

# Voices from Congo

Report 14 – May 2018

## Peacebuilding and Reconstruction Polls

(March-April 2018 data)

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## About the polls

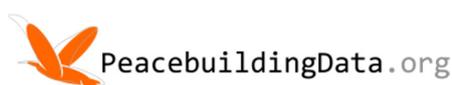
This poll is the fourteenth in a series of quarterly polls conducted to provide reliable data and analysis on peace, security, justice and reconstruction in the Democratic Republic of the Congo. The project is a joint initiative of the Harvard Humanitarian Initiative (HHI) and the United Nations Development 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 the Université Libre des Pays des Grands Lacs, Université Catholique de Bukavu et Université de Bunia. Results for this poll are based on 1,933 face-to-face interviews conducted in March and April 2018 with randomly selected adults across urban centers in eastern DRC. Additional interviews were conducted in the territoire of Irumu as follow:

Nord Kivu		Sud Kivu		Ituri	
Territoire/ville	Échantillon	Territoire/ville	Échantillon	Territoire/ville	Échantillon
Ville de Goma	221	Ville de Bukavu	301	Ville de Bunia	290
Ville de Beni	300	Ville d'Uvira	301	Irumu	220
Ville de Butembo	300				
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>821</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>602</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>510</b>
<b>TOTAL Est de la RDC</b>	<b>1,933</b>	<i>Marge d'erreur de ± 5 points de pourcentage au niveau de confiance de 95%.</i>			

## Publications :

- Poll Report #13, Mars 2018 (Data from Dec 2017)
- Poll Report # 12 [Goma], November 2017 (Data from Oct 2017)
- Poll Report # 11, [Security], September 2017 (Data from July 2017)
- Poll Report # 10, June 2017 (Data from March April 2017)
- 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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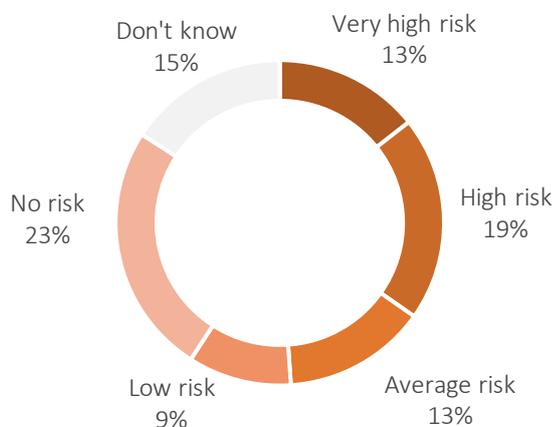
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## CONFLICTS: Despite a perceived high risk of violence, few people feel able to adapt or ready to respond for their protection.

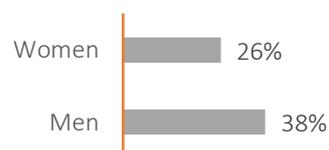
For the fourteenth survey, conducted only in urban areas, the questionnaire included a series of questions to understand the level of readiness of respondents at risk of violent conflict. These are subjective indicators based on people's perception.

In general, one in three (32%) respondents judge that the risk of a return of violent conflicts in their city is high or very high. While 13% rate the risk as 'average', 9% think the risk is low (low risk) and one in four (23%) think there is no risk. More than one in seven (15%) did not express an opinion primarily because of their uncertainty. Women are more optimistic than men, with only 26% rating the risk of a return of violent conflict as high or very high compared to 38% of men. Geographically, it is in the 'Grand Nord' of North Kivu that the risk is perceived as the highest, (Beni: 46%, Butembo: 44%). This can be explained by the fact that this area continues to experience regular violence since 2013 until today. The inhabitants of Bunia were also numerous to note a high risk of violence (41%) compared to those of Goma (25%), Bukavu (32%) and Uvira (20%). The recent violence in Djugu and the arrival of IDPs in Bunia have probably contributed to the perception that violence could spread to the capital of the province (Bunia).

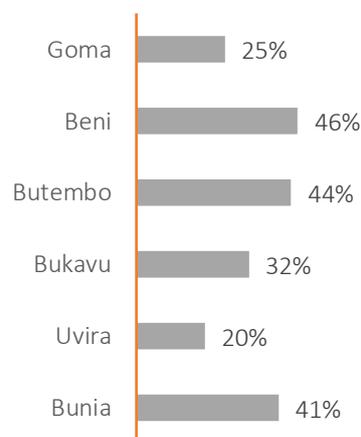
*Perception of risk of a return of violent conflict total (% respondents)*



*Perception of risk by gender (% high – very high)*



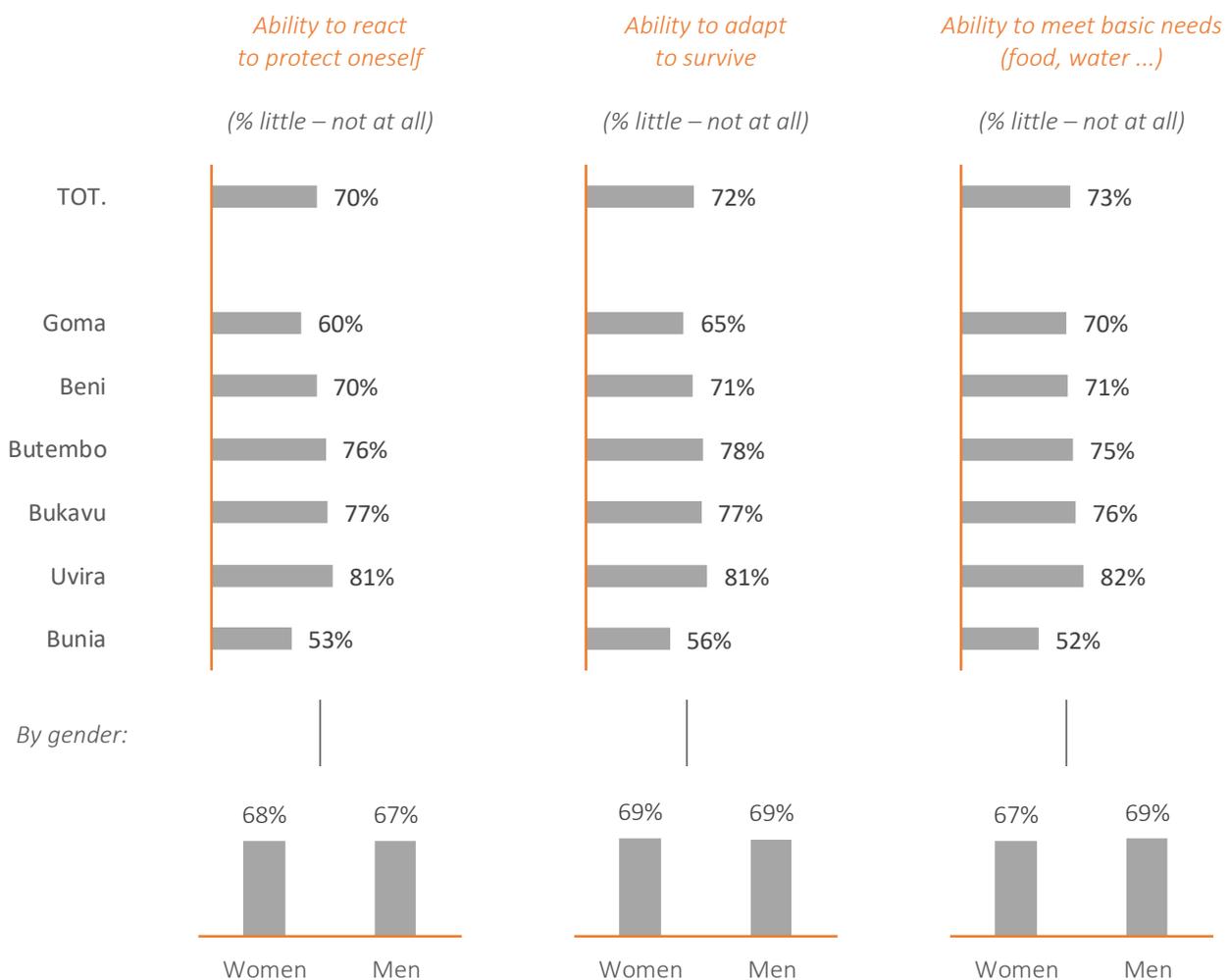
*Perception of risk by city (% high- very high)*



TOT.  
32%

Considering the possibility of violent conflict, the survey asked participants to judge their preparedness and adaptability to violent conflict. Three subjective measures were explored: the ability to react to protect oneself, the ability to adapt to survive, and the ability to satisfy basic needs (food, water ...). In all cities, about two-thirds of people felt little or no ability to respond to protect themselves (70%), able to adapt to survive (72%), or able to meet their basic needs (73%) in the event of a return of violent conflict. There are important variations between cities. People in Bunia are less likely to find themselves unable or unwilling to respond or adapt in the event of a return to conflict compared to other cities. It is in Bukavu and in the city of Uvira that the sense of readiness for conflict is the least common. However, it is also in these cities that the risk of violence was considered the lowest. The results show no significant differences between men and women.

In case of a return of violent conflicts:

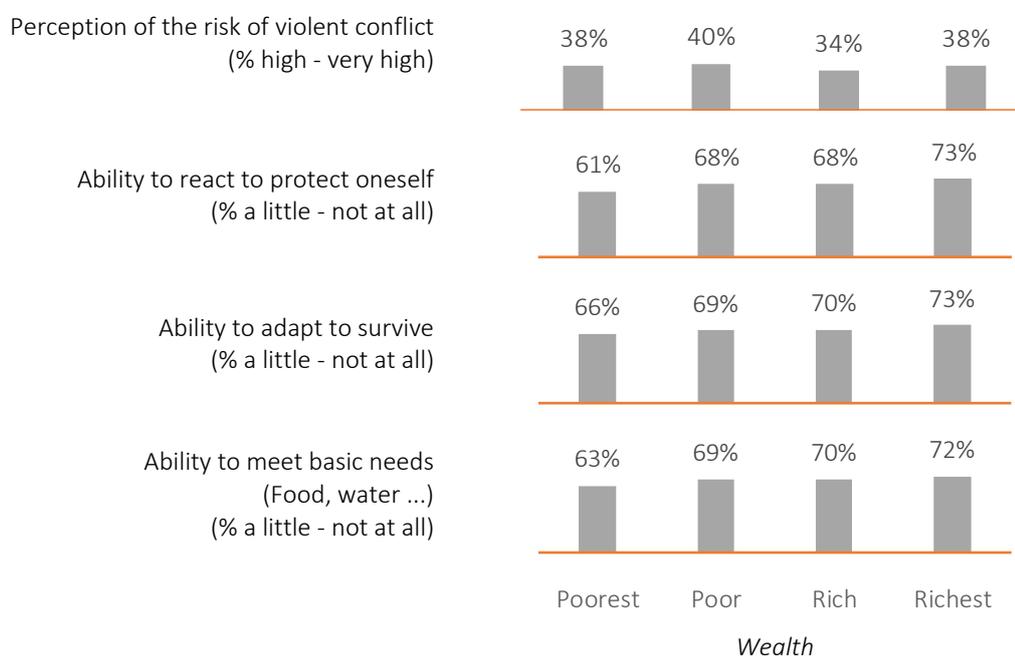


## CONFLICT: Poor access to services and basic needs is associated with a poor capacity to respond and adapt to conflict.

Poverty is a factor of vulnerability to conflict and violence. For this 14<sup>th</sup> poll, an analysis of household assets was conducted to examine the link between wealth level and the ability to respond and adapt to conflict. Household wealth was estimated by assessing the ownership of ten non-productive assets such as a table, chairs or cell phone. Principal component analysis (PCA) was used to calculate an overall relative wealth score for households. This score was then used to distinguish the quartiles corresponding to the poorest to the richest households.

This analysis shows that there are no differences in the perception of the risk of the return of conflicts between groups based on the wealth of households. However, there is a relatively small but nevertheless significant association between the feeling of preparation and wealth. However, the meaning of this association may seem counterintuitive: people who are wealthier feel more often unable to adapt or respond to a return of conflict, compared to people who are less wealthy. It is possible that better-off people have a finer and more critical perception of what constitutes adequate preparation.

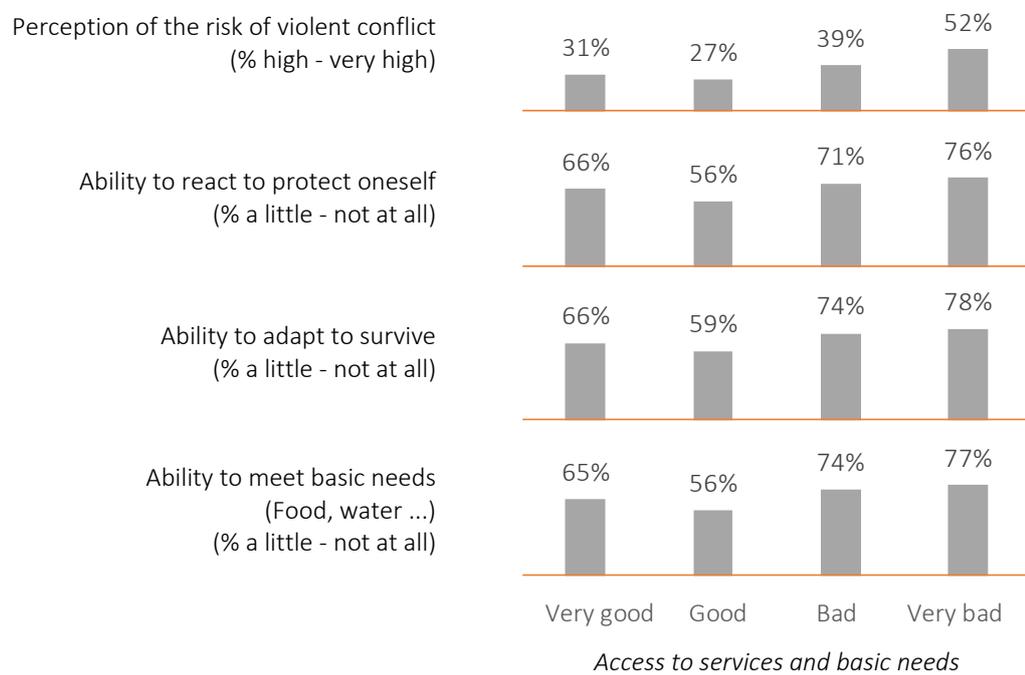
### *Perceived risk of violent conflict and adaptive capacity by wealth*



To better understand the potential effects of multidimensional poverty on the subjective perception of risk and ability to adapt to the return of violent conflict, an analysis assessed the effect of access to basic services on perceived response and adaptation. Access to basic goods and services was estimated by assessing access to water, food, health care, and school for children. Principal component analysis (PCA) was used to calculate an overall score of access to services and basic needs for households. This score was then used to distinguish the

quartiles corresponding to households with the least access to services and basic goods to those with the best access to services and basic needs. The results show that access to services is positively associated with the perception of adaptability to the return of conflict. Although the relationship is not linear, more than three out of four people who rate their access to services as very poor say they have little or no ability to adapt to survive in the event of a return to violent conflict, compared with less than two-thirds of people who rate their access to services as good or very good. It should also be noted that people with very poor access to services are almost twice as likely to rate the risk of a return of conflict as high or very high compared to those with good access to services (52% v. .31%).

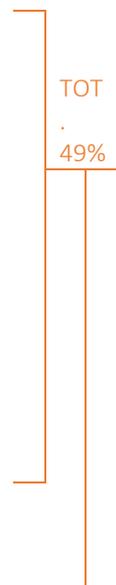
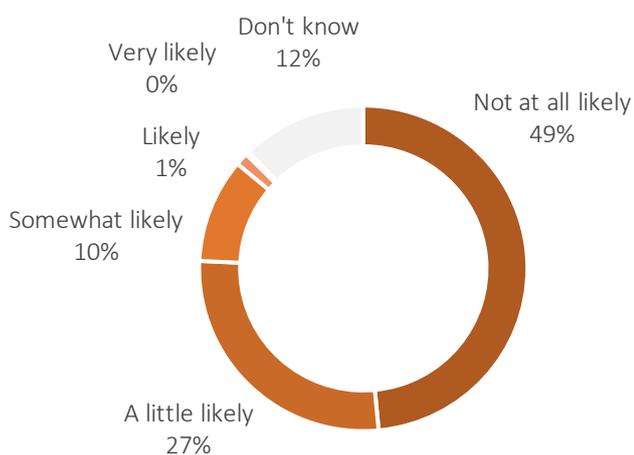
*Perceived risk of violent conflict and adaptive capacity by access to basic services and needs*



## SOCIAL COHESION: Few participants can rely on people other than their immediate families for help in case of violence.

During conflict, social cohesion can have a significant impact on the ability to survive, adapt and manage the effects of violence. In survey 14, participants were asked about their ability to rely on people other than their immediate family to help them if violent conflict started again. Overall, half of the respondents indicated that they were unlikely to be able to count on such assistance (49%), and more than three out of four indicated that it was little or no not at all likely that they would be able to count on such help (76%). The perception is similar between men and women, but there are important differences between cities. In Bukavu, almost one in three respondents (74%) think that such help is not at all likely.

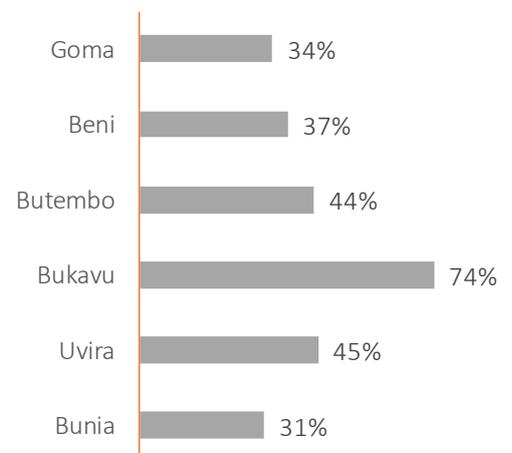
*Probability of being able to rely on interpersonal help in case of a return of violent conflicts, total (% respondents)*



*Probability of being able to rely on interpersonal help (% not at all) by gender*

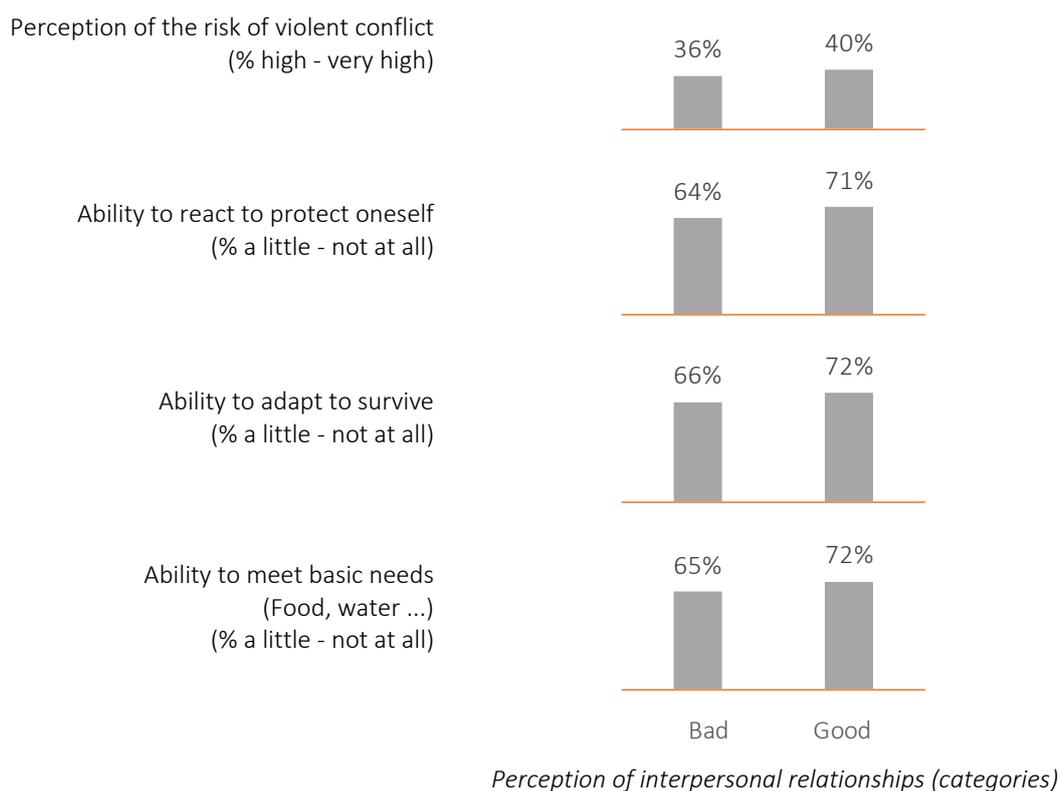


*Probability of being able to rely on interpersonal help (% not at all) by city*



An analysis of the perception of relations between different groups was carried out to better understand the link between social cohesion and perception of the risk of return of violence and capacity for adaptation. A Principal Component Analysis (PCA) was used to identify two categories of people based on perceptions of relationships with neighbors, neighborhood people, people of the respondent's ethnic group, and people of another ethnic group. Two categories (bad - good relations) were retained only on the basis of the distribution of responses. The results show that among the indicators selected, people with a low score on the relationship index are less frequently positive than those with a high score. The difference between groups is small but significant. However, there is no difference in the perception of relationships and the likelihood of interpersonal help. This suggests that good relations between people is not necessarily enough to ensure mutual aid and solidarity in times of crisis. These results could also reflect the fact that conflict poses a real threat to social cohesion in the sense that links developed over years and even generations can be broken suddenly and quickly in the face of an outbreak of violence. Community relations are often a casualty of violence and cannot always be effectively mobilized for survival.

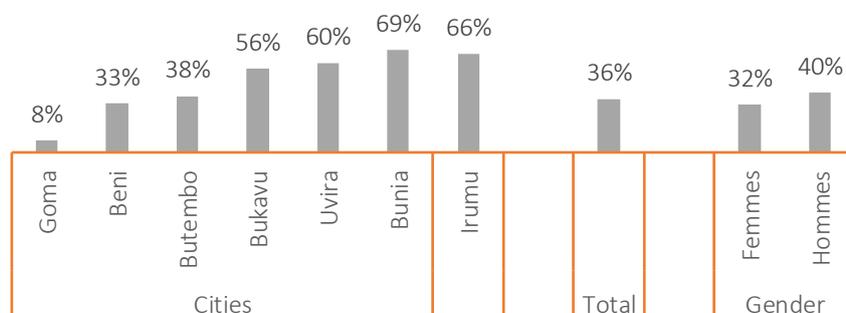
*Perceived risk of violent conflict and adaptive capacity by quality of interpersonal relations*



## CONFLICTS (DJUGU): Information about the violent conflict in Djugu is not widespread. The causes of the violence are seen as complex.

At the beginning of December 2017, a violent conflict took place in Djugu territory, in Ituri, leading to the displacement of tens of thousands of people. The March 2018 poll included a series of questions about the violence. Of all the people interviewed in the six urban areas, just over one in three (36%) said they heard about the violence in Djugu. The survey also took place in the territory of Irumu, neighboring Djugu. In general, a majority of those interviewed in Ituri and in the far north of North Kivu were informed about the violence in Djugu, while in the cities of South Kivu less than two out of five people were aware of the conflicts in Djugu. In Irumu, two thirds of those interviewed (66%) had heard of the conflict in Djugu. Logically given its proximity to Djugu, it was in Bunia where the respondents were most frequently aware of the conflict. In Goma, only 8% of those interviewed had heard of the conflict, a rate well below the proportion who had heard of the conflict in other urban areas. This could be explained by the fact that violent incidents in the city of Goma and the surrounding areas of Rutshuru and Masisi are frequent and of great concern to the people of Goma. The lack of knowledge about the violence in Djugu could also reflect a lack of interest or information about what is happening outside the province. It could also be the lack of coverage by the local media: for most respondents, radio was the main source of information on the conflict in Djugu.

*Heard about the violence in Djugu (% yes)*



The conflict in Djugu has been described as an ethnic conflict between the Hema and Lendu communities, leading to the displacement of several tens of thousands of people from the Hema community. However, the causes are more complex, and several analyzes have noted the difficulties in identifying those responsible for acts of violence and the root causes of the conflicts. This complexity is reflected in the results of the survey 14. An open question explored the causes of the violence in Djugu. Among the people questioned in Irumu and in the city of Bunia, the most frequently identified cause is the struggle for power / authority issues. The second most common answer in Irumu is manipulation by politicians (fourth answer to Bunia). Ethnic conflict is the third most common response in Irumu and the fifth in Bunia. Other common responses include poverty / lack of employment and interpersonal jealousy. These answers show that it is difficult to reduce a complex situation to a singular ethnic explanation.

*Perceived causes of the violence in Djugu (% of respondents)*

