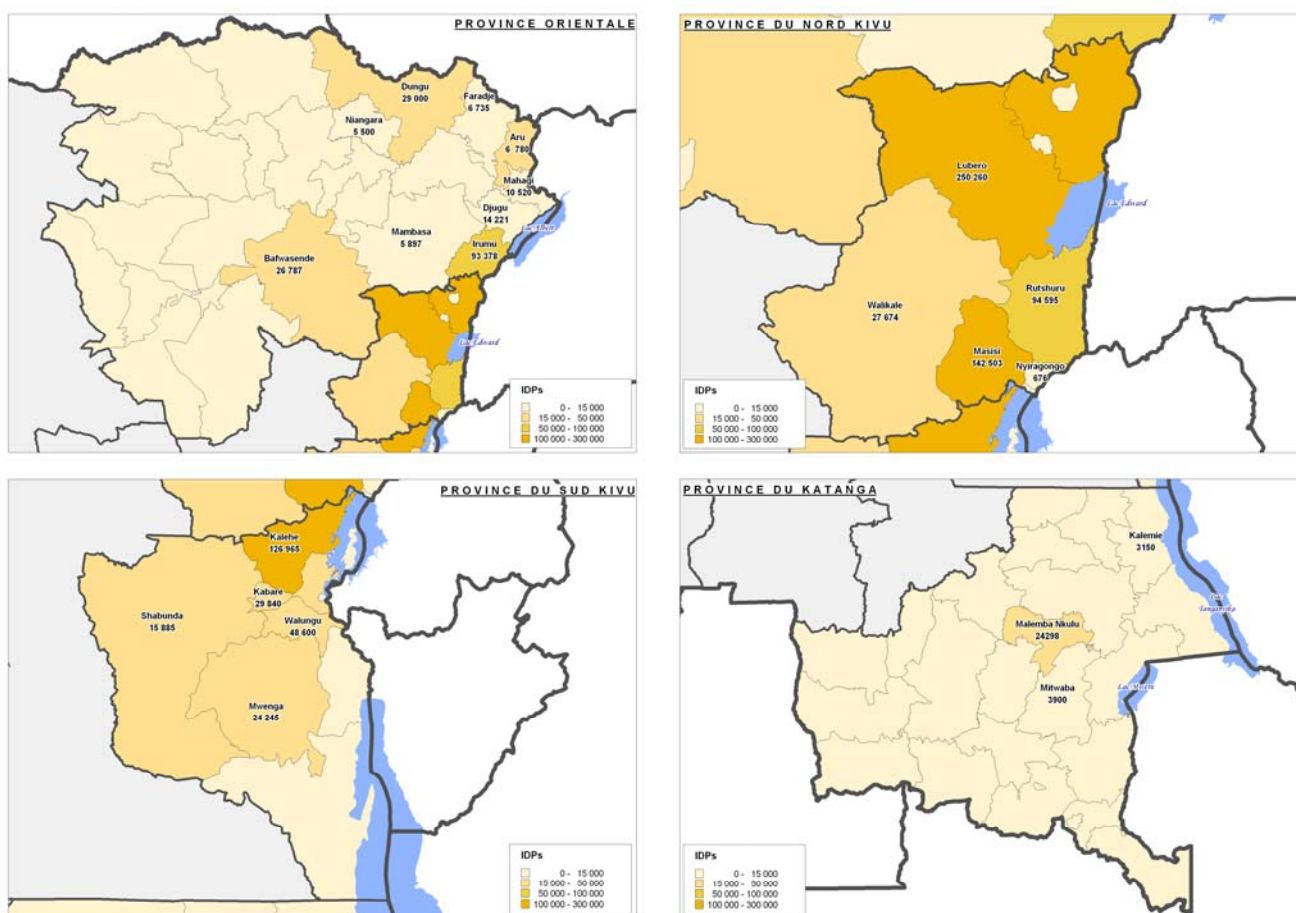


OCHA/DRC POPULATION MOVEMENTS IN EASTERN DR CONGO - TENDENCIES APRIL-JULY 2007

ISSUE N.2

1. OVERVIEW

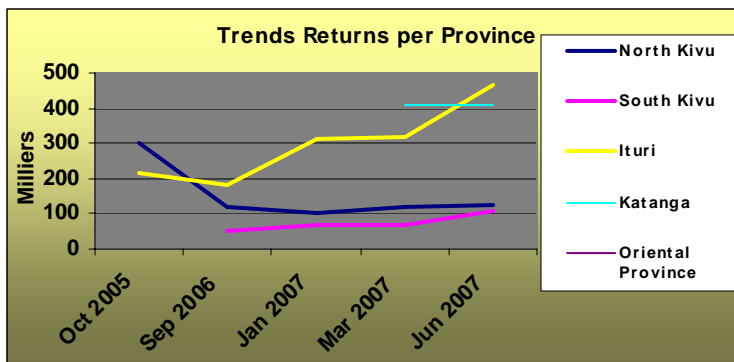
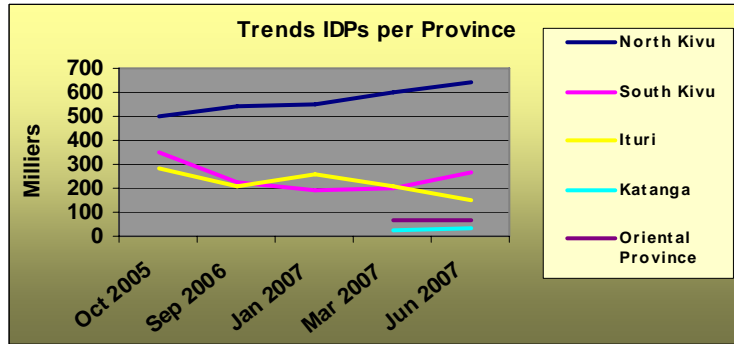
Large numbers of internal displacements continue to be reported in the eastern provinces of DRC. Compared to the 1,037,615 IDPs registered up to March 2007, 1,157,917 IDPs were recorded by June 2007, which represents an increase of approximately 11%. These figures are cumulative for all the IDP population –old and new– registered in the provinces, mostly since the end of 2005. The geographical distribution and trends of displacement reflect that new displacement is mostly narrowing to the North and South Kivu. Between March and June this year, 182,226 new IDPs have been registered in the Kivus and as figures increase, so do the challenges to ensure their protection and the delivery of assistance.



Yet, while a crisis sweeps the Kivus, the district of Ituri has had its first three months since many years without registering new displacements. Similarly, in Katanga, no new movements were registered in the last three months. Approximately 150,000 returnees were registered between March-June in the district of Ituri and up to 59,434 returnees in Katanga.

In total, there are 1,157,238 returnees registered throughout the eastern provinces, a considerable increase since March 2007, making the overall trends of returns slightly higher than the overall trends of newly displaced.

2. CURRENT TRENDS BY PROVINCE

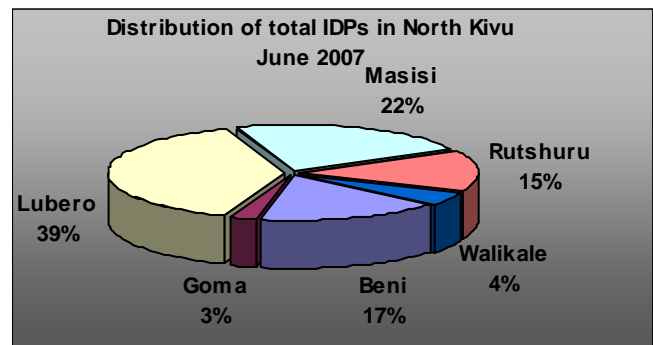


Note: Red and green arrows are used to represent negative and positive trends respectively. A yellow arrow represents a neutral trend.

2.1. NORTH KIVU

↑ **Displacement:**

From January to March 2007, 67,000 new IDPs were registered in the province. Between March and June 2007, a further 130,551¹ new displacements were registered. No large return movements have been accounted to the CMP since the beginning of the year, although the number of returnees in Lubero has slightly increased by approximately 6000 persons returning to Kanyabayonga. The total of IDPs reported by the *Commission de Mouvements de Population* (CMP) in the province in June 2007 stands at 640,038 people or 12.8% of the total population of the province.



Spontaneous IDP sites are starting to emerge in the province. Nine IDP sites have been reported so far and estimates suggest that 57,225 IDPs have concentrated in these settings. Protection activities and assistance to these newly displaced is becoming ever more challenging as humanitarian access diminishes due to the general insecurity reigning in the province. Physical protection activities for post-distributions become increasingly necessary in order to avoid endangering beneficiaries.

¹ The March displaced may be repeated in both figures. Therefore a sum of the January-March and March-June figures would not be accurate.

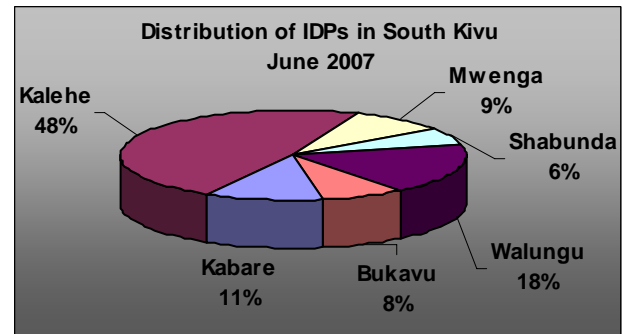
Returns: Due to the general instability and insecurity reigning in the province, hardly any returnees have been registered in the province and only a wave of approximately 6000 people returning to Kanyabayonga (Lubero Territory) has been accounted for in the last 3 months. The security situation in the province is simply not conducive for larger returns.

2.2. SOUTH KIVU

Displacement:

Displacements in South Kivu are equally on the rise since the beginning of the year. From 201,930 IDPs reported in March, the number of IDPs has increased to 266,140 at the end of June (an increase of 51,715 or 31%). Most of these new displaced, 31,390 persons or 61% of these new displacements, are fleeing armed confrontations in Masisi territory in neighbouring North Kivu. The remaining 20,333 IDPs registered during the last 3 months fled their villages of origin in South Kivu following attacks/threats by the FDLR/Rasta.

With the exception of the IDPs coming from North Kivu, many of the displaced in the province are "night commuters". They seek protection in neighbouring villages at night but return to their villages during the day to work on their fields. These movements pose certain challenges regarding protection monitoring and assistance activities. Yet, the major challenge in addressing the IDP issue in the South Kivu province remains the lack of access to many areas of displacement.

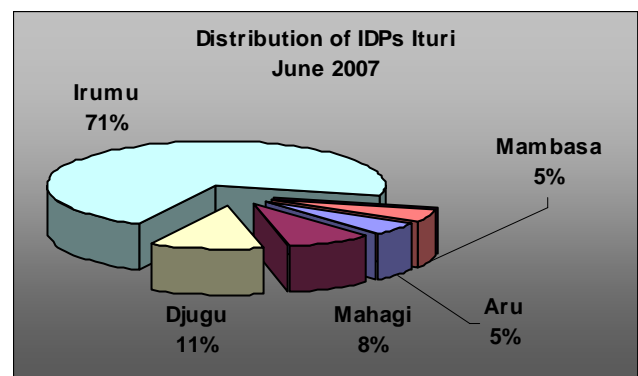


Returns: The rate of returns has considerably increased in the province as well. From the end of 2006 to June 2007, a total of 109,085 returnees were registered. 48,095 took place between February and June 2007 within the territory of Walungu. Their return is being accompanied by assistance from various actors.

2.3. ITURI DISTRICT (PROVINCE ORIENTALE)

Displacement: For the first time in many years, there have been **no new movements** of population registered in the Ituri District since March 2007. Quite the contrary, within the last three months, the displaced populations in the district have decreased by 26% leaving a total of 152,369 old case-loads of IDPs still displaced in the province, but considerably less than the 207,713 IDPs that had been registered up to March 2007.

Returns: Since November 2005, 466,706 returnees had been registered by June 2007. From March to June 2007 alone, 146,695 returns were registered. The vast majority of new returns took place in Irumu between January-June 2007, many others returned to their villages of origin in Djugu during March-May 2007.



In the last three months, Ituri went from being second to third region with the largest numbers of IPDs in eastern DRC. It is also now registering the highest rate of returns, ahead of Katanga, with a 42% share of all returns in eastern DRC.

2.4. KATANGA PROVINCE

Displacement: No new movements of populations have been registered in Katanga between March-June 2007. However, CMP figures have increased slightly as an old caseload of IDPs from June 2006 in Kalemie have been belatedly added to the follow up tables. The total number of IDPs in the province for June 2007 stands at 31,348. The current problems affecting Katanga are, rather, the spontaneous returns of refugees

coming from Tanzania, which are not being assisted through repatriation programmes, as well as the thousands of expelled migrants arriving in the province from Angola.

Returns: Registration of returning IDPs continues throughout the province. Between April, May and June 2007, 59,434 returnees have been registered by the CMP, bringing the total of returning IDPs since October 2006 to 451,297, the second largest return movements after Ituri.

3. PROVINCIAL PROFILES

3.1. NORTH KIVU PROVINCE

Overview

With 640,038 registered IDPs in total for the Province, North Kivu currently has roughly 12.8% of its population internally displaced which represents 56% of the total IDP population in the eastern provinces of DRC. Of these, 130,551 were registered between March-June 2007. The vast majority of new displaced are in the Rutshuru Territory (54,950), followed by Lubero (38,365) and Masisi (32,912)².

Background:

The largest caseload of IDPs in North Kivu is still the remnants of previous displacements following a series of crises in 2005-06 (see previous IDP report for a better background of old-caseloads of displacement). Yet, the first six months of the year 2007, have created the largest waves of displacement in the province in the last three years.

North Kivu IDPs (June 07)	
IDPs (+than 1 year)	342,025
IDPs (4 months to 1 year)	167,462
IDPs (-than 4 months)	130,551
TOTAL	640,038

Due to the long-standing and unresolved dissensions within the army which have led to a halt in the army integration process, widespread insecurity and armed confrontations continue in the province. The so called "mixage" crisis that started in January 2007, in all its complexity and involving all armed actors (FARDC, mixed brigades, FDLR Mayi-Mayis, etc) constitutes the main cause for these large displacements.

Caught in the middle of confrontations and often accused of supporting one party or the other, civilians have been forced to flee their villages of origin. In Rutshuru and Masisi territories, the most affected areas, 54,950 and 32,912 IDPs, respectively, were registered between March-June 2007.

Whilst most of these confrontations took place within those two territories, where the largest new displacements were registered, the territory of Lubero was not spared by insecurity, as two main Mayi-Mayi groups started fighting against each other causing as many as 38,365 new displacements in the last three months.

Recent developments

The vast majority of IDPs in the province have traditionally favoured seeking refuge in host families. In certain cases, the numbers were so large, entire locations became "host villages" for displaced (as is the case of the village of Katsiru, recently reported to be hosting the population from 10 villages). Both as preventive measures or as a result of violence, civilians have been seeking refuge in safer villages, normally at an average distance of 15-30 km from their homes. Yet, in recent months, spontaneous IDP sites have started to spring up. Nine sites, with an estimated 57,225 IDPs, have been established in: Mweso, Kashuga, Nyanzale, Singa, Kikuku, Shasha, Kiniandoni, Ngwenda and Nyongera adding to the existing ones along the Oicha-Erengeti road axis (Ngadi, Mavivi, Mbau, Oicha, Mukoko, Maymoya, Kokola, Linzo, Eringeti, Luna).



The humanitarian community in North Kivu has since long disfavoured the creation of camps to host IDPs in order to avoid the creation of permanent new settlements

² Please note that the fluid situation in North Kivu makes these figures informed estimates of the situation at a particular point in time. The large presence of humanitarians in Rutshuru makes the information available for this territory more reliable than the information coming from Masisi and Walikale, for example. Efforts are being made to strengthen the monitoring of displacement in all areas.

and the perpetuation of these displacements. Yet, discussions are underway to study the best ways to address the various emerging concerns regarding the current situation:

- The precarious conditions in most of the spontaneous sites as serving so many locations at the same time becomes increasingly difficult considering current capacities.
- The increasing difficulties in accessing IDPs due to the general insecurity
- The lack of capacity to protect IDPs in their various areas of displacement, again, due to limited capacities and having so many places to attend to.
- The cases of repeated displacements that are being registered as areas of displacement become targets of new attacks and displaced populations are forced to flee elsewhere.
- The increasing danger to which IDPs are being exposed following distributions of food and food-items if post-distribution physical monitoring is not ensured by MONUC to avoid armed groups from looting civilians
- The longer-termed nature of displacements due to the continued insecurity and their increased vulnerability and therefore dependence on humanitarian assistance
- The increasing needs of host families as displacement prolongs over time and the need to expand assistance to ensure equity on the basis of needs is increasingly felt.
- The concerns over the risk of forced returns taking place.



Photo: Merlin/Yes-Kim Creach

Nyongera IDP site

Meanwhile, mechanisms to strengthen community support to IDPs in these sites are being put in place as an option to camp setting to ensure mediation with authorities, military and host communities on IDP principles take place. This will entail an increased presence in these sites and therefore an increased awareness of which aspects need to be reinforced.

Assistance

According to the RRM, out of the 130,551 new IDPs reported in the province, 131,935 benefited from NFI kits distributions (100%). WFP has had to triple its interventions and distribute 2,000 metric tonnes of providing food rations in the last three months to face the situation.

However, serious gaps in assistance were felt as an emergency response to the needs of the new displaced was left in the hands of the RRM mechanism and WFP. In the health sector, this caused serious concerns. Local health centres were supported by WHO in medicines and materials. Yet, the lack of capacity for follow up prevented ensuring the gratuity of health care to these newly displaced. Since June 1, six health care centres in Kiwanja and Nyamilima are being supported by UNICEF to provide free health care. This intervention has benefited 90% of the IDPs in the area and has increased the access of the general population by five. However, this solution is only temporary and eight other centres have been prioritized to carry out the same activities. After several months of struggle with this issue, an international NGO has come forward to develop a health emergency project in all prioritized areas of concentration of new IDPs.

Protection

Little information transpires regarding the profile of new IDPs as disaggregated data is not yet available to determine specific vulnerabilities and protection needs. Nevertheless, a database is being constituted by NRC/UNHCR for gathering data obtained by the protection monitoring project and may soon establish trends specific to the IDP population and that may reflect specific protection abuses against IDPs. The protection monitoring project carried out by NRC focuses on areas of displacement and areas of return. The target populations in these areas are IDP, returnees and host communities. Based on the information available from these assessments, the following abuses against the principles relating to protection during displacement have been reported:

1. **Direct and indiscriminate attacks against IDPs:** In the case of Kisharo where 5300 IDPs have regrouped fleeing insecurity, pillaging and deliberate killings of civilians by armed groups have been registered in the last few months. Communities deciding to speak out and denounce abuses are increasingly vulnerable to this violence. In IDP sites (Ngadi, Mavivi, Mbau, Oicha, Mukoko, Maymoya, Kokola, Linzo, Eringeti, Luna) along the Oicha-Erengeti axis, IDPs attending focus group discussions with humanitarian actors were subsequently targeted by elements of the Ugandan UDF/Nalu militia.

2. **Pillages and lootings:** the rising violence is increasingly exposing communities to lootings and pillaging, particularly, after humanitarian distributions. Female heads of household are particularly vulnerable to night burglaries at IDP sites. Kiwandja is an example.
3. **Continuous exposure to violence:** as confrontations spread across the Rutshuru territory, IDP host areas are becoming increasingly exposed to violence as is the case of Rutshuru, Kiwanja, Nyongera and Kinyandoni. In the last weeks, families are displaced again and again from village to village as a result of combats.
4. **Pertaining to IDP rights to seek means of subsistence:** as a result of a lack of economic opportunities and food shortages due to market price increases and lack of assistance, IDPs are increasingly returning to their fields in their villages of origin to obtain food, thus exposing themselves to further violence and abuse including rape, looting and illegal taxation (as is the case in Kisharo). Furthermore, tensions with host populations are starting to be registered over the lack of basic services and land tenure. In Mugunga, IDPs reported being victims of discrimination.

Other abuses incurred specifically against IDP populations such as rape, inhuman or degrading treatment, slavery, forced labour of children, child recruitment for armed forces, arbitrary arrest or detentions are constantly reported through the rapid assessments carried out by the protection monitoring teams. Individual incident reports are referred to specialized agencies, the rest are submitted to the clusters for analysis, prioritization and response.

Yet, facing the increasing need to ensure the protection of IDPs and of the general population in the North Kivu province is no easy task. The protection cluster has been working on a strategy that includes both the enhancement of physical protection activities, with the collaboration of MONUC brigades, as well as increased advocacy activities (an advocacy strategy was proposed by the cluster in July 2007) and sensitization of armed actors on the ground. Many challenges remain. Increased cooperation and dialogue between humanitarian actors and MONUC is currently being sought to step up the impact of proactive protection activities for the benefit of civilian populations.

Trends by territory

Lubero Territory continues to host the bulk of IDPs. However, of the total of 250,260 IDPs registered in the territory since end of 2005, 65% of these IDPs have been displaced for over a year. 38,365 new IDPs were registered between March-June 2007 as a result of Mayi-Mayi confrontations. Of these, 74% have been assisted in the last three months, mostly with food distributions.

Masisi Territory is the territory hosting the second largest displaced population in the province. Out of a total of 142,503 IDPs, 73% are old caseloads but up to 23% are newly displaced since March 2007. These displacements have been mainly caused by confrontations between mixed brigades and the FDLR. It should be noted that a further 31,390 people originating from Masisi fled to the northern areas of South Kivu. The security situation in the territory has made reaching these IDPs and providing assistance very difficult. IDPs in Masisi have been the least assisted with only 6,585 of the 32,912 IDPs (i.e. 20%) having received assistance since March 2007. This situation requires particular attention. The combination of the presence of all armed groups, with the difficult access makes the population of Masisi vulnerable to complete isolation.

Rutshuru Territory comes fourth, after Beni, in terms of total IDP population. However, it is the only territory where new IDPs outnumber long-term displaced persons (old caseloads). Between March and June, 54,950 new IDPs were registered in the territory. 97% of these new IDPs in Rutshuru have been assisted with food and NFI kits, and as mentioned earlier, a UNICEF health intervention is guaranteeing free access to health care to 90% of these displaced.

Risks

The scenarios for the coming months in the province are not very positive: a status quo of the current situation would still involve continued confrontations forcing many civilians more to leave their villages. Yet, an attempt to resolve the current situation with a military engagement of FARDC loyal to the Government against Nkunda's troops would have an even more devastating impact on civilians and as many as 320,000 people could be displaced within the province and up to 45,000 others could flee to neighbouring countries. An up-dated contingency plan is currently being worked on in the province.

3.2. SOUTH KIVU PROVINCE

Overview

With 266,140 IDPs in the province, South Kivu hosts the second largest IDP population in the eastern provinces of DRC (23% of all IDPs) and whilst the vast majority are old caseloads of displacement, the last three months have witnessed an increase of displacements compared to previous months. From March to June 2007, 51,715 new IDPs were registered across the province, over half of them coming from North Kivu.

Background:

Most IDPs are old caseload from the displacement caused by the joint FARDC-MONUC military operations of early 2006, and FDLR/Rasta exactions. Nonetheless, South Kivu has the highest percentile increase of new displacement in the past three months

South Kivu IDPs	
IDPs (+than 1 year)	56,350
IDPs (4 months to 1 year)	158,075
IDPs (-than 4 months)	51,715
TOTAL	266,140

Recent developments

As a result of continued exactions by the FDLR/Rasta against civilian populations in the early months of 2007, FARDC started in mid April a military operation to dislodge the FDLR/Rasta from the Territory of Walungu, particularly in Kanyola. Removing these elements from the area caused a series of displacements in their new locations (mainly Shabunda and Mwenga), but for more than a month, the situation in Walungu was perceived calm. This encouraged a series of returns from previous displaced to their areas of origin. According to local authorities 80-90% of the 10,935 displaced previously reported in Walungu center started to return to the area of Kanyola-Bododo. However, the weak logistic and supply capacities of the FARDC prevented them from maintaining and securing the positions they secured from the Rastas. A month after the operations, the Rastas started their retaliation activities with a massacre in Kanyola on the 26 and 27 May. Attacks of various villages continued repeatedly until mid-June.

Elsewhere, in Kalehe territory, up to 31,390 displaced fleeing conflict from the area of Ufamandu in Masisi, North Kivu, were reported. Due to the inaccessibility by road to these areas, only 2,078 families of these IDPs (10,390 people) were registered and assisted.

Assistance and Protection:

Humanitarian organizations continue assisting those few reachable families displaced from North Kivu as well as those displaced in the wake of the Kanyola massacre in May. In the Kanyola/Walungu area, a total of 11,114 families (55,570 people) were registered, representing 72% of the total population of the localities from where the IDPs left. Of these, 3,429 beneficiary families are "night commuters" (17,145 people), 1,193 families are permanent displaced (5,965 people) and 6,442 families are the returnees that started to rejoin Kanyola since beginning of February. Elsewhere, an evaluation conducted by RRM teams in the Miti-Kavumu axis identified further displacements in the area following attacks on Combo village. The mission reported that almost all populations of these villages have become night-commuters following recent attacks. RRM has started to register them for assistance in NFIs.

Night commuting and repeated/multiple displacements are on the rise chiefly in the areas of Nindja, Kaniola, north Kabare, Bunyakiri and Kalonge. The monitoring of these movements is extremely challenging and the identification of their protection needs equally so. The CMP in South Kivu is attempting to increase their follow up and map these successive movements for the coming months to obtain a better picture of the populations needs. Another main difficulty is the lack of physical accessibility to many of these displaced populations which renders assistance and protection monitoring impossible.

Trends by territory

Kalehe Territory hosts by far the largest numbers of displaced with a total of 126,965 IDPs registered in the province. Of these, 24% are the newly displaced arriving from North Kivu. 7,525 new IDPs from June 2007 are victims of the latest FDLR/Rastas attacks in Bunyakiri.

Walungu territory follows with 48,600 or 18% of the IDPs in the province. 74% of IDPs have been displaced within the last year and only 7,958 are newly displaced from March-June 2007 as a result of the latest FDLR/Rastas attacks. Together with IDPs from Bunyakiri, this latter group is most vulnerable to protection threats but also most difficult to target with humanitarian assistance due to their repeated displacements and their night-commuting.

In the rest of the territories, no new movements of IDPs have been registered with the exception of 600 new displaced reported in Shabunda following the arrival of the Rastas dislodged by the military operations to the area.

Returns: Up to 109,085 returns have been registered in the province, most of which between end of 2006 to June 2007. Although these constitute a substantial increase from those registered in March, the fact is that these returns have been gradual and that in most cases, registration and assistance only took place in June 2007. The main area of return has been Walungu territory, with 48,095 returnees since end of 2006 till June, all of whom have been assisted in their return. Similarly, 11,895 returns took place in Mwenga, during the same period, although no assistance has yet been organized.

Risks

Following the peak of FDLR/Rasta incidents from May to mid-June, the situation has regained a degree of relative calm. This is probably due to the military operations waged against them by FARDC from April to June. Yet, previous experiences have showed that actions against the FDLR/Rasta usually displace the problem rather than solving it and that their retaliation once operations cease are brutal. This may explain the reluctance of many night-commuters to their full return.

Meanwhile, it seems that confrontations in the Highlands of Uvira and Fizi may be having an impact on the population of some villages caught in the fighting are forced to flee. However, patterns of displacement in the area are usually short-termed as civilians return to their villages as soon as confrontations have ceased. Information from the Highlands is very difficult to obtain seeing access constraints.

3.3. ITURI DISTRICT (PROVINCE ORIENTALE)

Overview

For the first time in many years, no new IDPs have been registered in the district of Ituri during the last three months. Moreover, the number of returns between March and June has been of almost 150,000 people. There are 152,369 remaining IDPs mainly in the territory of Irumu. The trends are very positive and the agenda in the district is one of returns.

Background:

Ituri has since many years hosted the second largest IDP community of RDC as a result of the reining insecurity caused by the various militias on site and the occasional FARDC attempts to dislodge them. This security situation created large waves of displacement that were perhaps, short termed, but sufficiently large to maintain groupings of considerable numbers of displaced.

Unlike other provinces, 70% of displaced in Ituri have traditionally fled to a series camps and IDP sites set up in the various territories, including a camp (managed by humanitarian workers) in Geti.

Irumu: 4 camp (Komanda, Geti, Aveba, Kagaba) and 20 sites

Djugu: 3 camps (Fataki, Waza, Pingu) and 8 sites

Mahagi: no camps, 10 sites

Aru: 6 sites

Mambasa: 8 sites and no camps

Figures made available by the CMP in Ituri are the figures obtained through registration procedures in these camps/sites. Otherwise, for the remaining displaced settled in host families, not much information is available.

Recent developments

Whilst three months ago, Ituri remained the second largest area of displacements after North Kivu, the drastic improvements in the security situation in the district following the surrender/ demobilisation/ brassage of the leaders of the main Ituri militias has led to large waves of returns bringing down significantly the numbers of displaced in the province.

Displacement and Return in Ituri			
	January 2007	March 2007	June 2007
Total IDPs	259,677	207,713	152,369
Total Returns	309,821	320,011	466,706

152,369 IDPs remain in the area, but from November 2005 to June 2007, a total of 466,706 returns have taken place. Of these, approximately 150,000 took place between March and June 2007.

Assistance/Protection

Assistance to the large number of returnees remains the biggest challenge. While activities are underway to assist them in the first phase of return, efforts will need to increase in assistance to reintegration. The Return and Reintegration Cluster in Ituri has worked on a matrix of return that allows for the prioritization of certain areas where assessments and reintegration activities would need to be carried out. The cluster identified 35 priority groupings within the territories of Djugu, Irumu and Mahagi for humanitarian interventions. The matrix will serve as an operation framework that will be shared with other clusters to compile the strategic actions each cluster can contribute to these populations.

Trends by territory

Irumu: Despite being the second largest recipient territory of returnees in the district, with a total of 154,524 returnees since the end of 2006, Irumu continues to host the largest numbers of IDPs in the district with a remaining 93,378 IDPs still present in the territory.

Djugu: is the territory currently receiving particular attention following the decision of Peter Karim to send his men to *brassage* which means that large areas will be liberated and that increased humanitarian access will be gained. Djugu still counts 14,221 IDPs while up to 138,208 people have already returned in the territory. As humanitarian access opens, and IDPs return, increased support to these returns is expected.

Regarding the other territories, the CMP in Ituri warns that figures of displaced in Mahagi include the figures of return since many years. A decision was made for the next CMP meeting to report only the return figures of returnees that have had less than 3 agricultural seasons in their area of return. Similarly, the CMP reports that the figures of displaced for Aru need to be revised as they seem excessive. An inter-agency mission to Aru has been planned to take place shortly to verify the number of displaced and returnees in the area.

Risks

- Figures of return may increase as the school year ends in July 2007
- Continued risk of destabilization in certain territories due to the presence of armed groups: e.g. LRA in Aru, LRA and FNI in Mahagi, FNI in Djugu, FRPI and MRC in Irumu, while the results of the new DDR phase have an impact.
- Inter-community tensions and violence related to the return of 200,000 IDPs and refugees have been reported throughout the district.

3.4. KATANGA PROVINCE

Overview

No new IDPs were registered in the Katanga province during the last three months. However, return movements continued with over 40 000 new returns between March and June, bringing the total number of returns up to 451 297 since October 2006 and leaving 31 348 people still displaced across the province³.

Background

Of the massive displacements that took place from October 2005-January 2006 following the FARDC offensives against the Mayi-Mayi, only 7050 displaced from this wave of over 300,000 IDPs remain displaced. The remaining 24 298 IDPs in the province are victims of the floods that hit the areas of Malemba Nkulu destroying houses and crops and forcing these populations to move. To date, they remain displaced.

Recent developments

Of the 451 297 returnees in the province, 60% were registered between October 2006 to March 2007. However, important movements of return were registered in March 2007, with 111 596 returnees identified and assisted. Since, the trends have been considerably lower but up to 69 934 returnees were registered from April to June 2007.

Aside from IDP returns, a main gap identified in the area has been identified involving the large numbers of spontaneous returnees arriving from Tanzania into Katanga and excluded from the HCR repatriation package. Up to 23,000 people in the Wimbi area (Kalemie) have been identified as increasingly vulnerable and needy of assistance.

³ Please note that while the tables reflect an increase in figures from March to June 2007, it is only because an old caseload has recently been added to the CMP tables ; it does not reflect a new movement within the reporting period.

Moreover, another problem that has recently re-emerged in Katanga is the thousands of Congolese migrants being expelled from Angola, through Katanga and the Kasai provinces. Whilst not considered displaced populations, these constitute large population movements that are currently being supported by the international community. In previous years, 20,000 expelled returned to DRC in 2003, another 80,000 were forced to return in 2004. For the time being, approximately 20,000 have returned within 3 weeks to Katanga and Kasai. Another 40,000 more people could be crossing back into DRC in the next few weeks

Assistance:

Of all returnees registered in the province, 92% have been assisted by the various partners intervening in the area, mainly in NFI kits, seeds and agricultural materials. Only a caseload of 33834 returnees in Kabalo was not assisted.

Aside from the returns, both the IDPs victims of the floods and the old caseloads are being assisted as well by various partners.

Risks

- The DDR process is of concern in the Katanga province. Many Mayi-Mayi ex-combatants are currently waiting for their demobilisation package to disarm. Because of long delays in distributions and payments, many of them could be tempted to resume their former activities as a mean of living. Demonstrations of angry ex-combatants, waiting for their demobilisation dues, take place every week in several cities of Katanga. If the process is not completed, a resurgence of violence and exactions is possible.
- Recurrent floods along the Congo River can always provoke movements of populations during the rainy season. To date, national contingency plans for such flooding do not yet exist.
- Increased numbers of expelled from Angola could arrive to Katanga. Most of these expelled are not originally from the region and transit periods could be considerably long. The first generous reaction of the government to assist them will perhaps not be maintained as larger numbers trickle in.

ESTIMATED TOTAL OF IDPS

Territory	October 2005	September 2006	January 2007	March 2007	June 2007
NORTH KIVU					
Beni	46 000	112 334	112 334	112 334	107 815
Goma	23 500	11 500	13 691	16 165	16 515
Lubero	301 000	224 608	224 608	222 505	250 260
Masisi	102 500	97 916	109 572	125 133	142 503
Nyiragongo	3 500	676	676	676	676
Rutshuru	17 000	66 567	61 821	93 996	94 595
Walikale	9 000	27 250	28 965	28 965	27 674
Total NK	502 500	540 851	551 667	599 774	640 038
ITURI					
Aru	12 500	13 180	28 353	28 353	28353
Mahagi	27 000	31 526	46 365	10 520	10520
Djugu	133 500	30 477	51 435	46 331	14221
Irumu	107 000	130 911	126 570	115 555	93378
From NK					
Mambasa		3 340	6 954	6 954	5897
Total Ituri	280 000	209 434	259 677	207 713	152369
SOUTH KIVU					
Kabare		22 935	26 890	28 870	29 840
Kalehe		106 545	87 355	87 340	126 965
Mwenga		24 245	24 245	24 245	24 245
Shabunda		11 035	11 035	12 870	15 885
Walungu		36 710	24 415	28 000	48 600
Bukavu		20 605	20 605	20 605	20 605
Total SK	351 500	222 075	194 545	201 930	266 140
KATANGA					
Mitwaba		6 670		3 900	3 900
Pweto		32 521			
Malemba Nk		29 316		24 298	24 298
Bukama					
Manono		19 480			
Kabalo					
Moba		8 915			
Kalemie		5 045			3 150
Nyunzu					
Total Katanga		101 947		28 198	31 348
ORIENTAL PROVINCE					
Bafwasende				26 787	26 787
Dungu				29 000	29 000
Faradje				6 735	6 735
Nyangara				5 500	5 500
Total OP				68 022	68 022⁴
TOTAL	1 133 500	1 074 307	1 005 889	1 037 615	1 157 917

⁴ IDP figures for the Oriental Province reflect the findings of the various evaluation missions that took place in the area early 2007. No registration of IDPs has yet taken place

ESTIMATED TOTAL OF RETURNEES

Territory	October 2005	September 2006	January 2007	March 2007	June 2007
NORTH KIVU					
Beni					
Goma					
Lubero	115 000			14 035	20 300
Masisi	135 000		67 150	67 150	67 150
Nyiragongo					
Rutshuru	20 000		6 285	6 385	5 600
Walikale	30 000		30 500	30 500	30 500
Total NK	300 000	120 000	103 935	118 070	123 550
ITURI					
Aru			8 415	4 460	4460
Mahagi	19 500	88 503	187 641	157 122	157 122
Djugu	131 000	49 235	52 470	113 654	138 208
Irumu	13 000	46 043	48 903	32 383	154 524
From NK	50 000				
Mambasa			12 392	12 392	12 392
Total Ituri	213 500	183 781	309 821	320 011	466 706
SOUTH KIVU					
Kabare			700	700	795
Kalehe		6 455	6 455	6 455	11 450
Mwenga		8 645	8 645	9 420	11 895
Shabunda		36 850	36 850	36 850	36 850
Walungu			15 885	15 885	48 095
Bukavu					
Total SK		51 950	68 535	69 310	109 085
KATANGA					
Mitwaba		24 563		53 252	53 252
Pweto		52 870		26 055	26 055
Malemba Nk		26 600		69 770	69 770
Bukama		23 800		52 650	52 650
Manono		4 870		95 363	95 363
Kabalo				33 834	33 834
Moba				30 719	30 719
Kalemie				33 540	58 734
Nyunzu				15 920	30 920
Total Katanga		132 703		411 103	451 297
ORIENTAL PROVINCE					
Bafwasende					6 600
Dungu					
Faradje					
Nyangara					
Total Oriental Province					6 600⁵
TOTAL	513 500	488 434	482 291	918 494	1 157 238

⁵ Figures of return in Opienge were made available by an evaluation mission that took place in July 2007. No registration of returnees has yet taken place

This report is intended to reflect on main trends of population internal displacement and return trends in the eastern provinces of the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) in the recent months. The information contained in this report is based on the monitoring work conducted by the provincial Population Movement Commissions (CMP) in the provinces of North Kivu, South Kivu, Katanga and Ituri Districts of Province Orientale. The figures obtained through the Commissions are estimates, and they represent the joint work of provincial government officials, local communities UN agencies and national and international NGOs on the ground.

The CMPs were originally established with the aim of strengthening coordination among all actors concerned with displaced populations in DRC. The CMPs were also intended to act as an early warning mechanism that would alert partners of new movements of population reported to encourage a follow up in terms of registration and assistance, if needed. The CMPs are the only existing fora that specifically collect and consolidate all information made available by partners on IDPs and returnees.

The CMPs meet monthly to update and maintain basic data on numbers of IDPs, localities, dates of displacement and assistance provided. The data compiled reflects only totals of displacement figures by localities within a territory. Data is not disaggregated to reflect age, gender, or vulnerability figures, nor any individual profiles of the displaced.

In accordance with the Guiding Principles of Internal Displacement, once IDPs have been registered in a specific locality, they continue to be considered displaced populations until proof is obtained of their return or their reintegration. Figures are cumulative and include not only the new displacements but also those that have been displaced since several years (usually since 2005). Nevertheless, a re-evaluation of areas of displacements to up-date the available figures has been made in accessible areas.

The internal displacement phenomenon in DRC includes displaced living in host families/villages as well as short-term spontaneous displacement sites and night-displacement (whenever the night-movements are constant over a period of time). The variety of displacement conditions makes data collection and verification especially challenging in DRC. Return movements are also difficult to monitor. CMPs have not adopted standard criteria to register and monitor IDP returns. Some favour to have returnees written off IDP statistics once three agricultural seasons have passed, as a sign of their complete reintegration. Yet, this approach has not been adopted widely.

CMP information sources include mainly INGOs, and for areas not easily accessible, health centres schools, local authorities, religious organisations as well as beneficiaries themselves. The challenges of gathering and updating reliable data on IDPs in DRC are many.

- The vast majority of displaced populations in the country recur to host families. Local committees with the participation of local authorities and IDP representatives prepare lists of IDPs for each of the localities where the movements are reported. These lists are then verified for the organisation of humanitarian aid in collaboration with UN agencies and NGOs.

- Displacements are very fluid. Successive movements of the same families from one area to another are frequent, which entails risks of having the same persons registered more than once in different places. Night displacements are difficult to monitor, however, considering that this pattern takes place over a period of time, these populations have been considered for assistance often and on the basis of standard vulnerability criteria.

- Access limitations, due to poor road conditions, extremely long distances as well as insecurity.