

African Congolese Names or Zairian Names

A Congolese child in most cases is named after grandparents, parents or closed relatives (uncle or aunt). A first-born is usually named after her father's side of the family; the second born usually takes the name of her mother's side of the family. Once grandparents are honored with the naming, then the parents name themselves if they have more children. Then they usually name uncles, aunts, and then their siblings. Most people name their first born after their father (for boys) and mother (for girls). However, this is not a written rule, since in some situations because of significant events, a girl maybe named after a male for example. This is usually found when a parent's family member dies childless. In those cases, the next child usually carries the name of that family member regardless of their gender (and whether that family member was a parent or sibling) as a way of honoring the dead. Thus, it is not uncommon to find girls with what is considered a "male name" and vice versa. So if you love a name do not hesitate to give it to your child regardless of the gender associated with the name. Typically Congolese names end with a vowel. You will also notice below that there aren't names starting with the letter "R", that is because "R" isn't part of many Congolese languages' alphabet. We are coming up with more names and meanings, so keep checking the list. If you would love to share a name with us, you are welcomed to do so. Please send an email to balelawear@yahoo.com

Name	Gender	Language of Origin	Meaning
Alongi	M/F	Lingala	Victorious
Badinabi	F	Tshiluba	They have riches
Badiambila	M/F	Tshiluba	Let them speak among themselves
Babeni	M		
Bajani	M/F		
Bajikijayi		Tshiluba	Finish/destroy them
Bakome	M		
Bakomito	M		
Balela	F	Tshiluba	They have birthed
Balenge	M	Kisonge	
Baraka	M/F	Swahili	Blessing
Belamade			
Benesha	F	tshiluba	Blessing
Benga	M/F	Tshiluba	Refuse
Beya	M		
Bibuwa	M	Kisonge	Goodness
Bifuasa	M		
Binda			
Bintu	M	Tshiluba	Many Things
Biselele			
Bashala	M	Tshiluba	Let them stay behind
Bishisha	F		

Batubenga		Tshiluba	They should refuse us
Boboto		Lingala	Peace
Bodika		Tshiluba	
Bombo	M/F	Tshiluba	
Bompaka	M/F	Kikongo	Old age
Bondeko	M	Lingala	Brotherhood
Budiantu	F		
Bukasa	M		
Bulungu	F	Tshiluba	
Butumbi	M/F	Tshiluba	Glory
Diba	F	Tshiluba	Sun
Dibenesha	F	Tshiluba	Blessing
Djamba	M		
Dimena	F		Beautiful
Dinanga	F	Tshiluba	Love
Disanka	F	Tshiluba	Joy
Diombelayi		Tshiluba	Count on yourself
Diomi			
Diomo	M		
Dipa		Tshiluba	Gift
Disanka	F	Tshiluba	Joy
Dowo		Tetela	
Dunia		Swahili	World
Ekumanyi	M		
Emangongo		Tetela	
Elonga	F	Lingala	Victory
Elombe	M	Lingala	Brave one
Esengo		Lingala	Joy
Feza	F	Swahili	Treasure
Fumu	M	Kikongo	King
Ikolo	M		
Ilunga	M		Ready to forgive any abuse for the first time
Imani	M/F	Swahili	Faith
Ipolo			
Kabakele	M		Kabakele
Kabala	M	Tshiluba	
Kabalu		Tshiluba	Antelope
Kabanga	F	Tshiluba	Second born twin
Kabasele			
kabedi	M		
Kabendi			
Kabi	M	Tshiluba	
Kabunji	M	Tshiluba	Fox
Kadima	M	Tshiluba	
Kakengo	M	Kikongo	
Kakianda	M/F		
Kalabula			

Kalambayi		Tshiluba	
Kalala	M	Tshiluba	Go to sleep
Kalabula			
Kalongo			
Kalonji	M	Tshiluba	
Kalunga	M		
Kamanda		Tshiluba	
Kampata	F	Tshiluba	One with doubt
Kamuanya	F		
Kanda	M/F	Tshiluba	
Kangelu	M/F	Tshiluba	Angel; Saint
Kangudja			
Kanangila			
Kanku	M/F	Tshiluba	Second born twin
Kantu	M	Tshiluba	A small object; or a person
Wa		Tshiluba	Of- Often grouped with another name E.g: Beya wa Kalongi; means Beya of (son of) Kalongi
Kantu Wa Disanka		Tshiluba	A person "of" joy
Kantu wa Milandu	M	Tshiluba	A person of defiance
Kanyinda		Tshiluba	
Kapia	F	Tshiluba	Fire
Kapigna	F	Tshiluba	
Kasadi	M		
Kasamba	M	Tshiluba	to console
Kasambayi	F	Tshiluba	to console them
Kasangana	M/F		
Kasavumbu			
Kasese	M	Kikongo	
Kashala	M	Tshiluba	It Stayed
Kashama	M	Tshiluba	Leopard
Kasongo	M	Tshiluba/Kikongo/Maniema	
Katalayi	M		
Katobu	F	Tshiluba	
Katomba	M/F	Tshiluba	
Katunda			
kayembe	M		
Kayipu	F	Tshiluba	Never cease
Kazadi	M/F	Tshiluba	
Kazongu	M	Tshiluba	
Keise	M	Kikongo	
Kingala	M		
Kingombe			
Kintenge			
Kitoko	M/F	Lingala	Beautiful
Kiyonge	M	Tetela	
Kulomba	M	Tshiluba	To request
Kumuimba			
Kusa			

Lisanga		Lingala	United
Liwanga		Lingala	
Lobu		Tshiluba	
Lola	M/F	Lingala	Heaven
Lomba	M/F	Tshiluba	Ask
Lonji	M		
Losaka		Tetela	Thanksgiving
Losaka Efula		Tetela	Many thanks
Loseke		Tetela	
Luboya	M	Tshiluba	
Lubuya	F	Tshiluba	
Lufua	M/F	Tshiluba	Death
Lufuluambo		Tshiluba	Their loss
Luhuta		Tetela	
Lukanda			
Lukinda	M/F	Kikongo	
Lukoki	M		
Lukumwenu	M	Tshiluba	
Lumingu	M	Kikongo/Tshiluba	Sunday
Lumumba		Tetela	
Lusamba	F	Tshiluba	
Lushiku	M	Tshiluba	Someone you rely on; who will make a difference
Luyindula		Tetela	
Mafuka	M		
Mafuta	M/F	Lingala	Oil
Majambu	F	Tshiluba	Grave; usually given with another name to mean defeat grave (for children who almost died at birth). E.g: Majambu Milandu--defied grave/death Mpata Majambu: doubted grave/death
Makelele	M		Noise
Makiadi		Kikongo	Misfortune
Makiese	M/F	Kikongo	Joy
Makambo	M	Lingala	Things
Manoka	M/F	kikongo	Rain
Malangu		Tshiluba	
Malomba	M/F	Tshiluba	Request
Malu	F	Tshiluba	Problems
Malundama	F	Kikongo	Hidden things
Mande			
Masambila	M/F	Tshiluba	Prayers
Masengu	F	Tshiluba	
Mashala	M		
Mashinda	M	Tshiluba	Pasture; Grass
Masiala	M		
Matenda			
Matondo	M	Kikongo	Thanksgiving
Matungulu	M	Tshiluba	Onions

Matadi	M/F	Kikongo	Stone
Mayeme	M		
Mbala	M/F	Tshiluba	
Mbalayi		Tshiluba	
Mbaya		Tshiluba	
Mbikayi			
Mbiya	F	Tshiluba	
Mbiola			
Mbo	M/F	kikongo (Bandundu)	First born twin
Mbodi	M		
Mbu-letang	M	Kisakata	
Mbuyi	M/F	Tshiluba	First born twin
Mbuyu	M		
Mfumu	M	Tshiluba	King
Mianda	F	Tshiluba	Tales/news/long discussions
Miandabu	F	Tshiluba	Many tales/news
Milambo	M/F	Tshiluba	Offerings
Milandu	M	Tshiluba	Defiance
Miridi			
Mobutu	M	Lingala	
Moinza	M		
Mosantu		Lingala	Saint
Motema	M/F	Lingala	Heart
Moyo	M/F	Tshiluba	Greetings
Mpata	F	Tshiluba	Doubt
Mpia	M/F	Kikongo (Bandundu)	Second born twin
Mpindami	M	Tshiluba	to twist
Mpoyi	M		
Muamba		Swahili	Rock
Mubenga	M/F	Tshiluba	Refuse him/her
Mudiano	M	Kisongo	Good day/greeting
Mudilu	M	Tshiluba	Heat
Muhinda	M		
Mukadi	M	Tshiluba	
Mukamba	M/F	Tshiluba	widow/er
Mukanya	M		
Mukendi	M		
Mukengeshayi	M	Tshiluba	Make him suffer
Mukinayi	M	Tshiluba	Dislike him
Mukonkole	M/F	Kisonge	First born twin
Mukulu	M/F	Tshiluba	Elder
Mukuna	M	Tshiluba	He sow/planted
Mulamba	F	Tshiluba	She cooked
Mulemba		Tshiluba	
Mulowayi	M/F	Tshiluba	bewitched
Mulumba	M/F	Tshiluba	Follow somebody
Mulunda	F	Tshiluba	Friend
Mulopu	M	Tshiluba	God/Lord

Mundedi	M		
Mundela		Tshiluba	Birtherd me
Munia	F	Tshiluba	Sun
Musa	M	Kimballa	Corn meal-Fufu
Musedi	M	Tshiluba	
Musungayi	M	Tshiluba	
Muswamba	M	Tshiluba	Girl born after 3 or more boys when there were already females in the family
Mutanda		Tshiluba	
Mutombo	M	Tshiluba	
Mutoto		Tshiluba	Star
Muzuri	M	Swahili	Good
Mvumbi	M/F		
Mwamba		Tshiluba/Swahili	Rock
Mwangelu		Tshiluba	Angle
Mwanza	M	Tshiluba	Rainbow
Mwenze	M		
Mwimpa	M/F	Tshiluba	He/She is beautiful
Nankwimuna	M/F	Kisonge	How are you?
Ndaya	F	Tshiluba	
Ndjentu	M	Tshiluba	
Ndjoka		Tetela	
Ndomba	M	Tshiluba	Ask me
Ndombe	M		
Ngalula	M/F	Tshiluba	Male or female child born after 4 consecutive male/female. E.g: a woman with 4 boys gives birth to a girl. That girl will be named Ngalula or Tshiandanda or Tshianda for short. Same for a baby boy with 4 older sisters.
Ngondu		Tshiluba	Moon
Ngoyi	M/F	Kisonge	Second born twin
Ngweji	M	Tshiluba	A powerful man, a warrior, a man of war
Njiba	M/F	Tshiluba	Stream; lake
Nkola	M	Tshiluba	
Ngambembo	M		
Nsantu		Tshiluba	Saint
Ntaci Kibambe	M	Kisonge	
Ntambwa	M	Tshiluba	Lion
Ntengu	M		
Ntumba	M/F	Tshiluba	
Nyindu	M	Kisonge	hammer
Nzembo	M/F	Lingala	Song
Nzuzi	M/F	Kikongo	Second born twin
Omba	M/F	Tetela	
Omekongo	M		
Onehese		Tetela	
Pungu		Tetela	
Samafundu			Advice from the wise

Samba	F	tshiluba	To console
Sanga	M		
Santu		Lingala	Saint
Senda			
Shako	M/F	Tetela	Twin
Shantu	M	Tetela	Elde
Shembo	M	Tetela	
Shungu	M	Kitetela	Wisdom (A wise man)
Simba	M/F	Kikongo	First born twin
Singa			
Tambwe	M	Tshiluba	Tiger
Tambwe	M	Kisonge	
Tangu	M/F		
Tshala	M/F	Tshiluba	
Tshamba			
Tshamala	F		
Tshiandanda/Tshianda	M/F	tshiluba	Baby girl/boy who has at least 4 older siblings of the same gender. E.g: a woman with 4 boys gives birth to a girl. That girl will be named Ngalula or Tshiandanda or Tshianda for short. Same for a baby boy with 4 older sisters.
Tshibangu	M	Tshiluba	
Tshibelu	M	Tshiluba	Thigh
Tshibola	M/F	Tshiluba	Rotten
Tshibuyi		Tshiluba	
Tshilanda	M	Tshiluba	
Tshilobu	M/F	Tshiluba	Brave
Tshilongo	M	Tshiluba	Flower
Tshimini			
Tshimsundu	M		
Tshintu	M/F	Tshiluba	A big object
Tshionza	M	Tshiluba	
Tshisekedi	M	Tshiluba	
Tshisenga			
Tshishimbi	F	Tshiluba	
Tshitenge	M	Tshiluba	
Tshiminina		Tshiluba	
Wemba	M	Tetela	
Whembolua	M	Tetele	
Yemo	M		
Yogo	M		