



**Profile**  
at a glance

**Democratic  
Republic of  
Congo**  
**North Kivu**



**2010**

# *“Statistics got NGOs, UN agencies, academia and funding mechanisms to all look in the same direction.”*

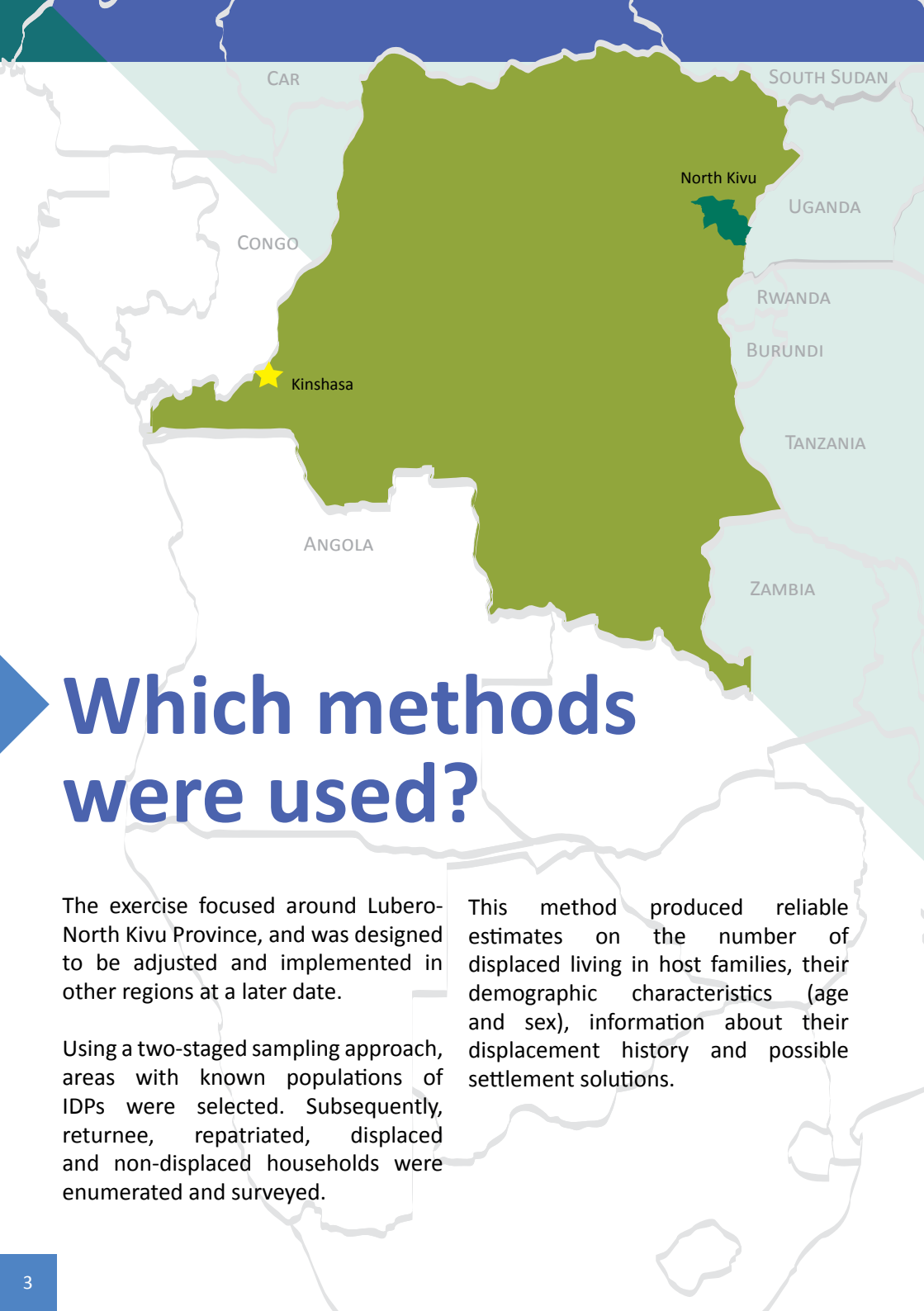
Martin Blaise Bekono, Demographer

For a long time it was believed that there were millions of IDPs in North Kivu province of the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), half of whom were living in Lubero.

However, humanitarian actors were using population numbers from varying sources and IDP numbers were considered to be unreliable. This clearly indicated the need for an in-depth study.

The Joint IDP Profiling Service (JIPS) collaborated with the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) and the Data Center for IDP populations of the United Nations Office for Project Services (UNOPS). A profiling exercise was planned and implemented in Lubero, to improve the quality of information on displaced individuals and households living with host families.





**5** localities were surveyed

**173** IDP households were administered a household questionnaire

**6,472** households with IDPs

**32,360** individuals

## Which methods were used?

The exercise focused around Lubero-North Kivu Province, and was designed to be adjusted and implemented in other regions at a later date.

Using a two-staged sampling approach, areas with known populations of IDPs were selected. Subsequently, returnee, repatriated, displaced and non-displaced households were enumerated and surveyed.

This method produced reliable estimates on the number of displaced living in host families, their demographic characteristics (age and sex), information about their displacement history and possible settlement solutions.

## What was the impact?

- Agencies like UNFPA, USAID/ OTI, Handicap International and academic institutions were eager to use the data-set for programme-planning purposes.
- Due to this profiling exercise, OCHA was for the first time able to include disaggregated population figures in the humanitarian action plan for the DRC.
- The study highlighted the importance of improving the security status of return areas, and to approach programming from a community development point of view rather than a purely humanitarian one.

# What were the findings?

## Disaggregated numbers

The population of concern was predominated by women. The high proportion of women was seen in all age groups, in particular among the population over 60 (75%), (see Figure 1) . This trend was observed in the majority of areas surveyed. The young, female demographic profile that became apparent during the exercise might be explained by the fact that male adults are more frequently victims in displacement situations.

The majority of households were male-headed, in contrast to only 33% of households that were headed by a woman. There was some regional variation in these findings. Some areas had only 28% of female-headed households, while in other areas this proportion was notably higher (see Figure 2).

Figure 1: North Kivu IDP population pyramid

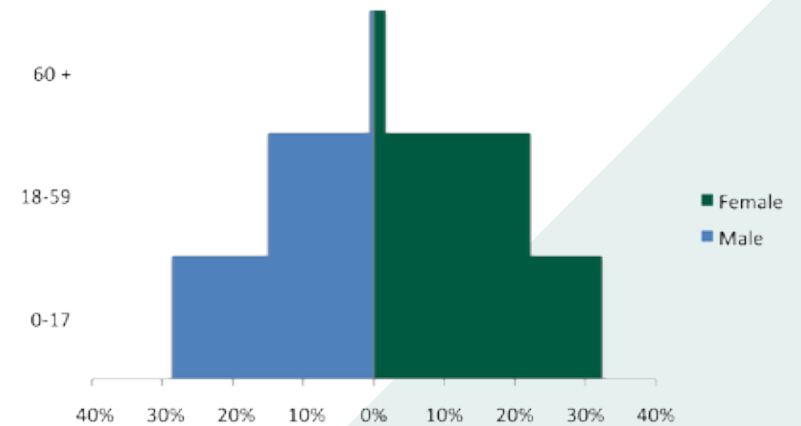
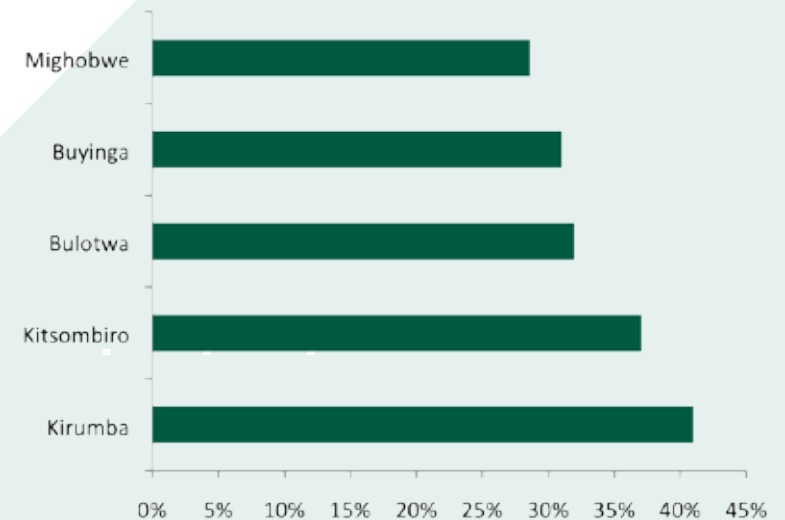


Figure 2: Percentage of female headed households by location



## Cause of displacement

Attacks by armed groups are the primary cause of displacement for the surveyed population. Households and individuals chose their host village by considering location and proximity to their home village, or the presence of other family members.

According to survey respondents, their displacement was almost always (92%) initiated by armed groups and was not related to administrative/ government or inter-communal conflict. Conflict between the DRC armed forces and various armed groups were the second cause of displacement about 8% of households mentioned they were displaced because of these attacks.

One out of two surveyed had been back to their abandoned village

## Solutions/ return intentions

Seven out of ten IDP households interviewed wanted to return to their home villages. Many have since visited their usual residence to attend to their livelihoods.

Almost all (96%) of those wishing to return were waiting for the security situation to improve in their village of origin before doing so. Half of those not desiring to return mentioned the better quality of life in their host villages as a reason for staying.

51% arrived in 2010, 37% in 2009 and the rest in 2008

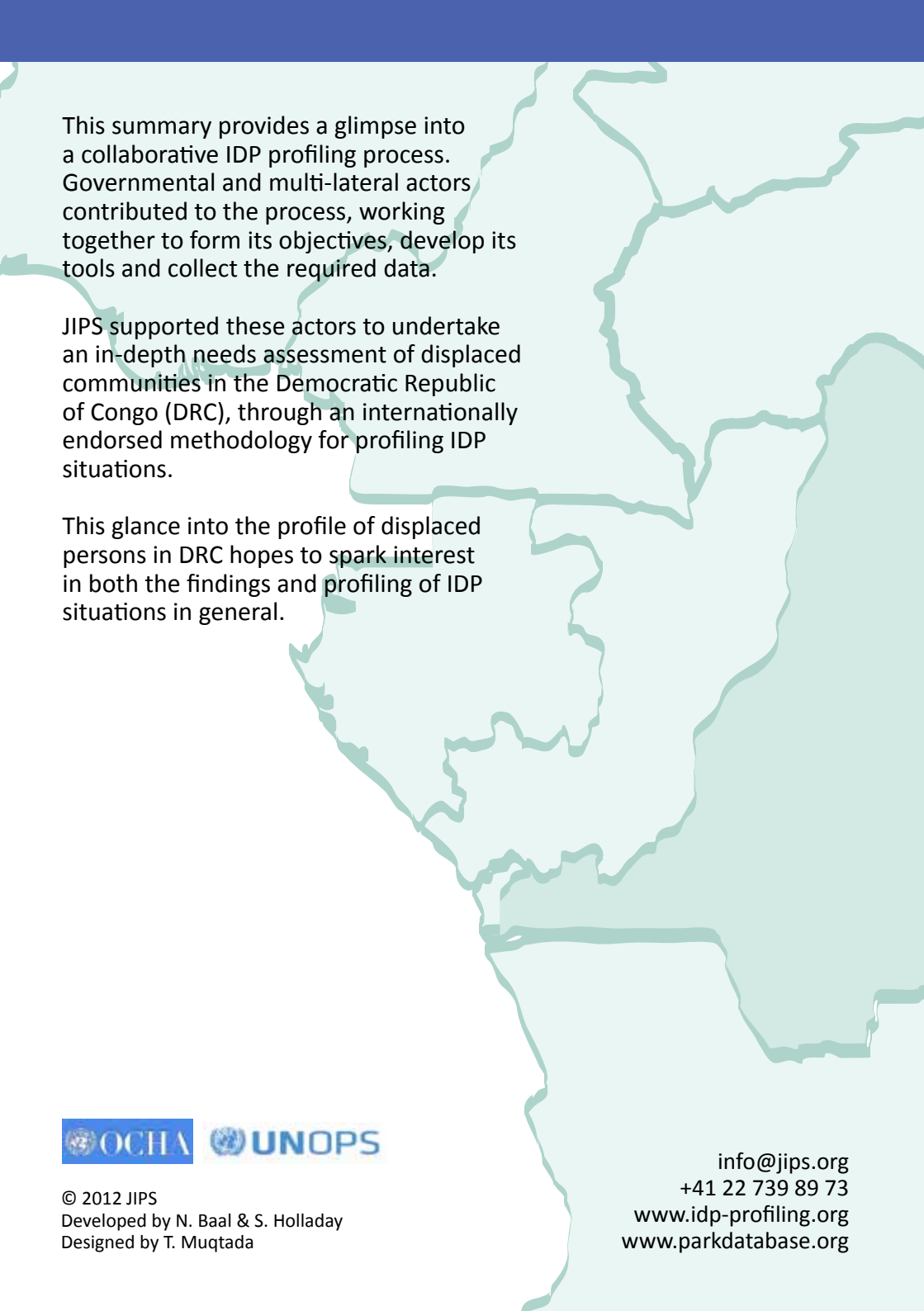
# What were the profiling lessons?

- Conducting research in situations of displacement is fraught with challenges. These include restricted access to areas because of security concerns, and the availability of financial, human and material resources.
- Because of the humanitarian aid associated with displacement situations, there can be a tendency for people to bias the information in their favour. Special care must be taken to not over-estimate the number of displaced.
- It is essential to sensitize populations prior to embarking on a data collection activity in situations of displacement.
- Interviewers should be well trained and prepared for the exercise. In DRC survey interviewers had to mitigate negative attitudes from many respondents, due to the perception of humanitarian surveyors in the area.

*“After completing the exercise, many organisations became interested. Upon request, we provided information that was used for specific programming purposes.”*

Martin Blaise Bekono, Demographer

*The full report, containing further analysis and the profiling tools, can be found at:  
[http://www.idp-profiling.org/drc-\(lubero\)-profiling.html](http://www.idp-profiling.org/drc-(lubero)-profiling.html)  
The profiling data is also available upon request.*



This summary provides a glimpse into a collaborative IDP profiling process. Governmental and multi-lateral actors contributed to the process, working together to form its objectives, develop its tools and collect the required data.

JIPS supported these actors to undertake an in-depth needs assessment of displaced communities in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), through an internationally endorsed methodology for profiling IDP situations.

This glance into the profile of displaced persons in DRC hopes to spark interest in both the findings and profiling of IDP situations in general.

