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MONTHLY DISPLACEMENT REPORT

February 2026



CRISIS ANALYSIS

DR CONGO



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Displacement trends, February 2026

- **A 72% decrease** in the number of displaced households was observed in February 2026 compared to the previous month. Based on the alerts reported during the month, a total of 61,057 households displaced across the five eastern provinces of the DRC. South Kivu recorded the highest displacement figure (30,297 displaced households), followed by Maniema (15,200 households), Ituri (6,039 households), North Kivu (5,237 households), and in last Tanganyika (4,284 households).
- 12% of the displacements, representing 7,400 households, were returns to areas of origin, mainly in the Fizi territory (South Kivu).
- Armed tensions persisted in areas under M23 control, marked by an intensification of clashes, particularly in Masisi and Rutshuru. In addition, the continuation of fighting between the FARDC, its allies and the M23 in South Kivu, notably in the high plateaus of Fizi, Uvira, and Mwenga, remains the main driver of population movements.
- South Kivu province was the most affected by population movements as Uvira and Fizi territories were particularly impacted by recurrent fighting opposing the FARDC, supported by the VDP to the Ngumino-Twirwaneho coalition amid intensified use of drone strikes by the FARDC. Furthermore, in Kabare, Walungu, and Kalehe the FARDC, alongside allied forces, continued to clash with the M23. This volatile security context led to massive displacements, particularly towards the health zones of Lemera, Fizi, Minembwe, Bunyakiri, Kalehe, Mubumbano, Nyangezi, and Miti-Murhesa. Although the withdrawal of the M23 from the city of Uvira facilitated the return of some households to Fizi territory, the overall trend remained characterized by new displacements and notable instability, particularly in the high plateaus of Fizi and Itombwe. In addition, clashes between Mai-Mai factions, notably between the Kirikicho and Kasilence groups, also triggered population displacement in Kalehe territory.
- In North Kivu, displacement trends continued to be marked by localised population movements linked to persistent insecurity in February 2026. Although a 12% decrease in clashes related to the M23 crisis was observed compared to January, displacements continued to be reported, particularly in the territories of Masisi, Walikale, and Rutshuru. This is attributable to the continuation of fighting between the M23 and local armed groups (VDP/Wazalendo). Moreover, the intensification of fighting in the west of Rubaya (Masisi) contributed to maintaining security pressure and sporadic civilian displacement.
- In Ituri, new displacements to safer areas were mainly caused by clashes between the FARDC and the CRP/Zaire militia in Djugu, and ADF activities in Mambasa and Beni. These displacements included movements caused by natural disasters, notably torrential rains, which affected displaced households living in an already fragile humanitarian context in Irumu.
- In Tanganyika, population movements were mainly driven by insecurity related to armed group activities, particularly in Kalemie and Manono, where militia incursions triggered new displacement toward safer localities. The period was also marked by climate-related displacement, particularly torrential rains in Kabalo that caused the destruction of homes.
- In Maniema, displacements were linked to conflict dynamics in the neighboring province of South Kivu, particularly clashes involving the FARDC against its allies and the Ngumino-Twirwaneho-M23 coalition. In Kabambare and Pangi, most of the households displaced from South Kivu sought refuge in host families. The period was also marked by displacements related to heavy rains and ensuing destruction further increasing the vulnerability of communities.

Overview of displacement

In February 2026, a total of 61,057 displaced households were recorded in eastern Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), representing a 72% decrease compared to January. South Kivu was the most affected, with 30,297 displaced households, followed by Maniema with 15,200 households, Ituri with 6,039 households, North Kivu with 5,237 households, and Tanganyika with 4,284 households.

The general trend shows a significant decrease in displacement in North Kivu (-94%), South Kivu (-65%), Ituri (-53%), Tanganyika (-37%), and Maniema (-28%).

The territories of Masisi (North Kivu), Uvira, and Fizi (in South Kivu) account for the largest number of displaced households (more than 50,000 households) that have moved and/or returned between November 2025 and February 2026. These displacement dynamics are mainly linked to the M23 crisis in North and South Kivu.

In February, return movements accounted for 12% of the total displaced population, particularly in Fizi (7,400 households). These returns were facilitated by the withdrawal of M23 combatants from Uvira and the relative improvement in security conditions in the city of Baraka. The humanitarian needs of populations returning to their places of origin are immense. Returnees also remain highly exposed to protection risks, including gender-based violence (GBV).

Despite this overall decline, displacement remains heavily influenced by persistent insecurity and armed conflict in several provinces. Clashes involving the M23, the FARDC and their allies, as well as various local armed groups, continue to cause population movements, particularly in South Kivu, North Kivu, and Ituri. In other areas, notably Maniema and Tanganyika, displacements are also fueled indirectly by the effect of conflicts in neighboring provinces, as well as by natural disasters such as torrential rains that have destroyed homes and increased the vulnerability of communities.

At the end of the month, 24 displacement alerts were reported. However, none had yet been subject to a detailed assessment of humanitarian needs, according to OCHA's EH Tool.

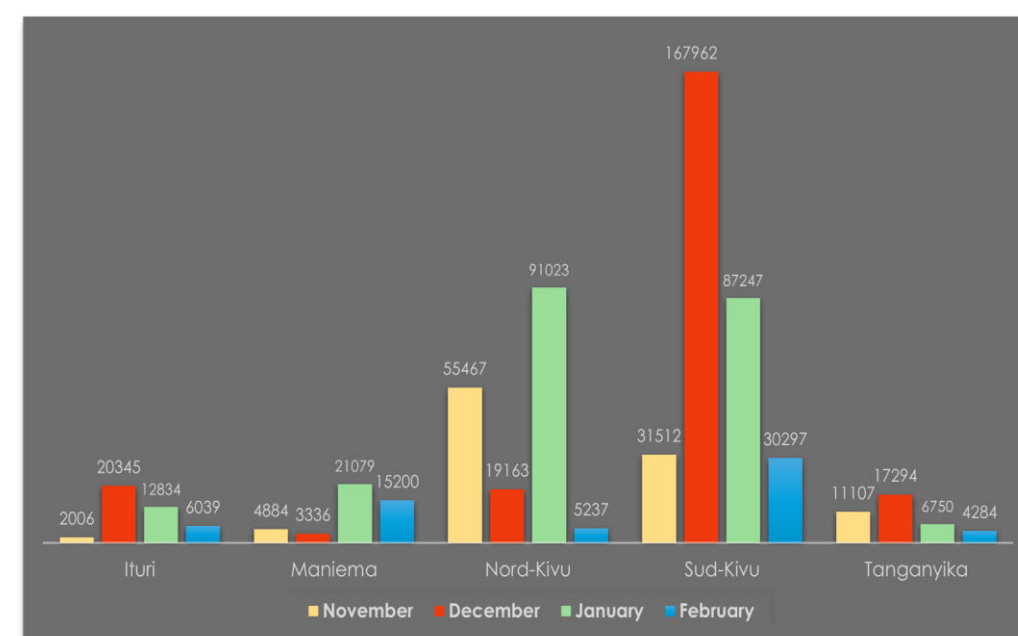
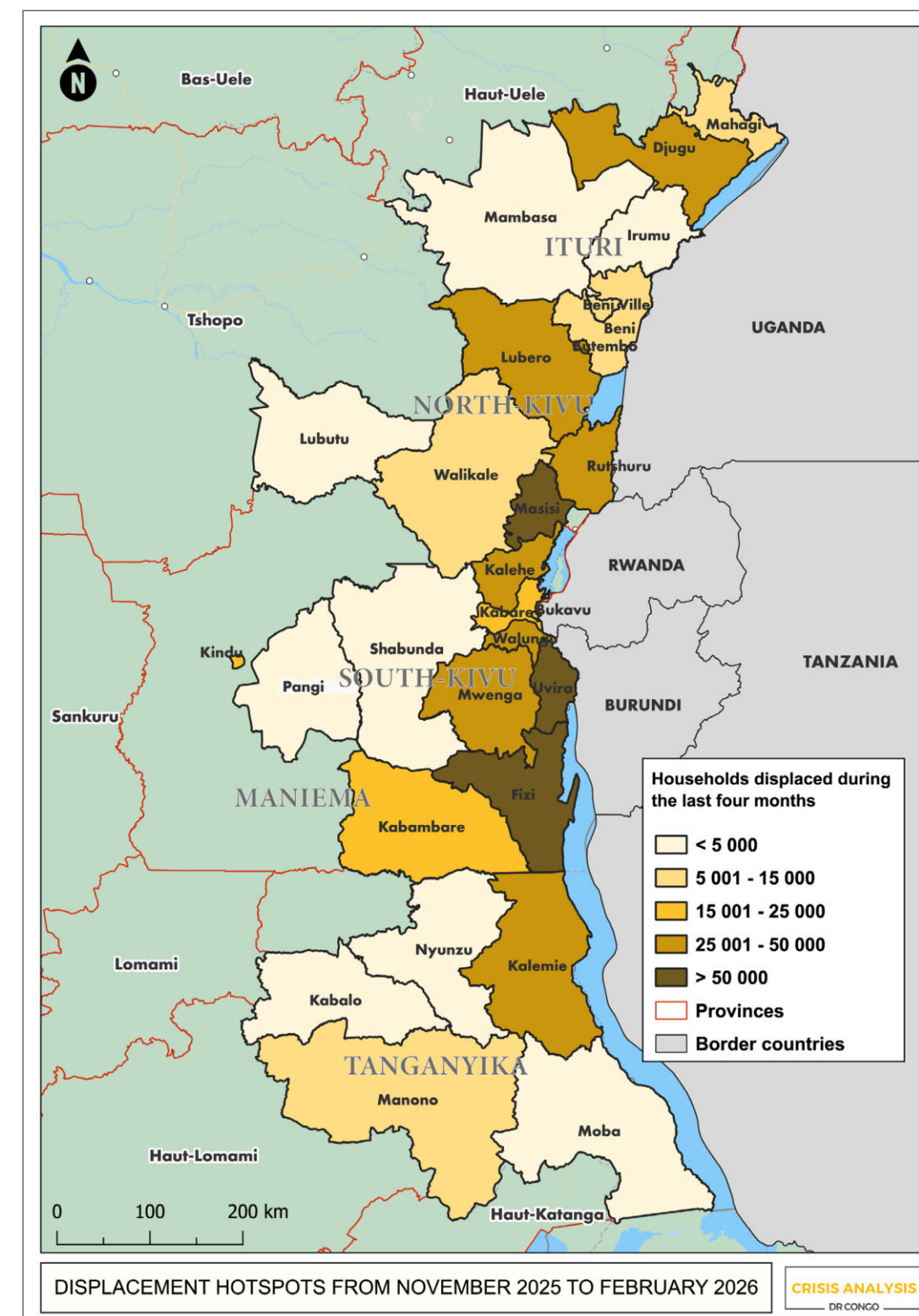


Figure 1. Number of displaced households by province of destination from October to January 2026.



Map 1. Displacement hotspots in eastern DRC, November to February 2026.

Ituri province

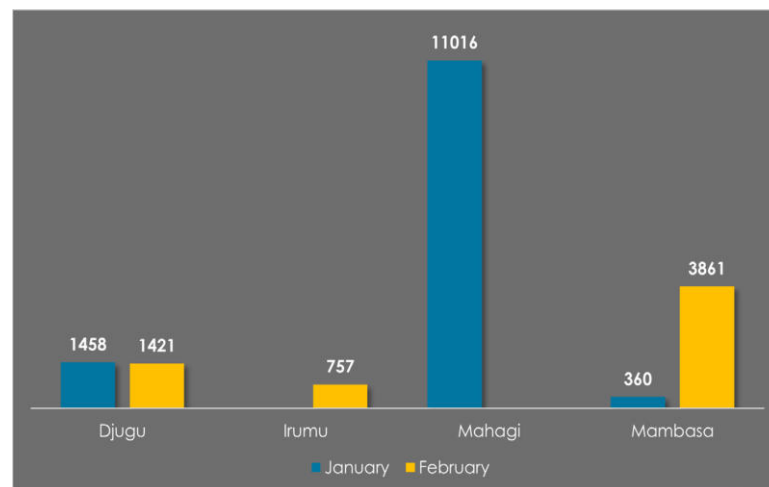


Figure 2. Number of newly displaced households by destination territory in Ituri province.

Djugu territory

Clashes between the FARDC and the CRP/Zaire militia in the town of Bule (in the Fataki health zone) led to the displacement of 1,421 households. They headed for Obeni, Lodja, Laudjo, and Likopi in Mangala, Fataki and Drodro health zones.



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

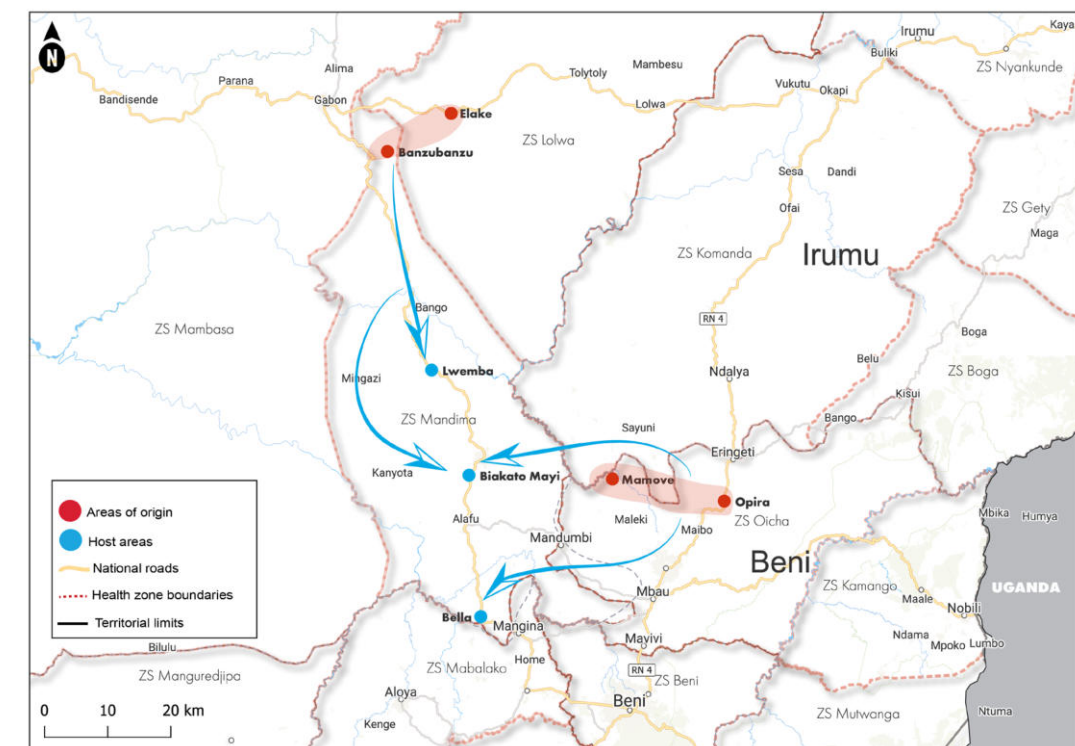
Irumu territory

In February, 757 households of former displaced persons living in the Kibonge, CE39, and Umoja sites were affected by a natural disaster caused by torrential rain on February 10, 2026.

According to OCHA, these affected households are currently being housed with host families¹.

Mambasa territory

Persistent insecurity linked to ADF activism, including attacks on civilians in the health zones of Oicha (in Beni territory), Mandima, and Lolwa (in Mambasa territory), and joint FARDC-UPDF operations against suspected ADF members, have led to the displacement of approximately 3,861 households. These households have moved to Makeke, Bella, Katanga, Biakato Mayi, Babombi, Lwemba, and Biakato Mines within the Mandima health zone.



Map 3. Population movement in Djugu territory, February 2026.

¹ EHtools, alerte 6315 du 10 février 2026

North Kivu Province

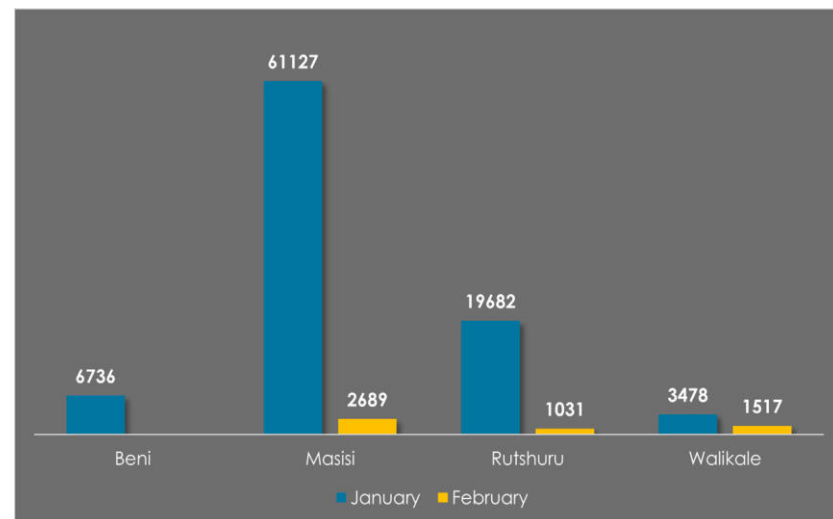


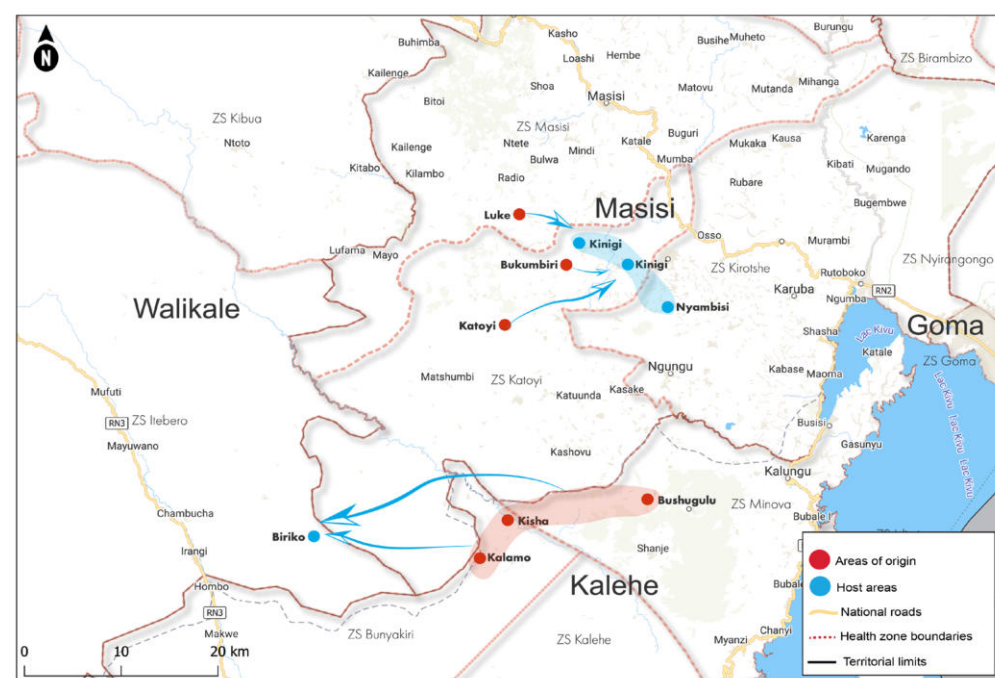
Figure 3. Number of newly displaced households by destination territory in North Kivu province.

Walikale territory

A total of 1,517 households have been displaced in Walikale territory. These movements are mainly attributed to armed clashes in the Ziralo group (in Kalehe territory). The displaced households have found refuge in the Itebero health zone (in Walikale territory).

Masisi territory

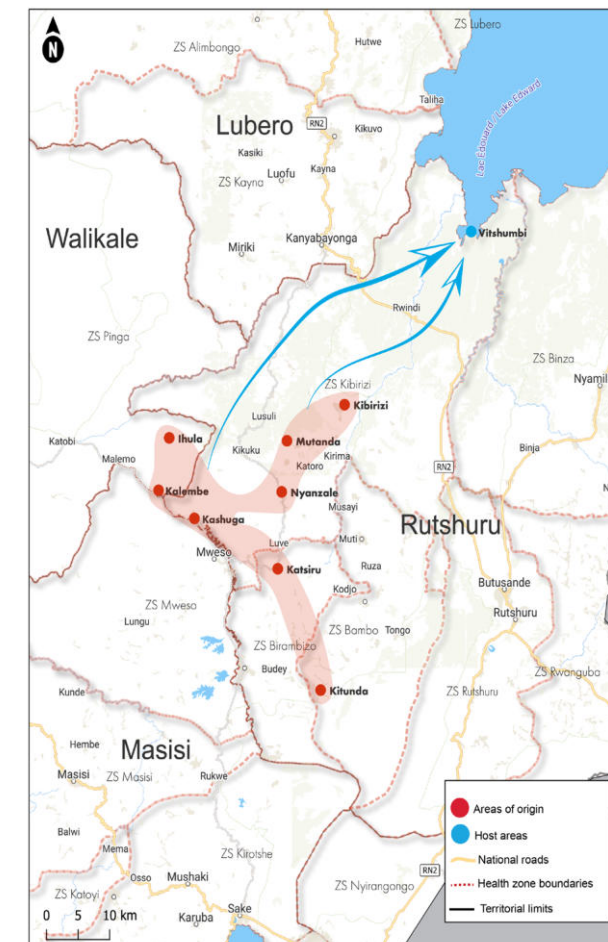
A total of 2,689 households have been displaced to the Katoyi health zones. These newly displaced populations are fleeing ongoing clashes between the M23, VDP, and Wazalendo in villages near the Oso Banyungu sector and in some villages in the Mupfunyi Kibabi group (Bahunde chiefdom).



Map 4. Population movement in Walikale and Masisi territories, Feb 2026.

Rutshuru territory

The Rutshuru territory recorded the displacement of nearly 1,031 households in February. This wave of displaced persons is in addition to others who fled between May and September 2025 to escape fighting and insecurity in several villages in the Bukombo, Mutanda, and Kihondo groupings (in Rutshuru territory), Ihula, Kalembe (in Walikale territory), and Kashuga (in Masisi territory).



Map 5. Population movement in Rutshuru territory, Feb 2026.

South Kivu Province

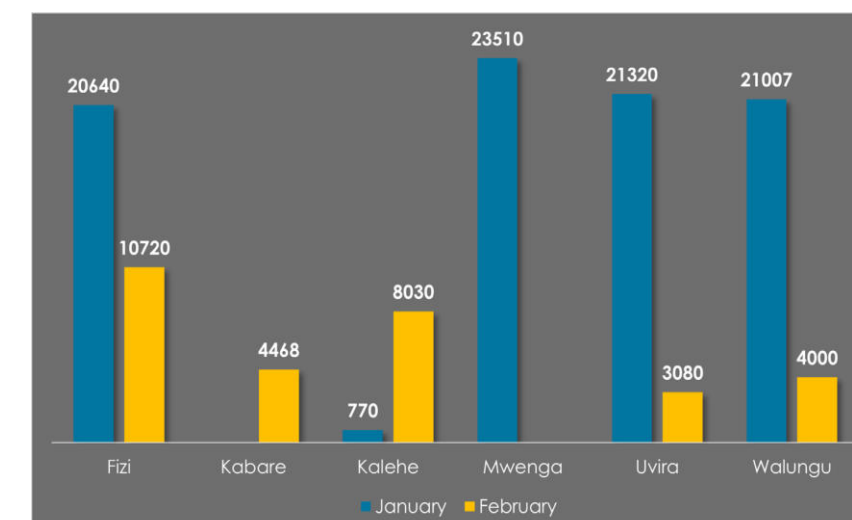
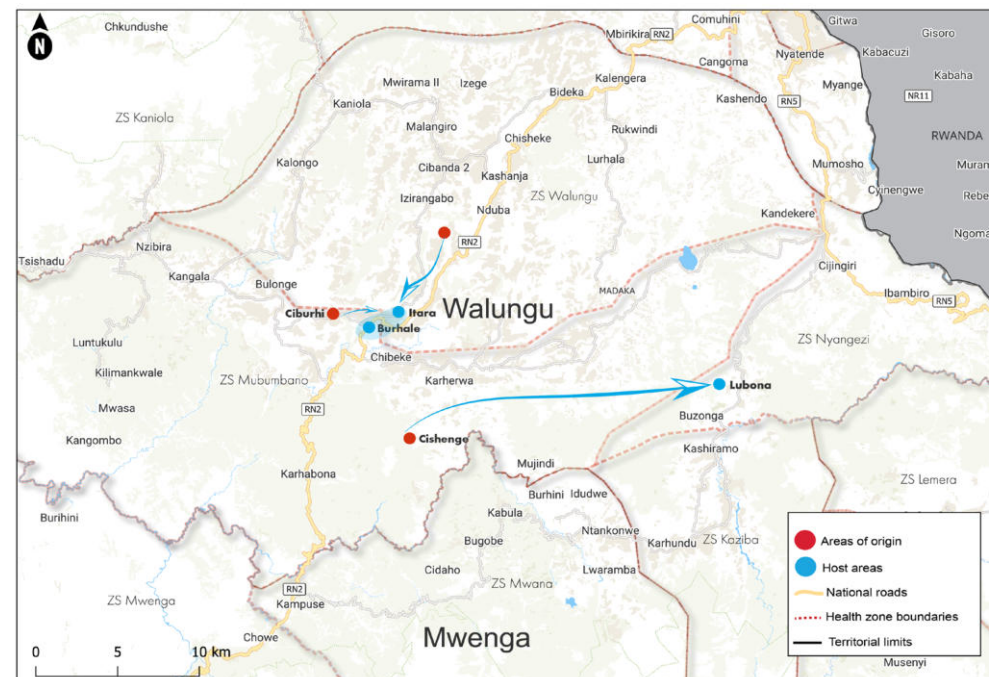


Figure 4. Number of newly displaced households by destination territory in South Kivu province.

Walungu territory

In February, an estimated 4,000 households were displaced in Walungu territory, mainly in the health zones of Mubumbano (1,800 households) and Nyangezi (2,200 households). These displacements were the result of clashes between the FARDC and its allies and the M23 in the Kamisimbi and Muchinga groups.



Map 6. Population movement in Walungu territory, Feb 2026.

Kabare territory

A total of 4,468 households have been displaced in the Miti-Murhesa zone. The new population displacements are due to clashes between the VDP and the M23 in the localities of Mbayu, Kajeje, Mulangala, Kabare, Kayeye, and Cibati, located on the outskirts of Kahuzi-Biega National Park.

Kalehe territory

The Kalehe territory has recorded the displacement of approximately 8,030 households. These populations are distributed between the Bunyakiri health zone (6,800 households) and the Kalehe health zone (1,230 households).

These displacements are linked to several factors:

- Clashes between two Mai-Mai factions (Kasilence and Kirikicho) in the Ziralo group, particularly on the Tushingiti-Lulere-Mihanda axis;
- Clashes between the Wazalendo, supported by the FARDC, and the M23 in the Mubuku and Ziralo groups;
- Heavy rains accompanied by strong winds that fell during the night of February 19, 2026, on the health areas of Mweha and Nyabibwe, in the Mbinga Nord group (Kalehe territory), causing significant material damage.



Map 7. Population movement in Kabare and Kalehe territories, Feb 2026.

Uvira territory

Clashes between the Wazalendo, supported by the FARDC, and the Gumino Twirwaneho in the localities of Mashuba, Mulenge, Lemera, and Kidote (in the Lemera health zone) have led to the displacement of 3,080 households. These households headed for Butole, Kitumbi, Bwesho, Narumanga, and Nyawera, located in the Lemera group, Bafuliru chiefdom.



Map 8. Population movement in Uvira territory, Feb 2026.

Fizi territory

In the Fizi territory, an estimated 10,720 households were reported to have been displaced in February. This includes 3,320 households newly displaced to the Minembwe health zone and 7,400 households who returned to the Fizi health zone.

The new displacements are mainly linked to clashes between the Gumino Twirwaneho and the FARDC and their allies in the triangular area covering the Minembwe, Itombwe, and Nundu health zones.

The returns mainly concern households that had fled their localities following the M23’s advance into Fizi territory in December 2025. These households have returned to the town of Baraka and the localities of Mwangaza, Katanga, Mshimbakye, and Kalundja, following the withdrawal of M23 fighters from Uvira and the relative improvement in security conditions in Baraka.

The returning households are mainly from the Ubwari peninsula, the Sebele, Kazimia, Some, and Talama health areas (Fizi health zone), and the town of Kalemie. Other returns have also been reported from Burundi and Tanzania.



Map 9. Population movement in Fizi territory, Feb 2026.

Maniema Province

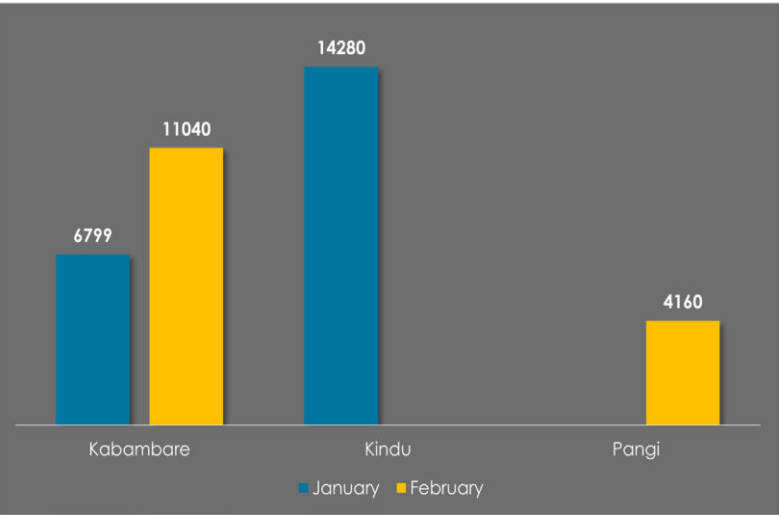
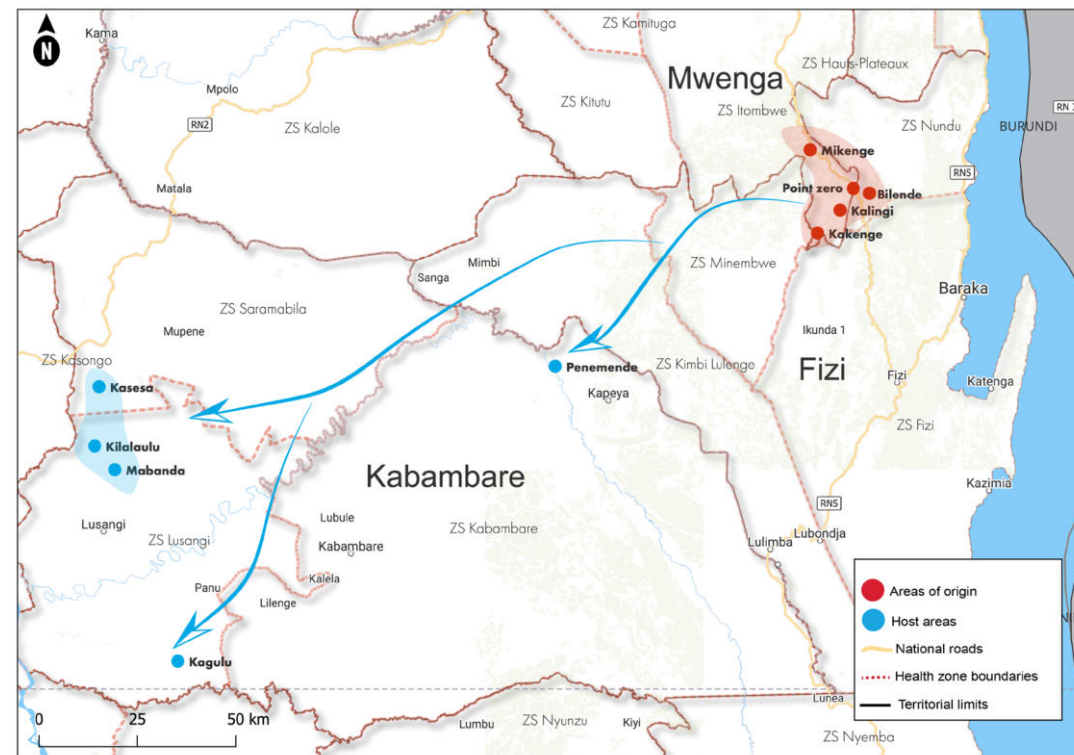


Figure 5. Number of newly displaced households by destination territory in Maniema province.

Kabambare territory

In the Kabambare territory, population movements estimated at around 11,040 households have been recorded. The displaced persons arrived mainly in the health zones of Lusangi (7,940 households) and Kabambare (3,100 households).

These displacements are attributable, on the one hand, to clashes between the FARDC, supported by Mai-Mai groups, and Gumino Twirwaneho elements allied with the M23 in the highlands of Fizi and Mwenga. On the other hand, heavy rains in the rural commune of Ndandalukala caused material damage, leaving several households homeless. According to OCHA, most affected households have found refuge with host families².



Map 10. Population movement in Kabambare territory, Feb 2026.

Pangi territory

A total of 4,160 households moved to the Kampene health zone in the Pangi territory. These new displacements are mainly linked to ongoing insecurity and clashes between the Wazalendo, allied with the FARDC, and elements of the M23 in South Kivu.

According to OCHA, most displaced persons are being hosted by host families in the city of Kama³.

² EHtool, alerte 6300 du 07 février 2026
³ EHtool, alerte 6222 du 17 février 2026



Map 11. Population movement in Pangi territory, Feb 2026.

Tanganyika Province

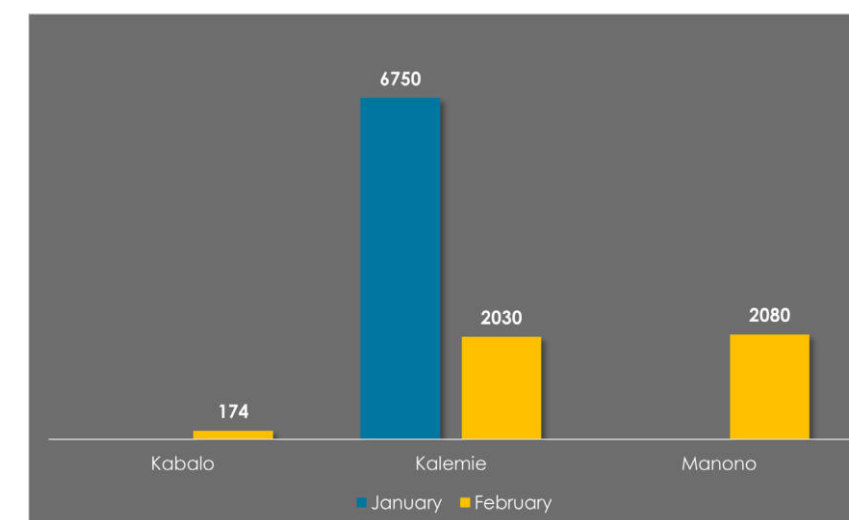


Figure 6. Number of newly displaced households by destination territory in Tanganyika province.

Kalemie territory

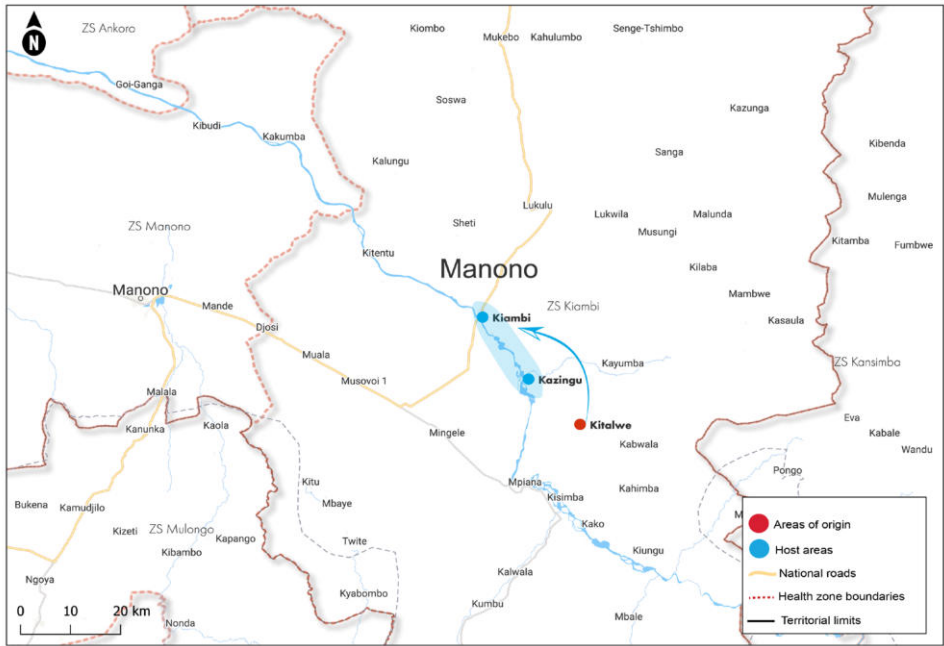
A total of 2,030 households have been affected by population movements in the Nyemba health zone. These displacements are linked to insecurity caused by armed groups. These households have mainly found refuge in the villages of Nkunde and Mukumuni (in the Lambo-Kilela group).



Map 12. Population movement in Kalemie territory, Feb 2026.

Manono territory

A total of 2,030 households have been affected by population movements in the Nyemba health zone. These displacements are linked to insecurity caused by armed groups. These households have mainly found refuge in the villages of Nkunde and Mukumuni (in the Lambo-Kilela group).



Map 13. Population movement in Manono territory, Feb 2026.

Kabalo territory

Torrential rains on February 10 and during the night of February 21-22 in the Ngwena Gare area caused significant material damage, including the destruction of homes belonging to more than 174 households in the Kabalo health zone. The affected households are currently being housed with host families⁴.

4 EHtool, alerte 6325 du 25 février 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.



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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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