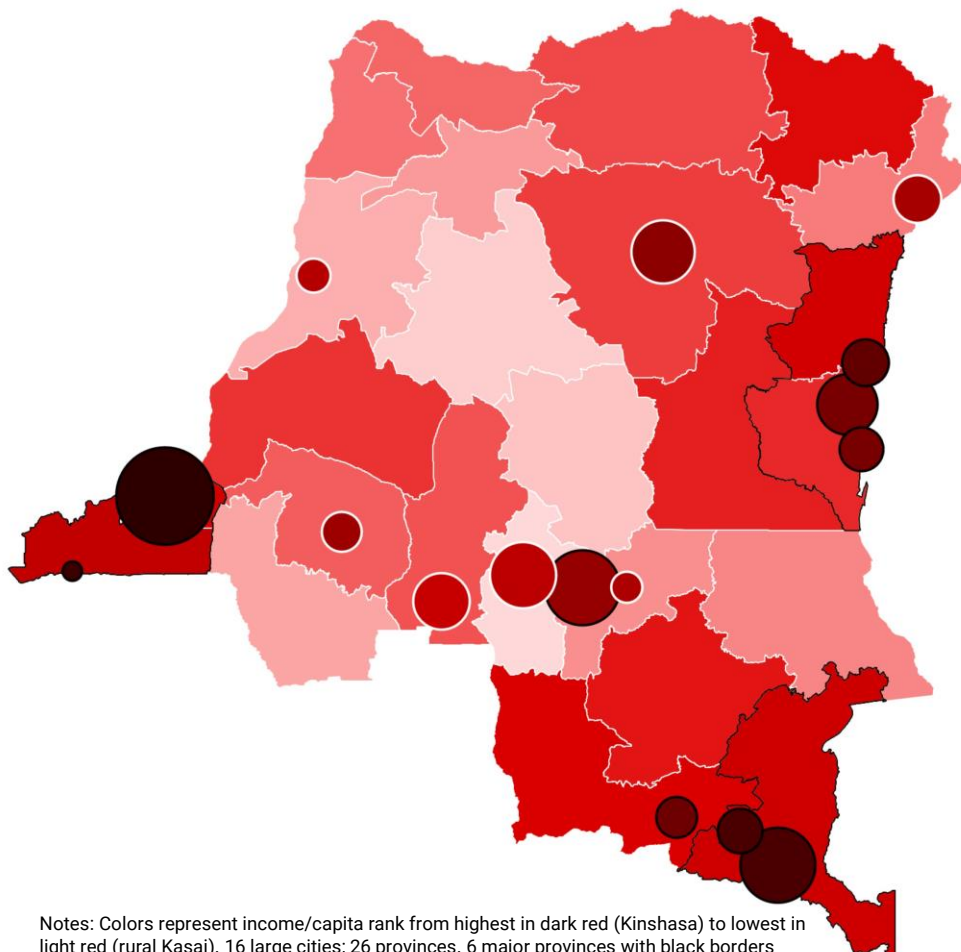# TELLUSANT QUICK READS

ANALYZING DIFFICULT COUNTRIES

The Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) may be the world's second most difficult country to analyze (after North Korea). This brief shows that every country's economic conditions can be quantified at the sub-national level.

You may not be interested in the DRC *per se*, but what we show are examples of the methods we deploy for every country to build our TelluBase[1] data sets.

DRC has 26 provinces and 16 cities with population larger than 300,000 inhabitants. How can we quantify regional income levels when there is seemingly no data available?

With difficulty. We created the composite picture from many data sources. Some of them contradicting others, some with partial details and missing data.

DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO INCOME LEVELS
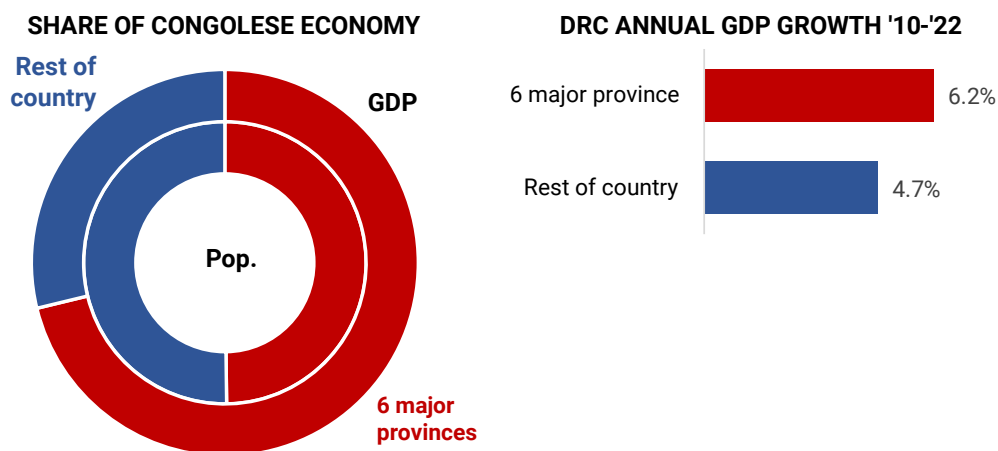Cities and rural part of provinces colored by income/capita

Notes: Colors represent income/capita rank from highest in dark red (Kinshasa) to lowest in light red (rural Kasai). 16 large cities; 26 provinces. 6 major provinces with black borders

Important data come from Multiple Indicator Cluster Surveys (MICS) by UNICEF and from Multidimensional Poverty Index (MPI) reports by the UN, World Bank, and others. In general, any country has a multitude of such reports. The issue is that they do not explicitly talk about GDP or income.

However, there are strong relationships between what the reports contain and economic variables. We have used those relationships in the DRC case.

In general, there are always data sources for what is needed, but you have to know where to look.

What came out of this exercise?

Source: UNHDR, MICS and MPI reports; UN NAMAD; IMF WEO; World Bank ICP; UN WIID; Tellusant analysis

The DRC is usefully divided into the "6 major provinces" and the "rest of the country". The map shows the high income/capita units in dark red. They constitute four regions:

• Atlantic: Kinshasa and Kongo Central, to the west
• Copperbelt: Haut-Katanga with Lubumbashi, to the southwest
• Great Lakes: Nord-Kivu and Sud-Kivu with Goma and Bukavu, to the east
• Diamondland: Kasai Oriental with Mbuji-Mayi, in the lower center

These major provinces represent 71% of Congo's GDP, are growing faster, and have a much higher income per capita.

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This is the work we do to build our TelluBase[1] product. TelluBase covers 218 countries, 2,600 cities, and 2,400 subdivisions to give a complete global view with standardized definitions and data.

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[1] https://tellubase.telluplan.com