



SITUATION

The Kasai Provinces in the DRC are experiencing one of the most severe crisis in their history. Violent ethnic/tribal conflicts, fuelled by the brutal killing of the local tribal chief, Kamuina Nsapu and the subsequent calls amongst his followers to avenge his death. As a result, an unprecedented massive population displacement was reported within and outside the 5 provinces of the Great Kasai (Kasai, Kasai central, Kasai Oriental, Sankuru and Lomami). In June 2017, it was reported that 1.4 million people have been forced to flee from their homes, escaping violence. Approximately 33,132 people reportedly crossed the border to Angola when the crisis broke out. According to UNICEF’s August 2017 situation report, the fast and continued deterioration of security and worsening humanitarian situation is currently affecting 2.4 million people in the Kasai and surrounding provinces. The situation will likely worsen in the coming months if no actions are taken.

NEEDS

The situation in the Kasai provinces is a complex emergency. According to multi sectorial needs assessments reports released by a number of humanitarian actors, including Christian Aid, UNICEF, UNOCHA, WAR Child UK and PRONANUT, 2.4 million people are directly affected and in need of multi sector humanitarian assistance. According to UNICEF's sit-rep issued end of August, 2017, about 1185600 children with their parents and 96000 pregnant women are in need of humanitarian assistance (shelter, food, basic household equipment, education, health, protection, water and basic sanitation). 200 villages, 404 schools and 418 health centres were destroyed and require rehabilitation.

Almost all sectors are severely affected, needing substantial emergency and recovery interventions. The population is lacking food with food insecurity scores as high as 4 (emergency) or 3 (crisis), as well as agricultural inputs for early recovery. This situation is affecting the nutritional status of the most vulnerable (including children, pregnant and lactating women), with alarmingly high malnutrition rates requiring an urgent response through therapeutic, supplementary and community nutrition services. The displaced population are in dire need of basic NFI kits and shelter, as they lost everything while fleeing, and their villages completely or partially destroyed. Moreover, existing ethnic and tribal tensions have worsened, thus communities are in need of support for peaceful cohabitation and cohesion including some targeted advocacy work.

The dire situation is further compounded for the conflict affected people with vulnerabilities. More specifically for unaccompanied children who are often forcibly recruited by armed groups and cut from their families and communities. With the lack of proper demobilization and reintegration process, they are consequently rejected by their families and communities when released by armed groups. There is a crucial need to provide protection including psychosocial support to children associated with armed forces. There is a pressing necessity to provide immediate assistance to minimize loss of life and to ensure that the needs of the most vulnerable are taken care of urgently.

STAKEHOLDERS

The following national and international entities are present and doing their best to respond to the crisis:

National government	Although there is an established structure of government in the area, officials have been withdrawn due to the conflict from some areas. Where government is present, it lacks capacity
UN Agencies	UNOCHA: is coordinating and doing advocacy work for emergency response WFP: has just launched a call for response in food assistance.

	<p>UNICEF: is involved in child protection work through its partners at a limited scale (nutrition, demobilization, unaccompanied children and education)</p> <p>UNHCR: working with IDP's in the sites</p>
INGOs	Not many INGOs were present in the area at the beginning of the conflict. Of recent, many actors are trying to mobilize resources and efforts to respond to the needs.
Red Cross Red Crescent Movement	The ICRC and the DRC Red Cross Society are present in the area.
Military presence	DRC Armed Forces (FARDC), National Police and MONUSCO are present. They are not very involved in humanitarian response but protection of the civilians.
National NGOs	There are several National NGOs in the area, but lacking capacity, especially funding. COPROMOR is the only local ACT Alliance member based and operating in the region with Christian Aid Support.
Civil society groups	There is a number of local associations that also lack means to response.
Faith based groups	Church of Christ in Congo is unifying all the religious leaders to make steps towards peaceful statement, reconciliation, as well as making recommendations to the parties in conflict resolution
Host communities	Most of IDPs are accommodated by host families, thus increasing their already vulnerable situation with additional burden of hosting. As everywhere in DRC, host communities have provided shelters, shared their food and water , as well as all their social life
Affected communities	Many IDPs, as well as returnees are involved in doing casual labour as load handlers on their backs for traders to earn at least \$1 a day to support the cost of living which is much higher that what they earn for their livelihood.

The emergency response is currently being coordinated by UNOCHA. To ensure that the humanitarian response is well coordinated and complementary, the ACT forum will take part in meetings with all relevant sector stakeholders (relevant clusters namely food security, nutrition, WASH, protection, education and others working groups) and establish an open line of communication with crisis affected persons and communities to ensure a humanitarian response based on participation and feedback.

ACT Alliance

x	ACT Alliance member, COPROMOR has been working in Kasai regions since February 2017, is currently helping and is planning to provide additional help people affected by the conflict with support from Ecumenical Office for Development Support(BOAD), Christian Aid and Lutheran World Federation.
x	ACT Alliance members work in areas affected by the conflict, and is assessing the impact of the disaster to better understand the needs and vulnerabilities.
x	ACT Alliance members are monitoring the situation and emergency teams are ready/preparing to respond according to the results of a contextual analysis and rapid needs assessment.
x	In collaboration with relevant stakeholders, the ACT members have identified a gap in food security, nutrition, shelter, NFI, WASH, education, protection and psychosocial support and has resolved that if funded, it will have the capacity to properly bridge the identified gap.

x	The ACT Alliance members are planning on submitting a funding proposal to provide food security, nutrition, WASH, Shelter, NFI, education, protection and psychosocial support to ensure that the conflict affected persons' basic needs are met with regards to food security, nutrition, WASH, shelter, NFI, education, protection and psychosocial support.
x	ACT Alliance members are ready to respond, providing food or cash, accompanied by seeds and tools, as well as training in agricultural techniques to link emergency and early recovery phase, Nutritional therapeutic inputs, essential drugs, as well as nutritional education. On WASH side: emergency wash, rehabilitation and protection of basic water sources, distributing WASH kits and training in basic hygiene practices. Psycho social support and trauma counselling as well as referral for the several cases, economics reinsertion of trauma survivors, income generating activities for hosted families of unaccompanied children, school rehabilitation, reinsertion into the education system, as well as dedicated PSS to 40,000 affected households in the coming weeks
x	Furthermore, ACT Alliance members will engage in advocacy on the national and international level to ensure that the voices of those affected are amplified.

Any funding indication or pledge should be communicated to the Head of Finance and Administration, Line Hempel (Line.Hempel@actalliance.org) and Senior Finance Officer, Lorenzo Correa (Lorenzo.Correa@actalliance.org)

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