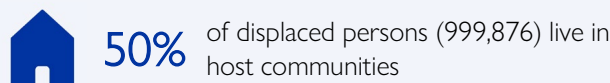
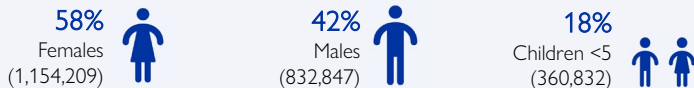
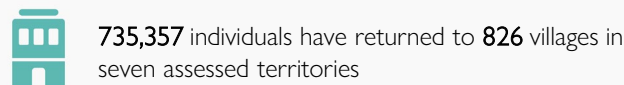
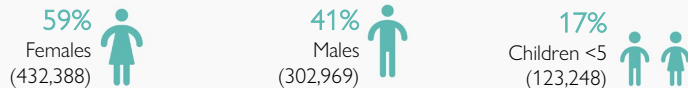


The DTM has identified a mobile population of **1,987,056** individuals as of 9 October 2024 and an estimated returned population of **735,357** individuals.

Key displacement data



Key data on returns



CONTEXT

The province of North Kivu faces ongoing conflict characterised by the presence of various armed actors, notably the *Mouvement du 23 mars* (M23), the Congo River Alliance (AFC), the Armed Forces of the Democratic Republic of Congo (FARDC) and the regional forces of the Southern African Development Community (SADC). The persistence of this conflict, the expansion of the M23's area of influence, and the activity of other armed groups in and around the city of Goma (the capital of North Kivu province), have increased security and humanitarian challenges.

Joint efforts by regional and international players to find a peaceful resolution to the conflict and facilitate a dialogue between the DRC and Rwanda led to the signing of a ceasefire agreement on 30 July 2024. In spite of these efforts, and resulting ceasefire, the period from 15 August to 30 September 2024 was marked by attacks and clashes involving M23, government forces, and other armed groups throughout Masisi, Rutshuru and Nyiragongo territories. There have been frequent accusations by both sides accusing the other of ceasefire violations, which have provoked new displacement, secondary displacement, and the displacement of previously returned populations. The situation is aggravated by rivalries between the various armed groups fighting for control of localities against M23 expansion.

Prolonged displacement and limited access to humanitarian aid continue to exacerbate the complexity of the crisis and the situations of both displaced and returnee populations. Goma and the adjacent cities to both North and South Kivu are hosting large numbers of displaced people and lack the resources to provide them with sufficient support.

Since the beginning of the crisis, IOM, via the Displacement Tracking Matrix (DTM), has continued to conduct rapid assessments in affected territories, including emergency monitoring (EET/ERM), crisis analysis, and registration, with the purpose of addressing immediate information needs surrounding displacement dynamics and humanitarian aid.

This report presents the results of the assessments carried out in the areas of displacement and return, between 30 July and 9 October 2024, linked to the ongoing M23 crisis.

DISPLACEMENT

The displacement data collected in the twenty-second crisis analysis shows an increase in the number of displaced people compared to the previous round ([full report here](#)). The number of displaced people increased from 1,713,817 to 1,987,056 as of 9 October 2024 ([see the data here](#)). In Rutshuru territory, persistent clashes between armed groups and M23 took place in Bwito and Bwisha *chefferies* (on the Kinyandoni, Nyamilima and Ishasha axes). From 5 to 18 September, displacement has been reporting of civilians fleeing the clashes between the M23 and local self-defense armed groups in several villages of the Tongo *groupement*, which have caused people to flee to the relative safety of villages in the Rushovu and Tongo *aires de santé* of the same *groupements*. At the same time, fighting continued in Bukombo *groupement* (Sisa, Shonyi Kizimba, Bukombo centre) leading to further displacement towards Bishusha *groupement*.

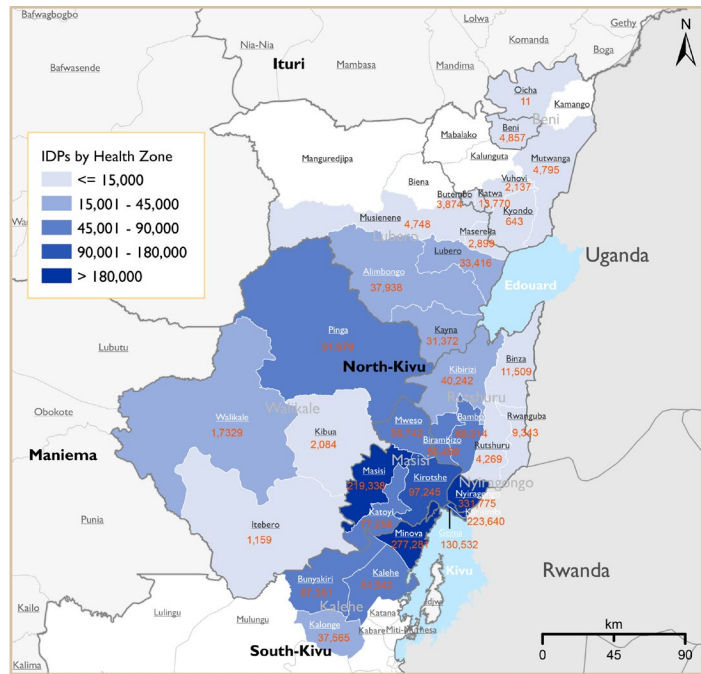
Type of Shelter	HH.	IND.	Males	Females
Host Community	192,015	999,876	402,810	597,066
Non-CCCM Sites	23,160	113,795	46,282	67,513
CCCM-Managed Sites	237,092	873,385	383,755	489,630
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>452,267</b>	<b>1,987,056</b>	<b>832,847</b>	<b>1,154,209</b>

During the assessment period, clashes were also reported between M23 and the so-called *VDP/Wazalendo* proxy elements of the FARDC in the Bashali-Mokoto *groupement*, causing the population to move to the villages of Kahanga, Mpanamo and surrounding areas. From September 8 to 9, 2024, similar displacement-causing clashes were observed in the Kaembe *groupement* as well as along the Kirumbu-Mpati axis in the Mokoto *groupement*, leading to widespread displacement of the civilian population.

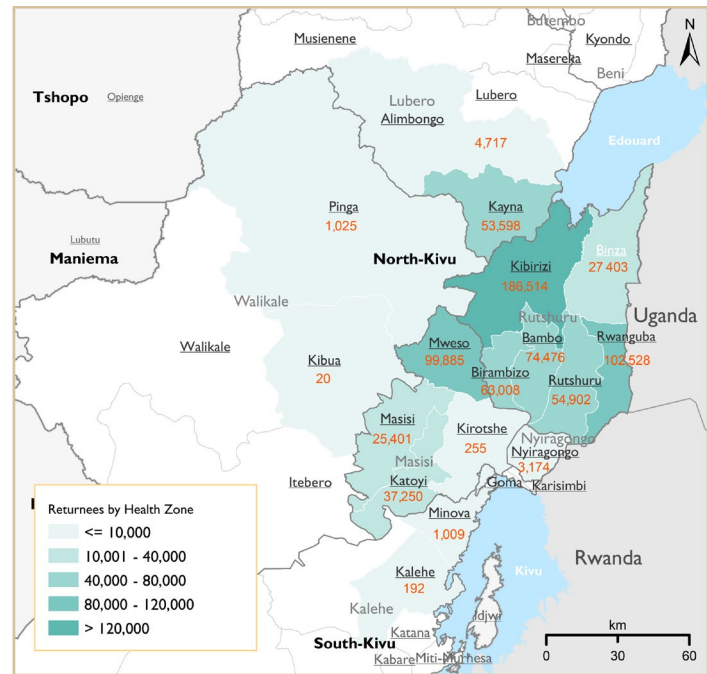
In the south of Lubero, the security and displacement situation remains highly volatile. New fighting between the Congolese army and M23 in Kikuvo was reported during this assessment period, causing displacement towards Kamandi Lac, Lunyasenge, Taliha and Lubango. The risk of further displacement in this area remains high. Although a trend towards return was beginning to be visible in these territories during the previous assessment period, areas, notably Kinyandoni, Nyamilima and Ishasha, Tongo, Bukombo (Rutshuru); Katala, Kahanga-Muheto, Kirumbu-mpati (Masisi); Kikuvo (Lubero). The new fighting that took place during these periods led to new displacements.

\* Qualitative information on local conflict dynamics is collected directly at a field level via the same key informant interviews that supply displacement data. The general conflict trend during the reporting period is corroborated by recently published [United Nations reports](#).

**MAP – DISPLACEMENT**



**MAP – RETURNS**



**RETURNEES**

This evaluation identified a total of 735,357 returnee individuals in 148,449 households. This is a decrease of 12 per cent compared with the [last assessment](#) on 31 July 2024. This substantial reduction is primarily linked to the intensification of clashes between parties to the conflict in a number of localities in North Kivu where returns were previously taking place (Rutshuru, Lubero, and Masisi territories). Despite this situation, temporary and pendular returns of displaced populations have been observed along the Kibirizi-Nyanzale axis (Rutshuru territory) and on the Bweremana axis, following a relative lull in fighting observed in the area. On the other hand, the recurrence of fighting and the limited access of humanitarian actors in return areas continue to pose threats to the safety of the returnee population.

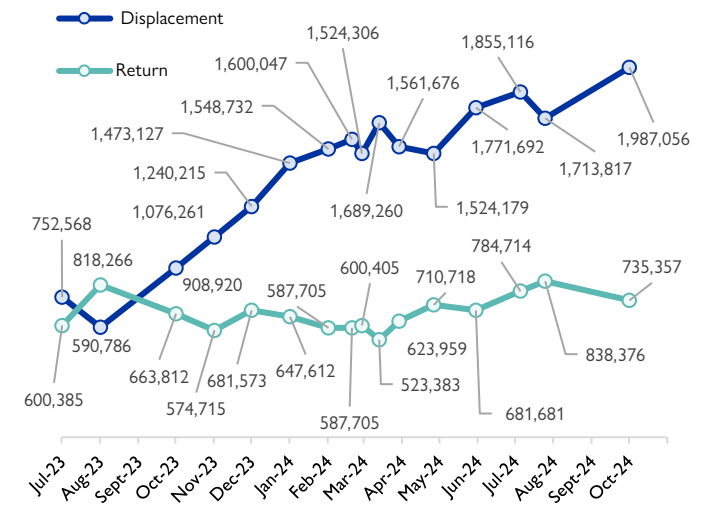
**DEMOGRAPHICS**

This evaluation covered a total of 7,402 villages. Returnees were identified in 826 villages. Men and women make up 42 per cent and 58 per cent, respectively, of the displaced population. Children aged between 0 and 5 account for around 18 per cent of those displaced. The average size of displaced households assessed was 4.4 individuals. Men and women make up 41 and 59 percent respectively of the returnee population, while children aged between 0 and 5 account for 17 per cent.

**PERCEPTION OF PRIORITY NEEDS**

Access to essential resources such as food, housing and healthcare are the main needs expressed by displaced people, which are often limited in areas of displacement. In many of the assessed areas, basic needs have not yet been met, worsening an already alarming humanitarian situation for the communities affected by the crisis.

**Changes in displaced and returnee populations (individuals) since July 2023**



**ACCESS**

The ongoing conflict in the region has considerably affected the main land routes into the city of Goma, rendering many impassable. This obstruction has hampered the movement of civilians, the transport of goods, and the delivery of crucial humanitarian aid.

The M23 armed group now controls several villages in the Mbiza *groupement* (Rutshuru territory) and the Ishasha border between the DRC and Uganda. This situation limits access to essential services for the affected populations, creating a dangerous environment for humanitarian assistance.

