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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 49 of Security Council resolution 2765 (2024), covers major developments in the Democratic Republic of the Congo since the previous report of 23 June 2025 (S/2025/403). 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 developments were characterized by important milestones in international peace processes, efforts towards a national dialogue and the formation of a new Government, which includes members of civil society groups and opposition parties.

3. On 7 August, the President of the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Félix-Antoine Tshisekedi Tshilombo, reshuffled the Government as part of efforts to foster national unity, retaining the Prime Minister, Judith Suminwa Tuluka; the Government now comprises 53 ministers, including 17 women. Several members of the moderate opposition and civil society were appointed to strategic portfolios.

4. On domestic peace initiatives, the President appointed a team to work with the Catholic and Protestant Churches on their social pact for peace initiative. The Churches agreed to the participation of other religious denominations in the initiative in order to foster trust, which resulted in the release, on 25 August, of a four-phase road map, which provides for the conduct of an inclusive national dialogue at the expert and political levels.

5. On 22 August, the prosecution requested that the Military High Court sentence the former President of the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Joseph Kabila, to the death penalty, on charges of treason, participation in an insurrectionist movement, homicide, and rape and torture. On 12 September, the prosecution made a request for the Court to hear additional evidence and witness testimony. The sentencing was postponed until 19 September.

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6. On 8 July, the President of the Constitutional Court, Dieudonné Kamuleta Badibanga, was re-elected for a second three-year term. On 22 July, the Independent National Electoral Commission announced that indirect elections for urban councillors, bourgmestres and deputy bourgmestres were scheduled to be held on 9 October, while those for mayors and deputy mayors were scheduled for 22 November. The Commission also cited financial constraints that were affecting its operations.

7. On 27 June, in Washington, D.C., the Democratic Republic of the Congo and Rwanda signed a peace agreement, which was facilitated by the United States of America and observed by representatives from the African Union Commission, Qatar and Togo. The agreement includes provisions on mutual respect for territorial sovereignty and the prohibition of hostilities; the disengagement and disarmament of non-State armed groups, and their conditional integration into the Armed Forces of the Democratic Republic of the Congo; the return of refugees and internally displaced persons; and the promotion of regional economic integration. In addition, the mandate of MONUSCO for the protection of civilians was emphasized and the Parties committed to advance the implementation of Security Council resolution 2773 (2025).

8. Under the agreement, the Joint Security Coordination Mechanism was established for the implementation of the concept of operations for the harmonized plan on the neutralization of the Forces démocratiques de libération du Rwanda (FDLR) and the disengagement of forces, as negotiated within the framework of the Luanda process. The Joint Oversight Committee, which will address violations, was also established. Implementation began with the first meeting of the Committee on 31 July in Washington, D.C., which was attended by signatory representatives and observers. Subsequently, on 1 August, the Parties signed the Statement of Tenets for the Regional Economic Integration Framework. The Joint Security Coordination Mechanism held its inaugural meeting on 7 and 8 August in Addis Ababa to consider implementation of the agreement, in the presence of the African Union Commission, Qatar and Togo. In a joint statement following the second meeting of the Committee, on 3 September, the Parties acknowledged “slowness in the implementation of some elements of the agreement”. They added that the Democratic Republic of the Congo and Rwanda had committed to establish a technical-level intelligence and military channel for direct exchange of information.

9. On 19 July, Qatar facilitated the signing in Doha of the Declaration of Principles between the Government of the Democratic Republic of the Congo and Alliance Fleuve Congo/Mouvement du 23 mars (AFC/M23) in support of a pathway to a comprehensive peace agreement. In the Declaration, the Parties committed to establish a permanent ceasefire, with the support of MONUSCO and regional mechanisms, within the framework of an agreed verification mechanism, and to undertake confidence-building measures. The respect for territorial integrity, the complete restoration of State authority and the return of refugees and internally displaced persons were reaffirmed in the Declaration. On 19 August, the Parties returned to Doha and pursued negotiations.

10. On 25 June, the former President of Nigeria, Olusegun Obasanjo, in his capacity as co-facilitator appointed by the African Union Commission, met with the President of the Democratic Republic of the Congo and, on 11 July, the former President of Kenya, Uhuru Kenyatta, met with the President of Rwanda, Paul Kagame, as part of the mediation efforts of the African Union. Between 14 and 19 July, the former President of Ethiopia, Zewde Sahle-Work, and the former President of the Central African Republic, Catherine Samba-Panza, in their role as co-facilitators, held the first consultations in Kinshasa, supported by MONUSCO. They held meetings with the President, the Prime Minister and other government officials of the Democratic Republic of the Congo, as well as with civil society, diplomatic and humanitarian

actors, and with representatives of United Nations agencies, funds and programmes, to assess peace priorities. Recommendations from the consultations were centred on the harmonization of processes, greater inclusivity, advocacy for a credible and inclusive national dialogue, the establishment of monitoring mechanisms and consideration of transitional justice in the peace initiatives.

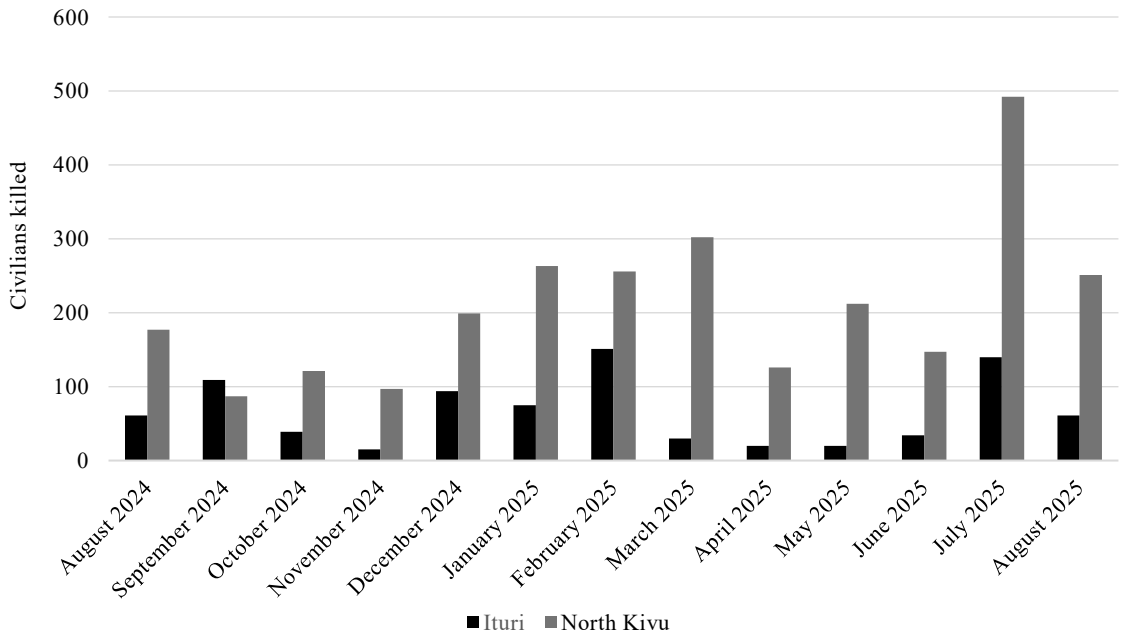
11. At a joint summit on 13 August, the African Union, the East African Community (EAC) and the Southern African Development Community (SADC) endorsed the merger of the African Union, EAC and SADC peace structures under a joint mechanism and called for other international initiatives to align with the African-led process.

12. From 3 to 7 September, the Under-Secretary-General for Peace Operations, visited Kinshasa, Bunia, Fataki and Beni. In Kinshasa, the Under-Secretary-General met with the President, the Prime Minister and members of the Government of the Democratic Republic of the Congo, as well as representatives from opposition parties. He underscored the continued commitment of the United Nations to supporting peace and stability in the Democratic Republic of the Congo and the implementation of Security Council resolution 2773 (2025) amid increasing financial constraints faced by the Organization. The Congolese authorities emphasized the need for the Mission to continue fulfilling its mandate and expressed support for the continued presence of MONUSCO in Ituri and North Kivu, including in Goma and other areas under AFC/M23 control. Emphasis was placed on the urgent need for all relevant parties to remove obstacles to the full implementation of the Mission's mandate.

III. Protection of civilians

13. A rise in attacks, notably by M23 and the Allied Democratic Forces (ADF), contributed to a significant increase in civilian fatalities during the reporting period. MONUSCO has recorded 551 security incidents, which resulted in 1,087 civilian fatalities across Ituri and North Kivu, including 152 women and 86 children, marking an increase of 122 per cent in civilian fatalities compared with the previous reporting period. In Ituri and Government-held areas of North Kivu, MONUSCO increased the number of patrols, expanded early warning networks and continued political and community dialogue to foster social cohesion and strengthen prevention efforts.

Figure I
Reported killings of civilians in armed group-related incidents in Ituri and North Kivu, August 2024–August 2025



Source: MONUSCO/Joint Operations Centre/Situational Awareness Geospatial Enterprise.
Note: Victim counts are likely underreported due to restrictions on access in North Kivu.

14. In AFC/M23-controlled areas of North Kivu, MONUSCO continued to face impediments in protecting civilians and responding to threats due to restrictions on its freedom of movement imposed by AFC/M23. The Mission concentrated its protection of civilians efforts on reinforcing mechanisms to monitor threats and continued to engage with AFC/M23 on the establishment of a framework to ensure the safety and freedom of movement of United Nations personnel. Furthermore, the Mission continued to shelter 43 individuals under imminent threat at its bases in Goma and engaged with the Government to facilitate their secure transfer to an alternative location. Since July, the MONUSCO force has provided protection at its bases to 2,038 individuals fleeing armed group advances in Tshabi, Drodro, Limani and Mayi Moya.

A. North Kivu

15. M23, supported by the Rwanda Defence Force, continued to expand its area of control in northern Walikale and Masisi territories and conducted intensive military operations across its areas of control, particularly against strongholds of FDLR and Nyatura groups. Voluntary and forced recruitment continued throughout M23-held areas, which included the arbitrary arrest of 1,454 individuals, who were forcibly taken to camps in Rutshuru territory for military training. In addition, cases of destruction of civilian homes and businesses and forced displacement were reported. In Rutshuru, M23, alongside the Rwanda Defence Force, continued large-scale operations against FDLR. One of those operations, in the Bwisha chiefdom, resulted in the mass killing of at least 335 civilians, including 52 women and 24 children, in farmland areas between 9 and 28 July. That figure represented one of the largest documented death tolls in such attacks since the resurgence of M23 in 2022. Amid movement restrictions on MONUSCO, the Mission liaised with Community Alert

Network focal points and other contacts to maintain situational awareness and monitor incidents and human rights violations and abuses.

16. Meanwhile, AFC/M23 continued to set up parallel administrative authorities in areas under its control and introduce community conflict resolution mechanisms, including a Comité des sages in Kitshanga. On 12 August, AFC/M23 announced the establishment of a commission tasked with launching and overseeing a parallel justice system in what it denominates "liberated" areas, through the reinstatement of courts and tribunals. In Masisi and Rutshuru territories, M23 has reportedly reallocated vacated homes and lands, sold government farmland, and evicted farmers from parcels of land and from areas around Virunga National Park. Such practices have generated tensions with local communities, while AFC/M23-established conflict management structures remain limited in capacity.

17. In Beni and Lubero territories, ADF remained the main threat to civilians and was increasingly operating in small mobile units around mining areas. Up to 205 civilians, including 37 women and 16 children, were killed in ADF attacks in both territories, which led to population displacement and the disruption of socioeconomic activities and civilian livelihoods. MONUSCO responded with strengthened and increased patrols, as well as targeted offensive operations in ADF hotspots, including Beni and Eringeti. Recent engagement with provincial authorities culminated in an agreement to hold more frequent meetings with MONUSCO, with a view to strengthening coordination on threat responses.

18. In Beni town, a MONUSCO-formed police unit set up mobile checkpoints to in response to increasing criminality in Mulekera commune. MONUSCO distributed 32 motorbikes to local chiefs in order to enhance their mobility and participation in the coordination, monitoring and response to security incidents. The Mission also provided them with technical assistance to strengthen their role in early warning systems. The distribution was accompanied by clear usage protocols, regular monitoring and integration into a Mission compliant accountability framework on their use, including periodic reporting on the chiefs' contribution to early warning and response in order to safeguard against risks of misuse and ensure sustainability.

19. MONUSCO patrols and operations continued to face further movement restrictions in areas where the Uganda Peoples' Defence Forces were deployed as part of Operation Shujaa against ADF (see para. 57). In this context, MONUSCO focused on reinforcing partnerships with local actors to map threats to the civilian population, improve civil-military coordination and reduce the risk to civilians during operations.

B. Ituri

20. On 20 June, the Armed Forces of the Democratic Republic of the Congo and the Uganda Peoples' Defence Forces expanded the area of operations of Operation Shujaa to cover the entirety of Ituri Province, with the exception of Aru territory. ADF escalated its attacks in retaliation to expanded joint Armed Forces of the Democratic Republic of the Congo-Uganda Peoples' Defence Forces operations, killing 143 civilians, including 25 women, 83 men, 12 children and 23 individuals of unknown gender and age. Notably, on 8 and 9 July, an attack resulted in the deaths of 47 civilians, including 19 women, 19 men and 9 children, to the north-west of Eringeti. On 26 and 27 July in Komanda, attacks, including one on a church, killed 43 civilians, including 19 women, 15 men and 9 children. Following the attack, MONUSCO increased patrols, including joint night patrols with the Armed Forces of the Democratic Republic of the Congo, around the locality and in ADF hotspots in order to deter threats. The Mission also deployed mobile operating bases in Ofai and Bavonkutu in response to alerts of anticipated ADF incursions. Between 18 and

22 August, the Mission leadership engaged with provincial authorities during a visit to Ituri, which resulted in a commitment to develop a road map to improve the protection of civilians and enhance coordination with the Congolese National Police and Armed Forces of the Democratic Republic of the Congo on preventive protection measures.

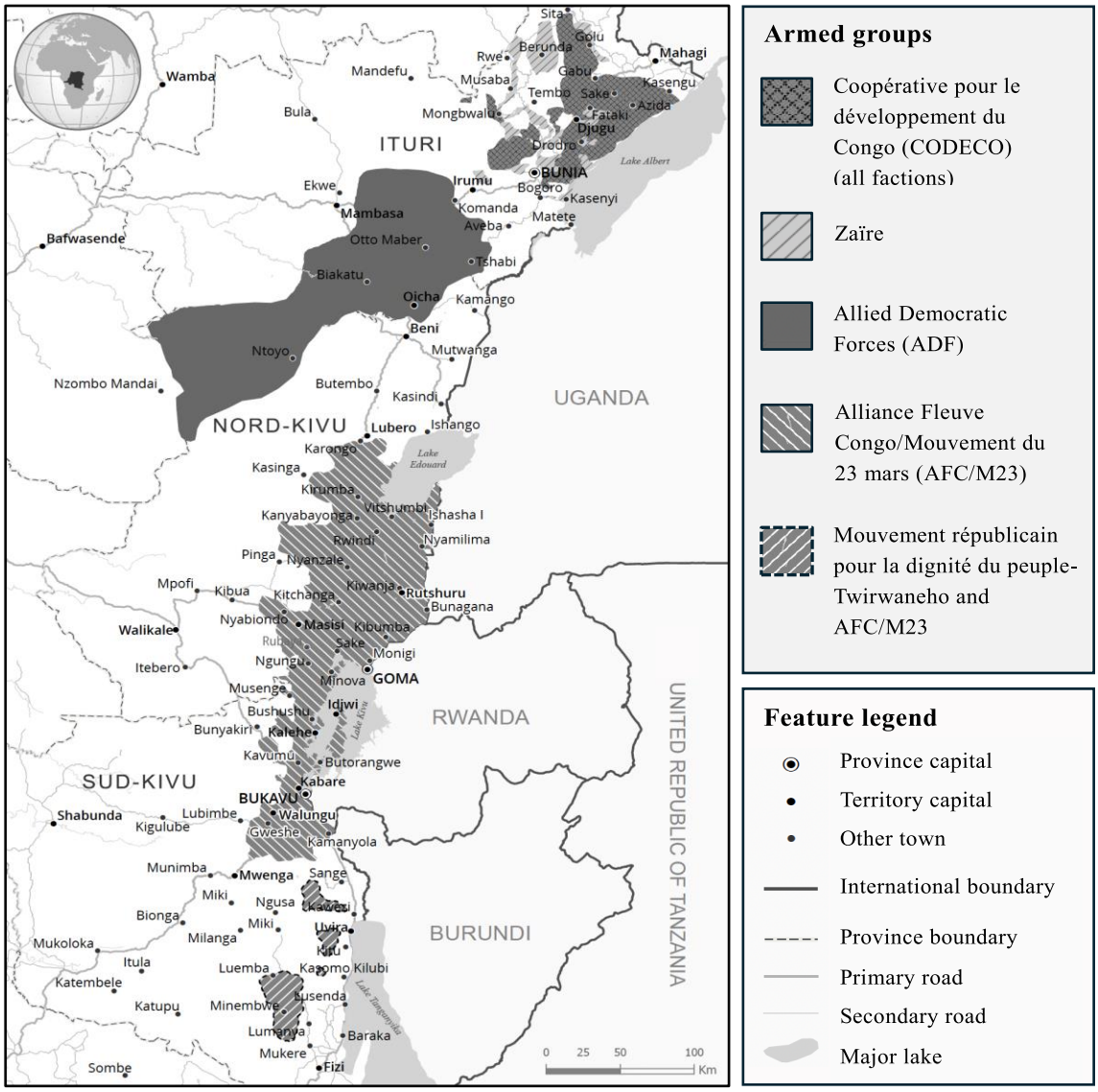
21. Clashes between Convention pour la révolution populaire (CRP) and the Armed Forces of the Democratic Republic of the Congo escalated following an announcement on 16 July by sanctioned individual and leader of CRP, Thomas Lubanga, that the armed group would align itself with AFC/M23. Between 15 July and 15 August, the operations of the Armed Forces of the Democratic Republic of the Congo against CRP in Djugu territory led to the death of at least 23 civilians, including 2 women, 19 men and 2 children, mainly from the Hema community, which further deepened mistrust between the community and the Armed Forces. Growing insecurity also led the Coopérative pour le développement du Congo (CODECO), a party to the Aru II dialogue, to re-engage in violence, which resulted in the deaths of 59 civilians, including 13 women and 8 children, and in the looting and destruction of property.

22. The Mission and the Armed Forces of the Democratic Republic of the Congo continued to strengthen cooperation, deploying 1,706 joint patrols to deter ADF activity along the Beni-Eringeti axis on the border between Ituri and North Kivu Provinces, across eastern Djugu territory and eastern Irumu territory and in the vicinity of Bunia town to reinforce the protection of civilians. MONUSCO also expanded the Community Alert Network, adding 180 community focal points, including 98 women from across Djugu, Irumu and Mahagi territories, thereby increasing the quantity and quality of alerts, as well as gender-sensitive responses to those alerts. The Mission facilitated the training of 400 troops of the Armed Forces of the Democratic Republic of the Congo in jungle operations in order to strengthen their ability to combat ADF.

23. In July, the Mission supported an intercommunal dialogue initiative led by women mediators. The dialogue brought together women from the Hema communities in Mandro and Sala, and the Lendu communities of Penyi and Ezekere. The initiative served to facilitate mutual access to grazing lands and markets across their respective localities and to enhance information-sharing, thereby strengthening community-based early warning capacities and reinforcing peaceful coexistence between the Hema and Lendu communities.

24. The Mission's mine action activities in AFC/M23-controlled areas remained limited to the identification and marking of explosive hazards. During the reporting period, in North Kivu, a total of 23 explosive remnants of war and 602 rounds of small arms ammunition were identified and marked, thus providing visible warnings to protect civilians from explosive threats. In Ituri, the Mission responded to explosive ordnance alerts with three spot tasks, which led to the destruction of one explosive remnant of war, thereby reducing the hazard posed by explosive ordnance to the population.

Figure II
Map of estimated armed group presence, 1 September 2025



The boundaries and names shown and the designations used on this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by the United Nations.
Base map source: MONUSCO/Field Technology Section.
Note: Territorial control estimates by MONUSCO.

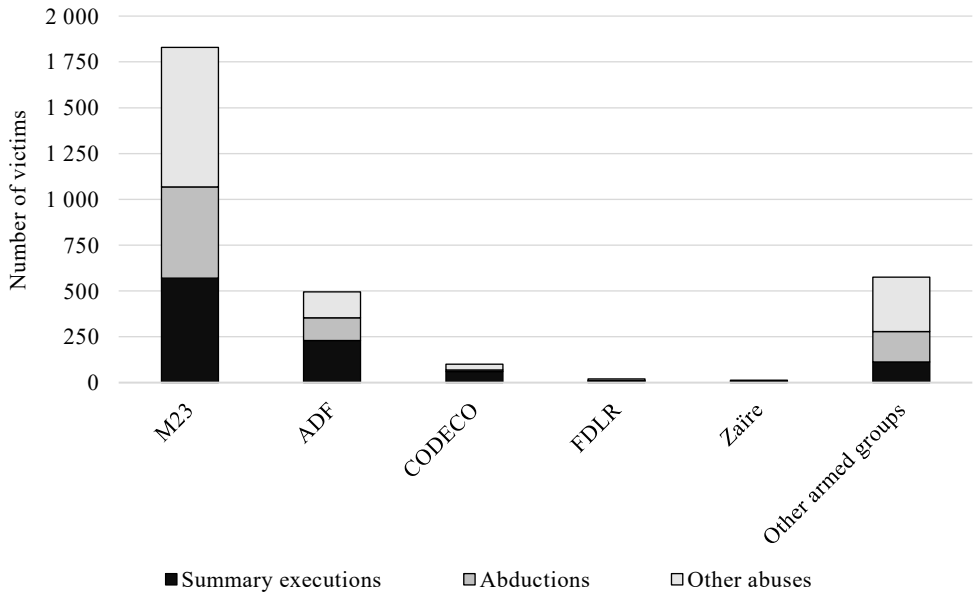
IV. Human rights situation

A. Human rights and international humanitarian law

25. The human rights situation remained concerning in eastern provinces, particularly in areas under AFC/M23 control, and in locations affected by recurrent attacks by ADF, CODECO, CRP, Wazalendo and other armed groups. Restrictions on freedom of movement imposed by AFC/M23 continued to severely impede the verification of human rights violations and abuses. Both the Special Rapporteur on trafficking in persons, especially women and children, and members of the fact-

finding mission on the situation in North Kivu and South Kivu Provinces of the Democratic Republic of the Congo, established by the Human Rights Council in February 2025, were restricted from entering North Kivu by AFC/M23, despite advance coordination. On 9 September, the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights briefed the Human Rights Council on the mandated report of the fact-finding mission, in which it was found that M23 might have committed crimes against humanity. The mission concluded that M23, supported by the Rwanda Defence Force, as well as the Armed Forces of the Democratic Republic of the Congo and allied Wazalendo, had committed systematic abuses and violations, including summary executions, torture, abductions, forced recruitment and sexual violence.

Figure III
Human rights abuses by alleged armed groups confirmed by the Mission across all provinces during the reporting period



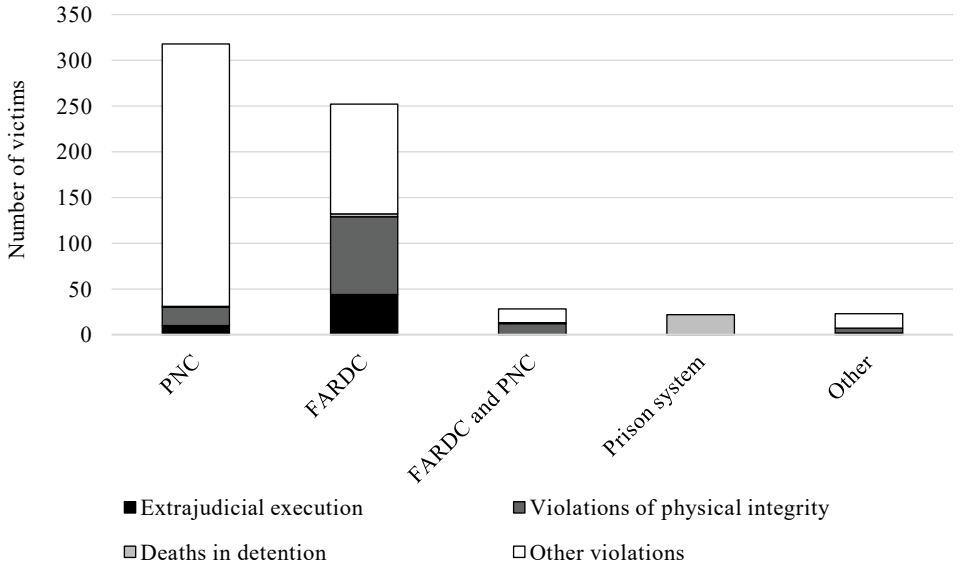
Source: MONUSCO/Joint Human Rights Office.
Note: Victim counts are likely underreported due to restrictions on access in North Kivu.
Abbreviations: ADF, Allied Democratic Forces; CODECO, Coopérative pour le développement du Congo; FDLR, Forces démocratiques de libération du Rwanda; M23, Mouvement du 23 mars.

26. During the reporting period, the United Nations Joint Human Rights Office in the Democratic Republic of the Congo documented 1,154 human rights violations and abuses across the country, which affected 3,759 victims, including 2,623 men, 589 women, 245 children and 302 individuals of unknown gender and age. M23 was the largest perpetrator of abuses, with 439 abuses documented across North Kivu (320) and South Kivu (119), including the summary execution of 539 individuals, while Wazalendo and affiliated armed groups were responsible for 134 abuses in Ituri, North Kivu and South Kivu, including the killing of 59 civilians. ADF committed 88 abuses across Ituri and North Kivu, which affected 502 victims, including at least 300 verified victims of summary execution.

27. State agents were responsible for 322 human rights violations across North Kivu (95), Haut-Katanga (53), Haut-Uélé (47), Kinshasa (35), Ituri (32) and other parts of the country. The Congolese National Police was the largest perpetrator of violations among State agents, with 134 violations, followed by the Armed Forces of the Democratic Republic of the Congo, with 125 violations.

28. Restrictions on civic space remained a concern, with 37 related violations and abuses against 121 victims recorded nationally, 23 of which were attributed to State actors. Joint monitoring visits of the United Nations Joint Human Rights Office and military magistrates resulted in the release of 172 people who had been in police custody owing to arbitrary arrest and illegal detention, in breach of procedural guarantees.

Figure IV
Human rights violations by alleged State forces confirmed by the Mission across all provinces during the reporting period



Source: MONUSCO/Joint Human Rights Office.
Abbreviations: FARDC, Armed Forces of the Democratic Republic of the Congo; PNC, Congolese National Police.

29. Since the previous reporting period, the United Nations Joint Human Rights Office has received 23 requests for individual protection and has protected 26 individuals deemed most at risk, including 20 human rights defenders (19 men and 1 woman) and six journalists.

30. From 15 to 25 July, the Special Rapporteur on trafficking in persons, especially women and children, conducted a country visit to the Democratic Republic of the Congo to follow up on government efforts to comply with international obligations to combat sexual trafficking and provide support victims and survivors, and to follow up on the implementation of the national action plan to combat trafficking.

B. Child protection

31. From 19 June to 31 August, MONUSCO verified 388 grave violations affecting 338 children (87 girls and 251 boys), of which 259 occurred in North Kivu and 129 in Ituri.

32. From 23 to 27 June, in the context of the Aru II dialogue, MONUSCO deployed its good offices to ensure child protection priorities were included in all provincial peace and ceasefire agreements and in disarmament, demobilization and reintegration processes. Participating armed groups committed to releasing over 400 children in Ituri, a process being finalized by MONUSCO at the time of writing.

33. Between 29 June and 15 August, at the invitation of the Armed Forces of the Democratic Republic of the Congo, MONUSCO and partners conducted age-verification assessments of 106 male candidates for recruitment into the Armed Defence Reserve, two of whom were verified to be minors and were excluded from recruitment.

C. Gender and conflict-related sexual violence

34. During the reporting period, the United Nations Joint Human Rights Office documented at least 84 cases of conflict-related sexual violence against 183 victims (including 150 women, 32 girls and 1 man). Of those, armed groups were responsible for 84 per cent, while State actors accounted for 14 per cent and foreign armed forces for 2 per cent of all victims. M23 (86 victims) and the Armed Forces of the Democratic Republic of the Congo (24 victims) remained the main perpetrators of conflict-related sexual violence. In this context, the Mission trained 20 officers of the Congolese National Police, including 8 women, on the prevention of, response to and investigation into conflict-related sexual violence. It also held a virtual conference on prevention and response for survivors, human rights defenders and non-governmental organizations based in Ituri, Kinshasa, North Kivu and South Kivu.

35. Amid the surge in the reported number of cases of conflict-related sexual violence, the United Nations Joint Human Rights Office launched emergency response projects in June in Ituri, North Kivu and South Kivu Provinces, which include a hotline for reporting incidents and directing victims to the appropriate assistance mechanisms, including legal and psychosocial support. Although the Mission has been reinforcing monitoring and protection capacities, conflict-related sexual violence remains a highly underreported violation due to victims' fear of stigma and reprisals and access constraints hampering the ability to verify such abuses, in addition to limitations on freedom of movement imposed in areas controlled by AFC/M23.

V. Humanitarian challenges and response

36. The humanitarian situation in the Democratic Republic of the Congo remains among the most severe globally. As of 31 August, 5.3 million people were internally displaced due to conflict and insecurity, with 1 million in North Kivu, 1.5 million in South Kivu and 1.1 million in Ituri. Moreover, 2.7 million internally displaced people have returned to their areas of origin across North Kivu and Ituri. Many of those returns, however, reportedly did not meet international standards for voluntary, safe and dignified returns.

37. Food insecurity and public health emergencies remained at critical levels. At the time of reporting, more than 27.7 million people remained food-insecure, with 3.9 million facing emergency levels (phase 4) according to the Integrated Food Security Phase Classification. The cholera epidemic continued to spread at an alarming rate, in 17 out of 29 provinces, including previously non-endemic provinces such as Mai-Ndombe, Équateur and Kinshasa, and the situation was exacerbated by limited access to medical services. As of August, over 51,100 suspected cases and 1,538 deaths had been recorded, which was double the total number of cases in 2024. In response to the surge in Kinshasa, the Central Emergency Response Fund allocated $750,000 in July, which marked its third cholera-related disbursement for the Democratic Republic of the Congo in 2025.

38. On 4 September, the Ministry of Health confirmed a new outbreak of Ebola virus disease in Kasai Province. As of 6 September, 42 suspected cases had been

reported, including 15 deaths, with four health workers among the deceased. Concentrated in the Bulape and Mweka health zones, the outbreak has been classified by the World Health Organization as a Grade 3 emergency – the highest level of operational response, with a high risk at the national level. The national authorities, supported by partners, are scaling up surveillance, case management and community engagement.

39. Operational constraints, including the prolonged closure of Goma airport, continued to disrupt supply chains, inflate delivery costs and place additional strains on limited resources. In this context, the Humanitarian Coordinator in the Democratic Republic of the Congo maintained high-level advocacy with Member States and the African Union to ensure that humanitarian considerations, including the protection of civilians, secure humanitarian access, safety for aid workers and the restoration of financial systems in contested zones, were included in ongoing mediation and peace processes. The Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs also contacted authorities in Burundi with a view to facilitating the cross-border movement of humanitarian personnel and strengthening civil-military coordination.

40. On 26 August, the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees concluded a visit to Kinshasa as part of a broader mission to the Democratic Republic of the Congo and Rwanda. The visit was aimed at sustaining momentum within the Washington, D.C. and Doha peace processes, with a particular focus on supporting the voluntary return of forcibly displaced persons to their communities of origin in the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

41. A sharp decline in humanitarian funding further exacerbated the challenges. As of 8 September, the 2025 Humanitarian Needs and Response Plan, budgeted at $2.54 billion to assist 11 million people, remained critically underfunded, at 14.8 per cent, marking a 60 per cent shortfall compared with the same point in 2024. Meanwhile, the revised and prioritized funding requirement of $1.25 billion, targeting 6.79 million of the most vulnerable people, also remained severely underfunded. Similarly, the 2024-2025 Regional Refugee Response Plan for the Democratic Republic of the Congo has received only 14.2 per cent of the $781.3 million required to assist some 2.1 million vulnerable individuals and their host communities.

VI. Support for the stabilization and strengthening of State institutions, key governance and security sector reforms

A. Disarmament, demobilization and reintegration

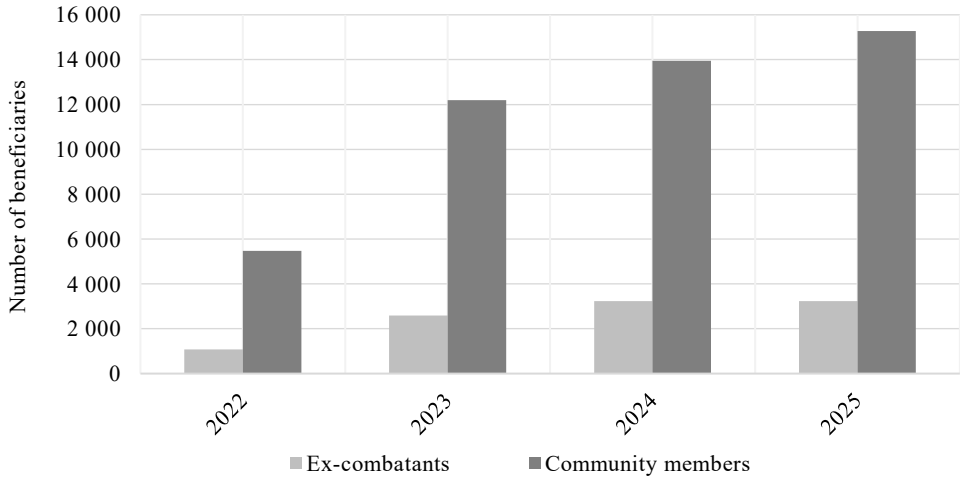
42. The Mission continued to advance repatriation efforts amid ongoing M23 activity targeting FDLR members and their dependants across the Rutshuru, Masisi and Walikale territories of North Kivu. Beginning on 20 June, MONUSCO, in coordination with the Conseil national pour les réfugiés and the Rwanda Demobilization and Reintegration Commission, facilitated the voluntary repatriation of 12 foreign ex-combatants affiliated with FDLR and the Nyatura armed group, alongside 17 dependants.

43. From 23 to 29 June in Bunia, the provincial government of Ituri, under the Disarmament, Demobilization, Community Recovery and Stabilization Programme, supported by MONUSCO, convened the Aru II dialogue on peace, security and social cohesion. The dialogue brought together the following armed groups: CODECO; Force de résistance patriotique de l'Ituri; Front patriotique et intégrationniste du Congo; Chini ya Tuna; Mouvement d'autodéfense populaire de l'Ituri; and Zaïre. The initiative culminated in the signing of a declaration of commitment to peace and stability by all participating groups, which set out commitments to end hostilities,

protect civilians, ensure freedom of movement and enable the safe return of displaced civilians. On 3 July, a follow-up meeting between the commander of the 32nd military region of the Armed Forces of the Democratic Republic of the Congo, armed group leaders and MONUSCO resulted in the adoption of a three-phase awareness-raising plan aimed at securing rank-and-file compliance and fostering grass-roots implementation of the Aru II resolutions. The first phase concluded in early August after being deployed in localities in Djugu, Irumu and Mahagi territories, while the second phase was deployed on 18 August in the same localities. Despite commitments made during the Aru II dialogue, participating armed groups, including CODECO, continued to engage in violence, while CRP, which had not participated in the talks, continued to undermine the resolutions for peace resulting from the Aru II dialogue.

44. In Ituri Province, MONUSCO, the United Nations country team and local civil society actors continued to support the reintegration of 1,130 demobilized Zaïre combatants through the second phase of a project to support community reintegration and strengthen community dialogue, which was launched in August. The project provides the beneficiaries, including 311 ex-combatants and 622 community members in Djugu and Irumu territories, with vocational training, psychosocial support, opportunities for high labour-intensive work and participation in community dialogue for sustainable reintegration.

Figure V
Cumulative beneficiaries of reinsertion projects, 2022–2025



Source: MONUSCO/Disarmament, Demobilization and Reintegration Section.
Note: Projects undertaken in the area of community violence reduction and projects funded by the Stabilization Coherence Fund.

45. On 14 July, in Beni and Lubero territories in North Kivu, the Disarmament, Demobilization, Community Recovery and Stabilization Programme, with the support of MONUSCO and its partners, launched a community-focused vocational training programme for 400 beneficiaries, including 145 ex-combatants and 255 community members (including 183 women). The initiative builds on a pilot phase of the "Muda Wa Amani" project and has been developed in coordination with local peace actors and the United Nations country team and funded by the Stabilization Coherence Fund since April. The initiative is aimed at enabling the implementation of sustainable reintegration solutions for ex-combatants, young people at risk and women, through a community-focused approach.

B. Security sector reform and support for the justice system and the fight against impunity

46. On 1 July, the President of the Democratic Republic of the Congo promulgated the Police Programming Act, a $2.55 billion reform blueprint aimed at professionalizing and modernizing the Congolese National Police by 2030 through investments in infrastructure, training, recruitment and operational capacity. MONUSCO provided technical expertise to the Defence and Security Committee of the National Assembly throughout the legislative process.

47. Sustained advisory support provided by the Mission to the National Security Council culminated in the signing of a new six-month joint workplan on 15 July, aimed at facilitating the coordination of a comprehensive security sector reform process and the development of a national security policy framework. On 15 and 16 July, the Mission co-organized a dialogue with the Military High Court and the Auditor General of the Armed Forces of the Democratic Republic of the Congo, including civil society participation, on advancing a coordinated approach to the reform of the security and justice sector.

48. In Lubero, North Kivu, MONUSCO supported provincial judicial authorities in conducting one mobile court hearing, which resulted in the conviction of 20 soldiers of the Armed Forces of the Democratic Republic of the Congo for conflict-related sexual violence. From 28 June to 4 July, in Bali, Ituri, the military justice authorities, with the assistance of MONUSCO, conducted an investigative mission into the attack of 5 April 2022 against a MONUSCO contingent that had resulted in the death of a peacekeeper. The Mission also provided technical and logistical support for an ongoing national investigation into the alleged illicit financing of armed groups through the illegal trade of minerals in Ituri.

49. Meanwhile, in Kinshasa and in Beni territory in North Kivu, MONUSCO supported the military judicial authorities through capacity-building initiatives focused on ballistics and terrorism financing, with a view to advancing the prosecution of international crimes. To strengthen judicial functioning and accountability, the Mission supported the standardization of procedural acts and disciplinary hearings in nine judicial cases against magistrates in Ituri. The Mission also supported two court inspections in Butembo and Lubero in North Kivu and supported training for 43 newly recruited judicial actors, including training on the disciplinary system for magistrates, in Bunia, Ituri.

50. In June, MONUSCO provided technical and logistical assistance to improve security and conditions in priority prisons in Kinshasa, Ituri and Government-controlled parts of North Kivu. This assistance included the provision of new security equipment in four prisons, improved surveillance at Ndolo prison and reinforcement of the prisoners' ward at Bunia General Hospital. Moreover, a total of 349 penitentiary personnel, including 90 women, were trained in incident management and countering violent extremism. MONUSCO also assisted in easing prison overcrowding, while supporting judicial inspections in national police detention facilities in Beni, which led to the release of 51 civilians and 49 military detainees.

VII. Gradual, responsible and sustainable withdrawal

Update on transition and disengagement

51. In line with the joint note on disengagement and transition transmitted to the Security Council (S/2025/274), United Nations specialized agencies, funds and

programmes continued to undertake activities related to supporting the protection of civilians, human rights monitoring and reporting and child protection in South Kivu, with the support of the Mission's transition portfolio, despite significant security challenges. They also undertook efforts to strengthen local early warning capacities and ensure the continued operational capacities of human rights monitoring and verification mechanisms.

52. While disengagement planning for North Kivu and Ituri remained on hold, the Mission began to develop an adjusted approach to transition planning, focused on strengthening the capacity of State institutions in line with key mandated areas, supporting political solutions to conflict and enhancing collaboration with the United Nations country team and partners.

53. From 4 to 8 August, a joint technical mission composed of MONUSCO, the United Nations Joint Human Rights Office and the United Nations Development Programme visited Uvira, South Kivu, to assess the local security and justice conditions, as well as local governance and operational dynamics. The Mission formulated recommendations to inform collective and coordinated responses by the United Nations country team to reinforce the rule of law and the fight against impunity.

VIII. Women and peace and security

54. On 23 June, in Kinshasa, a group of 80 Congolese women presented an advocacy note, developed with support from MONUSCO, in collaboration with the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women), to the Minister of State and Minister for Foreign Affairs, International Cooperation and Francophonie of the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Thérèse Kayikwamba Wagner. In the note, the group called for the establishment of a monitoring mechanism to ensure the strict implementation of Security Council resolution 2773 (2025), stronger regional cooperation against the illicit trafficking and exploitation of natural resources, and the effective inclusion of women in ongoing peace processes. The recommendations were subsequently highlighted by the Minister during her signing of the peace agreement on 27 June.

55. As part of the Aru II dialogue, MONUSCO facilitated a focus group discussion for women representing the provincial authorities, the Armed Forces of the Democratic Republic of the Congo, armed groups, women mediators, civil society and the media. The discussion enabled the inclusion in the agreement protocol of commitments by armed groups to end the use of violence against women, girls and children as a form of retaliation.

IX. Mission effectiveness

A. Mission performance

56. MONUSCO continues to face operational challenges outside Government-controlled areas in North Kivu, primarily due to access and movement restrictions imposed by AFC/M23. This has resulted in delays in the delivery of essential goods, including fuel and rations. The Mission came dangerously close to depleting its local fuel reserves, which led to a substantial reduction in personnel, operations and consumption. Meanwhile, on 5 July, State-owned water and electricity providers, now under AFC/M23 control, cut the water supply and, on 29 August, completely disconnected power to all MONUSCO sites, thus increasing the demand for generators and significantly jeopardizing operations and life support systems.

Furthermore, banking operations in Goma have been suspended by the Central Bank of the Democratic Republic of the Congo, which has rendered the Mission unable to meet its financial obligations or provide allowances, thereby leaving staff vulnerable. The closure of Goma airport has also severely affected casualty evacuation and medical evacuation capabilities, with delays in evacuations and denied flight clearances resulting in lengthy and risky road transfers. MONUSCO is exploring helicopter operations, which remain difficult to secure as they involve multiple stakeholders.

57. The Uganda Peoples' Defence Forces maintain a significant presence in Irumu, Oicha and Djugu, conducting large-scale operations against ADF through Operation Shujaa, a joint operation of the Armed Forces of the Democratic Republic of the Congo and the Uganda Peoples' Defence Forces. However, the absence of battlefield deconfliction with the Mission poses serious risks, as the operation zones of the Uganda Peoples' Defence Forces frequently overlap with MONUSCO deployments and the bases of the Uganda Peoples' Defence Forces are positioned near MONUSCO sites. Efforts to establish coordination are ongoing.

Military component

58. MONUSCO deployed 9,910 troops, including 766 women, and 402 United Nations military experts on mission, including 90 women, against an authorized strength of 11,500 troops and 600 military experts. Due to the 2025/26 budget reductions, the Mission was unable to sustain 755 troops and 40 military experts, who ceased operations on 7 September in preparation for repatriation.

59. The military component of MONUSCO maintained operational continuity after relocating its force headquarters to Beni. Progress continues towards the establishment of the Joint Operations Coordination Centre in Mavivi, near Beni-Mavivi airport, and constructive engagement with provincial and military authorities is ongoing.

60. Advocacy by the Mission with AFC/M23 resulted in modest improvements in freedom of movement for the MONUSCO force, although systematic denials persist. The continued closure of Goma airport and border restrictions by AFC/M23 delayed medical evacuations by 72 hours on average, exacerbating risks to personnel, and disrupted 81 per cent of troop rotations in the Mission's central sector, leading to reliance on costly rerouting through Entebbe, Uganda. Despite those challenges, the Mission successfully repatriated 200 personnel of the Uruguayan battalion and is negotiating the entry of replacements, which would mark the first induction of troops into the central sector since January. In addition, key personnel, including the commander of the central sector and medical personnel, successfully entered Goma.

Police component

61. As of 31 August, the MONUSCO police component had deployed 1,317 personnel from 28 contributing countries, comprising 1,043 formed police personnel, including 214 women, from 6 formed police units deployed in Goma, Kinshasa, Beni and Bunia and 274 individual police personnel, including 87 women. As a result of the 25/26 budget reductions, one formed police unit of 180 personnel could no longer be sustained and therefore ceased operations on 7 September in preparation for repatriation. The performance rating of individual police officers decreased from 76 per cent to 71 per cent since the previous reporting period, attributable primarily to the rotation of 37 individual police officers who had completed their two- and three-year tours of duty.

62. The main challenge remains the rotation of formed police units in Goma and Bunia. In Goma, movement is restricted by AFC/M23. In Bunia, airport limitations

for fixed-wing flights and budget constraints hindered the movement of units, leading MONUSCO to grant extensions to 160 police personnel.

Civilian component

63. As at 31 August, 1,984 civilian personnel (22.6 per cent of them women), including 233 United Nations Volunteers (48.5 per cent of them women) and 35 government-provided personnel (37 per cent of them women), were serving with MONUSCO.

B. Comprehensive Planning and Performance Assessment System

64. The Mission used the Comprehensive Planning and Performance Assessment System to conduct a mission-wide assessment on the impact of its mandated priorities and to enhance the information available through the present report. Data generated against the Mission's results framework also served as the basis for fact sheets and infographics, as well as continuing to inform decision-making.

C. Strategic communications

65. The reporting period began with a notable decline in disinformation relating to MONUSCO, coinciding with progress in peace negotiations between the Democratic Republic of the Congo and Rwanda, as well as with MONUSCO outreach activities. However, escalating violence in Ituri and North Kivu in July prompted a surge in disinformation on social media platforms, in which MONUSCO was portrayed as complicit or passive in the response to renewed attacks by ADF, CODECO and M23 on civilian populations. In response, the Mission held 20 press briefings in Kinshasa, Beni and Bunia, attended by 150 journalists, and a series of targeted outreach activities to reinforce the public's understanding of the MONUSCO protection role and the Mission's operational challenges. Moreover, in Bunia, an awareness-raising session supported by the Mission engaged more than 180 local influencers and addressed the dangers of disinformation.

66. The Mission continued to generate multimedia content as part of a proactive communication strategy to raise awareness of MONUSCO efforts to protect civilians and counter harmful narratives. During the reporting period, the content received a total of 2 million views and 130,000 engagements across social media platforms.

D. Serious misconduct, including sexual exploitation and abuse

67. The Mission conducted a total of 178 training sessions for 9,055 military, police and civilian personnel on United Nations standards of conduct, with an emphasis on the shared responsibility to prevent sexual exploitation and abuse. In parallel, the Mission organized four community outreach events attended by 300 participants to raise awareness among local populations about the prohibition of sexual exploitation and abuse, the community-based complaint reception mechanisms and the support services available to victims.

68. Out of the 9,055 individuals who participated in the training sessions, 7,755 were men and 1,300 were women. The outreach events were attended by 173 men and 127 women.

69. From 1 June to 31 August, MONUSCO received eight complaints of sexual exploitation and abuse, with five reportedly occurring in 2025, involving four military personnel, three police personnel and one member of civilian personnel. In response

to those allegations, MONUSCO confined the implicated police and military personnel to barracks and requested authorization from United Nations Headquarters for their early repatriation. All cases are under investigation, and Headquarters is engaged with the concerned troop- and police-contributing countries to address disciplinary and paternity-related aspects of the cases. MONUSCO also conducted targeted risk assessments at locations linked to the reported incidents of sexual exploitation and abuse in order to implement preventive measures aimed at reducing the risk of recurrence.

70. As part of its commitment to supporting victims of sexual exploitation and abuse, the Mission referred four adult victims to the United Nations Population Fund and three child victims to the United Nations Children's Fund. MONUSCO also provided assistance to Member States in the collection of DNA samples to facilitate the processing of paternity and child support claims.

X. Regional support

Implementation of resolution 2746 (2024)

71. On 28 June, the SADC Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo finalized its withdrawal, with MONUSCO providing logistical support in line with Security Council resolution 2765 (2024). The Force Commander of the SADC Mission expressed his appreciation to MONUSCO for its cooperation in terms of logistical assistance, technical support and operational coordination following the adoption of resolution 2746 (2024).

XI. Safety and security of United Nations personnel

72. The safety and security situation for United Nations security management system personnel remained a concern during the reporting period. Freedom of movement was constrained by cordon and search operations in Goma and at armed checkpoints in AFC/M23-controlled areas. A joint MONUSCO-Armed Forces of the Democratic Republic of the Congo patrol near Baiti, west of Oicha, was forced to divert at an AFC/M23 checkpoint. Sporadic indirect fire and small arms use along key routes further disrupted movement, thereby requiring frequent rerouting and ad hoc risk reassessments. In Ituri, a MONUSCO convoy came under fire between Iga-Barrière and Lopa in Djugu territory on 17 August, while anti-MONUSCO hostility, including stone-throwing at convoys, remains common in Ituri and North Kivu.

73. At least 44 security incidents targeting United Nations security management system personnel were recorded. The cases included burglary, abduction for ransom, crowd violence, irregular detention and threats by telephone and online platforms, reflecting both opportunistic and premeditated hostility. The Mission's Fire Unit in Goma responded to more than 14 requests for assistance from AFC/M23, underscoring the persistent risks faced by staff and the reliance of local actors on United Nations support due to insufficient emergency response capacity.

74. Adjustments to staff posture were also made. In Kinshasa, following the lifting of non-family duty station restrictions, international staff and their families started to return in July. In Goma, a phased return of all national personnel and their recognized dependants was authorized, although restrictions remain in place for non-critical international personnel. On 11 August, additional security measures for United Nations security management system personnel in Bukavu, Uvira and Baraka were also lifted.

XII. Observations

75. I welcome the progress made towards a political solution to the conflict in eastern Democratic Republic of the Congo. The signing of a peace agreement on 27 June in Washington, D.C. by the Governments of the Democratic Republic of the Congo and Rwanda, followed by the signing of the Declaration of Principles on 19 July in Doha by the Government of the Democratic Republic of the Congo and AFC/M23, marked important steps towards a cessation of hostilities and advancing peace and stability in eastern Democratic Republic of the Congo and the region. I commend the leadership of Qatar and the United States, in coordination with African Union mediation. I also welcome the harmonization of the African Union, EAC and SADC peace efforts. The United Nations remains committed to supporting peace efforts in close collaboration with the national authorities and regional and international partners.

76. It is imperative that every effort be made to sustain and strengthen ongoing peace efforts. I urge all Parties to uphold their commitments under the peace agreement signed in Washington, D.C. and the Declaration of Principles signed in Doha and to comply fully with Security Council resolution 2773 (2025), in which the Council called for an immediate and unconditional ceasefire, the protection of civilians, and full, safe, immediate and unhindered access for MONUSCO and humanitarian personnel.

77. I am appalled by the recent reports of the killing of civilians and human rights abuses committed by M23 in Rutshuru territory and other locations, and by the repeated attacks on civilians by ADF in Ituri and North Kivu. Mass killings, conflict-related sexual violence, forced recruitment and the targeting of civil society actors by M23 must stop, as must grave human rights abuses by Wazalendo and other armed groups, including ADF, CODECO, CRP, FDLR and Zaïre. I call upon all signatories of the Aru II cessation of hostilities agreement in Ituri to honour their commitments and bring an end to the hostilities. I urge the provincial authorities to continue to promote dialogue among communities in order to reduce tensions and encourage national authorities to redouble their efforts to address the drivers of conflict, including by countering financing of armed groups through the illicit exploitation of natural resources.

78. I welcome the positive steps taken towards the organization of an inclusive national dialogue. I encourage Congolese stakeholders to engage in constructive discussions aimed at comprehensively addressing the underlying causes of conflict, strengthening national cohesion and paving the way for peaceful elections in 2028.

79. I also call upon national authorities, as well as political and civil society leaders, to categorically condemn and reject hate speech and incitement to violence, which, if unaddressed, risks jeopardizing national reconciliation and sowing the seeds of future conflict. Decisive steps must be taken to halt hate speech and ensure that those who engage in it are held accountable.

80. Support for ongoing peace initiatives, the protection of civilians, the disarmament, demobilization and reintegration of armed elements, the strengthening of Congolese security and rule of law institutions, and human rights monitoring and reporting should remain at the core of the mandate of MONUSCO. In Security Council resolution 2773 (2025), the peace agreement signed in Washington, D.C. and the Declaration of Principles signed in Doha, reference is made to the important role of the Mission in the current context. While MONUSCO remains committed to delivering on its mandated priorities, relevant actors must do their part to ensure that the Mission enjoys full freedom of movement and action throughout its area of operations.

81. I am deeply concerned by the severe restrictions on the ability of MONUSCO to operate in Goma and other AFC/M23-controlled areas of North Kivu. I commend the peacekeepers who have remained deployed in these areas, under the most challenging conditions, for their dedication and professionalism. However, the status quo is no longer tenable, and urgent steps are now required to allow for the long overdue rotation of MONUSCO contingents deployed in the provincial capital and its environs. The MONUSCO leadership stands ready to work with the relevant parties to lift existing constraints on the Mission's ability to carry out the full range of its mandated tasks.

82. Humanitarian access remains severely constrained, while humanitarian operations are faced with both a sharp drop in funding and the rising costs of aid delivery. As a result, large numbers of people are left without life-saving assistance. The reopening of Goma and Kavumu airports is essential to restoring unhindered humanitarian access and aid delivery. The United Nations stands ready to facilitate the clearing of explosive remnants of war and unexploded devices from these critical facilities. Meanwhile, I appeal to national authorities and partners to mobilize adequate resources to meet the urgent needs of the most vulnerable populations, particularly women and children, who continue to bear the brunt of the conflict.

83. The severe financial constraints facing MONUSCO are impeding the Mission's ability to fully implement its mandate, as well as its potential future role in supporting ongoing peace efforts. Plans are in place to manage a potential shortfall in contributions, which, in the worst-case scenario, would involve a drastic reduction of the Mission's personnel and capabilities. I strongly urge all Member States to pay their assessed contributions in full and on time to ensure that the Mission has the necessary resources to continue its critical work.

84. Lastly, I wish to express my gratitude to the Special Representative for her leadership and to all MONUSCO uniformed and civilian personnel, who continue to strive to make a positive difference, often under the most trying circumstances. I call upon all MONUSCO personnel to uphold the highest standards of conduct and discipline.

MONUSCO
SEPTEMBER 2025
UNITED NATIONS
Geospatial
CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC
SOUTH SUDAN
CONGO
ANGOLA
ZAMBIA
UNITED REP. OF TANZANIA
UGANDA
RWANDA
BURUNDI
Yaoundé
Bangui
Juba
Kampala
Kigali
Gitega
Bujumbura
Brazzaville
Kinshasa
Luanda
Lusaka
Lake Victoria
Lake Albert
Lake Edward
Lake Kivu
Bahr el Jebel
Uele
Congo
Tshuapa
Kasai
Zambezi
Kafue
HQ MONUSCO
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Town, village
Airport
International boundary
Administrative boundary
Military sector boundary
Railway
Main road
Secondary road
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The boundaries and names shown and the designations used on this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by the United Nations.
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UNMO
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Bunia
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Komanda
HQ Northern Sector
BANGLADESH
INDONESIA
NEPAL
BANGLADESH
MOROCCO L2
NEPAL
MP BANGLADESH
UNMO
FPU SENEGAL
IPO
S. AFRICA
HQ FIB
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TANZANIA
INDONESIA
QRF KENYA
QRF NEPAL
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TIU S. AFRICA
MP BANGLADESH
UNMO
HQ MALAWI
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FPU INDIA
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SF GUATEMALA
MP BANGLADESH
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INDIA
FPU SENEGAL
Sake
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Himbi
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HQ Force
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Map No. 4412 Rev. 61
Sep 2025