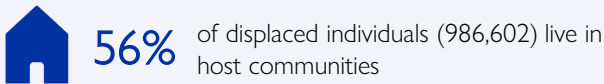
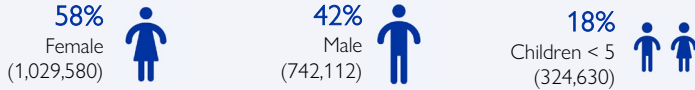
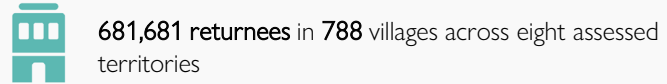
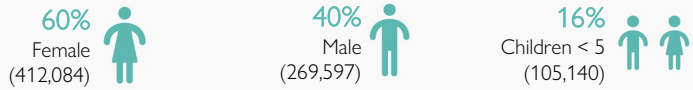
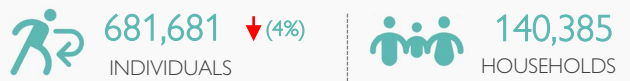


DTM has identified **1,771,692** individuals displaced due to the M23 crisis as of 28 May 2024 and an estimated returnee population of **681,681** individuals.

Key displacement data



Key data on returns



CONTEXT

The eastern part of the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), in particular North Kivu, is in the grip of an increasingly complex and persistent conflict. This conflict is characterized by the presence of various armed groups such as the M23 group, the Congolese Armed Forces (FARDC) and their respective allies. The expansion of the conflict during the first six months of 2023 has led to substantial displacement of civilians, a sharp increase in the presence of armed actors in North Kivu, the loss of human life and significant damage to infrastructure and property. The population of destabilized towns in the border region between the provinces of North and South Kivu has increased the number of displacements. Despite widespread calls for a peaceful resolution to the conflict from regional and international actors, joint efforts to facilitate dialogue and negotiate ceasefires have regularly been disrupted.

From 30 April to 28 May 2024, the context was characterized by an expansion of the fighting in North Kivu, with the use of heavy munitions causing significant damage and loss of life in the displacement sites around Goma and Minova in South Kivu province. All the areas affected are suffering from a lack of resources and economic opportunities, as well as insecurity caused by the proliferation of weapons. Clashes have continued both in areas already controlled by the M23 and in those controlled by the government and its allies leading to considerable disruption to daily life and a dangerous environment for local communities as well as the delivery of much needed humanitarian assistance in many areas.

The recent spontaneous clashes on several front lines have affected Masisi territory in the Mupfunyi-Shanga, Kamuronza, Bahali-Mokoto, Mupfunyi-Kibabi and Mupfunyi-Matanda groupements, the Oso-Banyungu sector, and Rutshuru territory in the Mutanda and Kanyabayonga groupements. The local population, displaced persons staying with host families and recent returnees have been forced to move again or to engage in pendular displacement.

Since the beginning of the crisis, IOM through the Displacement Tracking Matrix (DTM) continues to conduct a series of rapid assessments, including emergency event tracking (EET/ERM), crisis analysis and registration with a priority to respond to immediate information needs in order to understand displacement dynamics and needs.

This report presents the results of the assessments carried out in the various areas of displacement and return from 30 April to 28 May 2024. It covers displacement and returns in related to the ongoing M23 Crisis.

DISPLACEMENT

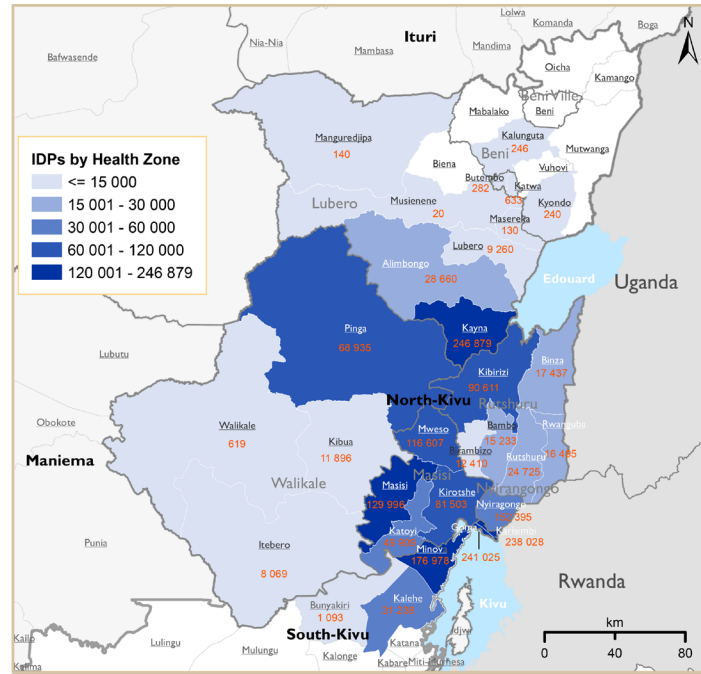
The data collected in this nineteenth crisis analysis shows an increase in the number of persons displaced due to the M23 crisis compared with the previous publication ([see the report](#)). The number of displaced people rose from 1,524,179 to 1,771,692 on 28 May 2024 ([detailed data here](#)). This 16% increase is mainly linked to the clashes reported on the Kikuku-Bwalanda and Rwindi-Kibirizi axes in Rutshuru territory in North Kivu and in Masisi territory on the Bihambwe-Katale-Masisi centre and Ngungu-Bitonga axes.

Although the majority of displaced people live in host communities, displacement sites continue to host a significant proportion (44%) of displaced households. Some sites offer temporary shelter and basic assistance, but most do not adequately meet the needs of those affected. These sites are often overcrowded and have difficulty providing essential services such as security, drinking water, food and sanitation, which exacerbates the difficulties faced by displaced people.

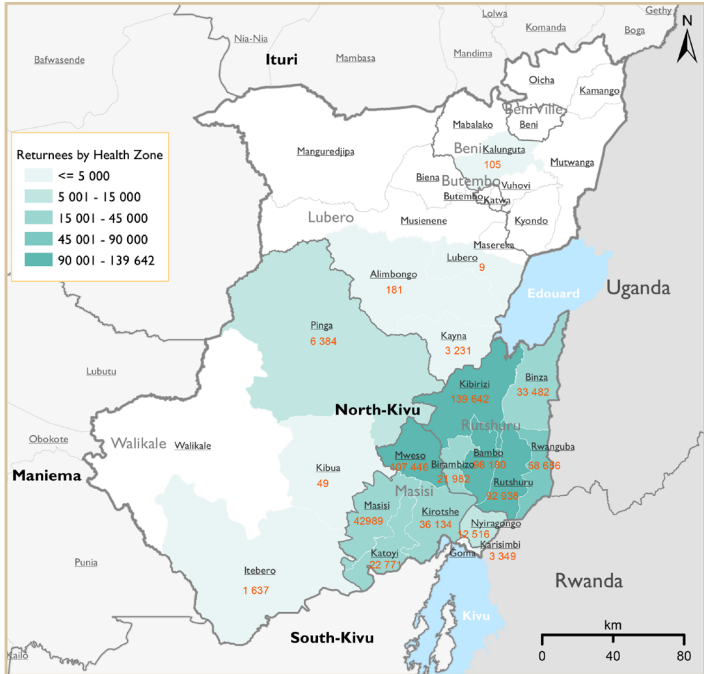
Type of Location	Households	Individuals	Male	Female
Host Community	191,305	986,602	412,391	574,211
Sites - Non CCCM	41,131	199,684	78,512	121,172
Sites - CCCM	190,481	585,406	251,209	334,197
Total	422,917	1,771,692	742,112	1,029,580

From 3 to 28 May 2024, violent fighting intensified in Rutshuru territory in the Mutanda and Kanyabayonga groupements, causing mass displacement of the population who had returned to their villages to the territories of Lubero and Walikale. During the same period, other clashes were reported in Rutshuru territory in the Bishusha groupement, leading to the movement of the population towards Rutshuru and Masisi territories. Since the beginning of May 2024, offensives by the M23 group against state forces have intensified in the Mupfunyi, Matanda, Mupfunyi-Kibabi, Mupfunyi-Shanga and Ufamandu groupements and have provoked preventive displacements of local populations and displaced persons towards the Kalehe territory in the province of South Kivu. From 12 to 20 May 2024, clashes spread along several axes in Masisi, causing pendular displacements, preventive displacements and secondary displacements towards the Bapfuna and Bashali-Mokoto groupements in Masisi territory and towards the Bakano groupement in Walikale territory.

MAP - DISPLACEMENT



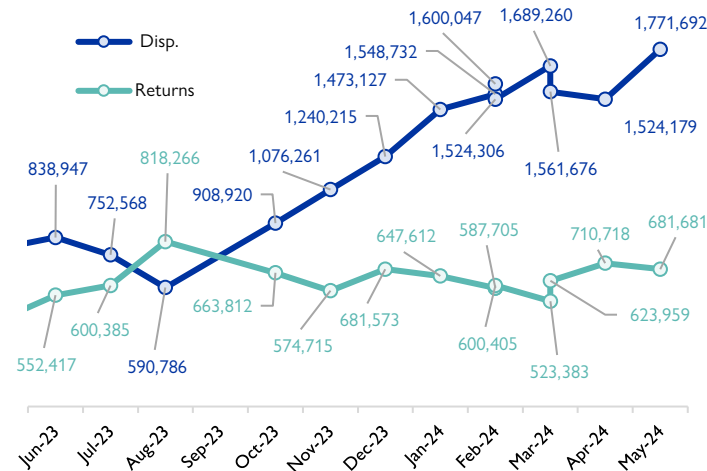
MAP - RETURNS



RETURN OF AFFECTED POPULATION

The results of the assessments of displacement linked to the M23 crisis carried out between 30 April and 28 May 2024 identified a total of 681,810 returnees (140,385 households). A decrease of 4% was observed during this assessment, compared with the number recorded during the last assessment on 29 April 2024. This trend can be seen mainly in Masisi territory in the Bashali-Mokoto groupement and in Rutshuru territory in the Kanyabayonga and Mutanda groupement. The intensification of fighting in the area has prompted the local population and recent returnees to move again. The returnees are motivated by the desire of the displaced population to rebuild their lives, as they are faced with a lack of resources to maintain their situation of displacement, coupled with a certain conviction that the situation has improved in their areas of origin despite the ongoing conflict.

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. 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.



ACCESSIBILITY

The ongoing conflict in the region has seriously affected the main roads leading into the city of Goma, making them virtually inaccessible. This obstruction has severely hampered the movement of civilians, the transport of goods and the delivery of crucial humanitarian assistance. On 3 February 2024, the town of Shasha was taken by the M23 group, completely cutting off traffic on the road linking the town of Goma to Bukavu. This is the fourth essential food supply route to Goma to be blocked, after the Goma-Rutshuru route, the Sake-Kitshanga-Mweso route and the Goma-Sake-Masisi centre route. This situation limits access to essential services for the population affected by the violence, creating a hazardous environment for humanitarian action.

DEMOGRAPHICS

The assessment covered a total of 2,335 villages. Returnees were identified in 788 villages. Men and women make up 42% and 58% of the displaced population respectively. Children aged between 0 and 5 account for around 18 per cent.

The average size of displaced households assessed was 4.2 individuals. Men and women make up 40 per cent and 60 per cent of the returnee population respectively. Children aged between 0 and 5 account for around 15 per cent.