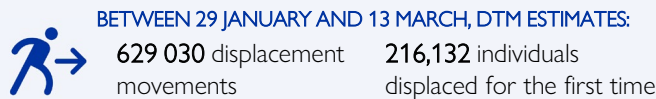
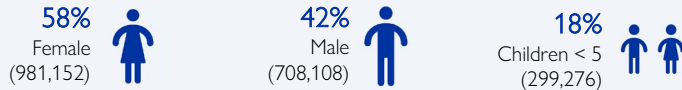
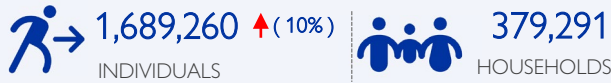


The DTM has identified **1,689,260** IDP individuals as of 21 February 2024 and an estimated returnee population of **523,383** individuals.

Key displacement data



CONTEXT

In the eastern region of the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), particularly in North Kivu, a prolonged and increasingly complex conflict persists, characterized by the presence of numerous armed actors such as the M23 group and the Congolese Armed Forces (FARDC) and their respective allies. This situation has led to widespread instability and an unprecedented humanitarian crisis in North Kivu province. The ongoing hostilities have led to significant displacement of the local population, many of whom have been forced to flee their homes, further exacerbating an already dire situation. The conflict has created an urgent need for large-scale humanitarian aid, but the response remains inadequate to meet the immense needs due to a lack of resources and difficulties in delivering aid due to instability and dangerous conditions on the ground.

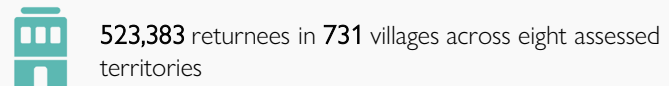
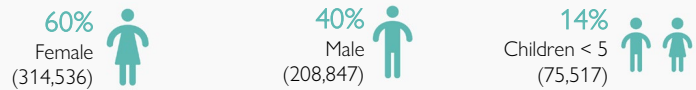
Since January 2024, the M23 group, supported by the *Alliance Fleuve Congo* (AFC) group, has launched intensified attacks against positions belonging to the FARDC and their allies, resulting in the expansion of the M23 group's zone of influence through the capture of major towns and villages in the Rutshuru and Masisi territories. This escalation has led to a proliferation of armed individuals, bringing FARDC military positions closer to displacement sites near Goma, exacerbating, in addition to humanitarian needs, loss of life, injuries, growing criminal activity and massive displacement of vulnerable populations. The territories of Rutshuru and Masisi are currently suffering the most serious consequences of this conflict.

In early March 2024, renewed hostilities broke out in Rutshuru territory involving the Mutanda and Kihondo groups in the villages of Nyanzale, Kirima, Kikuku and Kibirizi, leading to the occupation of several villages including Kibirizi, Nyanzale, Kirima, Kikuku, Kihondo, Mutanda, Somikivu, Bwalanda/Mine, Kashalira, Kibingu, Kabanda, and Vitshumbi by the M23 armed group. Simultaneously, from March 7 to 9, clashes broke out in Masisi territory encompassing the Bashali Mokoto *groupement*, the village of Kashuga, Kalembe and adjacent areas, leading to a reinforcement of control in the territories surrounding Goma and further isolation of the city considered the capital of North Kivu.

Since the onset of the crisis, IOM, through the Displacement Tracking Matrix (DTM) continues to conduct a series of rapid assessments, including Emergency Tracking (EET/ERM), Crisis Analysis and Registration with priority to address immediate information needs with a view to understanding displacement dynamics and needs.

This report presents the results of assessments carried out in the various displacement and return areas from March 1 to 13, 2024.

Key data on returns



DISPLACEMENT

The displacement data collected in this sixteenth crisis analysis show a further increase in the number of people displaced by the M23 crisis compared with the previous publication ([see report](#)). The number of displaced people rose from 1,524,306 on 28 February to 1,689,260 on 13 March 2024 ([detailed data here](#)). This increase is due to the multiple clashes between the FARDC and its allies and the M23 in the Masisi and Rutshuru territories. Although the majority of displaced people are in host communities, displacement sites continue to host a significant proportion (39%) of displaced people.

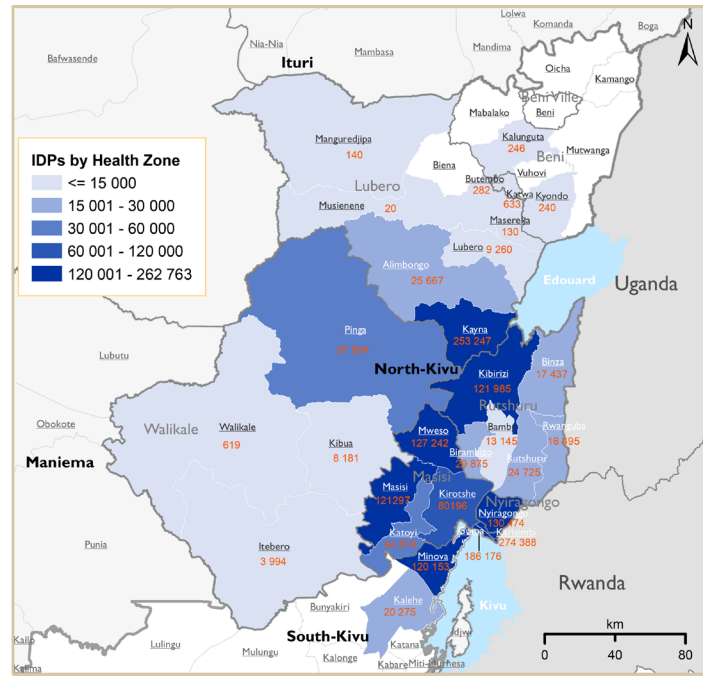
By cross-referencing the results of the current analysis with those of Round 12 of the M23 crisis analysis on January 28, and triangulating in the field, the Displacement Tracking Matrix (DTM) has estimated that a total of 629,030 individual displacement movements have taken place as a result of the recent conflicts. Of these movements, 216,132 people are identified as newly displaced, while the remainder constitute cases of secondary displacement where previously displaced people are forced to move again due to escalating insecurity in their original places of shelter. As a result, the overall vulnerability of displaced populations has increased, particularly for those already facing difficult living conditions.

Types of Location	Households	Individuals	Male	Female
Host Community	201,809	1,036,598	434,719	601,879
Sites - Non CCCM	39,504	193,582	78,539	115,043
Sites - CCCM	137,978	459,080	194,850	264,230
<b>Total</b>	<b>379,291</b>	<b>1,689,260</b>	<b>708,108</b>	<b>981,152</b>

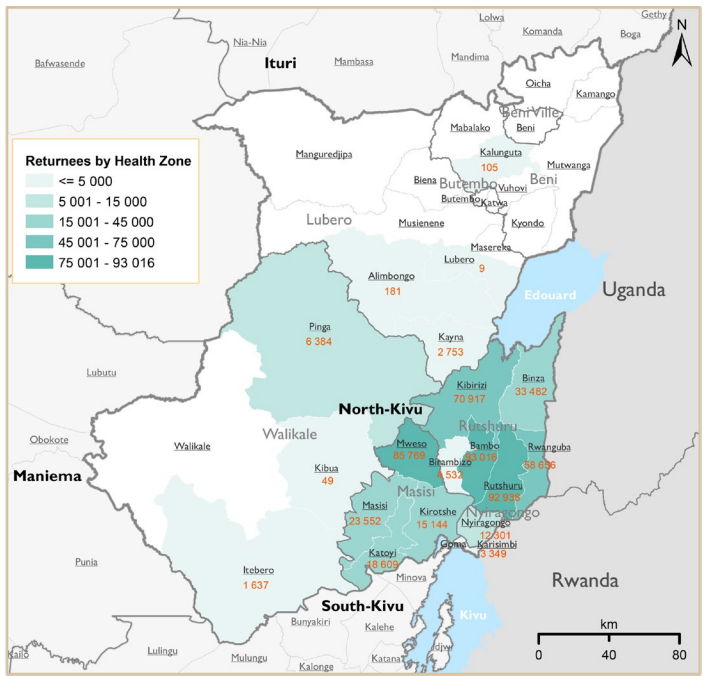
The M23 group's offensive from March 4 to March 8 2024 in Rutshuru territory has caused ongoing displacements, new displacements and preventive displacements of the population in the Mutanda and Kihondo *groupements*, from the villages of Kibirizi, Kirima, Nyanzale, Kikuku, Kashalira, Somikivu, Kabanda, Bwalanda, Katolo, Ngoroba, Mutanda, Kishishe, Kibingu and Kise to villages on the Kyahala-Kanyabayonga axis in the Kanyabayonga *groupement* in Rutshuru territory. In Lubero territory, displaced people on the Kanyabayonga-Bulotwa axis, the Kayna-Kirumba axis and the Alimbonga axis are sheltered in host communities and collective centers.

From March 7 to 9, 2024, clashes were reported in Masisi territory (*groupement* Bashali-Mokoto, village Kashuga, Kalembe) and the surrounding area. These clashes between the FARDC and its allies and the M23 group have led to the displacement of people towards Walikale territory.

**MAP - DISPLACEMENT**



**MAP - RETURN**



**RETURN OF AFFECTED POPULATION**

The findings of the M23 crisis-related displacement assessments carried out during the period March 1 to 13, 2024 identified a total of 523,383 returnees from 107,849 households. The number of returnees has fallen by 13% compared with the number recorded at the last assessment. Returnees are mainly concentrated on two axes: the Nyanzale-Kibizizi axis in the Kibirizi health zone (Rutshuru territory) and the Kashuga-Kalembe axis (Mweso health zone) in Masisi territory.

Meanwhile, the population of Katsiru and surrounding areas in Rutshuru territory, as well as Mweso and surrounding areas in Masisi territory, have returned in small numbers since the M23 group took control of Kashuga, Nyanzale, Katsiru and Kikuku and surrounding areas. Poor living conditions, the lack of assistance in the areas of displacement, relative calm observed in villages of origin, as well as the consequences of continuous displacement are the reasons for their return.

**PERCEPTION OF PRIORITY NEEDS**

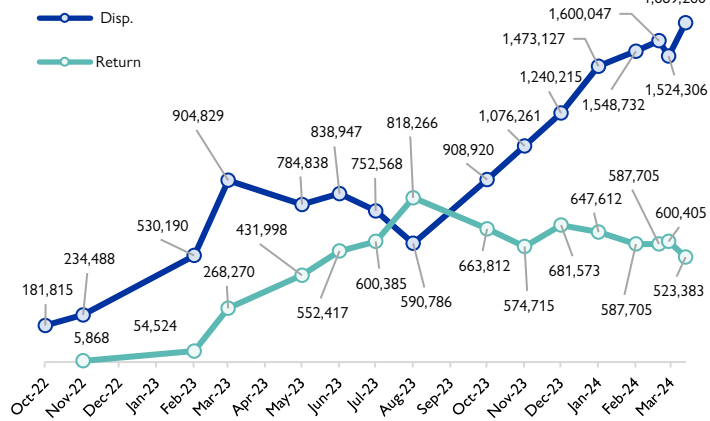
Access to essential resources such as food, shelter and healthcare are the main needs reported and are often limited or non-existent in areas where displaced populations seek refuge. Large numbers of new arrivals exacerbate the basic needs of vulnerable populations, which are generally not being met, 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. Displaced children aged between 0 and 5 account for around 18 per cent. The average size of displaced households assessed is 4.5 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 14 per cent.

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



**ACCESSIBILITY**

Since the M23 group took the town of Shasha on 3 February 2024, traffic on the road connecting the town of Goma to Bukavu has been paralyzed. This is the fourth food supply road in Goma to be cut by the M23 group, after the Goma-Rutshuru axis, the Sake-Kitschanga-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**

