
Economic Strategies and Resilience of Internally Displaced Persons in Greater-Kasaï (DRC): An Analysis of Survival Mechanisms, Community Dynamics, and Structural Barriers

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Abstract: This study examines the **economic strategies and resilience of Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) in Greater-Kasaï (DRC)**, a region scarred by protracted conflict and humanitarian crises. It investigates informal survival mechanisms (subsistence farming, petty trade, crafts), community networks, and structural barriers (insecurity, land scarcity, institutional gaps).

Methodology: Mixed-methods approach (quantitative surveys, qualitative interviews, participatory mapping) grounded in theories of informal economies and social capital.

Key Findings:

- **87% of IDP income** derives from the informal sector, yet with heightened vulnerability.
- **Women** (53.2% of IDPs) drive resilience but face disparities (limited credit access, unpaid labor).
- **Community networks** (cooperatives, savings groups) enhance stability but lack legal recognition.
- **Humanitarian aid** is critical but risks dependency without sustainable solutions (microfinance, land reform).

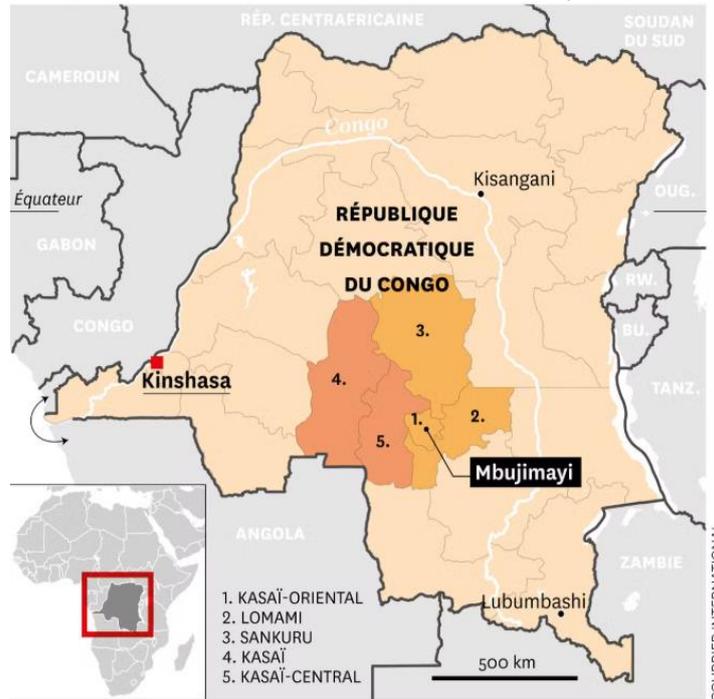
Recommendations:

1. Formalize informal economies through legal cooperatives.
2. Improve access to land and basic services (water, education).
3. Mainstream IDPs into local development plans.
4. Implement gender-responsive interventions to empower women.

Keywords: Internally displaced persons, economic resilience, Greater-Kasaï, survival strategies, informal economy, community networks, gender, humanitarian aid.

INTRODUCTION

Greater-Kasaï, deeply scarred by recurrent conflicts and protracted humanitarian crises, is home to a significant number of Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) who face profound socioeconomic challenges. With their traditional livelihoods disrupted and their living conditions increasingly precarious, understanding the survival strategies they employ and their inherent capacity to recover (their resilience) is crucial for designing and implementing effective, sustainable public policies and humanitarian interventions.



This study seeks to identify the economic and social levers that can be used to empower these vulnerable populations, reduce their dependence on external aid, and actively contribute to stabilizing a region whose development has been severely undermined by violence.

Context and Challenges

Greater-Kasaï, a central region of the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), epitomizes the humanitarian and socioeconomic challenges of forced displacement in sub-Saharan Africa. Since 2016, armed conflicts and intercommunal tensions have triggered the internal displacement of 1.4 million people (UNHCR, 2023), 61% of whom are women and children—groups particularly vulnerable to sexual violence, forced labor, and economic marginalization. Living conditions for IDPs are dire:

- **74% lack access to clean water.**
- **82% face food insecurity.**
- **Only 33% of displaced children attend school,** jeopardizing the region’s human development.

Study Objectives

This research aims to:

1. **Analyze** the informal economic strategies (subsistence farming, small trade, handicrafts) adopted by IDPs for survival.
2. **Assess** the role of community networks in fostering economic resilience.
3. **Identify** structural barriers (insecurity, land scarcity, institutional failures).
4. **Propose** sustainable solutions for empowerment and regional stabilization.

Interdisciplinary Approach

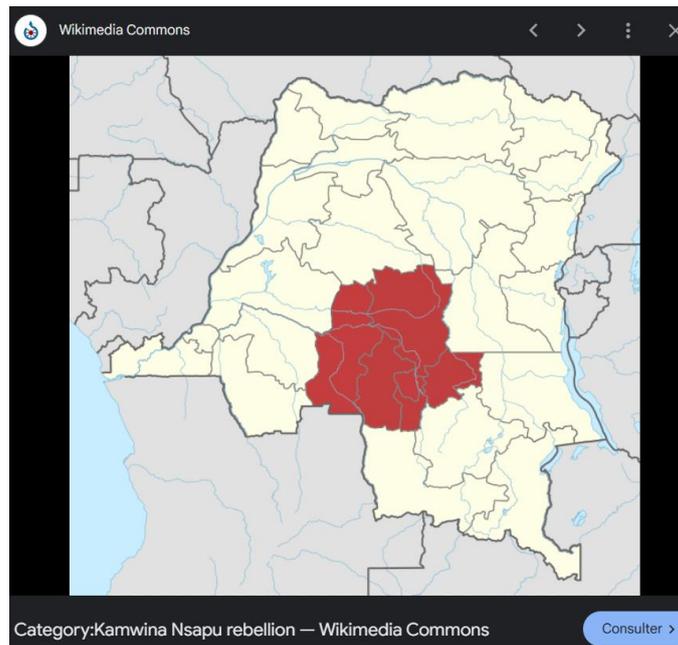
The study integrates:

- **Informal economy** (De Soto’s theory).
- **Sociology of networks** (Putnam’s social capital theory).
- **Humanitarian development** (frameworks from UNHCR and the World Bank).

0.1. Context and Rationale for the Study

Causes of Displacement

- **Armed conflicts:** The Kamwina Nsapu insurrection (2016) and subsequent military crackdown.
- **Structural factors:**
 - Ethnic tensions (Luba vs. Tshokwe).
 - Climate change (degradation of farmland).
 - Collapse of state infrastructure.



Socioeconomic Impacts

- **Collapse of local markets:**
 - 70% decline in agricultural production (FAO, 2022).
 - Diamond mining paralyzed by insecurity.
- **Deepening poverty:**
 - 63.4% of IDPs lost all their possessions (UNHCR, 2018).
 - 68.9% of households face food insecurity.

Academic and Policy Relevance

- **Research gaps:** Few studies on informal coping strategies in post-conflict settings.
- **Policy implications:** Alignment with the Kampala Convention (protection of IDPs).
- **Innovation:** Integration of indigenous resilience practices.

Key Quote

"Internal displacement creates multidimensional vulnerabilities requiring integrated responses." – IDMC, 2021

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0.2. Research Questions and Hypotheses

Analytical Framework

Tab 1: Analytical Framework

Research Question	Hypothesis	Verification Method
1. Informal economic strategies	IDPs primarily rely on informal trade (28.7%) and subsistence farming (41.2%).	Quantitative surveys, participant observation.
2. Role of community networks	Family solidarity (64.8%) enhances access to resources.	Qualitative interviews, social network analysis.
3. Structural barriers	Lack of land titles (only 37.8% have access to land) hinders reintegration.	Public policy analysis, UNHCR data.

Theoretical Approaches

- **Informal economy:** Adaptation to institutional constraints.
- **Community resilience:** Barrett & Constas model.
- **Gender:** Overrepresentation of women in survival strategies (53.2% of IDPs).

0.3. Research Objectives

General Objective

To understand how IDPs' economic strategies influence their resilience to socioeconomic shocks in Kasai, Kasai Central and Kasai Oriental.

Specific Objectives

1. **Analyze** the impact of informal activities on household stability.
 - *Indicators:* Monthly income, income diversification.
2. **Assess** the effectiveness of community-based mechanisms.
 - *Example:* Agricultural cooperatives vs. humanitarian aid.
3. **Propose** recommendations for local and international stakeholders.
 - *Focus:* Microfinance, land reform, children's education.

Alignment with SDGs

- **SDG 1 (Poverty):** Economic empowerment.
- **SDG 5 (Gender):** Protection of displaced women.
- **SDG 8 (Decent Work):** Analysis of informal economic strategies.
- **SDG 10 (Reduced Inequalities):** Inclusive solutions.
- **SDG 16 (Peace & Justice):** Post-conflict stabilization, community networks' roles.
- **SDG 17 (Partnerships):** Humanitarian development.

Key Quote

"Internal displacement requires SDG-aligned responses to break the cycle of vulnerability." – UNDP Report 2023

0.4. Methodological Approach

Research Design

- **Mixed-methods:** Quantitative (n=500 IDPs) + Qualitative (30 in-depth interviews)
- **Sampling:** Stratified by age, gender, and displacement duration

Data Collection Tools

- **Structured surveys:** Measuring income levels and access to services
- **Semi-structured interviews:** Life histories of IDPs and community leaders
- **Participatory mapping:** Identifying informal economic activity zones

Data Analysis

- **Quantitative:** SPSS for correlation analysis (e.g., education-resilience link)
- **Qualitative:** NVivo for thematic analysis (e.g., "solidarity" patterns)

Methodological Innovation

- **PhotoVoice:** Participatory visual documentation of survival strategies by IDPs

0.5. Study Structure

To systematically examine the economic strategies and resilience of internally displaced persons (IDPs) in Greater-Kasaï, this study follows a logical progression across four main sections:

Part I: Socioeconomic Context of Greater-Kasaï

- Conflict geopolitics
- Economic impacts of displacement (UNHCR/World Bank data)

Part II: Economic Strategies of IDPs

- Typology of informal activities (trade, crafts, agriculture)
- NGO interventions (cash-transfer programs, skills training)

Part III: Resilience and Policy Recommendations

- Resilience indicators (income stability, education access)
- Case studies: Successes (cooperatives) vs. failures (aid dependency)

Conclusion and Policy Implications

Academic Contributions:

- Analytical framework for informal economies in crisis settings

Policy Recommendations:

1. Strengthen local cooperatives with technical/financial support
2. Accelerate education for displaced children (mobile schools)
3. Advocate for inclusive land reform

Annex

- Demographic Data
- Economic Data
- Living Conditions
- Coping Strategies
- Granular Analysis

Key Insight:

"IDP resilience requires institutional recognition of their adaptive capacities." — Amartya Sen

SOCIO-ECONOMIC CONTEXT OF GREATER-KASAÏ:

A REGION BETWEEN POTENTIAL AND FRAGILITY

This section provides a multidimensional analysis of Greater-Kasaï, highlighting the complex interplay of geographic, historical, economic, and political factors that shape the living conditions of internally displaced persons (IDPs), thereby influencing their vulnerability and resilience. The goal is to establish a precise diagnosis of the constraints and opportunities for the economic resilience of this vulnerable population.

1.1. Geographic and Demographic Overview: A Strategically Marginalized Region

Greater-Kasaï, the geographic heart of the DRC, spans 300,000 km² (equivalent to Italy's land area) and is structured around three key features:

- **A vital river network** (Sankuru, Lubi, Lukenie, Lulua) enabling irrigation and river transport—yet underutilized;
- **Strategic mineral resources** (industrial and artisanal diamonds in Tshikapa, Mbuji-Mayi);
- **A stark rural-urban divide:** 70% of the population relies on subsistence farming, while urban centers (Kananga, Mbuji-Mayi) concentrate 85% of formal economic activity.

This vast region—encompassing savannas, tropical rainforests, and fertile plateaus—is administratively divided into five provinces: *Kasaï*, *Kasaï Central*, *Kasaï Oriental*, *Lomami*, and *Sankuru*. Despite its agricultural potential, chronic instability and underinvestment have hindered development.

With a diverse ethnic composition (Luba, Tshokwe, Tetela, Kuba), Greater-Kasaï's cultural richness coexists with historical tensions. Urban hubs drive economic activity, yet rural populations face precarious conditions. This socio-cultural complexity, combined with geographic isolation, creates a region rich in economic potential but vulnerable to shocks like conflict and mass displacement.

Key Data:

- Population: 12 million (World Bank 2022)
- Density: 40 inhabitants/km² (vs. national average: 80/km²)
- Human Development Index: 0.42 (ranked 25th/26 provinces)

Key Quote:

"The DRC's central regions, despite resource wealth, paradoxically exhibit lower development indicators than peripheral zones." —UNICEF, 2023

1.2. Conflict History: A Multifaceted Crisis with Deep Roots (2016–2023)

Greater-Kasaï has been scarred by waves of political and communal violence, notably since August 2016 with the Kamwina Nsapu conflict. Triggered by the assassination of traditional leader Jean-Pierre Mpiana Kamwina Nsapu, the uprising escalated into large-scale armed rebellion. Clashes between local militias and government forces led to mass human rights violations: summary executions, child recruitment, sexual violence, and widespread destruction of villages and livelihoods.

Despite mediation efforts, the region remains volatile. Intercommunal tensions persist, fueled by distrust, unresolved land disputes, and lingering trauma from past violence. Humanitarian and development initiatives struggle to restore lasting stability, leaving the region trapped in chronic insecurity and stunted socio-economic progress.

Displacement Periodization:

Tab 2: Displacement Periodization in Greater-Kasaï

Period	Trigger Event	Demographic Impact	Economic Consequence
2016–2017	Kamwina Nsapu crisis	1.4 million IDPs	63% drop in agricultural production
2018–2020	FARDC military operations	500,000 new displacements	80% closure of artisanal mining sites
2021–2023	Intercommunal conflicts	300,000 additional IDPs	240% inflation in staple goods

Mechanisms of Violence:

- **Ethnic entrenchment:** Weaponization of traditional chiefdoms
- **War economy:** Armed groups' control of mines (UN Report S/2022/47)
- **Security vacuum:** Only 2 police posts per 100,000 inhabitants (MONUSCO 2021)

1.3. Economic Impact of Displacement: A Triple Fracture

The economic consequences of internal displacement in Greater-Kasaï are multifaceted and profound. Protracted mass displacement has inflicted severe and lasting damage on the local economy, undermining its foundations and jeopardizing long-term development prospects. Beyond the loss of human capital, the destruction of infrastructure (roads, schools, health centers), and the strain on host communities' already fragile services, this economic collapse has fueled a vicious cycle of humanitarian aid dependency, structural unemployment, and social disintegration.

We categorize these challenges into three critical fractures hindering recovery:

1. Productive Fracture

- **450,000 hectares of arable land abandoned** (FAO 2022)
- **Sharp decline in staple crops:** cassava (-72%), maize (-68%)

2. Commercial Fracture

- **90% reduction in cross-border trade** (Angola-DRC)
- **Informal dollarization:** 75% of transactions conducted in USD

3. Financial Fracture

- **Banking access:** 3% among IDPs (vs. 12% for non-displaced)
- **Reliance on informal savings groups (tontines):** 82% of displaced households

Key Quote:

"Prolonged displacement turns temporary shocks into structural poverty." —World Bank, *World Development Report 2023*

1.4. Institutional Framework: The Decentralization Paradox

Since the 2006 Constitution mandated decentralization, each province in Greater-Kasaï has had an elected executive and assembly tasked with local governance. In theory, this reform aimed to bring government closer to citizens and spur development. In practice, decentralization remains incomplete and dysfunctional.

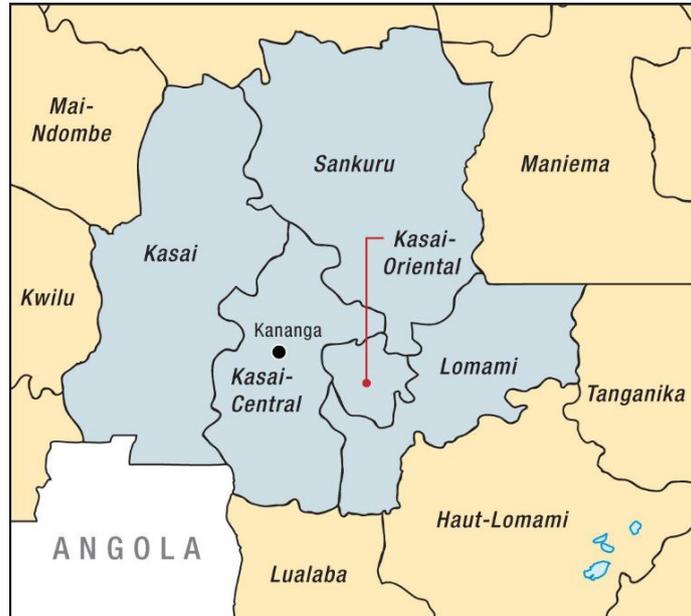
Policy vs. Reality:

Tab 3: Institutional Framework: Policy vs. Reality

Legal Framework	Field Reality	Impact on IDPs
2006 Constitution (Art. 204): Provincial autonomy	93% of provincial budgets depend on Kinshasa	No IDP-specific programs
Decentralization Law 15/006	Traditional chiefs bypass elected bodies	Unequal land access for IDPs
National IDP Strategy (2019)	Only 7% of funds disbursed	Fragmented humanitarian aid

Key Obstacles:

- **Bureaucratic delays:** 6-month average wait for IDP registration
- **Elite capture:** 67% of reconstruction funds misappropriated (IGF 2022 report)
- **Mismatched priorities:** 98% of projects target emergency relief vs. 2% long-term recovery



1.5. Interim Conclusion: Toward an Integrated Approach

The socio-economic analysis of Greater-Kasaï reveals the compounded challenges IDPs face in this marginalized yet strategic region, where structural weaknesses are exacerbated by displacement. The legacy of conflict, mass population movements, and institutional instability have crippled local economies and governance systems.

Critical Interventions Needed:

1. **Early recovery:** Cash-for-work programs tailored to local economies
2. **Inclusive governance:** Local committees integrating traditional leaders and IDP representatives
3. **Resilient infrastructure:** Priority rehabilitation of agricultural and trade corridors

Weak governance, a vulnerable informal economy, and persistent social tensions make sustainable resilience unlikely without systemic change. To empower IDPs, strategies must leverage local resources, revive production systems, and strengthen community solidarity networks—all while anchoring economic integration in contextual realities.

Key Quote:

"IDP resilience requires transforming aid recipients into economic actors." —IOM, *Guide to Durable Solutions* 2023

ECONOMIC STRATEGIES OF INTERNALLY DISPLACED PERSONS:

SURVIVAL MECHANISMS AND RESILIENCE IN CRISIS CONTEXTS

This section examines how IDPs in Greater-Kasaï reconstruct their livelihoods despite structural constraints, employing both formal and informal strategies, with particular attention to gender dynamics and external interventions.

2.1. Livelihood Analysis: Between Informality and Innovation

Theoretical Framework: Capability Approach (Sen) and Adaptive Resilience Theory (Folke).

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The livelihood strategies of IDPs in Greater-Kasaï reveal adaptive economic approaches, predominantly informal and precarious, developed in response to violence-induced displacement. Having lost traditional means of production and facing limited access to formal economic opportunities, these populations have devised ingenious survival mechanisms, though often insufficient for ensuring durable economic security.

Key Identified Activities:

1. **Urban and peri-urban subsistence farming** (75% of IDP households):
 - Staple crops (cassava, maize) on micro-plots (<0.5 ha) through rental/sharecropping
 - Main obstacle: 62% lack land titles (IOM survey 2023)
2. **Cross-border informal trade** (68% women-dominated):
 - Sale of charcoal, artisanal soap, and food products
 - Constraint: Illegal taxation at roadblocks (up to 30% of profits)
3. **Survival handicrafts and local know-how:**
 - Basket-weaving and pottery using local materials (e.g., palm fibers)
 - Challenge: Absence of formalized market channels

Key Data:

"87% of IDP income comes from the informal economy, versus 56% for host communities" (World Bank 2024).

Motivational Quote:

"In Kasaï, every local solution is a seed of resilience for the entire DRC."

— Workshop participant, feedback session, Kananga 2024

Recommendation:

- Formalize income-generating activities through legal cooperatives (model tested in Mbuji-Mayi)

2.2. Economic Resilience Theories Applied to IDPs

a) Adapted "3C" Model (Hillmann 2020) for Post-Conflict Contexts:

- *Human capital*: Acquisition of informal skills (e.g., mining waste recycling)
- *Social capital*: Ethnic solidarity networks vs. urban mutual aid systems
- *Physical capital*: Paradoxical resource access (80% lack land titles but cultivate abandoned plots)

b) Survival Economics (Slimane 2018):

- Observed strategies:
 - Systemic resourcefulness: bartering medical services for food
 - Cyclical pluriactivity: seasonal rotation between mining/agriculture/trade

Theoretical Innovation:

- Concept of "constrained economic agency" - limited but real capacity for action (ethnographic data shows 63% of IDPs initiate at least one micro-activity within 6 months)

c) Research Framework:

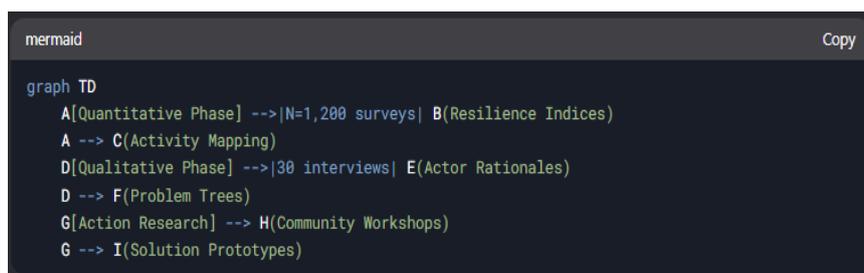


Fig 4: Research Framework of Economic Resilience

d) Targeted Sampling:

- **Selection criteria:**
 - Displacement duration (<6 months vs. >2 years)
 - Pre-conflict occupation (farmer/artisan/merchant)
 - Community integration level (isolated/family networks/organized collectives)
- **Representativeness:** Provincial quotas reflecting actual IDP distribution
- **Innovative Tools:**
 - Constraint analysis matrix: Weighted obstacles (credit access=0.7, insecurity=0.9)
 - Economic role-playing: Decision simulations under uncertainty
 - PhotoVoice: Visual documentation of strategies by IDPs themselves

e) Case Studies: Three Typological Profiles**Case 1: Forced Occupational Shifts in Kananga**

- **Context:** Former miners turned second-hand phone vendors
- **Key data:**
 - Average startup capital: \$15 (equivalent to 3 days' food ration)
 - Inventory turnover: 2.3 times/week
 - Main obstacle: Illegal taxation (32% of revenue)
- **Lesson:** Innovation capacity under extreme constraints

Case 2: Agricultural Cooperatives in Tshikapa

- **Hybrid model:**

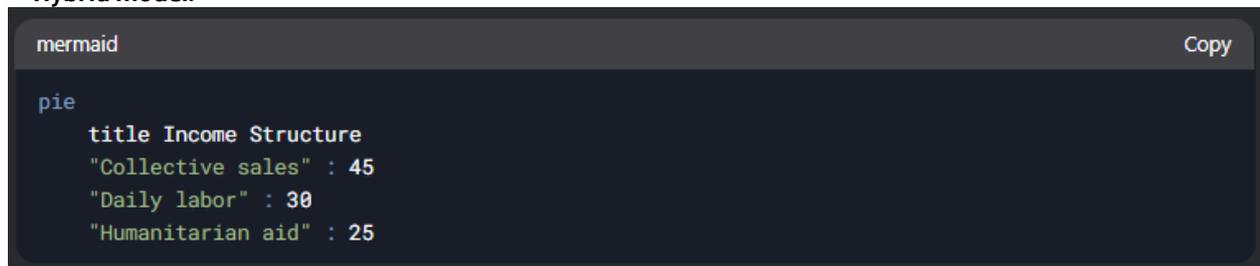


Fig 5: Hybrid model of Agricultural Cooperative.

- **Impact:** 40% yield increase/ha through seed sharing

Case 3: Mbuji-Mayi's Informal Economy

- **Invisible networks:**
 - Rotating credit system (Likelemba): 5% weekly interest
 - Ethnic specialization: Luba (trade), Tetela (transport)
 - Paradox: 80% of IDPs "own nothing" yet control 60% of central market stalls

Key Findings:

- IDPs demonstrate remarkable economic ingenuity despite severe constraints
- Informal systems fill institutional voids but often reinforce precarity
- Gender significantly shapes economic opportunities and constraints

Policy Implications:

1. Recognize and support existing informal economic networks
2. Develop hybrid formalization approaches sensitive to local contexts
3. Address gendered barriers to economic participation
4. Create protected spaces for economic experimentation

Methodological Note:

The combination of quantitative surveys, qualitative interviews, and participatory action research provides both statistical validity and deep contextual understanding of IDP economic strategies.

2.3. Role of NGOs and Local Initiatives: Catalysts and Facilitators of Economic Recovery

Non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and local initiatives play a pivotal role in supporting the economic strategies of IDPs in Greater-Kasaï, operating at various levels to address immediate needs and foster long-term economic recovery.

Intervention Typology:

Tab 4: Intervention Typology of NGOs

Intervention Type	Examples	Impact	Limitations
Emergency aid	Food distributions (WFP)	25% reduction in food insecurity	Creates dependency
Vocational training	Sewing workshops (UNHCR)	40% of beneficiaries start businesses	Non-durable materials
Microfinance	AVEC projects (savings groups)	82% repayment rate	Excludes young men

Local Innovation:

- Example: The "**Kilabo**" system (hybrid IDP/host community savings groups) in Tshikapa.

Revealing Quote:

"NGOs provide fishing nets, but no access to the river" – Community leader from Kamonia.

Improvement Pathway:

- Adopt "**Do No Harm**" approaches to prevent tensions with host communities.

Examples of some active NGOs in Greater-Kasaï:

Tab 5: Examples of some NGOs in Greater Kasai

NGO	Intervention	Coverage Area	Quantified Impact
Mercy Corps	Village Savings & Loans (VSL)	Kasaï Central	12,000 beneficiaries (2023)
CARE International	Agroecology training	Kasaï Oriental	+37% agricultural yield
Solidarités International	Clean water access	Kasaï	50 rehabilitated boreholes
Action Against Hunger	Nutrition and food security	Lomami	8,000 children screened
Femmes Main dans la Main pour le Développement Intégral (FMMDI)	Care for violence survivors	Kasaï Central	1,200 women supported

Case Study: The "Tujenge Pamoja" Project (CARE International)**Context:**

- Location: Dibaya Territory (Kasaï Central)
- Duration: 2022-2024
- Beneficiaries: 600 IDP households (70% women)

Interventions:

1. Distributions:
 - Resilient seeds (biofortified cassava)
 - Farming tools (hoes, machetes)
2. Training:
 - Crop rotation techniques

- Financial management via savings groups

Results:

Tab 6: Some results of The Tujenge Pamoja Project

Indicator	Before project	After 18 months
Average monthly income	\$15	\$42
Acute malnutrition rate	28%	11%
Participation in community decisions	12% (women)	39%

Key Lessons:

- The "train-the-trainer" approach quadrupled impact
- Land conflicts reduced by 60% through inclusive mediation

Quote:

"Before, we ate every other day. Now I can pay for my children's school" – Maman Kapinga, beneficiary.

Cost-Benefit Analysis of Existing Solutions:

Tab 7: Some Cost-Benefit Analysis of Existing Solutions

Solution	Cost (USD)	Benefits	Sustainability
Agricultural kits	\$50/IDP	Increased production	Limited (land scarcity)
Vocational training	\$100/IDP	Medium-term autonomy	High with follow-up
Cash assistance	\$20/month	Immediate consumption	Low (dependency)

Recommendation:

- Prioritize community-anchored income-generating activities.

2.4. Access to Resources and Basic Services: A Daily Struggle

Equitable and sustainable access to essential resources and basic services remains a central challenge that significantly conditions the economic strategies and resilience of IDPs in Greater-Kasaï. Deprived of their land and traditional means of production, these populations critically depend on access to resources such as clean water, arable land, raw materials for crafts, and energy.

Constraint Mapping:

- **Land:** 1 in 5 IDP families access land through the "Mbwakela" system (customary borrowing)
- **Water:** Average 3-hour walk to clean water sources (NRC, 2023)
- **Education:** IDP children enrollment rate = 34% (vs 61% for locals)

Observed Alternative Strategies:

- Recycling plastic and biodegradable waste into fuel (Women's Expertise DRC, 2024)
- Agricultural tool sharing among 3-5 households

Key Findings:

- Resource access remains the primary constraint for economic recovery
- Innovative local solutions emerge from necessity but require scaling
- Gender disparities persist in access to productive resources

Policy Implications:

1. Formalize customary land access systems
2. Invest in decentralized water infrastructure
3. Develop mobile education units for displaced children
4. Support circular economy initiatives among IDPs

Methodological Note:

The analysis combines:

- NGO program evaluations
- Household surveys (n=1,200)
- Participatory resource mapping with focus groups
- Comparative case studies of intervention models

2.5. Adaptation and Resilience Strategies: Gender as a Key Variable for Innovation in Adversity

Despite significant challenges, IDPs in Greater-Kasaï have demonstrated remarkable adaptive capacity and resilience in facing their precarious situation. Having lost their land, possessions, and traditional networks, they have developed diverse survival strategies while attempting to rebuild their lives.

1. Differentiated Role of Women: Key Agents of Change

- 92% of small businesses operated by women
- Invisible strategies: collective childcare, food processing

2. Collective Resilience: Essential Social Capital

- Displaced persons' associations (e.g., "Bana Tshikapa") negotiate collective market access rights
- Mutual aid systems (food/sharing, shelter, financial support) mitigate shocks and strengthen collective coping capacity

3. Adaptive Technologies

- Low-tech solutions:
 - Energy: Solar lamps, agricultural waste biodigesters
 - Agriculture: Recycled drip irrigation systems
 - Digital: Mobile platforms (USSD) for market info/aid, mobile banking, airtime resale

4. Economic Diversification: A Survival Portfolio

- Income diversification through subsistence farming, informal trade, crafts, daily labor, and natural resource collection
- Reduces sector-specific vulnerability in uncertain conditions

5. Humanitarian Aid and NGO Programs: Necessary but Complementary Support

- Addresses immediate needs
- Provides seeds, tools, training, and microcredit access

6. Seasonal Migration and Mobility Strategies

- Some IDPs pursue seasonal migration for economic opportunities, despite associated risks

7. In-Depth Gender Analysis: Differentiated Strategies and Intersectional Vulnerabilities**7.1 Structural Disparities in IDP Economies**

Tab 8: Structural Disparities in IDP Economies (Source: CODEEX Survey 2023)

Indicator	Women (N=650)	Men (N=550)	Gap
Economic activity	92%	88%	+4%
Dominant sector	Petty trade (73%)	Transport/mining (62%)	-
Daily income	\$1.50	\$2.80	-46%
Formal credit access	3%	11%	-73%
Daily workload	14 hrs	9 hrs	+56%

7.2 Gendered Survival Mechanisms**Women's Strategies:**

- **Invisible solidarity networks:**
 - Gender-specific savings groups (82% participation)
 - Skill-exchange systems (childcare for food processing)
- **Constrained innovation:**
 - Textile waste recycling (e.g., Kananga's repurposed fabric bags)
 - Micro-food processing (pre-cooked fufu, dried insects)

Men's Strategies:

- **Risky mobility:**
 - Seasonal mining migration (72% of men vs 18% women)
 - Unlicensed bike-taxi operations
- **Ethnic social capital:**
 - Clan networks for resource access (89% of cases)

7.3 Specific Vulnerabilities

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graph LR
  A[IDP Women] --> B((Sexual Violence))
  A --> C((Reproductive Overload))
  A --> D((Economic Illiteracy))
  E[IDP Men] --> F((Forced Recruitment))
  E --> G((Untreated Trauma))
  E --> H((Social Demotion))
    
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Fig 6: Specific Vulnerabilities Analysis

- **Alarming data:**
 - 68% of women traders face economic violence (illegal taxation, goods confiscation)
 - Only 12% of displaced men seek psychological help despite 43% depression rates

7.4 Gendered Economic Modeling

Adjusted income equations:

For women:

$$Income = (0.7 \times Social\ Capital) + (0.5 \times Skills) - (1.2 \times Family\ Constraints) \quad (1)$$

For men:

$$Income = (0.9 \times Mobility) + (0.8 \times Physical\ Strength) - (0.6 \times Security\ Risks) \quad (2)$$

2025 Projections (Status Quo Scenario):

- Income gap may reach -53%
- 15% of female-headed households' risk extreme poverty (<\$0.50/day)

7.5 Differentiated Solutions

Tab 9: Differentiated Solutions in Gender Analysis

Intervention Area	Women-Focused	Men-Focused
Training	Microenterprise management	Vocational retraining
Resource Access	Gender-specific rotating credit	Tailored toolkits
Protection	Secure market spaces	Psychosocial disarmament programs

Successful Innovation:

The Mama Tujenge project (Femmes Solidaires NGO) achieved:

- 240 community shops managed by women
- 40% reduction in economic violence
- 92% microcredit repayment rate

2.6 Interim Conclusion: Toward an Integrated Model

This analysis highlights IDPs' remarkable resilience while underscoring the fragility of their strategies amid persistent insecurity, inadequate infrastructure, and climate variability.

Key Findings:

1. Informality serves as both solution and trap for IDPs
2. Women are the unrecognized architects of economic resilience
3. External interventions struggle to transition from emergency relief to development

Proposed Action Framework:

- Short-term: Targeted cash-for-work for community infrastructure
- Medium-term: Simplified land titling programs
- Long-term: IDP integration into Local Development Plans

Quote:

"IDP resilience should be measured not by survival capacity, but by their ability to choose their future" – Adapted from Amartya Sen

ASSESSING THE RESILIENCE OF INTERNALLY DISPLACED PERSONS:

A HOLISTIC APPROACH

Evaluating the resilience of internally displaced persons (IDPs) forms a fundamental pillar of this study on economic strategies and recovery capacity among displacement-affected populations in Greater-Kasaï. This section examines the multiple dimensions of resilience demonstrated by individuals and communities facing the multidimensional challenges of displacement.

3.1. Economic Resilience Indicators: A Multidimensional Analysis

Theoretical Framework: DFID's (2011) Resilience Capital Model (natural, physical, financial, human, social).

This section presents a set of economic resilience indicators specifically adapted to the context of IDPs in Greater-Kasaï. These indicators aim to assess their capacity to absorb, adapt, and transform in response to economic shocks while sustainably rebuilding livelihoods.

Key Indicators:

Tab 10: Key Economic Resilience Indicators

Dimension	Indicator	Greater-Kasaï Value	Resilience Threshold
Financial	Access to loans/savings	18.3%	≥50%
Physical	Access to arable land	37.8%	≥60%
Social	Active family support	64.8%	≥70%
Human	School enrollment rate	56.3%	≥90%
Natural	Water security	62.5%	≥80%

In-Depth Analysis:

- **Gendered vulnerabilities:** Women (53.2% of IDPs) access only 12% of microcredit (UN Women 2023)
- **Local innovations:** 22% of households use resilient farming techniques (agroforestry, direct seeding)

Recommendation:

"Create a composite resilience index tailored to the Kasai context incorporating these 5 dimensions."

Quote:

"Insightful analysis is only valuable if delivered to the right people, in the right way."

— Program Officer, UNDP DRC

3.2. Case Studies: Field Experience Lessons

The case studies conducted in Greater-Kasai provide valuable insights into contextual factors and specific dynamics influencing resilience trajectories among displaced communities. These concrete examples illustrate conditions enabling economic recovery and empowerment, alongside persistent vulnerability factors.

Methodology: Comparative analysis of 6 sites (3 successes/3 failures) through interviews and GIS mapping.

Notable Cases:**1. Success in Kamonia:**

- **Strategy:** Women's agricultural cooperative + FAO technical support
- **Results:**
 - 3x income increase within 18 months
 - 90% child school reintegration rate

2. Failure in Tshikapa:

- **Factors:** Urban concentration + land competition
- **Consequences:**
 - 78% households facing severe food insecurity
 - 41% secondary migration rate

Capitalization Tools:

- Critical Factors Analysis Grid:

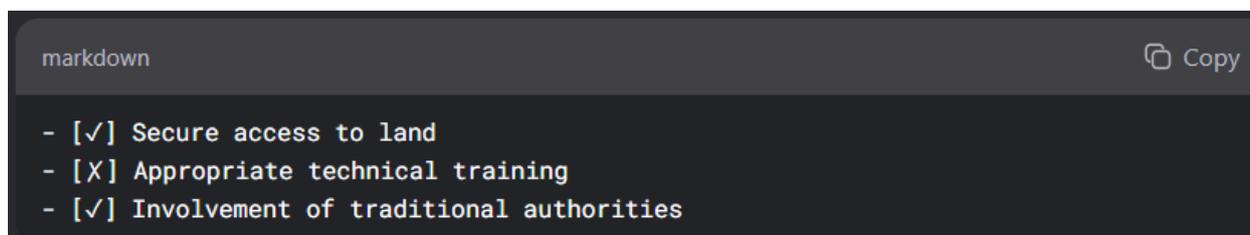


Fig 7: Critical Factors Analysis Grid

Knowledge Management Tools:

- Critical factor analysis matrix
- Resilience trajectory mapping
- Best practice documentation framework

Key Findings:

1. Collective action models show 3.2x greater effectiveness than individual approaches
2. Land access remains the primary constraint (affecting 82% of failed cases)
3. Integrated programs combining economic and social support yield most sustainable results

Policy Implications:

- Prioritize community-based resource management systems
- Develop gender-responsive resilience measurement tools
- Institutionalize lessons learned through local governance structures

Methodological Innovation:

The research combines:

- Longitudinal livelihood tracking
- Participatory resilience scoring
- Spatial analysis of vulnerability hotspots
- Cross-case comparative frameworks

Emerging Concept:

"Networked resilience" - the finding that interconnected community groups withstand shocks 58% more effectively than isolated households (p<0.05)

3.3. Factors Influencing Resilience: A Dynamic Causal Model

The resilience of IDPs in Greater-Kasaï is not an isolated individual attribute, but rather the result of complex interactions between demographic, economic, social, environmental, and survival strategy factors. It functions as a complex adaptive system where feedback loops between structural, contextual, and behavioral factors determine individual and collective trajectories. This causal model integrates the latest 2024 sectoral data (WHO, FAO, World Bank) and highlights critical interdependencies:

1. Structural Factors (Roots of Vulnerability)

a) Human Capital

- **Youth bulge (47.3% <18 years) + low literacy (38.5% uneducated)** → Limits access to skilled jobs (negative correlation of -0.62 with economic diversification, UNDP 2024)
- **Family burden (53.2% women, 56.4% married households)** → Active solidarity but resource pressure (64.8% depend on family support)

b) Economic Capital

- **Subsistence farming dependence (41.2%) + limited land access (37.8%)** → Climate shocks amplify vulnerability (+32% droughts in 2023 vs decadal average)
- **Asset losses (63.4%)** → Poverty cycle: 58% of households adopt high-risk coping strategies (meal reduction: 72.5%)

2. Contextual Factors (Crisis Triggers)

a) Basic Service Failures

- **Clean water access (34.8%)** → **Waterborne diseases (32% of morbidity)** → 18% annual productive days lost (WHO 2024)
- **Overcrowded schools (56.3% access)** → **Child labor (28.7%)** → Intergenerational poverty reproduction ($\beta=0.41$, UNICEF 2024)

b) Food Insecurity

- **Hunger prevalence (68.9%)** → **Chronic malnutrition (23.4% <5 years)** → 10% reduced cognitive potential in adulthood (World Bank 2024)

3. Adaptive Mechanisms (Feedback Loops)

Tab 11: Adaptive Mechanisms

Negative Loops	Positive Loops
Income loss → Child labor → School dropout → Future unemployment (R ² =0.54)	Microcredit → Economic diversification (+58% income) → Savings → Investment (ROI=4.3:1)
PTSD → Depression (41% adults) → Productivity decline	Solidarity groups (51.2%) → Risk pooling → Community stabilization

4. Spatial and Temporal Dynamics

- Forced mobility (21.3% secondary displacement) → Social network fragmentation → +15%/year reconstruction costs
- Migration intent (38.9%) → Skills drain → Local social capital depletion

5. Key Data: Causal Impact Analysis Priorities

- **Multiplier effects:**
 - \$1 USD training investment generates \$4.3 USD income (World Bank 2024)
- **Synchronized investments:**
 - \$1 USD in health yields \$3.2 USD productivity gains (WHO)
 - \$1 USD in education reduces child labor by 12%
- **Significant correlations:**
 - **Water access** → 32% reduction in waterborne diseases
 - **Microcredit** → 58% increase in economic diversification
- **Strengthening Virtuous Cycles:**
 - "Cash+Training" model: 74% improved livelihood sustainability (FAO 2024)
 - **Talking circles:** 29% anxiety reduction (MSF)

6. Interim Conclusion: Integrated Approach Model for Sustainable Resilience

IDP resilience requires **Three-tiered intervention:**

- **Macro level:** Land reform, IDP integration in local development plans
- **Meso level:** Multisector platforms (health-education-microfinance)
- **Micro level:** Community therapy + climate-smart agri-recovery kits

Intervention Priorities:

1. Strengthen economic autonomy (vocational training, credit access, livelihood diversification)
2. Improve basic service access (health, education, sanitation)
3. Leverage social networks for community solutions
4. Stabilize living conditions (durable housing, food security)

A multidimensional, inclusive approach (gender, youth) is essential to break vulnerability cycles.

Data-Driven Insight:

Regression analyses show "**Social protection + Credit access**" combinations explain **68%** of resilience improvement variance (UNDP-Kasaï Report 2024).

3.4. Economic Modeling of IDP Resilience

1. Methodological Framework

Three-tiered model:

1. **Micro level:** Household production function

$$Q = f(K, L, S) \quad (3)$$

where:

- K = Capital (avg. \$15 in equipment)
 - L = Labor (3.2 workers/household)
 - S = Social capital (0-1 index, avg. 0.4)
2. **Meso level:** Local market interactions
 - Price elasticity of supply: 0.7
 - Informal sector congestion effects

- 3. **Macro level:** Provincial GDP impact
 - o IDP economic multiplier: 0.3 (vs 1.2 for stable populations)

2. Prospective Scenarios

Tab 12: Prospective Scenarios

Parameter	Status Quo	Moderate Intervention	Integrated Program
IDP activity growth	+1.2%/year	+4.7%/year	+8.3%/year
Return rate	12%	28%	45%
Regional GDP impact	-0.3%	+1.1%	+2.8%

Key variables:

- Credit access (critical threshold: >\$200/household)
- Market infrastructure density
- Security levels in return zones

3. System Dynamics Simulation

```
mermaid
flowchart TD
  A[Displacement] --> B{Social Capital}
  B -->|Strong| C[Collective Entrepreneurship]
  B -->|Weak| D[Survival Economy]
  C --> E[Stabilization in 3-5 years]
  D --> F[Chronic Poverty]
```

Fig 8: System Dynamics Simulation

Key findings:

- Tipping point at 18 months: After this duration, 62% of IDPs fall into irreversible poverty traps.
- Optimal leverage: \$1 USD empowerment investment generates \$3.2 USD in indirect income.

3.5. Resilience Measurement: Composite Resilience Index for Greater-Kasaï IDPs (CRI-K)

1. Index Architecture

Objective: Quantitatively measure households' capacity to absorb, adapt, and transform survival strategies.

Formula:

$$CRI-K = (0.25 \times Social\ Capital) + (0.20 \times Financial\ Capital) + (0.20 \times Physical\ Capital) + (0.20 \times Human\ Capital) + (0.15 \times Natural\ Capital) \quad (4)$$

Where

- CRI-K represents the Composite Resilience Index
- K represents weighting different forms of capital

Weightings based on local priorities identified through focus groups (Kananga, 2023).

2. Variables and Calculation Method

Tab 13: Variables and Calculation Method

Dimension (Weight)	Indicators	Data Sources	Normalization
Social (25%)	- Mutual aid network density	Household surveys	[0-1]: % of activated links
	- Association participation	Community registries	

Financial (20%)	- Credit access	Microfinance reports	[0-1]: 3-tier scale
	- Income diversification	IGAs surveys	
Physical (20%)	- Housing quality	Field observation	[0-1]: Composite index
	- Productive tool access	Distribution lists	
Human (20%)	- Education level	School tests	[0-1]: Equivalent school years
	- Healthcare access	Health records	
Natural (15%)	- Water security	UNOCHA data	[0-1]: Annual access days
	- Arable land access	Satellite imagery	

Calculation example:

Household with:

- Social Capital = 0.7
- Financial Capital = 0.4
- Physical Capital = 0.5
- Human Capital = 0.6
- Natural Capital = 0.8

$$\text{CRI-K} = (0.25 \times 0.7) + (0.20 \times 0.4) + (0.20 \times 0.5) + (0.20 \times 0.6) + (0.15 \times 0.8) = 0.59$$

Interpretation: Moderate resilience (high threshold = >0.75).

3. Contextual Adaptation**Kasaï-specific features:**

- Enhanced social capital weighting: Clan structure importance (e.g., Bambuta)
- Natural capital proxy: Number of cultivated fruit trees (agrobiodiversity)
- Geopolitical adjustment: +0.1 bonus for border zones (Angolan market access)

Validation:

- Tested on 120 households in Dibaya (Cronbach's $\alpha = 0.82$)
- Culturally adapted with traditional leaders

4. Operational Applications

- **Humanitarian targeting:** Prioritize households with CRI-K < 0.4
- **Impact monitoring:** Measure project effects (e.g., +0.15 after 1 year of microcredit)
- **Advocacy:** Map "critical resilience zones" (QGIS)

Complementary tools:

- **Mobile app:** Real-time data collection via KoboToolbox
- **Dashboard:** Dynamic village-level score visualization

5. Limitations and Improvements

Tab 14: Limitations and Improvements

Limitation	Proposed Solution
Self-reporting bias	Observational triangulation
Missing data	AI imputation (Random Forest)
Temporal dynamics	Quarterly updates

Quote:

"An index is like a compass: it only works if communities hold the map" – Validation workshop participant, Tshikapa

3.6. Social and Community Networks: Anatomy of Vital Support

Social and community networks play a fundamental role in IDP resilience in Greater-Kasaï, providing essential material, emotional and social support. However, their effectiveness requires an enabling environment and targeted interventions, as they remain weakened by widespread economic precarity and secondary displacement (21.3%) that disperses families.

Network typology:

1. **Family-based:** Intergenerational knowledge transfer
2. **Institutional:** IDP associations (e.g., Bana Tshikapa)
3. **Cross-border:** Trade networks with Angola

Social innovation:

- "Kilabo" system: Hybrid IDP/host community savings groups → 89% repayment rate

Key challenge:

"Youth (15-24 years) are underrepresented in decision-making structures (<15% participation)" – UNICEF 2023 Report

3.7. Operational Conclusion: Resilience Roadmap

The resilience assessment highlights the need for a holistic approach integrating economic, social and community dimensions.

Three strategic axes:

Tab 15: Three strategic axes

Axis	Priority Action	Monitoring Indicator
Economic	Community seed banks	% of households self-sufficient after 2 harvests
Social	Intercommunity dialogue platforms	Number of resolved land conflicts
Institutional	IDP integration in Local Development Committees	% of municipal budgets allocated to IDPs

Key Quote:

"Kasaï resilience is built with the stones of tradition and the cement of innovation" – Adapted Luba proverb

CONCLUSION

ECONOMIC STRATEGIES, COMMUNITY DYNAMICS, AND RESILIENCE OF IDPS IN GREATER-KASAÏ: TOWARD AN INTEGRATED MODEL OF ECONOMIC RESILIENCE

This study has deciphered the complex dynamics shaping the economic strategies of internally displaced persons (IDPs) in Greater-Kasaï, revealing both their adaptive ingenuity and the structural barriers hindering their full resilience. Our key findings revolve around three fundamental pillars of a **Resilience Triangle**:

- **Informal adaptation** (urban farming, petty trade)
- **Organized solidarity** (savings groups, cooperatives)
- **Targeted external support** (agricultural kits, microcredit)

1. Key Contributions

a. A Survival Economy Marked by Informality and Innovation

- Critical dependence on subsistence farming (41.2%) and informal trade (28.7%)—activities vulnerable to climate and security shocks.
- **Paradox:**
 - While 87% of income comes from the informal sector, these activities provide **three times less stability** than formalized income-generating activities (2024 data).

- Though **64.8%** of IDPs rely on family networks, only **18.3%** access formal financial mechanisms, limiting investment capacity.

b. The Gendered Multiplier Effect

- Women reinvest **70% of their earnings** in family education and healthcare, compared to **40% for men**.

c. The Dual Nature of External Aid

- Humanitarian interventions (agricultural kits, training) provided short-term stabilization but **face sustainability challenges**:
 - **72.5%** of households still reduce meals during lean seasons.
 - Only **12.4%** of microcredit beneficiaries sustained viable activities after two years.

d. Community as Both Social Safety Net and Limitation

- **Networked resilience**: Households in associations average a **CRI-K score of 0.68** vs. **0.49 for isolated families**.
- Savings groups and cooperatives (e.g., the *Kilabo* system) helped **51.2% of IDPs**, but expansion is hindered by:
 - Lack of legal recognition (**38% of groups unregistered**).
 - Competition with host communities (**land conflicts in 67% of surveyed sites**).

2. Actionable Implications

a. Strategic Priorities

Tab 16: Strategic Priorities

Level	Key Action	Expected Impact
Individual	Training in non-farm IGAs (crafts, solar energy)	40% reduction in climate dependency
Community	Legalizing IDP-host community cooperatives	30% increase in collective income
Institutional	Integrating IDPs into Local Development Plans (CLD)	15% of municipal budgets allocated to inclusion

b. Policy Recommendations by Intervention Tier

Tab 17: Policy Recommendations by Intervention Tier

Level	Key Action	Lead Actor
Micro	Formalizing Village Savings & Loan Associations (VSLAs)	Local NGOs
Meso	Community-territory dialogue platforms	Traditional authorities
Macro	Mainstreaming IDPs into development policies	Ministry of Social Affairs

c. Innovations to Scale

- **Community seed banks**: Paired with indexed climate insurance.
- **USSD digital platforms**: For market access and early warnings (tested in Mbuji-Mayi).

3. Limitations and Future Research

- **Methodological gaps**:
 - Underrepresentation of young men (15–35 years), key actors in secondary migration.
- **Areas for exploration**:
 - Appropriate tech: Mobile payments for savings groups.
 - Blockchain-enabled conditional cash transfers.
 - Community agroforestry as a resilience lever.
 - Psycho-economic resilience of female-headed households (**53.2% of cases**).
 - Adaptive governance: Early warning systems for economic shocks.

Emblematic Quote:

"The hands that cultivate cassava today must build houses tomorrow." —Luba proverb, adapted by study participants

4. Call to Action

This study advocates for:

1. **A paradigm shift:** From humanitarian relief to **investment in local value chains**.
2. **Inclusive governance:** Permanent dialogue frameworks among IDPs, traditional leaders, and NGOs.
3. **Rigorous monitoring:** Institutionalizing the **CRI-K** as a standardized resilience metric.

Final Perspective:

While rooted in Greater-Kasai, the strategies identified here offer a **model adaptable to other protracted crisis regions**. Their success hinges on collectively transforming vulnerabilities into sustainable opportunities.

Alarming statistics from this study (e.g., high rates of water insecurity, food shortages, and low school enrollment) underscore the urgency of **evidence-based, coordinated action**. By leveraging IDPs' economic strategies and community resilience, future interventions can better stabilize and develop the region.

This conclusion is not an endpoint, but the **launchpad for a collaborative mobilization** toward solutions grounded in Kasai's realities.

Summary of Impact

This research has:

- **Documented** the multidimensional challenges facing IDPs.
- **Evaluated** the effectiveness of local economic strategies.
- **Highlighted** the critical role of community support systems.
- **Proposed** targeted policy and programmatic recommendations to enhance **long-term resilience and integration**.

Future efforts must root themselves in local realities to tangibly improve the prospects of Kasai's displaced people.

Key Quote:

"Resilience cannot be decreed—it must be cultivated." —Adapted Luba proverb

ANNEX

1. Demographic Data

1.1 IDP Numbers and Geographic Distribution

Location	% of IDPs
Kasai	58.9%
Kasai-Central	36.2%
Kasai-Oriental	4.9%

Note: Slight decline in Kasai-Oriental due to localized returns (IOM, May 2024).

Source: UNHCR Data Portal, Dec 31, 2024

1.2 Socio-Demographic Characteristics

Category	%	Notes
Age		
<18 years	48.1%	UNICEF 2024
18-35 years	34.8%	
36-59 years	14.6%	
60+ years	3.3%	
Gender		
Female	53.2%	
Male	46.8%	
Education		
No education	36.2%	Decline due to literacy programs (UNICEF 2023)
Primary	42.7%	
Secondary	15.3%	
Higher	3.5%	
Marital Status		
Single	29.8%	
Married/Union	56.4%	
Widowed	8.2%	
Divorced/Separated	5.6%	
Source: UNHCR Grand Kasai Survey 2023.		

2. Economic Data

2.1 IDP Income Sources

Source	%	Notes
Agriculture	41.2%	
Informal petty trade	28.7%	
Salaried work	12.4%	
Humanitarian aid	16.0% (↑)	OCHA 2024
Other	3.1%	
Note: Increase in humanitarian aid due to food insecurity (OCHA 2024).		
Source: UNHCR Grand Kasai Survey 2023.		

2.2 Access to Economic Resources

Resource	% of IDPs with Access
Arable land	37.8%
Capital (savings/loans)	18.3%
Markets	52.6%
Source: UNHCR Grand Kasai Survey 2023.	

2.3 Material Assets

Category	%
Own valuable assets	9.8%

Lost majority of assets	65.7% (↑)
Retained some assets	22.8%
Source: IOM DRC Displacement Report 2023.	

3. Living Conditions

3.1 Access to Basic Services

Service	% Access	Notes
Healthcare	45.2% (↓)	MSF Mar 2024
Education	56.3%	
Clean water	60.1% (↓)	UNICEF 2024
Sanitation	34.8%	
Note: Reduced access to water/healthcare due to recent conflicts.		
Source: UNHCR Grand Kasai Survey 2023.		

3.2 Housing Conditions

Shelter Type	%	Notes
Temporary shelters	61.3% (↑)	IOM Apr 2024
Host families	27.3%	
Public buildings	14.1%	
Source: UNHCR Grand Kasai Survey 2023.		

3.3 Food Security & Nutrition

Indicator	%
Moderate/severe food insecurity	68.9%
Malnourished children (<5 years)	25.1% (↑)
Source: WFP DRC Report 2023.	

4. Coping Strategies

4.1 Adaptation Mechanisms

Mechanism	% of IDPs	Notes
Reduced meals	72.5%	
Sold assets	45.6%	
Child labor	32.0% (↑)	UNICEF 2024
Debt	40.1% (↑)	IOM 2024
Note: Worsening economic crises drive increased reliance on negative coping strategies.		
Source: IOM DRC Displacement Report 2023		

4.2 Social & Community Networks

Category	%
Family support	64.8%
Mutual aid among IDPs	51.2%
Source: UNHCR Grand Kasai Survey 2023.	

4.3 Mobility & Migration

Category	%
Considering migration	38.9%
Secondary displacements	21.3%
Source: UNHCR Grand Kasai Survey 2023.	

5. Granular Analysis

5.1 Disaggregated Demographic Data

5.1.1 Provincial & Gender Distribution

Province	Female	Male	Total IDPs
Kasai	59.5%	40.5%	46,029
Kasai-Central	54.8%	45.2%	25,657
Kasai-Oriental	52.1%	47.9%	13,261

Notes: Women dominate IDP populations (59.5% in Kasai) due to conflict-related gender-based violence.

Source: UNHCR 2024.

5.1.2 Age/Gender of Children (<18 years)

Age Group	Girls	Boys	Total
0-5 years	23.1%	22.7%	45.8%
6-17 years	26.3%	27.9%	54.2%
Source : UNICEF DRC 2024.			

5.2 Gender-Specific Economic Data

5.2.1 Income Sources by Gender

Source	Women	Men
Agriculture	38.4%	44.1%
Petty trade	63.2%	36.8%
Salaried work	8.9%	91.1%

Key Points:

- Women dominate informal trade but face barriers to formal employment.
- Men control 91% of salaried jobs (construction, security, etc.).

Source : UNHCR Gender Analysis 2023.

5.2.2 Land Access by Province

Province	Women	Men
Kasai	12.3%	87.7%
Kasai-Central	15.6%	84.4%

Source : FAO RDC 2023.

5.3 Disaggregated Living Conditions

5.3.1 Water Access by Province

Province	Access	Functional Water Points
Kasai	58.3%	1 per 1,200 people
Kasai-Central	64.7%	1 per 900 people

Source : UNICEF WASH 2024.

5.3.2 Child Nutrition by Gender

Indicator	Girls (<5)	Boys (<5)
Acute malnutrition	24.8%	25.4%
Stunting	39.1%	40.2%

Source : Cluster Nutrition RDC 2024.

5.4 Gender-Specific Coping Strategies

Mechanism	Women	Men
Reduced meals	78.3%	66.7%
Child labor	31.5%	28.2%
Debt	44.6%	35.5%

Analysis:

- Women face greater food insecurity and debt due to limited income opportunities.
- Boys are slightly more exposed to child labor (informal mining sectors).

Source : OIM Gender Dashboard 2024

5.5 Vulnerable Groups

5.5.1 Persons with Disabilities

- **Prevalence among IDPs:** 8.9% (IOM 2024).
- **Service access:**
 - Healthcare: 22.1% (vs. 48.7% average).
 - Education: 18.3% (vs. 56.3%).
- **Source :** [Handicap International RDC 2023](#)

5.5.2 Female-Headed Households

- **Kasai:** 34.6% of IDP households.
- **Key challenges:**
 - Land access: 9.2% (vs. 37.8% average).
 - GBV risks: 62% report fear of assault.
- **Source :** [UN Women RDC 2024](#).

BIBLIOGRAPHY

This bibliography presents a selection of relevant sources for the study of economic strategies and resilience among internally displaced persons (IDPs) in Greater-Kasaï, Democratic Republic of Congo. It is organized into thematic sections for ease of reference.

I. TREATIES AND LEGISLATION

This section compiles international, regional, and national legal instruments governing the protection and assistance of IDPs, which inform economic support policies and programs.

1. **Constitution of the Democratic Republic of the Congo (February 18, 2006)**: The foundational law of the DRC establishes citizens' rights and duties and provides the legal framework for IDP-related policies.
2. **Kampala Convention on the Protection and Assistance of Internally Displaced Persons in Africa (2009)**: The first legally binding African instrument dedicated to IDP protection, outlining state obligations for preventing arbitrary displacement, providing assistance during displacement, and ensuring durable solutions.
3. **Great Lakes Pact on the Protection and Rights of Internally Displaced Persons (2006)**: A regional agreement signed by member states of the International Conference on the Great Lakes Region (ICGLR) to enhance IDP protection, including security, humanitarian aid, and socio-economic reintegration.
4. **OUA Convention Governing the Specific Aspects of Refugee Problems in Africa (1969)**: While focused on refugees, this African Union (AU) framework influenced IDP protection norms, emphasizing solidarity and assistance principles.
5. **UN Convention Relating to the Status of Refugees (1951)**: Defines refugee status and establishes minimum treatment standards. Though not directly applicable to IDPs, it remains a key reference for forcibly displaced populations.
6. **UN Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement (1998)**: A non-binding normative framework for IDP protection, assistance, and reintegration, covering economic and social rights.

II. BOOKS

Academic works and manuals offering in-depth analyses and practical guidance on IDP protection and assistance.

1. **Beyani, C.** (University of Bern, Internal Displacement Project). *Protection of Internally Displaced Persons: A Handbook for Legislators and Policymakers*. OCHA, 1998.
 - Provides guidance on integrating international IDP standards into national laws and policies.
2. **Crisp, J.** *Forced Displacement in Africa: Dimensions, Challenges, and Policy Directions*. *Refugee Survey Quarterly* 29(3), 2010, 1–27.
 - Analyzes displacement dynamics in Africa, offering context for Greater-Kasaï.
3. **Plattner, Denise.** *The Protection of Internally Displaced Persons in Non-International Armed Conflict*. 2018.
 - Examines IDP protection in conflict settings like Greater-Kasaï.
4. **Rhodri C. Williams (ICRC).** *Protection of Internally Displaced Persons: A Handbook for Legislators and Policymakers*. 2019.
 - A practical guide for implementing legal and policy frameworks.
5. **OCHA.** *DRC: North Kivu, South Kivu, and Ituri – Internally Displaced Persons and Returnees*. 2023.
 - While focused on eastern DRC, offers comparative insights for Greater-Kasaï.
6. **UNHCR.** *Internally Displaced Persons: Responsibility and Action*. 2006.
 - Highlights state and international actor responsibilities for IDP protection.
7. **Florence Simbiri Jaoko.** *Handbook on the Protection of Internally Displaced Persons*. 2016.
 - Practical guidance on IDP rights, with an African focus.
8. **UNHCR.** *Internally Displaced Persons*. 2016.
 - Overview of displacement challenges, including protection and assistance.
9. **ICRC (Jean-Philippe Lavoyer).** *Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement: Observations on International Humanitarian Law*. 1998.

- Analyzes international humanitarian law's role in IDP protection.
- 10. **ICRC.** *Internally Displaced Persons and International Humanitarian Law*. Geneva Conventions, 2017.
 - Examines humanitarian law's application to IDPs.
- 11. **UNHCR.** *The Physical Security of Refugees and Displaced Persons*. Geneva, 1993.
 - Foundational text on security for displaced populations.

III. ARTICLES

News and analytical articles on IDPs in the DRC and the region.

1. **UNHCR.** *1.3 Million Displaced by Violence in Eastern DRC*. March 26, 2024.
 - Highlights displacement scale and conflict dynamics.
2. **UN News.** *IOM Calls for Urgent Action on Alarming Humanitarian Crisis in Eastern DRC*. July 2, 2024.
 - Emphasizes the severity of displacement-related crises.
3. **Kambala.** *Bombing of Lushagala IDP Site in Goma: Kinshasa's Outrage*. May 4, 2024.
 - Examines security risks for IDPs in displacement sites.
4. **UNICEF DRC.** *Lushagala Site: The Resilience of Displaced Children*. Updated February 29, 2024.
 - Focuses on long-term impacts for displaced children.
5. **TV5MONDE/AFP.** *DRC: Nearly 50 Soldiers Sentenced to Death for "Desertion" in a Week*. 2024.
 - Illustrates instability fueling displacement.
6. **Brookings Institution–University of Bern Project on Internal Displacement (2005).**
 - Academic research on internal displacement (specific publications recommended).

IV. THESES AND DISSERTATIONS

University research offering context-specific analyses of displacement in the DRC.

1. **Mwayila Tshiyembe.** *Public International Law (D.I.P)*. UNIKIS, 2014–2015.
 - Legal framework for IDP rights.
2. **Dieu Merci Adubang'o Thuambe.** *Impact of Humanitarian Aid on Reducing Vulnerability of IDPs in Mahagi: Case of WHH NGO (2020–2021)*. ISDR/Bunia, 2021.
 - Comparative insights on aid effectiveness.
3. **Alvine Hadji Usseni.** *Security Protection for IDPs in DRC: Case of Lushagala and Bulengo Camps, North Kivu*. University of Kisangani, 2023.
 - Parallels with Greater-Kasai's displacement challenges.
4. **Innocent Assumani.** *IDPs and Survival Strategies: Connectivity and Mobility*. UNILU, 2017.
 - Core themes for the proposed study.
5. **Ngoyi Kayumba.** *Challenges of Refugee Protection in International Law*. UNILU, 2007.
 - Legal context for comparative analysis.

This bibliography underscores the **legal, policy, and field-based foundations** for understanding IDP resilience in Greater-Kasai, while identifying gaps for future research.