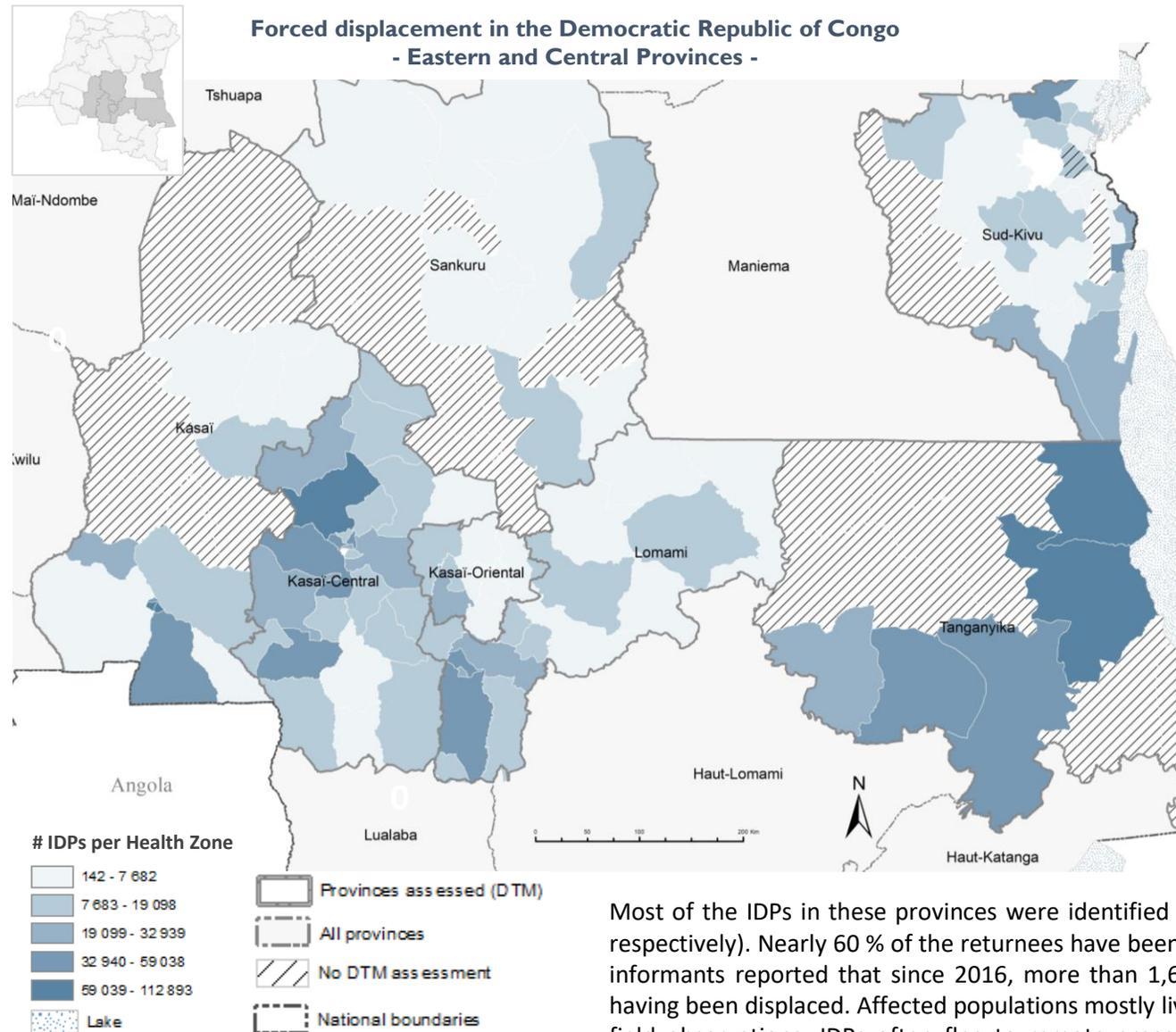


**Forced displacement in the Democratic Republic of Congo  
 - Eastern and Central Provinces -**



As a response to the humanitarian crisis that is currently affecting the **Democratic Republic of Congo**, the International Organization for Migration deployed the Displacement Tracking Matrix (DTM) in seven (7) provinces of the country in order to collect up-to-date information on forcibly displaced persons and returnees. These exercises will provide a better understanding of the displacement dynamics in DRC and support the humanitarian response.

This report provides the main findings of the DTM assessments that were conducted in the provinces of **Kasai, Kasai Central, Kasai Oriental, Lomami, Sankuru, Sud Kivu** and **Tanganyika** from 22 February to 12 May 2018 in 116 health zones. The information provided in this report relates to population movements that occurred in 2016, 2017 and during the first quarter of 2018.

These assessments were conducted following standard DTM methodologies and tools that were developed by IOM in different countries in the world. Field teams conducted assessments in all the accessible villages in those provinces and collected data through key informants interviews. For these assessments, a total of 13,004 villages were evaluated through 34,443 key informants interviews by IOM's partners\*\* in collaboration with the DPS (Division Provinciale de la Santé).

Most of the IDPs in these provinces were identified in Kasai Central, Kasai and Sud Kivu (29,2 %, 18,1 % and 18,2 % respectively). Nearly 60 % of the returnees have been identified in **Kasai Central** and **Kasai**: in these two provinces, key informants reported that since 2016, more than 1,600 000 individuals have returned to their village of origin after having been displaced. Affected populations mostly live in rural areas and depend on subsistence farming. According to field observations, IDPs often flee to remote areas where they suffer from lack of assistance and access to basic services.

\*\* IOM partners are: RDCCompétence, RADPI, AIDES, Travail et Droits de l'Homme, Gouvernance +, PDHPES

 Assessed Villages

13,004

 Key informants

34,443

 IDPs\*

1,997,968

 Returnees\*

2,601,820

\* The results presented in this report are based on estimates provided by key informants in each village.

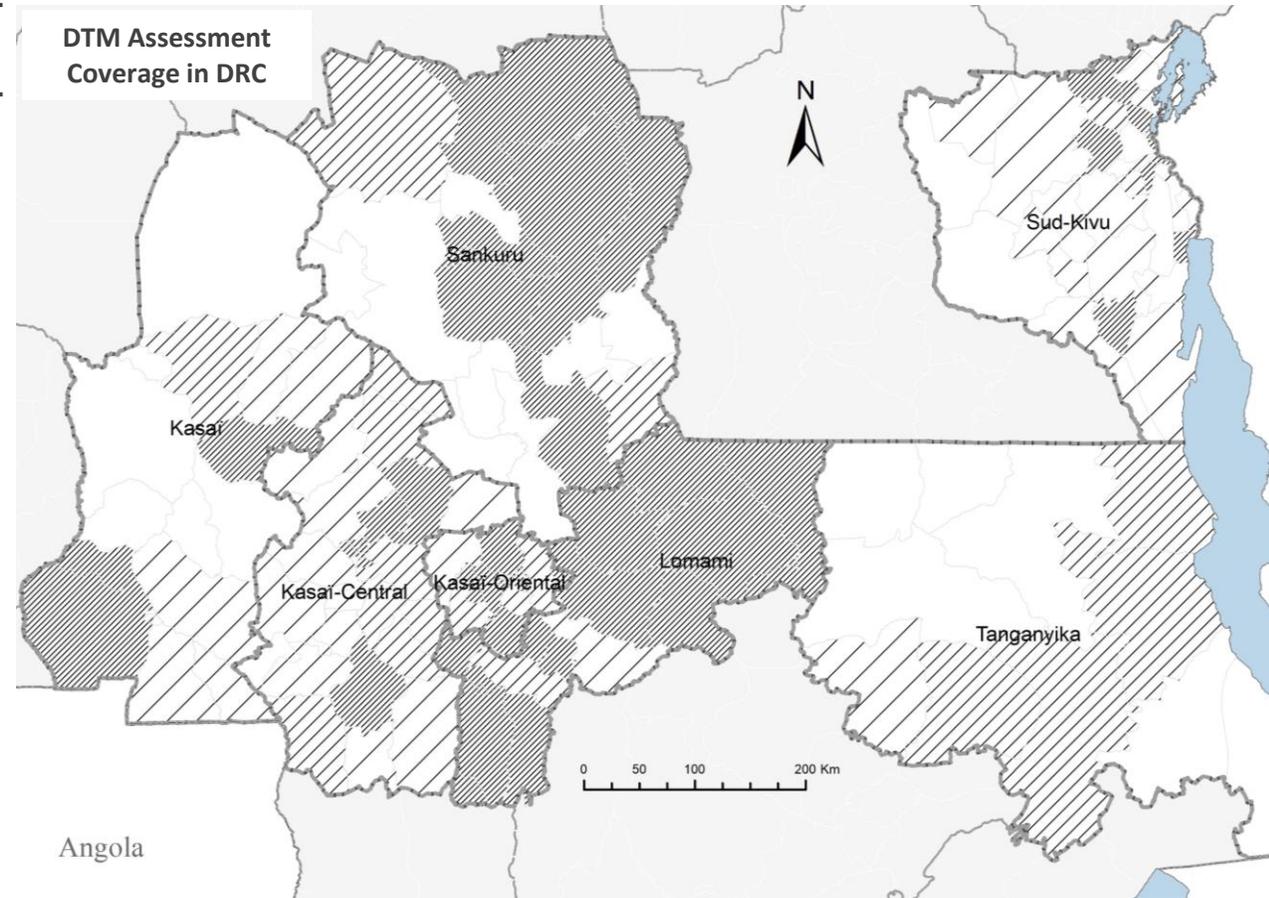
Sources: basemap RGC (Référentiel Géographique commun de la RDC), DTM assessment DRC, March – June 2018. This map is for illustration purposes only. Some geographical limits do not coincide with the data collected in the field.

# Methodology and geographic coverage

DTM assessments have been conducted in **116** out of the **140 health zones** recorded in the seven provinces covered by the DTM (Kasai, Kasai Central, Kasai Oriental, Lomami, Sankuru, Sud Kivu, Tanganyika). Within these zones, nearly all the villages reported by the health provincial division (DPS) were evaluated (13,004). Logistical and security restrictions limited the coverage of some areas. In many health zones, bridges and roads were missing, preventing the field teams from reaching some villages. In sparsely populated areas in particular, where many villages are extremely isolated and disconnected from more densely populated areas, displaced populations’ basic needs are acute and humanitarian assistance remains extremely low.

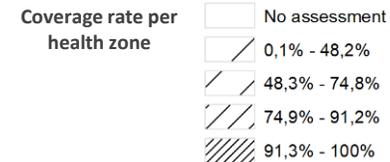
962 villages, which were not included in the list provided by the DPS, were identified and assessed by field enumerators. The GPS coordinates of the majority of these new villages were recorded. Furthermore, enumerators were unable to find some of the villages listed by DPS. While some of these villages had been destroyed because of intercommunal conflicts or attacks by armed groups, others merged into one single unit under the control of the same village leader.

Some of these former villages also used to be provisional settlements developed by local population to respond to slash-and-burn-related agricultural activities and needs: Indeed, this agricultural technique is still extremely common in the country, especially in remote rural areas - the majority of the active population (55 %) in the DRC works in the agricultural sector, according to FAO (2014). This type of agriculture makes population move on a regular basis to find new areas to cultivate. Therefore, villages that were previously formally identified may have disappeared when local inhabitants moved to another area for agricultural purposes.



Assessment periods and main findings per province

Provinces	Assessment period	Coverage (average)	# Villages DPS	# Villages assessed	# Health Zones assessed	# IDPs	% IDPs	# Returnees	% Returnees
Kasai	1 - 20 April	53,5%	3 333	1 731	12	362 301	18,1%	563 474	21,7%
Kasai Central	5 - 25 March	74,1%	3 989	2 858	25	584 432	29,3%	1 081 268	41,6%
Kasai Oriental	22 February - 16 March	91,0%	1 853	1 678	19	79 232	4,0%	176 842	6,8%
Lomami	13 April - 12 May	96,0%	2 682	2 684	16	252 918	12,7%	266 575	10,2%
Sankuru	11 April - 30 April	47,4%	2 577	1 236	8	55 176	2,8%	17 909	0,7%
Sud-Kivu	23 March - 30 April	53,0%	2 626	1 761	31	362 852	18,2%	240 147	9,2%
Tanganyika	22 February - 16 March	36,5%	4 301	1 056	5	301 057	15,1%	255 605	9,8%
<b>Total</b>	<b>22 February - 12 May</b>	<b>64,5%</b>	<b>21 361</b>	<b>13 004</b>	<b>116</b>	<b>1 997 968</b>	<b>100,0%</b>	<b>2 601 820</b>	<b>100%</b>



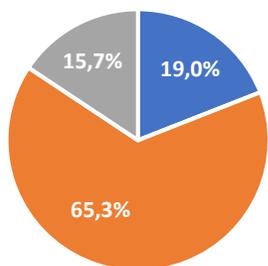
Sources: basemap RGC (Référentiel Géographique commun de la RDC), DTM assessment DRC, March – June 2018. This map is for illustration purposes only. Some geographical limits do not coincide with the data collected in the field.

**What are Health zones and Health areas?** In DRC, the DTM teams are working in close collaboration with the Ministry of Health and its provincial divisions - the DPS (Division Provinciale de la Santé). These provincial divisions work at three geographical levels of subdivisions: territories, health zones and health areas. The territories are comprised of a set of health zones which are themselves composed of a lower set of subdivisions called health areas (aires de santé).

# Internal displacement

Most of the households were displaced in 2017 (65,3 %) except in Sankuru, where most of the displacement movements occurred in 2016 (42,5 %). People were displaced mainly because of attacks by armed groups which led to 63,7 % of displacements. Although a sizeable share of IDPs (30 %) fled because of inter-communal conflicts over the past three years, this number has been decreasing, from 34,8 % in 2016 to 27,4 % in 2018.

### Displacement period

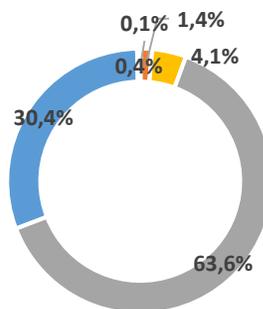


- # Individuals displaced in 2016
- # Individuals displaced in 2017
- # Individuals displaced in 2018

### Number of IDPs per displacement period and province

Province	# Individuals displaced in 2016	# Individuals displaced in 2017	# Individuals displaced in 2018
Kasai	34 731	295 662	31 908
Kasai Central	66 402	406 838	111 192
Kasai Oriental	16 700	58 581	3 951
Lomami	39 825	178 390	34 703
Sankuru	23 479	21 048	10 649
Sud-Kivu	101 773	166 977	94 102
Tanganyika	97 255	178 264	26 239
<b>Total</b>	<b>380 165</b>	<b>1 305 760</b>	<b>312 744</b>

### Reasons for displacement

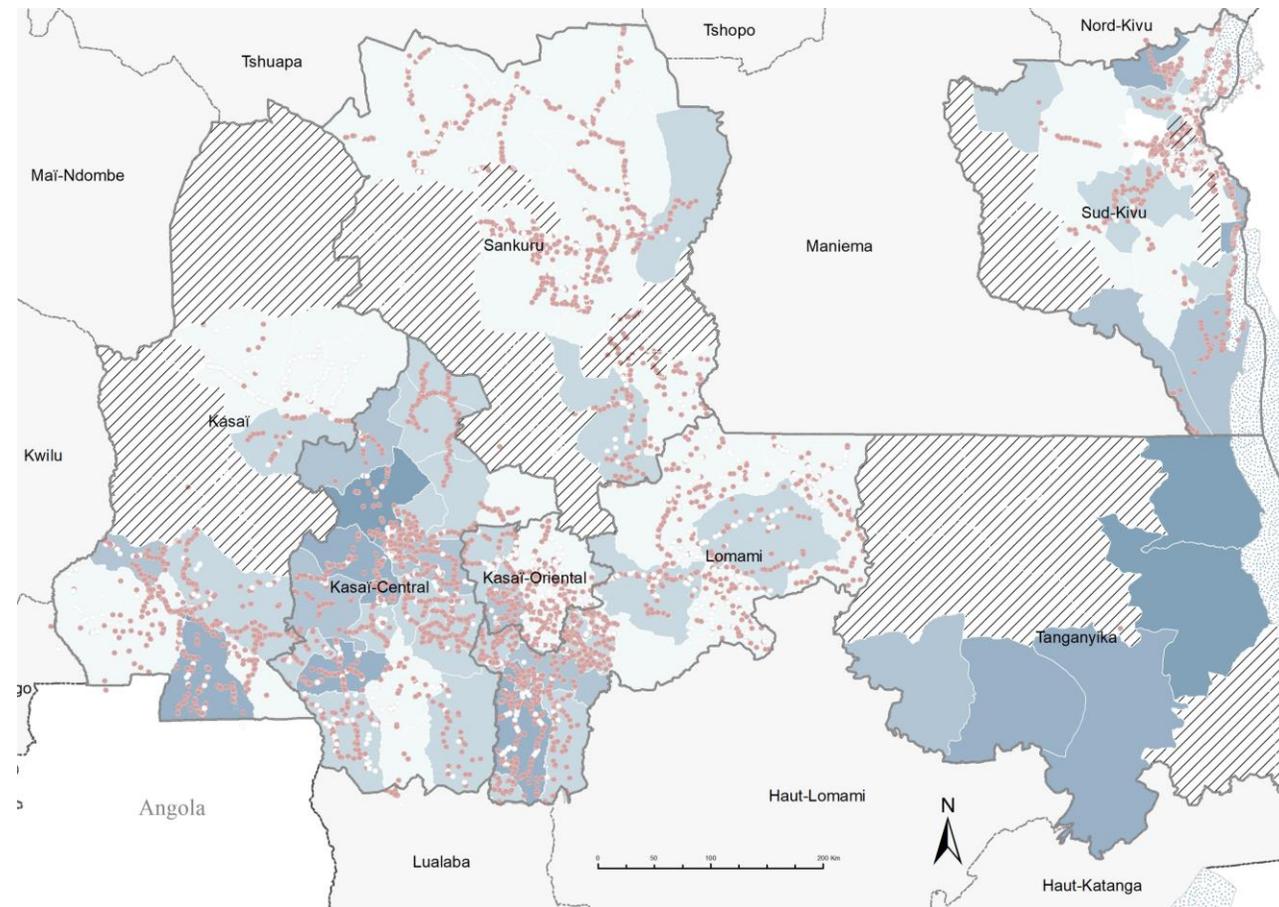
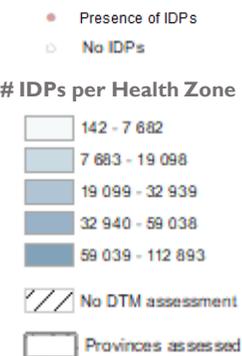


- No response
- Other
- Food crisis
- Armed group attacks
- Inter-communal conflicts
- Extortion / illegal taxes

### Reasons for displacement and displacement period

Reasons for displacement	# Individuals displaced in 2016	% IDPs 2016	# Individuals displaced in 2017	% IDPs 2017	# Individuals displaced in 2018	% IDPs 2018	Total	% Total
No response	732	0,2%	0	0,0%	336	0,1%	1 068	0,1%
Other	8 757	2,3%	11 446	0,9%	7 727	2,5%	27 930	1,4%
Food crisis	24 896	6,5%	29 034	2,2%	28 575	9,1%	82 506	4,1%
Armed group attacks	200 690	52,8%	882 191	67,6%	188 010	60,1%	1 270 890	63,6%
Inter-communal conflicts	142 593	37,5%	379 731	29,1%	85 790	27,4%	608 114	30,4%
Extortion / illegal taxes	2 497	0,7%	2 658	0,2%	2 305	0,7%	7 460	0,4%
<b>Total</b>	<b>380 165</b>	<b>100,0%</b>	<b>1 305 059</b>	<b>100,0%</b>	<b>312 744</b>	<b>100,0%</b>	<b>1 997 968</b>	<b>100,0%</b>

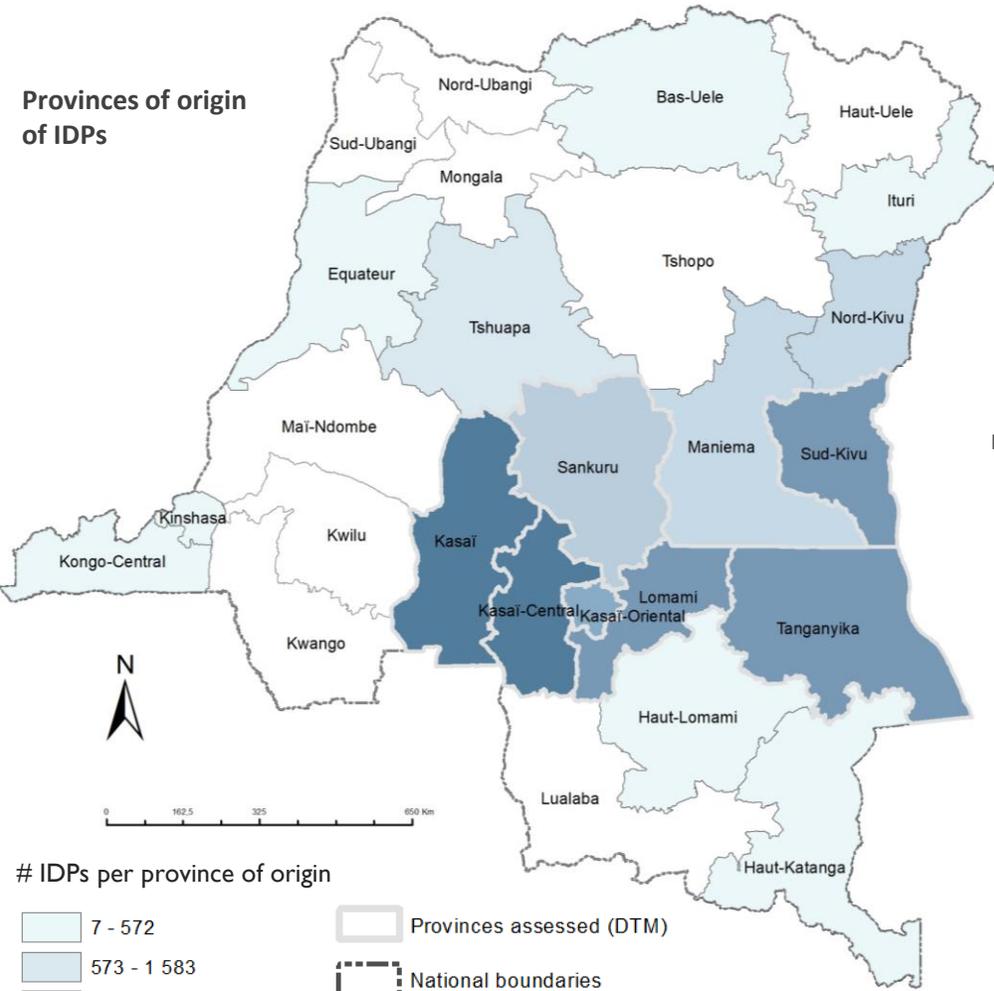
### Number of IDPs in villages assessed by DTM



Sources: basemap RGC (Référentiel Géographique commun de la RDC), DTM assessment DRC, March – June 2018. This map is for illustration purposes only. Some geographical limits do not coincide with the data collected in the field. The GPS coordinates of some villages are not available (in particular in Tanganyika). GPS coordinates have not been verified in the field.

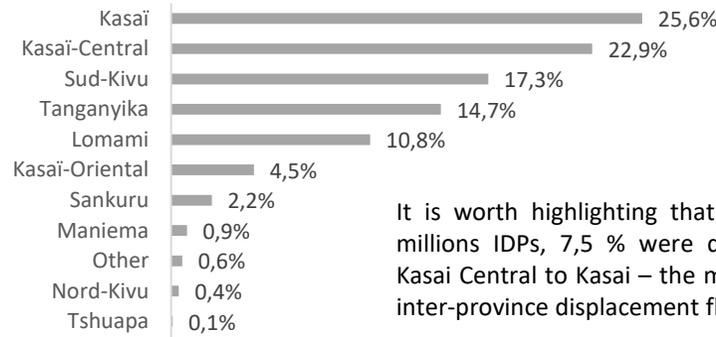
# Origin of IDPs

Provinces of origin of IDPs



IDPs were generally displaced within their province of origin. Figures show that local population in the provinces assessed are extremely mobile. This mobility remains relatively local, however, as most of the displacement movements occur within each province: IDPs rarely cross the limits of their province or origin. Nevertheless, the fact that displacement was internal to provinces does not necessarily entail that IDPs traveled short distances: while some IDPs may have traveled short distances, others traveled long distances to reach their current displacement location, especially in larger provinces, such as Kasai, Sankuru or Sud Kivu. This distance may have an impact on future return movement.

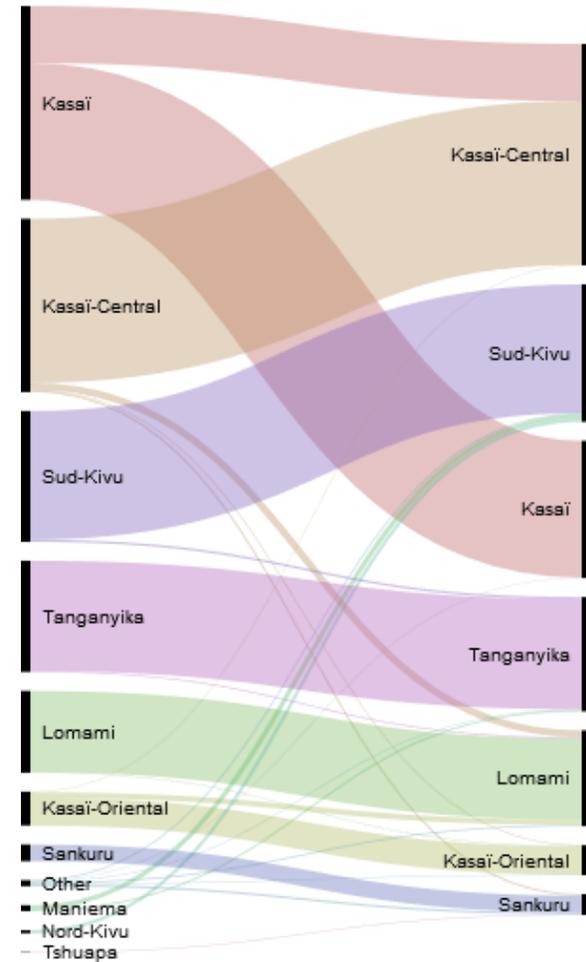
Provinces of origin



It is worth highlighting that out of the 2 millions IDPs, 7,5 % were displaced from Kasai Central to Kasai – the most important inter-province displacement flow.

Furthermore, 0,9 % of IDPs coming from the province of Maniema (around 17,182 IDPs) were identified in Sankuru, Sud-Kivu and Tanganyika provinces: most of these movements occurred in 2018 and were caused by armed attacks – no DTM assessment has been conducted in this province thus far. In rural areas, field reports indicate that IDPs may intend to remain close to their village of origin in order to be able to keep control over their land. When possible, they sometimes hide in the forest in extreme conditions or stay in neighbouring villages so that they keep being informed on the evolution of the security situation and potential return opportunities.

IDP movements : from provinces of origin to provinces of displacement



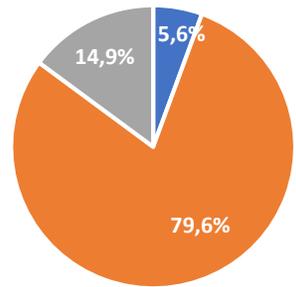
The fact that new villages were identified in the field and that others no longer exist also reflects this high degree of mobility in rural DRC. On one hand, this culture of mobility facilitates return and displacement movements in this region. On the other hand, internal displacement potentially constitutes a major obstacle to the long term development of the agricultural sector to the extent that it prevents rural population from permanently settling in a given location and developing sustainable agricultural techniques. In other words, this high degree of mobility is also synonymous with precarity and poor living conditions in general.

Sources: basemap RGC (Réfèrentiel Géographique commun de la RDC), DTM assessment DRC, March – June 2018. This map is for illustration purposes only. Some geographical limits do not coincide with the data collected in the field.

### Return movements

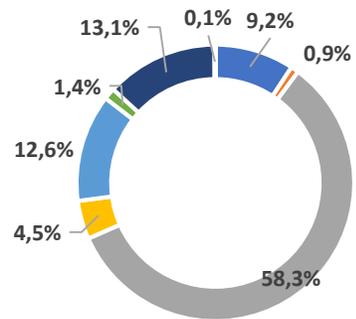
The data collected indicates that most of the return movements occurred in 2017, and that 58,3 % of the returnees went back to their area of origin because the security situation had improved. As a second driver fostering return movements, key informants also indicated that households displaced households wished to go back to their families and relatives in their respective area of origin. Field teams often highlighted that IDPs struggle to gather sufficient funds to return to their place of origin. The unstable security situation and the strong military presence in the field (in Kasai Central in particular) also deter them from returning home.

Return period



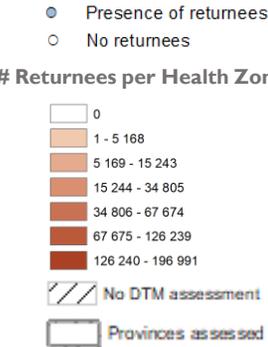
- # Individuals returned in 2016
- # Individuals returned in 2017
- # Individuals returned in 2018

Return drivers



- Better food security
- Other
- Better security (conflicts)
- Better health situation
- Economic opportunities
- School
- Rejoin family / relatives
- No answer
- Inter-communal conflicts

Number of returnees in villages assessed by DTM

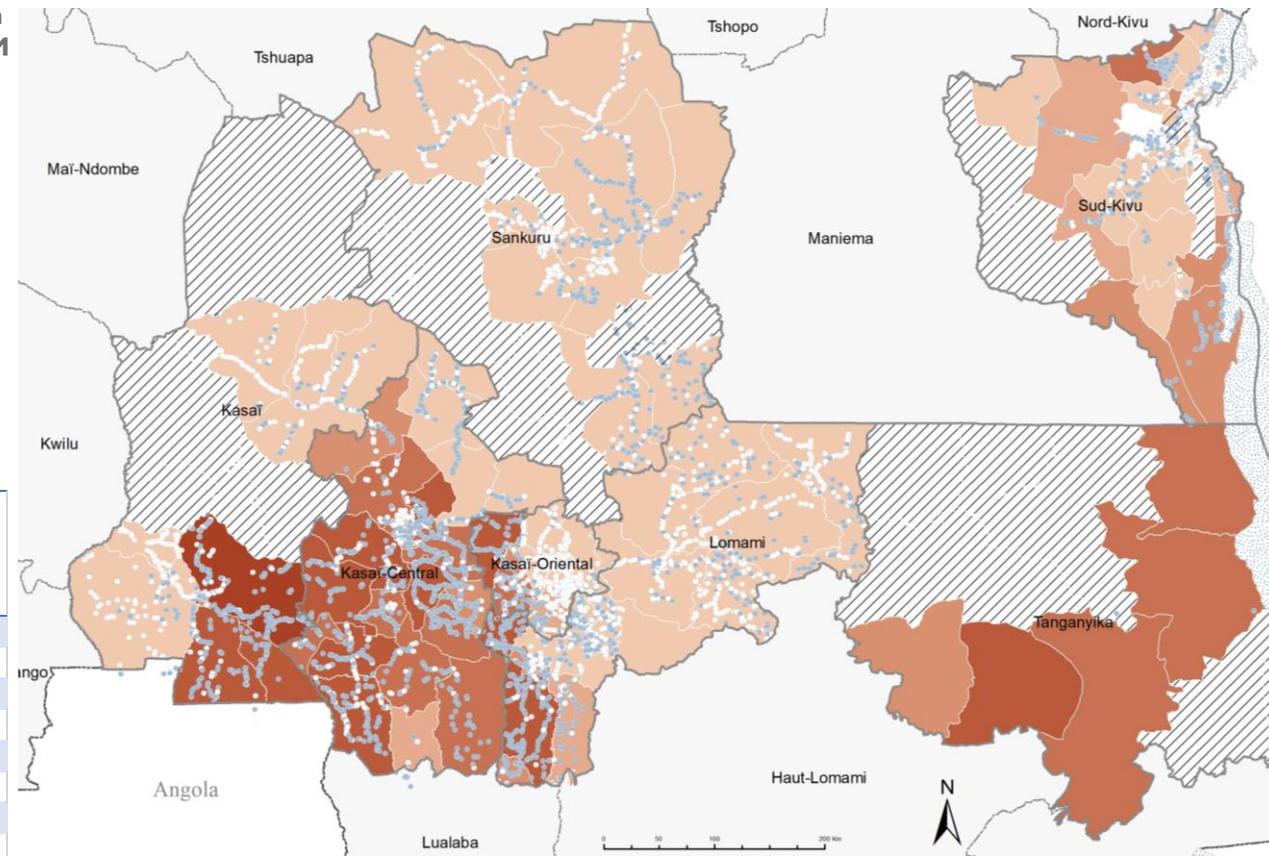


Number of returnees per year and per province assessed

Provinces	# Individuals returned in 2016	# Individuals returned in 2017	# Individuals returned in 2018
Kasai	11 843	420 841	130 790
Kasai Central	33 639	967 874	79 755
Kasai Oriental	9 121	158 472	9 249
Lomami	7 454	221 533	37 588
Sankuru	5 967	6 242	5 700
Sud-Kivu	67 296	105 818	67 033
Tanganyika	10 009	189 206	56 390
<b>Total</b>	<b>145 329</b>	<b>2 069 986</b>	<b>386 505</b>

Return drivers per return period

Return drivers	# Individuals returned in 2016	% Individuals returned in 2016	# Individuals returned in 2017	% Individuals returned in 2017	# Individuals returned in 2018	% Individuals returned in 2018	# Total	% Total
Better food security	11 303	7,8%	186 027	9,0%	43 041	11,1%	240 371	9,2%
Other	1 511	1,0%	16 515	0,8%	5 809	1,5%	23 835	0,9%
Better security (conflicts)	73 353	50,5%	1 233 132	59,6%	209 234	54,1%	1 515 718	58,3%
Better health situation	5 153	3,5%	105 497	5,1%	6 550	1,7%	117 200	4,5%
Economic opportunities	25 942	17,9%	252 015	12,2%	49 071	12,7%	327 028	12,6%
School	3 941	2,7%	23 955	1,2%	7 347	1,9%	35 243	1,4%
Rejoin family / relatives	23 991	16,5%	250 454	12,1%	65 217	16,9%	339 662	13,1%
No answer	135	0,1%	2 342	0,1%	236	0,1%	2 713	0,1%
Inter-communal conflicts	0	0,0%	50	0,0%	0	0,0%	50	0,0%
<b>Total</b>	<b>145 329</b>	<b>100,0%</b>	<b>2 069 986</b>	<b>100,0%</b>	<b>386 505</b>	<b>100,0%</b>	<b>2 601 820</b>	<b>100,0%</b>

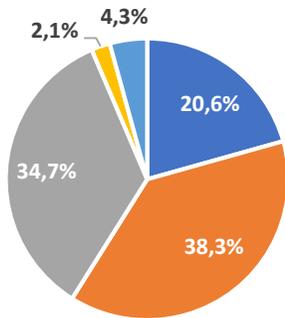


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# Priority needs

Levels of access to health care, education and security in displacement locations are worrisome. The lack of operational infrastructures is very much linked to the weak density in these areas. Indeed, the local population had access to an operational health center in only 39.6% of villages assessed. In Kasai and Kasai Central, this rate reaches 53 % and 50 % respectively. Furthermore, on average, only 50 % of the villages evaluated contained an operational school and 27 % of the villages had an operational police antenna. Beyond these figures, field enumerators also reported severe protection incidents in Lomami (Kamiji, Wikong and Luputa health zones)\* and acute malnutrition cases in Kasai Central (Bena Tshiadi and Yangala health zones). More generally, field reports indicate that the level of humanitarian assistance in the province remains extremely low.

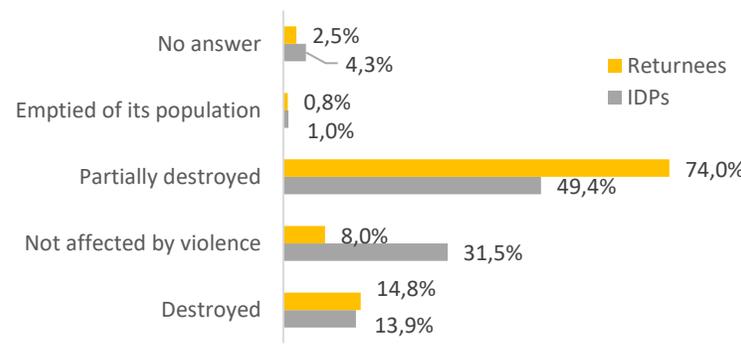
- Destroyed
- Not affected by violence
- Partially destroyed
- Emptied of its population
- No answer



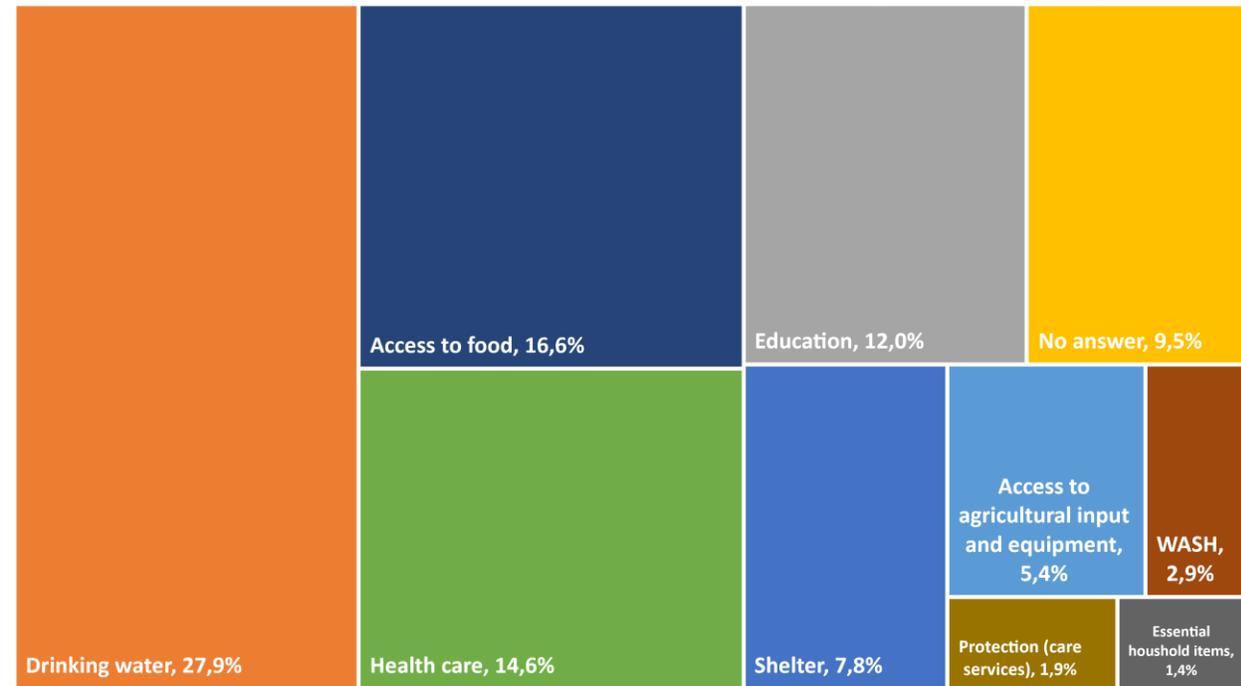
Situation of the villages assessed

Respectively 74 % of the returnees and 49,4 % of the IDPs now live in partially destroyed villages whereas 8 % of the returnees and 31,5 % of the IDPs live in villages that have not been affected by violence.

Internally displaced persons and returnees wish to leave their current displacement location and have been seeking relatively safer places - a fact reflected in the data collected, which showed that only 38.3% of assessed villages have not been affected by violence. Indeed, 34,7 % of the villages have been partially destroyed and 20,6 % have been destroyed.



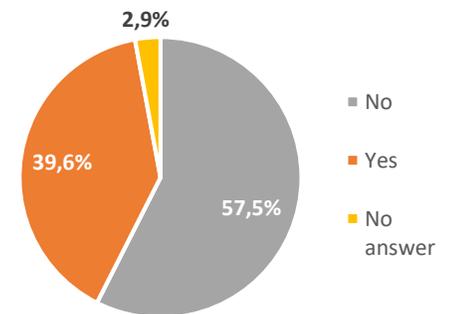
% Returnees and IDPs / Situation of the villages assessed



In 27,9 % of the villages, access to drinking water has been highlighted as a priority need, followed by access to food (16,6 %) and health care (14,6 %).

The majority of villages (57.5%) have neither an operational health structure nor a health post, health center or general hospital. These rates are particularly high in the provinces most affected by internal displacement (Kasai Central and Kasai).

% Villages with access to operational infrastructures



Published on 30 July 2018

\* For more information on protection incidents, please contact us directly.