



DR CONGO

HUMANITARIAN CRISIS

INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATION FOR MIGRATION

SITUATION REPORT • 17 May - 03 July 2018



Highlights

IOM assisted in the reunification of children with their families, Tanganyika.
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■ IOM relocated 4,095 Internally Displaced Persons in Katanika displacement site following a fire in the site.

■ IOM reunited 78 Unaccompanied and Separated Children with their families in Tanganyika.

■ Assessments conducted through IOM mobility tracking identified 725,153 displaced persons in Kasai and South Kivu.

Situation Overview

The situation in Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) has largely remained the same since the last reporting period. The country is still characterized by continued violence between armed groups and the Congolese army. Equally, the humanitarian situation has remained the same, characterized by displacement and urgent humanitarian needs in all areas such as food security and protection.

Kilya village, in North Kivu province, Beni territory, has experienced an influx of Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) since mid-March 2018. Approximately 4,200 IDPs have arrived to Kilya from neighbouring villages due to attacks by armed groups in their villages (source: OCHA 18 June 2018). These IDPs were reported to live in dire conditions and are in need of humanitarian assistance, in particular food assistance and non-food items (NFIs). The same situation was reported in the Hombo region in the south-east territory of Walikale, also in the province of North Kivu. Following clashes between armed groups approximately 2,670 IDPs have fled their villages to Hombo (source: OCHA 18 June 2018). As the case in Kilya, these IDPs were in need of humanitarian assistance and the last assistance distributed in Hombo dates back to January 2018.

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IOM RESPONSE



CAMP COORDINATION AND CAMP MANAGEMENT

Kalemie, the provincial capital of Tanganyika houses approximately 47,983 IDPs. Situated a couple of kilometres outside Kalemie is the Katanika displacement site where approximately 13,426 IDPs live. IOM has conducted site planning and site coordination since April 2018 to improve the living standards of IDP households in Katanika. IOM has structured the sites into blocks with sanitary corridors and constructed 1,064 shelters, 50 blocks of latrines, 25 blocks of showers, 25 rubbish pits, two administrative centres, two transit hangars, and two bridges.

On 21 May 2018 a fire broke out in parts of the site still waiting to undergo site planning. The fire, due to cooking, spread fast and destroyed 1,250 shelters affecting some 4,000 IDPs. Fortunately, no lives were lost but approximately 70 per cent of the individuals affected lost all of their belongings.

IOM, along with the humanitarian community, reacted swiftly and assessed the situation and shared an assessment of the fire two days following its destruction. IOM relocated 1,215 households affected by the fire to parts of the site where site planning had taken place and provided them with new shelters.

IOM will continue to conduct site planning in Katanika in order to improve living conditions and mitigate the risks of future fires.



PROTECTION

Since October 2017, IOM in collaboration with the Congolese authorities on social affairs and humanitarian assistance has identified and documented 156 Unaccompanied and Separated Children (UASC) in 10 displacement sites in and around Kalemie. Following the identification and documentation of these children the tracing of their families started in order to reunify them with their families. The first round of the reunification sessions were conducted in March 2018

when 58 UASC were reunified with their families. The second session occurred from 27 June to 4 July, where 78 UASC (46 girls and 32 boys) were reunited with their families in villages throughout Tanganyika.

The children travelled by bus, train and boat and were accompanied by social workers provided by Congolese authorities to reach their families. The social workers reported joyful scenes as the children and families were reunited. In some cases, the families had been separated for almost two years without any contact.

Each UASC received a reunification kit including clothes, blankets and hygiene articles from IOM, as well as a certificate of reunification signed by the Congolese authorities and their parents to officialise the reunification.

Prior to the reunification, IOM and the Congolese authorities ensured that the best interest of the child was respected by ensuring that reunification was the most desirable option for the child. The Congolese authorities traced the families prior to them reuniting with their children to find their whereabouts, as well as to conduct interviews with the families to ensure a positive and smooth reunification. The families traced were found in different locations throughout the province of Tanganyika as far as 150km from Kalemie. The tracing of the families of the remaining children is still ongoing.



Fire in Katanika. © IOM 2018 (Photo: IOM DRC)



DISPLACEMENT TRACKING

During the reporting period, IOM published two dashboards presenting the principle results on its mobility tracking assessments conducted in the provinces of Kasai and South Kivu.

Since 2016, the Kasai province has experienced a surge of violence characterized by clashes between armed groups and the Congolese army. The assessments conducted covered two territories, Mweka, Kamonia and Tschikapa city, with the objective to gather data on the displaced communities, returnees and humanitarian needs. In total 1,731 villages were assessed using information provided by 3,333 key informants throughout the assessed areas.

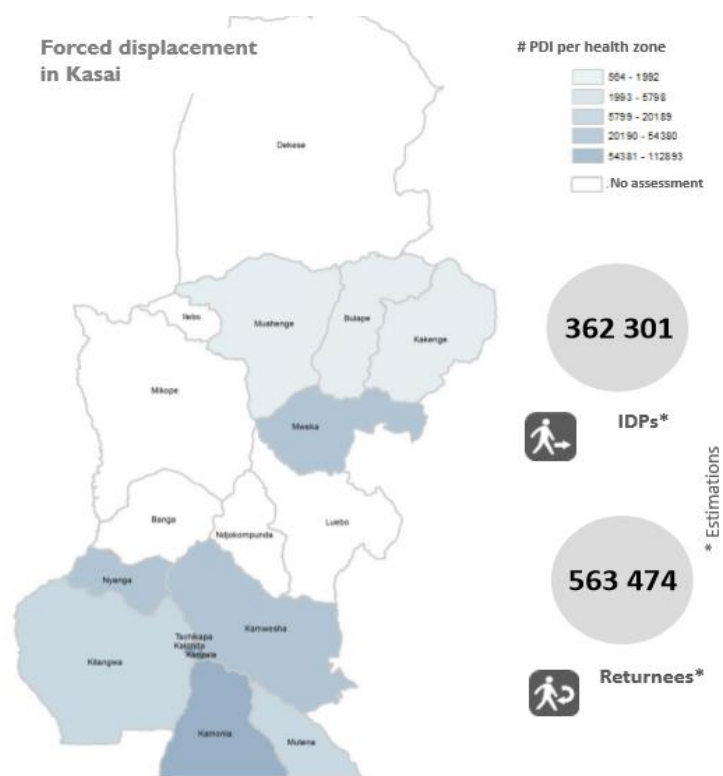
The assessments revealed that in the assessed areas, 362,301 individuals were internally displaced in the province and that the province hosted 563,474 returnees. The major reason for the displacement in the province was due to attacks by armed groups in their villages, as 73.5 per cent of the IDPs had become internally displaced as they fled attacks from armed groups. The assessments also revealed that among the returnees, 77.4 per cent had decided to return because of an improved security situation.

In 2017, an increase in inter-communal violence and numbers of attacks from armed groups in South Kivu forced communities to flee their villages. The territories of Fizi, Kalehe, Shabunda and Uvira have particularly been struck by displacement. In order to increase the humanitarian actors' knowledge, IOM conducted mobility tracking assessments to gather information on

this displacement crisis. These assessments were conducted in 1,761 villages throughout the provinces. Data on IDPs, returnees and humanitarian needs were collected through in-depth interviews with 5,443 key informants. The assessment revealed that in the assessed areas there were 362,852 IDPs and 240,147 returnees.

The dashboards for [Kasai](#) and [South Kivu](#) were widely shared in the DRC among humanitarian actors. The results of the assessments will provide an updated overview on the current displacement situation in the two provinces and support the prioritization of intervention areas.

Each of IOM DRC's DTM reports are available [online](#).



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