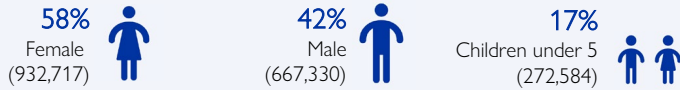
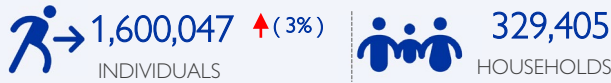
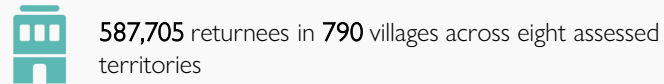
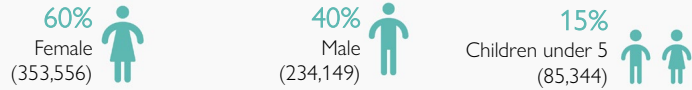


The DTM has identified **1,600,047** IDP individuals as of 21 February 2024 and an estimated returnee population of **587,705** individuals.

Key displacement data



Key data on returns



CONTEXT

Since 2022, the eastern region of the Democratic Republic of 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 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 start of the deployment of the *Southern African Development Community* (SADC) regional force has been announced for 28 December 2023. This initiative comes as a response to renewed fighting between the FARDC and its allies on the one hand, and the M23 group on the other.

A summit of heads of state was held in Addis Ababa on 17 February 2024 to defuse the crisis in the east of the DRC. The aim is to relaunch the peace process, convey a ceasefire between the FARDC and the M23 group and initiate direct dialogue between the Democratic Republic of Congo and Rwanda.

The period from 13 to 19 February 2024 was particularly characterised by a precarious lull in the territory of Nyiragongo and Rutshuru on the one hand and the continuation of hostilities in the territory of Masisi on the other. Heavy artillery projectiles continue to cause human damage in Sake and Mubambiro.

The heightening of tension over the past few weeks has led to the continued displacement of people from host communities and displaced persons previously living in sites or with host families on the Sake-Bweremana axis towards the province of South Kivu in Kalehe territory and towards Goma and the surrounding area. New sites and urgent humanitarian needs have increased yet again, despite the interventions already underway.

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 13 and 21 February 2024.

DISPLACEMENT

The displacement data collected in this thirteenth 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 1,548,732 to 1,600,047 (as of 21 February 2024) and increase of three per cent (please see the current dataset [here](#)), caused by multiple clashes between the FARDC and its allies and the M23 in the territories of Masisi. Although the majority of IDPs are residing in host communities, displacement sites continue to host a significant proportion (44%) 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.

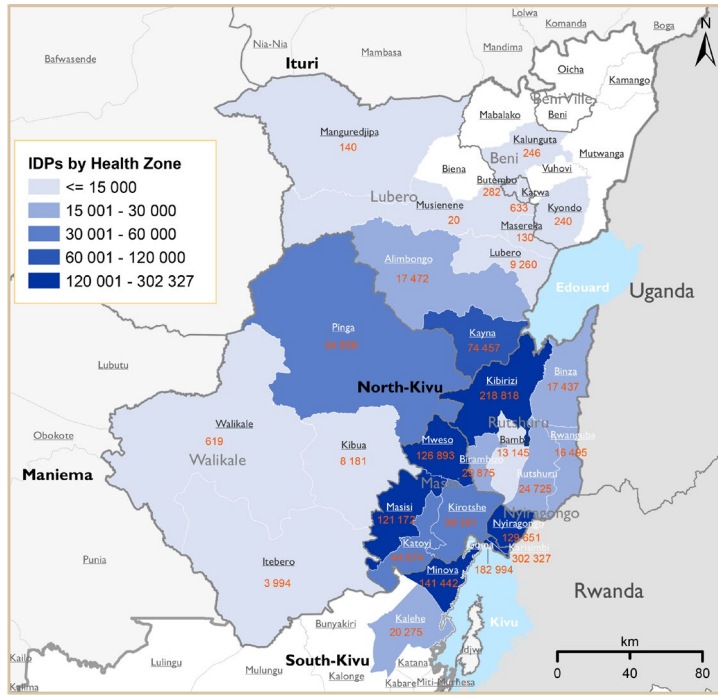
Types of Location	Households	Individuals	Male	Female
Host Community	172,666	894,017	379,676	514,341
Sites outside the CCCM	42,864	209,200	85,650	123,550
Sites under the CCCM	113,875	496,830	202,004	294,826
Total	329,405	1,600,047	667,330	932,717

From 13 to 19 February 2024, clashes continued in Sake in Masisi territory at Ndumba, Ngumba and Rutobogo in the Kamuronza *groupements* and in the village of Kiluku and the surrounding area in the Mupfuni-Shanga *groupement*. These clashes led to population movements towards the territory of Kalehe in the province of South Kivu and towards Goma and the surrounding area in the province of North Kivu. The massive displacement of the population has also triggered creation of new sites around Goma.

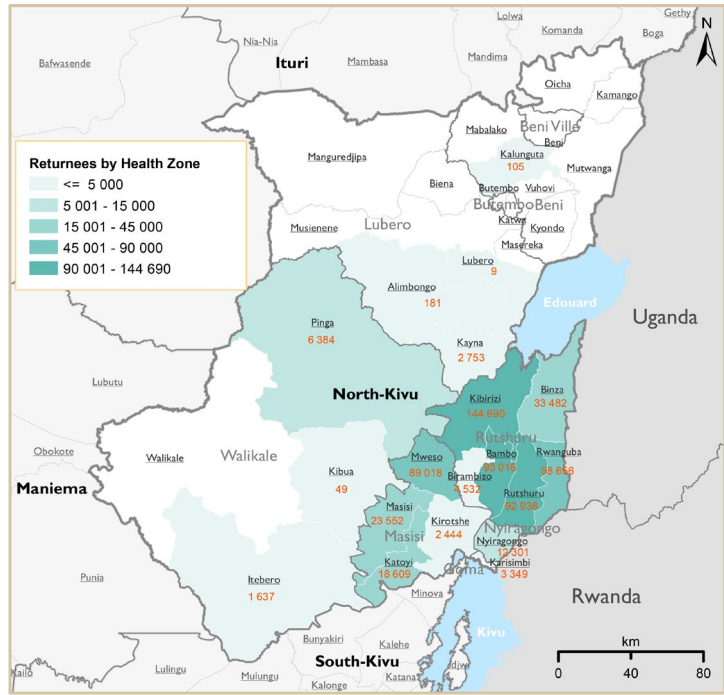
On 17 February 2024, clashes pitted the FARDC and its allies against the M23 group in Mbuhi, Bukama and Pilote in the Bashali-Mokoto *groupement* and caused the population moving towards Nguru, Rugarama, Mihara, Bweru and Kalembe in the Bashali-Mokoto *groupements* in Masisi territory.

Meanwhile, the advance of the M23 group provoked preventive movements by the population from the host communities and displaced persons settled in Kasoko village to flee towards Nyanzale, Kikuku, Mirangi and the surrounding area in Rutshuru territory.

MAP - DISPLACEMENT



MAP - RETURN



RETURN OF AFFECTED POPULATION

The results of the M23 crisis-related displacement assessments carried out between the period from 13 and 21 February 2024 identified a total of 587,705 returnees from 119,790 households. The tendency of return has not changed compared with the number recorded during the previous assessment.

The expansion of hostilities during the period from 13 to 19 February 2024 in the Kamuronza *groupement* in Sake and in the Mupfuni-Shanga *groupement* around Shasha, coupled with the clashes of 17 February 2024 around Mweso in the Bahsali-Mokoto *groupement* in Masisi territory, did not encourage the return of displaced persons.

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. Large numbers of new arrivals exacerbate the basic needs of vulnerable populations, which are generally not being met, making it difficult for them and the affected communities to survive.

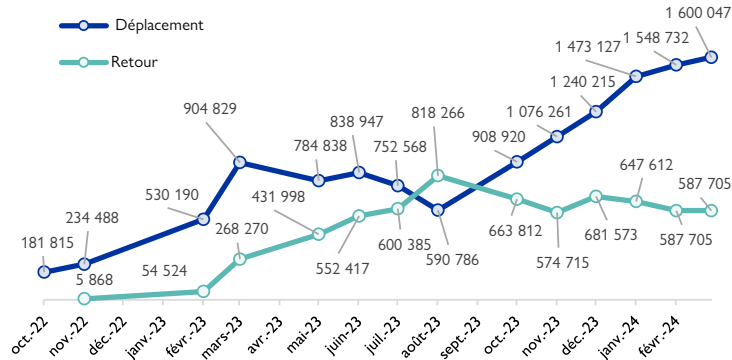


DEMOGRAPHICS

Men and women make up 42 and 58 per cent, respectively of the displaced population assessed in 2,305 villages. Displaced children aged between 0 and 5 account for around 17 per cent.

The average size of displaced households assessed is 4.9 individuals. Male and female returnees make up 40 and 60 per cent, respectively, of the returnee population. Children aged between 0 and 5 account for around 15 per cent.

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



ACCESSIBILITY

Since the M23 group took over the town of Shasha on 3 February 2024, traffic on the road connecting the town of Goma to Bukavu has been paralysed. This is the fourth food supply road in Goma to be cut by the M23 group, after the Goma-Rutshuru axis, the Sake-Kitshanga-Mweso axis and the Sake-Masisi centre axis. The blockage of the main roads could have major consequences for 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

