

## NORTHERN KATANGA BRIDGE TECHNICAL ASSESSMENT

### MISSION OBJECTIVES

On 25<sup>th</sup> of July 2007, UNJLC, IOM, Katanga Governor's office and the Ministry of planning conducted a joint bridge assessment located in North of Mitwaba (Kalumengongo Bridge). This mission followed up several discussions with UN partners requesting a timely solution to cross the river before the beginning of the rainy season. JLC and IOM identified a temporary, cost effective and flexible solution that will significantly contribute to unlock the access to Northern Katanga within upcoming weeks. UNJLC thanks again MONUC Civil affairs section for providing a helicopter to support the mission. JLC and IOM, jointly with Roads Directorate, will conduct a further technical road assessment along road RPD 617 on week 31.

### OUTCOMES

#### Geographic coordinates

Lon S: 8° 34' 53.42"  
Lat E: 27° 19' 31.89"  
Altitude: 1368m

#### Description

The bridge is located a distance at 4.5 Km North of Mitwaba. The road from Mitwaba to the bridge is passable in the immediate vicinity of the center of Mitwaba but becomes difficult at some places and even dangerous further down, to end abruptly at a steep crack where the bridge was located. The bridge has been lifted out of its position and tipped over.

While JLC and its partners agreed Road RPD 617 is the main corridor to distribute humanitarian assistance to returnees in Northern Katanga, other options need to be considered such as access via the Western corridor (combined solution train-barge-road

from Bukama to Malemba) and Eastern corridor from Pweto to Mitwaba.



Kalumengongo Bridge © UNJLC

### PROPOSED SOLUTIONS

To address the issue, IOM will deploy a temporary floating bridge with a 20-tons capacity over the river and simultaneously start a permanent bridge project. The floating bridge can be quickly deployed and moved to another place in order to cover further emergency needs.



Temporary Modular pontoon system ©Air float

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