



Child Protection Rapid Response Team (RRT) End of Mission Report

The CP AoR RRT End of Mission Report is meant to complement the RRT bi-monthly reports, focusing on providing an analysis of the response to date, highlighting any main gaps, strengths and recommended next steps as well as providing an analysis of the deployment itself, reflecting on the level of achievement, the value added and the challenges faced.

In addition to the global level CP AoR Coordinator and the in-country supervisor, this report is intended to be shared with the RRT Steering Committee, the Global Protection Cluster Coordinator and the Senior CPIE Advisor, UNICEF New York.

Name:	Petra Heusser
Position of RRT in-country:	Coordination Support Specialist
Supervisor of RRT in-country:	Chief of Child Protection, Judith Léveillé
Date RRT request confirmed by Steering Committee:	Tuesday, 11 July, 2017
Date RRT deployed:	Thursday, 10 August, 2017
Countries covered by deployment:	DRC
Clusterized country:	Yes
Date RRT ended deployment:	Thursday, 31 August, 2017
Date report submitted:	Thursday, 31 August, 2017

1. Background

Overview of the context before deployment

In January 2016, in Dibaya, Central Kasai, a dispute erupted between the traditional chief Kamuina Nsapu and the national government over claims regarding customary law, natural resources and land issues. In August 2016, the national armed forces led an offensive that eliminated Chief Kamuina Nsapu. Since then, new militias have formed stirring up older ethnic tensions in the Kasai region. A complex, multilayered conflict has developed involving different actors. As of August 2017, the conflict affected nine of the country's 26 provinces and the consequences have also extended to Angola, where an average of 500 refugees from the Kasai region arrive daily. The conflict displaced over 1.4 million people, and more than 3,300 have died in the greater Kasai region between August 2016 and June 2017. UNJHRO confirmed the existence of 80 mass graves in Kasai (as of July 2017). The widespread violence has grave consequences on children, who make up more than 60% of the IDPs. UNICEF estimates that if the conflict continues, seven million children from these provinces will be at severe risk of violence, abuse, and exploitation. The upcoming elections and related unrest are likely to further complicate matters.

Key protection issues include children's exposure to the ongoing armed conflict. Between 40% and 60% of the militia members are children, often younger than 15. More than 1,000 cases of children used as combatants or human shields have been registered. At least 7,000 children have been separated from their families: they are particularly vulnerable to being recruited by militias and to become victims of violence and abuse. The population and particularly the children live in a state of strong psychosocial distress. 1,400 cases of sexual violence have been registered; children, the vast majority adolescent girls aged 12 to 17, account for 68% of survivors of sexual violence. Over 400 children have been arrested in Kananga and Tshikapa since August 2016, the living conditions in the cells are precarious, and there are reports of children being victims of torture. At least 100 children have been killed between January and March 2017. Numerous cases of summary and extrajudicial executions have been reported, affecting in particular children allegedly associated with the militias. Over 400 attacks against schools and 210 attacks against

health centers have been verified in the Kasai and Kasai Central provinces alone, depriving children of safe zones where they are protected even in times of conflict.

The CPWG was activated in 2009. The DRC Child Protection Working Group (CPWG) has 1 national working group in Kinshasa and 23 sub-national CPWGs, of which 11 are at provincial level and 11 CPWG at territory level. It is worth to note that there is no other country which has that many sub-national CPWGs (the next one is Somalia with 9 sub-national CPWGs). CPWG meetings at the national level are defining the overall strategic direction, and address issues emerging in the 23 provincial CPWGs across the country, as well as in the Province of Kinshasa. The meetings are being held on a monthly basis or according to needs, with different frequency of the CPWG meetings in the regions. The DRC counts with 42 coordinators and co-coordinators across the country.

The CPWG in the Kasai provinces are structured as follows:

- There are 3 CPWG groups in Kananga, Mbuji-Mayi and most recently one also established in Tshikapa (July 2017).
- Two additional CPWGs in Bandundu (provincial) and Kikwit (territorial) had been reactivated/created in August to respond to the increasing flow of IDPs coming from the Kasai provinces or returning to DRC from Angola.
- The CPWGs are led by UNICEF, with the Child Protection Officers double hatting for coordination, and formally co-led by Caritas in Kananga, DIVAS (government) and PDHPES (local NGO) in Mbuji-Mayi and the local NGOs BNCE & AJID in Tshikapa
- In all locations, membership encompasses about 35 – 50 members, of which over 80% are local actors from governmental entities and NGOs. There is very limited presence of international NGOs. The local actors having mostly development experience and little knowledge of the humanitarian principles and work. One of the biggest challenges is that most of the members are not fully operational in the new humanitarian context and do not have the capacity to quickly scale up.
- Protection Clusters are being set up in Kananga and Tshikapa in late August 2017 by UNHCR, with a dedicated roving coordinator for the two locations. UNFPA has also set up a GBV coordination groups in Kananga in August 2017.

For an analysis of the CPWGs according to the 6+1 core coordination functions, see [here](#). Before the conflict started in August 2016, the CPWGs were one of the only active coordination mechanisms addressing development issues. With the emergency situation, they have increased the meeting frequency and are striving to respond to the new coordination demands: situation (alerts) and response monitoring (4Ws); capacity building; advocacy; inform strategic decision making, etc.

2. Deployment Process

The RRT Steering Committee approved the deployment request on 11 July 2017. The RRT arrived in Kinshasa on the agreed date with the Country Office, on 10 August.

3. Role Undertaken by the RRT

The purpose of this deployment was to support the child protection coordination groups as an integral part of a coordinated approach to child protection during the emergency. Capacity building was identified by the CPWGs in the Kasai provinces as one of the most important needs to be able to adequately respond to the child protection needs due to the armed conflict. Therefore, the RRT was asked to carry out CPiE and Coordination trainings in Mbuji-Mayi and Kananga for the members of the CPWGs. In the respective locations, the RRT was supported by the UNICEF staff who are leading the CPWGs.

Additionally, this assignment was intended to provide guidance and support to strengthen child protection coordination at the national and sub-national level in the Kasai provinces.

4. RRT output

In collaboration with the national CPWG coordinator and the UNICEF Child Protection team at national and field levels, the RRT and surge achieved the following:

- Carried out one 3-day and one 4-day CPiE and Coordination training in Mbuji-Mayi and Kananga, thereby training 65 CPWG members. A detailed [Training Report](#) has been produced highlighting the focus of the discussions and including conclusions.
- Shared a [Dropbox account](#) with all training material produced, accessible both for the participant's and the CPWG leads and co-leads for replication of similar trainings or certain modules of it. Further, all material has also been shared with the participants via USB flash drives.
- Developed and shared an [analysis of the CPWGs](#) according to the 6+1 core coordination functions.
- Made [detailed recommendations](#) to improve the response monitoring 4W matrix (Who does What Where When) according to CPWG members' feedback and global best practices, and worked with CPWG members so that they are familiar with the 4Ws. Discussion held with OCHA who is assisting in updating the format.
- Together with the DRC CPWG coordinator, [prepared and led](#) the global CP AoR members and donors call to provide an update on the Kasai crisis, the response, gaps and needs. The call was appreciated by one donor participants as 'very informative and helpful'.
- Created and shared a [DRC CPWG Dropbox](#) to be fed with relevant documents from national, all provincial and territorial level CPWGs. This Dropbox is intended to be a repository of CPWG documents and supports knowledge management. With the high turnover of standby/surge personnel, this Dropbox can be shared during onboarding of new CPiE and coordination personnel.

5. Working with the Protection Cluster and AoRs as well as other Clusters

The CPWG closely collaborates with the Protection Cluster, the GBV and Mine Action AoRs. Joint programs have already been started with mine action and others are in the planning phase with the GBV AoR Lead Agency, UNFPA.

While child protection is mainstreamed in all Clusters, there is strong collaboration with the Education Cluster.

A process to elaborate the HCT Protection Strategy is ongoing led by the ProCap and the draft will be widely circulated for feedback.

6. Lessons learnt

- The workshops held with 65 participants from the main affected Kasai provinces added value and helped CPWG members to get a first introduction into CPiE and coordination in emergencies. Only with much emphasis were women participants put forward by the respective local NGOs; the promotion of women's participation needs to be continued.
Particular emphasis was placed on the humanitarian principles and on vulnerability analysis. The trainings led not only to an increased understanding of the objectives of coordination and how they should use the CPMS for more quality activities, but it also led to greater recognition by the CPWG members of the importance of mainstreaming child protection into other clusters and improved skills to engage with communities and other humanitarian actors.
- The last day in all trainings was dedicated to outlining the Child Protection Rapid Assessment toolkit and its components. This served as a basic introduction into rapid assessments and as preparation for potential interagency child protection assessments. However, once an actual interagency assessment would be envisioned, the global tools would need to be contextualized and another, in-depth training would be necessary.
- There is much commitment of the CPWG members to carry out principled CPiE activities and to contribute to coordination efforts. However, due to their limited capacity and lack of ability to quickly scale up, additional support by the CLA and other international actors is necessary to achieve these ambitions. A good practice is

already underway by UNICEF who is entering or extending existing partnerships with international or recognized local actors, and at the same time embedding a partnership with a local actor who needs much more assistance.

- The direct collaboration with the national coordinator highlighted the challenges of double-hatting during an L3 emergency. It added value in the sense that the RRT could appreciate the challenges first hand and that the coordinator was able to gain further insights from the global level or best practices in other contexts.

7. Recommendations for deployment process

The deployment process was effective; no recommendations.

8. Recommendations and next steps for in-country CP Cluster Lead Agency and members

For the CPWG CLA (UNICEF):

- Given the scale and severity of the humanitarian situation in DRC, double-hatting at the national level is not recommended. As soon as the SBP P3 will arrive to Kinshasa, it is strongly recommended that the coordinator retakes the fully dedicated coordination role.
- A **review process of the co-leads** in Mbuji-Mayi, Kananga and Kinshasa is recommended as their contributions and responsibilities should be increased. If needed, transparent election processes with clearly defined criteria could appoint new co-leads, which are better placed to assume the responsibilities of a co-leadership role. The [NGO co-leadership guidance](#) gives practical advice for this process, including the selection criteria.
- In view of the high number of CPWG members and that few are fully operational, **Strategic Advisory Groups (SAG)** could be envisioned at the sub-national levels in the Kasai provinces to improve effectiveness and efficiency. SAG would be made up of key partners that come together more regularly (e.g. weekly, with the larger membership meeting monthly) to provide strategic direction to the collective coordination group. SAG members' characteristics often include operational relevance in the emergency, technical expertise, capacity to contribute strategically and to provide practical support and commitment to contribute consistently. Chaired by the CPWG coordinator, SAGs develop and adjust the strategic framework, priorities and/or work plan. The group is expected to interact with its broader membership to ensure a regular flow of information.
- A **Kasai CPWG Action Plan** should be jointly developed as soon as possible, addressing priority needs and providing a good overview of a holistic response while at the same time allowing for the contextual needs of each response in the different provinces. The CPMS prioritization made during the trainings led by the RRT could serve as a first entry point for this action plan.
- **Localization strategies** of the CLA/UNICEF include capacity building on CPiE, but also project cycle management and finances. Moreover, localizations is strived for by strengthening local NGOs by first partnering with recognized partners who in turn include and mentor a local actor. This seems to be a good practice and its outcomes should be documented. At the same time, continued mentoring is required for the government bodies to incrementally take on more leadership.
- During the training in Kananga, there was an emphasis on specific child protection cases, which have not received a satisfactory response. A **technical case management group** could address this, including only those CPWG members who are identifying cases and are able to provide a quality response. Such a case management groups would have to put emphasis on the principles of 'need to know', 'confidentiality' and the 'best interest of the child'.
- The **information management tools** used by the double-hatting IMO could be further strengthened through support from the regional or global level, helping the IM to use automated dashboards and other new tools to simplify his work.
- In particular, regularly update and continue making use of the Secondary Data Review matrix and the 4W matrix and its related products. The 4W should be updated as per the [RRT's recommendations](#) and as per instructions of the national coordinator. The next round of response monitoring with this updated matrix should be carried out as soon as possible for a most recent map of who is *doing what* where (so far only 'who is where' is available). This analysis would have to go hand in hand with the evaluation of real operational capacity on the ground.

- Advocacy for a more visible child protection page on www.humanitarianresponse.org should be continued so that this and the current access issue can be solved as soon as possible. The upload of relevant documentation is a simple way to achieve increased information sharing and better visibility of child protection.
- Continue to upload all relevant documents from national, all provincial and territorial level CPWGs onto the DRC CPWG Dropbox for effective knowledge management.
- Continue to make use of the global CP AoR, which remains available for future inductions of new CPWG leads/co-leads, IMOs and support as possible.

9. Recommendations for others

Due to the specific capacity building character of the deployment, there are only a few recommendations for the *national Protection Cluster*:

- While alerts and early warnings are shared in a timely manner, the protection actors are not clear about mandates, responsibilities and procedures regarding mediation/early action upon early warning. An initial analysis is necessary of actors present, their mandate and capacities, as well as their stance in the communities (impartiality, neutrality, independence, recognition, perceptions), with subsequently guidance for the protection actors. This has already been raised with the national Protection Cluster and the ProCap who will look into this.
- Given the sensitive nature of topics discussed in the Protection Cluster, regular protection group meetings without government presence is recommended to allow for an open and results-oriented exchange. A SAG, including the Child Protection and GBV Coordinator and other members that respond to defined criteria, may be an option to achieve this aim.

10. Overall comments and conclusion

- The UNICEF Child Protection specialists in the affected provinces strongly support the coordination mechanisms and understand the particularity of humanitarian coordination. With continued support from the national Coordinator mentoring UNICEF child protection specialists/leads and co-lead, the coordination mechanisms will be able to continue their important work and become more strategic over time.
- The deployment of the RRT was valid for the capacity building provided to the CPWG members who have development experience but are still very new to principles and approaches for child protection in an armed conflict situation. The mission has built the capacity of CPWG members and UNICEF child protection staff, including regarding available tools and the roles and responsibilities of a CPWG. However, the capacity of the CPWG members is still very low and close accompaniment by the CLA is necessary to help them scale up and provide quality services.
- UNICEF uses synergies between development and humanitarian activities; its child protection in emergencies programming is inherently linked to systems building, thereby increasing sustainability.
- UNICEF colleagues in the Kasai provinces also put much emphasis on localization. They make deliberate and explicit efforts to better engage with, empower and promote the work of local actors.

11. List of referenced material

See hyperlinks throughout the report, as well as the following links for further information:

- Kasai Child Protection Coordination overview according to core functions, August 2017: <http://bit.ly/2iJYViz>
- CPIE and Coordination Trainings Report, August 2017: <http://bit.ly/2vK10fB>
- Dropbox containing all training material: <http://bit.ly/2vzOrU3>
- Kasai Secondary Data Review, July 2017, and related infographics, August 2017: www.dropbox.com/sh/108jxwdxuaggz8j/AADz48wc4eDSS6ULdQjy42PAa?dl=0

- Urgence complexe dans la région des Kasai, R.D. Congo Rapport de situation No.12, 25 août 2017 : http://reliefweb.int/sites/reliefweb.int/files/resources/ocha_drc_kasais_situationreport_25082017_fr.pdf