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United Nations Organization Stabilization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo

Report of the Secretary-General

I. Introduction

1. The present report, submitted pursuant to paragraph 47 of Security Council resolution [2717 \(2023\)](#), covers developments in the Democratic Republic of the Congo from 20 June to 19 September 2024. It describes the progress and challenges in the implementation of the mandate of the United Nations Organization Stabilization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (MONUSCO).

II. Political developments

2. Political dynamics during the reporting period were marked by the start of activities of the new Government, the election of the permanent bureau of the Senate, tensions within the political majority and opposition, the trial against leaders of Alliance Fleuve Congo (AFC) and Mouvement du 23 mars (M23) and renewed efforts to de-escalate tensions between the Democratic Republic of the Congo and Rwanda.

3. On 30 June, the President of the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Félix Tshisekedi, addressed the nation on the occasion of the sixty-fourth anniversary of the country's independence. In his speech, he reiterated that the defence of the country and the security of its population remained his priority and announced plans to support the diversification of the economy, significant investments in infrastructure, services and the mining sector, and plans to audit public accounts and consolidate foreign exchange reserves.

4. Following two postponements for administrative and security reasons, the Senate elected its permanent bureau on 12 August. The former Prime Minister, Jean-Michel Sama Lukonde, was elected president of the Senate, defeating two candidates backed by factions of Union pour la démocratie et le progrès social. For the post of deputy rapporteur – the only seat allocated to the opposition – a candidate representing Ensemble pour la République, Salomon Kalonda, was defeated by Jean-Claude Baende, an independent candidate widely viewed as aligned with the majority.

5. While some civil society actors called for the completion of the remaining elections, particularly at the local level, the Independent National Electoral Commission postponed these *sine die*, citing financial challenges. Meanwhile, national and provincial legislative elections remain foreseen on 5 October in Masisi and Rutshuru territories, where elections could not be held in December 2023 owing to insecurity and the presence of M23.



6. Coordinated diplomatic efforts remained crucial in de-escalating tensions between the Democratic Republic of the Congo and Rwanda, despite strained relations. On 15 July, during its 1222nd meeting, the Peace and Security Council of the African Union reiterated that the Nairobi and Luanda processes remained the viable frameworks for conflict resolution and called for their strengthening. The Peace and Security Council also requested technical support from the African Union Commission for these processes and for the convening of a second quadripartite meeting to harmonize efforts.

7. On 30 July, in Luanda, the Minister of State for Foreign Affairs, International Cooperation and Francophonie of the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Thérèse Kayikwamba Wagner, and the Minister for Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation of Rwanda, Olivier Nduhungirehe, met under the auspices of the President of Angola, João Lourenço, the African Union-designated facilitator. The meeting culminated in a ceasefire agreement which came into effect on 4 August, to be supervised by a reinforced ad hoc verification mechanism. The Ministers also agreed on the operationalization of a plan to neutralize the Forces démocratiques de libération du Rwanda (FDLR), and the development of a plan for the disengagement of forces. On 7 and 8 August, technical delegations from both countries met in Luanda to discuss the operationalization of the reinforced mechanism and both plans. A MONUSCO team was also invited to Luanda from 7 to 9 August to discuss the modalities of the Mission's support to the mechanism. On 11 and 12 August, the President of Angola, Mr. Lourenço, visited Kigali and Kinshasa, where he met with the President of Rwanda, Paul Kagame, and the President of the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Mr. Tshisekedi, respectively, to present a proposal for a peace agreement to both parties. On 20 and 21 August, the Ministers for Foreign Affairs of Angola, the Democratic Republic of the Congo and Rwanda met in Luanda to discuss the proposed peace agreement, which was followed by a meeting of intelligence experts of the three countries, held on 29 and 30 August in Rubavu, Rwanda. The fourth ministerial meeting, initially scheduled for 9 and 10 September, was held on 14 September and served to continue discussions on the plans for the neutralization of FDLR and the disengagement of forces.

8. On 1 August, following the ceasefire agreement on 30 July, which followed the humanitarian truce of 5 July, facilitated by the United States of America, AFC declared that it did not consider itself bound by the ceasefire, since it had not participated in the meeting. The politico-military alliance, of which M23 is a key member, asserted that the conflict could only be resolved through direct political dialogue with the Government of the Democratic Republic of the Congo. On 24 and 25 August, AFC accused the Government of exploiting the ceasefire by deploying troops near areas controlled by AFC/M23 and violating AFC/M23 airspace, calling the actions an “unacceptable provocation”. In response, on 26 August, the 33rd regiment of the Armed Forces of the Democratic Republic of the Congo dismissed these allegations as “public manipulation”, clarifying that weather conditions had prevented any flights by the Armed Forces of the Democratic Republic of the Congo or by partners over North Kivu during the specified time frame. On 8 September, AFC/M23 issued a communiqué accusing the “Kinshasa coalition” of targeting civilian populations in Nyamitabo, North Kivu Province.

9. On 8 August, following a trial in Kinshasa, AFC political leader Corneille Nangaa and 25 other leaders of AFC and M23 were convicted of terrorism, war crimes and high treason. Most of the defendants were tried in absentia and sentenced to death. Earlier, on 25 and 26 July, respectively, the United States and the European Union had imposed sanctions on AFC and Mr. Nangaa. The United States also sanctioned Bertrand Bisimwa, the political leader of M23 (also sanctioned by the European Union) and the deputy military leader of the armed group Twirwaneho. The European

Union also listed additional military leaders of M23, FDLR and the Allied Democratic Forces (ADF), as well as the spokesperson and a commander of an armed group operating under the “Wazalendo” or Volontaires pour la défense de la patrie (VDP) label.

10. Meanwhile, on 30 August, the High Representative of the President of the Democratic Republic of the Congo for the Nairobi and Luanda processes, Serge Tshibangu, was replaced by Sumbu Sita Mambu, as new High Representative for the Luanda process and regional economic organizations.

11. The Mission also continued to provide good offices and technical advice to senior government officials to strengthen State control over key mineral supply chains in the east of the country, including by improving traceability systems for gold and other minerals, such as tin, tantalum and tungsten.

III. Security situation

12. During the reporting period, MONUSCO recorded 440 security incidents in Ituri and North Kivu resulting in 663 civilians reportedly killed, including 104 women and 50 children, and 229 civilians injured, including 26 women and 41 children. Reportedly, ADF remained the main perpetrators of violence against civilians (342 civilians killed in North Kivu and Ituri combined), followed by the Coopérative pour le développement du Congo (CODECO) (71 civilians killed in Ituri). In Ituri, the conflict between CODECO and Zaïre over territorial control and mining sites continued. In the Rutshuru and Lubero territories of North Kivu, M23 further expanded its presence, despite a month-long humanitarian truce in July and the ceasefire beginning on 4 August. While the ceasefire between the Rwanda Defence Force and the Armed Forces of the Democratic Republic of the Congo military forces largely held, clashes between M23 and other armed groups persisted during the reporting period.

13. Following the withdrawal of MONUSCO from South Kivu, the security situation remained fragile. Shelling from M23 positions in North Kivu persisted, triggering heightened mobilization by local armed groups operating under the Wazalendo label, while local armed groups from North Kivu continued to move into South Kivu. In the Hauts Plateaux of Mwenga territory, between 16 and 19 August, Twirwaneho combatants attacked the Armed Forces of the Democratic Republic of the Congo twice in Bijombo community (Bavira chiefdom, Uvira territory), resulting in three personnel of the Armed Forces of the Democratic Republic of the Congo and one member of Twirwaneho being killed and two personnel of the Armed Forces of the Democratic Republic of the Congo being injured.

Ituri Province

14. In Ituri, MONUSCO recorded 113 security incidents during the reporting period, mostly involving CODECO, Zaïre and ADF. In total, 195 civilians were reportedly killed, including 41 women and 11 children. A total of 29 civilians reportedly sustained injuries, including 5 women and 1 child, and at least 134 civilians were abducted, including 19 women and 23 children.

15. In Djugu and Mahagi territories, CODECO and Zaïre continued retaliatory attacks targeting both armed elements and civilians along ethnic lines within their respective areas of influence, and over gold-rich areas. In western Djugu territory, on 20 June, CODECO attacked the Bianda mining site, reportedly killing five civilians (including two women, two men and one child). The following day, Zaïre allegedly retaliated in Gbata village, leading to further CODECO attacks against Lodjo and

neighbouring villages, resulting in 21 civilians (including 4 women and 3 children) killed. On 3 July, CODECO launched an incursion into the Mambeu mining site, killing eight men, including six foreign nationals.

16. In Irumu and Mambasa territories, ADF further expanded its areas of operation north of the Komanda-Mambasa road, and on the Mambasa-Biakato road, resulting in at least 84 civilians killed, including 12 women. Clashes with the Armed Forces of the Democratic Republic of the Congo resulted in significant casualties. Joint operations by the Uganda People's Defence Forces and the Armed Forces of the Democratic Republic of the Congo, as part of Operation Shujaa, continued in Irumu, with MONUSCO establishing a temporary base to protect civilians. The resumption of ground operations as part of Operation Shujaa allowed ADF to expand their geographical footprint, including by moving their headquarters north of the Komanda-Mambasa road.

North Kivu Province

17. In North Kivu, MONUSCO recorded 327 security incidents, mostly involving ADF and M23. In total, 468 civilians were reportedly killed, including 63 women and 39 children, while a further 200 civilians sustained injuries, including 21 women and 40 children, and at least 235 civilians were abducted, including 10 women and 30 children.

18. In Beni and Lubero territories, ADF attacks on civilians claimed at least 264 lives, including 33 women and 1 child. During the reporting period, ADF made unprecedented advances into Lubero, expanding into gold-rich areas, exacerbating both security and socioeconomic tensions. This situation has also led to the proliferation of local armed groups claiming to counter ADF, including the arrival of the Nduma défense du Congo-Rénové faction led by "General" Guidon Shimiray Mwissa in the area of operation in late July. On 22 August in Butembo, the coordination of Wazalendo groups claimed that it had recruited more than 500 young persons to mobilize them against M23, arguing that they were not bound by the ceasefire.

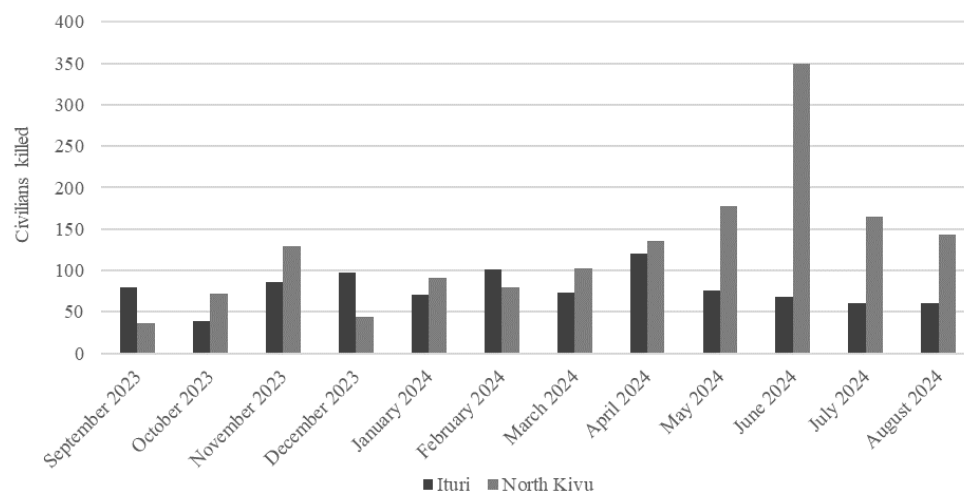
19. During the reporting period, the area under M23 control increased by 21 per cent. On 28 June, M23 seized the strategic location of Kanyobagonga in northern Rutshuru and advanced to Kaseghe in Lubero territory, prompting the Armed Forces of the Democratic Republic of the Congo to withdraw to Alimbongo. In the subsequent days, tens of thousands of internally displaced persons returned to Kanyobagonga, Kirumba and Kayna, now under M23 control. The humanitarian truce declared on 5 July and extended on 17 July for another 15 days saw no major frontline shifts, though sporadic violations, including indirect fire exchange in Bweremana, Masisi territory, resulted in the deaths of six civilians, including four children, on 15 and 16 July. On 2 August, clashes also erupted between Nyatura-Abazungu and M23 around Bibwe in Masisi territory, where M23 expanded its control. M23 consolidated its control, focusing on political outreach, recruitment, training, taxation and administration mechanisms, as well as targeting FDLR and associated Nyatura groups. On 3 and 4 August, M23 took control of Nyamilima, Ishasha and Nyakakoma in north-eastern Rutshuru bordering Uganda, and on 25 August, the group expanded its control over Kikuvu, west of Lake Edward. However, as at 8 September, none of the clashes recorded appeared to significantly threaten the ceasefire.

20. M23 also consolidated its control over the coltan mining area near Rubaya in Masisi territory, estimated to produce over 15 per cent of the global supply of tantalum. The armed group established a tax on production, which is estimated to generate \$300,000 in monthly revenue. Despite the observed high levels of mining

activity in the sites, their production is not included in official Congolese exports, highlighting a severe risk of cross-border smuggling.

Figure I

Reported killing of civilians in armed group-related incidents by province, September 2023–August 2024



Source: MONUSCO/Joint Operations Centre/Situational Awareness Geospatial Enterprise.

IV. Human rights situation

A. United Nations Joint Human Rights Office in the Democratic Republic of the Congo

21. During the reporting period, 1,092 human rights violations and abuses were documented across the country. Of these, 942 violations and abuses were documented in conflict-affected provinces, with 64 per cent attributed to armed groups. Among them, it was reported that ADF was responsible for the greatest number of abuses (137), followed by M23 (134), various Mai-Mai groups and factions (103) and CODECO (50). The abuses reportedly committed by ADF resulted in the highest number of victims (728: 372 men, 201 victims of unknown gender and age, 114 women, 25 girls and 16 boys). Of the 466 violations reportedly committed by State actors, the Armed Forces of the Democratic Republic of the Congo were reportedly responsible for most of the violations (218), followed by the Congolese National Police (156), other State agents (67), and the Armed Forces of the Democratic Republic of the Congo jointly with other State agents (9). At least 696 people (424 men, 125 victims of unknown gender and age, 121 women, 16 boys, 6 children of unknown gender and 4 girls) were killed by armed groups, allegedly by ADF (467), M23 (71), CODECO (61) and Mai-Mai factions (36), among others. State actors were reportedly responsible for the summary or extrajudicial execution of 346 persons (319 men, 21 women, 4 girls, 1 boy and 1 child of unknown gender). At least 227 men and 2 women died in detention following human rights violations, including 150 men and 2 women during a riot in Makala central prison, in Kinshasa.

22. In North Kivu, the advance of M23 triggered reprisals by Mai-Mai groups and factions against civilians and humanitarian workers, who were allegedly falsely accused of collaborating with M23. On 30 June, a humanitarian convoy was attacked by local armed elements and civilians near Butembo, resulting in the deaths of two humanitarian workers and the burning of vehicles, subsequently triggering the

suspension of humanitarian assistance in the area. ADF also intensified its attacks against civilians, expanding into Lubero territory. During the reporting period, MONUSCO confirmed that at least 109 civilians had been killed, reportedly by ADF, in various villages across northern and south-western Beni territory between 4 and 10 June. In Ituri, CODECO and ADF armed elements allegedly continued to commit rape, often accompanied by the killing of the victims, with 47 per cent of the rape incidents being followed by killing.

23. Eight human rights violations and abuses related to restrictions of civic space were reported: four were attributed to State actors, three to armed groups and one to foreign armed forces, allegedly the Burundi National Defence Force in Uvira territory, South Kivu Province, involving ill-treatment. These violations and abuses affected 18 male victims. The risk of harassment against lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer and intersex persons increased following a requisition to the public prosecutor at the Court of Cassation to investigate and arrest individuals “promoting homosexuality”. One activist has been in hiding since June after an arrest warrant was issued by a prosecutor in Bukavu.

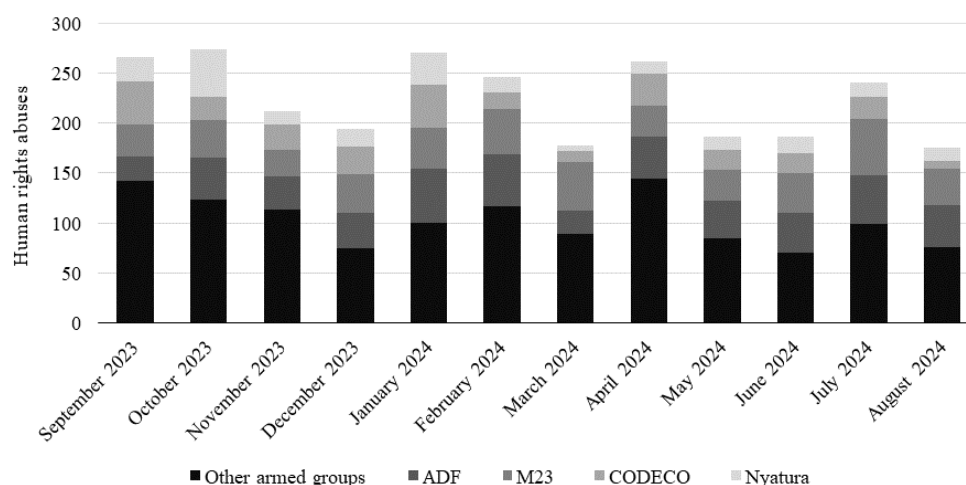
24. The United Nations Joint Human Rights Office documented the death of at least 26 men in detention, primarily due to insufficient food and inadequate access to medical treatment.

25. On 2 September, in the early hours of the morning, Congolese defence and security forces opened fire on groups of male prisoners moving through the courtyard towards the external perimeter at Makala central prison, as they attempted to escape following an electricity blackout. Some prisoners proceeded to the women’s wing and reportedly raped at least 269 women prisoners, resulting in the death of at least one woman. About 200 inmates were reported dead, with at least 29 killed by gunfire and 300 injured. Congolese defence and security forces restored order on the same day. The Minister State, Minister of Justice and Keeper of the Seals, Constant Mutamba, announced that investigations were ongoing, and on 9 September, the President, Mr. Tshisekedi, opened an official commission of inquiry into the events.

26. Since the moratorium on the use of the death penalty was lifted in February, military judicial authorities have issued at least 128 death sentences, including, as of last available data, at least 52 in North Kivu, 1 in South Kivu, 37 in Kinshasa and 6 in Kasai Oriental. None of these sentences, currently under appeal, had been carried out at the time of reporting.

27. As at 31 August, with the technical assistance and logistical support of the United Nations Joint Human Rights Office and MONUSCO, 80 alleged perpetrators of international crimes and gross human rights violations and abuses had been prosecuted and 70 had been convicted, including 14 for conflict-related sexual violence.

Figure II
Human rights abuses attributed to armed groups, by alleged perpetrator, September 2023–August 2024

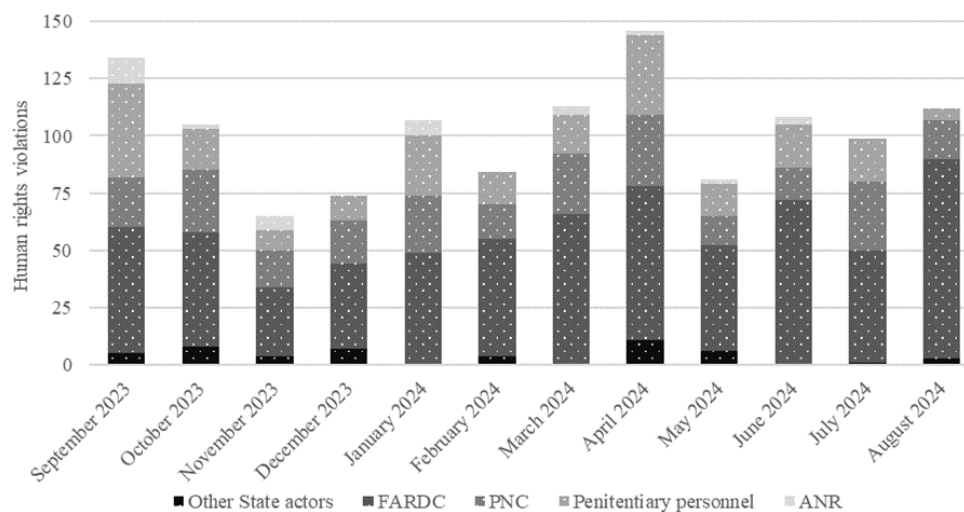


Source: MONUSCO/United Nations Joint Human Rights Office.

Note: Includes violations and abuses across conflict-affected provinces.

Abbreviations: ADF, Allied Democratic Forces; CODECO, Coopérative pour le développement du Congo; M23, Mouvement du 23 mars.

Figure III
Human rights violations attributed to State actors, by alleged perpetrator, September 2023–August 2024



Source: MONUSCO/United Nations Joint Human Rights Office.

Note: Includes violations and abuses across conflict-affected provinces.

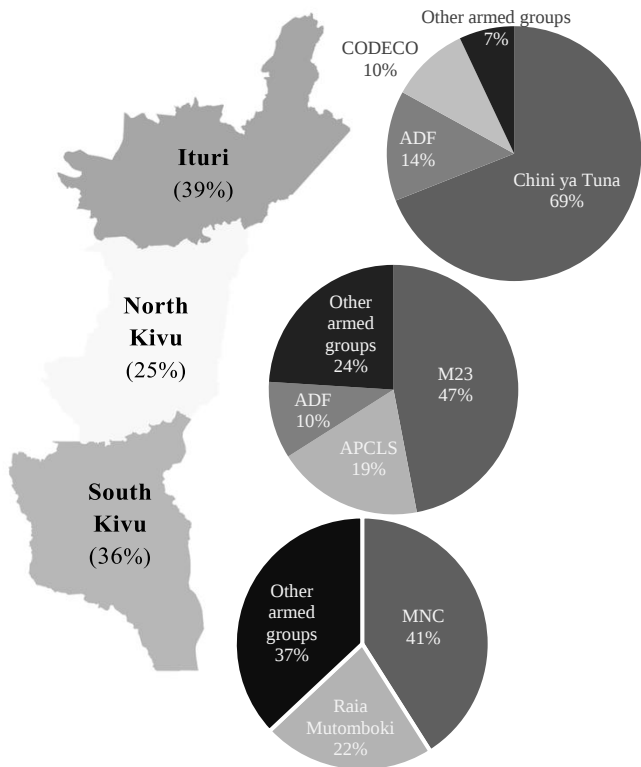
Abbreviations: ANR, Agence nationale de renseignements; FARDC, Armed Forces of the Democratic Republic of the Congo; PNC, Congolese National Police.

B. Child protection

28. Between 20 June and 31 August, MONUSCO and the United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF) verified 336 grave violations of children’s rights against 285 children (203 boys and 82 girls), including abduction (127), killing and maiming (66), recruitment and use (106), sexual violence (32), attack against a hospital (4) and the denial of humanitarian access (1). The violations were mainly attributed to M23 and to 14 other armed groups, while seven cases of sexual violence and four cases of killing (2) and maiming (2) were attributed to the Armed Forces of the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

29. During the reporting period, MONUSCO, in collaboration with the Armed Forces of the Democratic Republic of the Congo and UNICEF, conducted age-screening exercises on 46 candidates for recruitment to the Armed Forces and verified that 20 of the candidates were minors, including one girl, who were separated prior to their formal recruitment and were handed over to non-governmental organization partners for interim care.

Figure IV
Grave violations against children in armed conflict, by alleged perpetrator, verified in April–June 2024



Source: MONUSCO/Child Protection Section.

Note: The boundaries shown and the designations used on this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by the United Nations. Armed groups, including the ones identified above, were reportedly responsible for the majority of the grave violations.

Abbreviations: ADF, Allied Democratic Forces; APCLS, Alliance des patriotes pour un Congo libre et souverain; CODECO, Coopérative pour le développement du Congo; M23, Mouvement du 23 mars; MNC, Mouvement national congolais.

30. Between 20 June and 31 July, at the invitation of the Armed Forces of the Democratic Republic of the Congo under the framework of the implementation of the joint action plan signed by the United Nations and the Democratic Republic of the Congo to prevent the recruitment and use of children and other grave violations, MONUSCO and UNICEF conducted age assessments of 1,307 candidates (including 21 women) for recruitment into the armed forces, 46 of whom were verified to be children (all boys) and excluded from recruitment.

C. Gender and conflict-related sexual violence

31. Intensified fighting in the eastern provinces dramatically heightened the vulnerability of women and girls to conflict-related sexual violence, including potential cases of trafficking in persons for the purpose of sexual exploitation, in and around sites for internally displaced persons. During the reporting period, the United Nations Joint Human Rights Office documented cases of conflict-related sexual violence against 74 individuals in North Kivu, South Kivu, Ituri, Tanganyika and Maniema. Of the total number of individuals, 40 women and 15 girls were survivors of conflict-related sexual violence by armed groups, allegedly committed by M23 (18 women and 3 girls), FDLR (11 women and 1 girl), ADF (2 women and 2 girls), Raia Mutomboki (4 girls), CODECO (3 women and 1 girl), Force de résistance patriotique de l'Ituri (2 girls) and Nyatura (6 women and 2 girls). State actors were allegedly responsible for cases of conflict-related sexual violence against at least 15 survivors (10 women and 5 girls), namely the Armed Forces of the Democratic Republic of the Congo (5 women and 5 girls), the Congolese National Police (4 girls) and other State agents (1 girl). Access and security constraints inhibited the verification of such abuses, however, with many cases unreported.

V. Humanitarian situation

32. The displacement crisis in the Democratic Republic of the Congo remains one of the largest in the world. According to the latest data available and validated with provincial authorities, following the annual Displacement Tracking Matrix exercise conducted by the International Organization for Migration, over 6.4 million people were displaced by armed conflicts and natural hazards in the Democratic Republic of the Congo as at 31 July.

33. The complex humanitarian situation has been further aggravated by epidemics, particularly the outbreak of mpox, which the World Health Organization (WHO) declared a public health emergency of international concern on 14 August. As at 7 September, more than 21,221 suspected cases of mpox, 5,062 confirmed cases and over 644 deaths caused by the disease have been recorded in the country, with an alarming increase in infections among children.

34. Grave violations of international humanitarian law, including attacks on sites for internally displaced persons and public infrastructure, remained a serious concern. Among other incidents, on 18 July, a shell landed near the sites of Muchibwe and Bugeru, South Kivu. On 25 August, ADF attacked a health centre in Mambasa territory, Ituri. As at 31 July, 211 schools were either occupied or used as shelters for internally displaced persons, thereby disrupting education for over 89,000 children in Ituri, North Kivu, South Kivu, Kwilu and Tshopo Provinces.

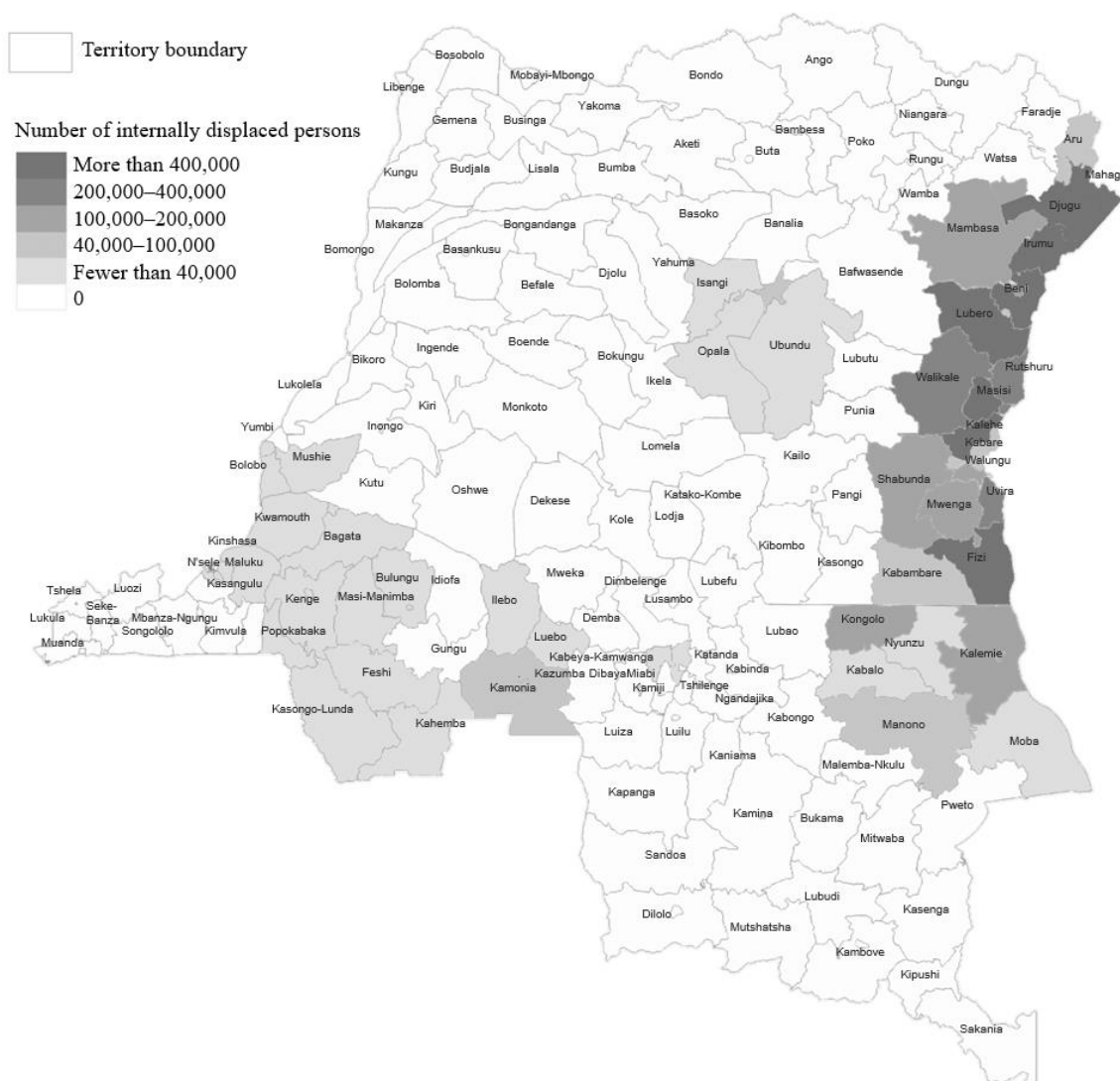
35. In North Kivu, the humanitarian truce and subsequent ceasefire negotiated by Angola contributed to a relative reduction in the number of clashes and the level of violence, which improved conditions for humanitarian access. Humanitarian activities resumed between Sake (North Kivu) and Minova (South Kivu), as well as

on key routes in Lubero territory. In August, around 380,000 persons reportedly returned to their areas of origin in North Kivu. In the western part of the country, armed violence has led to over 590 casualties since January 2024 in the provinces of Mai-Ndombe, Kwilu, Kwango and Kinshasa. As at 31 July, more than 219,000 persons were internally displaced following these tensions, while humanitarian access remained severely hampered and underresourced.

36. As at 5 September, the humanitarian response plan for the Democratic Republic of Congo, budgeted at \$2.6 billion, was funded at 37.4 per cent (\$964 million), which allowed for humanitarian partners to provide emergency and life-saving assistance to 4.2 million people from January to July 2024.

Figure V

Internally displaced population by territory, July 2024



Source: Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs.

Note: The boundaries shown and the designations used on this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by the United Nations. Only territory names are annotated.

VI. Women and peace and security

37. On 25 and 26 June, in Kinshasa, MONUSCO, the International Republican Institute and the International Foundation for Electoral Systems organized a workshop on the participation of women in local and partial legislative elections, with a view to fostering inclusive decentralization. The Mission, the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women), the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and civil society organizations also supported civil society organizations in the development of a strategic road map that was focused on capacity-building, advocacy regarding gender reforms, coordination between women's networks and streamlined communication with financial and technical partners.

38. The Ministry of Gender, Family and Children, supported by MONUSCO, UN-Women and UNDP, continued to carry out the evaluation of its second-generation national action plan on the implementation of Security Council resolution [1325 \(2000\)](#) on women and peace and security, and the development of its third-generation plan, for the period 2024–2028.

39. On 9 July 2024, the Minister for Gender, Family and Children presented the Government's vision to advance gender equality, break the cycle of gender-based violence and discrimination, and strengthen women's leadership. The vision is focused on the promotion of positive masculinity and the protection of the rights of families and children.

VII. Implementation of mandated priorities

A. Protection of civilians

40. MONUSCO continued to implement its protection of civilians mandate through a multidimensional, three-tiered approach incorporating protection through dialogue and engagement, the provision of physical protection and the establishment of a protective environment, complemented by strategies tailored to each province and local protection plans. Engagement with women and young people was mainstreamed throughout the Mission's approach to the protection of civilians. MONUSCO continued to face significant challenges to mandate implementation, including restrictions of movement in North Kivu.

41. Between 20 June and 7 August, the MONUSCO community alert network received 310 alerts from Ituri and North Kivu. State security forces, MONUSCO and humanitarian actors responded to 79 per cent of the alerts. Efforts continue to enhance the early warning system, including by designating additional community alert network focal points in vulnerable areas that are prone to attacks by armed groups.

42. In Ituri, the Mission provided robust physical protection by deploying proactive and reactive patrols in response to alerts, to intercede in ongoing incidents or to prevent imminent attacks by armed groups. During the reporting period, three mobile operating bases were temporarily deployed in Bali, Dhendro and Tchomia, in Djugu territory, with one standing combat deployment in Idohu, Irumu territory to address attacks by armed groups against civilians. On 9 and 16 July, CODECO combatants retreated upon encountering MONUSCO patrols.

43. The Mission continued to support ongoing peace processes through robust patrols, local dialogue and confidence-building measures. On 29 and 30 June, the Armed Forces of the Democratic Republic of the Congo and MONUSCO conducted an operation in Madombo and Itendey, Djugu territory, against Zaïre and CODECO

combatants, signatories of an acte d'engagement to cease hostilities, in order to encourage their adherence to those terms. The Mission facilitated several dialogues between community leaders to resolve land-related disputes, lift roadblocks, release abducted persons, keep market spaces open and build trust between State security forces and communities. For example, on 23 July, MONUSCO facilitated a dialogue involving over 150 representatives of the Hema and Lendu communities in Laudjo, Djugu territory, so as to strengthen social cohesion and reduce intercommunal tensions.

44. In North Kivu, MONUSCO continued to maintain blocking positions in Sake and north of Goma, protecting civilians in and around its temporary operating bases in Kiwanja, Kitchanga and Kanyabayonga, in M23-controlled territory. MONUSCO also engaged with military commanders and leaders of armed groups, including Volontaires pour la défense de la patrie (under the label of Wazalendo), on human rights, child protection and international humanitarian law, including on the civilian character of displaced persons sites.

45. From 8 July to 9 August, the MONUSCO police component provided training to 36 officers of the Congolese National Police (including 3 women) on security at sites for internally displaced persons sites, with a focus on addressing sexual and gender-based violence, and further provided training to 120 police officers (including 34 women) on judicial investigative techniques. Most sessions were focused on the training of trainers, in order to facilitate the transfer of knowledge and competencies.

46. Between 14 July and 5 September, MONUSCO, through the Mine Action Service, conducted 15 explosive ordnance spot tasks, destroying 16 explosive remnants of war. Some 46 civilians (6 men, 40 women) received training on explosive ordnance and improvised explosive device awareness. In addition, from 5 to 9 August, 16 national police officers were trained in explosive device detection in Goma. On 29 August, the National Authority for Mine Action, in partnership with the Mine Action Service, presented the results of a survey carried out in North Kivu, South Kivu and Ituri. The survey encompassed 23,521 m² suspected and confirmed landmine-contaminated areas. This brings the total surveyed area in the Democratic Republic of the Congo to 345,618 m², with 0 suspected landmine hazardous areas registered in the national database.

47. The Mission continued to ensure compliance with the human rights due diligence policy on United Nations support to non-United Nations security forces. During the reporting period, 62 risk assessments were carried out, including the screening of 325 personnel of the Armed Forces of the Democratic Republic of the Congo and national police officers, and mitigating measures were proposed to ensure that MONUSCO support to nine units in conflict-affected provinces would be compliant with human rights. During the reporting period, 13 meetings of the follow-up committees on human rights violations attributable to the Armed Forces of the Democratic Republic of the Congo (6 meetings) and the Congolese National Police (7 meetings) were organized with the support of the United Nations Joint Human Rights Office.

B. Disarmament, demobilization and reintegration

48. MONUSCO continued to support the implementation of the Disarmament, Demobilization, Community Recovery and Stabilization Programme at the national and provincial levels, amid ongoing challenges to programme implementation, including changes in leadership. On 23 July, Abbé Jean-Bosco Bahala was relieved of his functions as national coordinator of the programme by presidential order, resulting in the Deputy National Coordinator for Operations stepping in as Interim National Coordinator.

49. In North Kivu, MONUSCO, in partnership with the Disarmament, Demobilization, Community Recovery and Stabilization Programme, the International Organization for Migration and Swiss Church Aid, continued to implement community reinsertion projects. In Beni territory, 584 individuals, including 150 ex-combatants and 173 women, benefited from employment in labour-intensive work that was focused on road rehabilitation. Community reinsertion projects also included community dialogues, psychosocial support and capacity-building for agricultural cooperatives. From 25 to 27 July, the North Kivu office of the programme and MONUSCO organized a dialogue in Beni, bringing together 90 representatives (including 15 women) from the provincial government, defence and security forces, civil society, customary authorities and members of armed groups. The discussions explored community-based responses to the security situation in Beni and Lubero territories and examined the roles of key governmental instruments, including the Disarmament, Demobilization, Community Recovery and Stabilization Programme and the Armed Defence Reserve, as well as the *Volontaires pour la défense de la patrie*, in addressing the ongoing armed group violence in eastern Democratic Republic of the Congo.

50. MONUSCO also continued to implement 16 community violence reduction projects that directly benefited 2,393 people (1,614 men and 779 women), including 640 ex-combatants, 724 vulnerable community members and children associated with armed groups, as well as 1,029 at-risk young persons.

51. From 7 to 9 August, MONUSCO supported the inaugural meeting of the regional subworking group on disarmament, demobilization, repatriation and reintegration within the framework of the Contact and Coordination Group, facilitated by the Office of the Special Envoy of the Secretary-General for the Great Lakes Region. This new mechanism brings together disarmament, demobilization and reintegration commissions and entities from Burundi, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Rwanda, Uganda and the United Republic of Tanzania to collaborate on non-military strategies to address foreign armed groups operating in eastern Democratic Republic of the Congo.

C. Security sector reform and support to justice system and the fight against impunity

52. From 1 to 6 July, MONUSCO organized a study visit to Dakar for 22 senior representatives from security institutions and civil society, led by the National Security Council. The visit, conducted in collaboration with the United Nations Office for West Africa and the Sahel (UNOWAS), facilitated discussions on security sector reform models with experts from Burkina Faso, the Central African Republic, Côte d'Ivoire, Mali and Senegal, and enabled the formulation of recommendations for national security policy development.

53. On 14 August, the joint programme to support police reform for the period 2024–2028, signed on 5 June, was presented to the new Deputy Prime Minister, Minister of the Interior, Security, Decentralization and Customary Affairs, who pledged Government support for its implementation.

54. On 23 August, the Ministry of Gender, Family and Children and the advisory group on women in security sector reform, supported by MONUSCO and UN-Women, launched an assessment exercise to identify obstacles to the participation of women in the security and justice sectors.

55. On 2 September, MONUSCO supported a workshop that was initiated by the Ministry of Gender, Family and the Children with the Women's Consultative Group,

in collaboration with the University of Kinshasa, on institutional, social and economic barriers that hinder women's meaningful participation in national security institutions and on formulating recommendations for addressing those barriers.

56. From 21 to 30 June, MONUSCO provided technical and financial assistance to military judicial authorities in order to support judicial investigations into alleged ADF attacks that had occurred between December 2021 and April 2023 in Oicha and Mangina, North Kivu Province. Those efforts facilitated interviews with 325 victims and witnesses (297 women and 28 men).

57. From 25 to 29 June, MONUSCO facilitated the training of trainers for 15 judicial actors from Bunia, Beni, Butembo, Goma and Kinshasa to help establish a digital investigation unit within the Office of the Chief Prosecutor for the Armed Forces of the Democratic Republic of the Congo. From 23 to 25 July, the Mission, in collaboration with the non-governmental organization TRIAL International, also supported the High Military Court and the Office of the Chief Prosecutor for the Armed Forces of the Democratic Republic of the Congo in organizing a workshop on partnership in the fight against impunity for serious crimes. This workshop resulted in the preliminary identification of a support scheme to be developed by national authorities for the period after the withdrawal of MONUSCO.

58. On 3 and 4 July, MONUSCO, in collaboration with the Great Lakes Judicial Cooperation Network, and under the patronage of the Minister of Justice, organized a workshop to raise awareness among national, political, administrative and judicial authorities with regard to regional judicial cooperation within the framework of the International Conference on the Great Lakes Region.

59. MONUSCO continued to support national prison authorities in improving safe, secure and humane prison conditions in line with international standards. Through the Joint Justice Reform Support Programme, MONUSCO provided technical and financial assistance to the civilian and military courts for hearings held at Goma prison from 21 June to 16 August. As a result, 91 accused individuals, including 31 children, were convicted of military offences and other offences committed by civilians, and 97 people were released from the prison, including 47 people who were acquitted, among whom were 20 children, 35 individuals sentenced to terms of imprisonment equivalent to the time already served in detention, and 15 children who were reprimanded and returned to their families.

60. From 22 to 27 June, MONUSCO organized four workshops in Bukavu, Beni, Bunia and Kinshasa to raise awareness about Act No. 23/028 setting out the fundamental principles of the prison system, adopted on 15 June 2023. These workshops encouraged penal chain actors to align on reform approaches and address operational challenges in the prison system.

VIII. Gradual, responsible and sustainable withdrawal

A. Update on the implementation of the joint disengagement plan

61. On 30 June, in accordance with Security Council resolution [2717 \(2023\)](#) and in close coordination with the Government of the Democratic Republic of the Congo, the Mission concluded its mandated activities in South Kivu, marking the completion of the first phase of its disengagement. On 25 June, the Prime Minister, Judith Suminwa Tuluka, and the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for the Democratic Republic of the Congo presided over the closing ceremony.

62. Overall, MONUSCO donated 1,769 assets worth \$12.2 million, including 1,160 assets worth \$10 million to national and provincial authorities. The Mission also

transferred a newly constructed helipad and a base in Rutemba, near Uvira, valued at \$1.5 million, to the Armed Forces of the Democratic Republic of the Congo. Essential equipment and infrastructure for aviation (passenger and cargo terminals, portable air traffic control equipment, a weather station and firefighting equipment) were also donated to the air transport authority (Régie des voies aériennes).

63. As part of its disengagement from South Kivu, MONUSCO transferred seven bases and facilities (Baraka, Bukavu, Bunyakiri, Kamanyola, Kavumu, Rutemba and Sange), in addition to 15 installations, to national authorities. While MONUSCO ceased operations in Mikenge, Minembwe and Uvira bases, the transfer to the Armed Forces of the Democratic Republic of the Congo faced some delays, partly due to the in-situ disposal of equipment.

64. As part of its responsible exit strategy, MONUSCO, in collaboration with Congolese authorities, implemented strict environmental protocols in line with United Nations standards. Each base transferred or closed underwent thorough environmental remediation, including hazardous waste disposal and bioremediation so as to mitigate soil contamination. In partnership with the Mine Action Service, MONUSCO safely destroyed 132 tons of unserviceable ammunition in South Kivu.

65. By 28 July, despite challenges related to insecurity and road conditions, MONUSCO had safely repatriated 3,153 uniformed personnel, including 1,979 troops and 320 former police unit personnel from South Kivu, 695 troops from North Kivu, as well as 55 military observers and staff officers and 104 individual police officers from both provinces. In addition, 490 civilian personnel, including individual contractors, were separated from service. A residual team of 43 personnel remains in South Kivu to sustain progress and support United Nations agencies, funds and programmes in maintaining community alert networks, child protection and community dialogue, among other areas of work. The residual team will also facilitate the consolidation of the transferred responsibilities to provincial and national authorities, with a focus on the protection of civilians, the transfer of knowledge and data, and capacity-building. The Mission maintains two premises in South Kivu: one for the residual team and another for the Aviation Unit provided by Pakistan, which is being relocated to Beni.

B. Update on the transition

66. On 22 June, the provincial road map for the transition in South Kivu was signed by the Minister of State for Foreign Affairs, International Cooperation and Francophonie of the Democratic Republic of the Congo and the Special Representative of the Secretary-General. Implementation of the road map, which was developed collaboratively by the provincial authorities, MONUSCO and United Nations agencies, funds and programmes, as well as representatives of international non-governmental organizations and civil society began on 1 July, in parallel with the launching of a United Nations support plan for the transition in South Kivu.

67. Transition planning efforts in North Kivu and Ituri were focused on strengthening national institutions and capacities, particularly regarding the protection of civilians. On 10 July, the provincial integrated transition team in Ituri resumed meetings with the provincial authorities, MONUSCO, United Nations agencies, funds and programmes, and civil society. In North Kivu, the provincial authorities and MONUSCO began revising the terms of reference for the provincial integrated transition team. From 19 to 26 July, the One United Nations Gender Team visited South Kivu, North Kivu and Ituri, to share best practices and lessons learned with the provincial integrated transition teams on how to integrate gender considerations into the transition process.

C. Update on integration and resource mobilization

68. On 10 July and 8 August respectively, the Deputy Special Representative of the Secretary-General and Resident and Humanitarian Coordinator launched the United Nations provincial teams in Ituri and Haut-Katanga. Provincial teams have now been established in Ituri, North Kivu, South Kivu, Haut-Katanga and Kasai, with three more planned by the end of 2024. The provincial teams are designed to formalize development coordination mechanisms at the provincial level, ensuring better alignment and coherence among the United Nations agencies, funds and programmes, as well as with humanitarian and stabilization actors and programmes.

69. During the reporting period, the United Nations transition team and the Resident Coordinator Office completed the costing of priority activities in the United Nations support plan for the transition in South Kivu, totalling \$23 million. Funding is anticipated to be sourced from the Peacebuilding Fund allocation for South Kivu for 2024, MONUSCO programmatic funding and existing resources from United Nations agencies, funds and programmes. On 13 and 14 August, MONUSCO and the Government of the Democratic Republic of the Congo jointly organized an alignment workshop in Bukavu to identify the partnerships and resources available to support implementation of the Government's provincial road map for South Kivu. During the workshop, the Government announced that it would provide over half of the total expected requirements for the implementation of the road map, which has a budget of \$57 million.

70. From 27 May to 26 July, in-depth consultations took place across the country with the judiciary, the Ministry of Justice and the Supreme Judicial Council, as well as with the United Nations system and civil society, in order to advance the elaboration of the new joint programme in support of justice reform. The programme will support the Government in implementing its commitments regarding accessibility of justice, accountability and the fight against impunity and corruption, while tackling the root causes of conflicts.

IX. Mission effectiveness

A. Mission performance

Military component

71. As at 9 September, MONUSCO had deployed 10,171 troops, 7.72 per cent of whom were women, and 452 United Nations military experts on mission, 23 per cent of whom were women, against an authorized strength of 11,500 troops and 600 United Nations military experts on mission. During the reporting period, MONUSCO established three standing combat deployments and conducted 5,401 day patrols, 3,902 night patrols, 394 long-range patrols and missions, 684 joint patrols, 684 escorts and only 4 aerial reconnaissance operations, in part due to an expanded no-fly zone owing to armed groups targeting United Nations aircraft on several occasions.

72. In line with its Action for Peacekeeping Plus commitments, MONUSCO conducted evaluations of 22 military units. A performance improvement plan was developed for each unit.

73. The number of engagement platoons remained at 13, representing 2.4 per cent of the total strength of the Force. Engagement platoons conducted 272 activities, spanning from civil-military to outreach projects and including 101 targeted patrols, compared with 197 total activities during the previous reporting period.

74. The percentage of women among the Mission's military staff officers and military observers remained at 23 per cent, as it was in the previous reporting period. Contingent female participation also saw a slight increase, from 7.69 per cent to 7.72 per cent.

Police component

75. As at 9 September, the MONUSCO police component had deployed 1,357 personnel from 30 contributing countries, comprising 1,048 formed police personnel from six formed police units (including 211 women) and 303 individual police personnel (including 89 women). The overall performance rating of individual police officers remained unchanged, at 80 per cent, compared with the previous reporting period.

76. Formed police units conducted 2,745 quick-response interventions, 169 escorts, 1,759 patrols, 339 joint patrols with individual police officers, 23 joint patrols with the Congolese National Police, 136 joint patrols with individual police officers and the Force, 44 joint patrols with individual police officers, the Congolese National Police and the MONUSCO Force, 10 long-range patrols and 106 patrols around camps and sites for internally displaced persons.

Civilian component

77. As at 9 September, 2,025 civilian personnel (26 per cent women), including 259 United Nations Volunteers (47.5 per cent women) and 40 government-provided personnel (32.5 per cent women), were serving with MONUSCO.

B. Comprehensive Planning and Performance Assessment System

78. MONUSCO continued to implement the Comprehensive Planning and Performance Assessment System. Data generated against the Mission's results framework informed an impact assessment that was conducted over two days in May and led to an impact report with succinct recommendations to enhance the Mission's impact against mandated priorities. The data were also used to produce fact sheets and infographics in support of the transition road map in South Kivu.

C. Strategic communications

79. The end of June and early July saw attention focused on MONUSCO disengagement with a joint high-level closing ceremony in South Kivu presided over by the Special Representative of the Secretary-General and the Prime Minister, leading a governmental delegation. The ceremony received wide coverage in international and national media, as well as on social media, capping six months of consistent communication that effectively contributed to limiting disinformation.

80. Although disinformation around the Mission's disengagement remained at a low level, targeted campaigns on other topics persisted through the spreading of rumours, conspiracy theories and propaganda videos. MONUSCO responded with video explainers, impact stories and an awareness campaign regarding fake news on social media that garnered nearly 140,000 views. The Mission's WhatsApp channel was launched in March and reached about 180,000 subscribers. In addition, MONUSCO also broadcast 260,000 messages in French and Swahili to discourage attacks by armed groups.

81. During the reporting period, 10 training-of-trainers sessions on fighting misinformation, disinformation and hate speech reached over 1,000 students.

Journalists were briefed on the disengagement process, the security situation in the eastern provinces and MONUSCO engagements to protect civilians.

D. Serious misconduct, including sexual exploitation and abuse

82. In line with the Secretary-General's commitment to a zero-tolerance policy on sexual exploitation and abuse, MONUSCO continued to strengthen its preventive efforts, including through outreach and training activities and engagement with troop-contributing countries, local communities and the United Nations country team. In South Kivu, MONUSCO initiated the transfer of the community-based complaint network platform, including by providing training sessions, and the list of victims of sexual exploitation and abuse to the United Nations country team so as to ensure the continuity of support and reporting mechanisms.

83. Between 1 June and 5 September, MONUSCO documented seven allegations of sexual exploitation and abuse that had occurred between 2005 and 2024, involving two civilian staff members and five military personnel deployed during the reporting period or previously deployed to MONUSCO or the United Nations Organization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo. The cases involving military personnel are pending completion of an investigation by troop-contributing countries. MONUSCO is actively promoting partnership with Member States to enhance their commitment to combating sexual exploitation and abuse among their personnel. The Office of Internal Oversight Services is investigating the cases involving civilian personnel.

84. MONUSCO has adopted a comprehensive strategy to enhance its monitoring and mitigation efforts across the Mission area. The strategy includes the establishment of a robust community-based complaint network, which serves as a crucial avenue for local populations to report incidents of sexual exploitation and abuse. Furthermore, MONUSCO is actively implementing projects aimed at supporting women and vulnerable members of the community by fostering resilience and empowerment.

85. MONUSCO is taking steps to ensure that the victims of sexual exploitation and abuse receive the necessary support, in coordination with the Senior Victims' Rights Officer.

X. Safety and security of United Nations personnel

86. During the reporting period, MONUSCO registered 597 security and safety incidents. The incidents affected 90 United Nations personnel. They are categorized as follows: 96 armed attacks, 365 crime-related incidents, 55 civil unrest cases and 81 cases characterized as hazards.

87. In North Kivu, MONUSCO relaxed one of the mitigation measures implemented following the anti-MONUSCO demonstrations of July 2022, extending the curfew regarding the use of unmarked United Nations vehicles for official business purposes from 7 p.m. to 10 p.m.

88. MONUSCO convoys continued to be targeted in stone-pelting attacks, with 10 recorded cases. One stone-pelting event was also reported against a MONUSCO force camp guard post at Kiwanja operating base in Rutshuru. On 1 July, the Department of Safety and Security received reports that staff covered by the United Nations security management system had become stranded in Lubero owing to ongoing fighting in the area, without means to move to safety by road. Thereafter, a total of

61 persons (including 12 staff covered by the United Nations security management system) were flown by MONUSCO from Lubero to safety in Beni.

89. In addition, MONUSCO recorded persistent Global Positioning System (GPS) jamming and spoofing incidents that affected the land and air assets of the United Nations security management system. Some United Nations and commercial passenger aircrafts flying in the same area have also reported occurrences of loss of GPS signals. As of 9 August, the campaign of spoofing and jamming appeared to have ceased.

XI. Observations

90. The situation in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, particularly in its eastern provinces, remains deeply concerning, with millions of innocent civilians trapped in recurring cycles of conflict, violence and displacement. I condemn the actions of all armed groups operating in the country, as well as those who support them, directly or indirectly. I am alarmed by the continued territorial expansion of M23 and the heinous attacks on civilians perpetrated by ADF, M23, CODECO and other armed groups in North Kivu and Ituri. I call upon all armed groups, whether Congolese or foreign, to immediately and unconditionally lay down their arms. Member States, entities or individuals offering any kind of support or encouragement to armed groups must cease doing so. It is also critical that those who profit from the illegal exploitation of natural resources and the proliferation of arms fuelling the violence are held to account for their actions.

91. I commend the President of Angola, Mr. Lourenço, for his tireless diplomatic efforts, which resulted in the signing on 30 July of the agreement on a ceasefire between Rwanda and the Democratic Republic of the Congo, the operationalization of a plan for the neutralization of FDLR and a plan for the disengagement of forces. The ceasefire agreement marks a decisive step towards de-escalation and offers a pathway for the voluntary, gradual, safe and dignified return of displaced persons to their homes and the potential for holding the deferred legislative elections in Masisi and Rutshuru. I urge all parties to honour the ceasefire and reaffirm the unwavering commitment of the United Nations to support the Luanda process, including through MONUSCO support to the reinforced ad hoc verification mechanism.

92. In line with the relevant provisions of Security Council resolution [2746 \(2024\)](#), MONUSCO is committed to supporting the Southern African Development Community Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (SADC Mission) in a manner that prioritizes the search for lasting political solutions to the conflict, ensures the protection of civilians and is fully consistent with the human rights due diligence policy on United Nations support to non-United Nations security forces. The implementation of resolution [2746 \(2024\)](#) will help to facilitate the strengthening of coordination on the ground between MONUSCO, the SADC Mission and the Armed Forces of the Democratic Republic of the Congo and I look forward to reporting on progress made in this regard by 15 November.

93. The Democratic Republic of the Congo is faced with one of the most complex and overlooked displacement crises of our time. I reiterate the urgent need for all parties to respect international humanitarian law and uphold the civilian character of sites for internally displaced persons. Civilians, including humanitarian workers, must never be targeted. I urge donors and international partners to scale up their assistance and lend their full backing to ongoing regional peace efforts, which offer the best hope for addressing the drivers of the conflict and of the severe humanitarian crisis that continue to hamper the country's progress towards achieving the Sustainable Development Goals.

94. I welcome the successful completion of MONUSCO disengagement from South Kivu, which was built upon a foundation of partnership and collaboration between the United Nations and the Government. MONUSCO will continue to work hand in hand with the Congolese authorities to consolidate the handover of responsibilities in South Kivu and jointly determine the way forward for the remaining phases of the Mission's gradual, responsible and sustainable withdrawal from the country.

95. I welcome the adoption of the South Kivu transition road map and accompanying United Nations support plan. I call upon international partners to support this comprehensive plan, which charts a clear pathway towards lasting peace and stability in the province. The sustained support of partners will be essential to ensure that the State is able to fulfil its primary responsibility to protect civilians, including through the establishment of mechanisms for sustainable conflict resolution

96. The Disarmament, Demobilization, Community Recovery and Stabilization Programme remains a critical tool for the protection of civilians and the achievement of lasting peace and stability in the Democratic Republic of the Congo. The Government's active engagement and clear vision for the way forward remain essential to securing the sustained support of international partners for this crucial programme.

97. The United Nations remains fully committed to supporting accelerated security sector reform under strong national ownership. I encourage the Government of the Democratic Republic of the Congo to continue building a clear and coherent institutional framework for security sector reform to guide the provision of coordinated international support and assistance.

98. I strongly condemn any form of misconduct, including sexual exploitation and abuse, by United Nations personnel and reaffirm my commitment to zero tolerance for such behaviour. MONUSCO and the United Nations country team will continue to take the necessary steps to prevent sexual exploitation and abuse, ensure a swift and decisive response to allegations and strengthen survivors' assistance.

99. I wish to express my gratitude to the Special Representative for her determined leadership and persistent efforts and to all MONUSCO personnel, members of the United Nations system, troop- and police-contributing countries and the Office of the Special Envoy for the Great Lakes Region for their continued efforts towards lasting peace and stability in the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

