

# DRC



## Displacement in Kasai and Kasai-Central

	Not required	Low	Moderate	Significant	Major
Need for international assistance			X		
Expected impact	Very low	Low	Moderate	Significant	Major

### Crisis overview

Since August 2016, armed clashes between militia loyal to tribal leader Kamuina Nsapu and Armed Forces of DRC (FARDC) have taken place in Kasai and Kasai-Central. Fighting intensified in mid-December. As of mid-January, over 600 deaths have been reported. 216,000 people – 36,000 households – have been displaced by fighting in the region since August 2016. The majority of these people have reportedly fled to villages in Kasai-Oriental and nearby forests. Their needs include food, shelter and NFIs, and protection. So far, the exact number of returnees, and their needs, have not been reported.

### Key findings

#### Anticipated scope and scale

Clashes are expected to continue in Kasai, Kasai-Central, and Kasai-Oriental, driving further displacement and increasing humanitarian needs. The provincial governors are seeking a political solution.

#### Priorities for humanitarian intervention

- **Food:** People have lost the capacity to meet their immediate food needs, as they have fled their land. Fighting has destroyed crops and food stocks, affecting over 100,000 people. This is particularly a tactic used by Nsapu's militia.
- **Shelter and NFIs:** At least 100 houses and basic infrastructure (schools, health centres) have been destroyed in fighting.
- **Protection:** Displaced populations are likely to be in need of psychosocial support, as grave human rights abuses by militia, including sexual violence, have been reported. Children are at risk of recruitment by militia.

#### Humanitarian constraints

Humanitarian access has deteriorated due to the conflict. Since mid-November 2016, roads in Kasai-Central have been inaccessible due to fighting and the presence of militia.

#### Limitations

No exact figures on returnees.

No information on sectoral needs of returnees.

Lack of information on local and national response capacities.

## Crisis impact

Since August 2016, fighting between militia loyal to tribal leader Kamuina Nsapu and the Armed Forces of the DRC (FARDC) has taken place in Kasai and Kasai-Central. Clashes have mainly been concentrated in the towns of Kananga (provincial capital of Kasai-Central), Tshimbulu (Kasai-Central) and Tshikapa (provincial capital of Kasai) (Radio Okapi 12/01/2017). Nsapu was killed by FARDC in fighting in Tshimbulu, in August 2016, and his supporters have continued fighting to avenge his death to continue Nsapu's battle to rid Kasai-Central of all state security forces. (Reuters 09/01/2017).

Over 600 deaths have been reported as of mid-January, with at least 20 deaths in January (OCHA 11/01/2017, Radio Okapi 09/01/2017). In mid-December, over 150,000 people had reportedly been affected, but fewer than 15,000 had received assistance by mid-January, according to the media (RFI Afrique 08/01/2017, Radio Okapi, 01/02/2017). 216,000 people – 36,000 households – have been displaced by the fighting since August 2016 (OCHA 11/01/2017). The majority of these people have reportedly fled to villages in Kasai-Oriental and nearby forests (OCHA 11/01/2017). So far, the exact number of returnees, and their needs have not been reported.

**Food:** People have lost the capacity to meet their immediate food needs. The harvest of at least 1,300 households in Tshimbulu has been destroyed (OCHA 11/01/2017). Armed clashes between FARDC and militia in late October–early November in Dibaya territory (Kasai-Central) resulted in destruction of crops and food stocks that has affected over 100,000 people (FAO 22/11/2016). Fighting has also disrupted harvests: harvesting of the main 2016 maize crop began in December 2016 (GIEWS 22/11/2016).

**Shelter and NFIs:** As of mid-January, at least 100 houses and facilities (schools, health centres) have been destroyed (OCHA 11/01/2017). The presence of militia has reportedly prevented displaced persons from returning home (OCHA 11/01/2017). Displaced people who ran into the forest lack adequate shelter (Radio Okapi 03/10/2016).

**Protection:** Displaced populations are likely to be in need of psychosocial support, as grave human rights abuses by the militia, including an incidence of sexual violence, have been reported (OCHA 11/01/2017). Women and children have reportedly been used as human shields (Actualité 11/01/2017). Children are at risk of recruitment by militia (OCHA 11/01/2017).

**Health:** Due to the ongoing fighting, access to health services is limited (OCHA 11/01/2017). Four health centres have been destroyed in Kabeya Kamwuanga health zone (Kasai-Oriental), and two centres have been destroyed in Tshikapa territory in Kasai due to the ongoing fighting (OCHA 11/01/2017).

## Vulnerable groups affected

The majority of those fleeing violence are women and children (Radio Okapi 03/10/2016). Children are particularly vulnerable to recruitment by militia. The majority of the militia are reportedly aged between 10 and 17 years. Women and children are also vulnerable to sexual violence by militia (OCHA 11/01/2017).

## Humanitarian constraints

- The presence of militia and ongoing fighting along the main roads, particularly in Kasai-Central, has constrained humanitarian access. From 30 November to 16 December, the route between Tshikapa territory and Kananga was inaccessible due to the presence of militia (OCHA 11/01/2017).
- Affected health zones, such as Kabeya Kamuanga (Kasai-Oriental), were inaccessible from the end of November 2016 until 4 January, due to fighting (OCHA 11/01/2017).
- Lack of infrastructure and poor road conditions in the region also impacts the ability of humanitarian actors to deliver aid.
- The October–June rainy season is also likely to further constrain humanitarian access in the region.

## Aggravating factors

### Election-related tensions

Tensions related to the scheduling of elections, which should have been held in November 2016, have escalated into violence on a number of occasions since 2015. Protests and heavy-handed police response has resulted in violence in the major urban centres, including Kinshasa (Kongo-Central province), Lubumbashi (Tanganyika province), and Beni (Nord-Kivu province). On 31 December 2016, the ruling coalition and opposition members agreed to hold elections in 2017 (The Guardian 31/12/2016). Since early January, voters have been registering across the country. However, armed conflict in eastern DRC has reportedly delayed voter registration in many areas. Tensions are expected to increase again as the election deadline approaches.

## Contextual information

**Militia loyal to Kamuina Nsapu:** Kamuina Nsapu was a tribal leader who was killed in fighting on 12 August 2016. He had vowed to rid Kasai-Central province of all state security forces, accusing them of abusing the local population, and withholding a large share of the state's wealth (Ingeta 18/08/2016). Since August 2016, militia have sought to avenge his death, and to continue his battle to rid Kasai-Central of all state security forces. The exact number of fighters is currently unknown. Violence between local communities has existed for many years in the region.

**Armed Forces of DRC (FARDC):** The majority of FARDC members are land forces, but it also has a small air force and an even smaller navy. Together, the three services may number between 144,000 and 159,000 personnel (IBI Times 29/10/2015). FARDC have been active in the region since 2009, fighting insecurity in the region, due to violence between local communities (Radio Okapi 09/11/2010). Relations between FARDC and local populations have been tense. FARDC reportedly carried out 140 extrajudicial killings in Kasai between July and October 2016 (VAC 14/12/2016). As of January, local populations have reportedly lost confidence in the armed forces, because they have not succeeded in putting an end to the fighting. This may lead local populations to support Nsapu militia (OCHA 11/01/2017).

**The UN Stabilization Mission in DRC (MONUSCO):** MONUSCO is composed of over 19,000 troops, as well as military observers and police units. The mission has three priorities: protecting civilians, stabilising the country, and supporting implementation of the Peace, Security, and Cooperation Framework for the DRC and the region (IBT 25/02/2016). In January, MONUSCO has deployed over 100 troops to Kasai-Central (Radio Okapi 12/01/2017).

### International and neighbouring countries' relationship to the conflict

In December 2016, MONUSCO condemned the increasing levels of violence in Kasai and Kasai-Central (MONUSCO 6/12/2016). On 12 January, MONUSCO deployed over 100 troops to Kananga (Kasai-Central) to support the local government's security response (Radio Okapi 12/01/2017). The deployment has not led to a significant decrease in violence in the region (Radio Okapi 01/02/2017).

## Response capacity

### Local and national response capacity

Information on local and national response capacities is limited (MONUSCO 6/12/2016). Local authorities have reportedly been calling on local populations to collaborate with FARDC forces (Radio Okapi 12/12/2016).

### International response capacity

As of January, UNICEF has provided direct cash assistance to approximately 15,000 people (OCHA 06/01/2017). Since mid-December 2016, a MONUSCO multi-disciplinary team has been supporting local authorities in enhancing security measures in Kasai-Central by providing additional guards (MONUSCO 6/12/2016).

Following renewed violence in mid-December, a joint UN-NGO mission led by OCHA conducted assessments in Tshikapa (OCHA 06/01/2017). The joint mission found that the security situation is likely to deteriorate further, due to a cycle of violence that has prevailed between different local communities in the region for many years (OCHA 11/01/2017).

## Information gaps and needs

- There is no information on the number of returnees.
- There is a lack of information on the sectoral needs of returnees.
- Due to high levels of insecurity in Kasai and Kasai-Central, assessments of affected populations are limited (OCHA 11/01/2017).

## Lessons learned

- Engaging all stakeholders in a host community is essential to ensure community protection when displaced people enter it. In the past, some groups have benefited at the expense of others in community protection efforts for displaced peoples (FM Review 10/2016).
- Residents who were not displaced, have in the past stigmatised returning refugees who received aid in camps, due to perceived injustice (FM Review 10/2010).

## Key characteristics of host population and area

Key indicators	DRC	Kasai-Central and Kasai*
Total population	81,331,050	3,199,891
% population in rural areas	57.5%	86.9% (Kasai-Occidental)*
Gender and age distribution of population	50% female, 50% male 42.2% under 15	50% female, 50% male 50% under 15 (Kasai-Occidental)*
State capital	Kinshasa	Kananga (Kasai-Central), Mbuji-Mayi (Kasai-Oriental), Luebo (Kasai)
Lighting and cooking sources	Population using wood for cooking: 66.2% Population using charcoal for cooking: 28.9% Population using electricity for cooking: 4.6% Population using other fuels for cooking: 0.2% Population using kerosene for cooking: 0.1%	
WASH	Access to improved sanitation: urban: 28.5% of population, rural: 28.7% of population, total: 28.7% of population (2015 est.)  Access to improved drinking water source: urban: 81.1% of population, rural: 31.2% of population, total: 52.4% of population (2015 est.)	Access to improved drinking water source, improved: 4% (Kasai-Occidental)*
Health figures	Maternal mortality: 693 deaths/100,000 live births (2015 est.) Infant mortality: 69.8 deaths/1,000 live births (2016 est.) Under-five mortality: 118.5/1,000 live births (2013)	Infant mortality: 68 deaths/1,000 live births Under-five mortality: 135/1,000 live births (2013) (Kasai-Occidental)*
Food security	5.9 million people faced Crisis (IPC Phase 3) and Emergency (IPC Phase 4) food security outcomes in 2016	45% moderately food insecure, 12% severely food insecure (as Kasai-Occidental)
Nutrition levels	Under-five acute malnutrition: 7.9% (2014) Under-fives underweight: 22.6% (2014) Under-fives chronic malnutrition: 42.7% (2014)	Under-five acute malnutrition: 7.2% (2014) Under-fives underweight: 30.5% (2014) Under-fives chronic malnutrition: 51.7% (2014) (Kasai-Occidental)
Literacy rates	Total population: 63.8% Male: 78.1% Female: 50% (2015 est.)	

Sources: CIA World Factbook, FAO, OCHA, Global Alliance on Clean Cookstoves, WHO, UNDP, USAID

\*Kasai and Kasai-Central were formerly one province, Kasai-Occidental. Kasai-Occidental was a province from 1966 to 2015, when it was separated into Kasai-Central and Kasai provinces. The current Kasai Oriental is a small part of the former Kasai-Oriental province., and data is not available for this territory.