



**DRC**  
 Situation Report #2  
 on the  
 crisis in the Kasai regions

**unicef** 

## Highlights

- The conflict has continued to spread with intensity, while fragmenting and reactivating interethnic tensions: OCHA has drastically revised its key figures for the crisis, and now estimate that over 1 million people have been displaced
- UNICEF remains the main humanitarian responder to the crisis on ground, and is currently providing child protection, nutrition, non-food, education and WASH assistance targeting highly vulnerable returnees following CERF allocation.
- UNICEF funding requirements to respond to this crisis is estimated at \$ 11 million, and would increase to introduce a Rapid Response -type multi-sector emergency response, currently seen as the most acute gap in the region.

**17 April 2017**

**1,030,000**

Internally displaced people (OCHA, 12 April 2017)

**97,084**

Returnees (OCHA, 12 April 2017)

**37,737**

Beneficiaries of UNICEF assistance (31 March 2017)

**333**

Enrolled in militias and detained in Kananga Central prison released

## UNICEF's Response with partners

**8 ongoing projects** with 7 partners **targeting 173,000 people** across 3 provinces and **7 sectors**

**37,737 affected people reached** as of 31 March, including **23,079 children**

**333 children** enrolled in militias and detained in Kananga Central prison released

**3,722 children** enrolled in recreational activities

**2 schools** (12 classrooms out 24 planned) for 935 children rebuilt

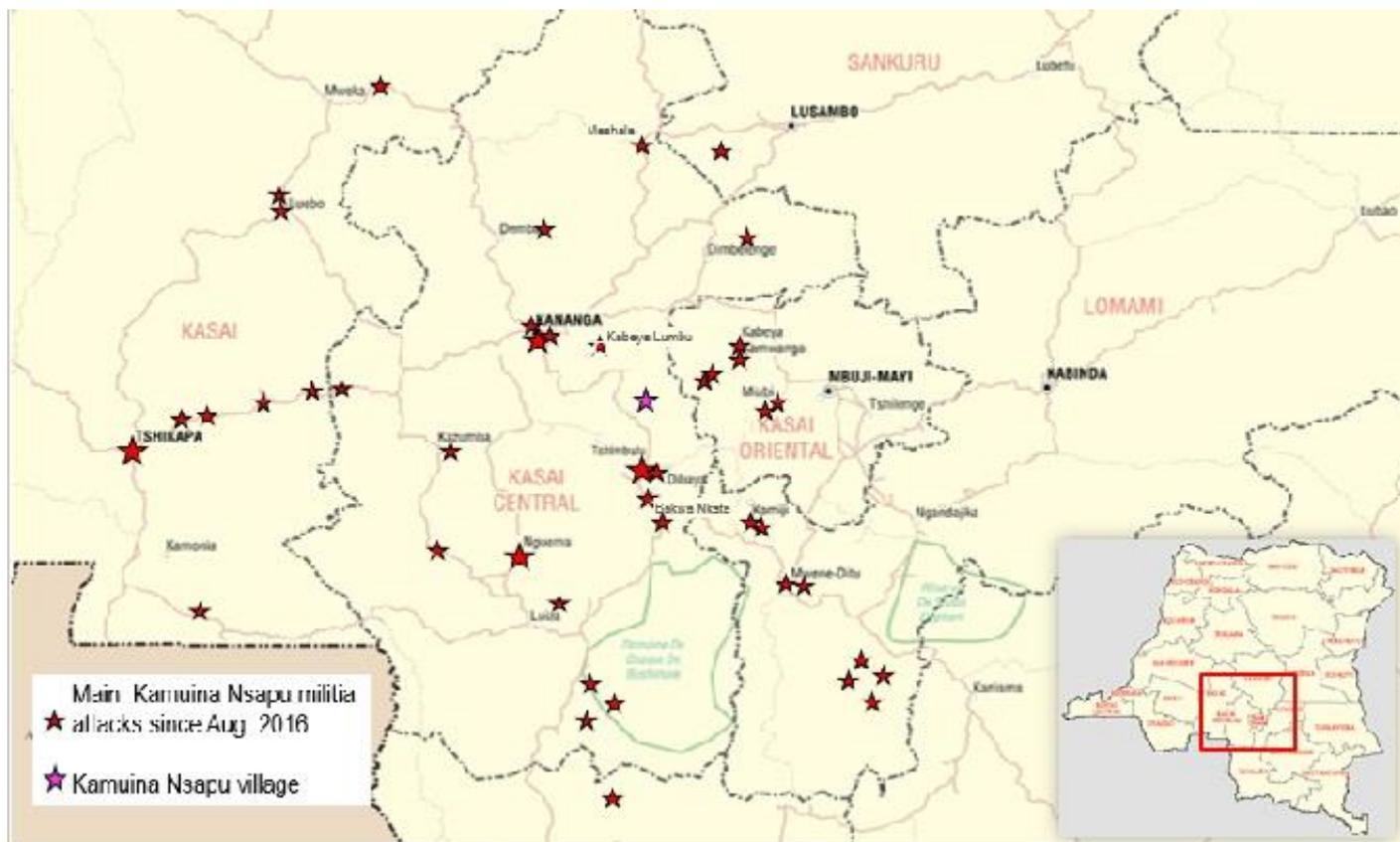
## FUNDING REQUIREMENTS

**Funding available: \$ 3.8**  
million USD

**Total Funding requirements:**  
**\$ 11** million USD\*(under review)

**Main donors:** CERF, DFID

## Situation Overview



The **conflict has continued to spread and intensify**, while fragmenting and reactivating interethnic tensions. Based on UNICEF monitoring reports, there have been **22 attacks allegedly perpetrated by Kamuina Nsapu militia groups in the last month, representing a sharp increase of up to 50 attacks since the beginning of the conflict in August 2016**. OCHA estimated that these incidents have **claimed the lives of over 400 people** mostly policemen, militiamen, soldiers and civilians. In one attack, on 24 March, 2017 the militia ambushed a convoy of police reinforcements on the main road between Tshikapa and Kananga, and killed 39 policemen according to official sources. More than one million displaced population are reported<sup>1</sup>.

Kasai, Kasai Central and Lomami provinces are currently the most affected areas.

Other security-related highlights during the reporting period include:

- **The division and fragmentation of the Kamuina Nsapu movement:** It has now spread over an area of more than 100 000 km<sup>2</sup> (3 times size of Belgium) and appears to be made up of several dozens of relatively autonomous groups with varying agendas and no clear overarching authority. It is not clear whether many of these groups have links to the original Kamuina Nsapu group at all.
- **The re-emerging of pre-existing local interethnic tensions with the arrival of the militia** in several areas: In a pattern repeated several times in the recent weeks, new converts to the Kamuina Nsapu movement came mostly from one of two local sub-ethnic groups, and they have started to use their new affiliation to persecute other group(s), with whom in the past, there were tensions. Mweka and Luebo territories of Kasai, as well as Kamiji and Luilu territories of Lomami appear to be the most affected by this new dynamic at the moment.
- **The death of two international UN staff, alongside their interpreter and three motorcycle drivers.** The two members of the Group of Experts on the DRC and their colleagues went missing in Kasai Central on 13 March,

<sup>1</sup> OCHA, Urgence complexe dans la région des Kasais, R.D. Congo Rapport de situation No. 2 (en date du 12 avril 2017)

2017 as they were reportedly investigating suspected human rights abuses in the region, and their bodies were found two weeks later. Investigations are on-going but the perpetrators remain unknown.

- **The extension of the crisis beyond the Kasais:** on 28 March, 2017 suspected Kamuina Nsapu militia entered Lualaba province of the former Katanga purportedly to recruit new followers, and 18 were killed in the ensuing reaction by the Congolese army; on 7 April, 2017, the militia attacked a town in the same area.

On the political front, a **high-level governmental delegation** led by the Interior Minister (also Vice Prime Minister) visited Kananga in March, 2017 to start negotiations with the Kamuina Nsapu reigning family as well as related militia groups. Despite optimistic declarations by government officials and symbolic gestures on both sides, **this initiative has largely failed** to translate into any significant improvement in terms of security, including in Kananga itself.

## Humanitarian needs

Humanitarian needs have **continued to increase sharply**, but are only partly known, as most of the affected area remains inaccessible for security and logistics reasons.

New developments during this reporting period include:

- **Estimated new 800,000 new IDPs:** As people fled massively from the re-emerging ethnic tensions in Mweka and Luebo (Kasai), Kamiji and Luilu (Lomami), attacks around Luebo (Kasai) and Mwene Ditu (Lomami), as well as in Kananga<sup>2</sup>;
- **Up to 30,000 IDPs** were reported in a remote area of Lualaba province of former Katanga. We are unable to confirm the information at present as this estimate could include both people fleeing the Kasais and Lualaba residents fleeing the extension of armed activity to their province
- **Over 100 children** associated with the militia are detained in Kasai and Kasai Central prisons.

Partial information about new IDPs indicate that needs are most acute in the child protection, food, health, and NFI/shelter sectors.

Key OCHA statistics about this crisis were drastically revised twice during the reporting period, pointing both to rapidly evolving nature of the conflict, and the lack of reliable information. In an [update released on 12 April, 2017 and](#) based on recent missions to the area (Unlike UNICEF, OCHA does not have a permanent presence in the Kasais), **OCHA estimates that 1,036,154 people have been displaced since August 2016**, and that the crisis affects more than 2.4 million people. OCHA insists however that its **data is only partly reliable**, as it mostly relies on unverifiable alerts by local sources.

## UNICEF program response

**UNICEF continues to be the main responder, on site, to the humanitarian needs linked to the crisis in the Kasais.** Thanks to the CERF allocation of March, UNICEF now has eight (8) ongoing projects with seven (7) partners targeting 173,000 people across three provinces (Kasai, Kasai Central and Kasai Oriental) to respond across seven sectors: health, nutrition, protection, education, WASH and NFI, using as well multipurpose cash modality for the affected population.

**37,737 people, including an estimated 23,079 children had been reached as of 31 March, 2017 with a focus on multi-sector assistance packages for children and their families.** So far UNICEF and its partners have treated 417 children under 5 years old for severe acute malnutrition, built two schools (12 classrooms) and initiated the construction of four additional schools (24 classrooms); supported the free provision of medical care to 14,170 returnees and displaced people through the support to 13 health centers in Kasai Central and Kasai Oriental, including the Kamuina Nsapu health center, which had been completely looted by armed groups and was reopened by UNICEF partner - Caritas Kananga on 12 March, 2017. UNICEF and its partners, Caritas Kananga and Catholic Relief Services (CRS), also supported 2,720 returnee households in the Kamuina Nsapu area of Kasai Central with \$107 unconditional cash assistance per person, and about

<sup>2</sup> OCHA / the situation in the Kasai is volatile and population movements are complex: displacement can be preventive, multiple and temporary. The figures in this sitrep are based on humanitarian alerts and/or assessments. Some information has been provided by local actors and could not be verified due to lack of access for security reasons.

8,000 more in neighboring Kasai Oriental are in the pipeline with CERF funding. In addition, 349 households with burned houses received NFI kits and tarpaulins through Caritas Kananga intervention.

UNICEF protection staff and their partners have also been steadily involved since the beginning of the crisis in detecting cases of children detained for their suspected association with the militia, obtaining their release and reunifying them. Thus far, UNICEF has obtained the release of 279 children detained in Kananga Central Prison, who were initially enrolled in the militias. In addition, on 14 April, fifty-four (54) individuals were separated from the militia, including 19 minors (14 boys and 5 girls, aged 14 to 17), who were part of the group that previously surrendered, and 35 minors (33 boys and 2 girls, aged 14 to 17) who were released from the Kananga central prison. The Child protection section has just secured new funding to expand UNICEF programming on this crisis. Also, 3,722 children are currently enrolled in recreational activities in Kamuina Nsapu area.

In addition to the new cash intervention already mentioned, **four (4) other projects funded by CERF in the protection, education, WASH and nutrition are currently in the start-up phase.** In Kasai Oriental, they will target the heavily affected territories of Kabeya Kamwanga and neighboring Miabi, where over 100,000 recent returnees and several thousand still displaced are in urgent need of assistance after months spent in the bush. They will also target a similar but smaller caseload in Kasai.

At the same time, UNICEF is working on **adapting ongoing regular programme activities to the new context** in the affected Kasai areas, based on recently developed internal risk informed programming guidelines.

**Major gaps remain, mostly in terms of emergency multi-sector assistance to the new IDPs,** who remain almost totally without assistance. The Emergency and Transition section is currently working on a RRMP concept note in coordination with major donors to fill this gap.

## Funding Requirements

Available funds for UNICEF humanitarian response in the Kasais currently adds up to about 3.77m USD, and include CERF and DFID allocations.

In light of the rapidly worsening humanitarian situation and mounting donor interest for this crisis, UNICEF is currently in the process of revising its response plan, and incorporating RRM-type programming into it. The new plan is likely to highlight a funding gap higher than the current 11m USD response plan.

Next SitRep: 30/04/2017

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**UNICEF DRC Country Website:** <http://www.unicef.org/drcongo>

**UNICEF DRC Humanitarian Action for Children 2016:** [www.unicef.org/appeals/drc](http://www.unicef.org/appeals/drc)

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