



Special Travel Notice for the Democratic Republic of the Congo

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In accordance with MS 220, 3.3.2, the Offices of Safety and Security and Global Operations have decided that **Volunteer travel to the Democratic Republic of the Congo *could* be permissible if the Volunteer has developed and discussed a travel safety plan with the Country Director (or designee).**

All PCVs are restricted from traveling to the following areas: North Kivu, South Kivu, the provinces of Bas-Uele, Haut-Uele and Ituriz (northeastern part of the former Oriental Province) and the provinces of Tanganyika and Haut-Lomami (northeastern and central parts of the former province of Katanga).

For Volunteer travel to the Democratic Republic of the Congo, we ask that post staff consult with their RSA, PCSSO, or the Office of Safety and Security **prior to approving Volunteer leave** for further guidance on areas to avoid and how PCVs may be able to travel there safely. *Please take note that a Volunteer's leave approval could be rescinded should the security situation change in the Democratic Republic of the Congo prior to departure.*

The travel safety plan is for Volunteers to demonstrate how they will keep themselves safe when traveling in the Democratic Republic of the Congo. When a Country Director talks about a travel safety plan with a Volunteer, the following topics should be discussed in conjunction with the leave request form:

- Proposed itinerary
- Contact information for the duration of the trip, including hotels
- Names of persons with whom Volunteer/Trainee will travel
- Dates when the Volunteer/Trainee is to communicate with post to check-in (if deemed necessary)
- Acknowledgement that the Volunteer/Trainee has read the [State Department's Travel Information](#) on that country as well as any [Travel Advisories or Travel Warnings](#)
- If State Department guidance deems it necessary to specifically name a geographic area (using strong language such as "defer all non-essential travel", etc.), the Volunteer/Trainee understands that he/she must avoid travel to those specific areas.
- That the Volunteer/Trainee has been advised to register in [State's STEP program](#)
- The Volunteer/Trainee has had a conversation with the Country Director about the risks of travel and what steps the Volunteer/Trainee will take to maximize their security given the threats (this can include a specialized knowledge of the area).
- Resources that the Volunteer/Trainee can utilize to keep themselves safe
- Steps to take if the Volunteer/Trainee has a security issue while traveling
- Any other precautions deemed necessary by Peace Corps staff

When/if the Volunteer leave is approved, a Post staff member must then enter the following information into VIDA:

- Proposed itinerary
- Contact information for the duration of the trip, including hotels

- Names of persons with whom Volunteer/Trainee will travel
- Date of travel plan conversation

For additional information, please refer to the [Tool for Travel Safety Plans](#).

If you have any questions, please contact your RSA or the Office of Safety and Security.