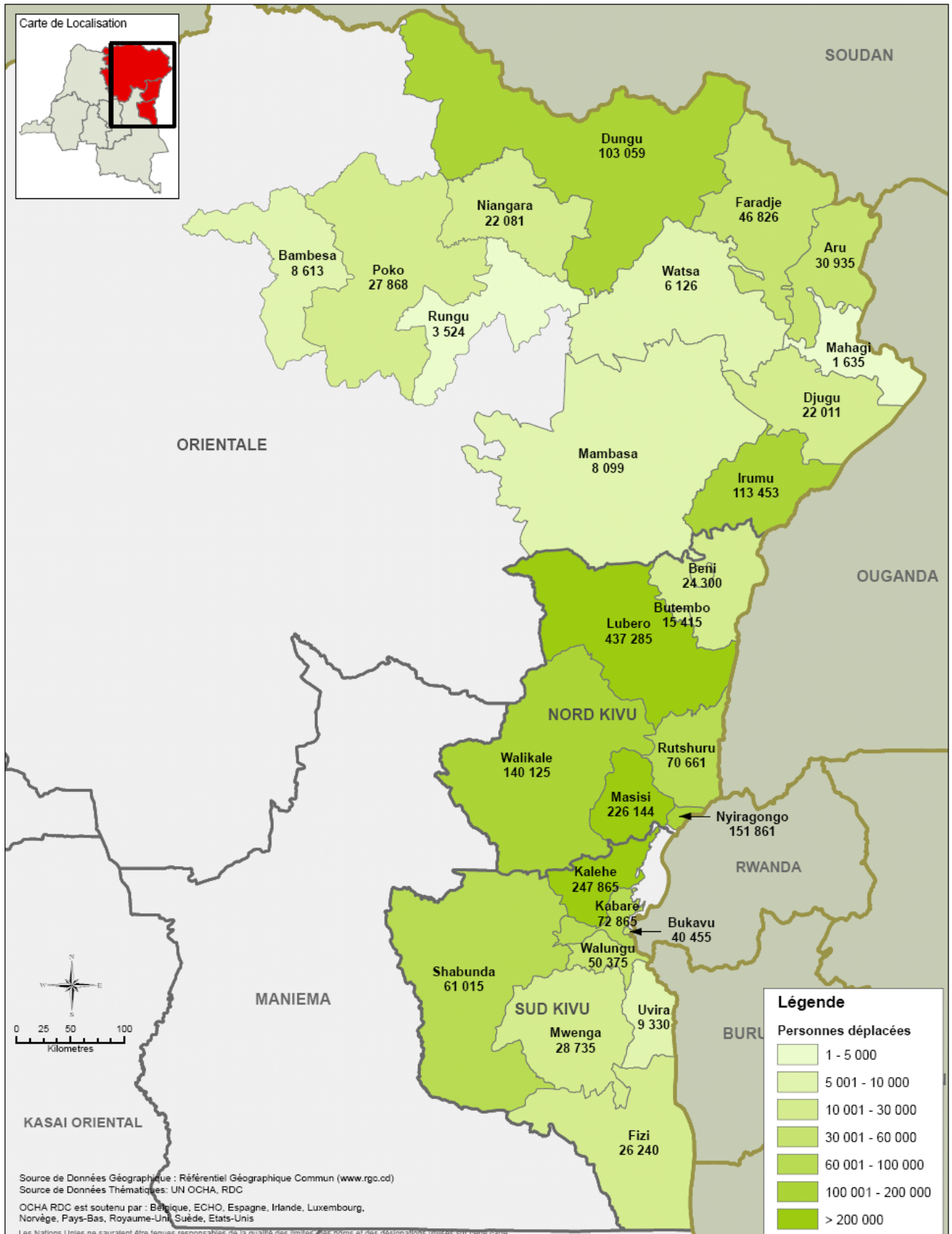
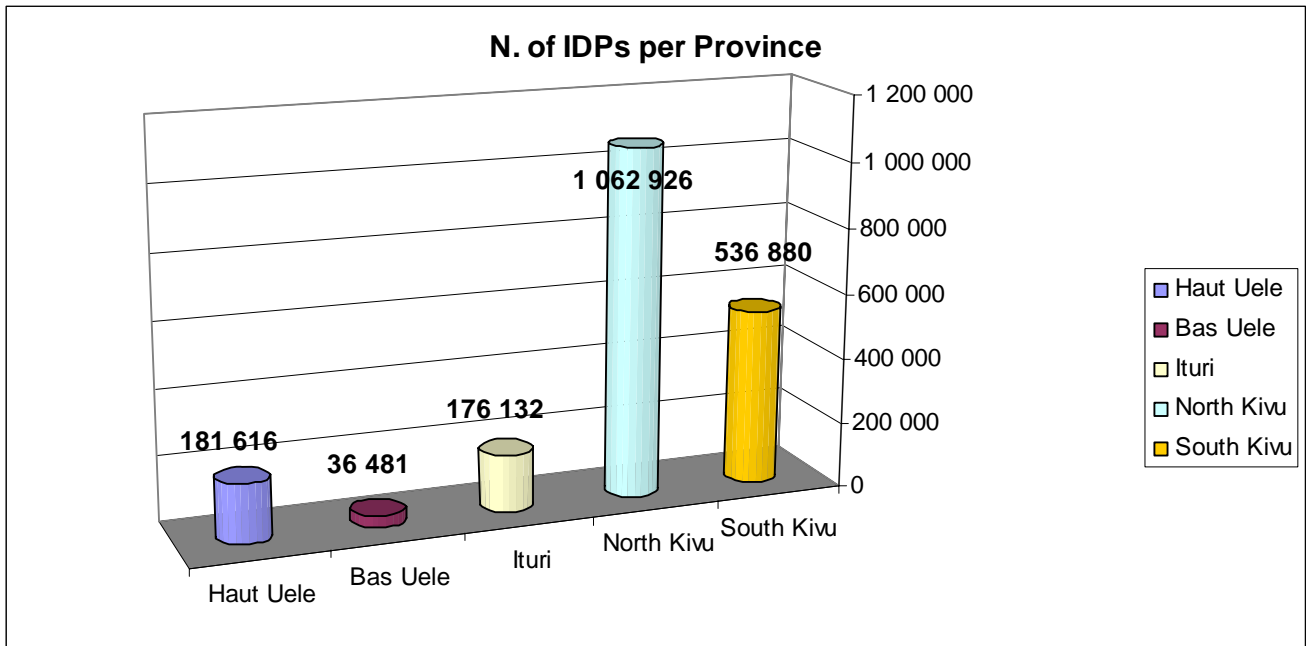


## OCHA DRC POPULATION MOVEMENTS IN EASTERN DR CONGO APRIL – JUNE 2009



**1. OVERVIEW**

The humanitarian situation in the eastern provinces of the Democratic Republic of Congo has deteriorated dramatically in the last months. In South Kivu, an estimated 536,880 people are currently displaced from their homes. There is a continuous rise of the number of displaced in areas such as Kalehe territory (on the border with North Kivu), Kabare territory and Shabunda territory. Some displacements are caused by FARDC-RDF joint operations in North Kivu while others are caused by FARDC-MONUC operations (or Kimia II) launched in South Kivu. Since the launch of the military campaigns about six months ago, an estimated total of more than 1.5 million people have been displaced in North and South Kivu provinces and the total number of IDPs in the country currently stands at 2 millions.



Note: Ituri, Haut and Bas Uele are districts of the Oriental province

Since September 2008, the Oriental Province has witnessed a significant number of attacks carried out by the Lord’s Resistance Army (LRA) causing displacement of population in the Haut and Bas Uele districts. The LRA fighters are terrorising the population and committing atrocities and acts of extreme violence: killings, rapes, kidnapping of women and children. Since February 2009, the LRA fighters have been attacking the Bas Uele district causing further displacement in the area. According to the figures collected up to May 30, the number of displaced people in Haut Uele is estimated at 181,616 while in Bas Uele, it is 36,481.

- In North Kivu, 350,000 people were displaced during the FARDC and RDF joint operations against the FDLR (known as Kymia I) conducted last February. Meanwhile, in the last six months more than 160,000 IDPs have returned to their homes, in areas previously held by the CNDP in North Kivu.
- In northern Oriental Province, the terror spread by the LRA has led to population displacements in many locations of the Haut and Bas Uélé districts. As of 30 May, the total number of IDPs is estimated at 218,097 persons.
- At the end of May 2009, an estimated 176,132 persons remained displaced in Ituri, 23,000 among them were displaced as a consequence of the recent fighting between FARDC and FPJC/FRPI (March 2009). Furthermore in Ituri, since August 2008, an estimated total of 2,075,149 IDPs have been able to return to their villages of origin by the end of May 2009.

The total estimated number of internally displaced persons in the country currently stands at 2 millions.

## 2. CURRENT TRENDS BY PROVINCE

### 2.1. NORTH KIVU



#### **Displacement: increased numbers**

- 1.06 million displaced persons in North Kivu.
- 400,000 estimated new displaced since January 2009.
- About 430,000 IDPs (40% of the total IDPs number in North Kivu) are now in the Lubero territory.



#### **Returns: increased numbers**

- During the last six months about 160,000 people have returned to the areas previously controlled by CNDP.

### **Displacement**

#### Context Summary

The humanitarian situation in North Kivu has continued to deteriorate since the beginning of 2009, when joint military operations between the Congolese and Rwandan armies against the Rwandan Hutu Rebels of FDLR started, causing massive displacements. After the withdrawal of Rwandan forces, these operations have been continued by the FARDC with the logistic support of MONUC through the operation Kimia II.

Territory	Households	N. of displaced persons
Beni	4 860	24 300
Butembo	3 083	15 415
Lubero	87 457	437 285
Masisi	47 912	226 144
Rutshuru	14 132	70 661
Nyiragongo	30 308	151 861
Walikale	27 645	140 125
<b>Total</b>	<b>215 397</b>	<b>1 065 791</b>

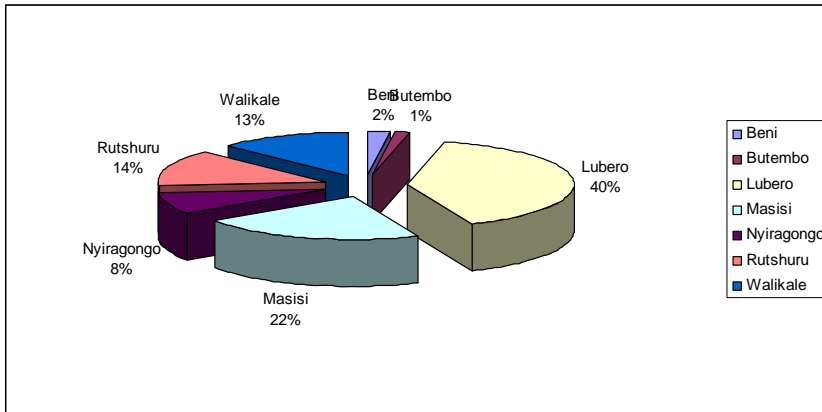
Displacements have continued and the total figure of the directly affected and temporarily displaced population is estimated at almost 1.1 million for the entire province of North Kivu out of a total population of 5 million. At the same time, the Congolese government signed in March 2009 a peace agreement with the National Council for Defence of the People (CNDP) and other armed groups. This peace agreement has resulted in the return of around 210,000 persons in the Rutshuru territory, former CNDP controlled zone.

Following an accelerated integration of some elements of the armed groups into the FARDC, there has been an increase of extortions and exactions against local populations. The lack of basic logistics support and

regular salary payments to soldiers, including the new integrated elements, have further deteriorated the situation.

Military operations carried out by the FARDC and the FDLR have resulted in significant numbers of new IDPs and widespread violence against civilians.

**Displaced in North Kivu (%)**



**New displacements**

At present, about 400,000 persons have fled to avoid fighting and clashes between the Congolese Army and the Rwandan Hutu Rebels of FDLR. Many of these families had already fled the war several times, moving back and forth, often in circles, to avoid the armed groups and the frontline.

This increasing dispersion of displaced persons and regular multiple displacements make it difficult to estimate a reliable total figure. Over the past weeks, conditions for these extremely vulnerable persons have deteriorated rapidly. The total figure of the directly affected and temporarily displaced population is estimated to have passed the million, particularly for the territories of Lubero, some parts of Masisi and Walikale where more than 140,000 displaced have been registered since the beginning of the operations against the FDLR.

Many families have fled the war several times and were already displaced and victims of pillaging and human rights violations when they had to flee the new hostilities. Often, they are moving back and forth and in circles to avoid the armed groups and the frontline. Displaced populations have concentrated around in Lubero, Masisi, Nyiragongo and Walikale.

**Returns**

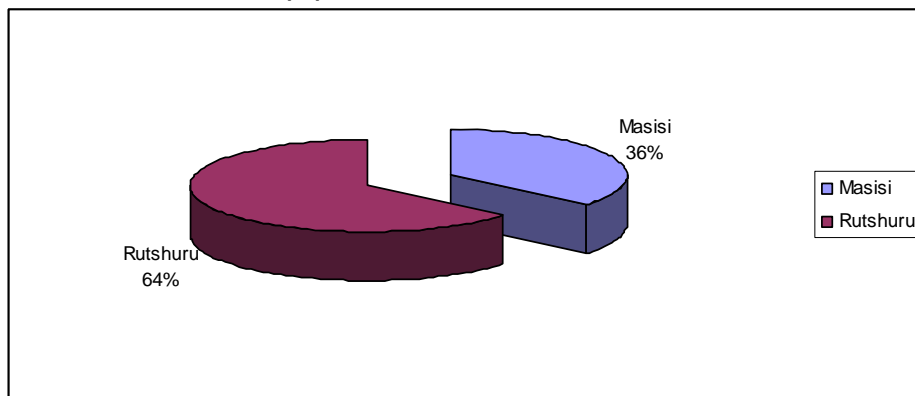
In parallel, since January 2009 some 160,000 people have returned to their homes in areas previously controlled by CNDP, in particular in Rutshuru and Masisi.

Territory	Households	N. of Displaced
Masisi	11 576	57 880
Rutshuru	20 497	102 483
<b>Total</b>	<b>32 073</b>	<b>160 363</b>

It has been also observed that there is a movement of commuting between Nyabyondo and Masisi due to the security situation. Some other returns have been registered in Kironko, east of Masisi.

In Rutshuru the return movement has been registered from South-East (Gisigari, Jomba, Rugari, Bweza).

**Returns in North Kivu (%)**



**Trends**

The situation in Walikale is particularly worrying. At the beginning of 2009, Walikale was considered as a return zone, but in the last six months the number of displaced has passed from zero to 140,000. Many IDPs are coming to Walikale from the Itebero – Musenge axis due to insecurity. There are also movements of people from South Kivu, Shabunda in particular, to Walikale. Other movements have been registered from the Oriental Province and South Lubero to Walikale.

**2.2. SOUTH KIVU**



**Displacement: new displaced persons**

- 536,880 displaced persons in South Kivu (new and old).
- 100,000 new displaced or registered by humanitarian actors in the past four months.
- New displacement in 2009 constitutes 20% of the total 536,880 IDPs.



**Returns: no returns during the last three months**

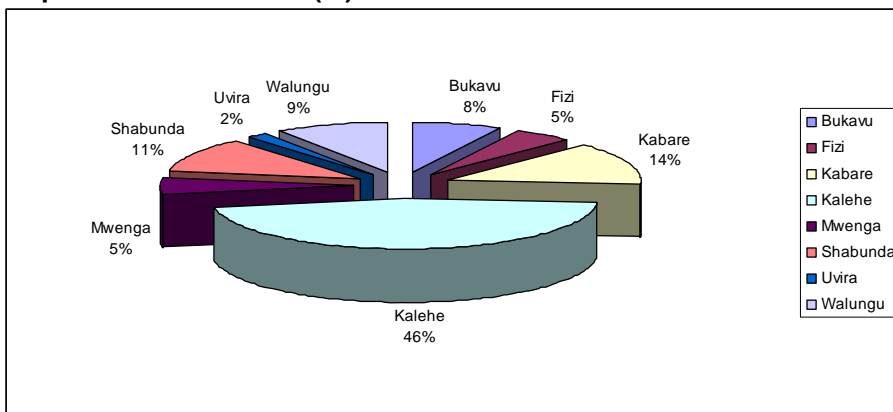
**Context Summary**

Territory	Households	N. of Displaced
Bukavu	8 091	40 455
Fizi	5 248	26 240
Kabare	14 573	72 865
Kalehe	49 573	247 865
Mwenga	5 747	28 735
Shabunda	12 203	61 015
Uvira	1 863	9 330
Walungu	10 074	50 375
<b>Total</b>	<b>107 372</b>	<b>536 880</b>

A continuous increase of displacements was noted in South Kivu where at least 100,000 new IDPs were registered in the past four months. The greatest number of IDPs was recorded in Kalehe territory (on the axis Bunyakiri-Hombo, Kalehe-Minova, and the area of Kalonge) bordering North Kivu where joint FARDC-RDF operations were conducted in February.

Besides, as FDLR exactions and threats increase, many landlocked areas in Bunyakiri and Hombo were evacuated and inhabitants found refuge in residential areas along the main road going from Bunyakiri to Hombo. In the Shabunda territory, 409 households displaced (about 2,045 people) have been registered in Shabunda Centre. The commission controlling movements of IDPs in South Kivu estimates at 536,880 the number of IDPs (new and old) across the province at the end of June 2009.

**Displaced in South Kivu (%)**



In the collectivity of Nindja in Kabare territory, the inhabitants of several villages have deserted their homes to find refuge in the bush. The movements are triggered by the panic caused by the influx since 3 May of FDLR

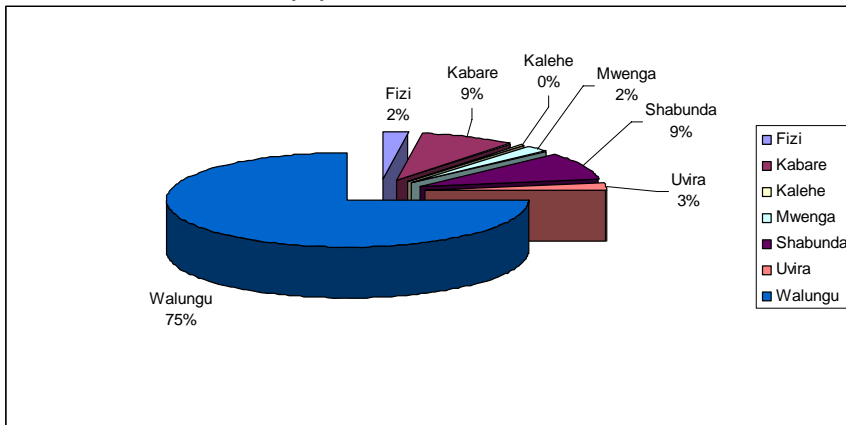
elements in the area from Lulingu (Shabunda territory). These displacements of FDLR fighters are linked to the ongoing deployments of FARDC in northern Shabunda. There are reports of other preventive displacements of populations to Irega-Barhonyi and Kachuba (collectivity of Nindja) where an important number of FDLR was noted these past days.

**Returns**

The return process is currently on a stand by due to new clashes in the province. The areas previously identified as safe for return are now areas of displacement and the physical access to people in need is becoming almost impossible. As of 30 May 2009 the Commission Mouvements des Populations (CMP) has registered 780,010 returnees in the province of South Kivu, these figures refer to the return of population in the last two years.

Territory	Households	N. of Returnees
Fizi	3 414	17 070
Kabare	13 428	67 140
Kalehe	457	2 285
Mwenga	3 641	18 205
Shabunda	14 253	71 265
Uvira	4 450	22 250
Walungu	116 359	581 795
<b>Total</b>	<b>156 002</b>	<b>780 010</b>

**Returns in South Kivu (%)**



**Trends**

The FARDC are currently deployed in 5 of the 8 territories constituting the province (Kalehe, Kabare, Shabunda, Mwenga and Uvira) and the possibility of further displacement is very high.

According to local sources more displaced are currently cornered in Katobo, Lubarika and Lemera localities where the humanitarians do not have access. The same situation is reported in the territories affected by the Kimia II operations causing a constant movement of population.

### 2.3. ITURI DISTRICT (PROVINCE ORIENTALE)



#### **Displacement: increased numbers**

- 23,000 newly displaced persons in the Ituri district due to recent fighting between FARDC and FPJC/FRPI.
- 79% have been displaced for a period ranging from 3 to 12 months;



#### **Returns: increased numbers**

- Recent assessments registered a return of population to their places of origin in the second quarter of 2009, in particular in the territories of Djugu and Mahagi where more than 134,000 people returned to their homes.
- Thanks to the security improvement some returns have been registered in areas such as Ngadju, Tchäi, Kaya, Songolo/Malo and Songolo/Nyamabo

#### **Context Summary**

The continued presence of militia elements in southern Irumu territory, known as Front Populaire pour la Justice au Congo (FPJC) and Front de Résistance des Patriotes de l'Ituri (FRPI), continues to be an obstacle to the return of internally displaced persons to their villages of origin. The vast majority of the IDPs are from the Walendu Bindi collectivity.

FARDC, with support from MONUC, launched a military operation against the FPJC on April 12th, 2009. Though it is not completed, the operation Iron Stone has pushed the militiamen to disperse in clusters in a wide area and observers have noticed an increase of attacks on civilians at the end of April (5 attacks between 29 April and 6 May). Recently, it has been reported that the security is improving. This could be attributed to the informal truce observed to allow students to sit their exams.

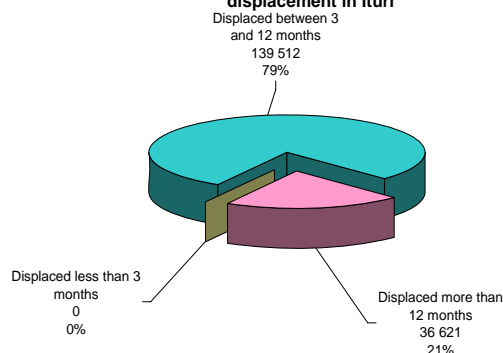
**Province:** Orientale (Ituri)

Territory	Households	N. of Displaced
Irumu	22 691	113 453
Mahagi	327	1 635
Mambasa	1 620	8 099
Aru	6 187	30 935
Djugu	4 402	22 011
<b>Total</b>	<b>35 226</b>	<b>176 133</b>

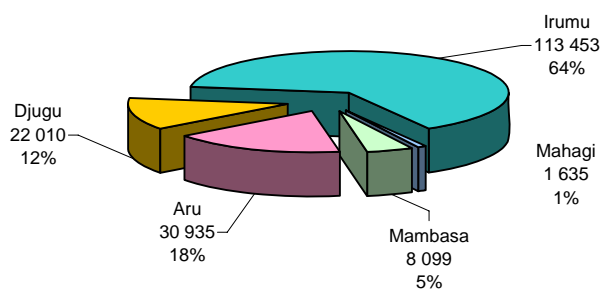
#### **New displacements**

• At the end of May 2009, an estimated 176,133 persons were displaced in Ituri, 70% of whom (about 113,453 persons) were in Irumu territory. Out of these 113,453 persons, 23,000 were displaced as a consequence of the recent fighting between FARDC and FPJC/FRPI (March 2009). In late April, it was reported that FARDC have attempted to force the return of displaced persons in a least two locations.

Repartition of the 176 133 IDPs by the duration of their displacement in Ituri

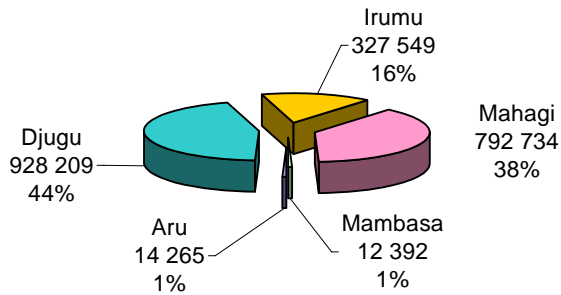


Distribution of the 176 133 IDPs by territory in Ituri District



**Returns**

**Distribution of the 2 075 149 retournees by territory in Ituri District**



• A shy return is reported (especially in Ngadju, Tchäi, Kaya, Songolo/Malo and Songolo/Nyamabo) as parents are trying to make it to their village before the start of the next school year.

Should the security situation further improve, the process of return could accelerate. The overall security has improved across Ituri district since 2004, and up to 2,075,149 displaced persons have been able to return to their villages of origin by the end of June 2009 (at the end of December 2008, it was estimated that 1,126,785 displaced persons had been able to return) .

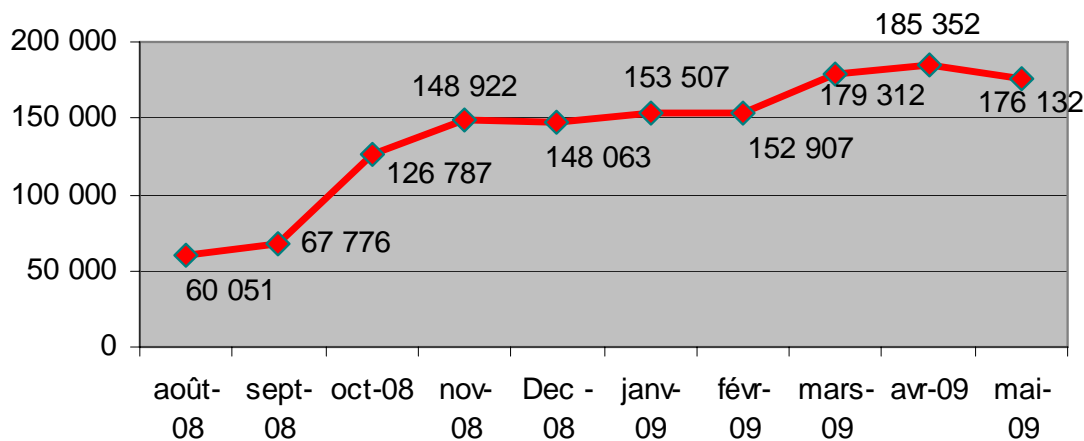
due to a better management of the information thanks to an improved security situation which allows access and a better evaluation of the area.

The increasing number of returnees registered in Djugu and Mahagi territory (134,380 new returnees) is probably

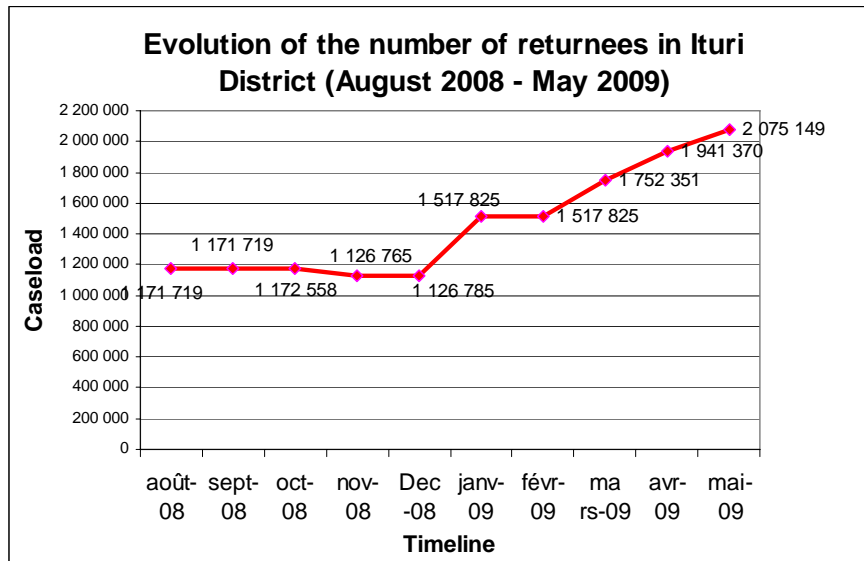
**Trends**

- Continued presence of militia in Irumu prevents returns.
- Monitoring of the situation regarding displacements, as militia had let known they were on stand by to let the students go through their exams in peace. Now that the exam period is over, skirmishes could resume.
- In Djugu territory, more and more continue to return.

**Evolution of the number of IDPs in Ituri District (August 2008- May 2009)**







## 2.4. HAUT AND BAS UELE DISTRICT (ORIENTAL PROVINCE)



### **Displacement: increased numbers**

- 181,616 new displaced persons in Haut Uele.
- 36,481 new displaced in Bas Uele.
- 100% have been displaced for a period ranging from 3 to 12 months; clearly as the result of the LRA attacks that affected the province since the end of 2008.



### **Returns: increased numbers**

- 30,928 persons have returned to the Haut Uele district, mainly in Faraje and Dungu territories.

### **Context Summary**

The Ugandan rebel group Lord's Resistance Army, LRA, has openly moved out of its hideouts in Garamba National Park in Dungu territory, Province Orientale.

- Since September 2008, the rebels have been terrorising the population, attacking, looting and burning villages and abducting dozens of civilians, mostly children. This provoked panic in the attacked and neighbouring villages, with many precautionary displacements.
- On 14 December, DRC, Uganda and Sudan launched joint military operations against the LRA with aerial bombardments of LRA positions in Garamba Park, provoking the dispersion of the LRA towards the Sudanese and CAR border and further into the district of Haut-Uélé.
- During the Christmas period, LRA elements conducted simultaneous deadly attacks on the towns of Faradje and Duru and a dozen of villages in the vicinity of Doruma, killing a total of at least 483 civilians, looting and burning down houses. In Faradje, 147 children were abducted.
- The attacks of small LRA groups, at times no more than five rebels, are continuing. The security situation in the district remains very unstable and worrisome.
- More FARDC forces are deployed to areas considered strategic for the protection of the population.
- MONUC is settled in Dungu, Duru and Faradje, providing protection to the population.

**New Displacements**

Between December 2007 and 30 June 2009, based on civil society groups, other local sources, and a Human Rights Watch report, OCHA has recorded an estimated total of 1,177 persons killed, and 1,720 abducted civilians, including 633 children in Haut Uélé and Bas Uélé. 620 of the victims have been massacred between 24 December 2008 and 13 January 2009 alone. According to FARDC, 400 abducted civilians have regained their liberty.

District: Haut Uele

Territory	Households	N. of Displaced
Dungu	20 612	103 059
Niangara	4 416	22 081
Rungu	705	3 524
Faradje	9 365	46 826
Watsa	1 225	6 126
<b>Total</b>	<b>36 323</b>	<b>181 616</b>

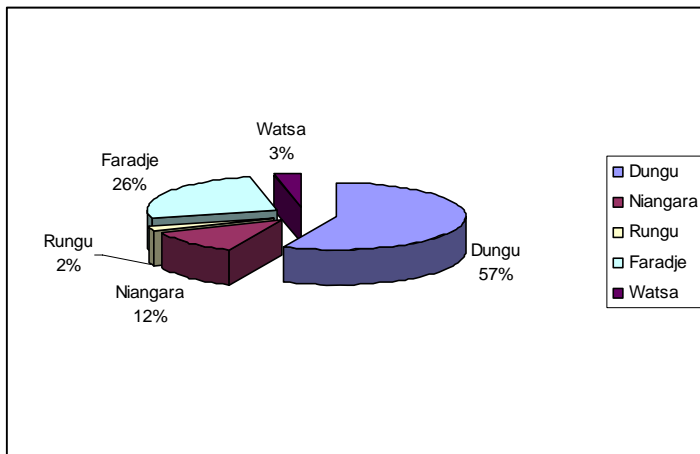
The terror spread by the LRA has led to population displacements in many locations of the district. As of 30 June, the total number of IDPs is estimated at 218,097 persons (181,616 persons in Haut Uélé and 36,481 in Bas Uélé). An additional 19,708 persons moved into Ituri district, and according to UNHCR 16,454 persons sought refuge

District: Bas Uele

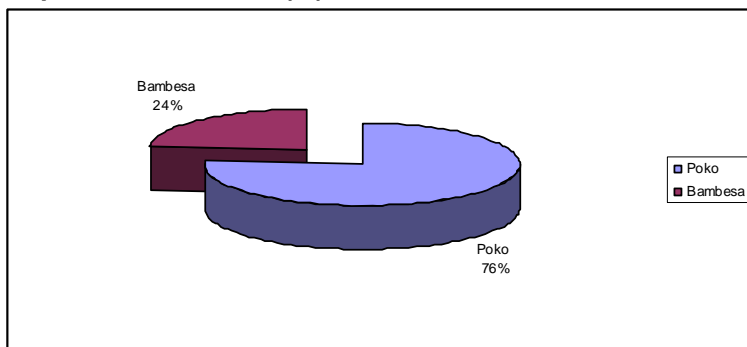
Territory	Households	N. of Displaced
Poko	5 574	27 868
Bambesa	1 723	8 613
<b>Total</b>	<b>7 296</b>	<b>36 481</b>

in Southern Sudan. Many of the displaced persons are still on the move. More displacements are expected, as the reputation of terror precedes the LRA and the population may flee upon the rumour of their arrival.

**Displaced in Haut Uele (%)**



**Displaced in Bas Uele (%)**



- After the attacks between September and November 2008, 54,380 IDPs have been registered in the southern zones of Dungu territory and in Niangara territory, and 1,128 persons in Isiro.

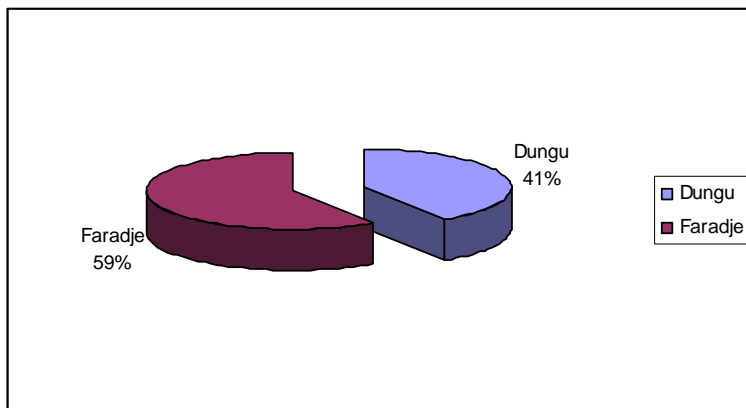
- Following the attack on Faradje on 25 December, the entire population of more than 30,000 fled the town. The majority remain displaced, thousands having fled to Tadu (37 km from Faradje), others either hiding in the bush or staying with host families in neighbouring villages.
- More than 13,000 IDPs have sought refuge in the centre of Doruma following the attacks on their close-by villages between 26 and 29 December.
- As the LRA are scattered, attacks are now reported throughout Haut and Bas Uélé.

**Returns**

In the Haut Uele district 30,929 people have returned, 18,297 in the Faradje territory and 12,631 in Dungu territory.

District: Haut Uele		
Territory	Households	N. of Returnees
Dungu	2 526	12 631
Faradje	3 659	18 297
<b>Total</b>	<b>6 186</b>	<b>30 928</b>

Returns in Haut Uele (%)



**Trends**

Fighting is likely to continue as there are no indications as to the resumption of political dialogue.

**2.5. IMPORTANT NOTE**

**This report is intended to reflect on main trends of population internal displacement and return trends in the 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, 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 have been made in accessible areas.