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MONTHLY DISPLACEMENT REPORT

April 2026



CRISIS ANALYSIS

DR CONGO



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Displacement trends, April 2026

- A **9% decrease** in the number of displaced households was recorded in April 2026 compared with the previous month, according to alerts reported during the month, representing a total of 110,397 displaced households across the five eastern provinces of the DRC. South Kivu recorded 42,063 displaced households, followed by North Kivu with 33,810 households, Tanganyika with 21,401 households, and Ituri with 13,124 households.
- In March, 3% of the observed movements, representing 3,745 households, corresponded to returns to their places of origin, mainly in the territories of Walungu, Mwenga, and Uvira (South Kivu).
- Armed tensions persist in North Kivu, where clashes between the M23 and armed groups allied with the FARDC continue despite the relative stability of the front lines, particularly in the territories of Masisi, Rutshuru, and Walikale. The proximity of the positions held by the different belligerents continues to fuel recurring clashes and trigger new population movements. In South Kivu, direct fighting, drone strikes, rivalries between armed factions, and abuses against civilians in the Uvira, Fizi, and Kalehe Highlands remain major drivers of insecurity and forced displacement.
- South Kivu Province remains heavily affected by population movements marked by intensified clashes between the M23, its allies, and the FARDC supported by Wazalendo groups, particularly in the territories of Kalehe, Walungu, Mwenga, and Uvira. Violence in the areas of Ziralo, Buzi, Muchinga, and the Uvira Highlands has caused significant population movements toward the health zones of Kalonge, Minova, Mubumbano, Walungu, and Hauts-Plateaux. In addition, tensions between Wazalendo factions in certain localities of Kalehe have also contributed to the deterioration of the security environment. Despite some returns observed in Mwenga, Walungu, and Uvira, the general trend remains characterized by forced displacement linked to persistent insecurity and intensified fighting, particularly involving the use of drones and artillery in the Highlands.
- In April 2026, displacement trends in North Kivu were marked by the continuation of clashes between the M23, the FARDC supported by VDP/Wazalendo groups, and other local armed groups in the territories of Masisi, Lubero, Rutshuru, and Walikale. Fighting in the groupements of Ufamandu, Musindi, Lwenge, Ikobo, Bapfuna, and Bashali Mokoto caused significant population movements toward the health zones of Masisi, Kayna, Alimbongo, Kibirizi, Pinga, and Itebero. The persistence of violence in the border areas between Rutshuru, Masisi, and Walikale continues to worsen security instability and forced displacement, with the majority of households being hosted by foster families.
- In Ituri, displacement was mainly driven by military operations conducted against armed groups in Djugu, particularly clashes between the FARDC and the CRP/Zaire coalition, resulting in major population movements toward areas considered safer. Furthermore, ADF attacks against civilians in the territory of Irumu also caused new displacements, particularly in the Boga health zone. This dynamic reflects the persistence of a volatile security environment marked by continuous movements of civilian populations.
- In Tanganyika, displacement resulted from a combination of security-related and climatic factors. In the territory of Manono, armed attacks against civilians in the localities of Milongwe, Kabanda, and Kasungeji caused significant displacement toward the health zones of Manono and Kiyambi. Furthermore, flooding in the territory of Kabalo led to the destruction of numerous homes and population movements toward areas considered safer. In Kalemie, the situation of displaced households remains concerning, marked by overwhelmed reception capacities and the fire at the Mamakasanga displacement site, which worsened the vulnerability of populations already affected by conflicts in the eastern part of the country.
- Maniema Province did not record any population displacement during the period.

Overview of displacement

In April 2026, population movements in eastern DRC continued to be heavily influenced by the deterioration of the security environment as well as by localized climate shocks. The provinces of North Kivu and South Kivu accounted for the majority of observed displacements, mainly due to persistent clashes between the M23, the FARDC, and Wazalendo groups across several territories. Most displaced populations moved toward nearby localities considered relatively safer, where they were primarily hosted by already vulnerable host families.

In the provinces of Ituri and Tanganyika, displacement was also driven by the activities of armed groups, attacks against civilians, and natural disasters. Military operations in Djugu, ADF attacks in Irumu, and armed violence in Manono triggered new population movements, while flooding in Kabalo and incidents in displacement sites in Kalemie worsened the vulnerability of affected households.

Alongside new displacements, limited return movements were observed in certain localities of South Kivu, particularly in Walungu, Mwenga, and Uvira. However, these returns remain fragile and appear to be driven more by deteriorating living conditions in displacement areas and a relative perception of improved security than by any lasting stabilization of the areas of origin.

By the end of the month, 31 displacement alerts had been reported. However, according to OCHA's EH Tool, none had yet undergone a detailed humanitarian needs assessment.

At the end of the month, 36 displacement alerts were reported. However, none had yet been subject to a detailed assessment of humanitarian needs, according to OCHA's EH Tool.

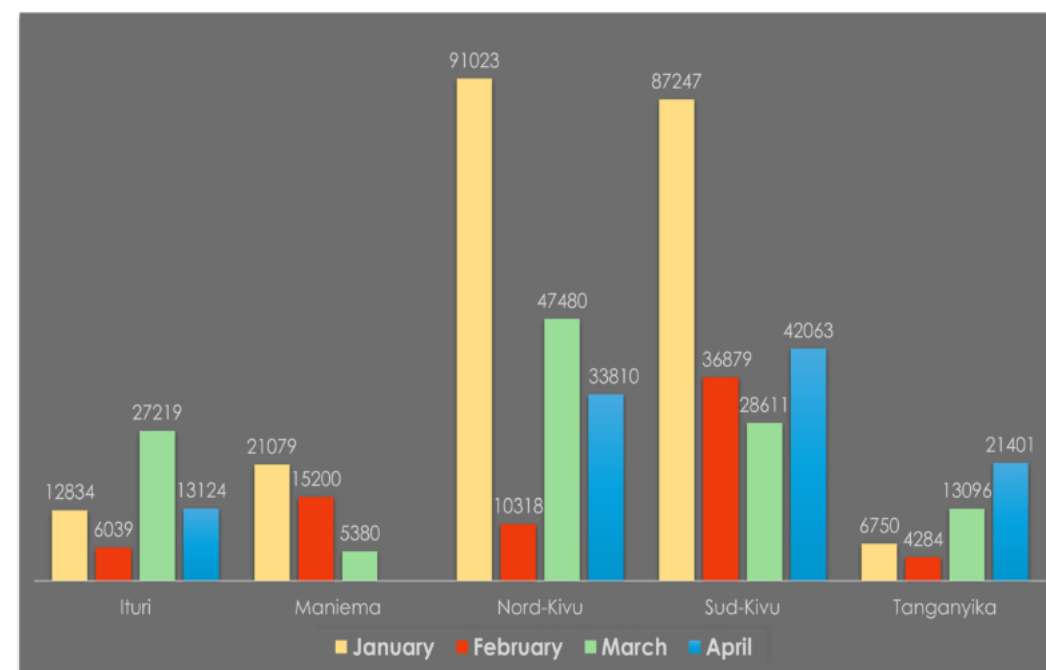
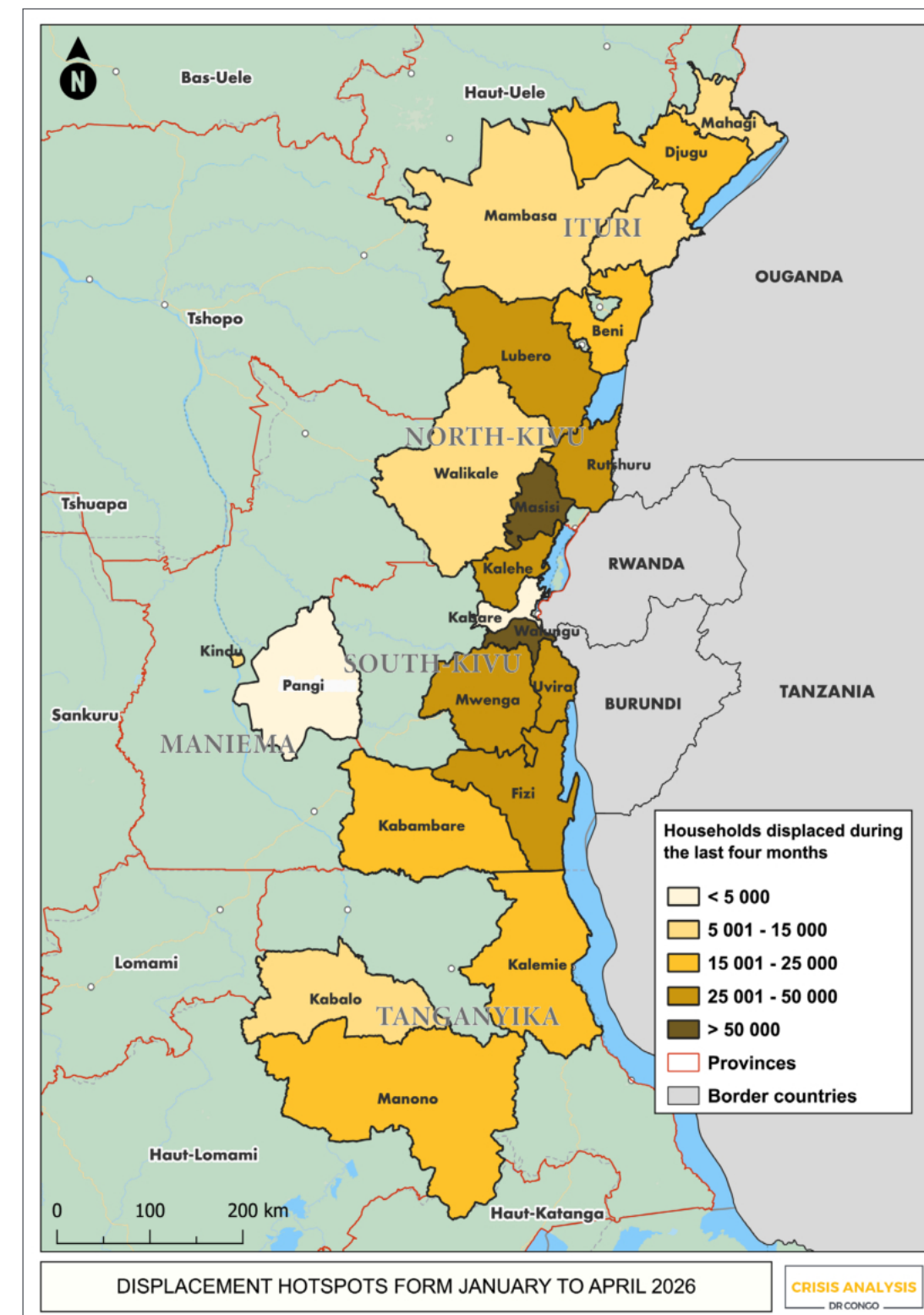


Figure 1. Number of displaced households by province of destination January to April 2026.



Map 1. Displacement hotspots in eastern DRC, January to April 2026.

Ituri province

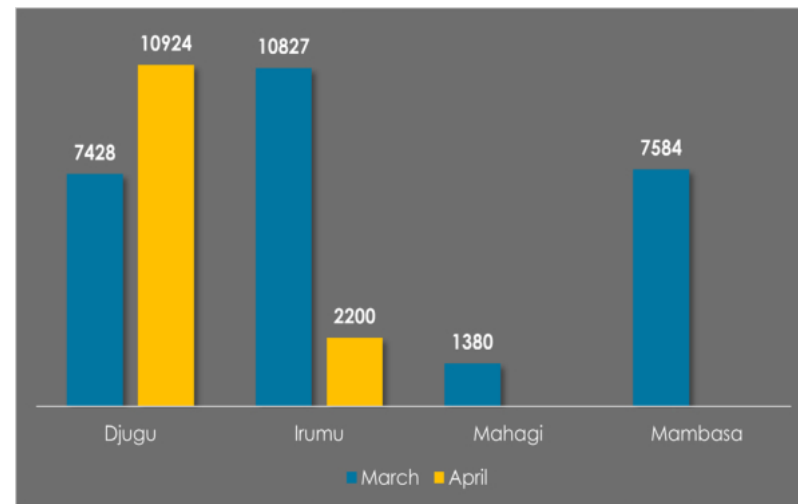
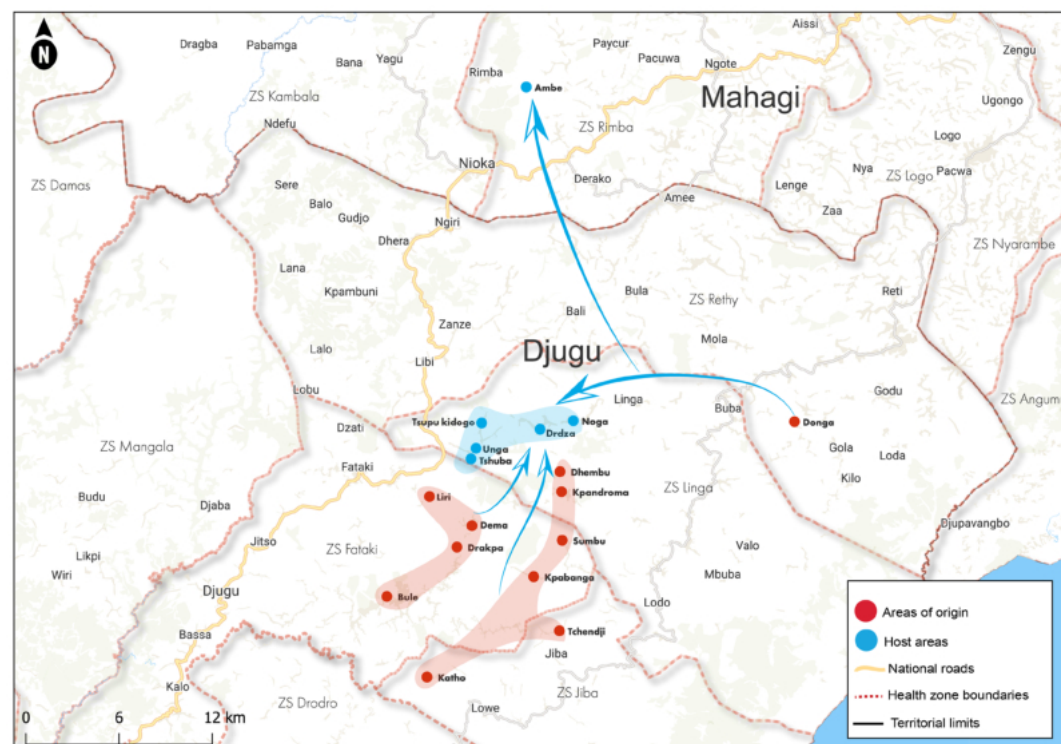


Figure 2. Number of newly displaced households by destination territory in Ituri province.

Djugu territory

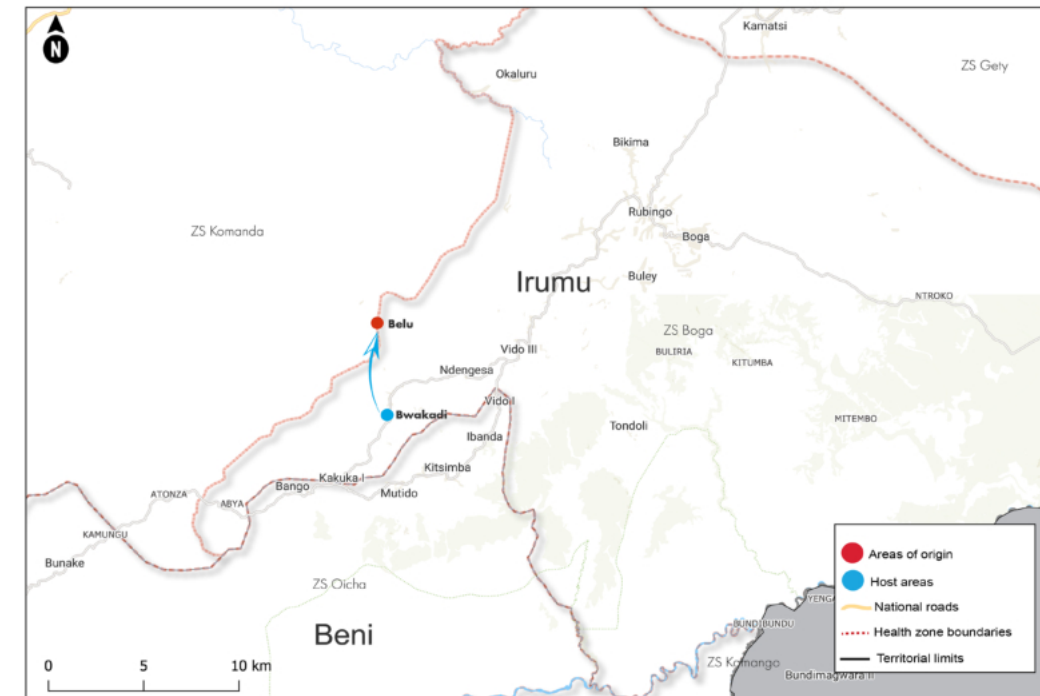
Clashes between the FARDC and the CRP militia allied with the Zaïre armed group in the Fataki health zone led to the displacement of 10,924 households toward the health zones of Logo (5,324 households), and Linga (5,600 households)



Map 2. Population movement in Djugu territory, April 2026.

Irumu territory

ADF attacks against civilians in the locality of Belu (Boga health zone) led to the displacement of 2,200 households. These households moved toward the locality of Bwakadi within the Boga health zone.



Map 3. Population movement in Irumu territory, April 2026.

North Kivu Province

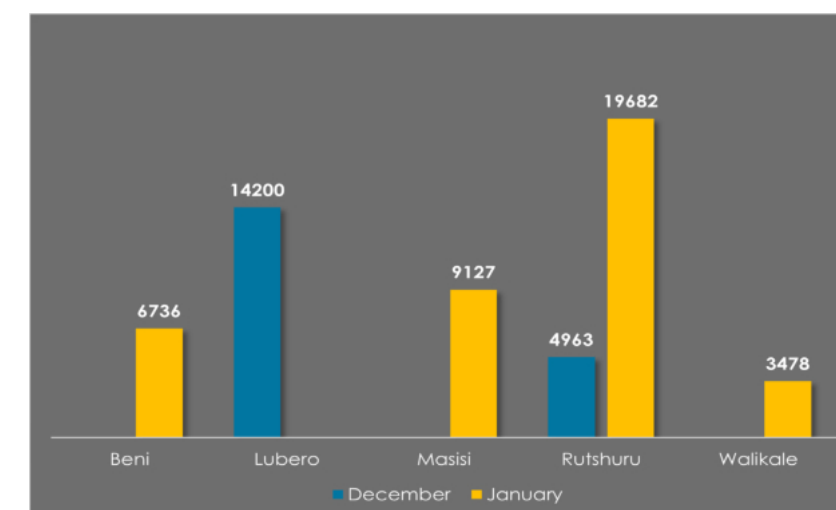
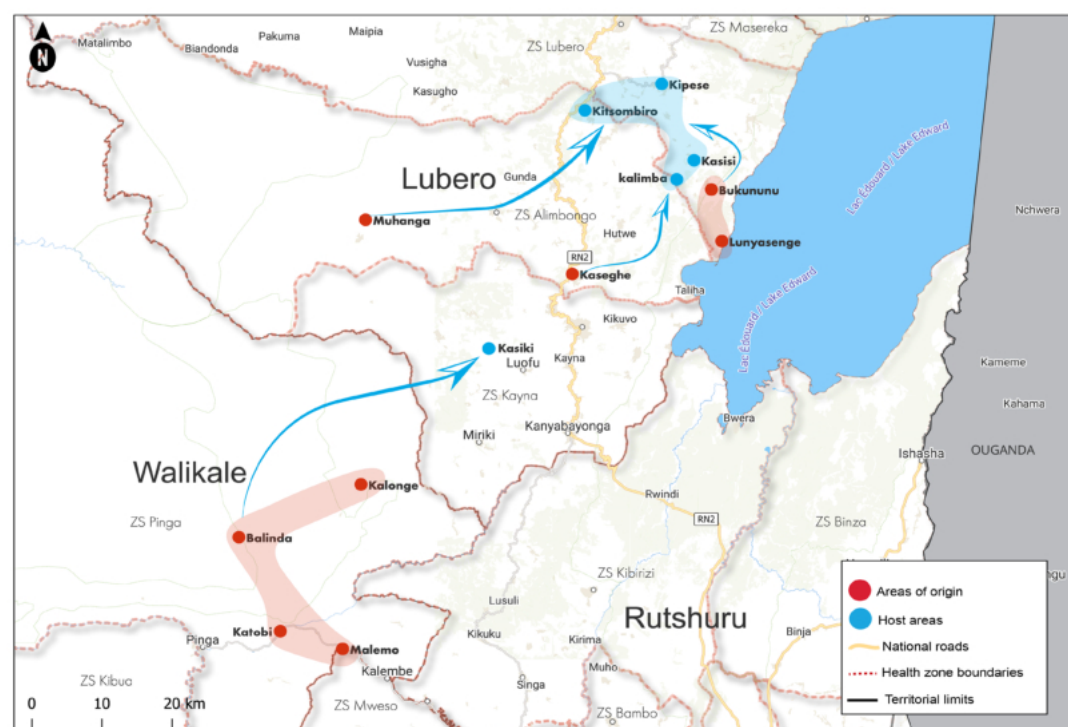


Figure 3. Number of newly displaced households by destination territory in North Kivu province.

Lubero territory

A total of 8,985 households were displaced to the Kayna and Alimbongo health zones in the territory of Lubero. These newly displaced populations were fleeing clashes between the M23 and VDP/Wazalendo groups supported by the FARDC in the groupements of Musindi and Lwenge (in Lubero territory), as well as Ikobo (in the Wanianga sector, Walikale territory). According to OCHA, these displaced families are being hosted by foster families.



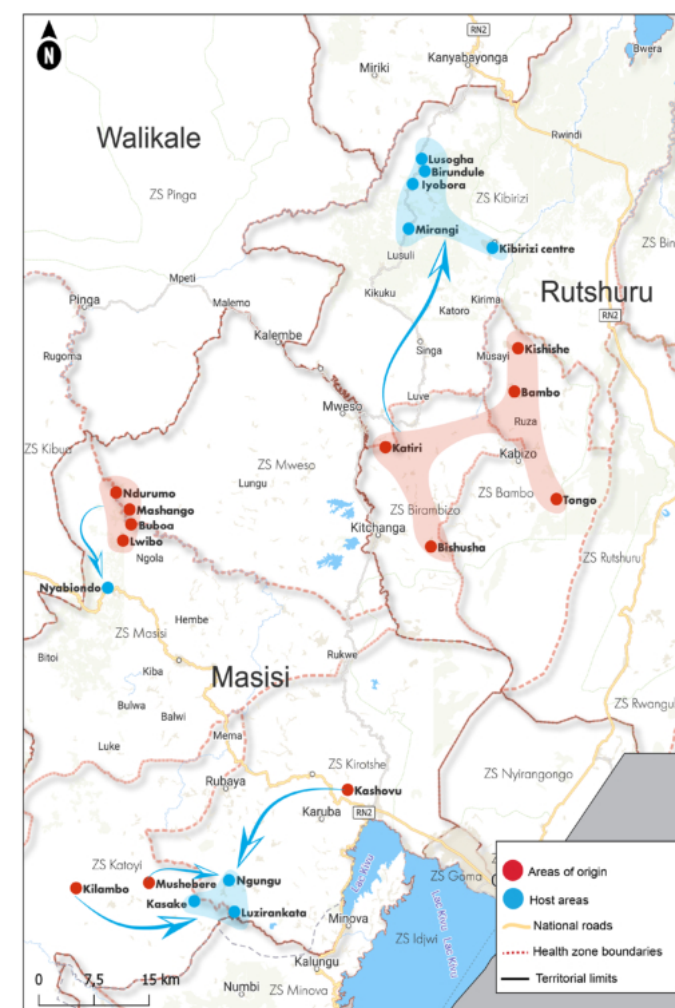
Map 4. Population movement in Lubero territory, April 2026.

Masisi territory

In April, approximately 13,952 households were displaced in Masisi Territory, mainly within the Masisi health zone. These displacements followed clashes between the VDP and M23 in the Ufamandu 1 and Ufamandu 2 groupings. These households moved to the localities of Nyabiondo, Ngungu Center, Ruzirantaka, and Kasake within the Masisi health zone.

Rutshuru territory

In Rutshuru Territory, approximately 2,565 displaced households were recorded in the Kibirizi health zone during the month of April. These displacements are mainly linked to clashes between M23 and Wazalendo groups in the southern part of the Kibirizi health zone, as well as in the Birambizo health zone and in the border areas between the territories of Rutshuru, Masisi, and Walikale, particularly along the Kalembe–Minjenje–Mpety axis. These displaced people moved to the localities of Kibirizi Center and Mirangi.



Map 5. Population movement in Massi and Rutshuru territories, April 2026.

Walikale territory

Walikale Territory recorded the displacement of approximately 8,307 households in April, including 4,159 households hosted in the Itebero health zone and 4,148 households in the Pinga health zone.

These movements are explained, on the one hand, by clashes between M23 and Wazalendo/FARDC in the Zirhalo groupement in Kalehe Territory, and on the other hand, by fighting between Wazalendo and M23 in the Bapfuna and Bashali Mokoto groupements in Masisi Territory.



Map 6. Population movement in Walikale territory, April 2026.

South kivu Province

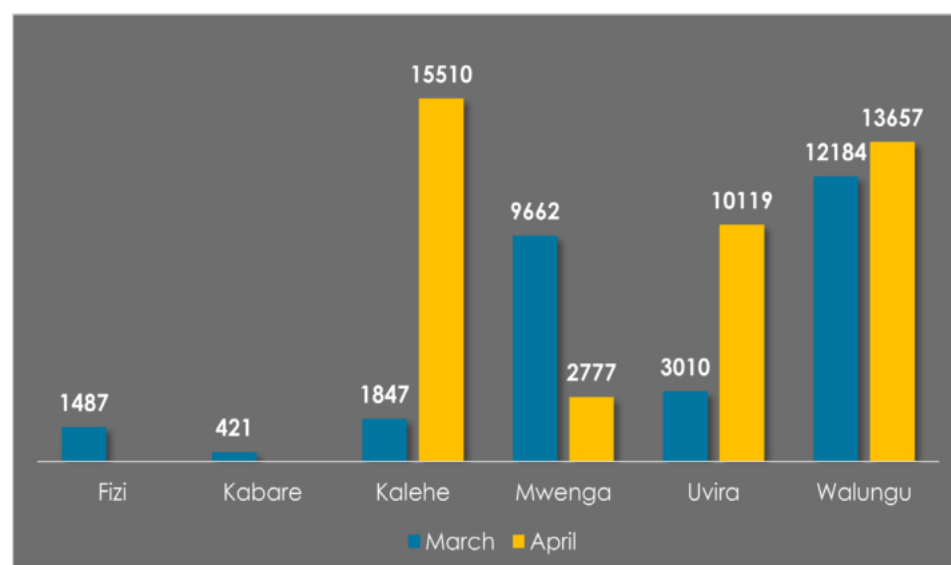


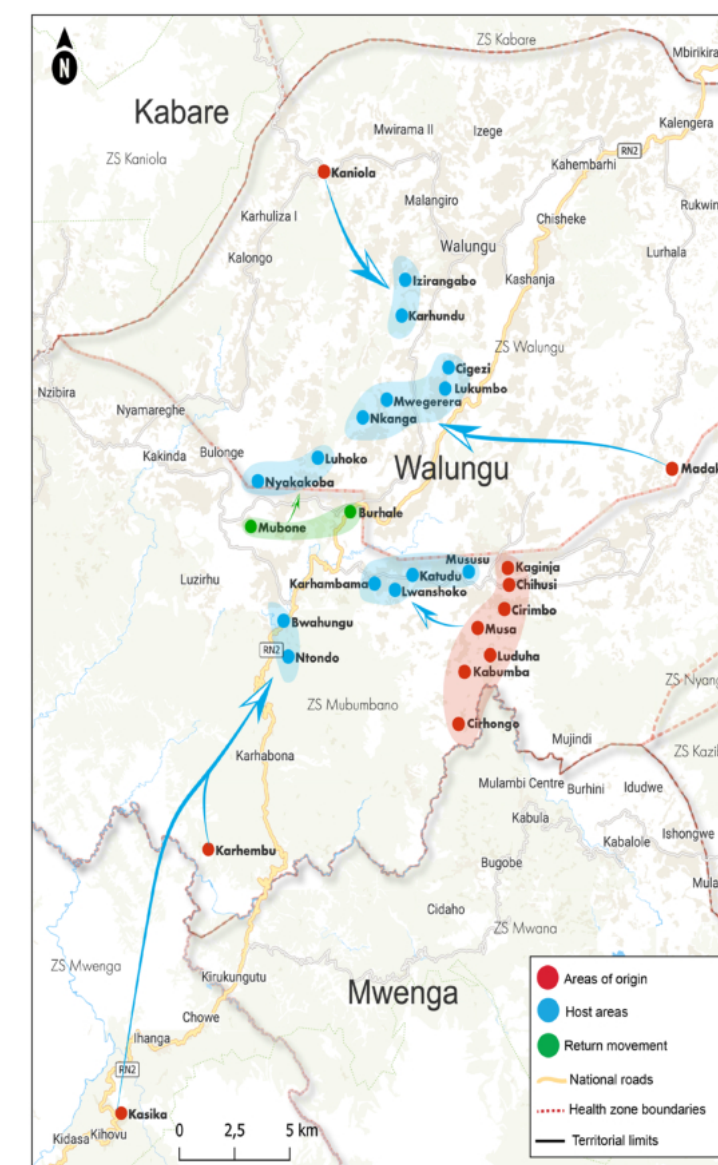
Figure 4. Number of newly displaced households by destination territory in South kivu province.

Walungu territory

In April, a population movement estimated at 13,657 households was recorded in Walungu Territory. This movement includes both new displacements and returns. New displacements account for 11,739 households in the Mubumbano and Walungu health zones, while returns were observed in the Mubumbano health zone (1,918 households).

The new displacements are directly linked to clashes between M23 and Wazalendo groups in the Muchinga groupement, as well as in the localities of Karhembu (Ngweshe chiefdom) and Kasika (in the Mwenga health zone).

The returns mainly involve households that had fled clashes between the FARDC and M23 since December 2025. These households come from the Muzinzi, Burhale, and Mubone groupements in the Mubumbano health zone.



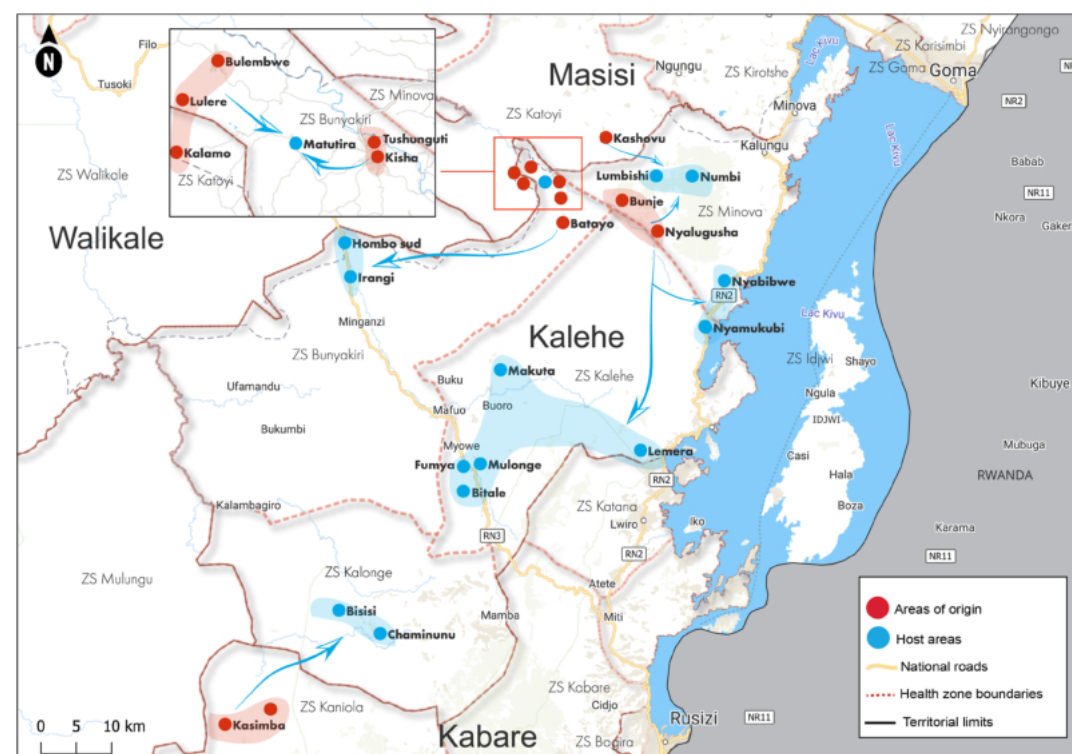
Map 7. Population movement in Walungu territory, April 2026.

Kalehe territory

Kalehe Territory recorded the displacement of approximately 15,510 households during the reporting period. These displaced populations are mainly distributed across the Kalonge health zone (7,945 households), Kalehe health zone (520 households), and Minova health zone (7,045 households).

These population movements are attributed to several security factors, including clashes between VDP/Wazalendo forces, supported by the FARDC, and M23 elements in the localities of Tushunguti in the Ziralo groupement, as well as in Buzi, in Kalehe Territory.

In addition, violence also occurred between two Wazalendo factions, the Rai Mutomboki Bakalureta and Kichwa ya Imbwa groups, over control of an illegal toll barrier in the village of Kasheyi, in the Nindja chiefdom, located about thirty kilometers from the Bisis health center in the Kalonge health zone.



Map 8. Population movement in Kalehe territory, April 2026.

Mwenga territory

In Mwenga Territory, a population movement estimated at 2,777 households was reported during the month of March. This movement includes 1,097 newly displaced households to the Mwenga health zone, as well as 1,680 households that returned to the Itombwe health zone.

The new displacements are mainly attributed to clashes between M23 and Wazalendo groups in the Mukan-gala groupement, in the Basile chiefdom.

The return movements, on the other hand, concern households that had fled their localities during the escalation of fighting between M23 and FARDC forces that occurred in March 2026. These populations have gradually returned to the villages of Mikenge, Kitasha, Ngezi, Bilalo II, Point Zéro, Tuwe Tuwe, and Bikyaka.

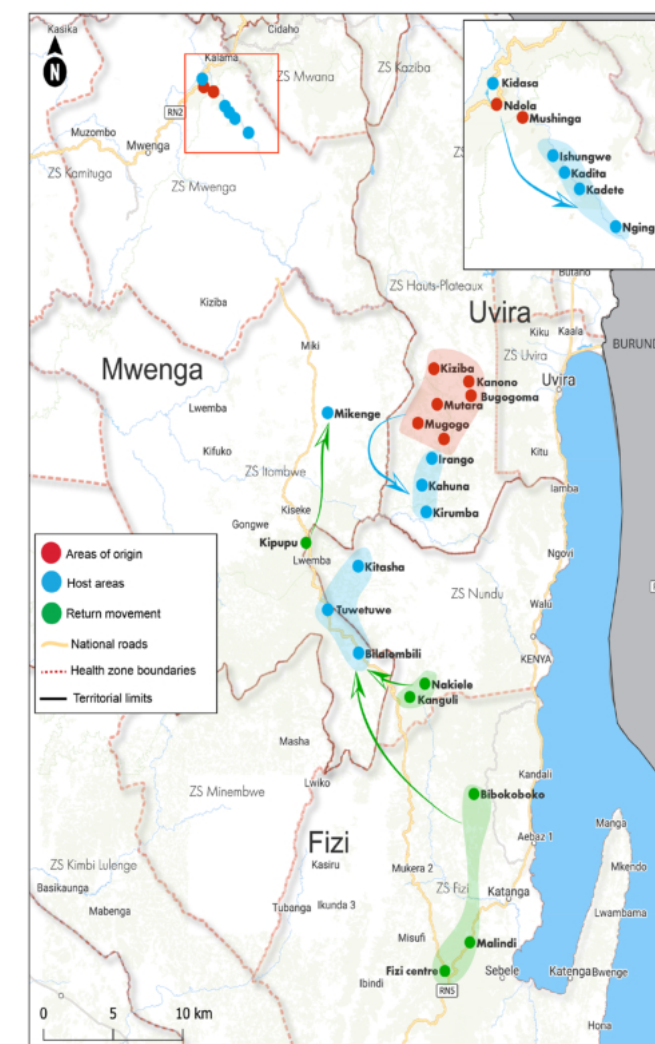
The returns are said to have been driven both by deteriorating living conditions in displacement areas and by the reinforcement of FARDC presence from Kalemie in Tanganyika Province, which communities perceived as a relative factor of improved security stabilization.

Uvira territory

In Uvira Territory, a population movement estimated at 10,119 households was reported in April. This includes 9,972 newly displaced households to the Hauts-Plateaux health zone, as well as 147 households that returned to the Itombwe health zone.

The new displacements are mainly linked to the intensification of fighting between the FARDC and their allies against armed groups Twirwaneho allied with M23, marked by the use of drones and artillery in the localities of Mitamba, Gomgwa, Kanono, Rubarati, and Bugogoma (in the Hauts-Plateaux health zone).

The return movements mainly concern households that had fled their localities following clashes between FARDC/Wazalendo and M23/Twirwaneho armed groups in the villages of Kanguli, Nakiele, Kwangurube, and Bilindi. These households have returned to the localities of Mikenge, Bilalombili, Ngezi, Rusanguko, Tuwe Tuwe, and Kitasha.



Map 9. Population movement in Mwenga and Uvira territories, April 2026.

Tanganyika Province

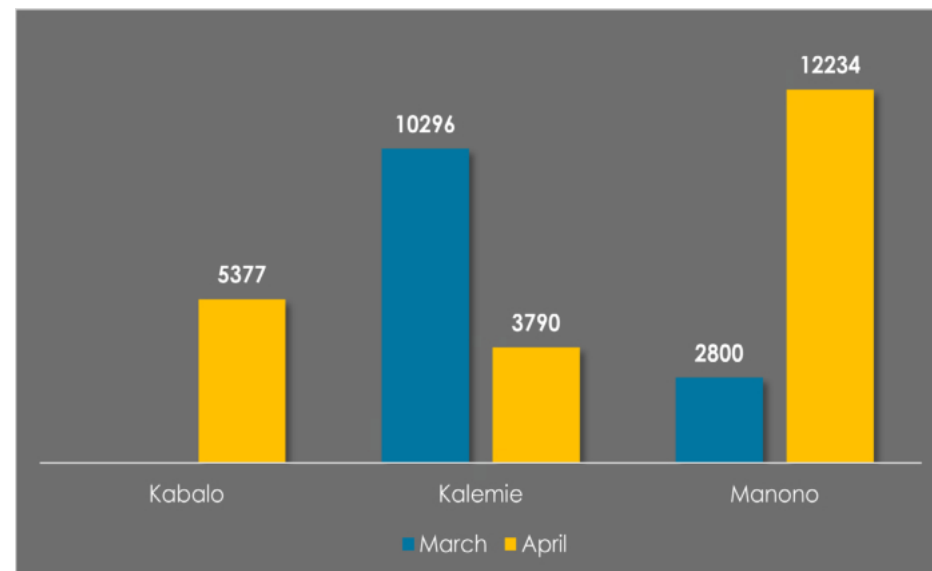


Figure 5. Number of newly displaced households by destination territory in Tanganyika province.

Kalemie territory

In Kalemie Territory, approximately 3,790 households were displaced during the month of April. These populations were mainly distributed in the Kalemie health zone (2,740 households) and the Nyemba health zone (1,050 households).

Part of these displacements concerns households that fled clashes between FARDC and AFC/M23 elements in South Kivu in December 2025. Since their arrival, these populations had been hosted in schools, churches, and host families located in the Kyoko and Kalumbi health areas. Faced with the saturation of hosting capacities and insufficient humanitarian assistance in collective structures and host families, local authorities decided in March to allocate plots of land to these households to facilitate their settlement.

In addition, a fire of unknown origin that occurred in the Mamakasanga displacement site, located in the Nyemba health zone, affected approximately 1,050 households. The affected households are currently being hosted by other residents of the site whose shelters were not damaged, as well as by inhabitants of nearby villages.

Kabalo territory

In April, a population movement estimated at 5,377 households was reported in Kabalo Territory, mainly in the Kabalo health zone.

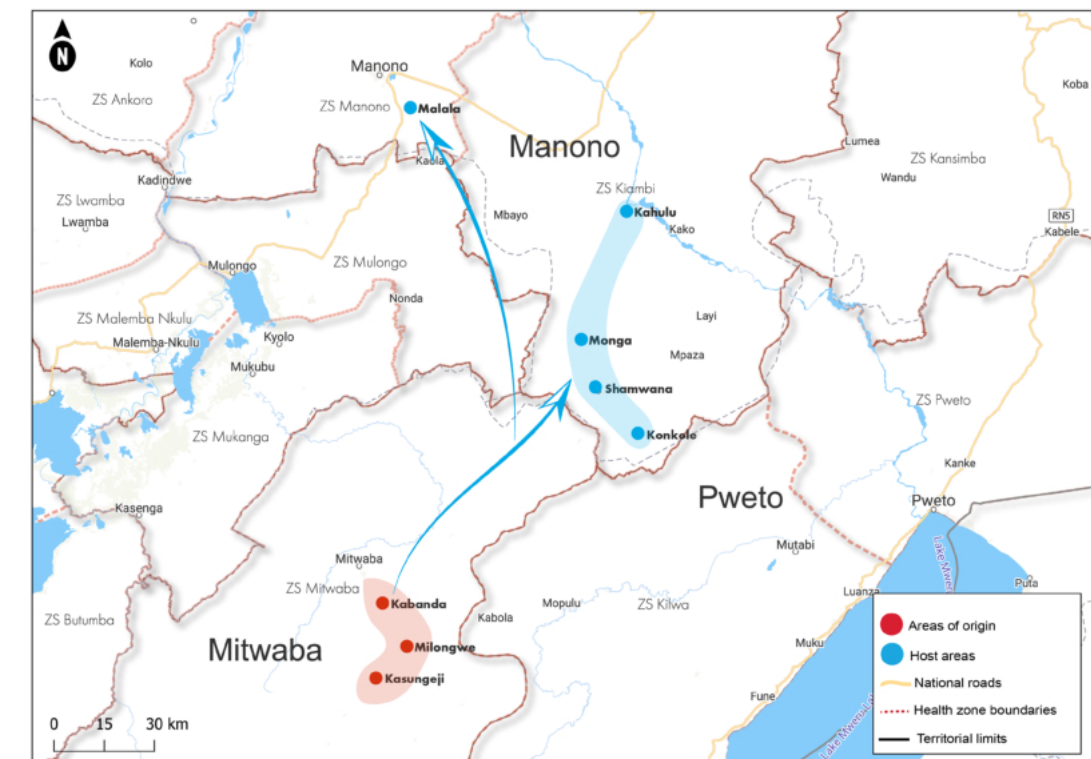
These displacements are linked to flooding that occurred in the Lukuswa, Lwela Luvunguyi, and Kabalo Centre sectors. Torrential rains recorded between March 20 and 24 caused several rivers, including the Congo River, to overflow, leading to the flooding of multiple riverside villages.

According to reported information, these floods destroyed at least 5,577 homes as well as basic household goods, affecting many households living in the impacted localities.

Manono territory

In Manono Territory, armed attacks carried out by unidentified individuals against civilians between April 3 and 5 in the localities of Milongwe, Kabanda, and Kasungeji, located in Mitwaba Territory, led to the displacement of approximately 12,234 households.

These displaced populations mainly moved to the locality of Malala in the Manono health zone, as well as to Konkole, located in the Kiyambi health zone, in Manono Territory.



Map 10. Population movement in Manono territory, April 2026.

Methodological approach

Researchers and analysts from the Crisis Analysis Team in the Democratic Republic of Congo (CAT-DRC) collect, triangulate, and analyze information gathered from primary and secondary sources.

Each week, researchers conduct interviews with key informants to better understand the events contributing to the humanitarian crisis in eastern DRC (violent incidents, epidemics, natural disasters, etc.) and analyze their potential impact on humanitarian operations. CAT-DRC also uses several secondary sources provided by humanitarian partners (e.g., OCHA, INSO) and the community. For this monthly report, OCHA alerts (EH Tool) mentioning displacement are used. All information undergoes a triangulation process before analysis and dissemination. However, the information presented in this report is subject to change at the time of publication due to the rapidly evolving situation in the region.

The analysis of displacement aims, on the one hand, to (i) document and understand new population movements, i.e. those that occurred during the month covered by this report, and, on the other hand, to (ii) assess and map the areas that have received the most waves of unassisted displaced persons over the last four months.

Acronyms & armed groups

ADF (Allied Democratic Forces): Founded in the 1970s as a Ugandan Islamist group opposed to the Ugandan government, they fled to the DRC in the 1990s where they were supported by President Mobutu against Uganda. They arrived in Beni territory around 1996 after the Ugandan army moved into eastern Congo to overthrow Mobutu. In 2003, they began to adopt more extremist interpretations of Islamic scripture. In April 2019, they declared themselves the Central African Wilaya under the Islamic State, along with the Islamic State branch in Mozambique.

CODECO (*Coopérative de Développement Économique du Congo*): An armed group active in the Djugu territory of Ituri province, made up of members of the Lendu community. The region has long been plagued by inter-community violence and tensions, mainly between the Hema and Lendu ethnic groups, and rooted in earlier colonial divisions that saw land ceded to Hema pastoralists at the expense of Lendu farmers.

CODECO-URDPC (Union of Revolutionaries for the Defence of the Congolese People): The most active and prolific faction of the CODECO armed group. Originally formed as a self-defence group for the Lendu community, it has evolved to include broader demands, including defence against foreign aggression and the fight against the balkanisation of the DRC. The faction's strongholds include Linga, Laudjo and Godya, and its fighters often hide among civilian communities, making it difficult for the FARDC to distinguish between civilians and fighters.

CCCM Cluster (The CCCM Global Camp Coordination and Management Cluster): An Inter-Agency Standing Committee coordination mechanism that helps internally displaced persons (IDPs) live in safe, dignified and appropriate conditions. The group also works with affected populations, communities, local stakeholders and other humanitarian and development actors to identify, facilitate and implement long-term solutions for IDPs living in informal settlements and sites.

CRP (Convention Populaire pour la Révolution): is an armed movement created by Thomas Lubanga, a former warlord convicted by the International Criminal Court in 2012, who claims to want to liberate Ituri from Kinshasa's rule and end socio-political inequalities.

EH Tool (Event Horizon Tool): A tool developed by the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) to support humanitarian response. It is an integrated platform that contributes to humanitarian crisis management through data analysis and risk visualisation.

FARDC (*Forces armées de la République démocratique du Congo*): The official armed forces of the DRC.

M23 (*Mouvement du 23 mars*): An armed group operating in eastern DRC, mainly in the province of North Kivu. Founded in 2012, the group takes its name from the agreement of 23 March 2009, signed between the Congolese government and the ex-rebel Congrès National pour la Défense du Peuple (CNDP).

MONUSCO (UN Stabilisation Mission in the Democratic Republic of Congo): A peacekeeping mission established by the United Nations Security Council in 2010, succeeding MONUC (United Nations Organisation Mission in the Democratic Republic of Congo), which was set up in 1999.

Nyatara CMC (Coalition of Movements for Change): A movement that groups together mainly Nyatara groups and Congolese Hutu militias that may have become local partners of the FDLR

OCHA (UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs): Created in 1991, its mandate includes coordinating the international humanitarian response to crises, including armed conflicts, natural disasters and protracted crises.

VDP, also known as Wazalendo (meaning "patriots" in Swahili), refer to a loose constellation of non-state armed groups encouraged by the Congolese government to support the FARDC in securing certain areas, particularly against the M23. In September 2023, the government formalized the creation of the *Volontaires pour la Défense de la patrie* by integrating selected fighters from Wazalendo groups in North Kivu, turning them into an "official auxiliary force" distinct from other Congolese armed groups. However, in practice, the terms "VDP" and "Wazalendo" continue to be used interchangeably by actors on the ground.

Zaire-FPAC: The Zaire armed group is a decentralised self-defence movement based mainly in the Djugu territory in Ituri. Initially formed to protect itself against violence by CODECO, it has recruited mainly from the Hema, Mambisa, Nyali, Ndo-okebo and Alur communities. The group, also known as the *Front Populaire d'Autodéfense au Congo* (FPAC) or the *Mouvement d'Autodéfense Populaire de l'Ituri* (MAPI), has a decentralised structure but a more or less unified military organisation, with headquarters in Nyaka, in the Bahema-Badjere chiefdom. Zaire exercises territorial control in certain areas of Djugu, imposing rebel governance and maintaining order through the use of force.



CRISIS ANALYSIS

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Crisis Analysis Team - DRC

We provide timely, accurate and inclusive data-based analysis to help teams and programs make informed decisions. We identify, explore, and analyze the links between socio-political, economic, and cultural dynamics in crisis and conflict zones of eastern DRC. Our aim is to inform the humanitarian and development community on how to better adapt programming to the needs of the population.

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