

Complex Emergency in the Kasai region, DR Congo

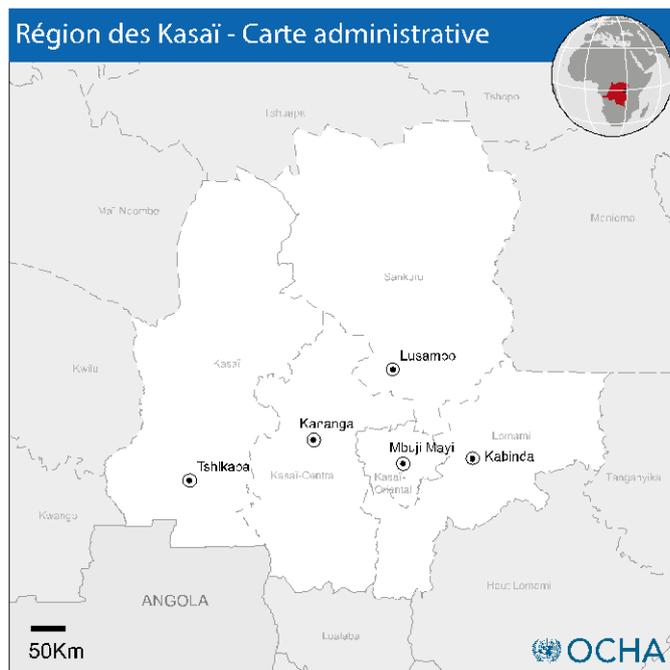
Situation Report No. 3 (20 April 2017)



This report was produced by OCHA DR Congo in collaboration with partners in Kasai, Central Kasai and Eastern Kasai. It covers the period from 13 April (following the previous SitRep) to 19 April 2017. The next report will be published by 25 April 2017.

Highlights

- Over 62,000 new internally displaced persons (IDPs) have been reported in the Kasai region for the past week, in the wake of clashes between the militia and the FARDC or as a consequence of intercommunity tensions. Among them, approximately 32,000 are in Central Kasai Province and 29,000 in Kasai Province.
- The impact of the crisis extends beyond the Kasai region: over 11,000 Congolese have fled to Angola since 13 April, and 28,000 people have left Kasai province for Lualaba province.
- Despite access constraints, assistance is being rolled through 32 emergency projects, notably in the town of Tshikapa (Kasai), Kananga town and the territory of Dibaya (Central Kasai) and the territories of Mweka (Kasai), Kabeya Kamwanga, Miabi and Lupatapata (Kasai Oriental).
- Considering the magnitude of humanitarian needs, a Flash Appeal is being finalized to mobilize more funding for assistance. The current capacities of humanitarian and development actors have been outstripped, as well as all the projections of the DRC 2017-2019 Humanitarian Response Plan.



Source: OCHA DRC
The boundaries and names shown and the designations used on this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by the United Nations.

- If no durable solution is found for the crisis, the situation could deteriorate with increased displacement and the need for multisectoral assistance and protection. Despite the agreement reached between the Congolese authorities and the family of the late Kamuina Nsapu, concerns remain about the intercommunity tensions that the conflict has aroused, the social and political demands of the population, and the risk of continuing violence by the militia for economic reasons.

1,09 M Internally displaced persons	97 084 People who have Returnees in Kasai Oriental	130 000 Host communities' members/ families	352 000 Persons covered by the current emergency assistance ¹	11 051 Congolese who have fled to Angola ²	8 414 Congolese expelled from Angola ³
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¹ These persons receive emergency assistance in one or more sectors for at least the next two months. The number of people covered by the response is conservatively estimated to avoid double counting, using the methodology used in the 2017-2019 Humanitarian Response Plan.

² Source: UNHCR

³ Source: AJID NGO monitoring reports of January, February and March 2017

For more information, see "context of the crisis" at the end of this report

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The mission of the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (UNOCHA) is to mobilize and coordinate effective humanitarian action in accordance with humanitarian principles in partnership with local and national actors.

Coordination saves lives

Overview of the situation

The humanitarian impact of the violence in the Kasai region remains extremely worrying, with more than 62,000 new displaced people reported over the past week, raising to 1,09 million the total number of displaced people. These displacements occur on a daily basis, depending on the geographical evolution of the conflict. The main "hotspots" of the conflict are in the territories of Luebo and Mweka (province of Kasai); Luiza (Kasai Central); Luilu, Kamiji, as well as in the town of Mwene-Ditu (Lomami Province).

These new displacements took place in Kasai, Kasai Central and Lomami⁴ provinces. In **Kasai** province, there were 29,000 persons reported in Mweka on 10 April, including 12,500 from the Luebo area, and 16,500 from the Mweka area (displaced due to inter-community tensions). In **Kasai Central**, the total number of new IDPs according to the health authorities is 32,000, mainly in Demba, Dimbelenge and Kananga. In **Lomami** Province, more than 500 people arrived in Mwene-Ditu Territory from surrounding villages on 10 April after being driven out because of inter-community tensions. These people are housed in a primary school, presently without any assistance. No new alerts were reported in the provinces of Kasai Oriental, Sankuru, Haut-Lomami and Lualaba during the period covered by this report.

Persons affected by the crisis, by categories and province⁵

Provinces	Total Population	Internally displaced persons.../MMUNAN/Documents/Kasais/20170417_Sitrep No 3/Tableau chiffres Sitrep Kasais 3.xlsx - RANGE!_ftn1 ⁶	Returnees ⁷	Members of host communities/host families ⁸
<i>Central Kasai</i>	4 253 591	670 334		99 036
<i>Kasai</i>	4 215 517	333 906		
<i>Kasai Oriental</i>	5 552 225	48 045	97 084	30 987
<i>Lomami</i>	2 930 836	17 768		
<i>Sankuru⁹</i>	1 846 755			
<i>Haut Lomami</i>	3 632 533	400		
<i>Lualaba</i>	2 090 404	28 000		
Total	24 521 861	1 098 453		130 023

Population movements occur from Kasai to other provinces, as well as to Angola. Since early April, approximately 28,000 persons have fled from Kasai Central and Lomami to seek refuge in Lualaba, while another 400 persons left Lomami province to Haut Lomami province. In addition, the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) reports the arrival of 11,051 Congolese who fled the Kasai region into Angola (Lunda Norte and Lunda Sul provinces). UNHCR has conducted an assessment mission in three sites of arrival with Angolan authorities, and reports a very dire situation and overcrowded capacities in each of the sites. In the Mussunge site, for example, there are reportedly 4,510 children and 28 pregnant women, among whom two children died from cholera after their arrival. More than 1,300 Congolese expelled from Angola (including about 150

4 Sources of updated internal displacement figures: for Kasai province, these are new alerts and updates of old alerts (estimates verified by field assessments by Caritas Mweka); for the provinces of Lomami and Central Kasai, these are new alerts.

5 Given the limited humanitarian access, the figures for Kasai and Central Kasai are based on assessments, unverified alerts of national NGOs or local civil society, and information from the Provincial Health Directorate (DPS) regarding health areas affected by conflict or displacement. For Eastern Kasai, the estimates have a higher degree of reliability because the Kabeya-Kamwanga and Miabi areas have been assessed, and the situation has remained stable as for displacement. For other provinces (Lomami, Sankuru, Lualaba and Haut Lomami), the figures are again estimates based on unverified alerts of local actors. In Lomami Province, for example, there is a lack of data for the Mwene-Ditu and Luilu territories that have recently been affected by the violence and are currently inaccessible. Returnees' figures, host families and communities are still difficult to estimate due to reduced humanitarian access and ongoing movements of IDPs, as militia actions and FARDC operations continue. For the time being, the volatility of the situation and of the population movements will not achieve total reliability.

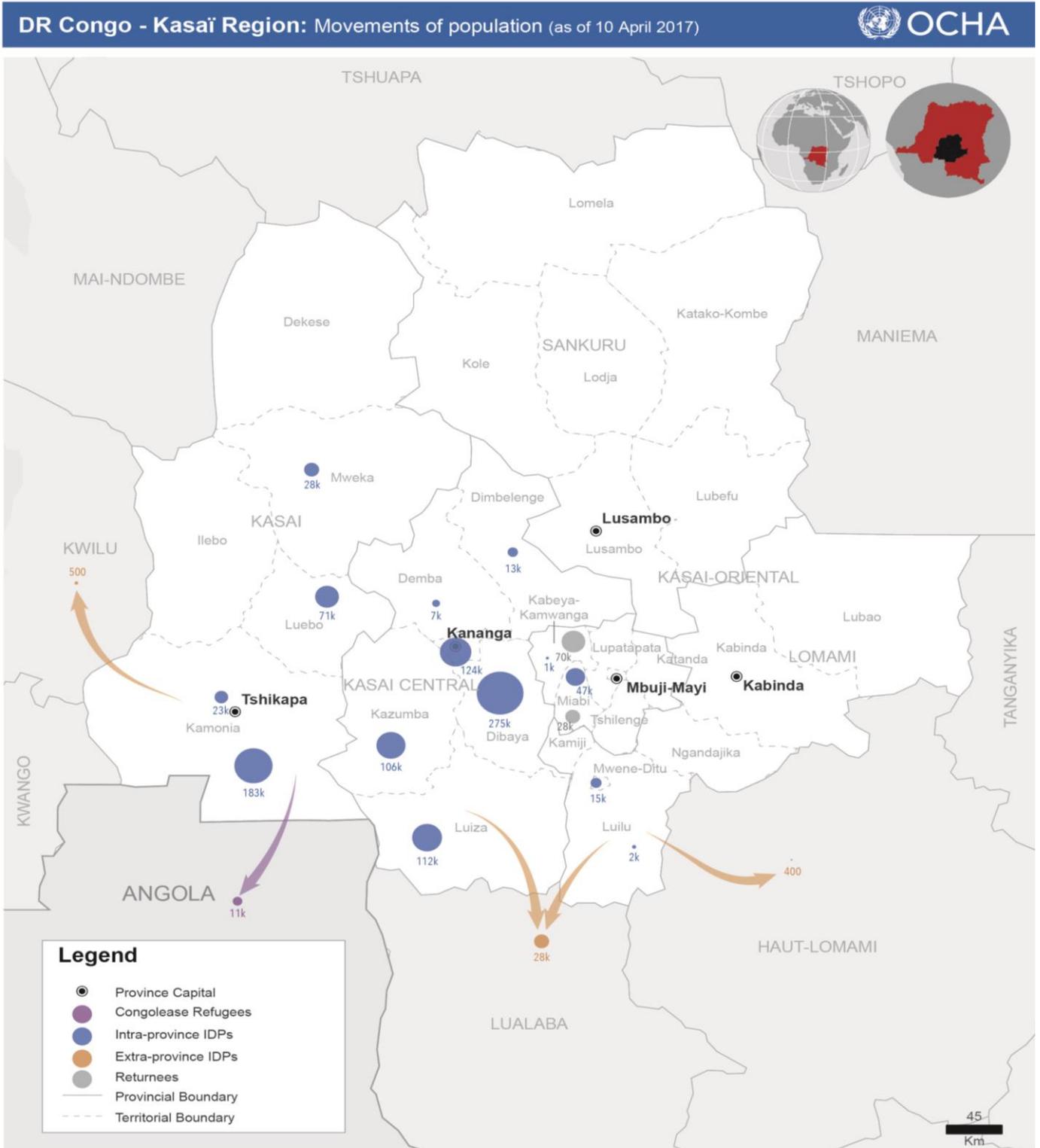
6 In the volatile context of complex emergencies in the Kasai, population movements are currently dynamic and complex (sometimes involving pendular, preventive or multiple displacements). This makes it difficult to distinguish between IDPs in the provinces of Central Kasai, Kasai, Lomami and Sankuru.

7 The number of returnees only applies to Eastern Kasai Province, where the reported calm in some areas has allowed internally displaced persons to return permanently to their native areas.

8 This figure for members of host communities / families refers exclusively to the areas that have been assessed.

9 There are reports of internally displaced persons in Sankuru province, but no figures are available to date.

women) are reported to be in Kamako, in Tshikapa territory (Kasai), according to a monitoring report by the NGO AJID (partner of international NGO CISP). Some of those who claimed to have suffered from protection incidents (arbitrary detention, physical abuse, extortion of property, etc.) for several weeks. The total number of Congolese expelled from Angola since January 2017 now stands at over 8,000 people.



The dynamics of intercommunity conflicts are an increasing factor in the origin of population displacements and protection problems.

In Kasai province :

- In the territory of Kamonia, tensions are reported between the Tchokwe (natives) on the one hand and the Luba and Tetela (non-natives) on the other; displacements are reported to Tshikapa but little information is available.
- In Luebo and Mweka territories, there are reported tensions between the Luba (natives) and the non-native groups (Kuba, Kutshu, Kela), resulting in the reported displacement of about 16,500 people on 10 April.
- In Tshikapa, the Luba are threatened by members of the Pende and the Tchokwe communities who consider them to be supporters of the militia and represent a potential danger for other communities.

In the province of Lomami:

- Tensions exist between the indigenous communities (Baluba, Bakete, Balualua, Babindi and Bambala) and indigenous peoples (Kanyok), the latter accusing the former of collaborating with the militia. On 9 and 10 April, more than 500 persons fled to the town of Mwene-Ditu. In addition, 222 people fled from Lapita to Ngan ajika on 7 April.

If the conflict is not resolved in a sustainable manner, the humanitarian situation could deteriorate further with increased displacements and needs for multisectoral assistance and protection. Diplomatic initiatives by the Congolese Government has led to an agreement around the funeral of the late leader of the Kamuina Nsapu group and the appointment of his successor by the ruling family; the family proclaimed the end of the militia violence. The government signed an order officially recognizing the new leader of the group- one the contentious points that sparked the violence. However, there remain fears that this agreement will not resolve the intercommunity tensions that the conflict has aroused nor respond to the social and political demands of the local population. In addition, there are concerns about a possible deterioration of the conflict linked to the change in the militia's mode of operation (increased military capacity, excessive violence against civilians, attacks on religious and public buildings).

Financing and humanitarian response

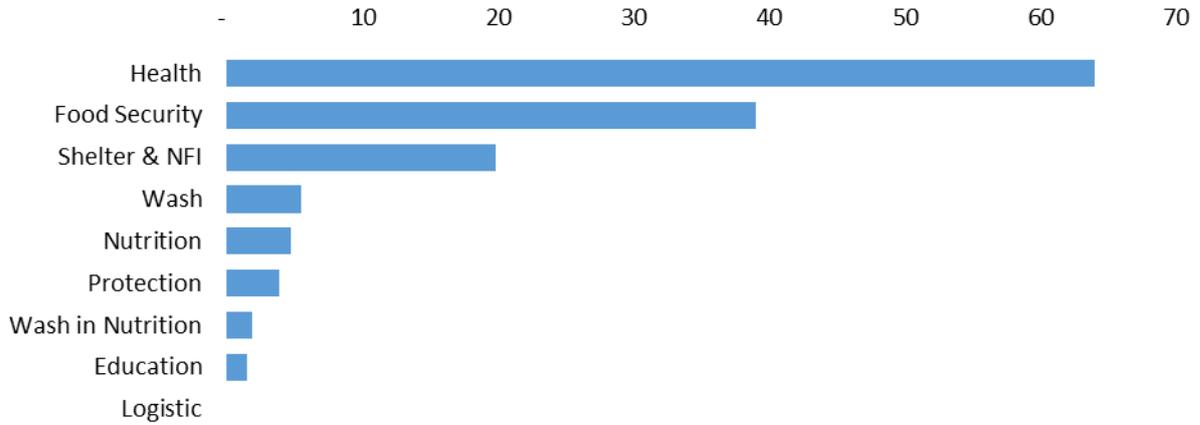
Humanitarian Response ¹⁰

There are currently 70 projects are underway in Kasai, Kasai Central, and Kasai Oriental, including 32 humanitarian and 33 development projects, as well as 5 projects that combine both aspects, in the following sectors: protection, health, food security, nutrition, water, hygiene and sanitation, education. Out of nearly 40 humanitarian actors in these provinces, only a dozen are international organizations. In Kasai, almost all projects (27 projects out of 33) are concentrated in the city of Tshikapa, in the Territory of the same name. In Central Kasai, the Territories with the highest number of projects are Dibaya (5/15 projects), Kananga (4), and Dimbelenge (3). Finally, in Eastern Kasai, humanitarian action is delivered particularly in the territories of Kabeya Kamwanga (8/19 projects), Miabi (7) and Lupatapata (4).

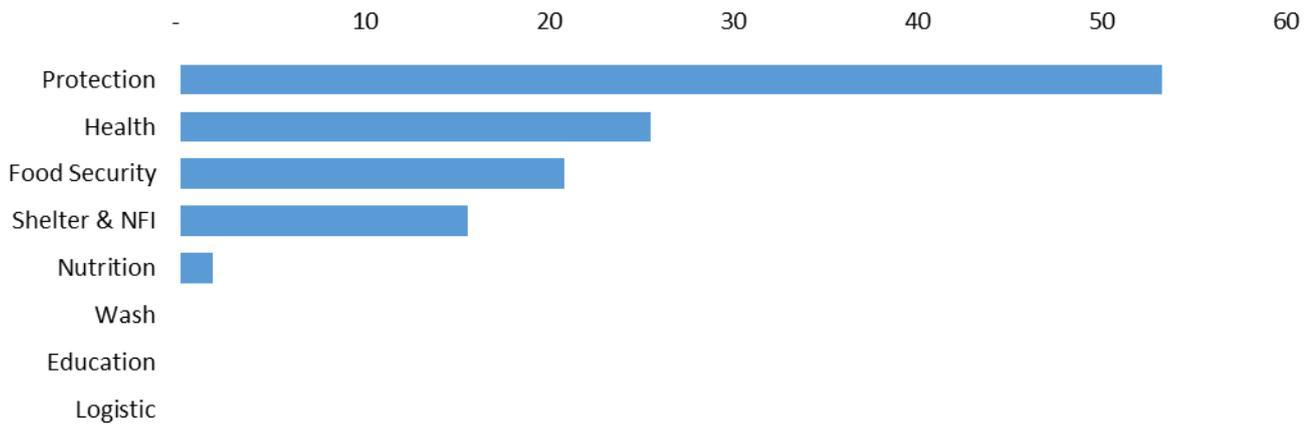
In the context of the development of the "Operational Response Plan for the Complex Emergency in the Kasai Region" (currently being finalised), assisted population figures by sector were calculated. This gives an indication of the sectors best covered by current activities (see graphs below). These visuals only take into account those projects, which align with the logic of intervention of the current emergency response.

¹⁰ For more information on all the interventions (actors, sector, activities, amount, number of beneficiaries, zones of intervention) please refer to the document "3W" on the operational presence of the actors (who does what where?) Published separately by OCHA.

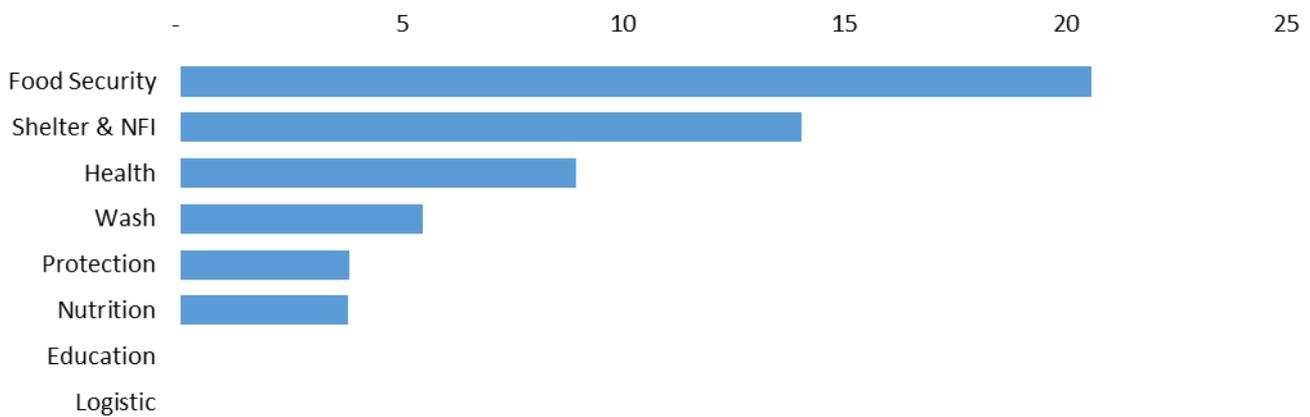
Eastern Kasai Province: Assisted population (in thousand)



Province of Kasai: Assisted population (in thousands)



Province of Central Kasai: Assisted population (in thousands)



Operational Constraints

The security context and the volatility of travel limit humanitarian access, including the organization of assessment missions and the implementation of planned assistance. For example, in Kasai Central, 12 out of 26 health zones (including nine since January 2017 and three since October 2016) could not be supplied with basic medicines the medicines are available- because of security constraints. Discussions are under way within the logistics cluster, in coordination with the United Nations Humanitarian Air Service (UNHAS), to find alternative solutions to facilitate access in areas difficult to reach by road. The access situation changes daily, depending on the geographical evolution of the conflict. Even in the so-called "accessible" areas, humanitarian actors must negotiate access with militias or armed forces, who are often unaware of humanitarian principles. The establishment of local contact networks is the cornerstone to facilitate assistance while guaranteeing the safety of the teams. Moreover, the lack of pre-positioned stocks remains one of the major limitations to the emergency response. Considering that there was no humanitarian response in the region before this crisis, the actors on the field do not have capacity to absorb the new needs with stocks already mobilized via other financing.

Financing ¹¹

Considering the magnitude of humanitarian needs, a Flash Appeal is being developed to mobilize more funding for response, and will be launched by early next week. The current capacities of the humanitarian actors are outstripped, as well as are all projections of the Humanitarian Response Plan 2017-2019 for DR Congo. The number of people targeted and the total financial requirements in the Flash Appeal will be aligned with the Operational Response Plan for the Response to the Complex Emergency in the Kasai Region, currently being validated. The objective of this plan is to provide protection and multisectoral assistance to people in need over the next six months. The plan applies the three strategic objectives of the DR-Congo Democratic Humanitarian Response Plan 2017-2019 to the Kasai emergency, taking into account the impact of the crisis on access to basic services and goods; protection needs; as well as the nutritional situation and the risks of epidemics. The operational response plan was prepared by the Inter-Agency Provincial Committees (CPIAs) of the three provinces, in collaboration with UNICEF and WHO, with the support of OCHA.

General coordination

To strengthen humanitarian coordination in the field, OCHA plans to deploy, very soon, staff in Kananga (Central Kasai), Mbuji-Mayi (Kasai Oriental) and Tshikapa (Kasai). This deployment follows the three missions already organized in these provinces (from 22 March to 5 April 2017), and with the objective of supporting the Humanitarian Focal Points in charge of humanitarian coordination on the field. These focal points are the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) for Central Kasai and Eastern Kasai, and the World Health Organization (WHO) for Kasai.

Moreover, two important meetings were held: The Humanitarian Country Team on 12 April and the Kasai Task Force on 14 April 2017 in Kinshasa. Among other things, participants agreed on the creation of a communication unit, and a meeting of a logistics unit to discuss access constraints and possible solutions. It should also be noted that a network of alerts has been set up by OCHA, in collaboration with local actors (Caritas Network, Red Cross DRC, etc.). The objective is to monitor the situation by collecting information on displacement (date of displacement, cause, number of displaced persons, origin and destination, accommodation conditions, etc.). This alert network provides regular updates to the national database dedicated to humanitarian alerts.

¹¹ All humanitarian partners, including donors and recipient agencies, are encouraged to inform the OCHA Financial Monitoring Service (Financial Tracking Service - <http://fts.unocha.org>) on cash and in-kind contributions by mail to: fts@un.org

Context of the crisis:

The complex emergency in the Kasai region began in Tshimbulu (Central Kasai), with the violent uprising of a local militia (Kamuina Nsapu) on 8 August 2016. Since then, the crisis spread to provinces of Kasai, Eastern Kasai, Lomami and Sankuru with repeated militia attacks against symbols of the central government, and their clashes with the national security forces. The rise of the conflict has resulted in increasingly violent and indiscriminate violent acts against civilian populations by all parties to the conflict. This crisis is also reflected in an exacerbation of pre-existing inter-community tensions between multiple ethnic groups in the area, in connection with the recent redefinition of provincial boundaries, the crumbling of traditional mediation and customary power structures, as well as the local manifestation of national-level political rivalries. Peaceful coexistence is undermined between the communities perceived as supporting the militia, and those accused of supporting government. This situation leads to multiple internal displacements in the various provinces mentioned above, as well as towards provinces of Lualaba and Haut-Lomami. This generates significant humanitarian needs of emergency multisector assistance and protection. Faced with this situation, the strategic priorities of the humanitarian community are the following: (i) enhance the visibility of the needs throughout the affected territory; (ii) establish a common response strategy and mobilize attention, capacity and resources both at national and at international levels; (iii) improving access to vulnerable communities by overcoming the physical and security constraints; (iv) agreeing on a strategy for community outreach and communication with armed actors in order to facilitate the acceptance of humanitarian aid; and (v) ensure adequate coordination between humanitarian activities and development and stabilization actors.

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