



15 April to 31 May 2017

Democratic Republic of the Congo

Humanitarian Update #3

Crisis in the Kasai region

SITUATION IN NUMBER

Highlights

- The violence in the Kasai has resulted in **additional 34,700 IDPs in the past month**, 60% of whom are children (OCHA, 31 May 2017);
- More than **700,000 children are in dire needs of humanitarian assistance**;
- 129,299 affected people, including 72,900 children have been reached by UNICEF and partners with child protection, multipurpose cash, education, NFI, health, nutrition, WASH assistance as of 31 May, 2017;
- UNICEF has designed a Rapid Response Mechanism to Population Movement (**RRMP**) to be introduced in the Greater Kasai Region in July, 2017 to accelerate the humanitarian response in the region;
- Additional 4 UNICEF staffs in Emergency and Child Protection have been deployed to the region **to reinforce existing capacity in the two UNICEF Provincial Offices** in Kananga (Kasai Central) and Mbuji Mayi (Kasai Oriental);
- UNICEF has committed **USD 4.1 million (UKAid, CERF, French Natcom, German Natcom, Canadian Government, Swedish Government; UNICEF)** to the response so far and has secured a funding commitment of **GBP 4.63** from UKAid and in advance negotiation with OFDA/USAID for both a cash grant and in-kind contribution to support the response in the Greater Kasai Region.

1.3 million internally displaced people, of which **700,000** are children (OCHA, 31 May 2017)

141,404 returnees (OCHA, 31 May 2017)

23,517 refugees from the Greater Kasai Region are in Angola (UNHCR, 22 May 2017)

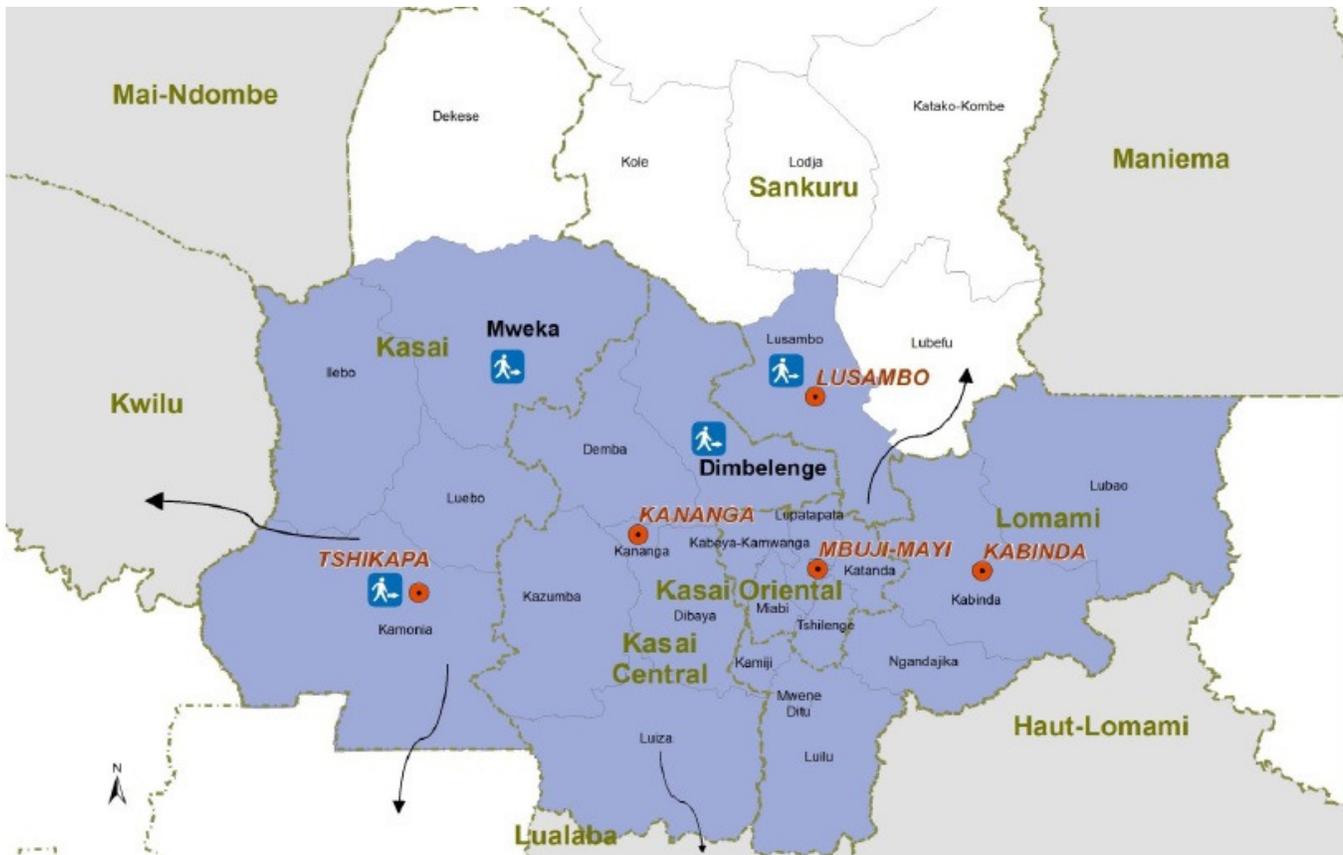
129,299 beneficiaries have received assistance from UNICEF (31 May 2017)

408 children detained for their enrolment in militias were released from prison with UNICEF assistance

USD 40.2 million is the budget of UNICEF's Response Plan (to be mobilized)

USD 4.1 million is the available budget currently available to support the response (already mobilized)

Situation Overview



The crisis in the Kasais has become the country's most acute crisis in terms of casualties, population movements and volume of new humanitarian needs. According to the latest OCHA figures, published on 31 May, about **1.3 million people have fled their homes** since the beginning of the conflict, and 140,404 have returned, but OCHA warns that its figures may not be entirely reliable given the difficulty to verify information in the current context. According to UNHCR, 23,517 DRC refugees have arrived in Angola from the Kasais.

Humanitarian needs

According to the latest OCHA reports, about **34,700 new IDPs were recorded in May, 2017** alone.

Despite the progressive scale up of humanitarian response in most sectors, new humanitarian needs, in particular child protection and multi-sector displacement-related needs, remain unmet.

In addition, large scale disruptions to agriculture and trade is resulting in a worsening food security situation and soaring food prices. A recent survey by the food security cluster showed that 42% of respondents had an inadequate food consumption.

Consequently, the nutrition situation of children is of particular concern. Eight health zones in the region have been put on nutritional alert. According to UNICEF², **nearly 400,000 children are at risk of severe acute malnutrition** in the Greater Kasai Region (Kasai, Kasai Central, Kasai Oriental, Lomami, Sankuru) due to the violence.

¹ Source: OCHA

² Source UNICEF & SNSAP bulletin 27 de surveillance nutritionnelle, sécurité alimentaire et alerte précoce, January to March 2017

Across the five provinces of the Greater Kasai Region, critical **health infrastructures are no longer operational due** to the conflict. In Kasai Central Province, for example, more than one-third of health centers have been forced to close following looting, security concerns for health workers or lack of medical supplies, depriving children of vital services and medicine. In Lomami Province, the proportion of affected health centers has recently risen to 10.4% and in Kasai Oriental Province to 8.5%.

Since the start of the violence in August 2016, 639 primary and secondary schools have been damaged by attacks and many unaffected schools are now being used as emergency accommodation for families displaced by the violence. School facilities have also been occupied by armed groups. The lingering insecurity has created a culture of fear, leaving children and teachers unwilling or unable to return to the classroom. **UNICEF estimates that more than one in ten children of primary school age in the region have had their schooling interrupted as a result of the violence.** Many schools in the region have not been operating for more than 100 days this school year.

UNICEF program response

UNICEF continues to be one of the main responder, on the ground, to the humanitarian crisis in the Kasais and is scaling up response following the adaptation of the UNICEF regular programme activities (risk informed programming) to the new context in the Grand Kasai and the mobilization of new humanitarian resources.

Using a combination of the CERF allocation and the funding from the German and French National Committees for UNICEF (NatCom), UNICEF, through our local partners, support seven (7) ongoing projects targeting 183,721 people across three provinces of Kasai, Kasai Central and Kasai Oriental. The projects respond across the six sectors of health, nutrition, protection, education, WASH and NFI, using as well multipurpose cash modality for the affected population.

From December 2016 to May 2017, **over 129,299 children and their families have been reached, with a focus on multi-sector assistance packages focused on 6 sectors** (cash, health, nutrition, child protection, education and WaSH) and involves **7 partners** (Action Against Hunger; *Bureau Catholique pour l'Enfance (BCNE)*; *Amis des Personnes en Détresse (APEDE)*; Caritas Kananga; **Division Provinciale de l'Enseignement Primaire, Secondaire et Professionnel**; **Catholic Relief Service**; **Comité d'Appui à l'Auto-Promotion**).

The key highlights of the response to date include:

- 11,192 new returnee households (55,960 persons out of which 29,100 children) received between 100 USD and 105 USD in unconditional cash to help meet their basic needs and rebuild their livelihoods;
- 37,849 persons, including 167 wounded children, benefited from free medical treatment ;
- 474 children enrolled in the militias and / or detained in prison for being associated with the militias have been released; 284 of these children are receiving assistance (shelter, clothing, medical care and psychosocial support services, food), in two transit centres, while 124 children have been reunited with their families/communities;
- 251 Unaccompanied Minors and Separated Children (UMSC) identified are being assisted in foster families and currently awaiting family reunification (if possible);
- 1,865 children and adults received psychosocial support in the Province of Kasai Central;
- 1,124 children with severe acute malnutrition (SAM) received free nutrition treatment;
- 4,545 children were reintegrated into primary school, and this include children who are benefitting from remedial classes;
- 21 classrooms were rebuilt in Dibaya territory of Kasai Central Provinces, to sustain the education of children;
- In Kasai Oriental, 9,382 persons received a WASH assistance (WASH kits (soap and buckets) & hygiene sensitization).

To further accelerate humanitarian response **and because humanitarian response gaps in the Greater Kasai are still massive**, in particular in terms of **child protection and multi-sector humanitarian assistance to the new IDPs**, UNICEF has elaborated a proposals for a **Rapid Response Mechanism to Movement of Population in Kasai (RRMP-Kasai)**, to respond to the needs of the displaced population. The RRMP Kasai will respond to acute displacement, and will be comprised of interventions related to new needs in non-food items (NFIs), water, hygiene and sanitation (WaSH) as well as primary healthcare and nutrition services. The key implementing partners identified to support RRMP-Kasai are Action Against Hunger, Solidarités International and Caritas International Belgium, and the partners would operate out of three locations Kananga (Kasai Central Province), Tshikapa (Kasai Province) and Mbuji-Mayi (Kasai Oriental Province).RRMP Kasai is also accompanied by an **emergency child protection response** focused on the identification, family tracing and unification of separated children with their families, psychosocial care, legal assistance and socio-economic integration for children and families affected by the crisis.

UNICEF’s response in the Kasai is being implemented in coordination with efforts of other actors like Save the Children, Catholic relief Service, World Food programme, Handicap International. In addition, the DRC Humanitarian funds has allocated US\$5 million to the Kasai response to enhance monitor protection issues and increase logistics capacities in the three hub of Tshikapa (Kasai), Kananga (Kasai Central) and Mbuji Mayi (Kasai Oriental). Humanitarian access, in the field, remains very limited and unpredictable.

Human Resource Capacity

Additional 4 UNICEF staffs in Emergency and Child Protection have been deployed to the region **to reinforce the existing capacity in the two UNICEF Provincial Offices** in Kananga (Kasai Central) and Mbuyi Mayi (Kasai Oriental). This include an International Emergency Coordinator for the Kasai deployed in Kananga, funded by Canadian Government, and an Emergency Specialist funded by the Swedish Government.

Additional human resource capacity to the Kasai is also mobilized through a deployment / mission plan for other UNICEF staff across the DRC.

Funding Requirements

UNICEF response plan to the crisis in the Kasai is estimated at **USD 40.2 million**. Available funds for UNICEF humanitarian response in the Kasais currently add up to about USD 4.1 million (about 10% of the needed amount).The major donors to the current response are **CERF, UKAid, French Natcom, German Natcom, Canadian Government and Swedish Government**

UNICEF has received funding commitment of **GBP 4.63 secured from UKAid** for the RRMP-Kasai. In addition, negotiation are at advanced stage with OFDA/USAID for both a cash grant and Gift in-kind (GIK) contribution to support the response in the Greater Kasai within the framework of the RRMP-Kasai.

External Communication

Following a statement on 17 February, 2017 on the use of children by militias (<http://ponabana.com/children-militias-drc/?lang=en>), UNICEF produced a general press release on 21 April, 2017 on the impact of the Kasai crisis on children, tackling issues of survival, education and child protection, and highlighting UNICEF’s initial response. The release (<http://ponabana.com/the-crisis-in-greater-kasai/?lang=en>) led to a briefing of the humanitarian press core in Geneva

and was picked up by several international and national media, including UN Radio, Voice of America, Huffington Post, UN Radio Okapi and BBC.

Further communication activities focused on the impact of the crisis on nutrition was issued on 23 May, 2017 (<http://ponabana.com/risk-of-severe-acute-malnutrition-in-the-greater-kasai/?lang=en>) and a communication focusing on education (<http://ponabana.com/education-in-the-greater-kasai/?lang=en>) was issued on 9 June, 2017.

Communication activities included digital communication via twitter and Facebook.

UNICEF DRC on Twitter: https://twitter.com/UNICEF_DRC

UNICEF DRC on Facebook: www.facebook.com/UNICEFDRC

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

UNICEF DRC Humanitarian Action for Children 2017: www.unicef.org/appeals/drc

UNICEF DRC blog: <http://www.ponabana.com>

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