



# Democratic Republic of the Congo

## Humanitarian Situation Report on the Kasai Crisis



30 August, 2017

### SITUATION IN NUMBERS

## Highlights

- **On August 1, 2017**, the UNICEF Executive Director activated the Level 3 Corporate Emergency Response for the Kasai region of the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) for a period of 6 months.
- **On August 1, 2017** the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights released a report\* confirming that serious human rights violations and abuses were perpetrated in the Kasais by different parties to the conflict against 282 victims, including 113 women and 68 children, in different villages of Kamonia Territory, Kasai Province.
- **12 August, 2017**: The occasion of the one-year anniversary of the death of the leader of Kamuina Nsapu (KN), was used by the Commander of the Congolese Armed Forces (FARDC) to declare that 90 percent of the Grand Kasai region was under the FARDC control, although the security update (below) indicates the situation remain volatile.

\* <http://reliefweb.int/sites/reliefweb.int/files/resources/OHCHRMissionreportonaccountsofKasairefugees.pdf>

**2,440,000** people are in need of humanitarian assistance (OCHA April 2017)

**1,185,600** children are in need of humanitarian assistance (OCHA April 2017)

**404 schools** have been damaged (Education working group Kasai, August 2017)

**218** Health Centers have been attacked / destroyed since the beginning of the crisis in all Kasai Provinces (Department of Health, Kasai region, July 2017)

**UNICEF Appeal 2017**  
**US\$ 43.5 million**

## UNICEF'S Response with Partners

	UNICEF with its implementing partners	
	UNICEF Target	Total Results*
<b>Nutrition</b> : Children under 5 admitted into therapeutic feeding programme	53,339	5,090
<b>Health</b> : Children aged 6 months to 15 years immunized against measles	1,474,180	114,054
<b>WASH</b> : conflict-affected people who gain access to water, hygiene and sanitation basic services	540,912	158,570
<b>Child Protection</b> : # of separated and unaccompanied children identified and reunited with their families	9,000	304
<b>Education</b> : # of girls & boys (5-11 years) affected by conflict given access to quality education and psychosocial activities	149,960	5,050
<b>NFI/SHELTER</b> : # of people accessing essential household items, and shelter materials	250,500	2,005
<b>Cash Programme</b> : # of people assisted with an unconditional cash grant	166,450	55,945



Funding Status, 2017

\*Total results for *Nutrition, Health, WASH, CP, Shelter, Education and shelter* are cumulative

## Situation Overview & Humanitarian Needs

The conflict in the Kasai, which started in August 2016, following the death of the traditional chief, *Kamuina Nsapu*, during an attack between his militia and the Congolese security forces has grown exponentially. In the aftermath of the attack, the conflict which started in Dibaya territory of the Kasai Central Province now affect five provinces in the Kasai Region namely – Kasai, Kasai Central, Kasai Oriental, Lomami and Sankuru Provinces. OCHA has reported that **2.44 million people are affected**.

Education and medical care have practically become non-existent in large areas of the Kasai region and living conditions have deteriorated dramatically. On 1 of August, 2017, UNICEF Executive Director declared the Kasai Crisis as a Level 3 Corporate Emergency to scale up the response through a comprehensive organization plan that includes humanitarian leadership, coordination, programmatic scale up, mobilization of additional resources and extended partnerships with the objective of saving lives, protection of children and provide transitional opportunities to return to peace.

Estimated Population in Need of Humanitarian Assistance (Estimates calculated based on initial figures from OCHA, April 2017)			
Start of humanitarian response: January 2017			
	Total	Male	Female
Total Population in Need	2.4 million	1,152,000	1,248,000
Children (Under 18)	1,185,600	569,088	616,512
Children Under Five	453,600	217,728	235,872
Children 6 to 23 months	48,000	23,040	24,960
Pregnant and lactating women	96,000		96,000
Children Under Five with Severe Acute Malnutrition (SAM)	350,462	168,222	182,240
Internally Displaced Persons	1,400,000	672,000	728,000

## Humanitarian Leadership and Coordination

UNICEF is playing a key leadership role through the coordination of the Nutrition, WASH, Child Protection, Education and NFI/Shelter clusters. UNICEF is also co-leading the gender-based violence. Given the long presence of UNICEF in Mbuyi Mayi and Kananga (capital of Kasai Oriental and Kasai Central respectively) working in development setting, UNICEF has been able to keep a fluent engagement with local government, civil society and other local actors. UNICEF is extending its presence by opening an office in Tshikapa, in Kasai province, where humanitarian needs are still acute.

- **Education Cluster:** An assessment conducted among Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) from the Kasai region in the adjacent provinces of Kwilu and Kwango identified 6,000 primary school-age children and 1,800 children of secondary school age; there are concerns for the next school year and strong need of psychosocial support.
- **Child Protection:** The mission of the Global Child Protection Area of Responsibility was completed on August 31, 2017 to support local capacity building activities on child protection in Emergencies (CPiE) for members of the child protection working in Kananga (Kasai Central province) and Mbuji-Mayi (Kasai Oriental province). As part of this mission, a call with partners and donors was held on Wednesday 30 August, 2017 to raise awareness about the complexity of the crisis and to highlight the child protection needs.
- **Integrated Protection-Mine Action-Education approach:** In light of the hundreds of schools attacked by the parties to the conflict in the Kasai region and in preparation of the start of the new school year, the Child Protection Working Group has requested the Mine Action Working Group (MAWG) to undertake a risk-assessment and determine the possible decontamination of schools. In addition, UNMAS and the governmental authority through the National Mine Action Authority (CCLAM) is conducting awareness-raising and training activities for protection and education actors on the risks associated with mines, explosive remnants of war (ERW), light weapons and small arms ammunition (SAA) in the Kasai.
- The **Gender-Based Violence (GBV)** sub-cluster has been activated in Kananga, led by UNFPA.
- **WASH:** The Joint mission (WCARO & Global Wash Cluster) is confirmed and will start beginning of September, 2017

Following the declaration of L3 corporate emergency in the Kasai, UNICEF has reinforced her two provincial offices in the Kananga (Kasai Central province) and Mbuji Mayi (Kasai Oriental Province) with additional surge capacities led by a Senior Emergency Coordinator and an additional field presence in Tshikapa (Kasai Province).

## Humanitarian Strategy

- **Rapid Response:** UNICEF has established a Rapid Response to Movements of Population (RRMP) Programme in the Kasai to respond to new, acute displacement, focusing on humanitarian needs in non-food items (NFIs), water and sanitation (WASH) as well as primary health and nutrition. Currently, two partnership agreements have been signed to accelerate implementation:
  - a. Solidarités/Caritas Belgium to intervene in Kasai Oriental, Lomami and Sankuru provinces, and
  - b. Action Contre la Faim (ACF) to cover Kasai and Kasai Central provinces.
- **Child Survival stream (Health, Nutrition and WASH):** Between 15 July and 12 August, 2017, child health days (CHD) were utilized to support Vitamin A supplementation and deworming of 807,982 children aged 6 to 59 months in Kasai Oriental and Sankuru provinces.
- **Education / Protection stream:** Programme strategy for Education as a protection was finalized.

## Summary Analysis of Programme Response

### Nutrition

The movement of the population fleeing from violence and the acute situation of food insecurity could deteriorate the nutritional conditions of vulnerable populations, especially women and children. According to the latest nutrition surveillance data (July, 2017), 20 health zones in the 5 provinces in the Kasai region have indicators tagged as high proportion of children with a MUAC < 125mm, or with the presence of edemas and MUAC in women. Globally the number of nutrition alerts declared is increasing. For the five provinces an estimated 350,462 children are at risk of severe acute malnutrition and UNICEF is therefore scaling up its response together with the Ministry of Health (MOH) and community health workers to provide nutritional supplements to treatment Units.

As of the end of August, 2017, UNICEF and partners have treated 5,090 children affected by the conflict and who have severe acute malnutrition (SAM) in the Greater Kasai. In August 2017 alone, in Kasai and Kasai Central, 11,228 children aged 6-59 months were screened, among whom 1,693 were diagnosed with SAM and treated. 5,762 mothers and foster caregivers were sensitized on infant and child nutrition. The new, upcoming UNICEF Rapid Response Mechanism, for which the partnership agreements were signed mid-August, will also have a significant nutrition component in Kasai and Kasai Central, targeting 2,900 SAM-affected children over 6 months.

### Health and HIV & AIDS

The destruction of 218 Health Centers (DPD, Kasai Region) since the beginning of the crisis in the Kasai Region has caused the weakening of the health system, reduce access to basic health services for 40,000 individuals and increase the risk of communicable diseases like measles. UNICEF response has been focused on reinforcing the capacity of health system, including vaccination campaigns, provision of essential drugs and equipment.

Preparations are ongoing for a large scale measles vaccination campaign targeting 1,402,180 children aged 6-59 months in 25 health zones in Kasai, Kasai Central, Lomami and Sankuru provinces, among the most affected by the conflict and catching up the unimmunized children's in 19 other health zones with low immunization coverage. The campaign will be launched in September, 2017.

In August, 2017, an ongoing, regular health project has been reoriented to provide free health care to 4,125 children and 1,455 pregnant women in the conflict-affected neighborhoods and surrounding of Kananga, the capital of Kasai Central province. Likewise the distribution of over 1.3 million mosquito nets has been revised to focus on 13 conflict-affected health zones in Kasai Central province. 160 health officials have already been trained on community monitoring ahead of the mosquito net distribution.

## **WASH**

As of the end of August, 2017 UNICEF partners have provided 158,570 beneficiaries in the Greater Kasai with potable water and improved sanitation, as well as hygiene promotion. In addition, 3,652 severely malnourished children and their family members have benefitted from the same project's WASH in Nutrition (WIN) component, which provides for improved sanitation at the health centers where the children are treated, as well as WASH kits.

In August, 2017 UNICEF signed new project agreements with two national NGOs to cover the emergency WASH needs for an additional 33,000 returnees in the Kasai Central province.

## **Education**

Preparations for the yearly Back to School campaign, to be launched in early September, 2017 are ongoing. It will be particularly significant this year in the Kasais, where UNICEF estimates that 150,000 children have lost access to school as a result of violence, damage to infrastructure and displacement. The Education working Group in Kasai (August, 2017) estimated that 404 schools have been destroyed or damaged since the onset of the crisis in the Kasai region. The campaign will target a total of 55,951 first year primary school pupils and 2,500 teachers. In mid-August, 2017, a total of 200 local-level education ministry officials were sensitized about the risk of unexploded ordnance (UXO) in and around schools and how to handle it. A working group on Education in Emergency (EiE) has also been set up in Kikwit (in the adjacent province of Kwilu) under the lead of the Ministry of education to coordinate the EiE response in favour of IDPs from Kasai living in Kwilu province.

## **Child Protection**

As of the end of August, 2017 a total of 1,878 children (of which 658 girls) has been identified and released from the militia, amongst whom 331 received support, from UNICEF partners, that include referral to health facilities, shelter, psychosocial support and restoration of family links. 198 of these children have been reunified with their families. In addition, UNICEF partners advocated successfully for the release of 401 children detained in Kananga Central prison and Tshikapa prison. Furthermore, UNICEF advocated successfully for the release of 24 children who were allegedly associated with the militia in Kolwezi prison (Lualaba province), and the children are now receiving assistance. Another 700 separated and non-accompanied children (including 91 girls) have been identified and reunited with their families. 34,232 displaced children, including 14,609 girls, have received psychosocial support, educational, outreach and non-formal education activities in child-friendly spaces in Kasai, Kasai Central and Kasai Oriental operated by UNICEF's partners. 20 children have been identified as survivors of sexual violence and are receiving comprehensive care that include medical assistance (including PEP kit within the first 72 hours), legal assistance, psycho-social support, and sometimes financial support/short vocational training.

In mid-August, 2017 a 4-day training on Child Protection minimum standards and Child protection in emergencies was conducted for 28 members of the Child Protection Working Group (CPWG) in Kasai Central province. A one day training session about the risk of mines and UXOs was also conducted by UNMAS for 33 local NGOs from Education Cluster and Child Protection working group.

## **NFI / Shelter**

The RRMP Kasais, through the two new partnerships signed with Action Contre le Faim (ACF) and Solidarités International will provide NFIs to an estimated 20,000 families targeted (100,000 people). The first shipment of in-kind NFI from USAID/OFDA arrived in Kinshasa on 29 August 2017 and will be shipped onward to Tshikapa and Kananga. The first interventions are expected to start in September, 2017.

## **Cash-based programming**

UNICEF's Alternative Responses to Communities in Crisis (ARCC) program started a new wave of unconditional cash transfer (UCT) interventions in Kasai Central on 24 August, 2017. UNICEF's Partner - Catholic Relief Services (CRS) in association with Caritas Kananga are planning to assist over 5,000 newly returned households with cash support (Congolese Francs equivalent of 101 USD each) over the next few weeks.

## Communications for Development (C4D), Community Engagement & Accountability

A child protection campaign called "Je suis un Enfant" or "I am a child" was launched on 6 August, 2017 in Kananga (Kasai Central province). The campaign supports children to highlight their rights to senior level political and administrative authorities in the province, as well as a community audience of more than 3,000 people. Key messages related to health and non-health Essential Family Practices were updated for use by 30 radio channels and 1,200 community relays, partnering with UNICEF, in order to reach 5,000,000 people.

Advocacy sessions organized with technical assistance of UNICEF and OCHA reached more than 50 decision-makers and opinion leaders to enlist their support in the identification and access to the most vulnerable population.

## Supply and Logistics

UNICEF developed an Emergency Supply & Logistics Strategy and prepared a US\$4.84 million supply plan. On 1<sup>st</sup> August 2017, UNICEF received NFI, WASH, Health and Education items from UNICEF Accra Regional hub for a total value of US\$467,000 of which US\$ 133,000 were donated to the Country Office. The dispatch plans for the supplies, together with supplies procured locally by the CO, are being processed in alignment with the approved agreement with implementing partners.

The first shipment (phase I) of the Gift -In Kind (GIK) Contribution received from USAID /OFDA (85% NFI and 15% WASH) arrived in Kinshasa on August 29, 2017 and is undergoing customs clearance. Two logisticians from OFDA in Washington arrived in Kinshasa on August 26, 2017 to accompany the shipment and ensure timely dispatching of the supplies to the Kasai region through their internationally contracted carrier. UNICEF is ensuring proper coordination with Implementing Partners and the Logistics Cluster on sites.

## Media and External Communication

Following external communication work on the impact of the Kasai crisis on the protection, health, nutrition and education of children between April and June 2017, the CO produced a Snapshot Report - Children, victims of the crisis in Kasai - about the impact of the crisis on children and UNICEF's response. The Report was widely distributed among media and donors in and outside the DRC. The Report that was launched through a press release generated media attention inside and outside of the country. The Report was supported by publications of stories and pictures on various digital media platforms (Connect, WeShare, Voice of Youth) and by social media posts. A content gathering mission organized by the Co with the Regional Office to the Kasai region is currently on-going with a focus on new stories, videos and pictures that will help to develop further communication activities on the Kasai-crisis and to support on advocacy and resource mobilisation.

## Security

Despite a decrease in the number of security incidents linked to the armed conflict, the situation in the Kasai region remains tense. The Congolese Security Force (FARDC) is still trying to establish control in areas influenced by militia groups the Kasai provinces, but are faced with the difficulties, and the possible resurgence of the recruitment of elements originally freed from the militia. Rivalry between different fractions of the militia are becoming more evident, notably in Kasai Central Province, and complicated by new ethnic dimension to the militia alliance.

## Funding

Based on funding received (26%) and firm pledges (14%), the Country Office is at 40% funding level of the UNICEF's appeal for the Kasais.

	Funding Requirement	Funds received in 2017	Carry-forward amount	Total funding available	Funding Gap	Funded
Kasai crisis only	\$ 43,496,507	\$ 8,871,001	\$ 2,559,000	\$ 11,430,001	\$ 32,066,505	26%

Next SitRep: 01/10/2017

**UNICEF DRC on Twitter:** [https://twitter.com/UNICEF\\_DRC](https://twitter.com/UNICEF_DRC)

**UNICEF DRC on Facebook:** [www.facebook.com/UNICEFDRC](http://www.facebook.com/UNICEFDRC)

**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)

**UNICEF Kasai Response – Democratic Republic of Congo Humanitarian Action for Children Appeal:**  
[https://www.unicef.org/appeals/files/UNICEF\\_Kasai\\_crisis\\_Factsheet\\_June\\_2017.pdf](https://www.unicef.org/appeals/files/UNICEF_Kasai_crisis_Factsheet_June_2017.pdf)

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# SUMMARY OF PROGRAMME RESULTS

	UNICEF and IPs		Cluster Response	
	2017 Target	Total Results*	2017 Target	Total Results
<b>WATER, SANITATION &amp; HYGIENE</b>				
# of natural disaster and conflict-affected people with access to water, hygiene and sanitation basic services	540,912	158,570		
# of severely malnourished children and host family receiving WASH assistance from the nutrition centres, through household level	96,768	3,652		
<b>EDUCATION</b>				
# of girls & boys (5-11 years) affected by conflict or natural disasters given access to quality education and psychosocial activities	149,960	5,050		
# of school aged boys and girls (5 to 11 years ) affected by crisis receiving learning materials	149,960	5,050		
# of teachers trained on learner-centered methodologies, peace education, conflict/disaster risk reduction (C/DRR), and Psychosocial support	2,727	66		
<b>HEALTH</b>				
# of children (6 months-14 years) in humanitarian situations vaccinated against measles	1,402,180	114,054		
# of people affected by conflict and disease outbreaks having received access to primary health care	60,000	37,849		
<b>NUTRITION</b>				
# of children 6-59 months with Severe Acute Malnutrition (SAM) admitted for therapeutic care	53,339 <sup>1</sup>	5,090		
Recovery Rate	>75%	94%		
Death rate	<10%	1%		
Default rate	<15%	5%		
<b>CHILD PROTECTION</b>				
# of separated and unaccompanied children identified and reunited with their families	9,000	304		
# of displaced, refugee and returnee children provided with safe access to community spaces for socialization, play and learning	25,000	11,466		
# of identified survivors of sexual violence provided with a comprehensive response	3,000	20		
<b>NFI/SHELTER</b>				
# of people accessing essential household items, and shelter materials	250,500	2,005	382,875	11,232
<b>MULTIPURPOSE CASH BASED ASSISTANCE</b>				
# of people assisted with an unconditional cash grant	166,450	55,945		

\*Total results for *all indicators* are cumulative

<sup>1</sup> Note: the nutrition target is from July to December 2017