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Peacebuilding and Reconstruction Polls

Eastern Democratic Republic of the Congo

Poll Report #1, March 2015

(December 2014 Data)

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About the Poll

Results for this poll are based on 1,547 one-one-one interviews conducted in December 2014 with randomly selected adults in the cities of Goma, Bukavu, and Bunia, and the territoires of Nyiragongo, Rutshuru, and Masisi (Petit Nord). The margin of sampling error is ± 5 percentage points at the 95% confidence level.

Province / District	Territoire / City	Sample size
North Kivu	Goma	225
	Nyiragongo	223
	Rutshuru	249
	Masisi	219
South Kivu	Bukavu	331
	Ituri	Bunia
TOTAL	- -	1,547

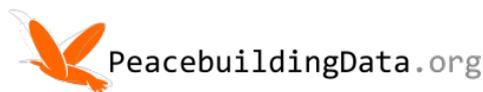
For more details, visit
www.peacebuildingdata.org/drc
 or contact info@peacebuilding.org

About the Project

This poll is the first of a series of polls 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, and independent analysis, and reporting of the results, in collaboration with partners at the Université Libre des Pays des Grands Lacs, Université Catholique de Bukavu, and Université de Bunia.

Previous publications:

Vinck P, Pham PN (2014). Searching for Lasting Peace: Population-Based Survey on Perceptions and Attitudes about Peace, Security and Justice in Eastern Democratic Republic of the Congo. Harvard Humanitarian Initiative, United Nations Development Programme.



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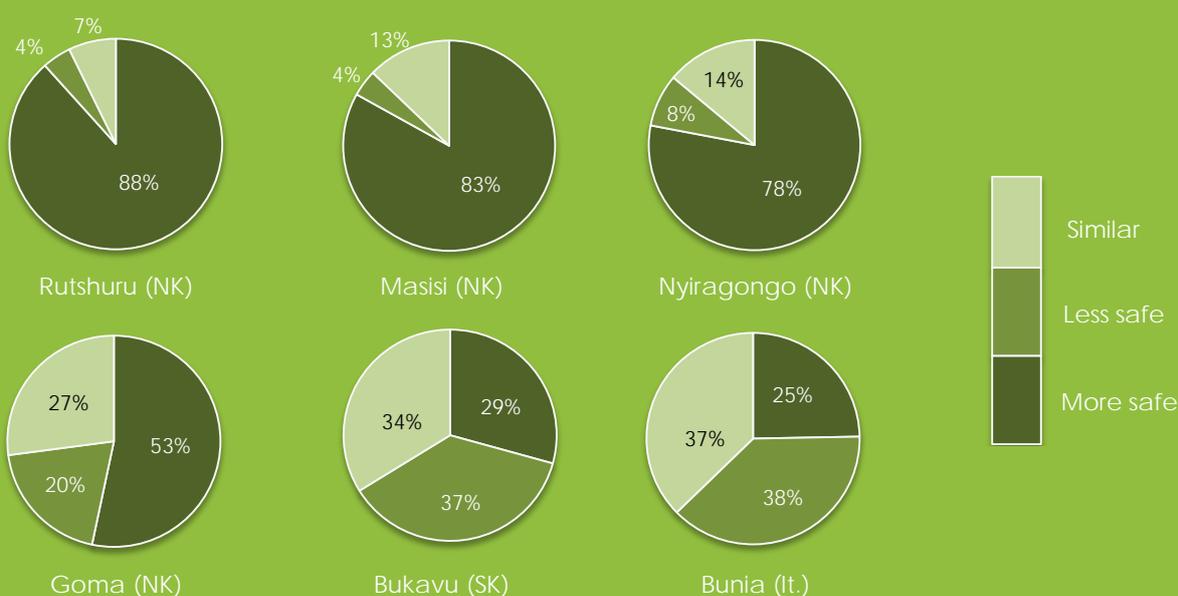
After strong improvement, security remains stable in *territoires* of the 'Petit Nord' but confidence in security actors declines

GOMA, 03/2015 – Following the defeat of the M23 in late 2013, the population's sense of security has significantly improved in the 'Petit Nord' region of North Kivu, Eastern DRC, an area encompassing the *territoires* of Rutshuru, Masisi and Nyiragongo at the center of the successive wars in the region (Walikale was not included in this poll).

In December 2014, a majority of residents in the *territoires* of Rutshuru (88%), Masisi (83%), and Nyiragongo (78%) in North Kivu reported improvement in their security situation compared to the previous year. Improvement in security was also frequently reported in the provincial capital of Goma, North Kivu (53%). In the other provincial and district capitals of eastern DRC, Bukavu (South Kivu), and Bunia (Ituri) however, between one in five and one in three respondents reported being less safe compared to a year before.

Despite the important gains in security compared to the situation in 2013, insecurity remains high, especially in urban areas. The proportion of residents in the *territoires* of the Petit Nord reporting insecurity in various situations were similar in December 2014 and December 2013, suggesting that after rapid gains following the defeat of the M23, the security situation has remained stable or even worsened as the Armed Forces of the DRC (FARDC) and MONUSCO troops have largely moved away. In urban areas, the sense of security has generally improved when comparing results from the two polls. Walking alone at night remains one of the activities perceived as the least safe, especially in urban areas.

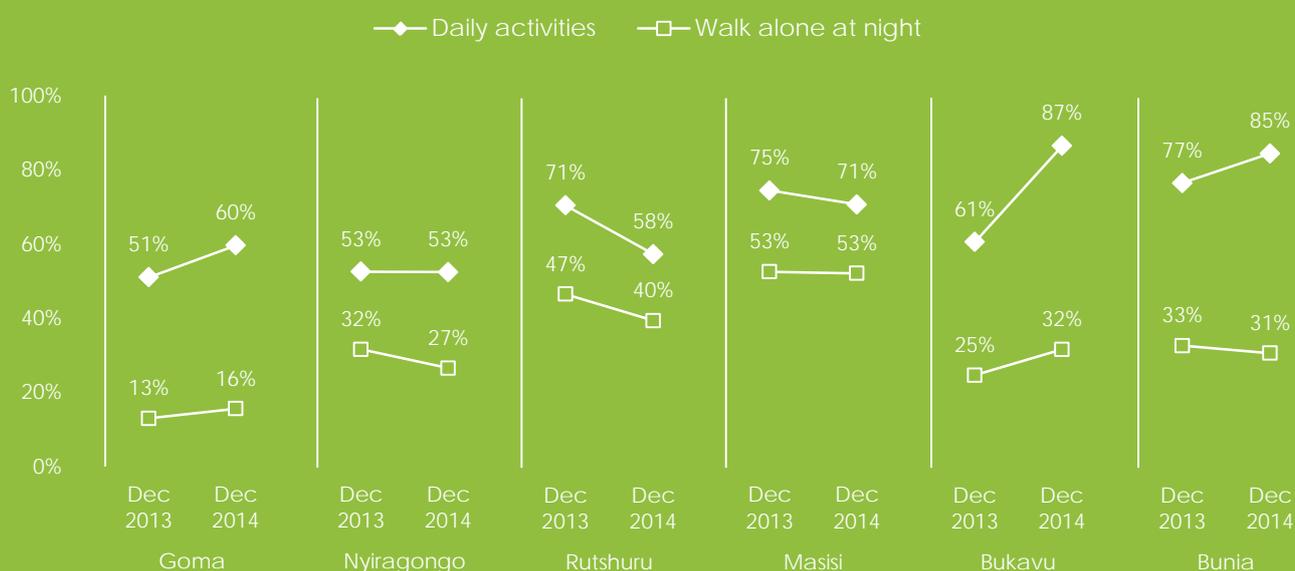
Sense of Security in 2014 compared to 2013



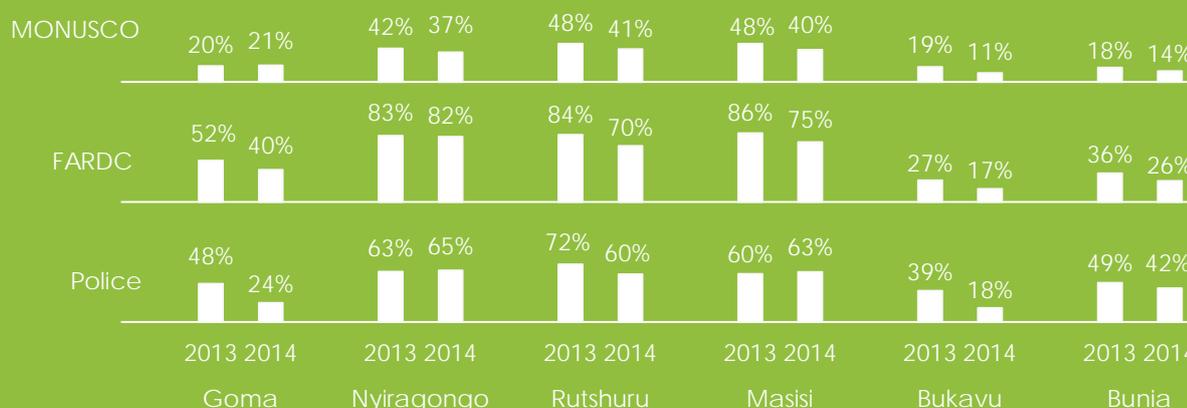
Data from December 2014 - Peacebuilding and Reconstruction Polls in DRC

In all the territoires, God and the community itself continued to be most frequently identified as the purveyor of security, more than any other formal security actor. Qualitative data suggests that areas of the Petit Nord that were previously patrolled regularly by the FARDC and/or MONUSCO are no longer monitored since the defeat of the M23, feeding a sense that no one is there to provide security. In addition, trust in the ability of selected actors to provide security, including the police, the FARDC and MONUSCO, has remained stable or decreased when comparing data from December 2013 and December 2014. The FARDC remain the most trusted actor to ensure security. Residents, however, note differences between 'commandos' and other FARDC troops – the former being more appreciated. Respondents in urban areas have the least trust in the police, FARDC, and MONUSCO to provide security. This likely reflects day to day harassment and corruption, combined with higher sense of insecurity. Trust in MONUSCO to ensure security is stable. Respondents seem to distinguish between the FIB which is well understood and respected since the defeat of the M23, and the rest of the force.

Change in perception of security in selected situations (% safe/very safe)



Trust to provide security (% yes)



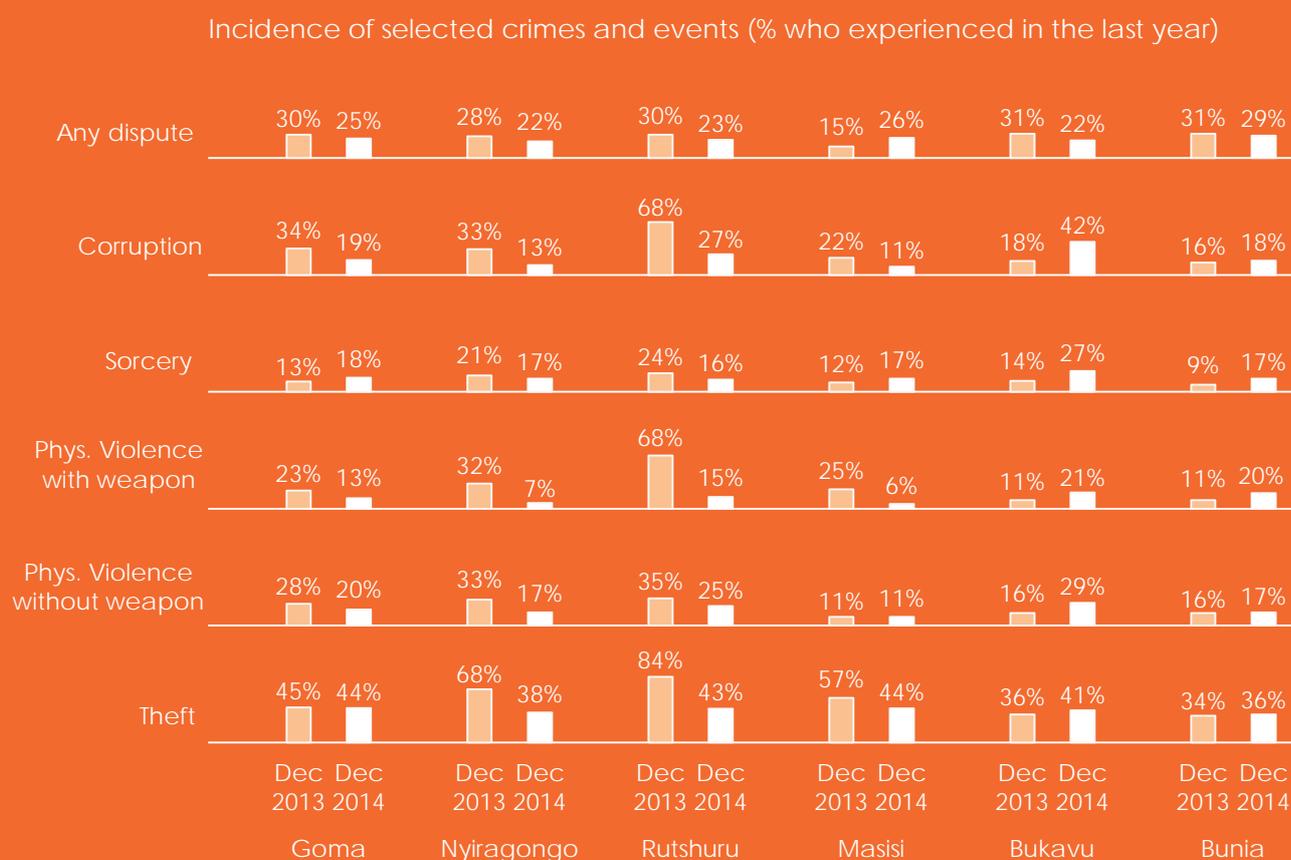
Data from December 2013 and December 2014 - Peacebuilding and Reconstruction Polls in DRC

Incidence of crimes decreased, except in Bukavu. Prevalence of sexual violence is unchanged.

Self-reported incidence of crimes over the one year period prior to the poll decreased in all the territories, except Bukavu, where the one-year self-reported incidence of theft, physical violence, sorcery, and corruption increased. Theft remained the most common type of crime reported, with important reduction in Nyiragongo, Rutshuru, and Masisi.

The incidence of interpersonal disputes decreased in all of the territoires and urban areas, except Masisi, where reported disputes increased nearly two-fold, with over half the disputes centered on land boundaries and land ownership.

With regards to sexual violence, incidence rates for the one-year period before the interview ranged from less than 1% to 5%. Differences with the 2013 baseline are within the margin of error. Nine out of ten residents indicated they would welcome back in their household a woman victim of sexual violence. They also said they would welcome back a spouse victim of sexual violence, even if she had a child as a result of the violence. However, nearly all the victims of sexual violence residing in Rutshuru, Masisi, and Nyiragongo said they were rejected by their household. Victims residing in cities were generally accepted back in their household.

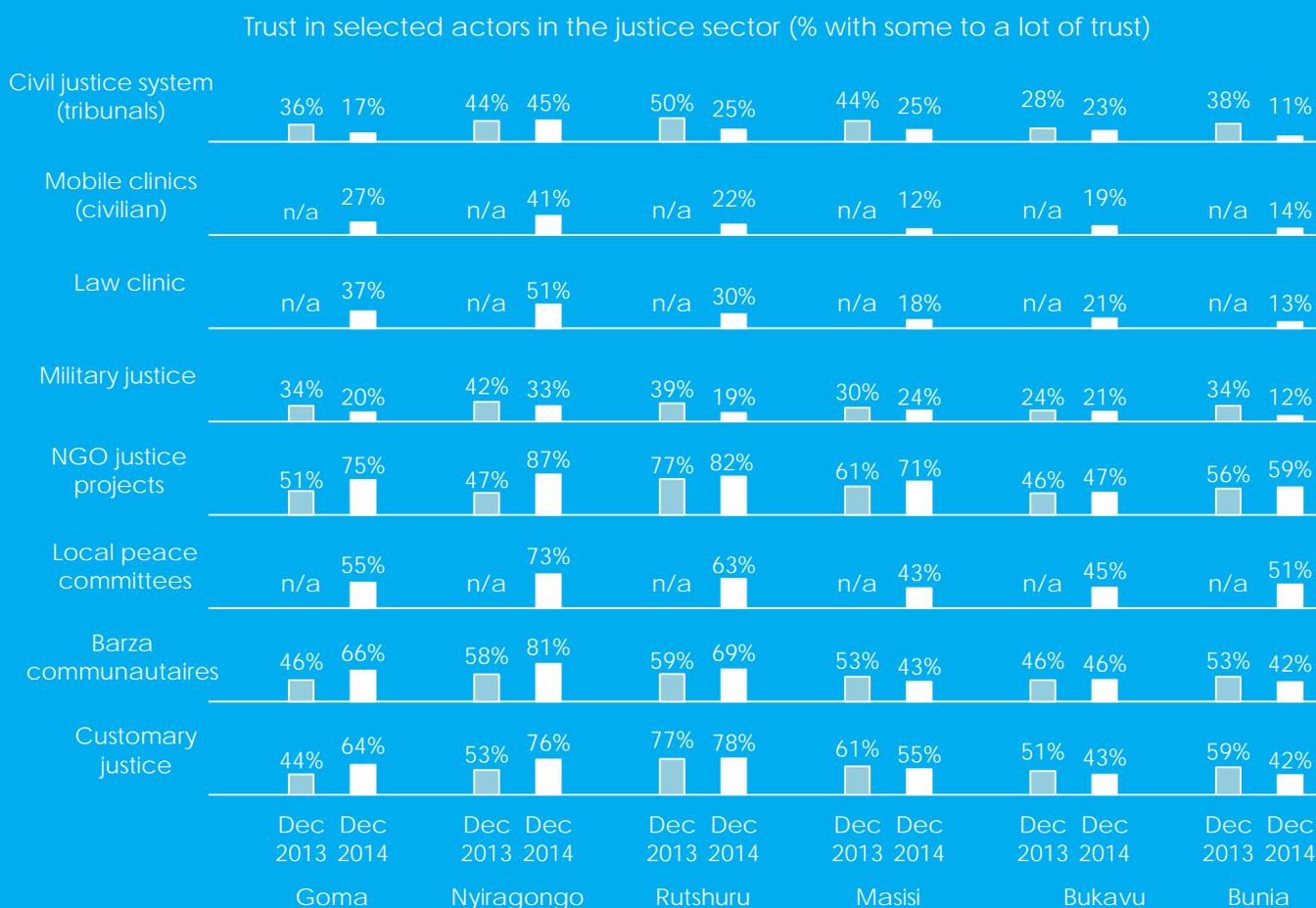


Data from December 2013 and December 2014 - Peacebuilding and Reconstruction Polls in DRC

Mistrust in formal justice actors deepens, many challenges remain

Despite improved access to justice, residents in all of the surveyed area reported lower levels of trust in the civil and military justice systems when comparing results from December 2014 and December 2013. Trust in mobile clinics (civilian) and law clinics was low across all territoires. In comparison, civil society efforts and traditional justice mechanisms enjoyed higher and growing levels of trust between December 2013 and December 2014. Trust was assessed rather than knowledge, because the baseline showed the two variables were associated.

Confirming the deepening mistrust, few residents believed that tribunals treat everyone fairly and equally (ranging from 8% to 12% in urban areas, and 19% to 27% in the territoires of 'Petit Nord'). Similarly, few believed that tribunal decisions are taken fairly (8% in urban areas, 17% to 27% in the territoires of 'Petit Nord').



Data from December 2013 and December 2014 - Peacebuilding and Reconstruction Polls in DRC