebo (RTKM)

Radio-télévision Kin Malebo, better known by its acronym RTKM, is one of Kinshasa's oldest and most popular radio stations.

It broadcasts in **French** and **Lingala** on 95.1 FM in **Kinshasa**.

RTKM also operates a local radio station in **Kindu** in eastern DRC, which has some programmes in **Swahili**.

Kindu is the home town of RTKM's owner, Aubin Ngongo Luwowo, a journalist by training who served as editor in chief of state radio under former president Mobutu Sese Seko and went on to become Information Minister.

RTKM's programme production and news gathering capacities are above average for DRC.

The radio station has a companion television station, which broadcasts to **Kinshasa**.

RTKM has had a troubled history.

Ngongo set up the radio station in 1996, but he went into exile in France following the fall of Mobutu a year later.

RTKM was briefly nationalised by Mobutu's successor, Laurent Kabila, in 2000 on the grounds that it had been created with public funds.

However, it was returned to Ngongo in 2001.

Ngongo returned to DRC at that point and joined the political opposition.

He served as a senator from 2006 to 2011.

The government closed RTKM for several weeks in May 2011, during the run-up to national elections while the station was investigated for the alleged non-payment of taxes.

Ngongo was seeking re-election to parliament at the time.

Director of Programmes - Charles Dimandja
Tel: +243 999 909 335

Journalist - Pascal Amisi
Tel : +243 818 129 114

Address: RTKM, 69 Avenue de l'Equateur, Gombe, Kinshasa

Radio Liberté

Radio Liberté is a Kinshasa-based radio station owned by opposition politician and former rebel leader Jean-Pierre Bemba.

It is the official voice of his rebel movement turned political party - *Mouvement pour la Liberation du Congo (MLC)* – Congo Liberation Movement.

Radio Liberté has frequently been the target of harassment by the government

It broadcasts on 97.1 FM in **Kinshasa** and has relay stations in the Equateur province of northern DRC.

These include:

Gemena
Mbandaka

Bemba is a millionaire businessman and the leader of the MLC. The rebel movement turned political party controlled much of northern DRC during the 1998-2003 civil war

Bemba was President Laurent Kabila's main challenger in the 2006 presidential election. He fled into exile in 2007 after a gun battle between his own forces and government troops in Kinshasa.

Bemba was arrested in Belgium in 2008 on charges of crimes against humanity. In late 2012, he was on trial at the International Criminal Court in The Hague for crimes committed by MLC fighters in the Central African Republic.

Radio Liberté was established as the MLC's official radio station during the civil war.

Bemba also owns the **Kinshasa** television stations **Canal Kin TV** and **Canal Congo TV**. The latter also broadcasts in **Mbandaka**, the capital of Equateur province, which is Bemba's political base.

Contact- Kitutu O'Leontwa
Tel: +243 810 000 060

Top Congo FM www.topcongo.be

Top Congo FM is a popular radio station that broadcasts in **French** and **Lingala** on 88.4 FM in **Kinshasa**.

It has a relay station in **Mbandaka**.

The station has limited news gathering capacity, but it carries a lot of interactive programming.

Top Congo is owned by Christian Lusakueno, a career journalist with international experience.

The station is politically neutral, but is generally uncritical of the government.

It began broadcasting in 2004.

Mob: +243818120812
+243998015001
+243898217378
Email: info@topcongo.info

Address: Top Congo FM, Avenue Colonel Mondjiba, Réf. Complexe UTEX,
Ngaliema - Kinshasa

Mirador FM

Mirador FM is a **Kinshasa**-based commercial radio station owned by veteran journalist and media entrepreneur Michel Ladi Luya.

It broadcasts to the capital on 91.4 FM, but does not have a presence in other parts of the country.

Ladi Luya also owns the Kinshasa daily **Le Palmarès** and **Mirador TV**.

He was an opposition figure during the regime of former president Mobutu Sese Seko.

After Laurent Kabila took power in 1997, Ladi Luya acted as a de facto press attaché for several of his ministers.

The media outlets which he controls now generally favour the government.

Ladi Luya created Mirador FM and Mirador TV in 2006, shortly before DRC's UN-supervised national elections. They only broadcast only in the capital.

Owner - Michel Ladi Luya
Tel: +243 816 822 222

Mirador FM, 220B Avenue Mpolo, Gombe, Kinshasa

Radio Lisanga Television

Radio Lisinga is an opposition radio station owned by former rebel leader Roger Lumbala.

It broadcasts in **Kinshasa** and **Mbuji Mayi**, the capital of Kasai Oriental province. This is Lumbala's home town and his political stronghold.

Lumbala set up Radio Lisanga in 2006, prior to the country's first post-conflict elections.

The radio station has a companion TV station which is also called **Radio Lisanga Television**.

It also broadcasts from **Kinshasa** and **Mbuji-Mayi**.

Radio Lisanga is firmly pro-opposition. It was taken off air by the government on numerous times occasions during the run-up to the November 2011 elections.

Lumbala led the RCD National rebel faction in eastern DRC during the 1998-2003 civil war.

He was a strong supporter of Etienne Tshisekedi, the main rival to President Laurent Kabila, in the 2011 presidential elections.

Owner - Roger Lumbala
Tel: +243 990903539

Radio 7 www.lepotentiel.cd

Radio 7 is a **Kinshasa** radio station that forms part of the media group belonging to veteran journalist Modeste Mutinga,

It broadcasts in **Lingala** and **French** in the capital.

Radio 7 tries to be politically neutral, but in recent times it has leaned increasingly towards a pro-government position.

Mutinga is a senator of the ruling alliance which supports President Joseph Kabila.

Mutinga also owns the Kinshasa television station **TV 7** and **Le Potentiel**, one of the city's leading daily newspapers.

Radio 7 has limited news-gathering capability.

Mob: +243 997 406 485
+243 819 147 138

Address: Radio 7, Avenue Colonel Ebeya, Croisement de l'avenue Colonel Ebeya et de l'avenue Huilleries, Gombe - Kinshasa

Canal Futur FM

Canal Futur FM is a Kinshasa radio station owned by opposition leader Vital Kamerhe.

It broadcasts on 107.4 FM in **Kinshasa** and has relay stations in the eastern towns of **Goma** and **Bakavu**.

Kamerhe is the leader of the *Union pour la Nation Congolaise (UNC)* opposition party. He stood as a presidential candidate in the November 2011 elections.

Canal Futur was shut down by the government on several occasions during the run-up to the 2011 elections.

The radio station's Goma office was attacked in January 2012 and much of its equipment was destroyed.

Kamerhe was born in Bukavu and was elected as the city's member of parliament in 2006. He was subsequently appointed Speaker of the National Assembly.

Kamerhe launched a companion television station **CFTV** in **Kinshasa** in 2009, shortly after announcing his bid for the presidency.

Owner - Vital Kamerhe
Tel: +243 995 000 500
Email: kamerhevital@yahoo.fr

Radio Elikya

Radio Elikya is a Roman Catholic radio station that broadcasts to **Kinshasa** on 97.7 FM.

It forms part of Radio Télévision Catholique Elikya (RTCE), the broadcasting arm of the influential Roman Catholic Church in the capital.

It is owned by the Arch Diocese of Kinshasa and began broadcasting in 2009.

Director General – Lino Pungi
Tel: +243 812 691 642
Email: umberlino@yahoo.fr

Address : RTCE, Archeveche, Avenue de l'Universite,
B.P. 8431, Kinshasa 1

Radio Télévision Kimbanguiste (RATELKI) www.ratelki.com

This religious radio station based in **Kinshasa** belongs to the influential Kimbanguist Church, the largest indigenous church in DRC.

It has a companion television station called **RATELKI TV**

The radio and TV stations both have relay transmitters in **Matadi** to reach followers of the Kimbanguist Church in Bas Congo province, its main stronghold.

The RATELKI radio and TV stations first went on air in 2003.

Address: RATELKI, Centre d'Accueil Kimbanguiste avenue Saïo, Kinshasa.

Provincial radio stations

The following provincial radio stations are important and influential in the areas where they operate.

Radio Okapi, the state broadcasting corporation **RTNC** and the **Kinshasa**-based private radio stations **Raga FM**, **RTG@** and **Digital Congo FM** also command large audiences in many of the provincial capitals.

Radio Liberte reaches some parts of Equateur and Orientale.

The radio stations are listed by province, starting with those based in the regional capital.

Bas-Congo

Radio Télé Matadi (RTM)

This **Matadi**-based radio station broadcasts to DRC's main sea port on 88.7FM.

It is owned by owned by Pamphile Badu wa Badu, a politician in the ruling alliance that supports President Joseph Kabila.

RTM and its sister television station are both run by his son James.

Director - James Badu Wa Badu
E-mail: batrad_spri@yahoo.fr

Address: RTM, 202, Route Kinkanda, Matadi

Bandundu

Radio Concorde

This community radio station is based in **Bandundu** town, the capital of Bandundu province. It broadcasts on 95.0 FM.

Radio Bandundu FM

A community radio station in **Bandundu** town.

Director - Desire Tankuy
Mob: +243 816 604 551
+243 852 462 237
Email: crbandundufm@yahoo.fr
rombeaukadima@yahoo.fr

Kasai Occidental

Kasai Horizons Radio-Télévision (KHRT)

This pro-opposition radio station broadcasts from **Kananga**, the capital of Kasai Occidental province. It broadcasts on 102.0 FM.

It also runs a radio station in **Mbuji-Mayi**, the capital of neighbouring Kasai Oriental.

KHRT is owned by Joseph Mubengayi.

The radio station was set up in 1997.

It has been shut down repeatedly by the government for its coverage of opposition views and activities. KHRT journalists have frequently been arrested.

KHRT also owns a television station which broadcasts in **Kananga** and **Mbuji-Mayi**.

Director of Programmes – Joli-Ambroise Musuet
Tel: +243 816 035 687
Email: jamusuet@yahoo.fr

Journalist - Pascal Kankonde : +243 816 580 420

Address: KHRT, Rond Point du 17 mai, Commune de Kananga

Radio Télé Amazone

This radio station broadcasts on 104.0 FM in **Kananga** and 100.3 FM in **Tshikapa**.

It is owned by Timothee Tshikupela and began broadcasting in 2002.

Radio Télé Amazone also runs a television station in Kananga.

Global FM

Global FM broadcasts from **Kananga**.

It is owned by local businesswoman Catherine Nzuzi wa Mbombo. She was a prominent politician under former president Mobutu Sese Seko.

The station began broadcasting in 2006.

Nzuzi's daughter, Annie Kithima Badjoko, owns a television station in **Kinshasa** called **Global TV**.

Radio Full Contact

Radio Full Contact broadcasts in **Kananga** on 98.5 FM.

It is owned by Mulowayi Kale and was established in 2004.

Radio Télé Universelle

This radio station in **Kananga** is owned by state-run satellite communications company *Réseau National des Télécommunications par Satellite* (RENELSAT).

It broadcasts on 96.5 FM and has been on air since 2001.

Radio Télé Nsanga

A **Kananga** radio station owned by Celestin Kabasele.

Radio Suikaye Tuibake

A **Kananga** radio station, owned by Tshitenge Ilendjeke.

Radio Kananga Malandji

A **Kananga** radio station, owned by Alain Kabantu.

Radio Sons et Images du Kasai,

This radio station in **Luebo**, is owned by Herbert Kabasubabo, a former governor of Kasai Occidental province.

Radio Télé Luiza

This radio station in the town of **Luiza** is owned by Thomas Mutumbu.

Radio Télé en Vol

This radio station in the town of **Luiza** is owned by Ilunga Sesanga.

Kasai Oriental

Radio-Télé Debout Kasai (RTDK)

This commercial radio station, which primarily carries religious programmes, broadcasts in **Mbuji-Mayi** on 97.5 FM.

It is owned by Auguy Ilunga, a bishop and founder of the World Evangelism Church.

RTDK also runs a TV station in Mbuji-Mayi.

Director – Lambert Mbuyi
Tel: +243 816 063 006

Kasai Horizon Radio Television (KHRT)

This pro-opposition radio station broadcasts from **Mbuji-Mayi, Mwene Ditu**, a town 100 km to the south of the provincial capital, and **Kananga**, the capital of neighbouring Kasai Occidental province.

KHRT was founded in 1997 and is owned by Joseph Mubengayi.

He also owns a TV station of the same name that broadcasts from **Mbuji-Mayi** and **Kananga**.

KHRT has been shut down repeatedly by the government for its coverage of opposition views and activities. Its journalists have frequently been arrested.

Director of Programmes – Joli-Ambroise Musuet
Tel: +243 816 035 687
Email: jamusuet@yahoo.fr

Radio Mont Carmel Télévision (RMCTV)

This private radio station based in **Mbuji Mayi** mostly carries religious programming.

It is owned by Pastor Anaclet Kabalu Bukole of the 30th Pentecostal community in Congo, and was established in 1998.

RMC TV also runs a television station in Mbuji Mayi.

Katanga

Mwangaza FM www.rtmwangaza.net

This generally pro-government radio station is based in **Lubumbashi**. It broadcasts in **French** and **Swahili** from several cities in Katanga province.

It has a sister television station called **Mwangaza TV**.

Both belong to a media group called **Radio Télévision Mwangaza**, owned and managed by Rose Lukiana.

Mwangaza FM was founded in 2005.

It is on air in the following locations:

Lubumbashi – 89.0 FM
Likasi – 89.0 FM
Kipushi – 89.0 FM
Kasumbalesa - 89.0 FM

The station has plans to broadcast soon in **Kolwezi** as well.

Its main evening news programme is broadcast at 19.00.

The radio station relays programmes of **Voice of America (VOA)**.

Director of Programmes - Alain St Pierre Mwamba
Tel: +243 995 242 991
email : dirpro@rtmwangaza.net
a_mukenge@yahoo.fr

Radio Télévision Wantanshi

Radio Wantanshi is a pro-government radio station that broadcasts from **Lubumbashi**.

It is owned by close associates of Moise Katumbi, the governor of Katanga province, and basically serves as a propaganda platform for Katumbi.

The radio station and its companion TV channel were established in 2006.

Tel: +243 0818153441

Address : Route Kipushi, Quarter Kisangani - après SOMIKA, Lubumbashi

Radio Nyota <http://www.nyota.net>

Radio Nyota is a **Lubumbashi** radio station owned by a media group which is run by Katanga Governor Moise Katumbi's wife Karine Nahayo Katumbi. It serves as a propaganda mouthpiece for him.

Radio Nyota broadcasts on 88.7 FM.

It has a companion television station called **TV Nyota**.

Director - Olivier Tuta
Mob: +243 817 009 864 Email: nyotafmradio@gmail.com

Address; Radio Nyota, 2ème - Building Congo, Quartier Gambela 1 - Rotonde Carrefour, Lubumbashi.

Radio Télévision Lubumbashi Jua

This radio station in **Lubumbashi** is owned by Jean-Claude Muyambo, a prominent Katangan lawyer and politician.

The station favours President Joseph Kabila, but also broadcasts opposition messages.

Muyambo leads a small political party called parti Solidarité congolaise pour la démocratie (Scode).

This formed part of the alliance backing President Joseph Kabila, but it pulled out after Muyambo failed to secure election to parliament in 2011.

Muyambo is a bitter political rival of Katanga Governor Moise Katumbi.

Radio Télévision Lubumbashi Jua has a companion television station of the same name.

Tel: +243 814 045 888

Radio Télé Tam-tam Afrique

This radio station broadcasts on 88.3 FM in **Lubumbashi**.

It has a companion TV station of the same name.

The broadcasting company is owned by Sefu Selemani.

Tel: +243 818 150 010

Radio Télévision Inter Viens et Vois (RTIV) www.met-ceivv.org/rtiv

This private radio station in **Lubumbashi** is owned by Bishop Léonard Matebwe Lambalamba, an evangelical pastor.

It mainly broadcasts religious programmes and is politically unaligned.

The station was launched in 1999 and broadcasts on 92.7 FM.

Radio Télévision Kyondo

This **Lubumbashi** radio station broadcasts cultural programming.

It is owned by Jacques and Jean-Claude Masangu.

Radio Télévision Kyondo acts unofficially as a political voice of the Luba tribe of northern Katanga.

The Director, Kango Mwema Yamba Yamba, also works for **RFI**.

Director - Kasongo Mwema Yamba Yamba
Mob: +243 099 747 414

Radio Télévision Malaika

This radio station in **Lubumbashi** belongs to Nazem Nazembe, leader of the *Congo du Futur* party which forms part of the parliamentary alliance backing President Joseph Kabila.

Nazem is widely believed to have created this media outlet as a counterweight to the Katanga radio and TV stations that support provincial governor Moise Katumbi.

Radio Malaika is often in trouble with the provincial government, but it supports Kabila at the national level.

Radio Télévision la Voie du Katanga

This is a commercial radio station in **Lubumbashi** owned by Gabriel Kyungu wa Kumwanza, leader of the *Union nationale des fédéralistes du Congo (UNAFEC)* party and Speaker of the Katanga provincial assembly.

The radio station serves as a propaganda vehicle for its owner.

Director: Bamoina Baina Mboka
Tel: +243 998 652 311

Radio Télévision Le Palmier

This commercial radio station in the mining town of **Kolwezi** began broadcasting in late 2011.

It has no particular political agenda.

The radio station and a sister TV station belong to Michel Kouvas, a local businessman.

His is also a prominent member of *Solidarité Congolaise pour la Démocratie (SCODE)*, an NGO that promotes peace and unity amongst the different tribes in the province.

Director: Mariane Yav +243 970 150 870

Radio Télévision Manika

This commercial radio station in **Kolwezi** is owned by Edmond Mbaz a Bang, a minister in the Katanga provincial government and a close ally of Governor Moise Katumbi.

The radio station director, Gaston Mushid, is the former Radio Okapi correspondent in Kolwezi.

Director: Gaston Mushid
Tel: +243 810 374 902

Radio Télévision Alfajiri

This commercial radio station in **Likasi** is owned by Dany Banza, a pro-Kabila politician and former ally of Katanga provincial governor Moise Katumbi.

The station serves devotes a lot air time to singing the praises of its owner.

It has a companion television station called **Alfajiri TV**.

Director: Lydia +243 997 026 221

Radio Télévision de la Prosperité

This independent radio station in the mining town of **Fungurume** in southern Katanga has frequently urged its listeners to take up arms to create an independent state in Katanga.

The radio station has often been shut down by the authorities after such outbursts, but it always manages to reopen thanks to support from Gabriel Kyungu wa Kumwanza, the Speaker of the Katanga provincial assembly.

Director - Pasy Malisawa
Tel: +243 817 821 271

North Kivu

Radio Star

This station broadcasts in **Goma**, the capital of North Kivu province, on 90.0 FM.

It was founded in 1996.

Radio Colombe

This respected community radio station broadcasts from **Goma**, the capital of North Kivu province, on 93.7 FM.

Director – Hubert Furuguta

Radio Télévision Igalika/Grabem FM

This radio station broadcasts from **Beni** on 103.2 FM

It is owned by Kabule Vihuto and was founded in 2002.

Tel: +243 819 602 257
+243 994 978 232

Radio TNC/FEC

This radio station broadcasts on 94.8 FM in **Butembo**.

It was founded in 1995.

South Kivu

Radio Maendeleo www.radiomaendeleo.net

Radio Maendeleo is a popular and well established community radio station that broadcasts from **Bakavu**, the capital of South Kivu province.

It broadcasts on 88.7FM and on Short Wave. It is also streamed online.

The station is run by a coalition of 18 local NGOs. It began broadcasting in 1993.

Radio Mandeleo has a 1,000 watt FM transmitter and claims to reach a potential audience of more than one million people in South Kivu.

Many of its programmes deal with local development issues such as farming, environmental protection water supply, health and food security.

The name of the radio station means “Radio Development” in **Swahili**.

Director – Jolly Kamuntu
Email: maendeleor@yahoo.fr

Address: Radio Mandeleo, 15 avenue Kibombo/Ibanda, Bukavu, Sud-Kivu

Radio Kahuzi <http://radiokahuzi.com>

This Christian missionary radio station broadcasts from **Bukavu** on 91.1 and 102.1 FM and 6,210 Short Wave.

It broadcasts mostly in **French, Swahili** and **English**.

The radio station is managed by its founder, Richard McDonald, a American missionary of the Florida-based Believer's Express Service International missionary organisation.

Radio Kahuzi claims to have over 300 listeners' clubs in North Kivu with over 10,000 members. These clubs have been provided with solar-powered radios that have been pre-tuned to Radio Kahuzi frequencies.

The station has been on air since 1991.

Email: radiokahuzi@sbcglobal.net

Maniema

Radio Télé Communautaire Maniema Libertés (RTC MALI)

This respected community radio station broadcasts from **Kindu**, the capital of Maniema province, on 105.0 FM.

RTC MALI was set up in 2005 by the local human rights group Maniema Libertés. It has a network of correspondents in the main towns of the province.

The radio station has received training and support from the US-based media development NGO Internews www.internews.org.

Director – Betty Ilunga

Kindu FM

Kindu FM is a commercial radio station broadcasting from **Kindu**, the capital of Maniema province.

It is owned by Alexis Thambwe Mwamba, a member of the ruling party and former minister in the Kabila government.

The station was founded in 2006, during the run-up to DRC's first free elections.

Gunda FM

Community radio station in **Kindu**, the capital of Maniema province.

Director – Shabano Yusufu

Radio Sauti ya Mkaaji <http://rsmkasongo.afrikblog.com>

This well-run community radio station in **Kasongo** is owned by a local farmers' group, *La Cooperative Paysanne de Production Agricole et Artisanale pour le Developpement du Maniema*.

The name of the radio station, established in 2001, means "Voice of the Farmer" in Swahili.

The station has a 500 watt FM transmitter and claims an audience of 400,000 people in the south of Maniema province.

It has set up more than 200 listening clubs in rural villages.

Director – Modeste Shabani

Mob: +243 813 136 043

Email: sautiyamkaaji@yahoo.fr

Radio Maman Sifa Maanyi

This radio station broadcasts on 90.2 FM from the small town of **Kabambare** in Maniema province.

It belongs to the mother of President Joseph Kabila, who is from Maniema province. The radio station is named after her.

Equateur

Radio Ekanga

Radio Ekanga is a commercial station that broadcasts on 105.0 FM in **Mbandaka**, the capital of Equateur province.

It belongs to Jose Endundo, a businessman who formerly had close links with the Mobutu regime. He is now a member of President Joseph Kabila's ruling party.

The station was established in 2006.

Radio Mambenga

Radio Mambenga is a commercial station that broadcasts from **Mbandaka** on 99.0 FM.

It is owned by local politician Henri-Thomas Lokondo. He was a member of Mobutu Sese Seko's government in the 1990s before going on to create his own political party.

Lokondo is now a senator in the ruling alliance which supports President Joseph Kabila.

The radio station was attacked and damaged by unidentified armed men in February 2012.

Radio Esuk'afaya

This commercial radio station broadcasts in **Mbandaka** on 107.5 FM.

It is owned by Bofassa Djema, a former minister under Mobutu, who is now in the opposition.

Djema, who is from Equateur province, served as an opposition MP from 2006 to 2011.

Canal Revelation <http://canalrevelation.org/>

This well-run community radio station based in **Bunia** won a Special Award at the World Media Awards in 2011 for its work in peace building.

The station was founded by local entrepreneur Richard Pituwa and a group of community activists in 2000 to give a voice to ordinary people at a time of inter-communal fighting between militias of the local Hema and Lendu tribes.

Canal Revelation plays music and carries programmes on health and civic education.

It broadcasts in **French, Swahili** and **Lingala** and claims to reach a potential audience of 200,000 people in the Bunia area.

Canal Revelation aims mainly at a youth audience and tries to stay neutral in local ethnic disputes.

Director – Richard Pituwa
 Mob: +243 998 683 062
 Email: canalrevelation2001@yahoo.fr

Orientale

Radio Communautaire Mwangaza

This community radio station broadcasts from **Kisangani**, the capital of Orientale province, on 99.0 FM.

It has a 500 watt transmitter and claims to reach a potential audience of 400,000 within an 80 km radius of the city.

The station broadcasts mainly in **French, Lingala** and **Swahili**. It has been on air since 2003.

Director - Paulin Mbenga wa Mbenga
 Mob: +243 998 736 406
 +243 812 671 544
 +243 997 795 389
 Email: racomkis@yahoo.fr

OPED FM

This radio station in **Kisangani** is run by the local environmental protection NGO *l'Organisation pour la Protection de l'Environnement et le Développement (OPED)*.

It was set up in 2007 and broadcasts in **French, Lingala** and **Swahili** on 104.2 FM.

OPED FM carries a variety of news and current affairs programming as well as programmes on environmental protection and development.

It also relays programmes of the German international radio station **Radio Deutsche Welle**.

Radio Télévision Amani

This Roman Catholic radio station broadcasts from **Kisangani** on FM and Medium Wave in **French, Lingala** and **Swahili**.

Radio Télévision Amani broadcasts on 101.1 and 103.1 FM and 1620 AM Medium Wave

Radio Télé Amani is owned by the Dioceses of Kisangani.

It also operates local television station in Kisangani called **Télévision Amani**.

Director of Programmes - Abbé Bwanga Célestin

Tel: +243 985 391 36

+871 683 132 897 (satellite)

Email: bwangamalekani@hotmail.com

rta_kis@hotmail.com

International radio stations

Radio France International (RFI) www.rfi.fr

RFI, the French government's international radio station, is the most popular international radio station in DRC.

According to the RFI website, RFI has FM relay stations in the following cities:

Kinshasa 104.9 FM
Lubumbashi 98.0 FM
Mbuji Mayi 104.9 FM
Matadi 98.0 FM
Goma 98.0 FM
Bukavu 98.0 FM
Bunia 90.2 FM
Kisangani 105.0 FM
Mbandaka 104.9 FM

Selected RFI programmes are also re-broadcast by 27 Congolese partner stations across the country

In addition, RFI broadcasts to DRC on Short Wave.

The French radio station has had a difficult relationship with the Congolese government.

Its frank coverage of events has led the authorities to shut down its local FM relay stations on numerous occasions.

RFI correspondents have sometimes been harassed and banned from the country.

Its FM relay stations in DRC were taken off the air for several weeks following the controversial presidential and legislative elections of November 2011.

Kinshasa correspondent - Baudoin wa Kamanda wa Kamanda
Tel: +243 997 695 915

BBC World Service www.bbc.co.uk

The BBC World Service is widely listened to in DRC on both FM and Short Wave.

It is widely regarded as the second most popular international radio station in the country after **RFI**.

According to the BBC website, the BBC has FM relay stations in DRC which broadcast programming **in English, French and Swahili.**

These are located in the following cities:

Kinshasa - 92.7 FM

Lubumbashi - 92.0 FM

Kisangani - 92.0 FM

Goma - 93.3 FM

Bukavu -102.2 FM

BBC World Service programmes are also relayed by the local partner station **Raga FM.**

The BBC Swahili service also commands a large audience in eastern DRC on Short Wave.

BBC Swahili Service Correspondent - Lubunga Bya'Ombe

Tel : +243 999 937 773

List of community and religious radio stations

This list was compiled by infoasaid from original research and secondary sources. In particular, it draws on information from the following three reports:

- *Marie-Soleil Frere, Le paysage mediatique congolais, Etat des lieux, enjeux et defis, Octobre 2008*
http://www.academia.edu/1370786/Le_paysage_mediatique_congolais_.Etats_des_lieux_enjeux_et_defis
- *Situation des medias en République démocratique du Congo Avril 2004 Édité par l'Institut Panos Paris, Avec l'appui de DFID*
- *GRET, Fiches d'identification et etat des lieux des radios en Republique Democratique du Congo, Decembre 2005.*
<http://www.gret.org/wp-content/uploads/07691.pdf>

Name	Location	Status	Owner	FM	Contact
Kinshasa					
Radio Rurale Munku	Mbankana			94.0	Bon Yala, Clarisse Musu 0998361606
Reveil FM	Kinshasa		Freddy Mulongo	105.4	Freddy Mulongo, 0998236001
Radio ECC	Kinshasa	Religious	Eglise du Christ au Congo	103.9	Pasteur Nkulu
Radio Elikya	Kinshasa	Religious	Catholic Church	97.5	Père Louis Mozert, 0818118474 Director -Aldo Falconi Journalist : Lingoya Mangbau +243 98327093
Radio Sango Malamu	Kinshasa			104.5	Futi Luemba, 0997383025
Radio Tele Armee de l'Eternel (RTAE)	Kinshasa	Religious	Sony Kafuta Rockman	94.5	0999937386
Radio Rurale de Mbankana	Kinshasa-Maluku	Community			
Radio Tele Kimbanguiste	Kinshasa / Bas-Congo	Religious	Kambanguiste Church	91.2	Reverend Tukembesco Dituasilua
Radio Message de Vie	Kinshasa	Religious	Ferdinand Kutino	88.7	
Radio Sentinelle	Kinshasa	Religious	Eglise Cite Bethel	97.1	Pastor Mbiye
Radio Tele Puissance	Kinshasa	Religious	Eglise la Puissance en Christ	101.3	Kiziamina Kibila
Radio Parole de l'Eternel	Kinshasa	Religious	Eglise Parole de l'Eternel	103.8	
Radio Tele Assemblée Chretienne	Kinshasa	Religious		107.1	Eveque Mukuna

Radio Shaloom Racha	Kinshasa	Religious	Rene Futi Luemba	94.6	
Tam Tam Africain	Kinshasa	Community	Ali Lutumba	98.9	
Radio Eglise Nouvel Jerusalem	Kinshasa	Religious		89.9	
Radio Eglise Orthodoxe	Kinshasa	Religious		94.1	
Radio tele Dieu Vivant	Kinshasa	Religious	Sikatenda Neema	94.9	
Bas Congo					
Radio Tele Kintuadi 3	Matadi	Religious	Kimbanguist Church	107.5	Innocent Bulambembe, 0819062883, bukinno@yahoo.fr
Radio Tele Kintuadi 4	Boma	Religious	Kimbanguist Church	107.5	
RTDK	Matadi	Community		103.5	
Radio Tele Kintuadi 2	Mbanza Ngungu	Religious	Kimbanguist Church	107.5	Augustin Diambu, 0815252945
Radio Kukiele	Matadi				Abbe Philibert
Radio Sango Malamu	Matadi, Boma	Religious		102.5	
RTDN	Boma	Community		98.7	
RTAK	Muanda	Community		92.3	N'tua Buanga, 0819023588, mayoservice@yahoo.fr
RTEM	Muanda	Community		101.0	Alpha Manzanza, 0819046683 0819040235
RTB Muanda	Muanda	Community		98.4	Frank Mbumba, 0998696658, ratlboma@yahoo.fr
Radio de Tshela	Tshela	Community		97.7	
RM de Tshela	Tshela	Community		102.5	
RCK	Kinzau Mvuete	Community		106.1	
RTNK	Mbata Mbengi	Community		86.5	
RB	Kimpese	Community		97.2	
Radio Mwinda	Mbanza Ngungu	Community			
Radio Vuvu Kieto	Mbanza Ngungu	Community		101.0	Michel Aveledi 0999907164
RN	Mbanza Ngungu	Community		98.8	
Radio Ntomosono	Luozi	Community		81.8	
Radio Adrimadimba	Madimba	Community		94.7	
RNM	Kisantu	Community		107.0	
Radio Communautaire de Moanda	Moanda	Community			0819023568
RTKIS	Kisantu	Community		93.5	

Radio des Redemptoristes	Mbanza Ngungu	Religious	Eglise des Redemptoristes		
Radio Communautaire de Muanda	Muanda	Community		88.8	Jean Ndombasi, 0819023568, atlantiquercm@yahoo.fr
Radio Tele Nguizani	Boma	Religious		98.8	
RTEM	Muanda			101.0	Alpha Manzanza
Radio Kimvuka	Kenge				Mbemba Wilenda
Radio Africa Media	Kisantu				Director - Dollar Lusala
Radio Ntemo	Mbanza Ngungu	Community	FAO	98.8	Journalist - Atou Matubuama Nkuluki +243 0819061060
Radio Mwinda	Tshela/ Kimpese	Community			
Radio Yenge	Luozi	Community		94.4	Etienne Flaubert Batangu
Radio Bangu	Kimpese	Community		100.0	Director - Rigobert Malalako 0815003234 rigomalko@yahoo.fr
Radio Vuvu Kieto	Mbanza Ngungu	Community		101.0	Director - Neron Nkata 0816892212 0814935069 raiovuvukieto@yahoo.fr , nkmbanza@yahoo.fr , radiovk@yahoo.fr
Bandundu					
Bandundu FM	Bandundu	Community		85.1	Director - Desire Tankuy 0816604551, 0852462237, crbandundufm@yahoo.fr , rombeaukadima@yahoo.fr
Radio Bangu	Bandundu	Community		92.1	Director - Egide Mayeta 0811848485, 0823580597, egidemayeta@yahoo.fr
Radio Colon	Nioki				Director - Dhanis Masan 0816451969, 0992596883, dhanis.masanga@yahoo.fr
Radio Kingandu	Kingandu				Director - Guy Nyakamuv, 0811459249, guynzilanakamuwa@yahoo.fr , radio.rurale.kingandu@yahoo.fr
Radio Sango Malamu	Kikwit	Religious	Eglise Protestante	102.0	Director - Justin Asani, 0998140058, asanijustin@hotmail.com
Radio Tomisa	Kikwit	Religious	Catholic Church	97.5	Francois Narcisse Mungeye 099856694 radiotomisa@yahoo.fr

Radio Concorde	Bandundu	Community		106.0	
Radio Tele du Diocese d'Idiofa	Idiofa	Religious	Catholic Church Diocese of Idiofa	92.3	Programme Director : Abbé Embam Théodore René +243 0815009437
Radio Madimba	Gungu	Associative		96.0	
Radio Islamique	Kikwit	Religious			Ishaka N 0998542429 0810553782
Radio Rural Bonga Yassa	Bonga Yassa	Community			
Radio de Kimvuka	Kangandu/Kenge	Community			
Radio Chretienne Nkembo	Nkara	Religious			
Radio Rurale de Kenge	Kenge	Community			
Radio Muku	Mbankana	Community		94.0	
Radio Nkembo	Nkara	Community			Dir : Nzunzi Ostrom,
Radio Kimvuka na Lutondo	Kenge / Kikwit	Community		105.0	Dir : Godefroid Pindi Zanga, 081518238, gode_pindi@yahoo.fr
Radio Kimvuka	Kingandu	Community			
Radio Rurale de Kingandu	Kingandu	Community		102.0	Director - Charles Ninganza,
Radio Rurale Nsemo	Idiofa			96.0/ 100.0	Director - Ambroise Kongolo
RTDI	Idiofa	Religious	Catholic Church	92.3	Director - Abbe Gizebu
Bandundu FM	Bandundu	Community		100.0	
Radio Liberte	Popokabaka	Religious			
Amen FM		Community		97.0	
Radio Culturelle de Kahemba	Kahemba	Community			
RTV Mama	Idiofa	Religious	Catholic Church		Director - Pere Alain Lanets
Radio Rurale de Kikwit	Mbankana	Community	2005		
Radio Nsemo	Idiofa				Director - Joachim Imbu 0997556327 0814287182 radionsemo@yahoo.fr
Equateur					
Radio Mwindi	Mbandaka	Religious	Catholic Church 2005	95.5	Director -: Abbe Alain Bolonya 0810813085 0991482977 radio.mwindi@yahoo.fr
Radio Communautaire de Boende	Boende	Community	2002		Dir: Sole Ilondja,
Radio Ledisa	Bwamanda	Religious	Catholic Church	100.2	Director - Abbe Christophe Yongo, 0991250597 0816709104

					0817177642 christoyongo@yahoo.fr
Radio Tele Bondeko	Isangi				Head of Programmes - Leonard Batongo, 0993026878 0997275211
Radio Rubi	Buta				Jacques Gbagbu 0810176301 0813567657 rubistation@yahoo.fr
Radio Tele-Uele	Bondo				Dir : Kasongo Hygin, 0811490239 0816004118
Province Orientale					
Radio Tele Pecheurs d'Hommes	Kisangani	Religious	Anglican Church		Marc Masudi 0851421660
Radio Nava	Isiro, Kisangani			99.0	Director - Michel Atongoa 0811673623 0992919231, racornava@yahoo.fr
Radio Mwangaza	Kisangani	Community		99.0	Director -Paulin Mbenga wa Mbenga 0998736406 0812671544 0997795389 racomkis@yahoo.fr ,
Radio Tele Amani	Kisangani	Religious	Catholic Church	100.1/103.1	Jeremie Katanga 0998038931 Abbe Bwanga, 0998539136
Radio Boboto	Isiro	Religious	Catholic Church		Abbe Philibert Madrandele 0810001712
Radio Nepoko	Wamba	Religious	Catholic Church	98.7	Olonso Jesus, 0810002810, radionepoko@yahoo.fr
Radio Tele Viens et Vois	Kisangani	Religious	Eglise du Reveil de Kisangani		
RTK Bunia	Bunia	Religious	Eglise du Christ au Congo		
Radio Candip	Bunia	Religious / University	Institut Superieur pedagogique de Bunia	98.0	
Radio Communautaire Orientale		Community			
Radio Rubi	Buta	Community		99.9	Tito Basekwa 0814520214 racorubi@yahoo.fr
Radio Mabela	Isangi	Community		99.9	John Bosco Bosondo
Radio Colombe	Mahagi	Community			Joachim Unegi 0810518232
Radio Ocean	Aru	Community			Apamba 0812007516
Radio Canal	Mongbwalu	Community			

Monaco					
Radio Amkeni	Mambasa	Community			
Radio Kasenyi		Community			
Radio Bondeko	Isangi	Community			
Canal Revelation	Bunia	Religious	Richard Pitwa		Richard Pitwa, 0998683062, canalrevelation2001@yahoo.fr
Radio Kulokoko FM	Yangambi	Community	Jacques Bonyoma		
Radio Lisanga	Isiro	Community			Marcel Zalimbo, 0998680494, zalimbom@yahoo.fr
OPED FM	Kisangani	Community		104.5	
Radio Tangezi Kristo	Bunia, Aru, Kwamdruma	Religious			
Radio Tele Evangelique pour le Developpement Integrale	Kisangani	Religious	Eglise du Christ au Congo	90.2/ 91.1	Director: Charles Lenga 0851424870 0821864365 994050282
South Kivu					
Radio Communautaire Umoja	Baraka				Director- Constantin Kizito: 0812772263 0810109297 ckilozo@yahoo.fr
Radio Maria	Bukavu	Religious	Catholic Church	97.5/ 103.7	Abbe Bahala, 0813180655
Radio Apide	Kamituga, Mwenga	Community		98.0	Mizaba 0997619907
Radio Sauti ya Rehema	Bukavu	Religious	Eglise du Christ au Congo	89.5/ 97.5	Daniel Chibo, 0813177331
Radio Maendeleo	Bukavu, Kiliba	Community	Civil Society	88.7/ 97.5	Director – Jolly Kamuntu Email: maendeleor@yahoo.fr
Radio Maranatha	Bukavu	Community			
Radio Neno La Uzima	Bukavu/	Religious	Eben Ezer		
Radio Rurale de Sange	Sange	Community		89.2	Cyprien Biringingwa, 099825895
Radio Matanga	Shabunda	Community	Simon Pierre Iyanaio		
Radio Tukulengwe	Kamituga	Community		98.0	Mizabo Kukwabantu
Radio Budandano	Bukavu. Minova	Community			0990903387
Radio Iriba	Bukavu	Community		88.4/ 96.0	Donat Musema
Radio Bubusa FM	Mogongo, Walungu	Community		98.5	0814740077
Radio Concordia Bukavu	Bukavu	Community		93.7/ 96.0	
Radio de	Uvira	Community			

l'Association Elimu					
Radio Bukavu Liberte	Bukavu	Community		107.3	
Radio Universitaire ISDR	Bukavu				Director - John Kadjunga: 0853153415 kadjungajohn@yahoo.fr
Radio Ejulino	Idjwi			102.5	Director - Yves Pierre Minani 0993713333 0990095990 yvespierreminani@yahoo.fr
Radio Messenger du Peuple	Uvira	Community		94.0	Director Kifare Mutere 0813201330, muteremijas@yahoo.fr
Radio Communautaire Ubugama	Idjwi	Community			Director -: Bertin Kamondo 0998624747 0997601326 bertinkamondo@yahoo.fr
Radio Rurale de Sange	Sange	Community			Director - Joas Matongo, 0997143879, radiatoruralesange@yahoo.fr
Radio Mutanga	Shabunda	Community			Director - Pius Mukemenge 0812124089 radiomutanga@yahoo.fr
North Kivu					
Radio Communautaire Ushirika (Racou)	Rutshuru	Community			Director- Jean-Baptiste Kambale 0998863573 0812653786 racoucereba@yahoo.fr
Radio Communautaire Lubero (RCLS)	Kirumba	Community		106.6	Director - Mumbere Mayani 0997790474 mayaniRCLS@yahoo.fr
Radio Communautaire "La Solidarite"	Masisi				Director - Janvier Bahati Bindu 0994451705 0818659860 drbahatibindu@gmail.com
Radio Ishango FM	Vahyana	Religious		98.7	Kayihembako, 0997783896
Radio Moto Oicha, Butembo	Beni (with relay stations in Butembo and Oicha)	Community	Catholic Church	103.0	Deodat K 0998386126 0818481235
La Colombe	Goma	Community	Esida Bujakera	93.7	
Radio Muungano	Goma, Beni	Community			Jacques Maseseme
Radio le Coq du Village	Luofu	Religious		104.3	Kamate Bayonga 0997760642
Radio	Butembo	Religious	Eglise		

Adventiste			adventiste		
Radio Vuluumb	Butembo	Religious	Eglise protestante	102	
Radio Evangelique	Butembo	Religious		99.1	
Radio Sauti Ya Injili	Goma	Religious	Ezra Kasereka Makoma	88	Ezra Kasereka Makoma, 0813134109 rsigoma@yahoo.fr
RT Graben Beni, Butembo	Beni, Butembo	Community			0819602257 0994978232
Radio Evangelique	Butembo	Religious			
Radio Bubanbano	Minova	Community			
Radio Alfa Omega	Goma	Religious			
Radio Tout pour la Paix et le Developpement	Rutshuru	Community			
Radio Canal Virunga	Goma	Community		92.0	
Radio Communautaire de Walikale	Walikale	Community		106.4	0810737340
Radio Congo One	Kayna	Community		96.0	
Radio la Sophia FM	Butembo	Community		92.4	
Virunga Business Radio (VBR)	Goma				Director - Thomas Kubuya
Radio Bombadane	Minova				Director - Gedeon Masumbuko Mirindi
Radio Dorika FM	Nyamilima	Community		104.3	Director - Innocent Pendakazi 0997702941, pendakazidorika@yahoo.fr
Radio Tele Hekima	Goma				
Radio Communautaire Taina	Kasugho			102.0	Director - Anny Muyisa
Radio Rurale de Kanyabayonga	Kanyabayonga	Community		98.5	Raphael Palulu 0998675191 0994088867
Maniema					
Radio Gunda FM	Kindu	Community	Centre Multimedia Gunda (NGO)		Director- Shabano Yusufu
Radio Communautaire de Wamaza	Wamaza				Bizo Assani Saidi
Maniema Radio	Kindu	Community	Paul Kasongo		

Tele Communautaire					
Hakiza bin Adamu FM	Kindu	Community	Hakiza NGO		
Radio Sauti ya Mkaaji	Kalima, Kasongo	Religious	Eglise du Christ au Congo		
Radio Canal Revelation	Kindu	Religious			
Radio Tujenge Kabambare	Kabambare	Community			
Radio Communautaire Sauti ya Punia	Punia				Director - Odon Numbi
Radio Maria Nyota ya Asubui	Kalima	Religious	Catholic Church		Director- Abbe Bonga 0810393495
Radio Tele Communautaire 117	Kilombo				Director -Louis Omekongo
Radio Sauti ya Mkaaji	Kasongo				Director - Modeste Shabani 0813136043
Radion Maniema Liberte	Kasongo				Director - Betty Ilunga
Radio Kabilo	Kampene				Director - Jules Maissin
Katanga					
Radio Communautaire de Katanga	Kamina				Director - Mathys Numbi
Radio Communautaire de Katanga	Kolwezi				Director- Jean de la Paix Mbangu
Radio Malaika	Kolwezi	Religious	Catholic Church		Père Christophe Mutomb
Radio Communautaire de Katanga	Likasi				Director - Gerard Mukebo
Radio Phoenix, Universite de Lubumbashi	Lubumbashi			104.7	Director - Gody Ngosa
Radio Communautaire de Kilwa	Kilwa				0816282284
Radio Communautaire de Moba	Moba				0816950455
Radio Zenith	L'shi	Religious	Catholic Church	102.0/ 96.0	Dir : Père Emile
Mosaiqu MRT	L'shi	Community			Foundation Mathieu Lutumba
Radio Tele Torrent de Vie	Kasumbalesa	Religious		101.6	
Radio Communautaire de Katanga « one for you »	Lubumbashi	Community			Thomas Paul Banze tpbanzem@yahoo.fr

Radio Communautaire Libre	Kolwezi, Kasaji, Luena	Community		101.3	
Reveil Afrika	Lubumbashi	Community	Michel Ange Ndua		Michel Ange Ndua 0997022632, doudoudsolol@yahoo.fr
Radio Hozana	Lubumbashi	Religious	Pastor Lukusa		Pastor Lukusa
Radio Musulmane	Lubumbashi	Religious	Sefu Selemani		
Radio Fontaine	Likasi			95.8	
Cherry Radio		Religious			
Radio tele Viens et Vois	Lubumbashi	Religious	Aime Kalenga	89.5	
Radio Trompette de Sion	Likasi	Religious	Eglise Petecotiste Sion		
Radio Rama	Likasi	Religious	Eglise de Plein Evangile	88.5	
Radio Tele Bethesda	Likasi	Religious			
Radio Canal de Vie	Lubumbashi	Religious	Groupe Ekanga		
Radio Tele Evangelique Africaine	Lubumbashi	Religious			
Radio de la Grande Mission	Kolwezi	Community			
Radio du plein evangile	Kolwezi	Religious			
Radio Emergence	Kolwezi	Community			
Radio de la bonne Semence	Kolwezi	Religious			
Radio Core of Life		Religious			
Radio Malemba Nkulu	Malemba Nkulu	Community			
Radio Malkia	Kolwezi	Religious			
Rdaio Tele Mutoshi	Lubumbashi	Community			
Radio Colombe	Lubumbashi	Community			
Radio Rebecca	Kasumbales a	Religious			
Radio Nzambe Malamu	Likasi	Religious			
Radio Sentinelle	Likasi	Religious			
Radio du Salut	Kambove	Religious			
Radio Communautaire de Kongolo	Kongolo				Director - Pascal Yamuno 0812667973
Radio Jedidja	Kambove				Director - Dahlia Mwash Tshibang
Radio Francophone des Grands Lacs	Kalemie				Director - Omari Mayombo
Radio Tele	Kasumbales	Community			Director - Solange Tshiloz

Deogratias	a				0997019571 0810607771 solangetshil@yahoo.fr
Kasai Oriental					
Radio Debout Sankuru	Lodja				Director - Boker Ndjedima 0815623965 0998652956
Radio Fraternite	Mbuji Mayi	Religious	Diocese de Mbuji Mayi	103.1	
Radio Mont Carmel Television (RMCTV)	Mbuji-Mayi, Lusambo, Ngandajika	Community	Anaclet Kabalu		Anaclet Kabalu
Radio TTK	Ngandajika	Community			
Radio Osase	Tshumbe	Religious		100.5	
RT Eglise Evangelique Libre d'Afrique	Mbuji Mayi	Religious	Kambala Kapi		
Radio Chretienne de la Foi	Mbuji Mayi	Religious	Monseigneur Tshibangu Tshishuku		
Radio Tele Inter Viens et Vois (RTIV)	Mbuji Mayi	Religious			
Radio Zoe Tabernacle	Mbuki Mayi	Religious			
Radio Africa Media	Mwene Ditu	Religious			
Radio Tele la Voix du Salut	Mwene Ditu	Religious			
Radio Mont Sion	Boya/Mbuji Mayi	Religious			Fortunat Kasango, 0810349941
Radio Movo Nkacia	Bakwa Samba	Religious			
Radio Tele Tutante	Mwene Ditu	Religious	Catholic Church		Abbe Dieudonne Tshibanda
Radio Tele Veritas	Kabinda	Religious			
Radio Tam Tam de Sankuru	Lodja	Community			
Radio Tele Debout Kasai	Mbuji-Mayi				Director - Lambert Mbuyi 0816063006
Radio Sankuru Liberte	Lodja	Community			Director - Timothee Shotcha 0997303230
Radio Osas Tshumbe	Lodja				Director - Sister Maire Claire Otewo, 0816278053
Radio Bwena Muntu	Mbuji-Mayi	Community			Director - Ghyslain Mbaza 0816060210
Radio Kilimandjaro FM	Tshikapa				Director - Evariste Kanyinda 0816036321 0971364400

Kasai Occidental					
Radio Mont Sion	Boya				Director - Fortunat Kasongo 081349941
Radio Samuel	Diboko	Religious			
Radio Etoile Etincelante du Marin	Kananga	Religious	Greek Orthodox Church	94.0	
Radio Sentinelle	Kananga	Religious	Eglise Cite Bethel		
Radio Tele Parole Eternelle	Tshikapa	Religious		90.5	Guy Amani 0999956891
Radio Salem	Tshikapa	Religious		100.4	Pastor Kazadi
Radio Tele Lumiere	Tshikapa	Religious			Pastor Lubukayi
Radio La Grace	Kamako	Religious			Isaac Kanyengabo 09979694870
Radio Mukungiji	Mweka	Community			
Radio Message du Temps de la Fin	Nsumbula	Religious			Pastor Safari
La Voix des Ambassadeurs	Nsumbula	Religious			
Radio Veritas	Kabinda				Director - Norbert Mervilde 0997440805 0816067985
Radio Tutante	Mwene Ditu	Religious			Director - Father Jospheh Kasombo 0818145017
Radio Zenith	Senge				Director : Jean Mulhare 0816070471, jeanmulhare@yahoo.fr
Radio Soleil	Tshikapa	Community			Louis Mingabo, 0998463174 0816583860
Radio Nsumbula Number One	Tshikapa			100.0	Director - Benz Kabonzo 0998600230
Canal Satellite du Kasai	Tshikapa	Community			Director -Gustave Mpingayi 0810705450 0998424998
Radio Diku Dietu	Kananga	Catholic Church	Catholic Church	97.5	Director : Abbe Gustave 0998860355 0817594464

Television overview

Television is rapidly replacing radio as the media of choice in DRC's main cities.

However, television is not available to the majority of the population who live in rural areas.

Most villages lack a regular supply of electricity and communities that are far from the main cities cannot pick up TV signals easily.

Only three Congolese television stations broadcast nationally by satellite:

- **Radio télévision nationale congolaise (RTNC)** – the state broadcasting corporation
- **RTG@ www.groupelavenir.cd** - a private TV station owned by media entrepreneur and government politician Pius Muabilu
- **Digital Congo TV www.digitalcongo.net** – a private TV station co-owned by Croation journalist Nicola Vadjon and Jaynet Kabila, the sister of President Joseph Kabila.

The cost of satellite broadcasting – about US\$12,500 per month in 2012 - is prohibitive for most other Congolese television stations.

Two French international TV channels – **TV5** and **Euronews** - can be seen free of charge on satellite in DRC.

However, very few Congolese television owners can afford a satellite dish.

Most viewers watch TV on sets that pick up free-to-air terrestrial broadcasts.

However, even in the main cities, people only watch TV when the erratic mains electricity supply permits, unless they have a generator and can afford to buy fuel for it.

Recent estimates of the number of Congolese with access to electricity vary between five and nine percent. However, the percentage of the population with access to television is much higher because of communal viewing.

The number of private television stations on air has mushroomed since the overthrow of former president Mobutu Sese Seko in 1997.

In 2011, there were 82 different TV stations in DRC, according to research by Marie Soleil Frère, a Belgian media expert who has undertaken extensive studies on the Congolese media.

51 of these TV stations – more than half - were based in Kinshasa.

According to a 2008 media audience survey conducted by the French media research organisation IMMAR - *Etude d'audience pour le projet Médias pour la Démocratie en RDC*, DFID/FCI - 97% of the population of **Kinshasa** had access to both radio and television.

IMMAR found that access to television in other big cities ranged from 61% in **Kisangani** to more than 90% in **Lubumbashi** and **Matadi**.

But access to television in the rural areas was much lower. It ranged from from 10% to 48% of the population in the locations sampled.

According to the 2008 IMMAR media audience survey, people in Kinshasa spend more time watching television than listening to the radio.

They also tend to listen to the radio in the early morning, but watch TV in the evening.

IMMAR found that men spend more time listening to the radio, whereas women spent longer watching TV.

This is not surprising, since many women are at home during they day while the men of the family go out to work.

The 2008 IMMAR survey showed that women in Kinshasa spent an average of 196 minutes (more than three hours) per day watching TV, whereas men spent 158 minutes (just over two and a half hours) in front of the box.

Most TV viewing takes place in the evening, with a peak around 20.00.

Most Congolese TV stations are small. They are local or regional and primarily urban in their focus.

They are also poorly equipped and woefully under-resourced.

Only a handful of TV channels can be seen outside the city where their studios are based.

Even RTNC only manages to broadcast one of its two channels – **RTNC 1** – free-to air in every provincial capital.

Its second channel – **RTNC 2** – only broadcasts to **Kinshasa**.

Several private TV stations based in the capital have relay stations in the main cities of the interior, but none of them can boast of a truly nationwide network.

The main private TV stations with embryonic national coverage are:

- **RTG@** - which broadcasts in all eleven provincial capitals, plus the large towns of **Beni and Tshikapa**.
- **Digital Congo TV** - which can be seen in all provincial capitals
- **Raga TV** <http://raga.cd> – one of the few politically independent TV stations, which broadcasts in seven cities

Most Congolese TV stations are coupled with a companion radio station.

In many cases, the owner started off with a radio station and expanded into television at a later stage once he or she could afford to do so.

Very few Congolese television stations meet minimum professional standards in terms of programme content and production quality.

Those that try hardest are the **Kinshasa** stations **Digital Congo TV, Antenne A, Raga TV** and **RTG@**.

A handful of others are making some effort, but the vast majority are mediocre to extremely poor.

The main issues are a lack of production and technical skills, poor presentation, low journalistic standards and a lack of commitment to quality.

Most television station owners are primarily seek to use their media outlet as a vehicle for political or religious messaging.

Since private television stations were first authorised in the early 1990s, the licencing process has become increasingly chaotic.

Officially the request for a licence to operate a television station must be presented to the Ministry of Information. This in turn passes it to the Ministry of Post and Telecommunications for processing.

However frequently applicants simply leapfrog this process and apply directly for permission to *L'Autorité de Régulation de la Poste et des Télécommunications du Congo (ARPTC)* - the Congolese Authority for the Regulation of Posts and Telecommunications.

This regulatory body, created in 2002 in response to the emergence of mobile telecommunications, answers to the Presidency.

The resulting lack of coordination means that very few standards and regulations are applied to the sector.

No norms for equipment are enforced and there is no discipline in the use of allocated transmission frequencies.

Some TV channels use frequencies that have been allocated to other authorised television stations.

This chaotic situation frequently leads to signal interference and poor picture and sound reception.

The main centres of television production in the interior are the mining cities of **Lubumbashi**, which has eight local TV stations and **Mbuji-Mayi** which has seven.

Most television stations belong to or are associated with a politician or a successful evangelical pastor.

In Kinshasa President Joseph Kabila benefits from the support of several private television stations linked to prominent pro-government politicians, in addition to the backing he gets from state-run RTNC.

A minority of television stations are controlled by opposition politicians and these equally serve as propaganda machines for their masters.

During the campaign for the 2011 presidential elections the three main candidates - Kabila, Etienne Tshisekedi and Vital Kamerhe - all had private television channels loyal to them at their disposal.

Monitoring conducted during the campaign by **Journaliste en Danger (JED)** www.jed-afrique.org/fr, a Congolese media freedom watchdog, established that Kinshasa TV stations with political affiliations gave almost exclusive coverage to their own candidate.

JED found that **Canal Futur**, owned by Vital Kamerhe, gave 100% campaign coverage to its owner.

Radio Lisanga TV (RLTV), which is close to Etienne Tshisekedi, gave 90% coverage to Tshisekedi and 10% to Kabila.

Tele 50, which is close to the president, gave 90% of its coverage to Kabila, 5% to Kamerhe, 3% to Adam Bombole and 3% to Kengo wa Dondo and virtually none to Etienne Tshisekedi, who was Kabila's main rival in the election.

Despite its legal obligation to provide equal access to all presidential candidates, state-run **RTNC** overwhelmingly broadcast programming about Kabila's campaign for re-election.

Religious television stations

There are between 15 and 20 religious television stations on air in Kinshasa. Most are owned by protestant evangelical churches or religious leaders associated with them.

The majority of religious channels dedicate most of their air time to broadcasting sermons by the church's founder or leader. This is invariably the person who actually owns the television station.

Some religious leaders, especially from the evangelical churches, align themselves with a particular party or politician and this is reflected in their broadcast content, particularly at election times.

The Roman Catholic Church established **Radio-Television Catholique Elikya (RTCE)** in **Kinshasa** in 2008.

It also runs television stations in **Kisangani** and **Idiofa**, the seat of a diocese in Bandundu province.

Television stations

Kinshasa-based television stations

Radio-Télévision Nationale Congolaise (RTNC)

RTNC, the state broadcaster, provides broader television coverage of DRC than any other TV station.

It is used unashamedly by the government as a crude propaganda tool to polish the image of the president and his administration.

RTNC's main channel, **RTNC 1**, is broadcast free-to-air by terrestrial transmitters in all the state capitals. It is also broadcast nationwide by satellite.

Its second channel, **RTNC 2**, broadcasts only to **Kinshasa**.

Both channels operate under the tight control of the Presidency and the Ministry of Information.

RTNC broadcasts in DRC's five national languages: **French, Lingala, Swahili, Kikongo** and **Tshiluba**.

It has radio and TV studios and terrestrial television transmitters in the following cities:

Kinshasa
Matadi
Bandundu
Mbandaka
Kananga
Mbuji-Mayi
Lubumbashi
Kindu
Goma
Butembo
Kisangani
Bukavu

However, many of the regional TV studios are dilapidated and are no longer capable of producing regional programming.

In 2012, RTNC was still managing to produce and broadcast some local television programming in the following provincial capitals:

Lubumbashi
Mbuji-Mayi
Matadi

The headquarters building of RTNC in **Kinshasa** is an imposing skyscraper built during the Mobutu era known as *la Cité la Voix du Peuple* – the City of the People's Voice.

But today, this large and ambitious complex is but a shadow of its former self. Its interior is dilapidated and most of its equipment is in a state of disrepair

RTNC staff are rarely paid. Even when they are, their salaries are grossly inadequate.

RTNC 1 focuses on current affairs and news. It is the government's main propaganda platform.

RTNC 2, which can only be seen in the capital, focuses on entertainment programming. It was created in 1996 from the remains of the – *Radio Television Scolaire (Ratelesco)* – an educational channel established during the Mobutu years.

RTNC employs a vast bureaucracy of some 2,300 employees, including more than 1,000 in Kinshasa.

Director General – Christophe Nkolomoni

Deputy Director General - Nicole Dibambu Kitoko

Technical Director - Jean Marie Tshibaka
Tel: +243 818 103 672

Information Director (television) - Atufuka Mbunze
Tel: +243 817 005 134

Katanga Provincial Director (Lubumbashi) – Senga Lukavu

Katanga TV journalist (Lubumbashi) – Kashinda Tshongo
Tel: +243 9970 183 77
+243 818 151 965

Katanga TV journalist (Lubumbashi) –Rose Lukano
Tel: +243 970 246 99
Email: Jukano2002@yahoo.fr

Kasai-Oriental Provincial Director (Mbuji-Mayi) – Mutombo

Kasai Oriental TV journalist (Mbuji-Mayi) – Tshibamba Nkuna
Tel: +243 815 068 297
Email: dyalatshibamba@yahoo.fr

Kasai Oriental TV journalist (Mbuji-Mayi) – Ngalula Kazadi
Tel: +243 816 032 875
Email: yngalula@yahoo.fr

Bas-Congo Provincial Director – Pierre Wanani

Tel: +243 985 101 112
+243 819 054 712

Bas-Congo TV journalist – Mbakulu

Tel: +243 99985 101 11
+243 819 054 711

Bas-Congo TV journalist – Julienne Ntima

Tel: +243 819 021 294
Email: ntibos@yahoo.fr

Coordinating Director RTNC 2 - Lutu Mabangu

Tel: +243 999 835 980

RTNC headquarters address: RTNC, Avenue Kabinda, Commune de Lingwala, Kinshasa.

Digital Congo TV www.digitalcongo.net

Digital Congo TV broadcasts from **Kinshasa** in **French**, Lingala and **Swahili**.

It has terrestrial transmitters in several provincial cities and broadcasts nationally via satellite.

Digital Congo is one of only two private television stations to broadcast by satellite. The other is **RTG@**.

The TV channel has relay transmitters in all the provincial capitals:

Lubumbashi

Kisangani

Mbuji-Mayi

Goma

Bukavu

Kananga

Kindu

Mbandaka

Matadi

Bandundu

Digital Congo TV has reasonable news-gathering and production capacity, but sticks to a pro-Kabila editorial line.

It belongs to the Multimedia Congo media group. This is co-owned by the Croatian journalist Nicola Vadjon and President's Joseph Kabila's sister, Jaynet Kabila.

Multimedia Congo also owns **Digital Congo FM** which broadcasts to Kinshasa and several provincial capitals on FM, and the news and information website www.DigitalCongo.net.

All three Digital Congo media outlets are widely seen as reflecting the views of the presidency.

Editorial and Administration Departments

Tel: +243 99 8941010

E-mail: lettres@digitalcongo.net

Marketing Department

Email: marketing@digitalcongo.net

Tel: +243 99 904 5687

Address: Digital Congo FM, Avenue Kabasele Tshiamala No 21 (Ex. Avenue Flambeau No 4), Kinshasa-Gombe

Raga TV <http://raga.cd>

Raga TV is a leading **Kinshasa** television station that also broadcasts in other cities across DRC.

Its programme production quality and news gathering capacity are above average for DRC.

Raga TV is politically neutral, but tends to shy away from controversial stories.

The TV station was set up in 1996 by Zahir Versi, a Congolese investor of ethnic Indian origin.

It broadcasts in **French** and **Lingala** from **Kinshasa** and has relay transmitters in several other cities. These include:

Boma

Bukavu

Bandundu

Matadi

Mbuji-Mayi

Lubumbashi

Kisangani

Kikwit

The Raga group launched a second TV channel – **Raga Plus** – in 2004. This targets a youth audience and focuses more on sports and entertainment.

It also owns the popular **Kinshasa** radio station **Raga FM**, which is strong on news and current affairs programming, and the pay TV service **Raga Teledis**.

Raga Teledis offers a selection of French, US, African and Indian TV channels by satellite.

Owner – Zahir Versi
Tel: +243 999 929 922

Director Serge Uhuka
Tel: +243 999 920 992

Programme director - Françoise Vita
Tel +243 999 924 204

Email: info@raga.cd

Address: Raga TV, N°22 Avenue des Aviateurs, Kinshasa - Gombe

RTG@ TV www.groupeavenir.cd

RTG@ TV is one of DRC's largest private TV stations. It broadcasts nationwide in **French** and **Lingala** from **Kinshasa**.

The pro-Kabila channel has relay stations in several provincial cities.

RTG@ TV is one of only two Congolese television stations to broadcast nationwide by satellite. The other is **Digital Congo TV**.

RTG@ TV forms part of the Radio Télévision Groupe l'Avenir media group owned by the pro-Kabila businessman and politician Pius Muabilu.

It has relay stations in the following provincial cities:

Lubumbashi
Kisangani
Mbuji-Mayi
Matadi
Goma
Mbandaka

RTG@ TV has limited news gathering capability, but it is above average by local standards.

RTG@ FM and the Kinshasa daily newspaper **L'Avenir** also form part of the Avenir group.

All of its media outlets are heavily pro-Kabila and pro-government.

Director of Programmes – Adrien Vanda
Mob: +243 815 047 051

Tél: +243 998 240 117
+243 998 410 588

E-mail : webmaster@groupelavenir.cd

Address: RTG@, Immeuble Ruzizi, Avenue Bas-Congo N° 873, Gombe - Kinshasa

Radio Télé Kin Malebo (RTKM)

RTKM is a pro-opposition television station owned by Aubin Ngongo Luwowo, a prominent figure in the regime of former president Mobutu Sese Seko.

It broadcasts in **Kinshasa** and Ngongo's home town of **Kindu**, the capital of Maniema province.

The station has reasonable programme production standards, but limited news-gathering capacity.

Ngongo served as editor-in-chief of state radio and television and as information minister under Mobutu.

He launched RTKM as a joint radio and television station in 1996, the year before Mobutu's overthrow.

Since then, RTKM has frequently been subject to harassment by the government

Ngongo went into exile in France following the fall of Mobutu.

His radio and TV stations were confiscated by government in 2000 on the grounds that they had been created with misappropriated state funds, but they were returned to him in 2001.

Ngongo is now an opposition politician.

RTKM was temporarily shut down in May 2011, during the run-up to general elections, allegedly for the non-payment of taxes.

Director Général : Lumbana Kapasa

Tel: +243 818 114 035

Director of Programmes - Charles Dimandja

Tel: +243 999 909 335

Journalist - Pascal Amisi

Tel : +243 818 129 114

Address: RTKM, 69 Avenue de l'Equateur, Gombe, Kinshasa

Télé 50 www.tele50.com

Télé 50 broadcasts to **Kinshasa**, mostly in **French**.

It is run by Jean-Marie Kassamba, a former RFI journalist and close associate of President Joseph Kabila.

Funding for the station is believed to come from the Presidency. It broadcasts pro-Kabila programming.

Télé 50 has limited news-gathering and production capabilities.

The station began broadcasting in 2009, the year before the 50th anniversary of DRC's independence from Belgium.

Mob: +243 151 06 008

Mob +243 814 191 462

Email : contact@tele50.com

Address : Télé 50, 247/C Avenue de Mandariniers Proche Entrée Golf (à Côté de la Cimetière de la Gombe), Gombe - Kinshasa

Mirador TV

Mirador TV is a **Kinshasa** television station that forms part of the media group owned by journalist and entrepreneur Michel Ladi Luya.

The station began broadcasting in 2006, during the run-up to DRC's UN-supervised general elections.

Ladi Luya also owns the Kinshasa newspaper **Mirador FM** and the daily newspaper **Le Palmarès**.

Ladi Luya voiced frequent criticism of former president Mobutu Sese Seko through the pages of Le Palmarès in the 1990s.

Since Mobutu's fall in 1997, he and his media outlets have been strong supporters of the Kabila regime.

Owner - Michel Ladi Luya
Tel: +243 816 822 222

Radio Lisanga Télévision (RLTV)

RLTV is a pro-opposition television owned by former rebel leader Roger Lumbala.

It broadcasts from **Kinshasa** and has a relay station in Lumbala's home city and political stronghold **Mbuji-Mayi**.

The TV station was created in 2006, prior to the first post-conflict elections.

Lumbala led the RCD National rebel faction in Eastern DRC during the 1998-2003 civil war.

He was elected as an opposition member of parliament in 2006 and was a strong supporter of the defeated opposition presidential candidate Etienne Tshisekedi in 2011 elections.

RLTV was taken off air by the government numerous times during the run-up to the 2011 elections.

Télé 7 www.lepotentiel.cd

Télé 7 is a **Kinshasa** television station that forms part of the media group belonging to veteran journalist Modeste Mutinga.

Tele 7 is considered semi-neutral, but like Mutinga's other media outlets, it has come to increasingly favour the government.

Mutinga is, a ruling party senator and former president of the government media regulator *L'Haute Autorite des Medias (HAM)*.

He also owns **Le Potentiel**, one of Kinshasa's better daily newspapers, and **Radio 7**, a Kinshasa FM radio station.

Mob: +243 99 81 35 483
+243 99 99 31 726
+243 81 49 34 753

Email : contact@lepotentiel.cd

Address : Télé 7, 873 Avenue Bas-Congo Derrière la BCDC, Gombe - Kinshasa

Molière TV

Molière TV is a popular **Kinshasa** television station that focuses on social issues and entertainment.

It has been shut down by the government on several occasions on administrative grounds, but media freedom activists have denounced these moves as political harassment.

The station is owned by Leon Nemba Lemba.

Canal Kin TV www.canalkintv.com

Canal Kin TV is a pro-opposition television station in **Kinshasa**.

It was set up by businessman Jean-Pierre Bemba in the early 1990s before he became involved in politics as leader of the *Mouvement pour la Liberation du Congo (MLC)* rebel group.

This station was seized by the government in 2000 and was briefly renamed the RTNC 4. It was returned to Bemba in late 2001.

Canal Kin TV was repeatedly taken off air by the government during the run-up to the 2006 presidential elections, in which Bemba stood against the incumbent Joseph Kabila.

When fighting broke out between MLC fighters and presidential troops after the elections, government troops attacked the TV station and closed it down.

Canal Kin TV resumed broadcasting in 2008.

Bemba also owns the Kinshasa-based radio station **Radio Liberté** and another television station **Canal Congo TV**.

In late 2012, he was on trial at the International Criminal Court in the Hague for crimes against humanity, committed by MLC fighters in the neighbouring Central African Republic.

Director General - Eric Gilson

Director of Programmes - Jolie Baswele

Mob : +243 811 938 537

+243 999 336 532

+243 899 930 000

Email : gkaminga@canalkintv.com

Address: Canal Kin TV 6 Avenue du Port. Immeuble Comcell, Réf. Crois.
Avenue Mongala et du Port, après le PSR, Gombe - Kinshasa

Canal Congo TV

Canal Congo is owned by millionaire businessman and former rebel leader Jean-Pierre Bemba.

It broadcasts in **Kinshasa** and **Mbandaka**, the capital of Equateur province, which is Bemba's political base.

CCTV was established in 1993 before Bemba founded the *Mouvement pour la Liberation du Congo (MLC)* rebel group, which controlled much of northern DRC during the 1998-2003 civil war.

It operates out of the same building in Kinshasa as **Canal Kin TV**, which is also owned by Bemba.

Director of Programmes - Kitutu Olea Ntwa

Tel: +243 9988 52 950

+243 818 100 060

Email: stephkitutu@caramail.com

Address: Canal Congo TV 6 Avenue du Port. Immeuble Comcell, Réf. Crois.
Avenue Mongala et du Port, après le PSR, Gombe - Kinshasa

Antenne A

Antenne A is one of the most popular television stations in **Kinshasa**.

It stays away from controversial topics and has been a less frequent target of government harassment than other independent TV stations.

Antenne A is one of DRC's oldest independent broadcasters.

It was set up by the Israeli businessman businessman Avraham Phinhas in 1991.

The company which owns the station also includes Congolese and Belgian capital.

Director General - Jo Tala Ngai

Tel: +243 999 054 401

+243 819 905 401

Programme Director - Jing Nawej
Tel: +243 99993 9091

Journalist - Eric Makulu
Mob: +243 99997 070 2

Maze Muakumanya
Mob: +243 99993 524 1

Willy Kalengayi
Mob: +243 998 110 441

Address: Antenne A, Avenue Mfumu Lutu Voir Afrique Editions

Numerica TV

Numerica TV is a news and current affairs television channel that broadcasts to **Kinshasa**.

It is owned by veteran journalist Kibambi Shintwa.

Shintwa, who was RTNC's presidential correspondent during the Mobutu years, also owns the entertainment channel **Tropicana TV**.

Neither channel is overtly critical of the government.

Numerica TV should not be confused with **Canal Numérique TV**, a separate Kinshasa television station owned by Alexis Mutanda, a senior figure in the *Union pour la Démocratie et le Progrès Social (UDPS)* party of opposition party leader Etienne Tshisekedi.

Director of Programmes - Kabeya Pindi Pasi
Tel: +243 998 299 990

Mob: +243 999 972 020
Mob: +243 998 299 999

Journalist - Diego Mfisía
Mob: +243 815 252 537

Journalist - Babwa Bienvenu
Mob: +243 98129 696

Address: Numerica TV, Avenue Bokasa (Avenue du Peuple)
Réf. Immeuble Botour 5e Etages, Gombe – Kinshasa

Canal Futur Télévision (CFTV)

CFTV is a **Kinshasa** television channel owned by opposition leader Vital Kamerhe. It also broadcasts in the eastern cities of **Goma** and **Bukavu**.

Kamerhe, the leader of the *Union pour la Nation Congolaise (UNC)* opposition party, established CFTV in 2010.

It was shut down several times during the run-up to the 2011 election, in which Kamerhe stood unsuccessfully as a presidential candidate.

The Goma offices of CFTV were attacked by armed men in January 2012 and some of its material was destroyed.

CFTV has a sister radio station Canal Futur FM. This also broadcasts in Goma and Bukavu

Owner - Vital Kamerhe
Tel: +243 995 000 500

Address: CFTV, 22 Avenue Lubumbashi Binza Pigeon, Ngaliema - Kinshasa

Congo Media Channel (CMC TV)

CMC TV is a **Kinshasa** television channel owned by Kudura Kasongo, a former spokesman for President Joseph Kabila, a former Minister of information under former president Mobutu Sese Seko and a long-time anchor for the state broadcaster RTNC.

He established CMC TV in 2009.

The station is politically aligned with the opposition, notably Vital Kamerhe, with whom Kudura politically aligned himself. In October 2011, just weeks before elections in which Kamerhe stood unsuccessfully as a presidential candidate.

CMC was subsequently shut down by the government, but it resumed broadcasting in March 2012.

Director General - Kudura Kasongo
Tel: +243 998 179 227

Tropicana TV

Tropicana TV is an entertainment television channel that broadcasts to **Kinshasa**.

It is owned by veteran journalist Kibambi Shintwa and began broadcasting in 2003.

Shintwa, who was RTNC's presidential correspondent during the Mobutu years, also owns the news and current affairs channel **Numerica TV**.

Neither channel is overtly critical of the government.

Director of Programmes - Kabeya Pindi Pasi

Tel: +243 998 299 990

Mob: +243 999 972 020

Mob: +243 998 299 999

Journalist - Diego Mfisia

Mob: +243 815 252 537

Journalist - Babwa Bienvenu

Mob: +243 98129 696

Address: Tropicana TV, Avenue Bokasa (Avenue du Peuple)
Réf. Immeuble Botour 5e Etages, Gombe - Kinshasa

Global TV

Global TV is a Kinshasa television station owned by Annie Kithima Badjoko, a daughter of Catherine Nzuzi wa Mbombo, a former senior member of Mobutu Sese Seko's ruling party and of successive Mobutu governments.

Nzuzi ran for the presidency in 2006, but has since become close to the Kabila government. Global TV broadcasts in Kinshasa.

She owns a radio station called **Global FM** in her home town of **Kananga**, the capital of Kasai Occidental province.

Canal Numérique TV www.latempete.cd

This **Kinshasa** television channel is owned owned by Alexis Mutanda, a senior member of *L' Union pour la Démocratie et le Progrès Social (UDPS)*, the opposition party led by Etienne Tshisekedi.

It was the target of government threats and harassment during the run-up to the November 2011 presidential elections, in which Tshisikedi stood as the main challenger to the incumbent Joseph Kabila.

Canal Numérique TV should not be confused with **Numerica TV**, a separate Kinshasa television station owned by Kibambi Shintwa.

Mutanda also owns the Kinshasa radio station **Trinitas FM** and the daily newspaper **La Tempête des Tropiques**.

Address : Canal Numérique TV, 90B Avenue Boulevard 30 Juin, Gombe –Kinshasa

Congo Education Broadcasting System (CEBS)

This **Kinshasa** TV station targets youth with education programmes. It has political programmes and an independent news bulletin.

Coordonnator : Marcel Mubenga

Journalist - Patrick Muyaya
Mob: +243 999 997 957

Journalist - Djo Djo Mulomba
Mob: +243 998 841 432

Address: CEBS, Avenue de la Libération Derrière la Commune de Lingwala

Channel Media Broadcasting (CMB)

This **Kinshasa** television station also broadcasts in **Kananga**, the capital of Kasai Occidental province. It carries general programming and a daily news bulletin.

The station is owned by Symphorien Mutombo Bakafwa Nsenda, a lawyer and politician.

Mutombo served as Minister of Minister under former president Mobutu Sese Seko in the mid-1990s, but subsequently realigned himself with the Kabila regime.

He served as Governor of Kasai Occidental province from 2006 to 2007 and then as Minister of Justice and Deputy Prime Minister for Defence and Security until 2010.

CMB is a partner TV station of the US-based media development organisation Search for Common Ground www.sfcg.org.

Director of Programmes - Loboto
Tel: +243 999 913 878

Kananga Director - Pasteur Ngalamulume
Tel: +243 998 430 618

Horizon 33

This **Kinshasa** television station carries generalist programming, including a daily news bulletin.

It is owned by Jean-Charles Okoto, a senior figure in the ruling *Parti du Peuple pour la Reconstruction et la Democraties (PPRD)* of President Joseph Kabila.

Journalist - Nancy Odia
Mob: +243 9986 947 66

Address: Horizon 33, Avenue des Huileries près du Camp Lufungula

Radio Télévision Catholique Elikya (RTCE)

RTCE is the broadcasting arm of the influential Roman Catholic Church in Kinshasa.

Launched in 2009 by the Arch Diocese of Kinshasa, this joint radio and television station only broadcasts to the capital.

Radio Elikya broadcasts on 97.7 FM.

Director General – Lino Pungi
Tel: +243 812 691 642
Email: umberlino@yahoo.fr

Address : RTCE, Archeveche, Avenue de l'Universite, Kinshasa 1

Radio Télévision Kimbanguiste (RATELKI) www.ratelki.com

This religious television station based in **Kinshasa** belongs to the influential Kimbanguist Church, the largest indigenous church in DRC.

It has a companion radio station in the capital called **RATELKI FM**.

Both have relay stations in **Matadi** to reach followers of the Kimbanguist Church in Bas Congo province, its main stronghold.

The RATELKI radio and TV stations first went on air in 2003.

Address: RATELKI, Centre d'Accueil Kimbanguiste avenue Saïo, Kinshasa

Radio Télé Kintwadi (RTK)

This religious television station in **Kinshasa** is owned by *La Caisse d'Épargne de crédit et de production Kimbanguiste*, a savings bank of the influential Kimbanguist Church.

It was set up by two brothers of Simon Kimbangu, the founder of the Kimbanguist Church.

RTK carries some political content and daily news bulletin.

Director général : Mvila Madukila

Tel: +243 815 039 766

Journalist - Rogatienne Kapema

Mob: +243 815 197 589

Address: RTK, Avenue Kwango n° 11 Kinshasa – Kintambo

Radio Télé Puissance (RTP)

RTP is a religious TV station in **Kinshasa** owned by Pastor Jean-Oscar Kiziamina Kibila, a protestant evangelist preacher and politician.

Kiziamina Kibila founded his own church, *Puissance du Nom de Jesus (Power of the Name of Jesus)*.

He served as a member of parliament from 2006 to 2011.

The television station, created in 2002, also carries political content and a daily news programme.

Tel: +243 813 330 935

+243 9984 018 57

Address: Radio Télé Puissance, 02 avenue de la Victoire Quartier Matonge Kinshasa Kalamu

Radio Télé Armée de l'Éternel (RTAE)

RTAE is a religious television station in Kinshasa that carries some political content and a daily news bulletin.

It is owned by the protestant evangelist preacher Pastor Sony Kafuta Rockman, founder and leader of the *Eglise de l'Armée de l'Éternel* (Church of the Army of the Eternal).

RTAE has a companion radio station with the same name

Director General - Charlie Lumande
Mob: +243 818 137 013

Tel : +243 813 330 924
+243 813 330 943

Email: sonykafuta@yahoo.fr

Address: RTAE, Croisement du boulevard Sendwe et de l'Avenue Lwamba Makiadi Kinshasa- Kalamu

Radio Télé Studio Sango Malamu (SSM)

This religious television station in **Kinshasa** is owned and managed by Pastor Dieudonné Sita Luemba, a protestant evangelical preacher of *l'Eglise la Vie Comblé* (Church of the Fulfilled Life).

It carries some political programmes and a daily news bulletin which is generally viewed as independent.

SSM has a companion radio station in Kinshasa.

Director of Programmes - Godé Mungala Moke

Mob: +243 998 307 217

Tel: +243 813 330 933
+243 813 330 929

Address: SSM, Mbama n° 21 bis quartier Binza Pigeon Kinshasa – Ngaliema

Radio Télévision Message de Vie (RTMV) www.kutino.org

This religious television station occasionally carries political programmes under the slogan "*Sauvons le Congo*" (Let's Save the Congo).

It is owned by Kuthino Fernando, founder and arch-bishop of *La Mission Mondiale Message de Vie* (Message of Life World Mission) church.

RTMV began broadcasting in 1998. It has a companion radio station, which broadcasts to **Kinshasa** on 88.7 FM.

Supervisor - Mwanza Kafinga
Tel: +243 815 066 035

Address : RTMV, Avenue de l'Enseignement, Kinshasa

Radio Télé Sentinelle (RTS)

This **Kinshasa**-based religious television station is owned by the International Bethel City Church.

It is run by Emmanuel Mbiye Mulaya, the founder and leader of the organisation.

Address: RTS, Boulevard Lumumba n°6170 1^{ère} rue Kinshasa-Limete

Director - Serge Mukunya
Tel: +243 9981 316 04

Congoweb TV www.congowebtv.cd

Congoweb is a web-based television and radio service that belongs to former journalist Gabriel Shabani.

It is politically neutral and is popular among the Diaspora.

Mob: +243 998 193 510

Address: Congoweb TV, Immeuble SOFIDE, 2ieme Etage, Local 2.12.1
Crois. Avenue Kisangani et Le Marinel, Gombe - Kinshasa

Provincial television stations

The following provincial television stations are influential in the areas where they operate.

The state broadcasting corporation **RTNC** and the **Kinshasa**-based private television stations **Raga TV**, **RTG@** and **Digital Congo TV** also broadcast in many of the provincial capitals.

Some other Kinshasa-based television stations have a more limited presence in the interior. They include:

- **Canal Futur Télévision (CFTV)**, which has relay stations in **Goma** and **Bukavu**.
- **Channel Media Broadcasting (CMB)**, which has a relay station in **Kananga**.
- **Radio Télévision Kimbanguiste (RATELKI)**, which has a relay station in **Matadi**
- **Canal Congo TV**, which has a relay station in **Mbandaka**

The television stations are listed by province.

Bas-Congo

Radio Télé Matadi (RTM),

RTM is a television station based in DRC's main sea port **Matadi**, near the mouth of the Congo river.

It is owned by Pamphile Badu wa Badu, a politician in the ruling alliance that supports President Joseph Kabila.

The television station has a companion FM radio station which uses the same name.

Director - James Badu wa Badu
Email: batrad_spril@yahoo.fr

Director of Programmes - Ngimbi Lelo

Journalist - Christine Bamba
Mob: +243 998 512 682

Radio Télé Bomba (RTB)

This privately owned television station is based in **Boma**, DRC's second seaport on the north bank of the Congo river 50 km downstream from Matadi.

RTB broadcasts a wide range of programming.

The station is owned by Donatien Ngoma Vangu, a local businessman and politician in President Joseph Kabila's *Parti du peuple pour la reconstruction et la démocratie (PPRD)*.

Journalist - François Pascal Mbumba :

Mob: +243 819 012 997

+243 998 531 743

Email: rtboma@yahoo.fr

Bandundu Province

Nzondo TV www.denislessie.com

Nzondo TV is a television station based in **Bandundu** city that is frequently critical of the government.

It is owned by Pastor Denis Lessie, a local Christian evangelist preacher.

Nzondo TV has been repeatedly shut down by the authorities for allegedly violating its status as a religious broadcaster by airing statements critical of the government.

Lessie describes Nzondo TV on his website as a commercial television station that fights corruption and denounces abuse by politicians.

Director General – Denis Lessie

Email: DenisLessie@yahoo.fr

Director of Programmes – Tina Lessie

Kasai Occidental

Kasai Horizons Radio-Télévision (KHRT)

KHRT is a pro-opposition television station based in **Kananga**, the capital of Kasai Occidental province.

The company also runs a separate TV station in **Mbuji-Mayi**, the capital of Kasai Oriental.

The station is owned by Joseph Mubengayi, a local engineer,

KHRT has been repeatedly shut down by the government.

It also operates a radio station in **Kananga**.

Director of Programmes – Joli-Ambroise Musuet

Tel: +243 816 035 687

Email: jamusuet@yahoo.fr

Journalist - Pascal Kankonde : +243 816 580 420

Address: KHRT, Rond Point du 17 mai, Commune de Kananga

Radio Télé Amazone

This private television station broadcasts from **Kananga**. It is owned by Timothée Tshikupela.

Radio Télé Amazone also operates a companion FM radio station.

Kasai Oriental

Kasai Horizons Radio Télévision (KHRT)

KHRT is pro-opposition television station that broadcasts in **Mbuji-Mayi**.

It is also operates a separate TV station in **Kananga**, the capital of neighbouring Kasai Occidental.

KHRT has often been shut down by the government.

It also runs FM radio stations in **Mbuji-Mayi** and **Kananga**.

Journalist - Bakandowa Oscar

Mob: +243 997 320 577

Email: osambakandowa@yahoo.fr

Radio Télé Debout Kasai (RTDK)

This television station in **Mbuji-Mayi** is owned by Auguy Ilunga, a Bishop and founder of the World Evangelism Church.

RTDK also operates an FM radio station in the same city.

Director – Lambert Mbuyi
Tel: +243 816 063 006

Journalist - Kenemo Ngongani
Mob: +243 9973 125 31
Email: ngongani@yahoo.fr

Radio Télé Ocean Pacifique (RTOP)

Radio Télé Ocean Pacifique is a television station in **Mbuji Mayi** owned by Albert Ngoy Kasanji, the Governor of Kasai Oriental province.

He is a member of the ruling party and a wealthy diamond dealer.

Radio Télé Fraternité - Buena Muntu

This Roman Catholic television station in **Mbuji-Mayi** is owned by the Catholic Diocese of Mbuji-Mayi.

It broadcasts in **French** and **Tshiluba**.

Radio Télé Fraternité - Buena Muntu also operates a companion FM radio station under the same name.

Director - Abbé Ghislain Banza
Tel: +243 815 005 300
Email: evechembm@yahoo.fr

Radio Mont Carmel Télévision (RMCTV)

This private television station based in **Mbuji Mayi** mostly carries religious programming.

It is owned by Pastor Anaclet Kabalu Bukole of the 30th Pentecostal community in Congo, and was established in 1998.

RMC TV also runs an FM radio station in Mbuji Mayi.

Radio Télé Eglise Evangelique Libre

Protestant evangelical television station in **Mbuji Mayi** owned by Pastor Kambala Kipi.

Katanga province

Radio Télé Mwangaza www.rtmwangaza.net

This generally pro-government television station is based in **Lubumbashi**.

It broadcasts in **French** and **Swahili** to all the main towns and cities in the mining belt of southern Katanga

Radio Télévision Mwangaza has a sister FM radio station called **Mwangaza FM**.

The broadcasting group is owned and managed by Rose Lukiana.

The television station transmits from the following locations:

Lubumbashi
Likasi
Kipushi
Kasumbalesa

Its main evening news programme is broadcast at 20.00.

Director of Programmes - Alain St Pierre Mwamba

Tel: +243 995 242 991

Email : dirpro@rtmwangaza.net
a_mukenge@yahoo.fr

Radio Télévision Wantanishi

Radio Télévision Wantanishi is a pro-government television station that broadcasts from **Lubumbashi**.

It is owned by Pastor Paulin Mwewa, a close associate of provincial governor Moise Katumbi and is financed by Katumbi.

Radio Télévision Wantashi basically serves as a propaganda platform for Katumbi.

The TV station and its companion FM radio station were established in 2006.

Tel: +243 818 153 441

Address : Radio Télévision Wantashi, Route Kipushi, Quarter Kisangani - après SOMIKA, Lubumbashi

TV Nyota <http://www.nyota.net>

TV Nyota is a **Lubumbashi** television station owned by the wife of Katanga Governor Moise Katumbi. It serves as a propaganda mouthpiece for him.

It has a companion FM radio station called **Radio Nyota**.

Director - Olivier Tuta

Mob: +243 817 009 864 Email: nyotafmradio@gmail.com

Address; Radio Nyota, 2ème - Building Congo, Quartier Gambela 1 - Rotonde Carrefour, Lubumbashi.

Radio Télé Tam-tam Afrique

This private television station broadcasts from **Lubumbashi**.

It has a companion FM radio station of the same name.

The broadcasting company is owned by Sefu Selemani.

Tel: +243 818 150 010

Radio Télévision Lubumbashi Jua

This private television station in **Lubumbashi** is owned by Jean-Claude Muyambo, a prominent lawyer and politician from southern Katanga.

Muyambo leads a small political party - *parti Solidarité Congolaise pour la Démocratie (Scode)*.

This was formerly part of a broad alliance supporting President Joseph Kabila. Muyambo withdrew from the coalition, alleging fraud, after he failed to be elected as a member of parliament in the 2011 elections.

Muyambo is politically at odds with Katanga Governor Moïse Katumbi.

Radio Télévision Lubumbashi Jua has a companion radio station of the same name.

Zenith Radio Télévision www.zenithradio.net

Zenith Radio Télévision is a Roman Catholic television station based in **Lubumbashi**.

It also broadcasts in **Likasi** and **Kamina**.

The station was founded by Reverend Father Emile Nyembo.

It has a sister radio station of the same name, which has been on air since 1995.

Email: direction@zenithradio.net

Radio Télé Mosaïque

This private television station broadcasts from **Lubumbashi** broadcasts generalist programming and is politically independent.

It is owned by Loma Djesse Lutumba.

Radio Télé Mosaïque also runs an FM radio station in Lubumbashi.

Journalist - Gisele Ngungwa

Mob: +243 815 053 135

Email: giselengungwa@hotmail.com

Radio Télévision Inter Viens et Vois (RTIV) www.met-ceivv.org/rtiv

This private television station in **Lubumbashi** is owned by Bishop Léonard Matebwe Lambalamba, an evangelical pastor.

It mainly broadcasts religious programmes and is politically unaligned.

The television station has a companion FM radio station which operates under the same name.

South Kivu

Shala TV

Shala TV is a private television station based in **Bukavu**.

It is owned by Jean-Marie Bilombo Kilosho, a tax expert and former minister of the economy under President Josphe Kabila.

He has served as a pro-Kabila member of parliament for South Kivu since 2006.

Orientale

Télévision Amani

Television Amani is a Roman Catholic television station based in **Kisangani**.

It began broadcasting in 2005 with a 1,000 Watt transmitter that enables the signal to be received within 100 km radius of the city.

Television Amani forms part of the broadcasting company **Radio Télé Amani**, which is owned by the Dioceses of Kisangani.

It also operates an FM radio station in the city called **Radio Télé Amani**.

Director of Programmes - Abbé Bwanga Célestin

Tel: +243 985 391 36

+871-683 132 897 (satellite)

Email: bwangamalekani@hotmail.com

rta_kis@hotmail.com

Télé Boyoma

Télé Boyoma is a television station based in **Kisangani** that is owned by Groupe Lengema, the holding company of Marcel Lengema Dulia, a businessman and former senior figure in the Mobutu regime.

Lengema served as an ambassador and deputy foreign minister under former president Mobutu Sese Seko and subsequently became a businessman.

Print overview

Newspapers are not widely read by the population as a whole.

Daily newspapers are only published in **Kinshasa**. Few print more than 2,000 copies per edition.

In the interior, some weekly, fortnightly and monthly newspapers are published in the provincial capitals.

These only sell a few hundred copies.

Almost all Congolese newspapers are published in **French**.

Most have a cover price of US\$1 or more. This puts them well beyond the reach of the overwhelming majority of Congolese.

However, newspapers are important for circulating ideas and opinions amongst the ruling elite.

Some of Kinshasa's leading dailies, such as **L'Avenir**, **Le Potentiel**, **Reference Plus** and **Le Phare**, are widely read by decision makers in business and government.

Private newspapers began to flourish during a period of political liberalisation under former president Mobutu Sese Seko, which began in the early 1990s.

Before then, Mobutu had only allowed the publication of two government-run dailies and a small handful of private newspapers.

Within five years of newspaper ownership being liberalised, 600 new titles had been launched. However, many of these titles were short-lived.

Following the overthrow of Mobutu in 1997, hundreds of private radio stations and dozens of private television stations sprung up.

These new broadcasters rapidly displaced most of the newly established independent newspapers.

Radio and television were able to reach wider audiences in a variety of languages and did not suffer from the same distribution problems as newspapers. They could also reach the illiterate.

Some of Kinshasa's most successful dailies, such as **L'Avenir** and **Le Potentiel**, served as the launch pads for the creation of DRC's leading multi-media groups that include radio and TV stations.

Pius Muabilu, the founder of **L'Avenir**, went on to create the **RTG@** radio and TV stations.

Modeste Mutinga, the founder of **Le Potentiel**, meanwhile set up **Radio 7** and **TV 7**.

Both these media groups now have news websites which are updated regularly and are avidly read by the Diaspora.

In 2012 there were close to 700 registered publications in DRC, but fewer than 250 appeared on a regular basis.

Even the best Congolese newspapers, such as **Le Potentiel** and **Le Phare**, are rather mediocre in terms of the quality of their news reporting.

Most newspapers tend to editorialise heavily in their news reporting.

They also carry “sponsored” articles, placed by politicians and businesspeople who are keen to promote a particular version of events or a particular point of view.

Opposition newspapers tend to criticise the government in editorials rather through the news that they report.

Pro-government newspapers tend to serve as blatant propaganda machines for the government or presidency.

The government news agency **Agence Congolaise de Presse (ACP)** www.acpcongo.com publishes news of official announcements and government activities through its website.

There are also a number of small private news agencies which act as wholesalers of news to individual media outlets.

Newspapers

Le Potentiel www.lepotentiel.cd

Le Potentiel is one of the oldest and most successful daily newspapers in DRC.

The Kinshasa daily was launched by Modeste Mutinga in 1982 and formed the platform for his creation of a multi-media group.

This now includes the Kinshasa radio station **Radio 7** and its companion television station **Tele 7**.

For many years Le Potentiel was an opposition newspaper, but like its owner, it has become increasingly pro-government.

Mutinga served as president of the government media regulator *L'Haute Autorite des Medias (HAM)* from 2003 to 2006 and went on to become a senator in the alliance that supported President Joseph Kabila in the 2006 elections.

Le Potentiel has a print-run of about 2,000 copies and is not formally distributed outside Kinshasa.

Editor - Modeste Mutinga Mutuishayi

Administrator - Mulamba Kabwayi
Tel: +243 998 135 483

News editor - Angelo Mobateli
Tel: +243 998 407 193

Tél: +243 971 439 969
+243 822 242 921

E-mail: contact@lepotentiel.cd

Address: Le Potentiel, 873, Av. Bas-Congo Kinshasa - Gombe

Le Phare www.lephareonline.net

Le Phare has been a consistent voice of opposition in DRC since its establishment in 1983.

The **Kinshasa** daily newspaper is owned edited by its founder, veteran newspaper journalist Polydor Muboyayi.

Le Phare has has a print run of 2,000 and is only distributed in the capital.

Chief News Editor - Kenge Mukengeshayi

Email: lephare@ic.cd

Address: Le Phare, 3392, avenue Colonel-Lukusa, Kinshasa - Gombe

L'Avenir www.groupelavenir.cd

L'Avenir is a pro-government daily newspaper published in **Kinshasa**.

It has a print run of about 2,000.

L'Avenir was founded by the media entrepreneur and pro-Kabila politician Pius Muabilu in 2001.

Muabilu went on to set up the radio station **RTG@ FM**, which can be heard in Kinshasa and several provincial capitals, and **RTG@ TV**, a television station, which also has broad national reach.

He started out as a protégé of Yerodia Abdoulaye Ndongbasi, a close associate of the late president Laurent Kabila.

Muabilu is now a member of parliament for the ruling for the coalition that supports President Joseph Kabila.

Editor - Pius Mwabilu Mbayu Mukala

Tel: +243 815 047 043

Director of Publication - Joachin Diana Gipuka

Tel: +243 815 047 060

Tel : +243 998 240 117

+243 998 410 588

+243 816 884 455

E-mail: avenir@ic.cd

webmaster@groupelavenir.cd

Address: L'Avenir, Immeuble Ruzizi, Avenue Bas-Congo N° 873 | Gombe - Kinshasa

Le Palmarès

Le Palmarès is a pro-government newspaper established in 1995.

It is owned by journalist, media entrepreneur and politician Michel Ladi Luya.

He also owns the Kinshasa radio station **Mirador FM** and its companion television station **Mirador TV**.

After Laurent Kabila took power, Ladi Luya acted as a de facto press attaché for several of his ministers.

He served as a member of parliament for the presidential alliance from 2006 to 2011.

Editor - Michel Ladi Luya
Tel: +243 816 822 222

News Editor - Ndongala Mbizi a Nkadi

Address ; Le Palmarès, 220B, avenue Mpolo, Kinshasa/Gombe

La Tempête des Tropiques www.latempete.cd

La Tempête des Tropiques is an opposition daily newspaper in Kinshasa.

It is owned and edited by Alexis Mutanda, a senior figure in the *Union pour la Démocratie et le Progrès Social*, (UDPS), the party of veteran opposition leader Etienne Tshisekedi.

The newspaper was established in 1990.

Mutanda also owns the Kinshasa radio station **Trinitas FM** and the television station **Canal Numérique Télévision (CNTV)**.

He was elected as a member of parliament for the UDPS in 2011.

Editor - Alexis Mutanda
Email : alexmutanda@hotmail.com
canalnumerique.tv@vodanet.cd
Tél: +243 815 844 430
+243 990 302 323

Director of Publication - Raymond Luaula

Address: La Tempête des Tropiques, 90B, Boulevard du 30 juin
Kinshasa - Gombe

La Référence Plus www.groupe.lareference.cd

La Référence Plus is one of the DRC's better quality daily newspapers.

This independent **Kinshasa** daily was launched in 1991 by its owner and editor André Ipakala.

Editor : André Ipakala Abeiye Mobiko
Tel: +243 9992 337 9
Email : ref_plus@hotmail.com

Director of Publication - Félix Kabwizi Baluku

Address: La Référence Plus, 14, avenue Victoire, Kinshasa - Kasa-Vubu

Forum des As www.forumdesas.com

This **Kinshasa** daily newspaper was launched in 1990 by Boverly Bongo.

Associate Editor - José Nawej

Tel: +243 999 900 650
+243 899 949 999
+243 819 977 888
Email: contat@forumdesas.com
forumdesas2011@yahoo.fr

Address: Forum des As, 728, Avenue Tombalbaye, Kinshasa - Gombe

L'Observateur www.observateur.cd

L'Observateur is a politically unaligned daily newspaper owned and edited by Mankenda Voka.

It is published in **Kinshasa** and was established in 1990.

Editor: Mankenda Voka
Tel: +243 9999 48 90

Newseditor: Luc Roger Mbala
Tel: +243 818 148 303

Tel : +243 815 025 079

Address: L'Observateur, 722, AV. Colonel Ebeya, Commune de la Gombe, Kinshasa

Le Soft International www.lesoftonline.net

Le Soft International is a **Kinshasa** newspaper owned by journalist Kin-Kiey Mulumba. It is published weekly.

Kin-Kiey is a former Reuters bureau chief in DRC and a professor of journalism.

His political allegiances have shifted opportunistically over time.

He formerly worked as minister of information for the Rwandan-backed RCD rebel movement.

In recent years he has become close to the ruling alliance that supports President Joseph Kabila.

These shifts are reflected in the editorial line of his paper. Le Soft, which was established in the 1990s, has a good reputation for quality.

It is printed in Europe and distributed in **Brussels** and the main cities of DRC.

However, the cover price of US\$7 puts it well beyond the reach of most Congolese.

Owner and Editor - Kin-Kiey Mulumba
Tel: +243 810 776 2098

News agencies

Agence Congolaise de Presse (ACP) www.acpcongo.com

ACP is the government news agency. It distributes news about government announcements and official events through its website.

ACP is based in Kinshasa and operates 32 regional news bureaux across the country.

The news agency, which was founded at independence in 1960, employs more than 200 journalists.

Director General - Jean-Marie Vianney Longony

Tel: + 243 81 657 37 88
 + 243 81 350 40 40
 + 243 81 810 07 87

Email info@acpcongo.cd
acprdcongo@yahoo.fr

Address: ACP, 44-48 Avenue Tombalbaye, Kinshasa – Gombe

InterCongo Media (ICM)

InterCongo Media (ICM) is the Congolese branch of **Syfia International** www.syfia.info, a donor-funded association of nine African news agencies.

Its **Syfia Grand Lacs** division, covering DRC, Rwanda and Burundi, produces a bi-monthly bulletin on humanitarian and current affairs. This is distributed to the media free of charge.

The content of this bulletin is regularly used by over 100 newspapers and 300 radio stations in the Great Lakes region.

Syfia Grands Lacs employs 60 journalists as stringers, 40 of them in the DRC.

Syfia also produces two newspapers, one of them in Burundi and one in DRC.

Its Congolese newspaper, **Journal Mongongo**, is produced by a team of journalists in **Kisangani**, and is published twice a month.

4,500 copies are printed and distributed throughout the country.

Syfia also trains journalists.

ICM contact - Godefroid Bwiti Lumisa
Tel: +243 898 956 956
Email: syfiagrandslacs@hotmail.com

Address: InterCongo Media, Galeries St-Pierre 374 avenue Colonel Mondjiba,
Kinshasa

Agence Presse Associée (APA)

APA is a privately owned news agency set up by veteran journalist
Barthelemy Bongo Boyeme in 2008.

He formerly worked for Agence France Presse in Kinshasa.

APA covers a wide range of news and strives to maintain political objectivity.

Director – Barthelemy Bosongo Boyeme

Tel: +243 9982 784 04
+243 813 141 233

Email: gpaong@yahoo.fr
apaong@raga.net

Address: Agence Presse Associée, Avenue du Bas Congo Immeuble Ruzizi,
Kinsahsa - Gombe

Documentation et information pour l’Afrique (DIA) www.dia-afrique.org

Documentation et information pour l’Afrique (DIA) is a Roman Catholic Church
news agency serving DRC.

It is run by the National Episcopal Conference of Congo (CENCO), which was
a vocal critic of the 2011 elections.

DIA employs 12 people and provides information of all kinds, including
political news reports.

Director: Ghislain Tshikendwa

Tel: +243 821 931 996
+ 243 994 887 399

Online media

Relatively few Congolese have access to the internet. It remains the exclusive preserve of the educated urban elite.

The International Telecommunications Union (ITU) www.itu.int estimated that only 1.2% of the population used the internet in 2011.

The minority who do go online are enthusiastic users of social media, especially Facebook.

There were 848,000 Facebook users in DRC in November 2012, according to the internet traffic analysis website www.socialbakers.com

Like most Congolese media, the majority of local news websites are highly politicised. They also range dramatically in quality.

There are very few stand-alone news and current affairs websites which are not aligned with a particular political camp

Many news websites trade in rumours presented as fact, especially those managed by the Diaspora.

The internet is widely used by Congolese emigres to keep in touch with events back home.

There are no reliable figures for the number of Congolese living abroad, but the International Organisation for Migration has estimated that they number between three and six million..

Most live in other African countries, but there are also a large number in France and Belgium.

The most popular and reliable news websites include:

- www.radiookapi.net - The news and information portal of **Radio Okapi**, the UN radio station in DRC.
- www.digitalcongo.net - The news website of the **Multimedia Congo** group, which also owns Digital Congo FM and Digital Congo TV. This group is jointly owned by Croatian journalist Nicola Vadjon and Jaynet Kabila, the sister of President Joseph Kabila. It is strongly pro-government.
- www.lepotentiel.cd – The news website of the **Avenir** media group owned by Pius Muabilu. This includes the daily newspaper **I’Avenir**, **RTG@ FM** and **RTG@ TV**. It is strongly pro-government.
- www.lephareoline.net - The online version of **Le Phare**, a Kinshasa daily newspaper that consistently reflects opposition voices.

www.direct.cd is a news aggregator site based in Kinshasa that publishes output from other Congolese media. The website also writes its own editorials and sometimes produces and publishes its own reporting

Traditional and informal channels of communication

Vast areas of DRC are still beyond the reach of radio, television and mobile phone signals.

Many of them are likely to remain isolated from modern telecommunications for many years to come.

In these media-dark areas news and information is generally channelled through local community leaders.

More often than not, these are the traditional leaders of the village – the village chief and group of elders.

In addition, local religious leaders are often respected and influential.

The level of public confidence in such traditional leaders varies dramatically throughout the country.

However, these are the most effective channels for disseminating information about important issues that affect the entire community – such as voter registration or upcoming vaccination campaigns.

In some areas the local chiefs have been heavily influenced by the local political context. These people are less likely to be trusted by the community.

In others traditional leaders have been able to maintain their independence and command more respect.

It is important for those disseminating or gathering information to have some degree of awareness of the traditional leaders' status and reputation in any given community.

The information they give out may otherwise be distorted.

It is prudent to solicit the assistance of a group of community leaders rather than relying on one individual.

This can help to avoid the problem of reputational risk. Involving more people will also tend to increase the scope for dissemination.

It is very rarely a good idea to communicate through the government security services, such as the army and the police.

They have a very poor reputation and are generally feared and disdained by the communities that they interact with.

The provincial and local administrations have meanwhile become heavily politicised, with most key figures appointed by the ruling party.

However, schools, clinics and dispensaries can sometimes serve effectively as centres for distributing information.

It is better to communicate in local languages or in one DRC's four widely spoken African languages – **Lingala, Swahili, Kikongo and Tshiluba** - rather than **French**.

Although most people have only had a few years of primary education and illiteracy remains high, people are eager for rare reading materials.

Providing that they are produced in an interesting and easy to understand format – such as comic books with pictures - printed materials are often a good vehicle for transmitting key messages.

Music and theatre are very powerful tools for raising awareness about specific issues and transmitting educational messages.

There is a strong musical tradition in the DRC, and musicians are extremely influential and respected.

National education campaigns have frequently relied on prominent musicians to spread key messages.

However, it is important to be aware of the reputation of the specific artist.

Some musicians have been co-opted by politicians, while others have bad reputations in general.

All prominent national musicians also have large youth followings.

Many of their fans are unemployed young men who move in large groups.

They can become aggressive towards the followers of rival music stars if they run into them. This too is important to keep in mind.

Media Resources

Media regulators

Conseil Supérieur de l'Audiovisuel et de la Communication (CSAC)

www.csac.cd

The Superior Council for Audiovisual and Communication (SCAC) is the official state-appointed body that regulates the media in DRC.

It has the power to suspend the publication of media outlets and the professional activity of individual journalists who fail to maintain the required professional standards.

CSAC was created in January 2011, 10 months before the country's most recent general elections.

It replaced a similar body called *L'Haute Autorité des Médias (HAM)* – The High Authority on the Media – which had become increasingly ineffective.

HAM's mandate to uphold press freedom and professional standards in the media had been widely disregarded by the Information Ministry, which simply shut down any media outlets that incurred the government's displeasure.

There is little evidence that the situation has improved following HAM's replacement by the CSAC

The CSAC has been heavily criticised by Congolese media organisations and press freedom watchdogs for lacking political independence and for acting primarily in the interests of the ruling party.

The local media watchdog **Journaliste en Danger (JED)** www.jed-afrique.org has accused the CSAC of failing to exercise its mandate, notably by allowing the Ministry of Information and Communications to order the closure of several pro-opposition broadcasters.

Journaliste en Danger was particularly critical of the CSAC's failure to ensure that all media played a neutral role during the 2011 election campaign.

It said in an open letter to CSAC and the national electoral commission in November 2011:

“The majority of the Congolese media are openly engaged in a propagandist frenzy...They are all – and everyone sees it – under the thumb of the best-paying candidates and of their interests....Invective and declarations that verge on incitement to hatred and violence, the propagandist trend, fanatical delirium and flagrant inequalities occur on a daily basis.”

The CSAC's predecessor HAM was set up in 2003 to regulate the media during the transition period between the Sun City peace agreement that ended five years of civil war and the country's UN-supervised general elections in 2006.

HAM was led during that crucial three-year period by respected veteran journalist Modeste Mutinga, owner of the Kinshasa daily **Le Potentiel** and the radio television stations **Radio 7** and **Tele 7**.

HAM included representatives of all DRC's main political factions and former rebel movements.

It was credited with doing good and effective work under Mutinga's leadership, despite the many challenges it faced – particularly in monitoring abuses and enforcing standards of conduct outside Kinshasa.

However, HAM's effectiveness declined between 2006 and 2011 as the Ministry of Information increasingly took arbitrary action against media which incurred the government's displeasure, with complete disregard for HAM's own mandate to uphold press freedom and fair play.

This situation became acute after the first round of the 2006 presidential elections, which left the incumbent Joseph Kabila facing a run-off against his main opposition challenger Jean-Pierre Bemba.

During this period, the government not only shut down pro-Bemba media outlets without reference to HAM.

In many cases the installations of these broadcasters were attacked by the security forces which destroyed their equipment while the HAM stood helplessly by.

HAM was created as a temporary institution to manage the political transition from civil war to multi-party democracy.

But the creation of CSAC as its permanent replacement took several years longer than anticipated because the necessary legislation took a long time to get through parliament.

The CSAC is supposed to be independent of the government.

However, in practice seven of its 15 members are appointed by the government, the legislature and the judiciary, which are all ultimately controlled by President Joseph Kabila.

The remaining eight members of the Council are representatives of journalists, media freedom watchdog organisations, advertising agencies and lawyers.

Father Jean-Bosco Bahala, director of the respected Roman Catholic radio station, **Radio Maria**, in **Bukavu**, was appointed as the CSAC's first president.

The organisation is mandated to:

- Guarantee media freedom
- Ensure protection of the media
- Ensure respect for professional standards in journalism
- Ensure equitable access to the official media by all political parties, associations and any other persons

The law creating CSAC also charges the organisation with ensuring: “the respect of pluralistic expression of thoughts and opinions in the press and audiovisual communication, notably for political information shows.”

President - Jean Bosco Bahala Okw'ibale

Email: jbbahala@yahoo.fr

Tel: +243 813 601 177

+243 818 935 002

+243 818 124 386

Email: csac.communication@hotmail.com
info@csac.cd

Address : CSAC, 47, Avenue Roi Baudoin (ex 3Z) 2e niveau, Immeuble 3Z
 Kinshasa - Gombe

Ministry of Information and Communication

The Ministry of Information controls the state broadcaster **Radio Television Nationale Congolaise (RTNC)** and the state-run news agency **Agence Congolaise de Presse (ACP)**.

It has a role in processing the licences of private radio and television stations and issues press accreditation to visiting foreign journalists.

The Information Ministry also acts as spokesman for the government.

The Ministry frequently suspends or shuts down local media outlets for alleged infractions of the law or media code.

It is notorious for using these powers to crack down on criticism of the government.

The Ministry often silences opposition voices in this way without reference to the official media regulator **Le Conseil supérieur de l'audiovisuel et de la communication (CSAC)** www.csac.cd.

Critics in the media have consistently accused the Ministry of Information of undermining the CSAC's specific mandate to regulate the media and uphold press freedom.

Information Minister – Lambert Mende Omalanga
Tel: +243 991 341 990

Observatoire des Medias Congolais (OMEC) www.omec.cd

OMEC was created in 2004 as a self-regulation body for the media by the main journalists' trade union; *L'Union Nationale de Presse Congolaise (UNPC)*.

Its main purpose is to monitor Congolese media output and ensure that it complies with the code of ethics and deontology agreed in 2004.

The basic tenets of the code of conduct and ethics are:

- Clearly identify sources
- Verify sources
- No plagiarism
- Rigour, precision and balance
- Impartiality
- Independence
- Respect for the dignity of an individual
- Respect for order and civility
- Respect for authorities and public office
- Professional solidarity
- Immediate rectification of errors, right to reply

OMEC is headed by Polydor Muboyayi, editor of **Le Phare** newspaper and one of the most respected senior journalists in the DRC.

If OMEC deems that a serious violation of its code of ethics has occurred, it can recommend that the UNPC sanction the individual or the media outlet concerned.

OMEC consistently produces monitoring reports about the Congolese state media – **Radio Television Nationale Congolaise (RTNC)** and **Agence de Presse Congolaise (ACP)**.

These focus on the state media's track record in granting equitable access to all political parties and tendencies.

OMEC's website was not functioning in November 2012

President - Polydor Muboyayi, President

Tel: +243 999 906 352

Email: omecrdc@yahoo.fr

Address: OMEC, 22 avenue Comite Urban, Kinshasa

Media associations

Union Nationale de Presse Congolaise (UNPC)

The UNPC is the main professional association representing Congolese journalists.

It was created in 2004 at the National Congress of the Congolese Press to replace its forerunner, *L'Union de la Presse Zairoise (UPZ)* which had been inactive for the previous 15 years.

The UNPC is in charge of policing a code of media ethics adopted by the 2004 congress.

This task has largely been delegated to its offshoot, the media self-regulation body **Observatoire des Medias Congolais (OMEC)** www.omec.cd.

Whenever OMEC detects a serious violation of the code of ethics, it asks the UNPC to impose sanctions against the individual journalist or the media organisation concerned.

However, the UNPC is hampered by a chronic lack of resources and this limits its effectiveness.

The organisation's only regular income comes from the fees which it charges for issuing press cards to journalists.

UNPC remains an authority within the profession, but its presence outside Kinshasa is limited.

Secretary-General - Joseph-Boucard Kasonga Tshilunde

Tel: +243 818 134 575

+243 993 216 779

Email : kasongatshilunde@yahoo.fr

Syndicat National Des Professionnels de la Presse (SNPP)

The SNPP is the only journalists' trade union in DRC. It has about 500 members. Most of them work for the state media.

The organisation was created in 1998 to improve the pay and working conditions of Congolese journalists in both the public and private sectors and defend their interests.

The SNPP has been a vocal critic of actions that violate media freedom.

It is affiliated to the **International Federation of Journalists (IFJ)** www.ifj.org.

President - Stanis Nkundiye
 Tel: +243 999 998 117
 Email: snppcongo@yahoo.fr
snkundiye@yahoo.fr

L'Association Nationale des Entreprises Audiovisuelles Privées (ANEAP)

ANEAP is an association that represents DRC's privately owned radio and television stations.

It aims to support media organisations with technical expertise and training, but its work is hampered by lack of funding.

The organisation was created in 2004, but has had limited impact during its first decade of existence.

President: Kibambi Shintwa, (Director of Numerica TV and Tropicana TV)
 Tel: +243 999 972 020
 Tel : +243 813 331 079
 Email : kibambishintwa@yahoo.fr

Association Nationale des Editeurs Congolais, (ANECO)

ANECO is an association that represents the print media.

Its mandate is to help newspapers become more competitive and efficient.

The organisation tried to harmonise advertising rates in the print media, but this initiative was undermined by the unwillingness of several organisations to apply the agreed tariffs.

ANECO was created in 2004.

President - André Ipakala Abeiye Mobiko (Owner/Editor of La Reference Plus)
 Tel: +243 999 923 379
 Email : ref_plus@hotmail.com

Fédération des Radios de Proximité du Congo (FRPC)

www.frpcmedias.net

The FRPC represents more than 200 local radio stations – broadly described as community radio stations – across DRC.

Its mission is to support the capacity of these radio stations to serve their audiences and to stimulate interest in community radio.

The FRPC is a federation of 11 provincial associations of local radio stations.

According to its website, the organisation had 217 member radio stations in November 2012.

Its member federations are:

- Equateur - AMACEQ
- Kinshasa -URAPROK
- Nord Kivu - CORACON
- Maniema - URCAM
- Bas Congo - REMACOB
- Sud Kivu - RATECO
- Kasai Oriental - RATEPROKA
- Katanga - REMACK
- Kasai Occidental - URACKOC
- Bandundu - URPB
- Province Orientale - REMACPO

The FRPC's predecessor, *L'association des Radios Associatives et Communautaires (ARCO)*, collapsed in 2004 amid accusations that it had been poorly managed.

The FRPC has received financial and technical support from the international media development organisations **GRET** and **Panos** and from the government aid agencies of Britain, France and Sweden.

National Executive Secretary - Rigobert Malalako

Tel: +243 815 003 234

+243 998 949 240

Email: rigomalko@yahoo.fr

Union Congolaise des Femmes des Medias (UCOFEM)

UCOFEM combats sexism and discrimination against women in journalism.

It was founded in 1997

President - Dorothee Swidi

Tel: +243 810 772 453

Media Development Organisations

Search for Common Ground (SFCG) www.sfcg.org

Search for Common Ground is a US-based NGO that works with local media to help prevent and resolve conflict.

The organisation has had a permanent presence in DRC since 2001 and works with more than 80 partner radio stations in the country.

It also works with television stations and newspapers

Search for Common Ground operates in DRC under the name **Centre Lokole**.

The organisation produces radio programmes at its studios in Kinshasa on subjects such as human rights, international justice, sexual violence, the security forces, democracy and good governance.

These programmes are produced in a range of formats, including discussion programmes and radio dramas. They are distributed to its partner stations to be aired.

Search for Common Ground has also produced a series of comic books. These have tackled themes such as corruption, police brutality and sexual violence in schools.

The NGO also provides training for the local media and conducts a wide variety of face-to-face activities to promote peace and reconciliation.

Country Director - Dirk Jan Koch,
Email: dkoch@sfcg.org

Internews www.internews.org

Internews is a US-based media development organisation that works primarily with local radio.

It launched a five-year Media Sector Development Program in DRC at the end of 2010.

This involves working with more than 50 community radio stations in the conflict-prone provinces of **Maniema, Bandundu, Katanga** and **South Kivu** to help improve their news and current affairs output.

Internews is providing training and mentoring to community radio broadcasters and is building a Media Resource Center in each of the four provinces to facilitate programme production.

It is executing this programme in partnership with **Fondation Hironnelle**, www.hironnelle.org, which also helps to run **Radio Okapi**.

Fondation Hironnelle is providing equipment and technical support for the Congolese partner radio stations.

Internews is also helping Congolese local civil society organizations to communicate more effectively through the media.

Its partners in this programme include **Journalistes en Danger** www.jed-afrique.org and **AFEM-SK** - the Association of Women Journalists of South Kivu).

Internews is also advocating for the reform of media regulation in DRC in collaboration with the **Albany Associates** www.albanyassociates.com , a UK-based media consultancy which specialises in media legislation.

Regional Manager Africa – Ian Noble
Email: inoble@internews.org

Media freedom watchdogs

Journaliste en Danger (JED) www.jed-afrique.org

Journaliste en Danger is the largest and most high profile Congolese organisation that defends media freedom and media rights.

This Kinshasa-based NGO does high quality work and is a great asset to the local media.

It was established in 1998 following the overthrow of Mobutu Sese Seko as it became obvious that the battle for freedom of expression was far from over.

In 2003, Journaliste en Danger expanded its activities beyond the DRC, to include Burundi, Cameroun, the Republic of Congo, Gabon, Equatorial Guinea, Central African Republic, Rwanda and Chad.

Its main activities and objectives are as follows:

- Monitor freedom of expression
- Call attention to violations of freedom of expression
- Assist imprisoned journalists
- Assist journalists facing trial
- Study and research improvements to the media environment, including legal and regulatory measures
- Publish annual reports on the state of the media
- Organise regular workshops, conferences and seminars on journalistic ethnics

Journaliste en Danger works closely with several international press freedom watchdogs. These include:

- **International Freedom of Expression Exchange (IFEX)** www.ifex.org
- **Reporters Sans Frontieres (RSF)** www.rsf.org
- **Committee to Protect Journalists (CPJ)** www.cpj.org.
- **International Federation of Journalists** www.ifj.org
- **Media Institute of Southern Africa (MISA)** www.misa.org

The organisation has received funding from several international donors including the European Union, Britain France and the Open Society foundation set up by billionaire financier George Soros.

Président : Donat M'Baya Tshimanga

Email: donmbaya@yahoo.fr

Tel: +243 813 637 037

Secretary general : Tshivis Tshivuadi
Tel : +243 99 99 96 353
Email: tshivis@hotmail.com

Address : Journaliste en Danger, 374, avenue colonel Mondjiba,
Complexe Utexafrica, Galerie Saint Pierre, Kinshasa - Ngaliema

Association Africaine pour les Droits de l'Homme (ASADHO)
<http://asadho-rdc.net>

This human rights group was founded in Kinshasa in 1991 by a group of lawyers, doctors and journalists.

It has local human rights monitoring committees in seven provinces.

President - Jean Claude Katende
Tel: +243 811 729 90

Vice-President - Dora Zaki
Tel: +243 994 096 131

La Voix des sans Voix (VSV) <http://www.vsv-rdc.org>

This human rights NGO was founded in Kinshasa in 1983.

Its name means "The Voice of the Voiceless."

Tél : +243 99 99 30 233
Email : info@vsv-rdc.org

Address : La Voix des Sans Voix, 3858, Av. des Ecuries Q, Joli Parc – C,
Ngaliema – Kinshasa

Media marketing and advertising

TBWA/Divo www.divo.cd

Divo is Congolese advertising agency based in **Kinshasa**.

It was founded by in 2002 and offers a broad range of branding, creative and promotional services.

Past clients include Nissan, Adadis and Standard Bank.

Since 2005 Divo has been affiliated to the global advertising company TBWA.

Tel: +243 991 270 323
+243 999 910 600

Email: deo@divo.cd
tina@divo.cd
claudia@divo.cd

Avantgarde www.avantgarde.cd

Avantgarde is a South African-run marketing and advertising agency that has operated from **Kinshasa** since 2004.

Past clients include Vodacom and Banque Internationale de Credit.

Chief Executive - Kobus van Staden

Tel: +243 813 859 404

Email: kobus@avantgarde.cd

Address: Avantgarde, 191 Avenue de l'Equateur , Gombe - Kinshasa

Pygma Ogilvy www.pygmagroup.com

This is the Congolese subsidiary of South Africa's Pygma Group, which undertakes communications and management consultancy work.

It is an affiliate of the Ogilvy global advertising company.

Tel: +243 998 016 005
+243 998 016 013

Address, Pygma Ogilvy, 9th Floor, Immeuble Botour, Gombe - Kinshasa

Telecommunications overview

The spectacular expansion of DRC's mobile telephone networks over the past decade has given more than half the population easy access to telephone communication.

In 2000, there were only 10,000 mobile telephone subscribers in the entire country.

By the end of 2011, there were 15.7 million active mobile telephone lines and most of the population was in reach of a signal.

The mobile network still does not reach vast swathes of the country which are sparsely populated.

Here two-way radio and direct satellite connections remain the only options for fast communication.

However, the mobile network does cover all the country's main towns and the overwhelming majority of the population.

According to the International Telecommunications Union (ITU), there were 23 mobile phone lines for every 100 people in DRC at the end of 2011.

This did not mean that nearly one in four of the population owned a mobile phone.

Many handset owners have two or more SIM cards to avoid the significantly higher cost of calling someone on a different network.

Nevertheless, most people who live within network coverage do have access to a mobile phone through a family member or friend if they need one.

The biggest problem for most Congolese mobile phone owners is finding the money to pay for calls.

The country is poor and mobile tariffs in DRC are expensive by African standards.

The average cost of pre-paid voice calls in late 2012 was 20 to 30 US cents per minute.

That compared to just four US cents in Kenya.

To save their own cash, people often "beep" or "flash" the person they wish to call, letting the phone ring once and then hanging up in the hope that their correspondent will ring back and bear pay for the cost of the conversation.

Those who can read and write often send text messages instead of making a voice call to save money.

SMS messages cost around five US cents each.

Most people use pre-paid credit purchased in the form of scratch cards.

These are available in denominations of US\$2 upwards.

All telecoms services in DRC are priced in US dollars.

The price of a scratch card in local currency therefore varies with the prevailing exchange rate.

The first mobile licences were issued in 1998, shortly after the overthrow of former president Mobutu Sese Seko.

A total of 16 licences were issued over the next three years and a proliferation of small networks sprung up.

Connectivity between them was often non-existent or poor.

However, consolidation has reduced the total number of networks to four and connectivity between them has improved.

The four mobile networks in DRC are:

- **Airtel** www.africa.airtel.com/wps/wcm/connect/africaairtel/DRC This is one of the two largest networks in the country with just over a third of all subscribers. The Indian mobile giant Bharti Airtel acquired the network from Kuwait's Zain in 2001. In June 2011 it had over 5.0 million subscribers
- **Vodacom** www.vodacom.cd Vodacom vies with Airtel for the number one spot. It too controls just over a third of all mobile subscribers in DRC. The company is a joint venture between British-based Vodafone and a local company, Congolese Wireless Network (CWN).
- **Orange/Congo-Chine Telecom** www.cct.cd Congo-Chine Telecom was a joint venture between the Congolese government and China's ZTE telecoms company. It was acquired by the French mobile giant Orange in October 2011. The network was due to be rebranded as Orange in 2013 once the new owner had completed a major technical upgrade to improve call quality. Congo-Chine Telecom had 1.6 million subscribers at the end of 2011. This gave it a market share of 10%.

- **Tigo** www.tigo.cd Tigo offers lower tariffs to other subscribers on the same network than DRC's other mobile operators, but its geographic coverage is much more limited. Tigo is strongest in Kinshasa and Bas Congo and it has built up a large market share in these two areas. Its coverage of the rest of DRC is thin and patchy. Tigo belongs to the Luxembourg-based telecoms group Millicom. It purchased the Congolese operation from Egypt's Orascom Telecom in 2005.

Investment to expand these networks is continuing apace.

Orange said in September 2012 that it had managed to build 120 new mobile base stations during its first year of ownership of Congo-Chine Telecom.

DRC's landline network has been decimated by years of neglect and the destruction wrought by civil war.

According to the ITU, the country had only 42,000 active landlines at the end of 2011.

Today the country relies almost entirely on mobile and satellite connections.

Slow internet

The DRC's heavy reliance on satellite communications makes makes internet connections slow and expensive.

The ITU estimated that only 1.2% of the population was using the internet at the end of 2011 – less than a million people,

However, in late 2012, DRC was starting to connect for the first time to international fibre-optic networks.

Their arrival should dramatically improve internet access speeds in many parts of the country and reduce the cost of going online in the near future.

Liquid Telecom, which operates the largest fibre optic cable network in Southern Africa, has thrust a spur into southern DRC from Zambia via **Lubumbashi**.

This line of cable reached **Kisangani** in November 2012.

Government officials forecast in October 2012 that a long delayed connection to the sub-sea West African Cable System (WACS) would be completed before the end of the year.

The connection to WACS will come ashore at **Muanda** on the Atlantic coast.

The overland fibre optic cable connection from there to **Kinshasa** should be completed during the first half of 2013.

A local fibre optic cable network already exists within the capital and several thousand subscribers are connected to it.

This existing infrastructure should allow many businesses and organisations to rapidly upgrade their internet connection once the onshore link to WACS eventually arrives in Kinshasa.

At the end of 2012, the DRC's four mobile phone companies only worked with 2G technology. This only permits slow internet connection speeds.

A planned upgrade to 3G in the near future should also improve internet access speeds.

It should also allow a wider variety of multi-media services to be accessed via the mobile network, including online video.

The government finally issued all four mobile network operators with 3G licences in July 2012.

In late 2012, all the Internet Service Providers in DRC relied on satellite connections to the world wide web.

Few ISPs were able to offer internet services outside the country's main cities and mining sites.

Even there, the cost of an internet connection remained high at an average of US\$100 per month for a slow 64KB per second line.

According to the ITU, there were just only 76,000 fixed location internet connections in DRC at the end of 2011.

Some Congolese who work for businesses and international organisations are lucky enough to have access to the internet at work.

But the vast majority of Congolese web surfers go online at internet cafes.

Very few people own computers or have an internet connection at home.

Telecoms regulation

Regulation of the telecoms sector is undertaken by the Ministry of Posts and Telecommunications (PTT) and a parastatal regulator: **L'Autorité de Régulation de la Poste et des Télécommunications du Congo (ARPTC)**

The ARPTC was established by a new law promulgated in 2002.

However, it reports directly to the Presidency, not to the Ministry of Posts and Telecommunications.

This has been a source of confusion concerning the formation and implementation of telecoms policy. It has also led to several clashes between the Ministry and the telecoms regulator.

The legal mandate of the ARPTC is to:

- Ensure that laws, regulations and conventions of the sector are respected
- Evaluate applications for new telecommunications concessions, issue authorisations and ensure that concession holders meet their contractual obligations
- Control the spectrum of frequencies
- Define the modalities of interconnection
- Define and manage the assignment of telephone numbers per operator
- Analyse the evolution of the social, economic, legal and technical environment of the sector
- Contribute to the definition and adaptation of the legal framework for the telecommunications sector.

Telecoms companies

Airtel www.africa.airtel.com/wps/wcm/connect/africaairtel/DRC

Airtel is one of the two largest mobile network operators in DRC in terms of subscriber numbers.

The company said in June 2011 it had reached the 5.0 million subscriber mark.

This gave it just over a third of the local market.

India-based Bharti Airtel purchased the company from Kuwait's Zain in 2010.

It subsequently announced plans to invest US\$400 million in upgrading the network between 2011 and 2013.

Director General –Louis Lubala

Tel: + 243 996 000 121

Email: info.airtelcd@cd.airtel.com

Vodacom www.vodacom.cd

Vodacom vies with Airtel for the number one spot in DRC. It was estimated to have a market share of about one third in 2012.

The company is a subsidiary of UK-based Vodafone.

Vodacom launched its network in DRC in 2001 as a joint venture with Congolese Wireless Network (CWN).

Vodacom, the South African subsidiary of Vodafone, owns 51% of Vodacom DRC.

CWN, which is controlled by Alieu Conteh, a wealthy Gambian businessman who made his fortune in DRC, owns 49%.

Arguments between the two joint venture partners since 2010 led Vodafone to publicly threaten at one point that it might pull out of DRC altogether.

However, Vodafone announced in September 2012 that it had decided to stay.

A list of locations covered by the Vodacom network can be found on web page www.vodacom.cd/vodacom-drc/faces/pages/view.xhtml?section=national_coverage&page=&language=fr

In some large cities Vodacom offers internet access via Wi-max.

This is a wi-fi signal with a range of several km that requires a special router.

Subscriptions to this service cost upwards of US\$110 per month.

Tel: +243 81 313 1000

Email: vodacom@vodacom.cd

Address: Vodacom, 3157, Boulevard du 30 Juin, Mobil-Oil Building 2me Etage, Gombe - Kinshasa

Orange/Congo Chine Telecom (CCT) www.cct.cd

Orange, the French mobile operator, acquired the mobile network of Congo-Chine Telecom (CCT) in October 2011.

It immediately launched an upgrade of the CCT network to improve call quality.

Orange also expanded CCT's network coverage, building 120 new base stations over the next 12 months.

A list of the locations covered by CCT's network in each province can be found on web page www.cct.cd/mobile/couverture.php.

In November 2012 the network was continuing to trade as CCT.

The company's French owner said it would only rebrand CCT as Orange once the network had been brought up to Orange's own technical standards.

Orange DRC Chief Executive Jean-Léon Bonnechère said the company would introduce a mobile money service at that point.

He did not say when the rebranding would take place.

CCT has a market share of about 10%.

Orange said it had 1.6 million subscribers at the end of 2011.

In September 2012, Radio Okapi quoted Marc Renard, Orange's Executive Director for Africa, the Middle East and Asia, as saying the number of subscribers had grown to 2.0 million.

CCT was originally launched as a joint venture between the Congolese state telecoms company **Société Congolaise des Postes et Télécommunication (SCPT)** and the Chinese telecoms operator ZTE

It offers internet access via Wi-max technology in **Kinshasa** only, with subscriptions starting at US\$100 per month.

Chief Executive - Jean-Léon Bonnechère
Tel: +243 998306666

Tigo www.tigo.cd

Tigo's mobile network and most of its subscribers are concentrated in Kinshasa and coastal province of Bas Congo.

The company's mobile network in the rest of DRC is thin and patchy.

However, Tigo has managed to build up a strong subscriber base in its southeastern heartland by offering lower tariffs than its three rivals for calls made within the same network

Calls to other Tigo subscribers cost 14 US cents per minute, whereas calls to other networks cost 30 cents.

The cost of sending SMS messages to other Tigo subscribers is also cheap by local standards at three US cents.

However, messages sent to phones on other networks cost double that.

Details of the geographic locations which Tigo covers can be found on web page: www.tigo.cd/couverture.html

The company is owned by the Luxembourg-based telecoms group Millicom, which runs mobile networks in several African, Latin American and Caribbean countries.

It acquired the Congolese business from Egypt's Orascom Telecom in 2005.

Customer service
Tel: +243 898 222 222

Afrinet www.afrinet.cd

Afrinet is a Congolese telecoms company that specialises in network solutions.

It uses satellite connections to provide both wholesale and retail internet services through DRC.

Afrinet's larger clients include Vodacom and the national power company Societe National d'Electricite (SNEL).

Tél: +243 818 119 462

Email : info@afri.net.cd
sales@afri.net.cd

Address: Afrinet Direction Générale, Boulevard du 30 juin, Immeuble GECAMINES, Rez-de-chaussée, Kinshasa - Gombe

iBurst Africa www.iburstafrica.com

iBurst Africa is an ISP that offers wireless internet access in **Kinshasa** only.

The company has expanded rapidly since arriving in in DRC in 2009.

It also operates in other African countries, including South Africa, Ghana, Kenya and Mozambique.

Tel: +243 099 603 0400

Address: iBurst Africa, 13 Avenue de la Justice, Gombe - Kinshasa