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## Peacebuilding and Reconstruction Polls

## Eastern Democratic Republic of the Congo

### Poll Report # 10, June 2017

(Data from March-April 2017)

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## About the poll

Results for this poll are based on 3,771 interviews conducted in March-April 2017 with randomly selected adults in the following cities and territories:

| Province / District | Territoire / Town | Sample       |
|---------------------|-------------------|--------------|
| North Kivu          | Goma City         | 220          |
|                     | Beni city         | 295          |
|                     | Beni              | 217*         |
|                     | Nyiragongo        | 219          |
|                     | Rutshuru          | 210**        |
|                     | Walikale          | 216          |
| South Kivu          | Bukavu City       | 300          |
|                     | Fizi              | 220          |
|                     | Kabare            | 221          |
|                     | Kalehe            | 212          |
|                     | Uvira City        | 300          |
|                     | Walungu           | 214          |
| Ituri               | Bunia City        | 273          |
|                     | Djugu             | 215          |
|                     | Irumu             | 214          |
|                     | Mambasa           | 225          |
| <b>TOTAL</b>        |                   | <b>3,771</b> |

(Error margin of  $\pm 5$  percentage points at the 95% confidence level).

\*Beni Territoire : 2 villages replaced due to insecurity

\*\* Rutshuru : Due to insecurity, only villages in the Chefferie of Bwisha could be sampled. (8 villages in the chefferie of Bwito were replaced)

## About the Project

This survey is the tenth in a series of surveys that will be conducted to provide reliable data and analysis on peace, security, justice and reconstruction in the Democratic Republic of the Congo. The project is a joint initiative of the Harvard Humanitarian Initiative (HHI) and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), in collaboration with MONUSCO Civil Affairs. HHI is responsible for the data collection, the independent data analysis and report writing, in partnership with l'Université Libre des Pays des Grands Lacs, Université Catholique de Bukavu et Université de Bunia.

Publications :

- *Poll Report # 9, March 2017 (Data from Dec 2016)*
- *Poll Report # 8, November 2016 (Data from Sept 2016)*
- *Poll Report # 7, August 2016 (Data from June 2016)*
- *Poll Report #6, June 2016 (Data from March 2016)*
- *Poll Report #5, January 2016 (Data from Dec 2015)*
- *Poll Report #4, November 2015 (Data from Sept - Oct 2015)*
- *Poll Report #3, August 2015 (Data from June-July 2015)*
- *Poll Report #2, June 2015 (Data from March-May 2015)*
- *Poll Report #1, March 2015 (Data from Dec 2014)*
- *Baseline, May 2014 (Data from Dec 2013)*

For more information, visit [www.peacebuildingdata.org/drc](http://www.peacebuildingdata.org/drc) or contact [info@peacebuilding.org](mailto:info@peacebuilding.org)



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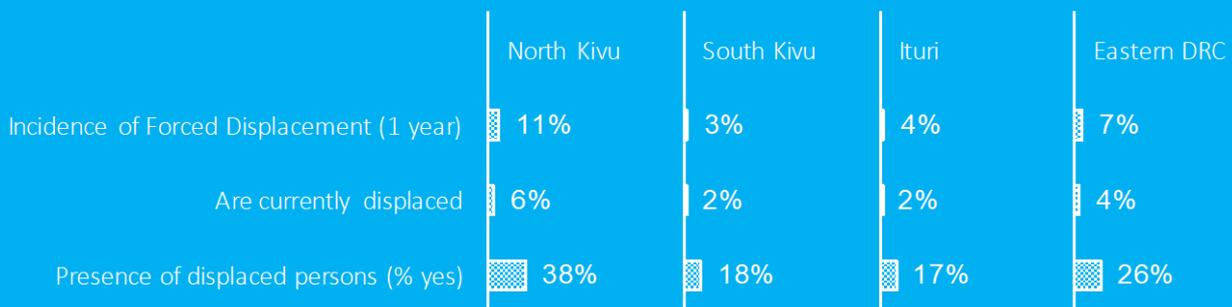
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## DISPLACEMENT – A recurring crisis with negative impacts

According to the Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre (IDMC), the Democratic Republic of the Congo is the country most affected by conflict related internal displacement with more than 922,000 new internally displaced persons (IDPs) in 2016, and a total of 2,230,000 IDPs.<sup>1</sup> Results from the polls conducted in December 2016 and March 2017 show that the incidence of forced displacement due to conflict over the past year among those interviewed is at 7% in Eastern DRC.<sup>2</sup> The incidence rate is higher in North Kivu (11%) than it is in South Kivu (3%) and Ituri (4%); 4% of those interviewed considered themselves to be displaced at the time they were interviewed (6% in North Kivu).

Whereas displacement affects approximately one out of every fifteen persons, more than one quarter of those interviewed reported the presence of displaced persons in their neighborhood or village (26%). Once again, this figure is higher in North Kivu where 38% of the sampled population reported the presence of displaced persons in their neighborhood or village. The difference between incidence and reported presence of displaced persons reflects the fact that much of the displacement is not recent. For example, in Masisi, although the incidence of forced displacement over the past year is low, 44% of those interviewed mentioned that there are displaced persons in their village.

Forced displacement in Eastern DRC



Data from December 2016 and March 2017

There are important differences across territoires. The incidence of forced displacement over the past year is highest in the territoires of Beni (20%), Rutshuru (15%) and Lubero (12%) in North Kivu; Shabunda (14%) in South Kivu, and Mambasa (10%) in Ituri. However, people did not necessarily report the presence of displaced persons in their village or neighborhood more frequently in these territoires. The presence of displaced persons was reported most frequently in Rutshuru (53%) and in Beni Town (50%), in North Kivu.

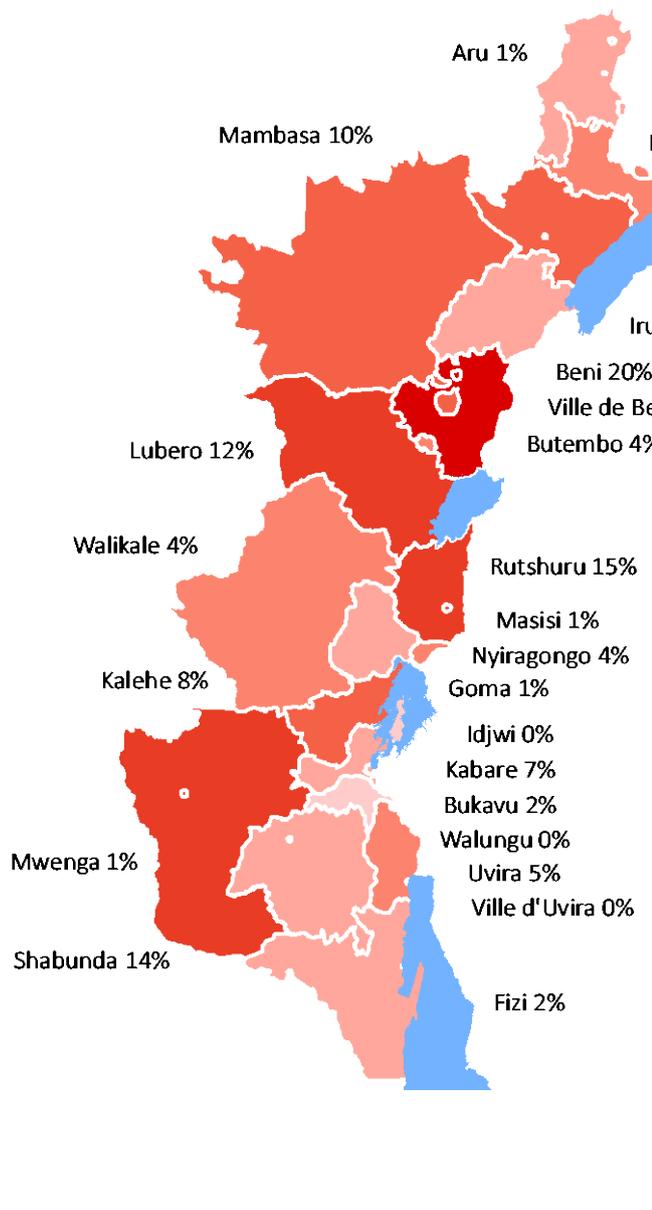
In most cases, the displaced people present in the community are identified as internally displaced (84%) and less frequently as refugees (16%), except in 4 territoires: Fizi (97% identified displaced populations as refugees),

<sup>1</sup> See <http://www.internal-displacement.org/global-report/grid2017/> for the most recent data from IDMC

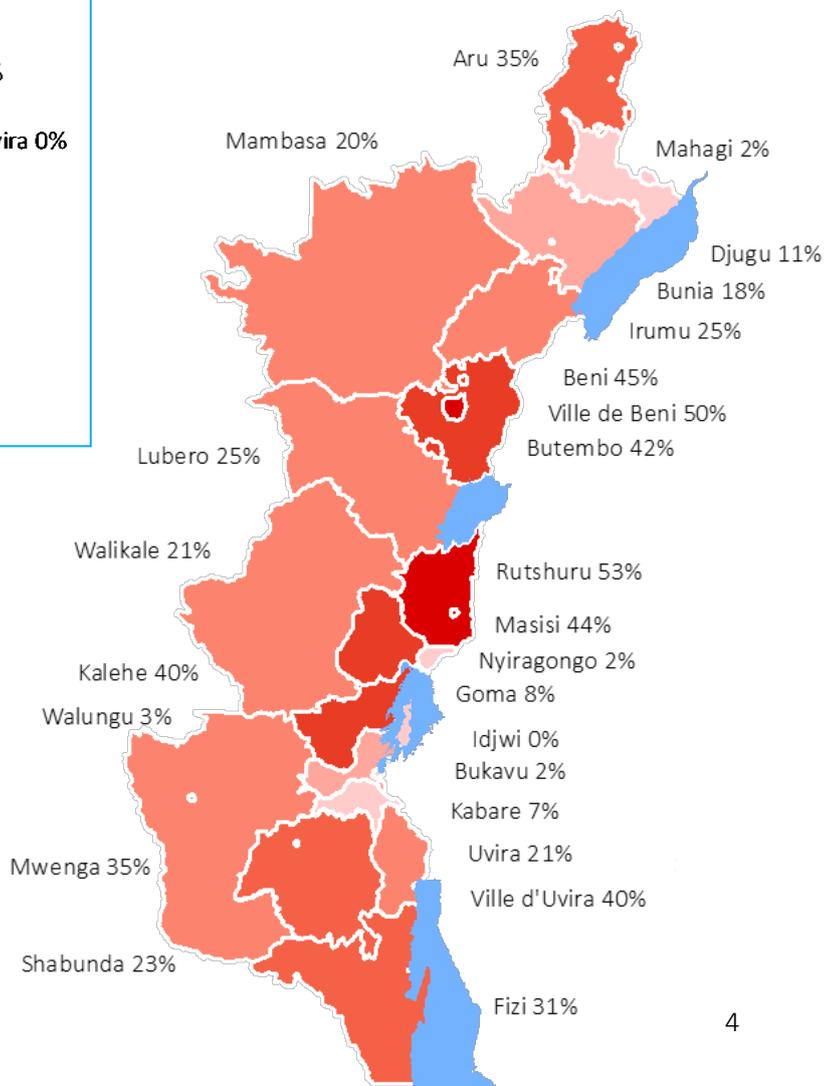
<sup>2</sup> Based on persons self-reporting having been displaced in the last year.

Uvira (79%), Uvira Town (95%) and Aru (91%), which corresponds to the ongoing crises in Burundi and South Sudan respectively.

*Incidence of forced displacement 2016-2017 (1 year)*

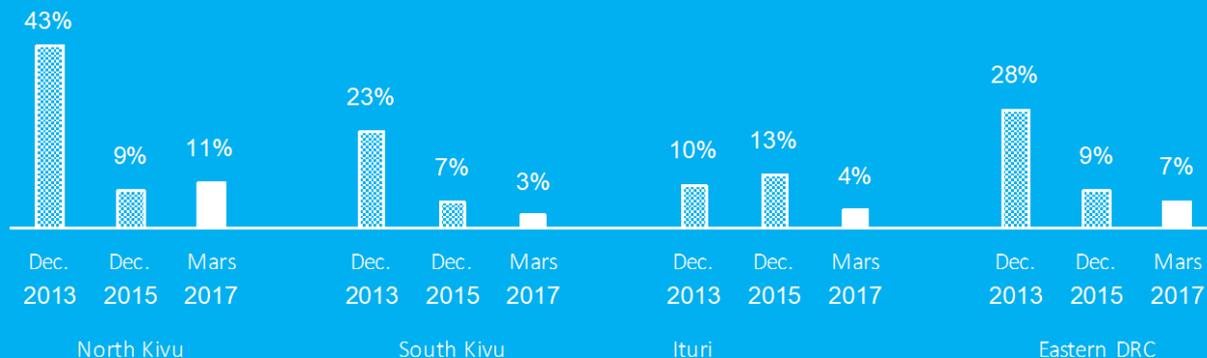


*Presence of displaced populations (% yes)*



Although the incidence of forced displacement remains high, it is worth noting that it has dropped significantly since 2013. Based on data collected during ongoing surveys since 2013, the incidence rate has dropped from 28% to 7% in Eastern DRC. The incidence rate has dropped in all provinces between 2013 and 2017. Nonetheless, in North Kivu, the incidence of forced displacement has slightly increased between 2015 (9%) and 2017 (11%).

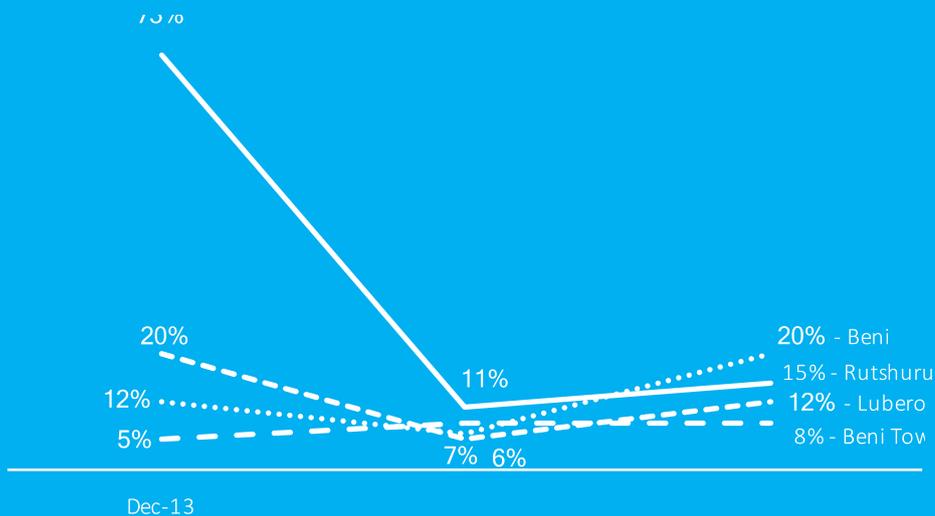
Forced displacement over time in Eastern DRC



Data from December 2016 and March 2017

At the territoire level, four cities and territoires have recorded an increase in the one-year incidence of forced displacement, between 2015 and 2017, all of which are in North Kivu: Rutshuru, Lubero, Beni and Beni Town.

Forced displacement over time in Eastern DRC in select territoires



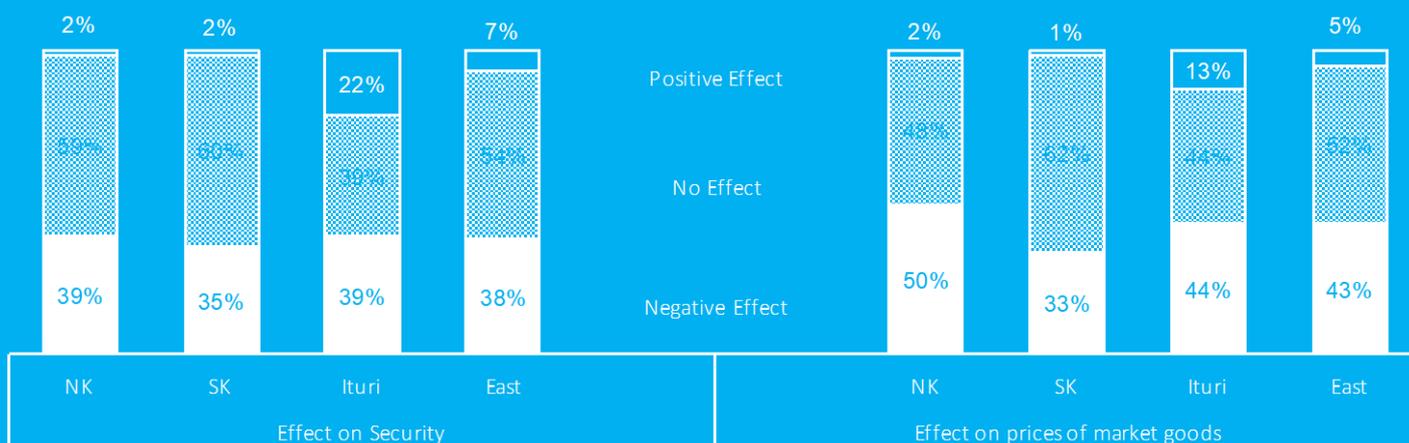
Data from December 2016 and March 2017

Conflict related migration patterns in the DRC are defined by multiple movements, generally toward areas relatively close to one's origin. Displaced persons tend to live within communities and stay with family and

acquaintances more frequently than they do in camps, and often maintain access to their economic activities, including their land.<sup>3</sup>

To better understand how the population perceives and judges the presence of displaced persons in their communities, the last two polls explored the perceived effect of displaced populations on security and the price of goods on the market, two factors that are commonly associated in a negative manner with the presence of displaced populations. The results show that in Eastern DRC, the presence of displaced populations is perceived as having a negative effect on security by more than one third of those reporting their presence (38%); and 43% reported that it has a negative effect on the price of market goods. The majority of those interviewed reported that the presence of displaced populations has no effect on security (54%) or on the price of market goods (52%). Finally, few people reported a positive effect on security (7%) and the price of market goods (13%). This positive contribution is observed more frequently in Ituri compared to other provinces. This attitude may reflect the fact that humanitarian assistance is more accessible and impactful where there are displaced populations.

Perceived effect of the presence of displaced persons

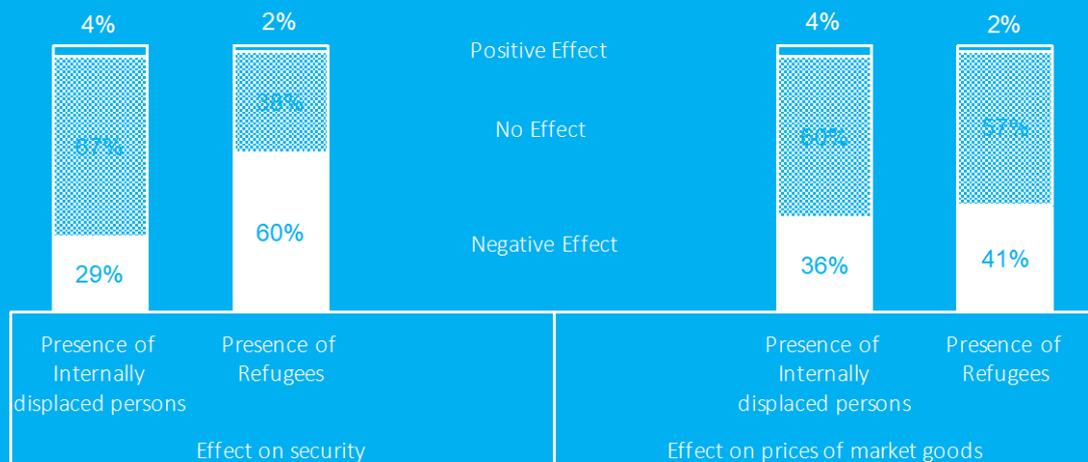


Data from December 2016 and March 2017

The perceived effect of displaced populations is strongly associated with their place of origin, especially where security is concerned. Amongst those reporting only the presence of internally displaced populations, 29% judged their effect on security as being negative compared to 60% amongst those reporting the presence of refugees. The difference is less significant with regards to the effect of displaced populations on the price of market goods: 36% of those reporting the presence of internally displaced populations only judge the effect as negative, compared to 41% for those reporting the presence of refugees.

<sup>3</sup> See IDMC, note 1, and <https://www.brookings.edu/wp-content/uploads/2016/06/La-reponse-internationale-face-au-deplacement-interne-en-Republique-Democratique-du-Congo.pdf>

### Perceived effect of the presence of internally displaced populations and refugees



Data from December 2016 and March 2017

A similar analysis along gender lines reveals that men tend to judge the effect of displaced persons in a negative manner more frequently than do women. For the whole of the three provinces where the polls are conducted, 44% of men who reported the presence of displaced persons in their village or neighborhood consider that they have a negative effect on their security, compared to only 26% of women who reported the same. Similarly, 41% of men judge that the presence of displaced populations negatively affects the price of market goods compared to 32% of women.

### Perceived effect of the presence of displaced persons, by gender of the interviewee

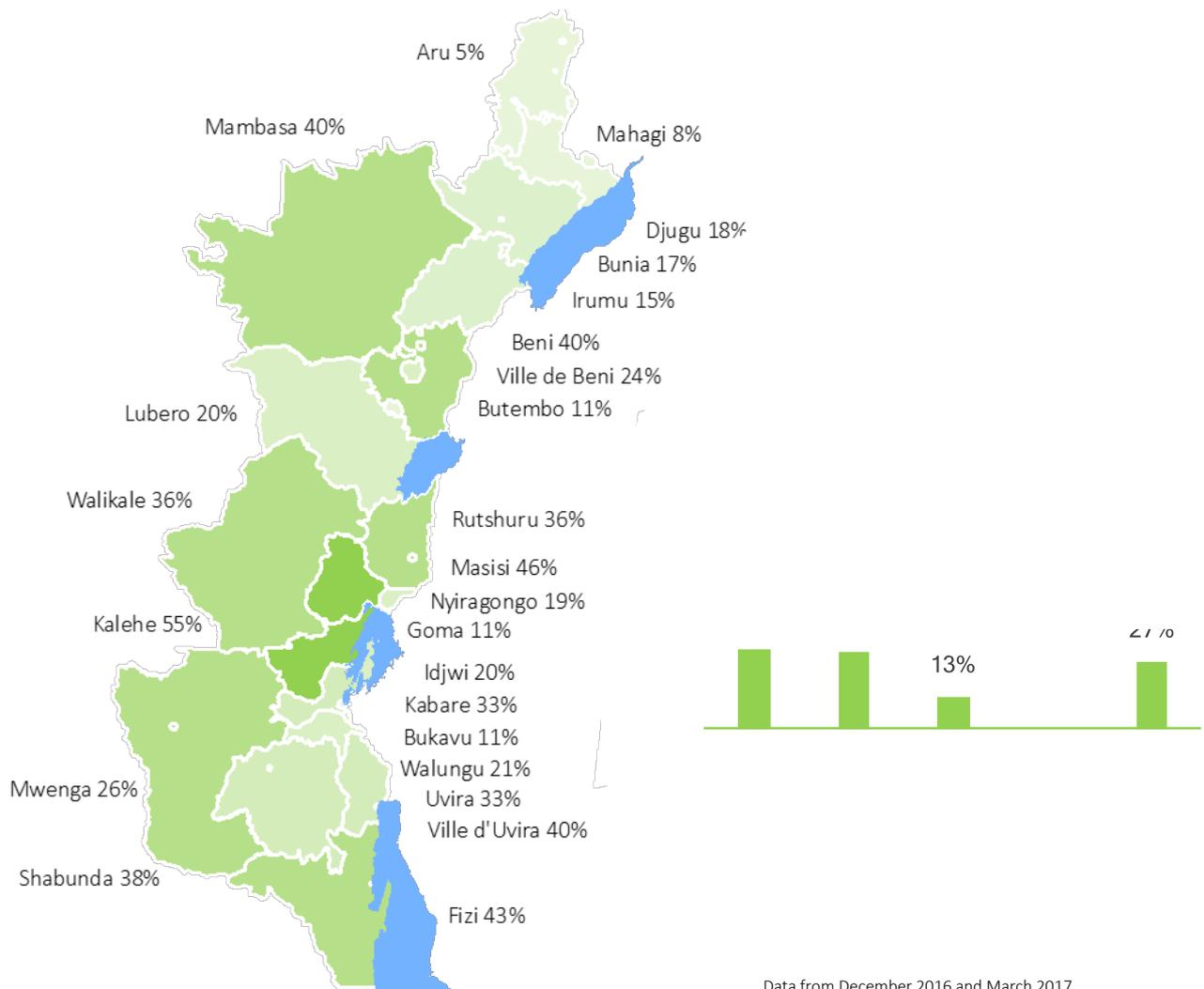


Data from December 2016 and March 2017

## HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE: lack of trust

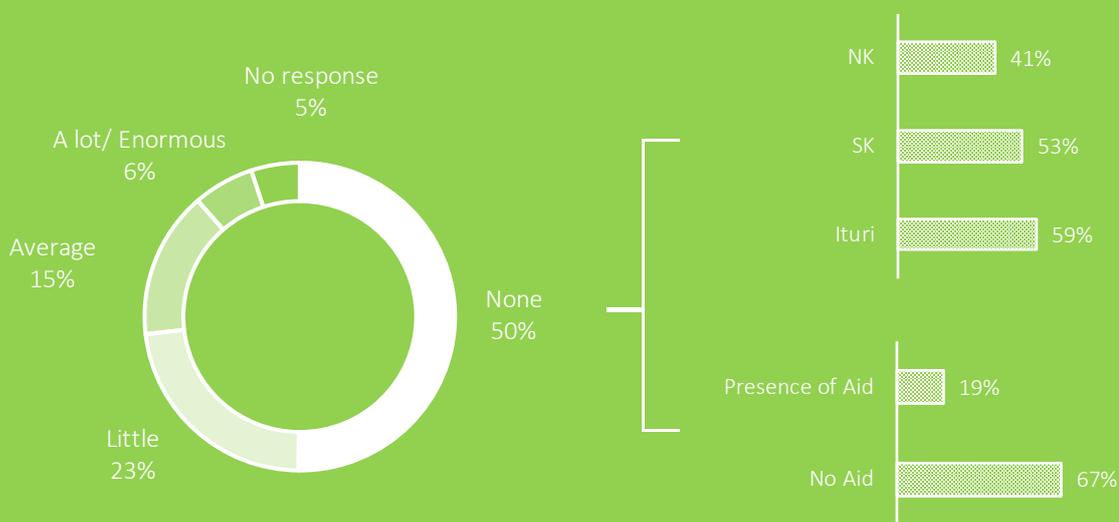
The polling project is primarily concerned with peacebuilding and reconstruction in the East of the Democratic Republic of the Congo, particularly as it relates to security and justice. These sectors are not typically ones in which humanitarian actors intervene. Nonetheless, humanitarian actors and peacebuilding actors share common objectives, work in the same locations and are not always seen as distinct from one another in the eyes of the population. According to the survey, only 22% of the population interviewed believes that there is a difference between humanitarian and peacebuilding actors. With a view to better understand how local populations perceive humanitarian actors, the last two polls included additional questions on this topic. Firstly, these questions sought to explore the presence of international aid in the villages and neighborhoods of those interviewed. Overall, one out of four persons (27%) reported the presence of international intervention; with this percentage being higher in North Kivu (33%), compared to South Kivu (31%) and Ituri (13%). At the territoire level, international aid was reported as being present in the village and neighborhood most frequently in Kalehe (55%), Masisi (46%), Fizi (43%), Beni (40%), Uvira Town (40%) and Mambasa (40%).

*Presence of international aid in the neighborhood/village (% yes)*



The survey also looked at how people viewed the contribution of humanitarian actors to improving the local situation in general. Half of the population interviewed in Eastern DRC consider that this contribution is in-existent (no contribution) and only 6% judged the contribution of humanitarian actors to improvements of the local situation as being significant or highly significant. At the provincial level, Ituri recorded the highest percentage of respondents reporting that humanitarian actors made no contribution at all to improving the local situation, reflecting the smaller humanitarian presence. On a more positive note, only 19% of those reporting the presence of international aid in their neighborhood or village considered that the contribution of humanitarian actors to improving the local situation was in-existent, compared to 67% for those reporting no international aid in their neighborhood. These results would suggest therefore that when it is known, the presence of international aid is associated with a positive perception of the contribution of humanitarian actors.

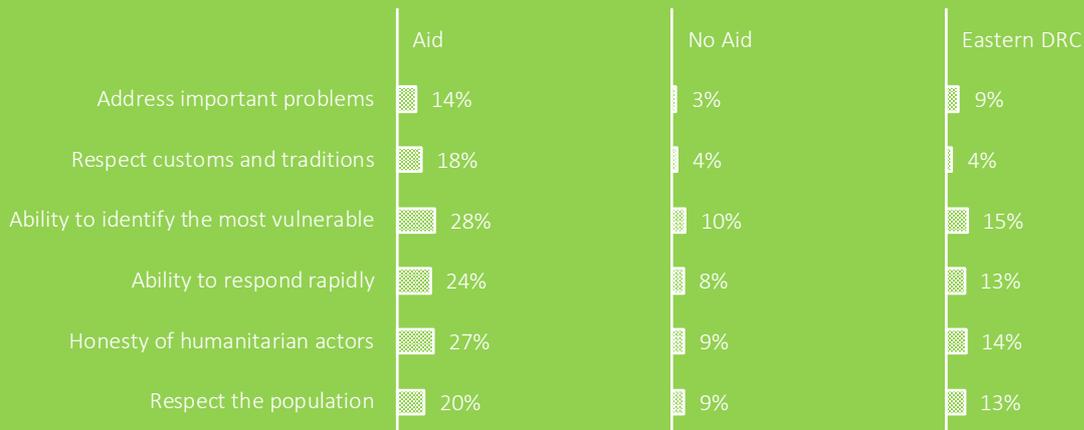
Contribution of humanitarian actors to improving the local situation



Data from December 2016 and March 2017

Other indicators explored through the survey display a similar trend: the population is less likely to view humanitarian actors negatively when they report the presence of international aid in their village or neighborhood, compared to places that have no international aid. Nonetheless, in absolute terms, even where international aid exists, only few people have a positive perception of humanitarian actors. For instance, only 9% believe that humanitarian actors address important issues, and even fewer believe that these actors respect the local customs and traditions. Few judged the capacity of humanitarian actors to respond quickly (13%) and to identify the most vulnerable populations (15%) in a positive light. In each of these cases, the percentage of persons with a positive perception of humanitarian actors is higher among those reporting the presence of international aid in their village or neighborhood compared to respondents who reported that their neighborhood/village had no international aid.

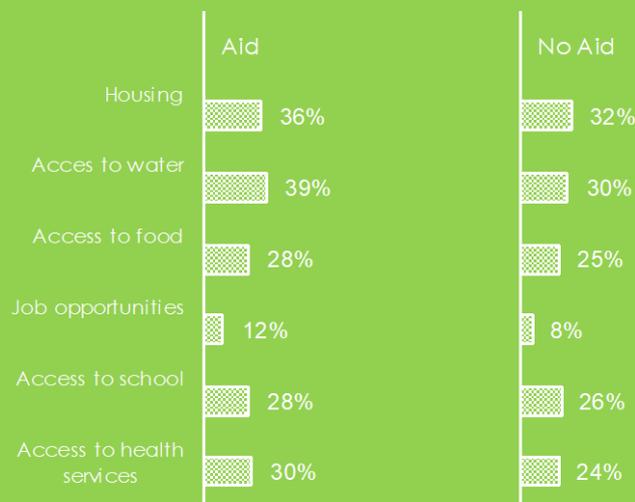
### Perception of humanitarian actors (% positive)



Data from December 2016 and March 2017

These results reflect the perception of the population and do not necessarily reflect actual contributions made by humanitarian actors. Nonetheless, these results do highlight the possible lack of engagement with local populations, or the absence of relations of trust between humanitarian actors and communities, as well as programmes that are not sufficiently responsive to local needs or that are not effectively executed. The negative perceptions may also reflect feelings of frustration due to large needs and high expectations. One additional factor that may influence the relationship between humanitarian actors and local populations is the spreading of rumors as to hidden agendas, complicity with armed groups, trafficking and even witchcraft. Finally, it should be noted that the presence of international aid is not necessarily correlated with a marked improvement in access to basic services.

### International aid and basic services (% good / very good access)

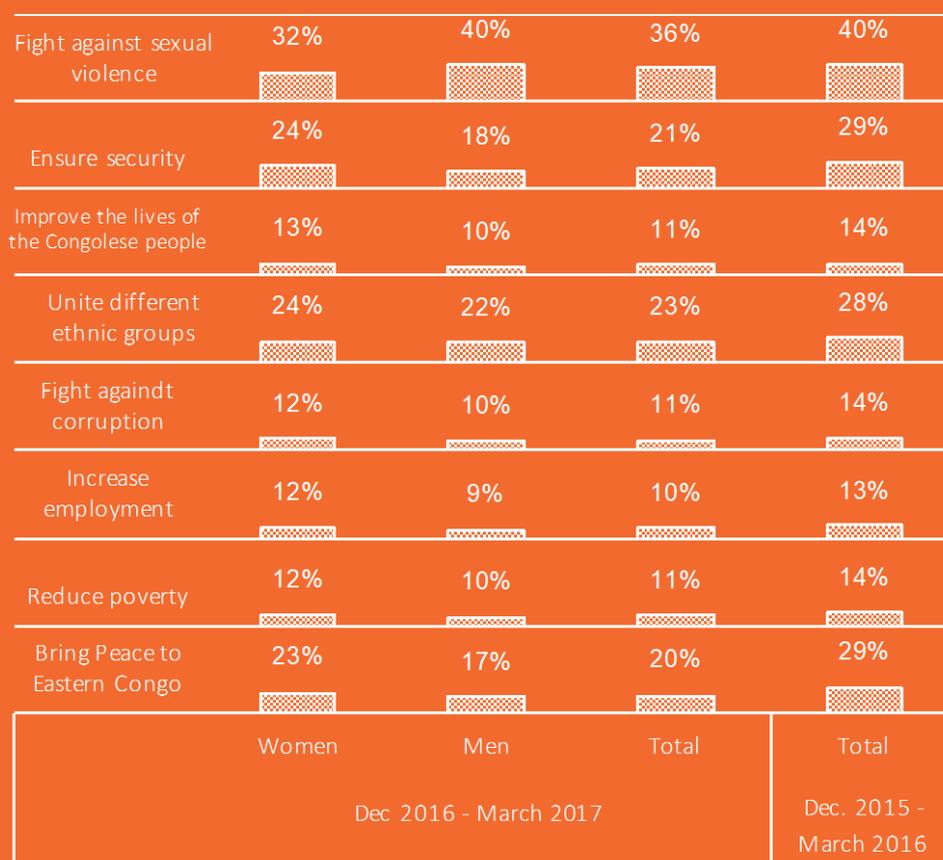


Data from December 2016 and March 2017

## SEXUAL VIOLENCE: Efforts to fight against sexual violence are seen more positively than efforts in other areas of security, justice and peacebuilding, but are not improving

Since December 2015, the surveys have measured the perception of the population with regards to the government's performance in various sectors, including its capacity to address sexual violence. During the last survey, 36% of those interviewed in the East judged the government's efforts to address sexual violence positively. Men tend to judge these efforts in a positive light more frequently than do women (40% vs 32%). As has been the case in the past, although the percentage of interviewees judging efforts to address sexual violence is somewhat low, it is higher than sectors such as peacebuilding (20% of positive views), uniting different ethnic groups (23%) and ensuring the security of populations (21%), and significantly higher than for efforts to reduce poverty (11%), fight against corruption (11%) and creating jobs (10%). In each of these sectors, except for efforts to address sexual violence, the percentage of women judging the government's performance positively is higher than it is among men.

Perception of the government's performance in addressing sexual violence (% positive views)

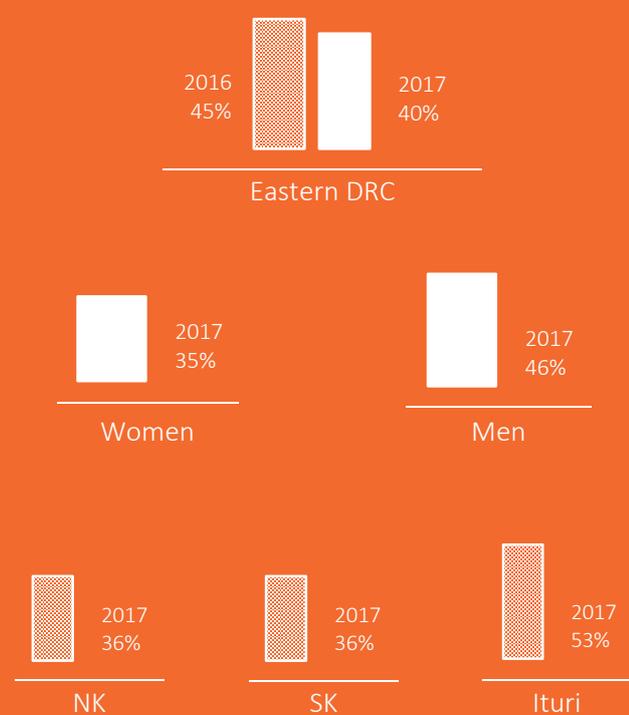


Data from December 2016 and March 2017

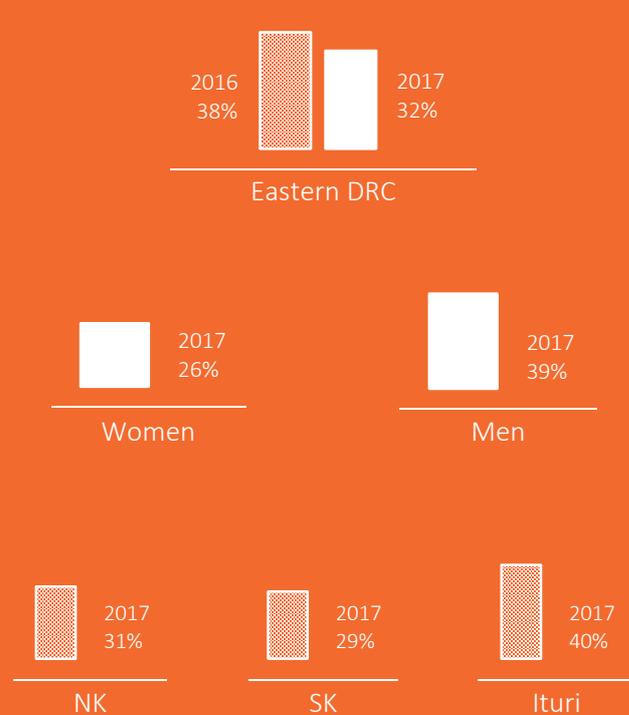
Compared to data collected in December 2015 and March 2016, the percentage of people judging the government’s efforts positively has dropped in all sectors, reflecting diminishing trust towards the government within the population.

The performances of the justice system and of the police with regards to addressing sexual violence were also explored. The percentage of people judging their efforts positively was 40% and 32% respectively. These figures are lower than those recorded a year ago. Women (35%) reported a positive performance of the justice system less frequently than did men (46%). A similar difference along gender line can be observed with regards to perceptions towards the police performance to address sexual violence (26% v. 39%). At the province level, Ituri recorded the highest percentage of positive views both for the justice system and the police.

Perception of efforts by the justice system to provide justice to victims of sexual violence (% positive)



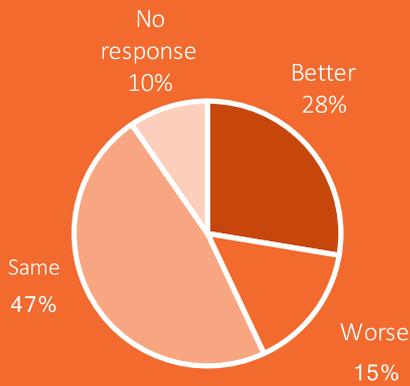
Perception of efforts by the police to investigate crimes of sexual violence (% positive)



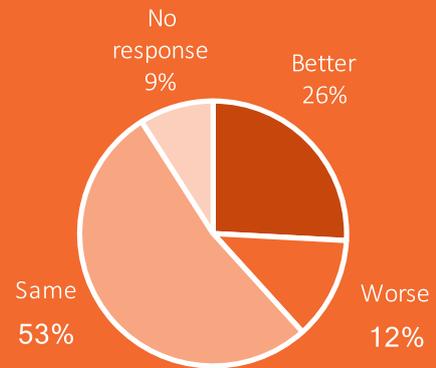
Data from December 2016 and March 2017

Although there is a decrease in the percentage of people reporting a positive judgement of the efforts of the justice system and the police in addressing sexual violence, when the question was asked directly to interviewees, the majority responded that there has been no change over time. A little over one fourth (28% for the justice system, 26% for the police) of the population consider that there has been some improvement. A higher percentage – one out of three persons – believe that victims of sexual violence are better treated compared to victims of other crimes, by both the justice system (33%) and the police (30%).

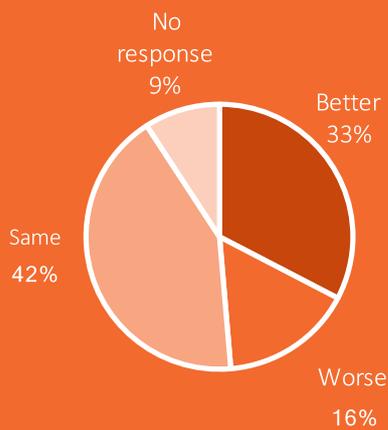
*Efforts of the justice system to address sexual violence compared to the last year*



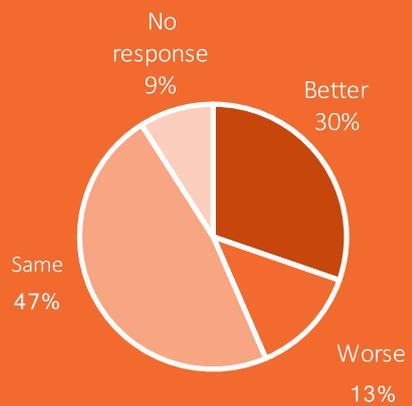
*Efforts of the police to address sexual violence compared to the last year*



*Efforts of the justice system to address sexual violence compared to other crimes*



*Efforts of the police to address sexual violence compared to other crimes*



Data from December 2016 and March 2017

The survey also asked respondents whether, in their opinion, those responsible for committing acts of sexual violence are punished appropriately, including when the perpetrators are members of the FARDC and police. The results show that less than half of the population interviewed agree that this is the case, whether it is for perpetrators in general (44% believe that they are adequately punished), the FARDC (35%) or the police (35%). Women agreed with these statements less frequently than did men.

## Perception of actions taken against those responsible for crimes of sexual violence



Data from December 2016 and March 2017

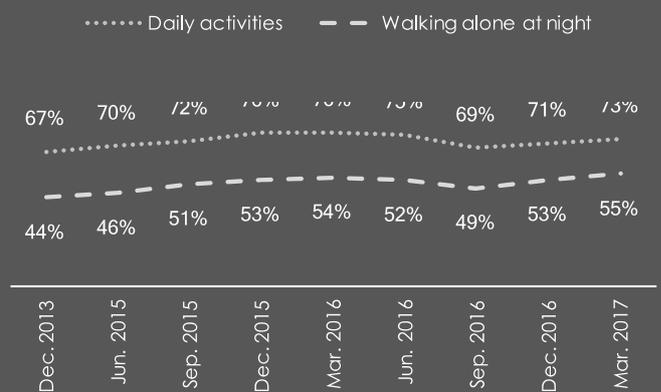
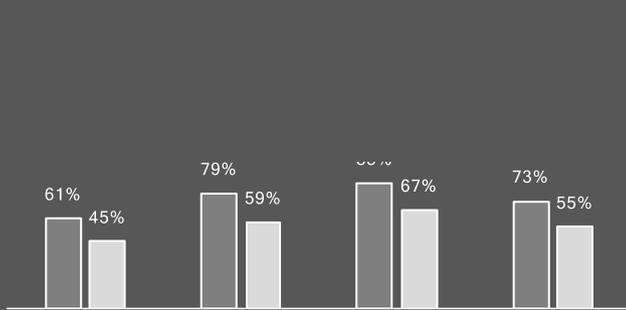
# KEY GLOBAL INDICATOR (MARCH-APRIL 2017)

The following indicators are monitored in all the polls. Provincial averages may mask significant differences between territories - detailed results by territories are available on the [www.peacebuildingdata.org](http://www.peacebuildingdata.org) site. Aggregate statistics are based on the latest poll available in each territory.

## SENSE OF SECURITY (% safe – very safe)

Latest data (Dec. 2016 – Mar. 2017)

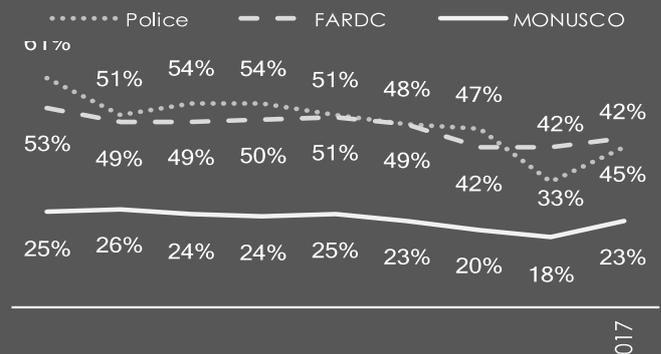
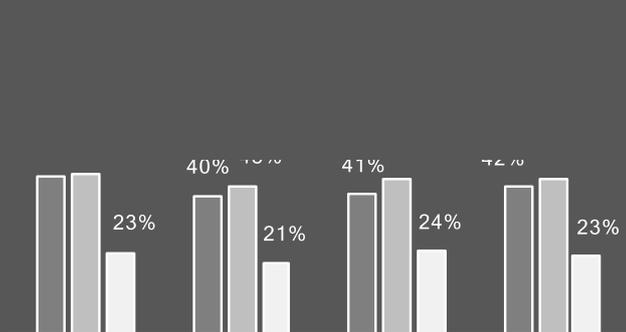
Regional trends (NK, SK, Ituri)



## PERCEPTION OF SECURITY ACTORS (% trust for security)

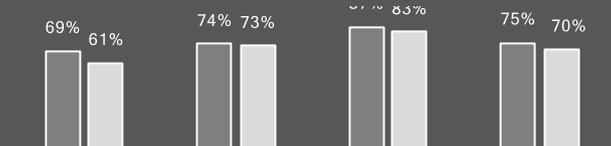
Latest data (Dec. 2016 – Mar. 2017)

Regional trends (NK, SK, Ituri)

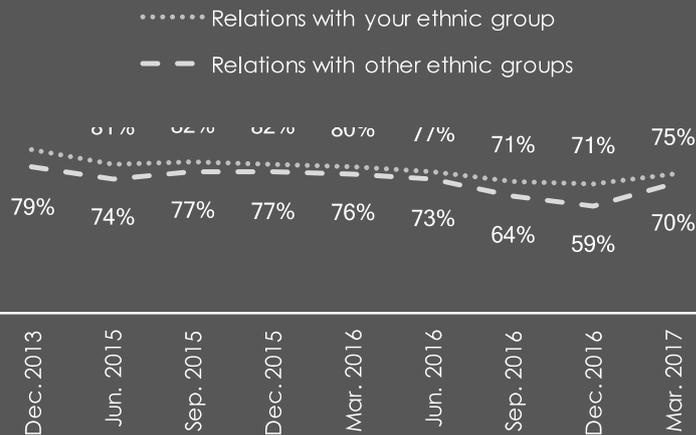


## PERCEPTION OF RELATIONS WITHIN AND ACROSS ETHNIC GROUPS (% good – very good)

Latest data (Dec. 2016 – Mar. 2017)

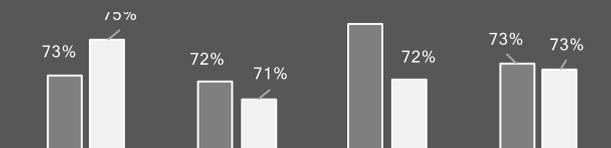


Regional trends (NK, SK, Ituri)



## TRUST IN JUSTICE (% little – none)

Latest data (Dec. 2016 – Mar. 2017)



Regional trends (NK, SK, Ituri)

