

# Voices from Congo

Report 19 - October 2019

## Peacebuilding and Reconstruction Surveys

(July- August 2019 data)

Vinck P, Pham PN, Sharma M, Zibika JP

- p3. PEACE: Few participants are positive about the level of peace in their neighbourhood or village, and most doubt that improvements will occur in the next year.
- p6. PEACE: In a context of general dissatisfaction with the government's security and socio-economic efforts, the majority of participants view peacebuilding efforts negatively and few anticipate a positive effect of the elections.
- p10. JUSTICE: Participants are divided over whether to obtain justice in eastern Congo, but access to justice remains limited and the national civil justice system is widely viewed negatively.
- p18. JUSTICE: Participants are rarely satisfied with the efforts to combat sexual violence by the government, and security and justice stakeholders, and do not see any improvement over time.
- p22. JUSTICE: Victims of sexual violence may have their cases tried in court, but only one in three feel safe to complain to the authorities if they are victims of a crime.
- p23. GLOBAL KEY INDICATORS



Au service  
des peuples  
et des nations



HARVARD  
HUMANITARIAN  
INITIATIVE



BRIGHAM AND  
WOMEN'S HOSPITAL



MONUSCO

*This report is dedicated to the memory of Jean-Paul Zibika, who died prematurely in September 2019. Jean-Paul was more than a colleague to us. He was the foundation on which we built an incredible project, consulting tens of thousands of people. He has worked tirelessly to ensure that the truths on the ground are brought to the attention of politicians and policy makers. He was one of the most talented and dedicated people we have had the opportunity to work with.*

## ABOUT THE POLL

The survey is the 19th in a series of surveys aimed at providing reliable data and analysis on peace, security, justice and reconstruction in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC). 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 data collection, independent data analysis and report writing, in collaboration with the Free University of the Great Lakes Countries, Catholic University of Bukavu, and University of Bunia.

The results of this survey are based on 7,730 face-to-face interviews conducted between 17 July and 19 August 2019 among randomly selected adults in eastern DRC.

| North Kivu (No.2,267)   | South Kivu (No.2,316)   | Ituri (No.1,156)   |
|---|---|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• City of Goma (220)</li><li>• City of Beni (309)</li><li>• City of Butembo (384)</li><li>• Beni (232)</li><li>• Lubero (217)</li><li>• Masisi (240)</li><li>• Nyiragongo (220)</li><li>• Rutshuru (227)</li><li>• Walikale (218)</li></ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• City of Bukavu (299)</li><li>• Fizi (216)</li><li>• Idjwi (217)</li><li>• Kabare (216)</li><li>• Kalehe (216)</li><li>• Mwenga (216)</li><li>• Shabunda (204)</li><li>• Uvira (216)</li><li>• Walungu (216)</li><li>• City of Uvira (300)</li></ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• City of Bunia (289)</li><li>• Aru (218)</li><li>• Irumu (216)</li><li>• Mahagi (216)</li><li>• Mambasa (217)</li></ul> |

For this survey, participants were oversampled in 6 priority areas receiving support as part of the International Security and Stabilization Support Strategy, supporting the transition from peacekeeping to peacebuilding efforts: these are the priority areas of Irumu (n = 445), Ruzizi (n = 789), Kitchanga (n = 432), Kalehe-Bukavu (n = 440), Mambasa (n = 422) and Beni (n = 508). For this survey, no data could be collected in Djugu due to insecurity.

## PREVIOUS PUBLICATIONS

Reference, May 2014 (December 2013 data)  
Survey Report 1, March 2015 (December 2014 data)  
Survey Report 2, June 2015 (March-May 2015 data)  
Survey Report 3, August 2015 (June-July 2015 data)  
Survey Report 4, November 2015 (data from September to October 2015)  
Survey Report 5, January 2016 (December 2015 data)  
Survey Report 6, June 2016 (March 2016 data)  
Survey Report 7, August 2016 (June 2016 data)  
Survey Report 8, November 2016 (September 2016 data)  
Survey Report 9, March 2017 (December 2016 data)  
Survey Report 10, June 2017 (March data, April 2017)  
Survey Report 11 - Safety Focus, September 2017 (July 2017 data)  
Survey Report 12 - Focus on Goma, November 2017 (October 2017 data)  
Survey Report 13, March 2018 (December 2017 data)  
Survey report 14, May 2018 (March-April 2018 data)  
Survey Report 15, September 2018 (July 2018 data)  
Ebola Rapid Survey, October 2018 (September 2018 data)  
Survey Report 16, December 2018 (Data from September to October 2018)  
Survey Report 17, March 2019 (December 2018 data)  
Survey Report 18, June 2019 (April-May 2019 data)

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

## PEACE: Few participants are positive about the level of peace in their neighbourhood or village, and most doubt that improvements will occur in the next year.

Violent conflicts are a persistent feature of the recent history of the eastern part of the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC). Despite multiple attempts to reach peace agreements with the complex set of actors involved in the violence, and the recent disputed but peaceful presidential elections, the region continues to be the scene of violence mainly against civilians. In this context, few respondents feel that their village or neighbourhood is peaceful (22%) or that eastern DRC in general is peaceful (8%). Compared to women, men tend to be more positive about the tranquility of their village/neighbourhood (31% vs. 13%) and of eastern DRC (12% vs. 4%). There is also a geographical difference, with respondents in Ituri being on average more positive (27%), especially compared to those in North Kivu (16%). There are significant differences by territoire. The percentage of participants who consider their neighbourhood or village to be peaceful is generally lower in urban areas, especially in the cities of Goma (6% peaceful) and Beni (7% peaceful).

*Figure 1 Perception of peace (% peaceful)*

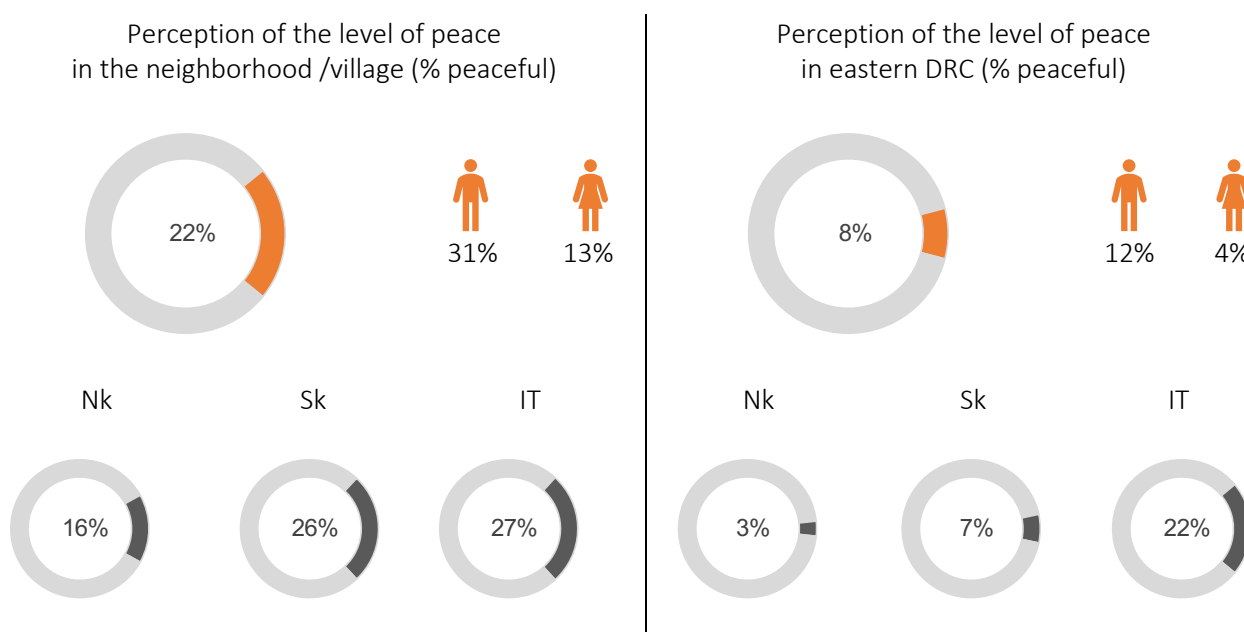
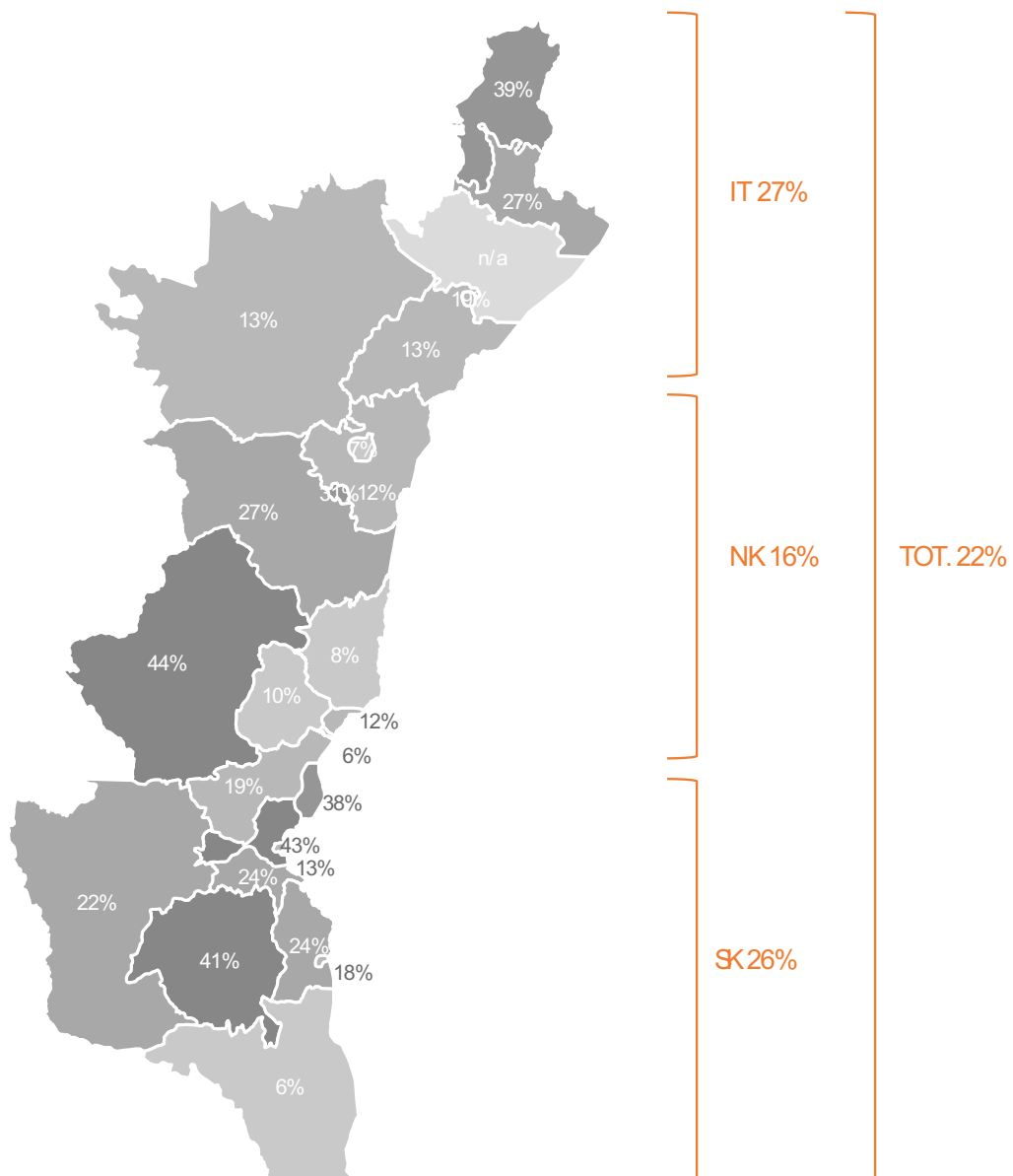


Figure 2 Perception of peace by territoire (% peaceful)

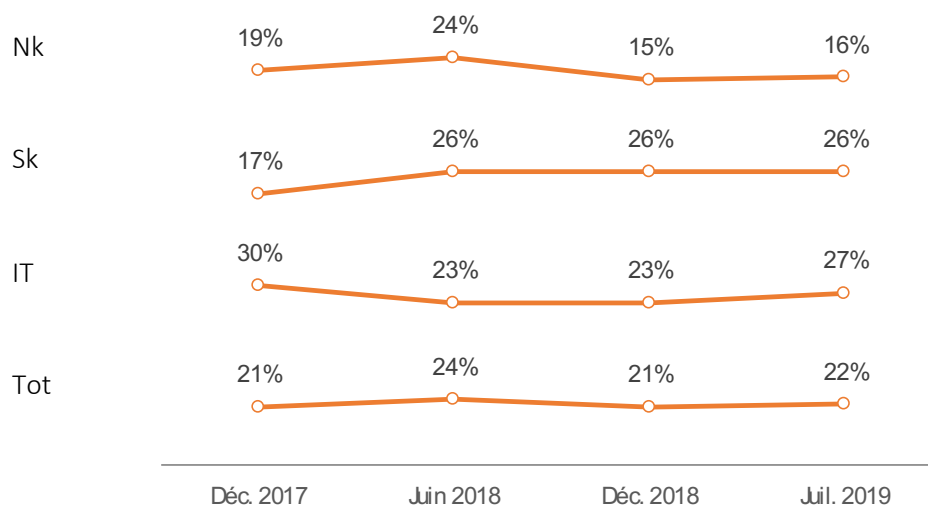


When asked about a change in the level of peace over the next year, few respondents expect improvement in their neighbourhood or village (22%) or in eastern DRC overall (18%). The comparison over time shows that perceptions of the level of peace has remained relatively unchanged over the last two years, except for a slight improvement in South Kivu (17% in December 2017 compared to 26% in July 2019).

*Figure 3 Perception of peace in one year*



*Figure 4 Perception of peace in the neighborhood/village over time (% peaceful)*



PEACE: In a context of general dissatisfaction with the government's security and socio-economic efforts, the majority of participants view peacebuilding efforts negatively and few anticipate a positive effect of the elections.

One in five respondents (21%) positively judges the government's efforts to establish peace in eastern Congo. Although this percentage is low, in comparison, an even smaller percentage positively judges the government's efforts to combat poverty (8%), job creation (9%), the fight against corruption (8%), or improved security (14%).

Peace efforts are more frequently viewed positively in Ituri (39%) compared to North Kivu (16%) or South Kivu (17%). Less than one in ten people are positive about the government's peacebuilding efforts in the cities of Goma (5%), Butembo (9%), and Uvira (2%), as well as the territoires of Lubero (1%) and Shabunda (2%)

*Figure 5 Perception of the government's peacebuilding efforts*

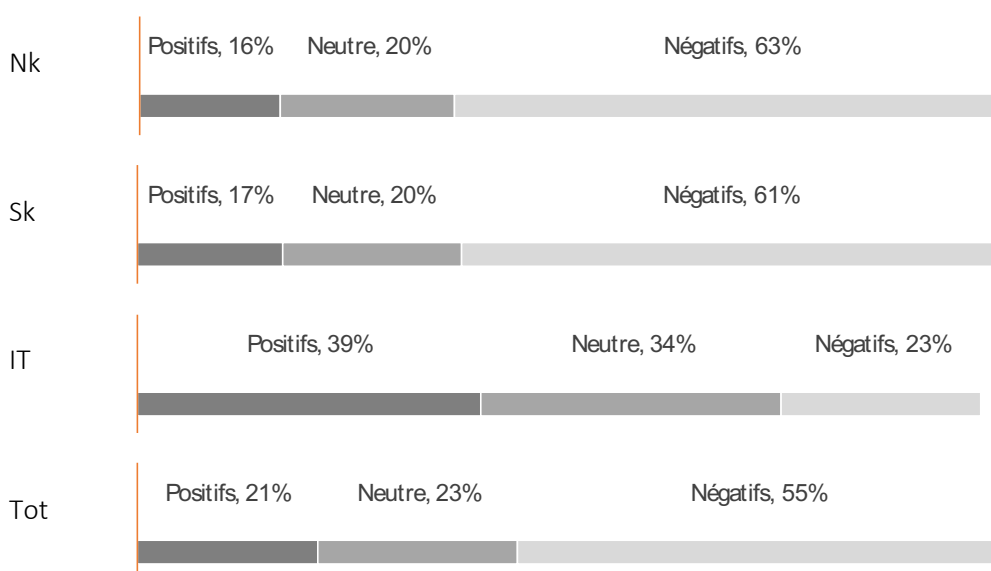
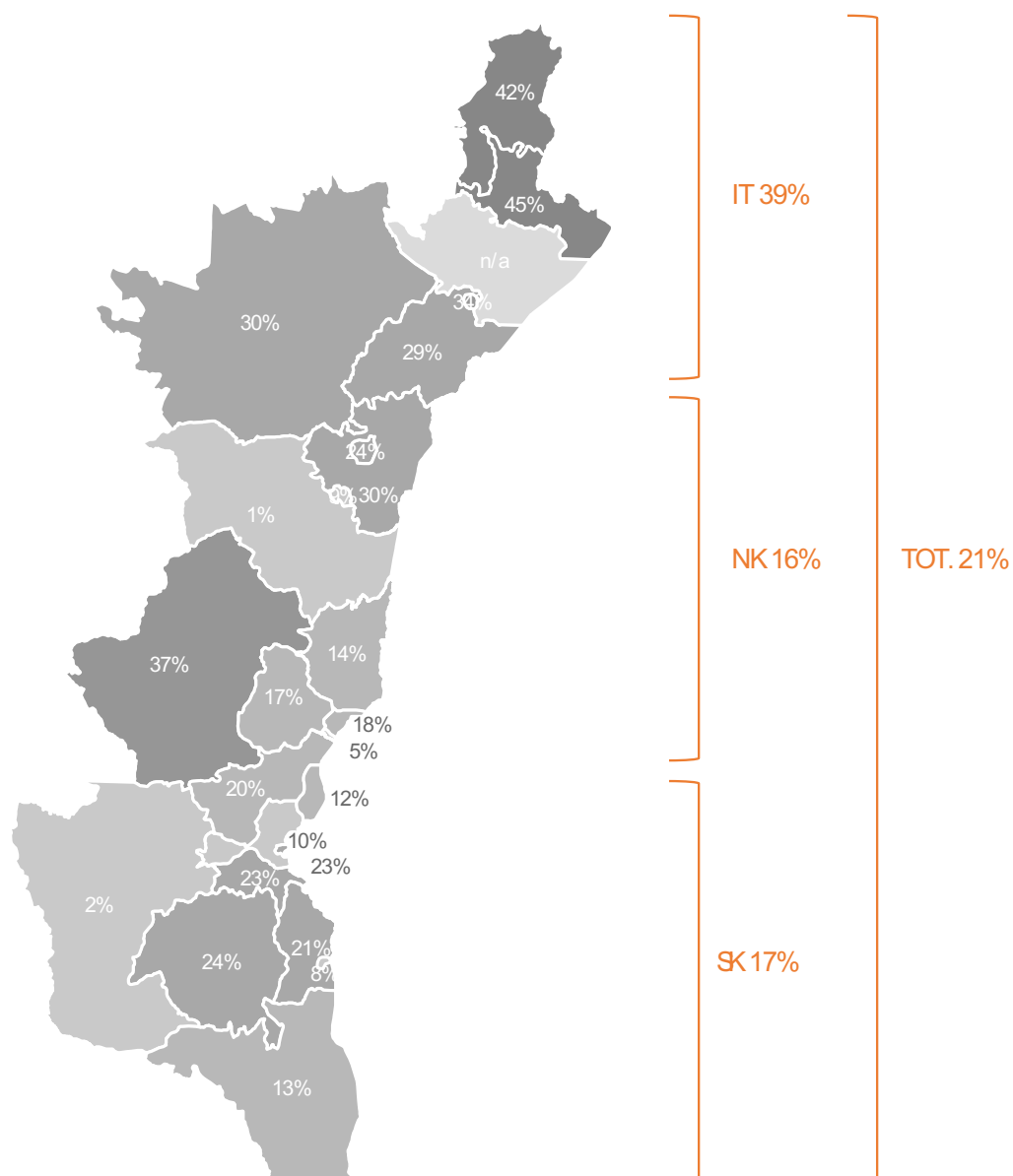
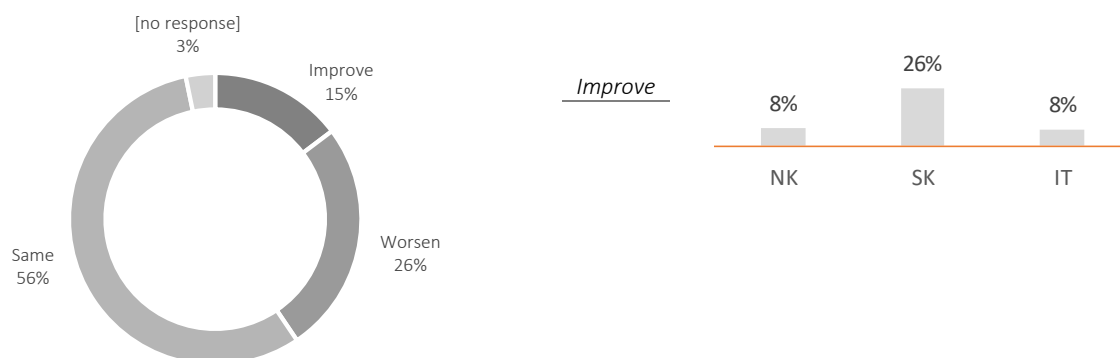


Figure 6 Perception of government's peacebuilding efforts, by territoire  
(% positive)



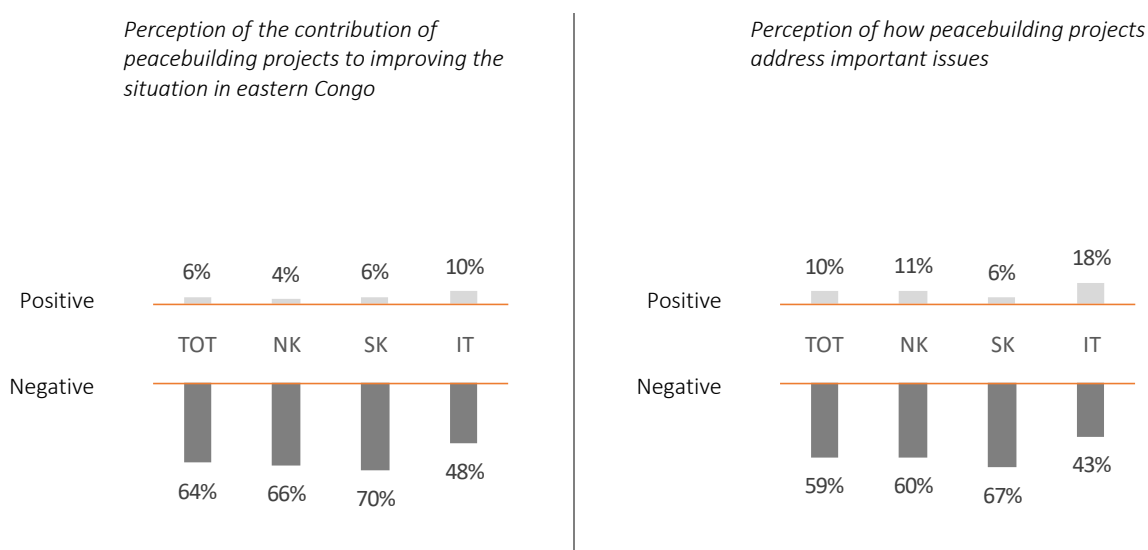
The majority of participants anticipate that the 2018 presidential elections will have no effect on the restoration of peace in eastern Congo in the future (56%). One in four (26%) even anticipates that these elections will worsen the situation, perhaps because of the challenges over the credibility of these elections. Only 15% anticipates a positive effect, most frequently among participants in South Kivu (26%) compared to those in North Kivu (8%) or Ituri (8%).

*Figure 7 Early contribution of presidential elections to peace in eastern DRC*



In addition to the negative perception of the government's peacebuilding efforts, a majority of participants also negatively view the contribution of peacebuilding projects to the situation in eastern DRC overall (64% negative), and do not feel that these projects address important problems (59% negative).

*Figure 8 Perception of Peacebuilding Project Efforts*





While the external efforts of the government and peacebuilding projects are viewed negatively, a majority of participants believe that the population itself can contribute to peace (70%). This opinion is more common among men (77%) than women (64%).

*Figure 9 Population potential to contribute to peace (% positive)*



## JUSTICE: Participants are divided over whether justice can be achieved in eastern Congo, but access to justice remains limited and the national civil justice system is widely viewed negatively.

Half of the participants in the July-August 2019 survey (53%) indicate that it is possible, in their view, that justice is achieved in eastern Congo. This opinion is more common among men than women (64% vs. 42%) and in South Kivu (64%) compared to North Kivu (49%) and Ituri (38%). However, a smaller percentage believe that justice can be achieved when it comes to conflict-related violence (49% yes), or when they themselves are victims of a crime (49% yes).

### 1010: Obtaining justice

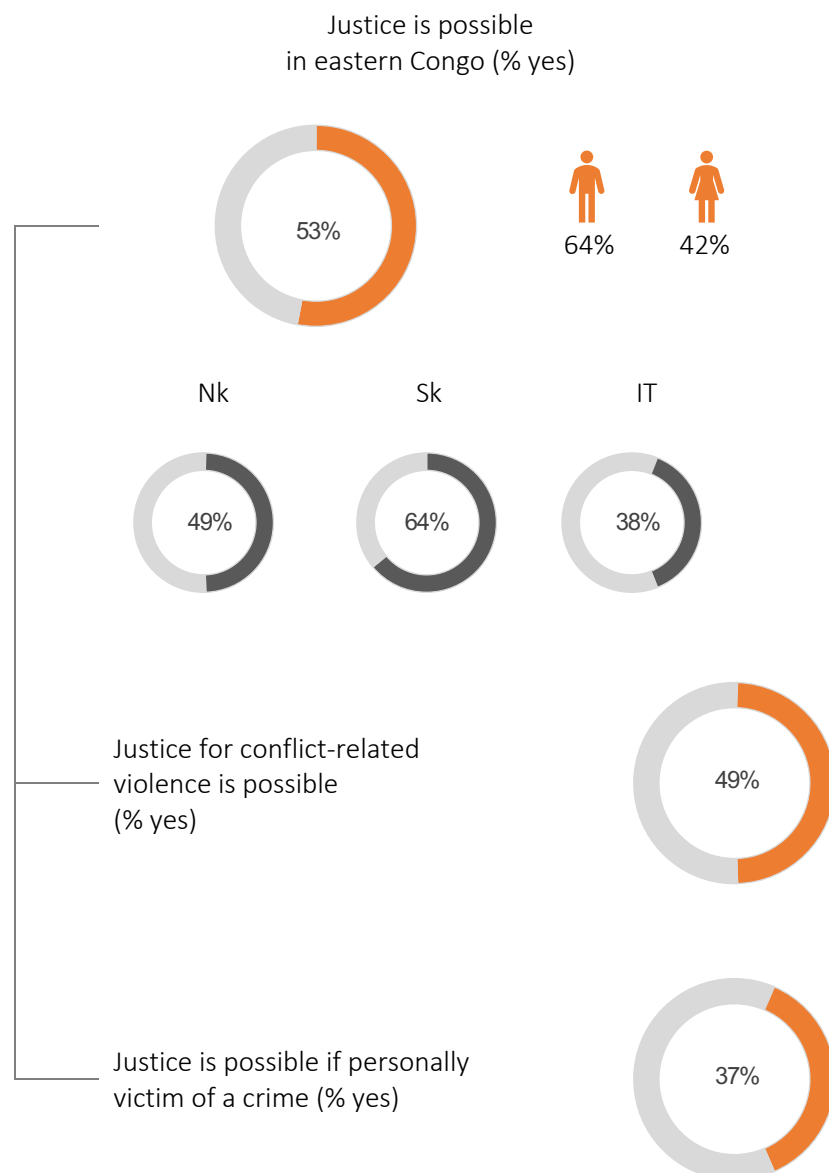
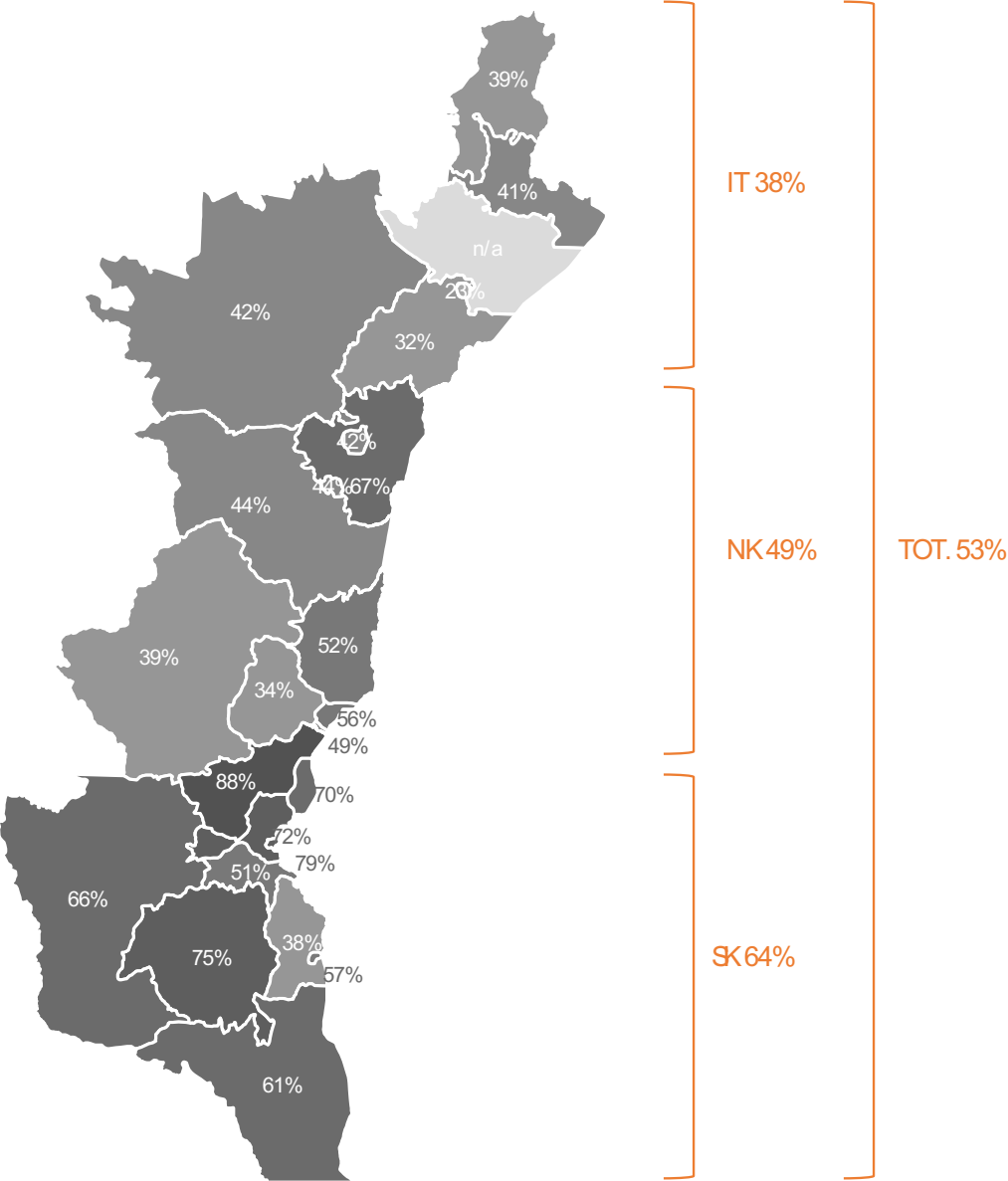


Figure 11 Obtaining justice - possible justice achieved, by territoire (% yes)



The divided views on the possibility of obtaining justice can be explained by the low level of access to the civil (19% good - very good access) and military (13% good - very good access) justice systems, including the mobile courts of civil and military courts (14% and 12% good - very good access) respectively. In comparison, customary justice, although illegal, is more frequently judged to be accessible (34% good - very good access). In general, justice is judged to be more accessible in Ituri. Data from successive surveys between June 2016 and July 2019 suggest that perceptions of access to justice have changed little over time, from 17% in June 2016 to 19% in July 2019 for access to the national civil justice system, and from 11% to 13%, considering access to military courts.

*Figure 12 Access to justice (% good - very good access)*

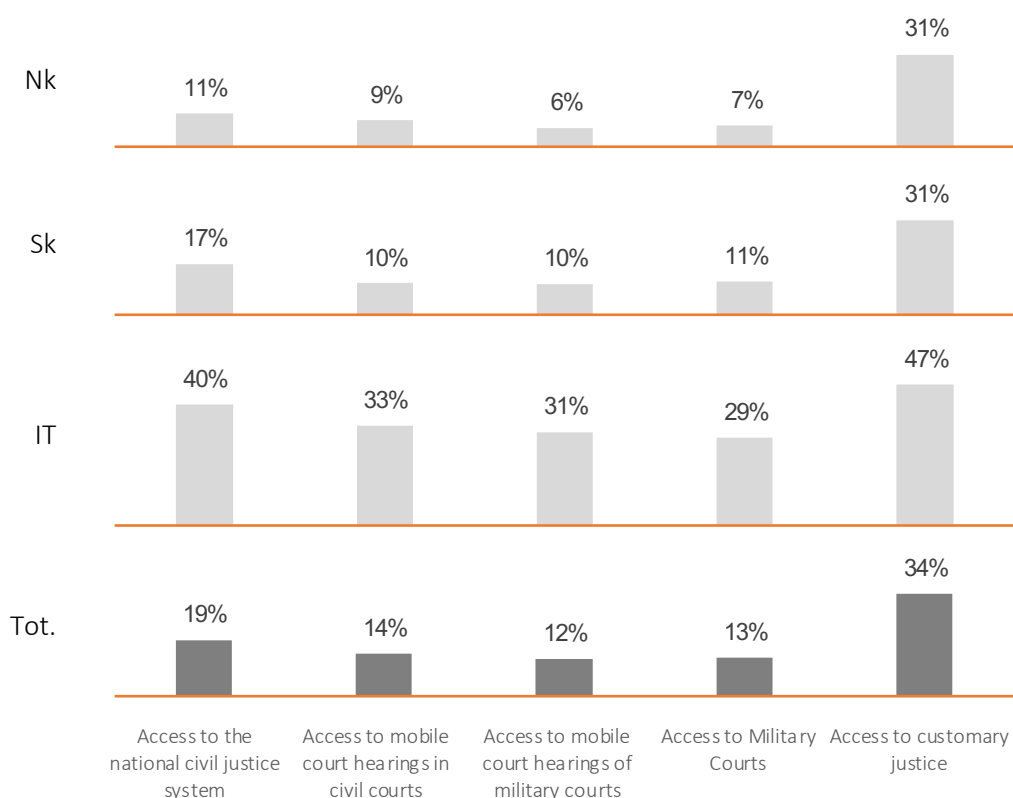
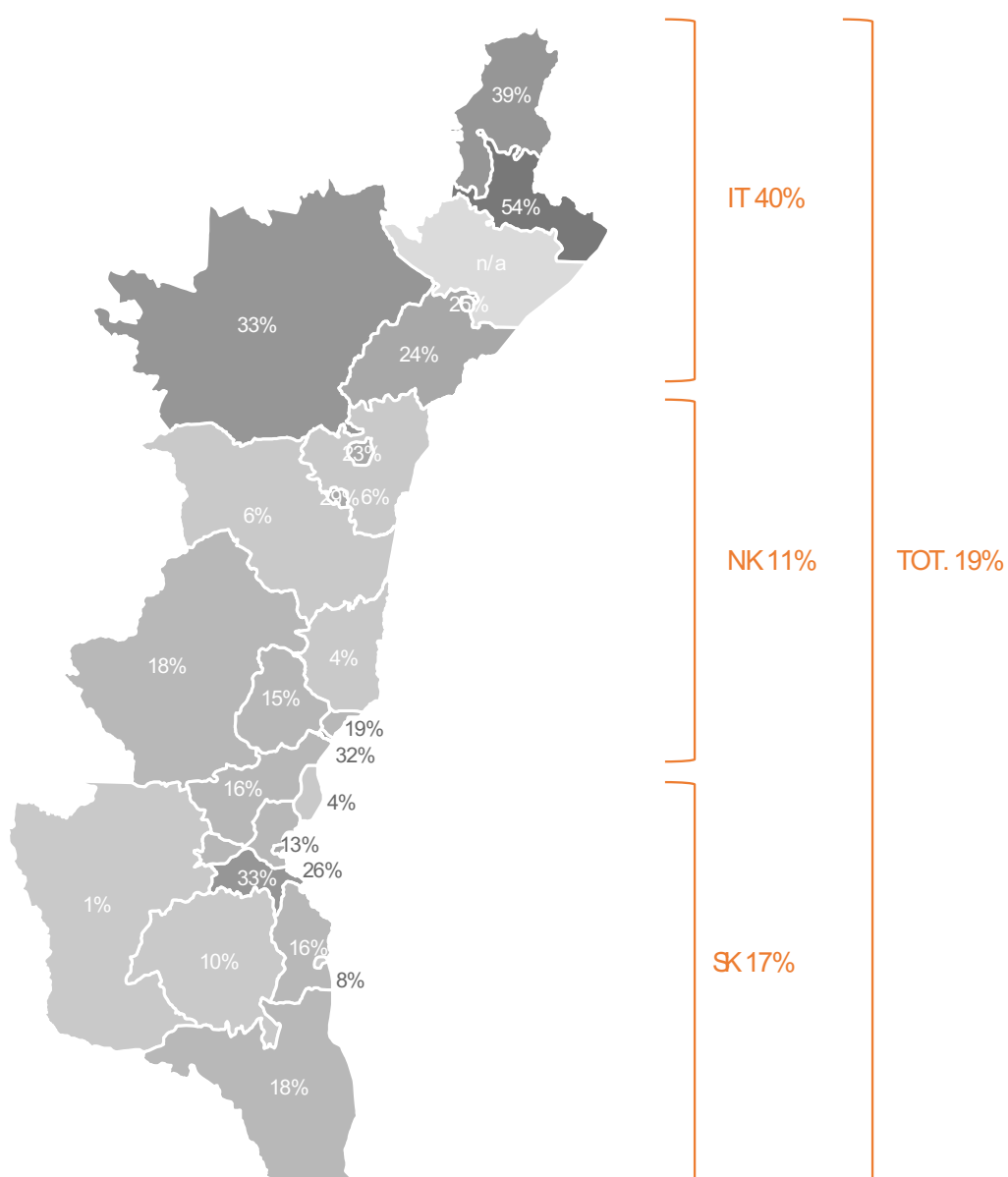
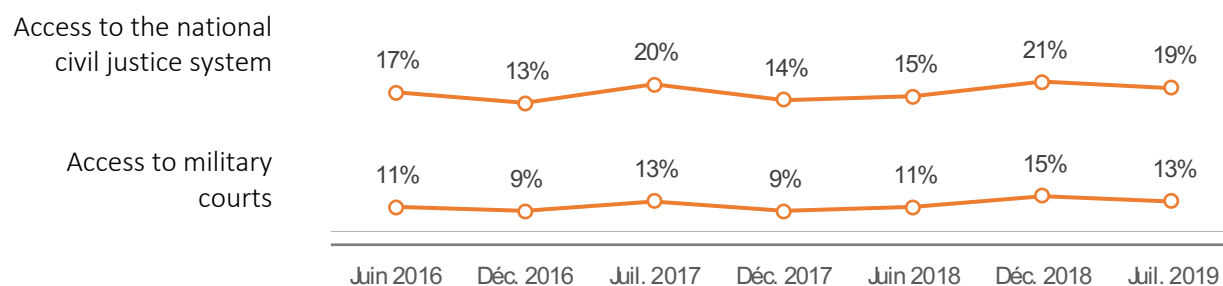


Figure 13 Access to the national civil justice system, by territoire (% good - very good access)



1414: Evolution of access to justice over time (% good - very good access)



In addition to its inaccessibility, justice is generally perceived as inefficient and corrupt. Only a minority of participants felt that justice is swift (11%), that court decisions are well executed (9%), that justice protects victims (13%), or that trials are fair (10%). Conversely, a majority (56%) judges that the actors of justice are corrupt. Perceptions of judicial corruption are particularly common in North Kivu (65%) and South Kivu (58%), while this opinion is a minority in Ituri (30%).

*Figure 15 Perception of justice (% agreement with proposals)*

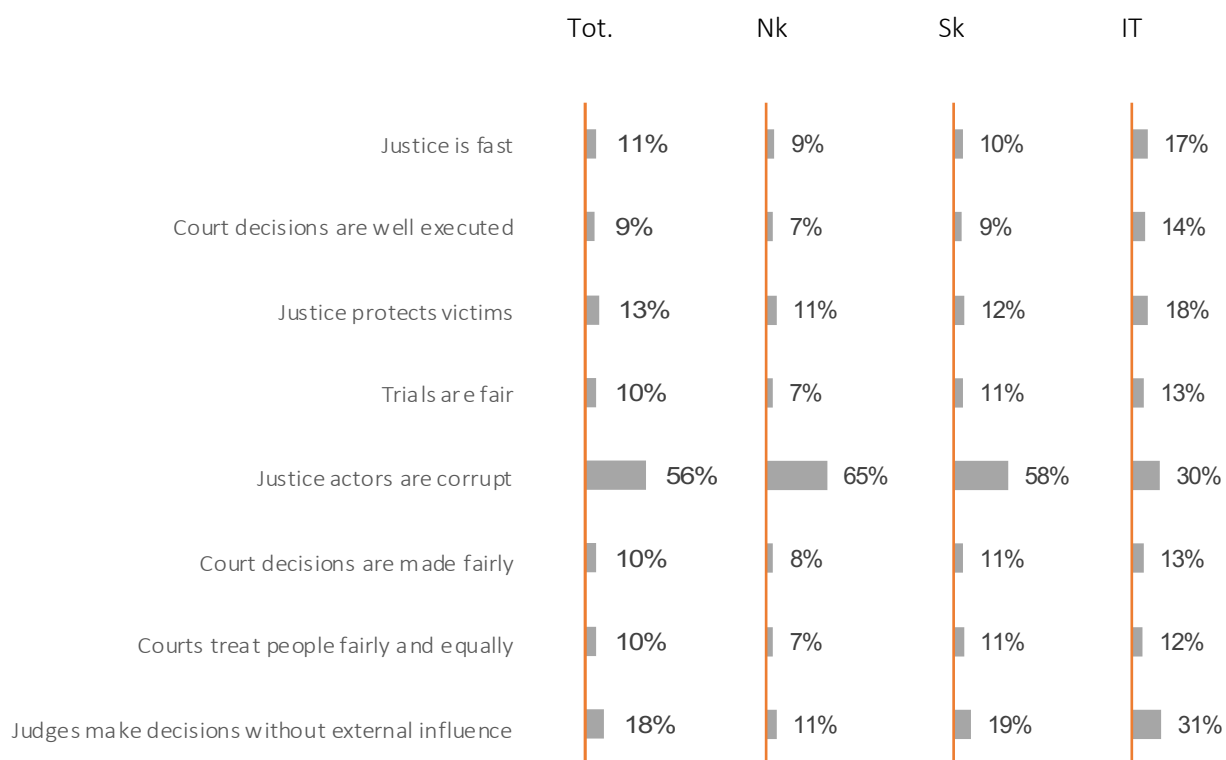


Figure 16 'The actors of justice are corrupt', by territoire (% agree)

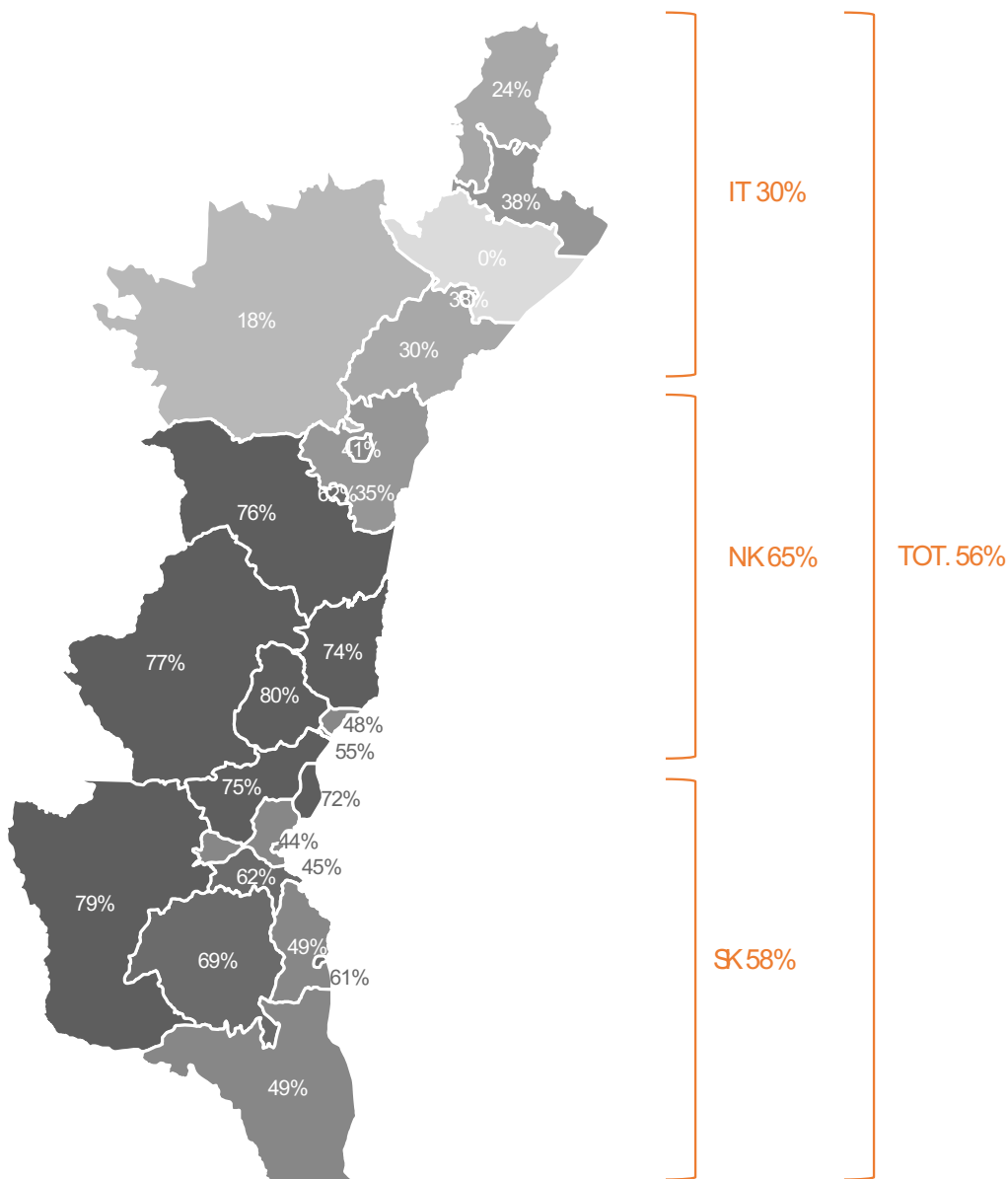
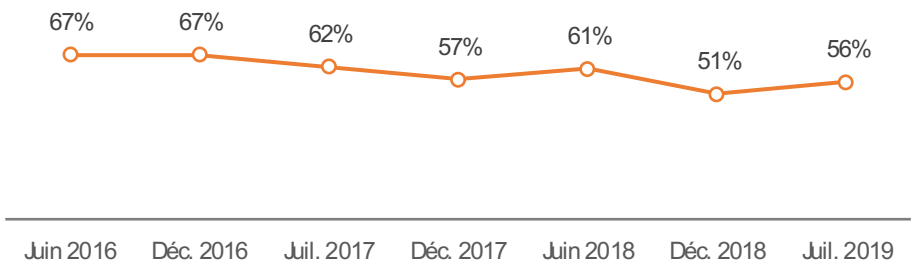


Figure 17 'Justice is corrupt' over time (% agree)



This negative perception of justice is confirmed by the general lack of confidence in the civil (72% little - not at all confident) and military (66% little - not at all confident) justice systems, including mobile court hearings in civil and military courts (65% and 66% little - not at all confident) respectively. The percentage of participants indicating that they do not have confidence in customary justice is lower, but still concerns almost half of the participants (49%). The data suggests little variation between provinces.

*Figure 18 Confidence in justice (% little - not at all confident)*

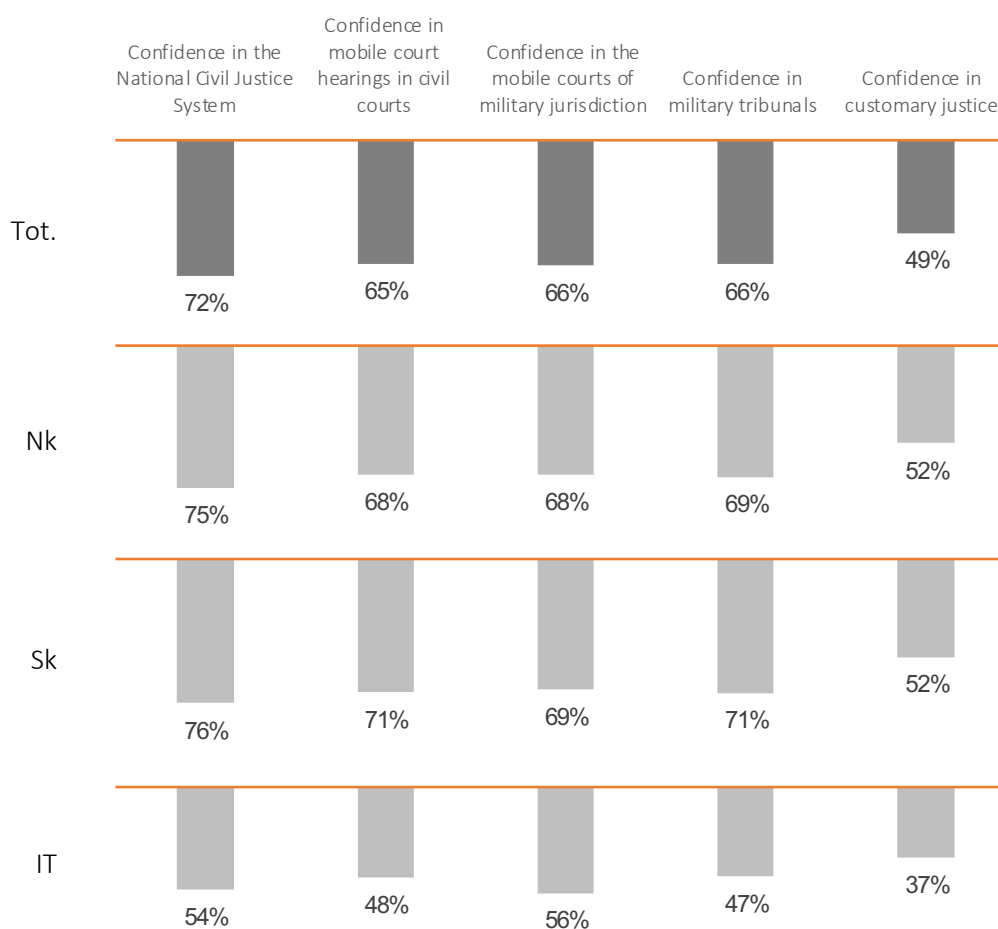




Figure 19 Confidence in the national civil justice system, by territoire (% not very - not at all confident)

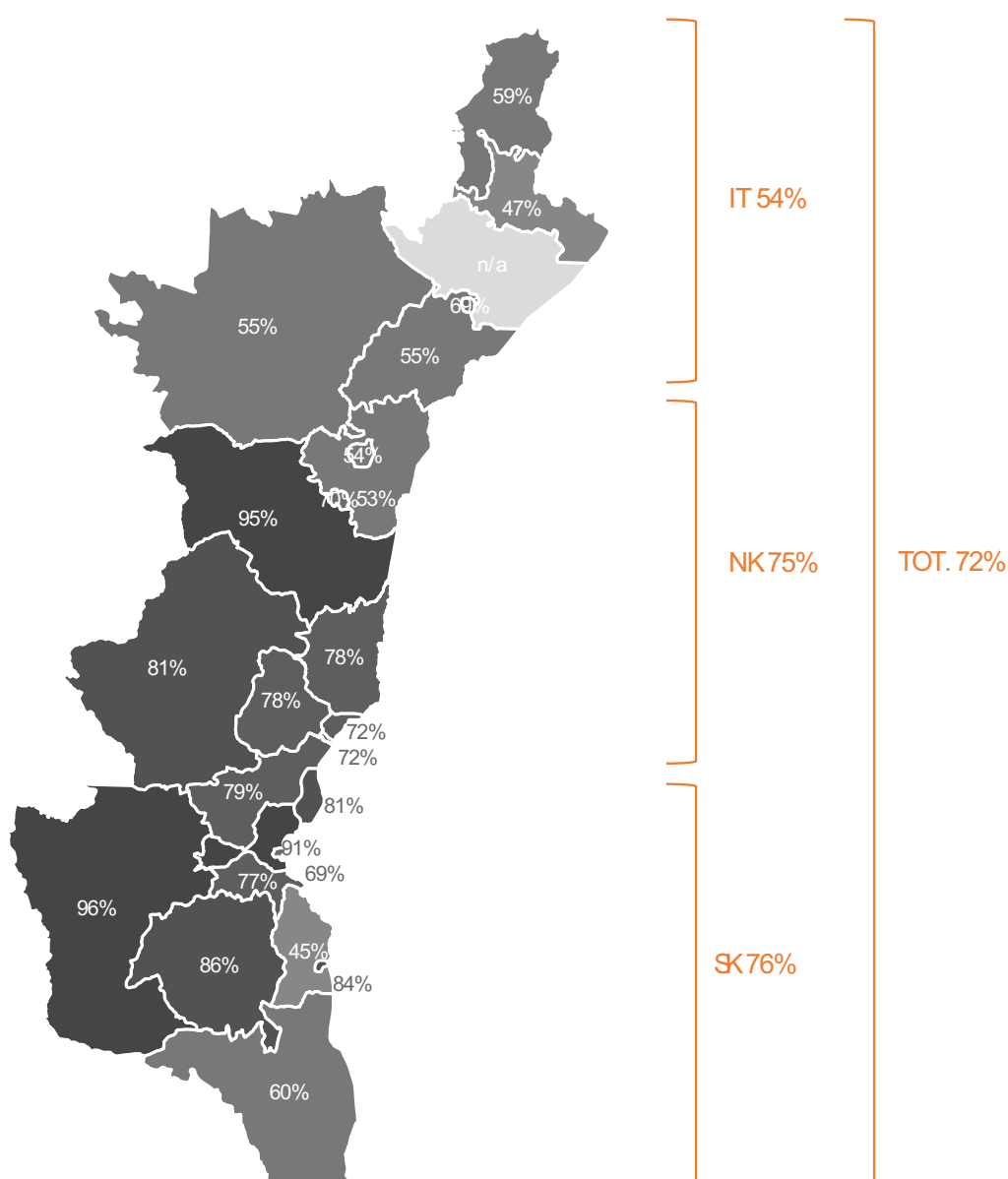
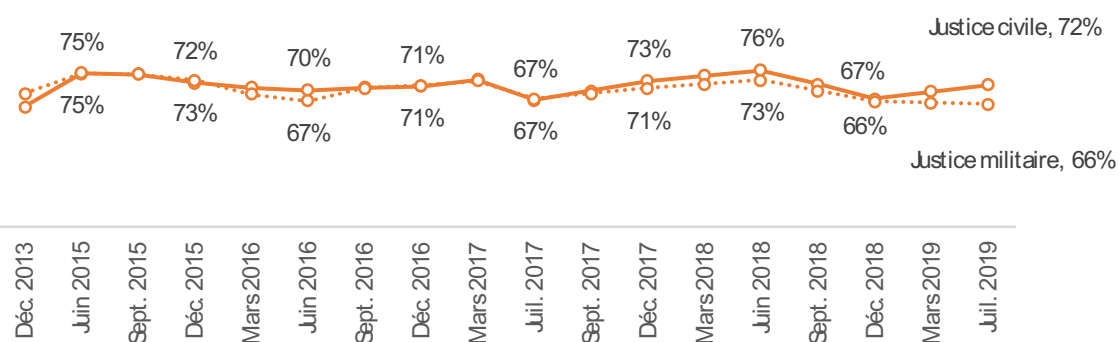


Figure 20 Confidence in the justice system over time (% not very - not at all confident)

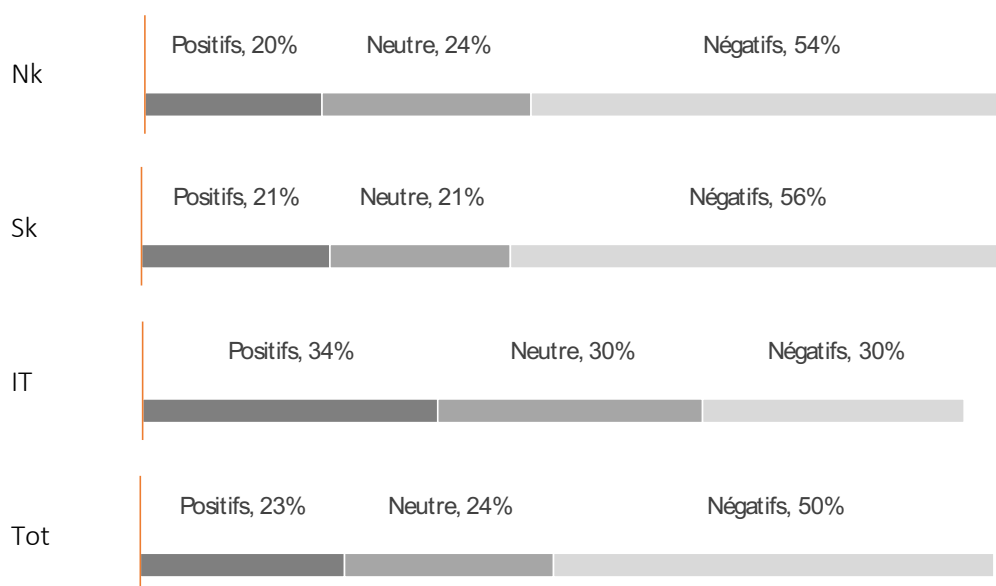


## JUSTICE: Participants are rarely satisfied with efforts to combat sexual violence by the government and security and justice sector actors, and do not perceive any improvement over time.

The international community has placed an emphasis on justice to punish acts of sexual violence, including rape, in eastern DRC. As well as the government's peacebuilding efforts, which were viewed positively by 21% of participants, one in five (23%) people (23%) viewed the government's efforts to combat sexual violence positively. The perception of these efforts has changed little over the past two years (24% in December 2017, 23% in July 2019).

Again, it should be noted that an even smaller percentage of the population positively judges the government's efforts in the fight against poverty (8%), job creation (9%), the fight against corruption (8%), or the improvement of security (14%). Government efforts in the fight against sexual violence are more frequently judged positively in Ituri (34%) compared to North Kivu (20%) or South Kivu (21%).

*Figure 21 Perception of government efforts to combat sexual violence*



*Figure 22 Perception of government efforts to combat sexual violence over time*

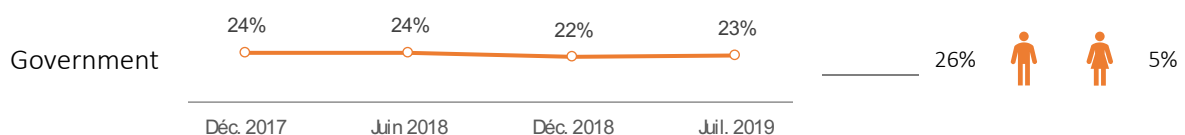
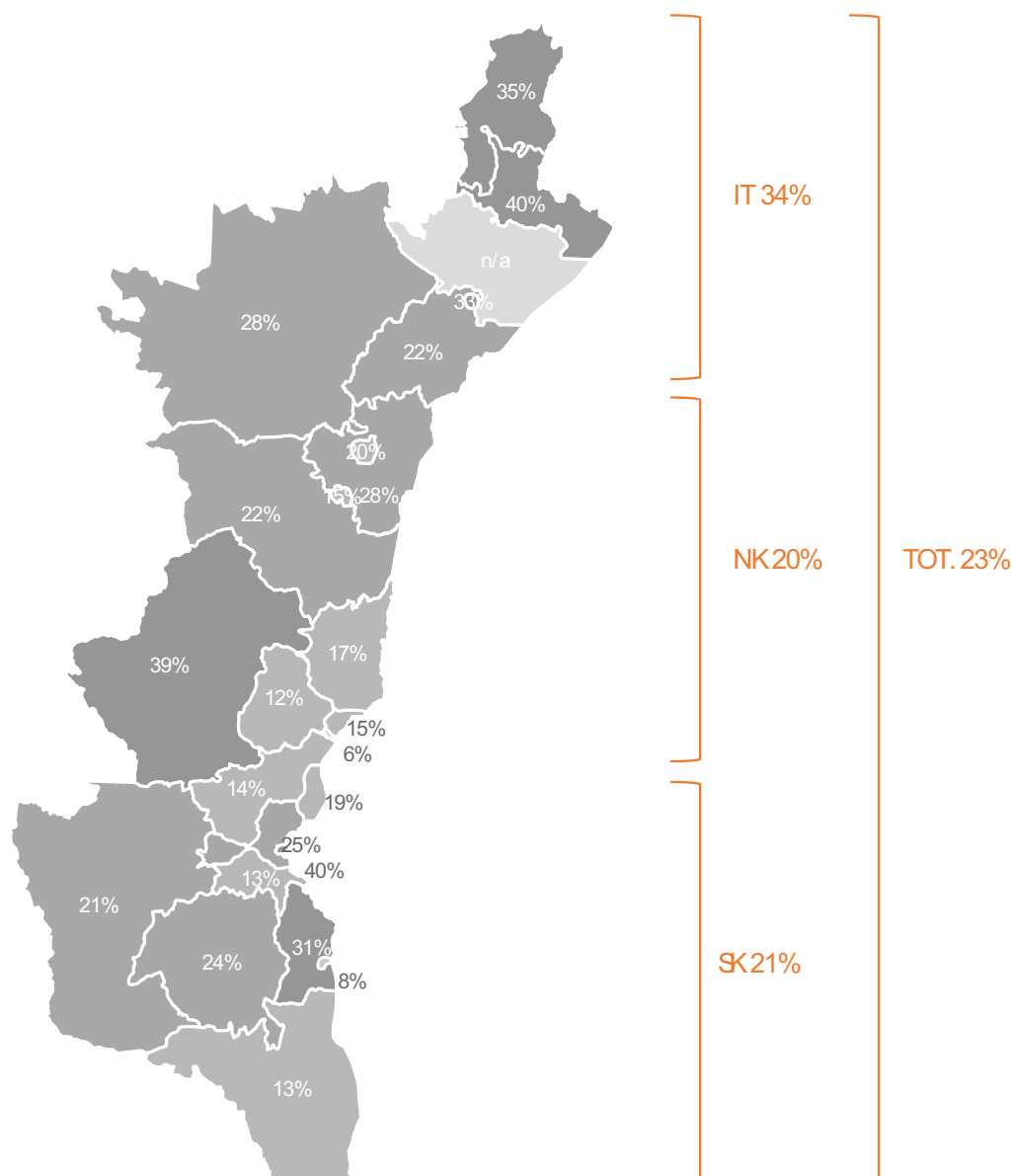
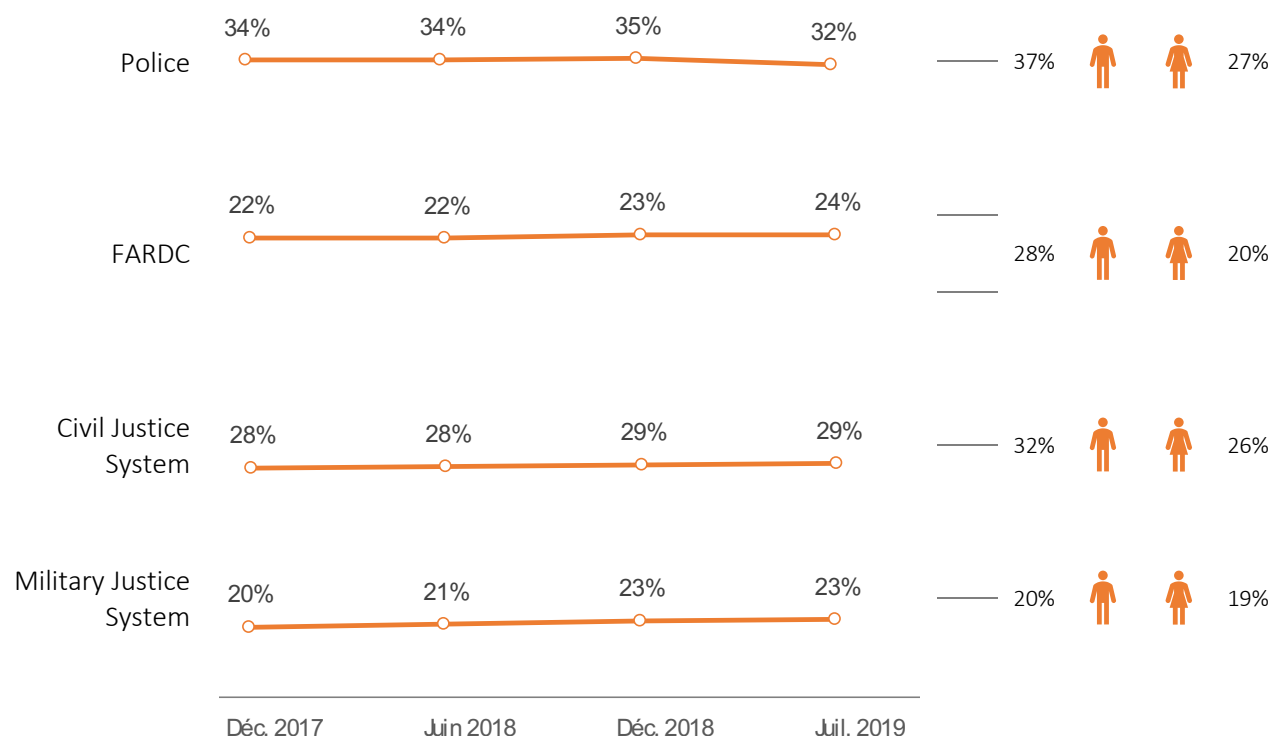


Figure 23 Perception of government efforts to combat sexual violence, by territoire (% positive)



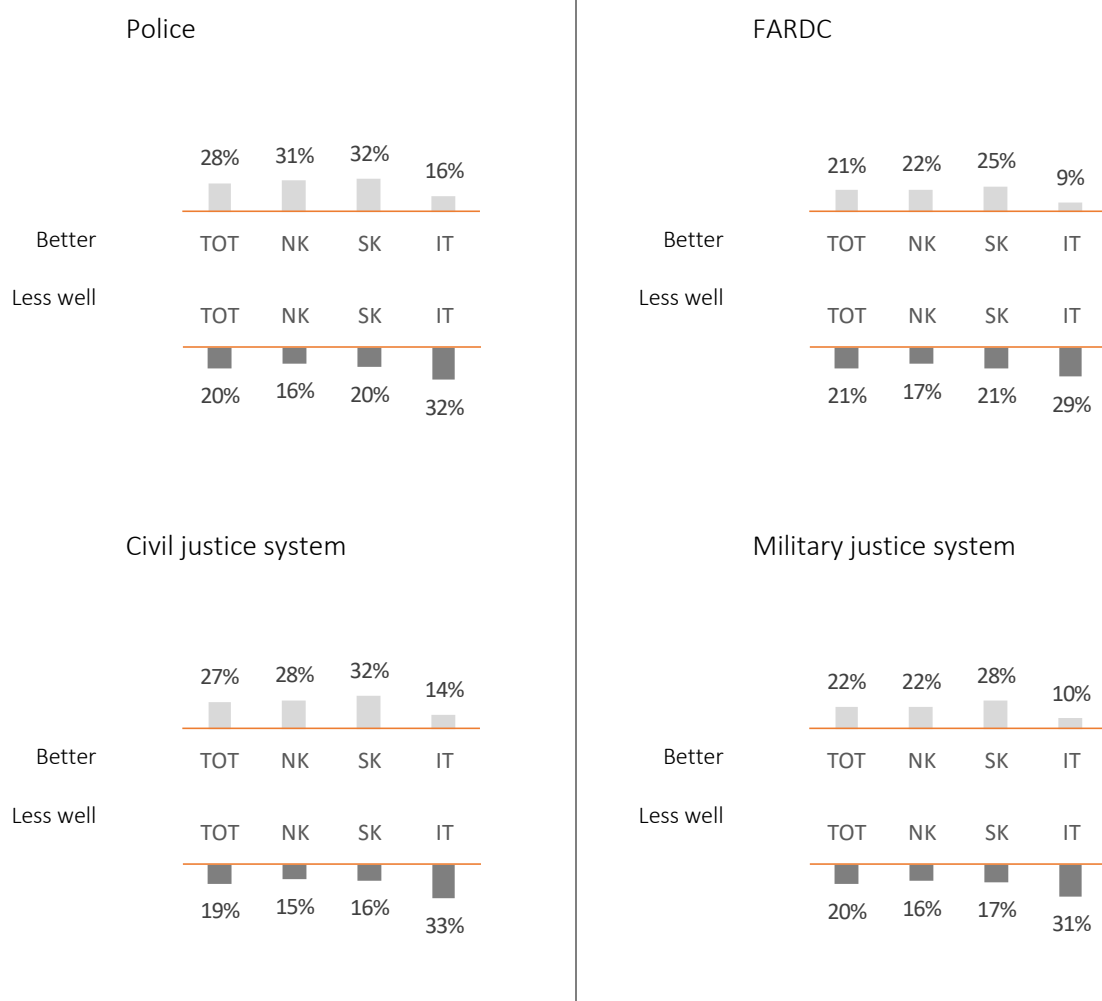
Efforts to combat sexual violence by security and justice actors are more frequently viewed positively than government efforts, including the efforts of the police (32% positive), FARDC (24% positive), and civil justice systems (29% positive) and military justice (23% positive). However, the difference is small and this positive opinion remains in the minority. This view has also changed little over the past two years. On average, women are less likely to be positive than men about their efforts to combat sexual violence.

*Figure 24 Perception of security and justice actors' efforts to combat sexual violence, over time (% positive)*



For the majority of participants, victims of sexual violence are treated in the same way as other victims by security and justice actors. However, more than one in five people believe that victims of sexual violence are treated better than others by the police (28%), the FARDC (21%), and the civil (27%) and military (22%) justice systems. Conversely, a similar percentage believe that victims of sexual violence are treated worse than others by the police (20%), the FARDC (21%), and civil (19%) and military (20%) justice systems. There is little variation in the data between provinces and territoires.

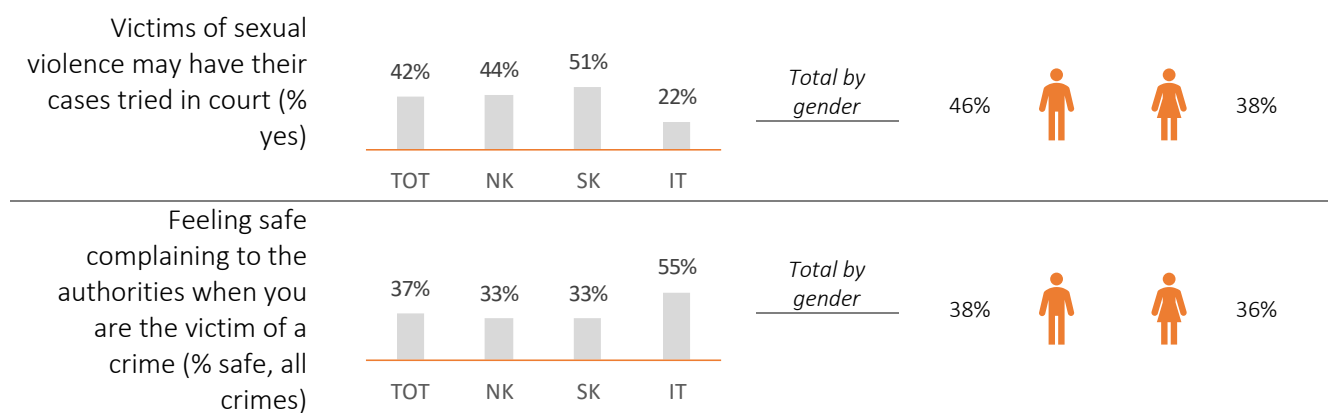
Figure 25 Perception of the treatment of victims of sexual violence compared to other victims, by security and justice sector actors



## JUSTICE: Victims of sexual violence may have their cases tried in court, but only one in three people feel safe to complain to the authorities if they are victims of a crime.

Overall, 42% of respondents believe that victims of sexual violence can have their cases tried in court (42% yes). Women share this opinion less frequently than men (38% vs. 46%). However, the survey shows that only one in three people (37%) feel safe if they have to go to the police, regardless of the crime. It is likely that the feeling of insecurity is even greater among victims of sexual violence.

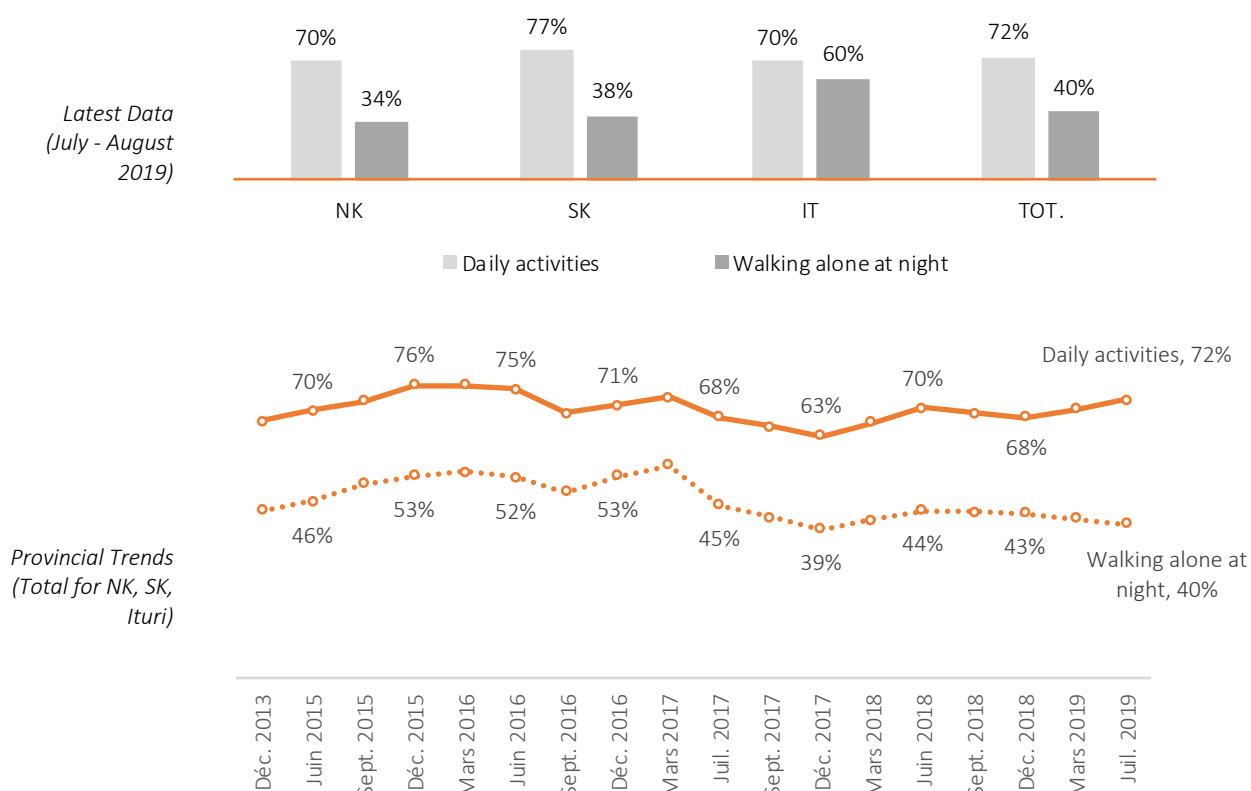
Figure 26 Justice for sexual violence and complaints



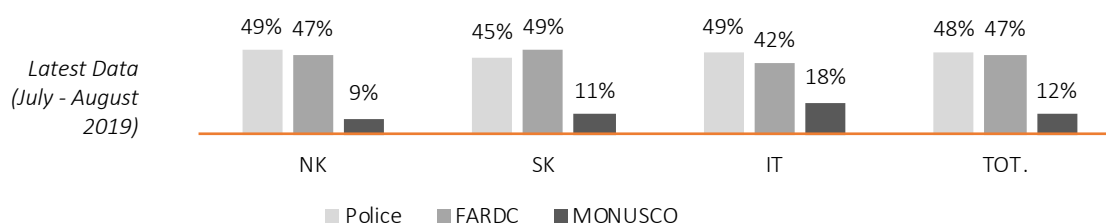
## GLOBAL KEY INDICATORS

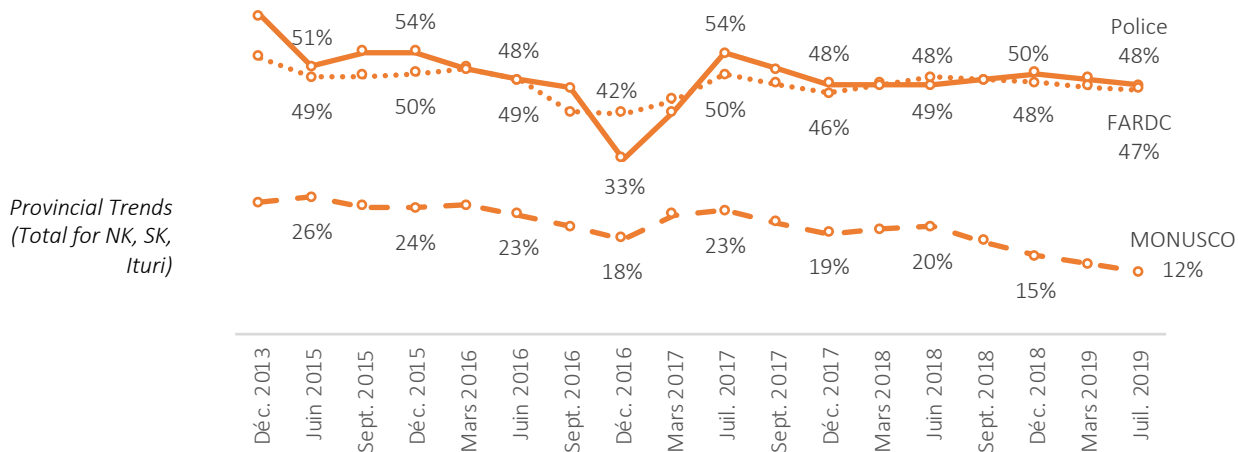
The following indicators are presented in all surveys. Provincial averages may mask significant differences by territoire – detailed results by territoire are available on the [www.peacebuildingdata.org/drc](http://www.peacebuildingdata.org/drc) website. Aggregate data are based on the latest surveys available for each territoire.

### FEELING OF SECURITY (% SAFE- VERY SAFE)

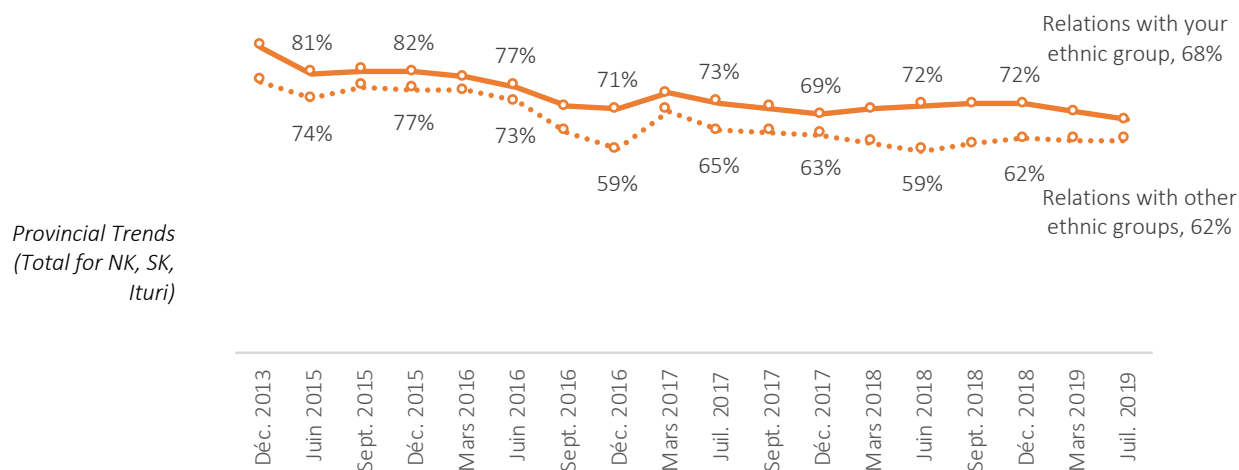


### PERCEPTION OF SECURITY ACTORS (% CONFIDENCE TO ENSURE SECURITY)



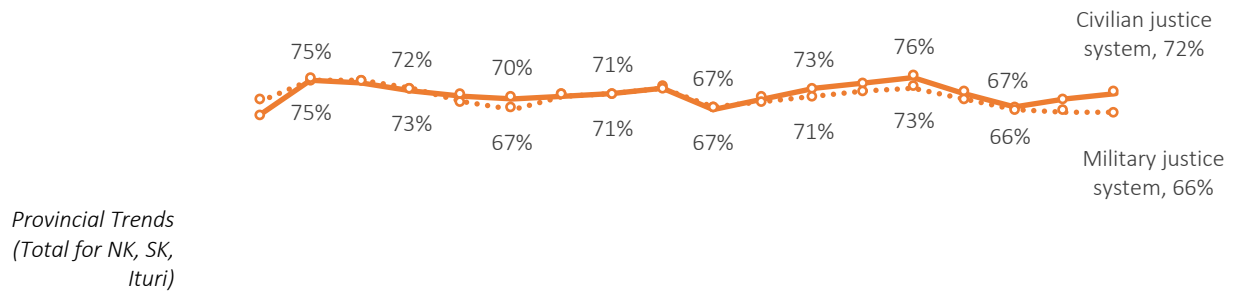
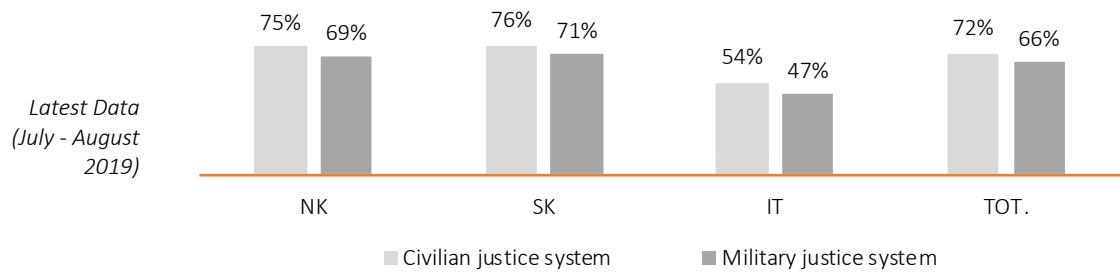


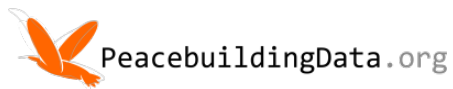
## PERCEPTION OF RELATIONS IN ETHNIC GROUPS (% GOOD- VERY GOOD)





## CONFIANCE IN JUSTICE (% LITTLE)





*In collaboration with*



*With support from*

