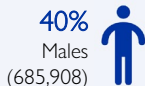
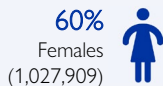
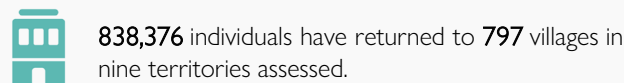
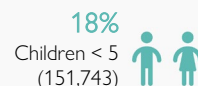
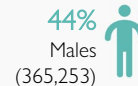
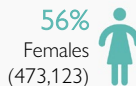


The DTM has identified a mobile population of **1,713,817** individuals on 25 July 2024 and an estimated returned population of **838,376** individuals.

Key displacement data



Key data on returns



CONTEXT

The east of the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), in particular North Kivu province, is in the grip of an increasingly complex and persistent conflict. This conflict is characterized by various armed groups such as the M23/AFC group, the congolese armed forces *Forces Armées Congolaises* (FARDC) and their respective allies including the Southern African Development Community Mission in the DRC (SAMIDRC), with the use of heavy munitions causing significant damage and loss of life in displacement areas of North and South Kivu.

In Lubero territory, a precarious calm was observed despite brief clashes between the M23 group and the FARDC and their allies on July 14, 2024 in the rural commune of Kirumba in the Kayna health zone. This relative lull is the result of the humanitarian truce announced by the government of the United States of America covering the period from July 5 to July 19, 2024 in the provinces of North and South Kivu, and which was extended by two weeks from July 17, 2024, as announced by the US State Department.

Between July 5 and July 20, 2024, pockets of instability resurfaced with new clashes in the Kirotshe and Mweso health zones in Masisi territory and in the Bukombo health zone in Rutshuru territory. This resumption of hostilities has considerably increased the security and humanitarian challenges in the affected areas and those controlled by the M23 group.

Prolonged displacement, commuting and limited access to humanitarian aid continue to exacerbate the complexity of the crisis and increase the vulnerability of all categories of the affected population.

The city of Goma and areas adjacent to M23-controlled territories in North and South Kivu are home to large numbers of displaced people, and lack the resources to provide them with sufficient support.

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

This report presents the results of assessments carried out in the various displacement and return areas from July 11 to July 25, 2024. It covers displacements and returns linked to the current M23 crisis.

DISPLACEMENT

The displacement data collected in this twenty-first M23 crisis analysis show a decrease in the number of displaced people compared with the previous publication ([see report](#)). The number of displaced persons has fallen from 1,855,116 to 1,713,817 as of 25 July 2024 ([detailed data here](#)). Despite new displacements identified in areas under military operations, this 8 percent decrease is mainly linked to population returns to the territories of Lubero and Rutshuru.

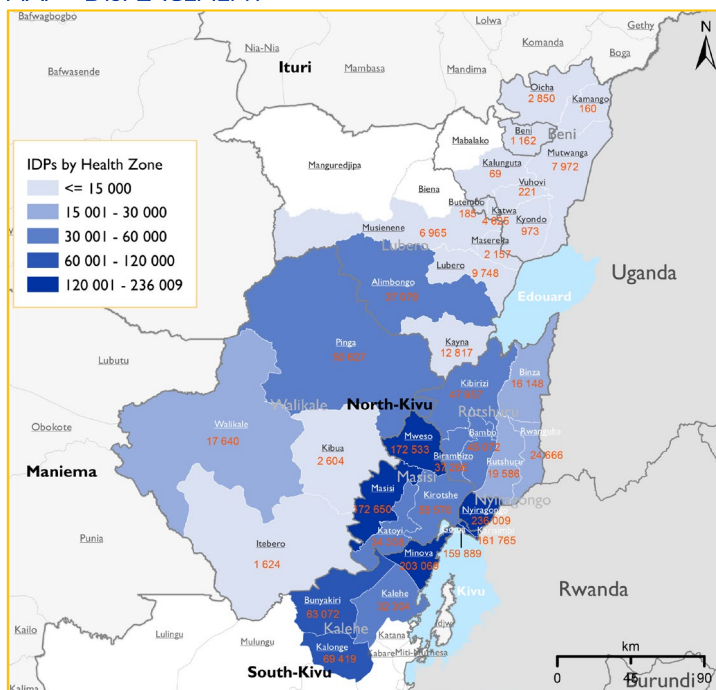
Some sites offer temporary shelter and basic assistance, but most are unable to respond adequately to the needs of those affected. Displacement sites are often overcrowded and struggle to provide essential services such as security, drinking water, food and sanitation, compounding the difficulties of the displaced. Key informants in the Kirotshe health zone are already reporting a number of deaths linked to a lack of adequate food in displacement sites.

Types of dwelling	HH	Ind.	Males	Females
Host community	181,396	880,896	352,408	528,488
Non-CCCM Sites	34,303	146,968	57,927	89,041
CCCM Managed Sites	182,577	685,953	275,573	410,380
Grand Total	398,276	1,713,817	685,908	1,027,909

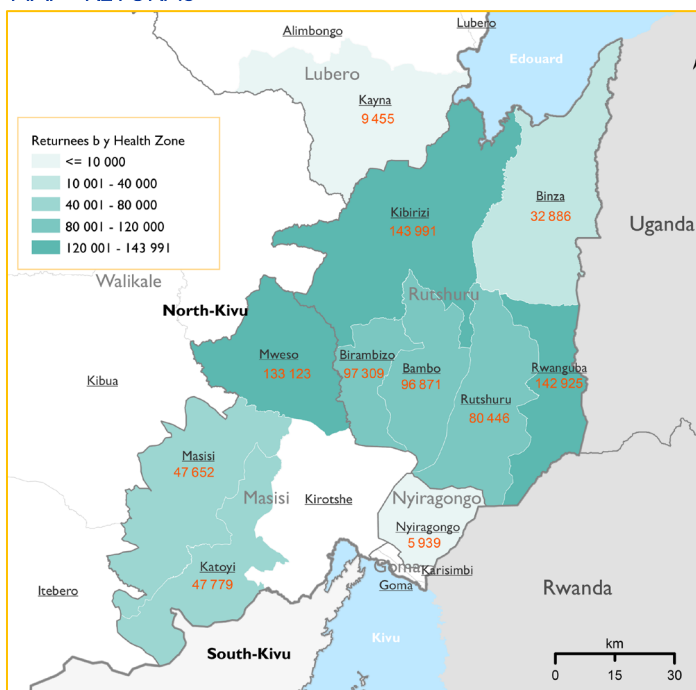
From July 12 to 16, 2024, reported clashes in the Mweso health zone forced the displacement of the local population to the Bashali-Mokoto *groupement* and to villages on the Kalembe-Kalonge, Pinga (Walikale) and Kashuga-Mweso axes. Recurrent clashes between the FARDC and the M23 armed group in the Kirotshe health zone, already a major source of displacement, have led to the largely pre-emptive displacement of people from the villages of Buuli, Burora Kamuhobe and Miyano to the village of Remeka and its surroundings in Masisi territory, and to the villages of Kashonvu, Rweyo, Kuisa, Cholobera and Mpanama in Kalehe territory, South Kivu province.

From July 13 to 15, 2024, clashes intensified in the Tongo, Mutanda and Kihondo *groupements*. These clashes led to the displacement of the population to the villages of Singa, Kasoko, Nyanzale, Bambo, Rushege and Rushovu in the Kihondo, Bambo and Mutanda *groupements* (Rutshuru territory). From July 5 to 19, 2024, a preventive population displacement was observed from villages on the Kanyabayonga-Butembo axis to villages in the Beni territory, to the villages of Kitshombiro and Musindi and to the urban areas of Butembo and Beni.

MAP – DISPLACEMENT



MAP - RETURNS



RETURN OF THE AFFECTED POPULATION

The results of the evaluation of returns linked to the M23 crisis carried out between July 5 and 25, 2024 identified a total of 838,376 persons from 168,324 returned households. An increase of 7% was observed during this assessment cycle, compared with the number recorded during the last assessment on July 4, 2024. This trend is mainly observed in the Rutshuru and Lubero territories.

Most of these returnees had already been displaced by the intensification of fighting in the villages of Miriki and Kirumba, as well as the Cité de Kanyabayonga in Lubero territory. This increase has been reported in areas now under the control of the M23 armed group. The majority of households who had not received assistance in the areas of displacement, returned. These returns were motivated by the lack of resources to maintain their displacement situation, and the belief that the situation had improved in their home region despite the ongoing conflict.

DEMOGRAPHICS

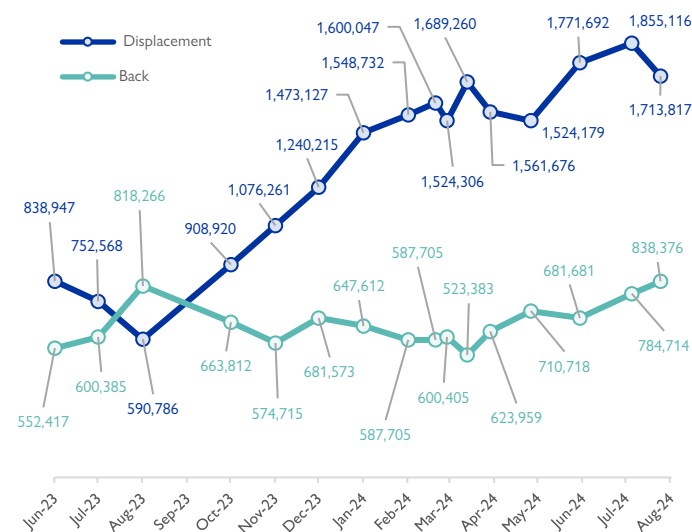
The assessment covered a total of 6,325 villages. Returnees were identified in 797 villages. Males and Females make up 40% and 60% of the displaced population respectively. Children aged 0 to 5 account for around 15%. The average size of displaced households assessed was 4.3 individuals. Males and Females comprise 44% and 56% of the returnee population respectively. Children aged 0 to 5 account for around 18%.

PERCEPTION OF PRIORITY NEEDS

Access to essential resources such as food, shelter and healthcare are the main needs expressed, 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 their affected communities to survive.



Changes in the displaced and returnee population (individuals) since June 2023



ACCESSIBILITY

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