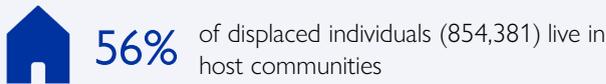
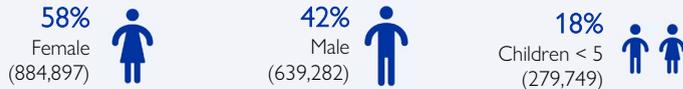
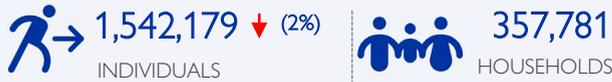
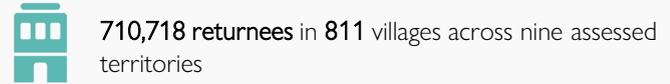
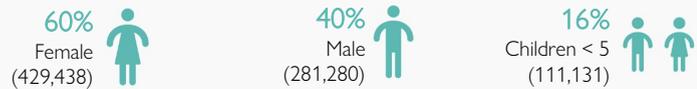


The DTM has identified **1,524,179** IDP individuals as of 26 April 2024 and an estimated returnee population of **710,718** individuals.

Key displacement data



Key data on returns



CONTEXT

In the eastern region of the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), particularly in North Kivu province, a prolonged and increasingly complex conflict persists, characterized by the presence of numerous armed groups, including the M23 group and the Congolese Armed Forces (FARDC) and their respective allies. Since the beginning of this year, the M23 has been advancing in the eastern part of the DRC, particularly towards Goma, which serves as the capital of North Kivu. Recent actions by the M23 continue to suggest their intention to take control of Goma, potentially marking their second occupation of the city after a brief period of control in 2012.

The rise in violent activity in the region has seen a dramatic increase in the use of explosives, tactics of remote violence and direct engagements. This alarming escalation has resulted in the continuous large-scale displacement of civilians and an increase in casualties attributed to shelling and various forms of attack. In particular, the ongoing conflict has led to a significant number of displacements, with civilians bearing the brunt of this growing violence. In addition, allegations of Rwandan support for the M23 rebellion have further complicated the already delicate regional dynamics. These accusations have not only heightened diplomatic tensions but have also strained relations between the neighbouring countries. Despite widespread calls for a peaceful resolution to the conflict from regional and international actors, the efforts of peacekeepers and local leaders to facilitate dialogue and negotiate a ceasefire have been largely unsuccessful.

From March 29 to April 26, the context in and around the city of Goma is one of increased criminality, at a time when the city and surrounding displacement sites are subject to a shortage of resources and economic opportunities, coupled with a proliferation of weapons. The territories of Masisi (Mfunyi-Shanga, Kamuronza, Bashali-Mokoto, Mfunyi-Kibabi groupements) and Rutshuru (Kanyabayonga and Mutanda groupements) were most affected by intense spontaneous fighting on several front lines.

Since the onset of the crisis, the International Organization for Migration (IOM), through the Displacement Tracking Matrix (DTM) continues to conduct a series of rapid assessments, including Emergency Tracking (EET/ERM), Crisis Analysis and Registration activities, addressing 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 29 March to 26 April 2024.

DISPLACEMENT

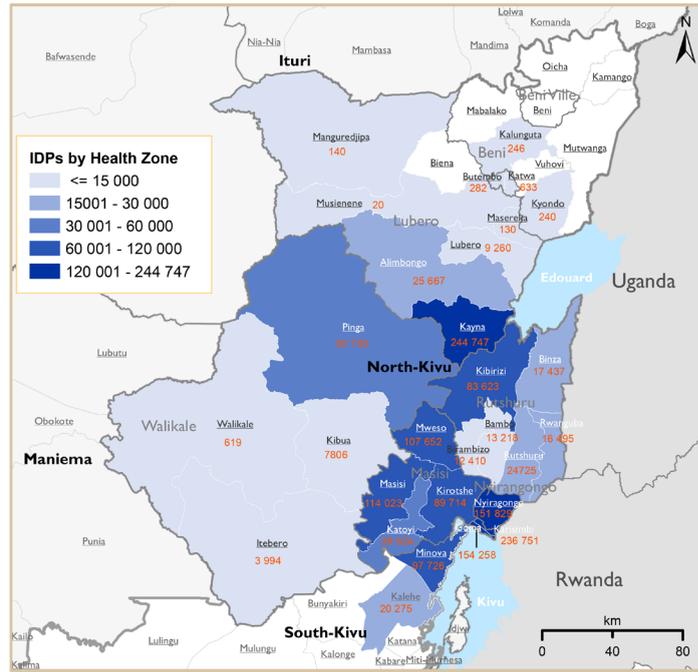
The displacement data collected in this eighteenth crisis analysis shows a decrease in the number of people displaced by the M23 crisis compared with the previous publication ([see report](#)). The number of displaced people decreased from 1,561,676 on 29 March 2024 to 1,524,179 on 26 April 2024 ([detailed data here](#)). This 2% decrease is due to clashes in villages already emptied of their populations in the Kamuronza and Mfunyi-Shanga groupements, and on the Kibirizi and Rwindi axes in Rutshuru territory. A large number of people displaced by the fighting in Rutshuru and Masisi territories are already displaced from their region of origin, and are therefore counted as secondary displacements.

Although the majority of displaced people are in host communities, displacement sites continue to host a significant proportion (44%) of displaced people. Some sites offer temporary shelter and basic assistance, but most fail to respond adequately to the needs of those affected. These sites are often overcrowded and struggle to provide essential services such as security, drinking water, food and sanitation, compounding the hardships of the displaced.

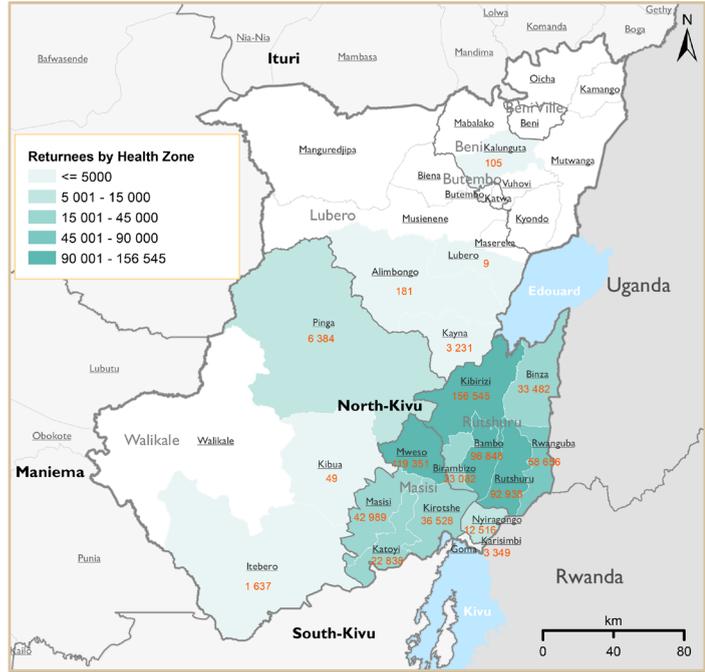
Type of Location	Households	Individuals	Male	Female
Host Community	166,268	854,381	359,685	494,696
Sites - Non CCCM	37,882	179,952	70,695	109,257
Sites - CCCM	153,631	489,846	208,902	280,944
<b>Total</b>	<b>357,781</b>	<b>1,524,179</b>	<b>639,282</b>	<b>884,897</b>

From April 09 to 23, fighting between the FARDC and its allies and the M23 group took place in the Masisi territory (Mfunyi-Kibabi groupement). This situation, together with the continuation of fighting from April 9 to 10 in the vicinity of the town of Bihambwe (Katoyi Health Zone), led to pendular movements of the population from surrounding villages. From April 13 to 16, intense fighting around Sake in the Kamuronza groupement and in the hills above Bweremana (Ndumba, Kabase, Kiluku). Most of the fighting took place in an area that had been largely emptied of its population. From April 22 to 23, clashes intensified in the village of Bweru en (Bashali-Mokoto groupement), forcing the population to move to neighboring villages (Kivuye, Bibwe) and the Mweso health zone.

**MAP - DISPLACEMENT**



**MAP - RETURNS**

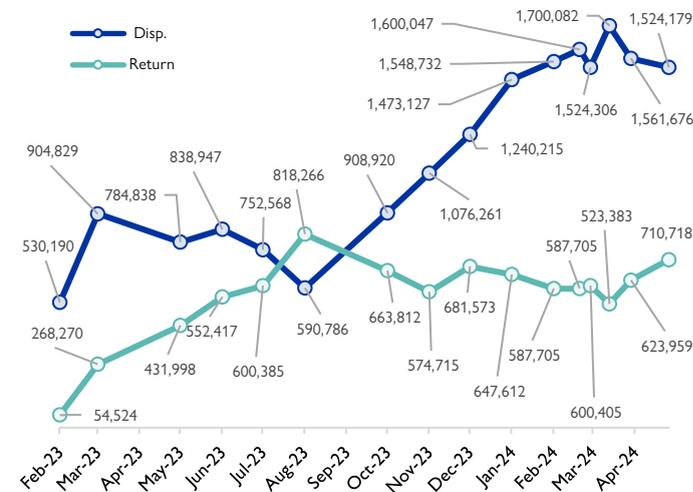


**RETURN OF AFFECTED POPULATION**

The results of the M23 crisis-related displacement assessments carried out between March 29 and April 26, 2024 have identified a total of 710,718 returnees (145,700 households). The number of returnees increased by 14% compared with the number recorded during the last assessment on March 29, 2024. This trend can be seen mainly in the Masisi and Rutsuru territories, in the Bashali-Mokoto (Mweso, Muhongozi, Kashuga, Kalembe, Kitchanga) and Bashali-Kahembe (Burungu, Kabalekasha, Nyamitaba) groupements in Masisi territory, and in the Mutanda, Tongo and Bambo groupements in Rutshuru territory.

Poor living conditions, lack of assistance in areas of displacement, a relative improvement in the security situation in villages of origin, and the negative consequences of continued displacement are the main reasons cited for return.

**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 severely affected the main roads surrounding Goma and its neighbouring areas, making them impassable. Such obstruction has severely hampered the movement of civilians, the transport of goods and the delivery of crucial humanitarian aid. The recent capture of the town of Shasha by the M23 group on 3 February 2024 has further exacerbated the situation. As a result, traffic along the route connecting Goma and Bukavu has ground to a halt. This is the fourth blockade of the main food supply route from Goma, following previous blockades on the Goma-Rutshuru axis, the Sake-Kitshanga Mweso axis and the central Sake-Masisi axis. This situation continues to restrict access to essential services for the population affected by the violence, creating a dangerous environment for civilians and humanitarian workers in Goma.

**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 19 per cent. The average size of displaced households assessed is 4.3 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 16 per cent.