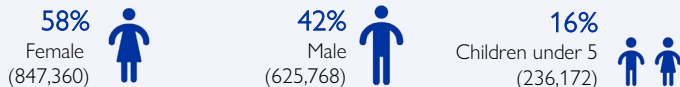
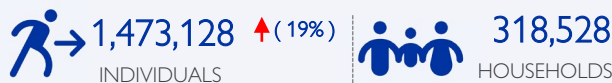


DTM has identified **1,473,128** IDP individuals as of 27 January 2024 and an estimated returnee population of **647,612** individuals.

Key displacement data



CONTEXT

Since 2022, the eastern region of the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), in particular North Kivu, has been gripped by a devastating conflict that has intensified and become increasingly complex over time, with the potential to reach unprecedented levels in the province. This crisis is characterised by an abundance of armed actors in the conflict, a large-scale displacement and an increasing number of population in need of humanitarian aid.

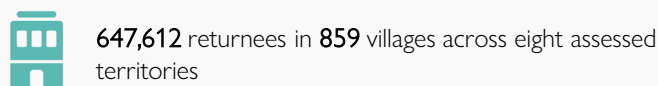
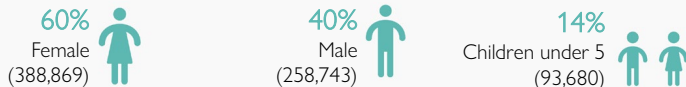
The ongoing conflict between the M23 rebel group and the *Forces Armées de la République Démocratique du Congo* (FARDC) and their allies has been a major source of violence and instability in the region. The situation has deteriorated further since the withdrawal of several East African Community (EAC) force bases from the affected territories. This conflict has not only caused the loss of human life and the displacement of millions of people but has also hampered efforts to establish peace and stability in the region.

The start of deployment of the *Southern African Development Community* (SADC) regional force was scheduled for 28 December 2023. The period from 19 December 2023 to 28 January 2024 was characterised by an upsurge in fighting between the FARDC and its allies and the M23 group on the one hand, and clashes between self-defence groups on the other. The territory of Masisi is presumably the most affected, particularly in the *chefferies* of Bashali and Bahunde on the Sake-Karuba-Masisi-centre axis in the *Mfuni-Matanda groupement*, the *Kitshanga-Kibarizo-Mweso* axis in the *Bashali-Mokoto groupement* and the *Bweremana-Bitonga* axis in the *Mpfunyi-Shanga groupement*.

While an unstable pause has been observed in most of Rutshuru and Nyiragongo territories, sporadic clashes and protection incidents have been reported. The strengthening of FARDC and M23 positions has also been reported since 20 December 2023, leading towards increasing numbers of displaced population, headed to displacement sites, host families and collective centres. Despite interventions by humanitarian actors, most sites are unable to meet the needs for shelter. Since the beginning of the crisis, IOM, through its Displacement Tracking Matrix (DTM) has continued conducting a series of rapid assessments, including emergency monitoring (EET/ERM), crisis analysis and registration, with the aim of responding to immediate information needs in order to understand displacement dynamics.

This report presents the results of assessments carried out in the various displacement and return areas between 19 December 2023 and 27 January 2024.

Key data on returns



DISPLACEMENT

The displacement data collected in this twelfth crisis analysis shows a further increase in the number of people displaced by the M23 crisis compared with the previous publication (please see [here](#)). The number of internally displaced persons increased from 1,240,215 to 1,473,128 (as of 28 January 2024), an increase of 19 per cent (please see the data set [here](#)), caused by the clashes between the FARDC and its allies and the M23 and between armed self-defence groups in Masisi territory.

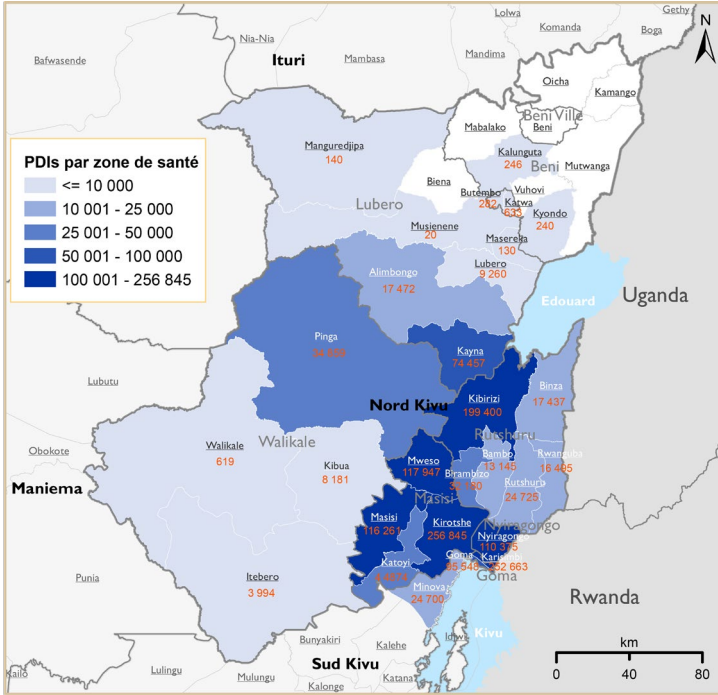
Although the majority of IDPs are residing in host communities, displacement sites continue to host a significant proportion (46%) of displaced people. While some of these sites offer temporary shelter and basic assistance, most are not always able to respond adequately to the needs of the displaced population. Sites are often overcrowded and struggle to provide basic services such as security, drinking water, food and sanitation, exacerbating the difficulties faced by displaced people. As a result, the vulnerability of displaced people has increased, particularly for those already facing difficult living conditions.

Types of Location	Households	Individuals	Male	Female
Host Community	153,598	788,581	339,056	449,525
Sites outside the CCCM	45,341	211,084	87,067	124,017
Sites under the CCCM	119,589	473,463	199,645	273,818
Total	318,528	1,473,128	625,768	847,360

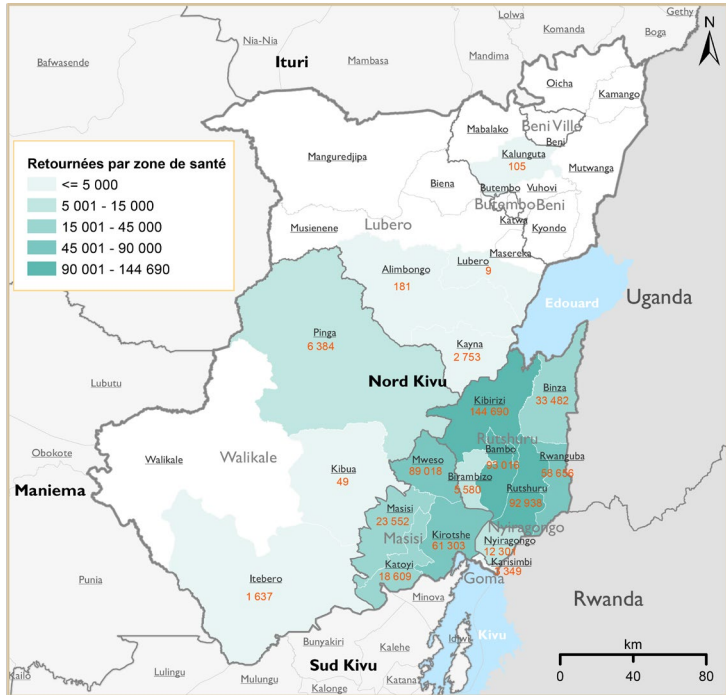
From 4 to 6 January 2024 in the *Mupfuni-Shanga groupement*, fighting between the APCRM/Nyatara and APCLS armed self-defence groups displaced people towards Bweremana, the town of Goma and the province of South Kivu. From 08 to 16 January 2024 in the *Bashali-Mokoto groupement*, clashes between M23 and self-defence groups caused the displacement of people towards the *Bashali-Mokoto*, *Bukombo* and *Luongo groupements*. From 15 to 17 January 2024, fighting between the FARDC and its allies against M23 in Karuba and the surrounding areas on the *Mushaki* axis led to the displacement of people towards *Shasha*, *Sake*, *Kirotshe*, the town of Goma and *Nyiragongo* territory.

Between 22 and 27 January 2024 in and around *Mweso* area, fighting between M23 rebels and the FARDC and its allies led to the displacement of people towards the *Bashali-Mokoto* and *Bukombo groupements* and the town of Goma. From 06 to 11 January 2024, fighting between M23 rebels and the FARDC in the *Bukombo*, *Bambo* and *Bishusha groupements* caused the population to move to *Kashuga*, *Kalembe*, *Katsiru* and *Nyanzale*.

MAP - DISPLACEMENT



MAP - RETURNS

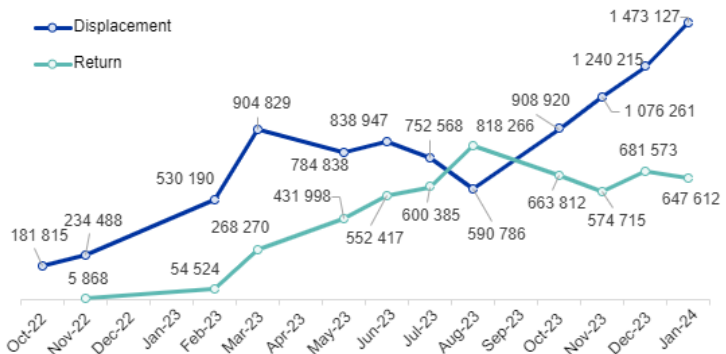


RETURN OF AFFECTED POPULATION

The results of the M23 crisis-related displacement assessments carried out between 19 December 2023 and 28 January 2024 identified a total of 647,612 returnees (133,323 households). The tendency of return has decreased by five per cent compared to the number recorded during the previous assessment.

From 19 January 2024, low-scale returns were recorded in the villages of Katsuba, Rushege, Nyamishana, Rushovu, Hohe, Kolose, Kiyenje, Kihonga, Maroba, Rwabangi, Tshoko, Bungushu, Kashebered in the Tongo and Mutanda groupements in the Rutshuru territory. Most of the returnees have come from Lubero territory. The lack of assistance and poor living conditions in the areas of displacement are factors that encourage households to return. The decrease in the number of returnees can be explained by the multiple clashes reported in various parts of Masisi territory, which have discouraged returns to certain areas.

Changes in the displaced and returnee population (individuals) since the beginning of the crisis



PERCEPTION OF PRIORITY NEEDS

Access to essential resources such as food, shelter and healthcare are the main needs reported and are often limited or non-existent in areas where displaced populations seek refuge. The basic needs of vulnerable populations are generally not met, making it difficult for them and the affected communities to survive.



DEMOGRAPHICS

Men and women make up 42% and 58% of the population assessed respectively. Children (0-5 years) account for around 16%. The average size of the households surveyed is 4.62 people.

ACCESSIBILITY

Since the M23 took over Mushaki on 7 December 2023, traffic on the Sake-Masisi road, the eastern capital of Masisi territory, has been paralysed. This is the third road to be cut off by the M23 rebels, after Goma-Rutsuru and Sake-Kitshanga-Mweso.

The blockage of the main roads could have a major impact on access to basic necessities for vulnerable populations in need and could also have an impact on food prices in the city of Goma and the surrounding area.

Demographic composition

