

MONTHLY DISPLACEMENT REPORT

December 2023



CRISIS ANALYSIS
DR CONGO



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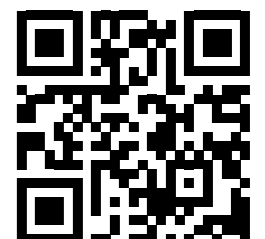
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Cover photo: Assistance to displaced persons, Tchomia, Ituri province, © Mercy Corps



I. Methodology

Data collection

The researchers and analysts of the Crisis Analysis Team in the Democratic Republic of Congo (CAT-DRC) collect, triangulate, and analyze information from primary and secondary sources. Each week, researchers conduct interviews with key informants to better understand the events that contribute to the humanitarian crisis in eastern DRC (violent incidents, epidemics, natural disasters, etc.). They analyze their potential impact on humanitarian operations. These interviews take place with local administrative officials, customary representatives, health personnel, representatives of the army and armed groups, as well as humanitarian organizations active in Ituri, North Kivu, South Kivu, Tanganyika and Maniema.

The CAT-DRC also uses several secondary sources made available by humanitarian partners (e.g., OCHA, INSO) and the community. 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 rapidly changing situations in the region. If you have any comments or information you would like the CAT-DRC to follow up on, please complete a feedback form linked below: [contact form](#).

Data analysis and report structure

The analyses presented focus on two main aspects: (i) Populations displacements and the response status of humanitarian needs; and (ii) humanitarian access in the areas hosting the most displaced people in eastern DRC.

Populations displacements and humanitarian needs

The first aspect of this report is the analysis of displacement. This analysis 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 hosted the most waves of unassisted displacement over the past four months, including the month covered by this report. These areas are hereinafter referred to as displacement hotspots. Both displacement hotspots and new displacements are analyzed at the territory level in the five provinces studied in eastern DRC, and are presented on Map 1. On this map, territories are categorized into class intervals (materialized by a graduated colored background) that correspond to the number of households hosted in the territory and not yet having received any humanitarian assistance. The number of households used to categorize territories corresponds to the sum of all major displacements, i.e. over 300 households, reported in each territory between September and December 2023.

Displacements of over 300 households in December are also illustrated on Map 1, by marking the position of the localities hosting the displaced people. These new displacements are then described in more detail, on a case-by case basis, using maps illustrating the itinerary of the movements, between the departure and reception localities in each of the territories where they took place.

Humanitarian access

The second aspect of the report is the analysis of humanitarian access. CAT-DRC categorizes incidents based on a humanitarian access score. This score has six levels, from 1 to 6, which describe the severity of the impact of security incidents on humanitarian access. Level 1 corresponds to a situation where the incident has no impact on access. Level 6, the highest, corresponds to a situation where the incident causes extreme access constraints. Incidents at levels 4 to 6 have a severe impact on humanitarian access, and generally involve ambushes, clashes between armed actors, attacks and looting of villages, as well as natural disasters. The humanitarian access score thus makes it possible to identify the main hotspots in eastern DRC. For a given month, an analysis of access scores makes it possible to identify the actors who have caused the greatest humanitarian access constraints. From one month to the other, this score also enables us to understand the evolution of humanitarian access constraints in the territories studied.

Given the large number of areas studied in eastern DRC, CAT has limited its analysis to areas with a high concentration of displaced people. The analysis of humanitarian access is therefore carried out first and foremost in displacement hotspot areas, those which, over the last four months (including the month covered by this report), have recorded the highest number of displaced people whose humanitarian needs have not yet been met. These areas with a high concentration of displaced people are typically those which should be targeted for humanitarian intervention in the short term. As such, documenting access constraints to these areas seems clearly relevant. Concretely, in this report, the territories concerned by the humanitarian access analysis are those where the number of displaced/returned persons exceeds the median value (7 240 households) of the displacements recorded in all territories over the last four months (see Appendix 1).

II. Displacement, humanitarian need and access

General overview on humanitarian needs

The territories of Rutshuru, Masisi (North Kivu), Kalehe and Fizi (South Kivu) are concentrating the largest number of households that made displacement movements between September and December 2023, whose humanitarian needs were not covered by any humanitarian assistance until the end of December 2023 (Map1).

Overview of humanitarian access

In **December**, the province of Ituri experienced a relative deterioration in humanitarian access, particularly in the territories of Djugu and Mahagi. In Djugu, humanitarian access deteriorated due to an escalation of attacks by fighters from various CODECO factions (URDCP, ALC, FDBC) against civilians, FARDC, and the armed group Zaïre-FPAC. This was accompanied by the establishment of approximately 25 new positions, causing significant access constraints, especially on the national road RN27 and in groupements such as Dhedja, Buku, Masumbuko, Fataki, Okere, and Ngazba. Simultaneously, in the territory of Mahagi, humanitarian access constraints increased due to the intensified attacks by CODECO-URDP and extortion activities, primarily against members of the Alur community. The anticipated rise in incidents related to economic predation in December, during the festive period, might decrease subsequently. Additionally, popular protests erupted in Ugonjo and Mahagi related to the electoral process, with demonstrators protesting against denied access to voting centers and demanding payment as witnesses. Moreover, the territory of Mambasa experienced ADF activism, leading to population displacement in December.

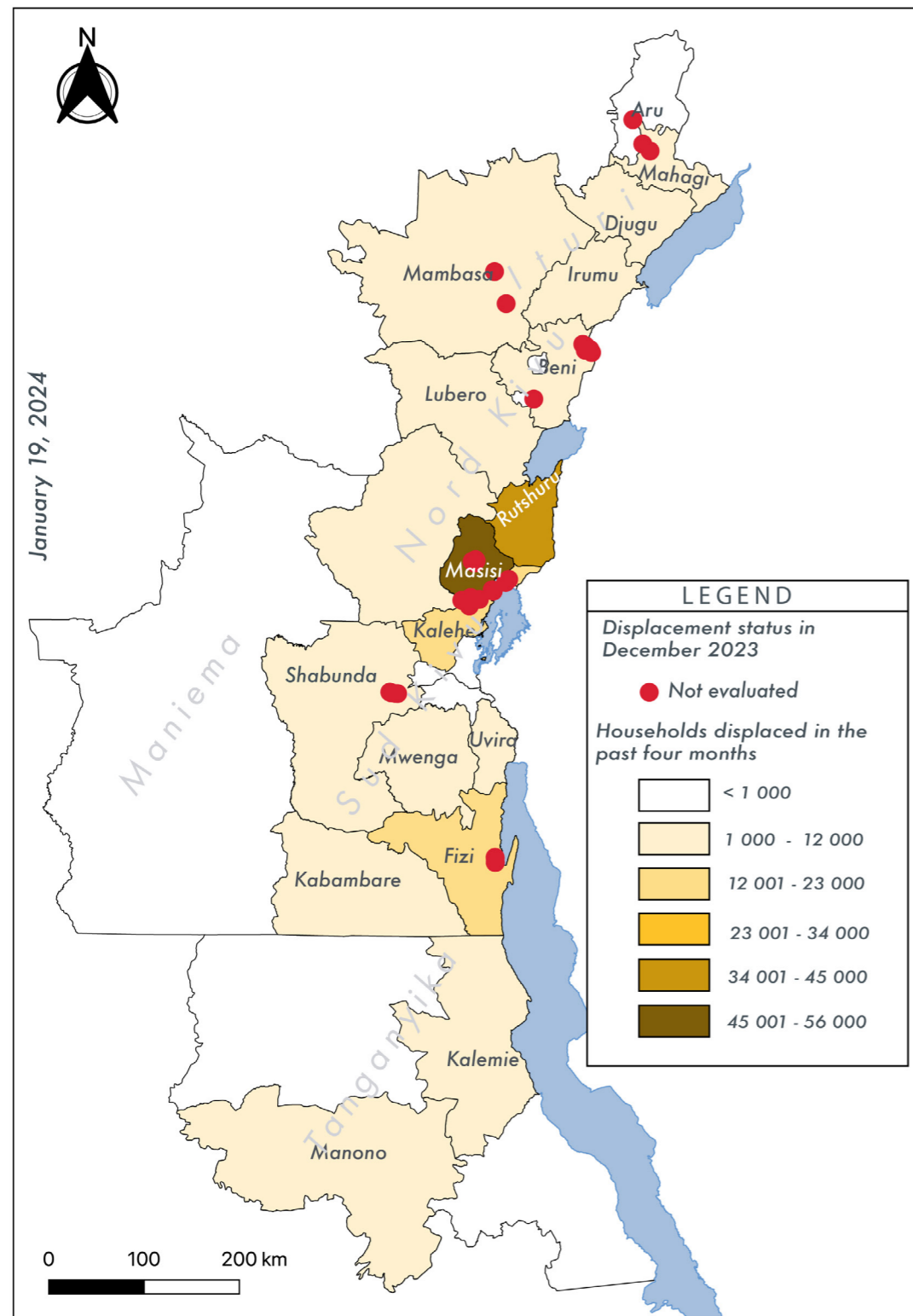
In **North Kivu**, the month of December was marked by the withdrawal of contingents from the regional force of the East African Community (EAC), made up of Kenyan, Ugandan, Burundian and South Sudanese troops. After a year of presence in the province, this force faced criticism for its leniency towards the M23, leading to the non-renewal of its presence by the DRC government. In replacement, contingents from a new Southern African Development Community (SADC) regional force entered the province on December 27, including troops from Malawi, South Africa, and Tanzania. Despite aiming to counter the progression of the M23 and allied armed groups, doubts persist regarding its offensive mandate, distinguishing it from the former EAC force. The M23 crisis was marked by a ceasefire negotiated by the United States, recommending a cessation of hostilities from December 14 to 18. However, this ceasefire was poorly observed, with M23 new attacks against armed groups recorded in December, continuing to restrict humanitarian access, especially in the Masisi territory, particularly on the provincial road RP1030 (Sake-Kitchanga section) and the RP529 (Sake-Mushaki-Masisi, Mushaki-Bihambwe axes).

The province of **South Kivu** faces complex and variable security challenges across its territories. In Fizi territory, reinforced positions by armed groups suggest a pos-

sible resumption of hostilities between the Gumino Twirwaneho and the Mai-Mai Biloze Bishambuke. The threat of attacks by Mai-Mai Yakutumba on displaced sites also remains significant, constraining humanitarian efforts to address population needs in the territory. In Uvira, tensions persist between Gumino factions (Manakina and Nyamusaraba), exacerbating security instability despite a reduction in incidents along the national road RN5. Mwenga territory was characterized by civil society's fiscal disobedience expressing discontent with authorities' inaction, primarily due to the advanced deterioration of the RN2. Kalehe territory witnessed the activism of different Nyatura factions (Bazungu, Kalume) through acts of violence against civilian populations. Finally, Shabunda continues to face Raia Mutomboki activism alongside military operations against other armed groups.

In **Maniema**, no armed clashes were reported in the Kabambare territory in December, indicating a relatively stable access situation. The Mai-Mai Malaika and Apa na Pale groups concentrated their activism on urban crime, including arbitrary arrests, robberies, and extortions, mainly in the Lumumba neighborhood (Kabambare). The Mai-Mai Malaika also carried out recruitments and forced labor against civilian populations in the Nonda, Lugambo, and Kanyengele groupements.

In **Tanganyika**, the province experienced a relative deterioration of humanitarian access constraints due to the activism of Mai-Mai Malaika and Katakotanga factions and armed members of the Twa community. The latter conducted extortion activities against civilians, leading to frequent FARDC interventions to track these fighters and protect the population, resulting in clashes that restricted humanitarian access on RN33 and RN5. Mai-Mai activism (Malaika and Katakotanga factions) was primarily focused on economic predation, with two incidents particularly hampering humanitarian access on the Kiambi-Mpenge and Lubaza-Kitambilo axes. The Kalemie territory remains particularly marked by high urban criminality, involving mainly Mai-Mai Apa na Pale and armed members of the Twa community.



Map 1. Mapping of "displacement hotspots" in eastern DRC, from September 2023 to December 2023. Displacements in December 2023 are marked by dots. Territories are colored according to the number of households displaced and/or returned in the last four months, and not yet assisted. Source: OCHA, CAT-DRC visualization.

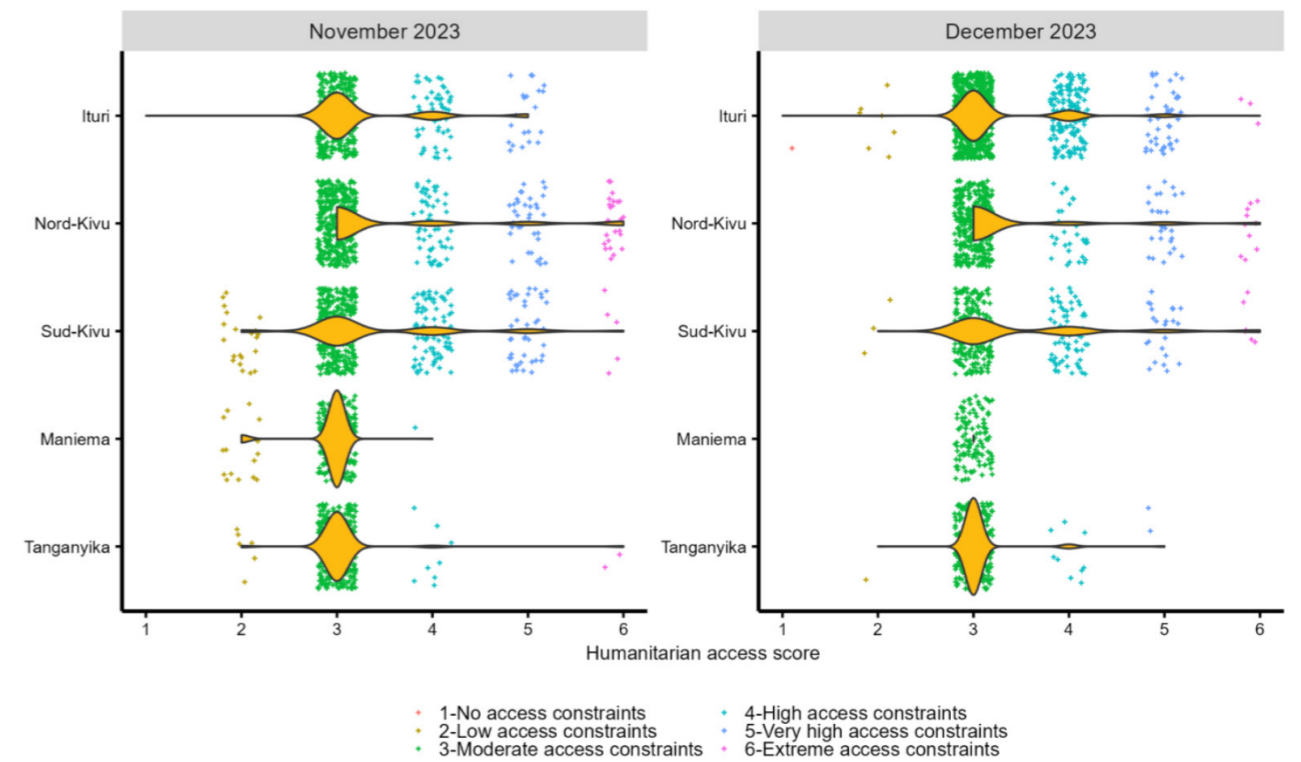


Figure 1. Distribution of security incidents according to their humanitarian access score in eastern Democratic Republic of Congo, in November and December 2023. Source: INSO, CAT-DRC design and visualization.

III. Populations movements in November

In December, eastern DRC recorded the displacement of some 45,689 households (Map 1). At the end of December, no needs assessment had yet been carried out for all the households displaced during the month in question. These numbers of displaced households are slightly higher than in November (43,158 households). Following the M23 crisis, Masisi territory (North Kivu) hosted the largest waves of displacement (24,695 households), accounting for almost half of all displaced populations in eastern DRC in December. Other displacements linked to the M23 crisis took place towards Goma (North Kivu) and Kalehe (South Kivu). In South Kivu, population displacements also took place in the Fizi and Shabunda territories following attacks on civilians by armed combatants Rai-Mutomboku and Mai-mai Yakutum-ba. Displacements recorded in Ituri (Djugu, Mahagi and Mambasa) were minor (< 1000 households) and were caused by ADF and CODECO-URDPC attacks against civilian populations.

Ituri Province

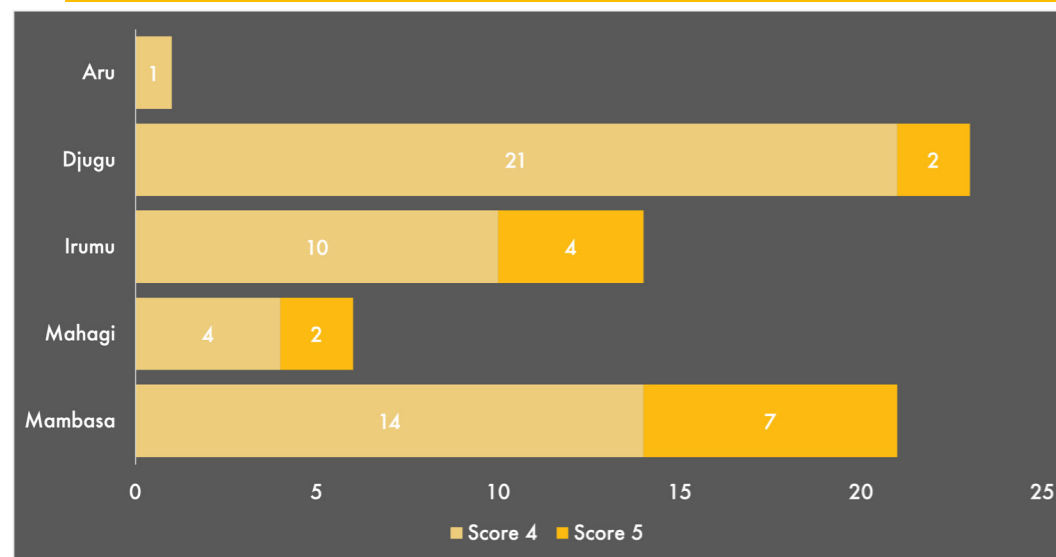


Figure 2. Security incidents causing high to extreme humanitarian access constraints in Ituri in December 2023. Source: INSO, CAT-DRC design and visualization.

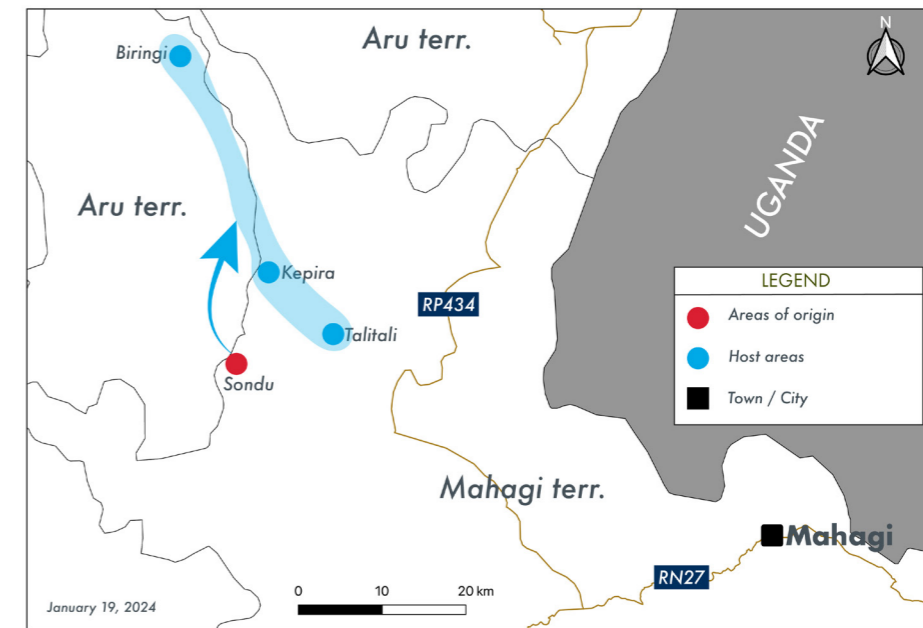
Mahagi territory

POPULATIONS DISPLACEMENTS

Nearly 1,225 households were forced to move in Mahagi territory following attacks by CODECO-URDPC fighters. On the one hand, the attacks in the villages of Sondu, Yilopka and Manzetele caused the displacement of 800 households in two directions, on towards the localities of Talitali and Kepira (ZS Aungba) and towards to the locality of Biringi (ZS Biringi) in Aru territory.¹ On the other hand, the CODE-

¹ EHtools, alerte 5046 du 18 décembre 2023

CO-URDPC attacks against the populations who returned to the locality of Kwero (ZS Angumu), caused the displacement of 425 households to the locality of Gengere (ZS Angumu).²



Map 2. Movement of populations in Mahagi territory, December 2023. Source: OCHA, CAT-RDC visualization.

HUMANITARIAN ACCESS

Humanitarian access constraints were much stronger in December than in November in the territory of Mahagi, and this situation is explained by increased activism of CODECO-URDP fighters. In this territory, incidents with a significant impact on humanitarian access tripled from November to December, increasing from 7 to 22 incidents. The incidents in December consist of 11 attacks by armed groups (CODECO URDPC and Zaire) against civilian populations for economic predation reasons. The attacks occurred and hindered access in the following groupements: Ruvinga (Wizii-Wala axis), Anghal II (Djalasiga-Kepira, Talitali-Ndimalo, Katanga-Djalasiga axes), Nzeba (Nioka-Yagu axis), Jupakanya (Djalasiga-Kepira), Anyola (Golu-Ayaza axis), Rona (Katanga-Alingongo). Additionally, CODECO-URDPC increased incidents of extortion, primarily targeting members of the Alur community, especially in the mentioned groupements and on RN27 (axes Dkupalungu-Akusi, Nioka-Kambala).

The increase in incidents in December related to economic predation was predicted in the previous month due to the approach of the festive period (see our November 2023 monthly report). It is possible that after these festive periods, these types of incidents may decrease again. Also, popular

² EHtools, alerte du 04 décembre 2023

protests were held following incidents related to the electoral process in the localities of Ugonjo and Mahagi (Mahagi commune). Protesters, consisting of members of political parties, were protesting the refusal they faced to access the polling center. Additionally, they were demanding payment for their services as witnesses in the polling center. .

Djugu territory

POPULATIONS DISPLACEMENTS

No populations displacements were recorded in December originating from Djugu. However, this territory is among those that have hosted significant waves of displaced/returned populations, and it is important to describe the humanitarian access there.

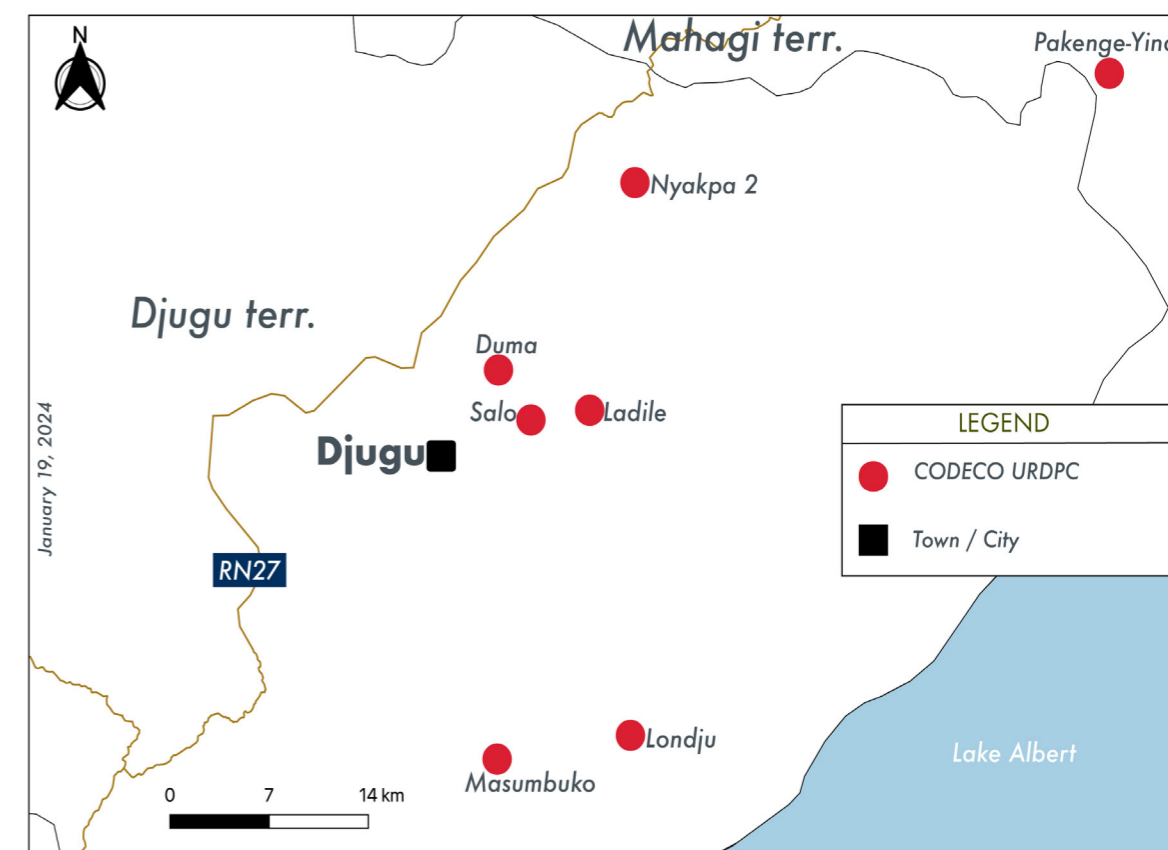
HUMANITARIAN ACCESS

Djugu witnessed a deterioration in humanitarian access in December. Indeed, from November to December, the number of incidents with a high impact on humanitarian access doubled, rising from 29 to 64 incidents. In December, the CODECO factions (URDPC and ALC, FDBC) multiplied attacks against civilian populations and engaged in clashes with FARDC and the armed group Zaïre-FPAC.

Additionally, the CODECO-FDBC fired upon a MONUSCO helicopter in Sesele (Lopa-Mbau section), causing injuries. The increased activism of CODECO during the festive period is based on economic predation motivations.

These same motivations justified the installation of 25 new positions by CODECO (ALC, FDBC, URDPC) in many localities across the territory in December (Map 4).³ CODECO activism thus hampered humanitarian access on several RN27 (axes Libi-Nioka, Libi-Dhera, Fataki-Djugu) as well as in groupements such as Dhedja (Bule-Drodoro, Dhedja-Maze), Buku, Masumbuko, Fataki, Okere, Ngazba, Musaba. On the Bule-Drodoro axis, CODECO fighters (ALC and URDPC) set up nearly eight ambushes against civilian populations (traders, mining operators) and humanitarian actors from a national NGO.

3 CODECO have installed new positions in Tsakpa, Dz'ngu, Uzi, Saliboko, Tchatsikpa, Andasia, Damas, Berunda, Abara, Ladile, Salo, Ngakpa 2, Londju, Duman Masumbuko, Ladile, Tchungu, Blukwa, Masumbuko, Uzi, Ulo, Tsoro, Lida, Lara.

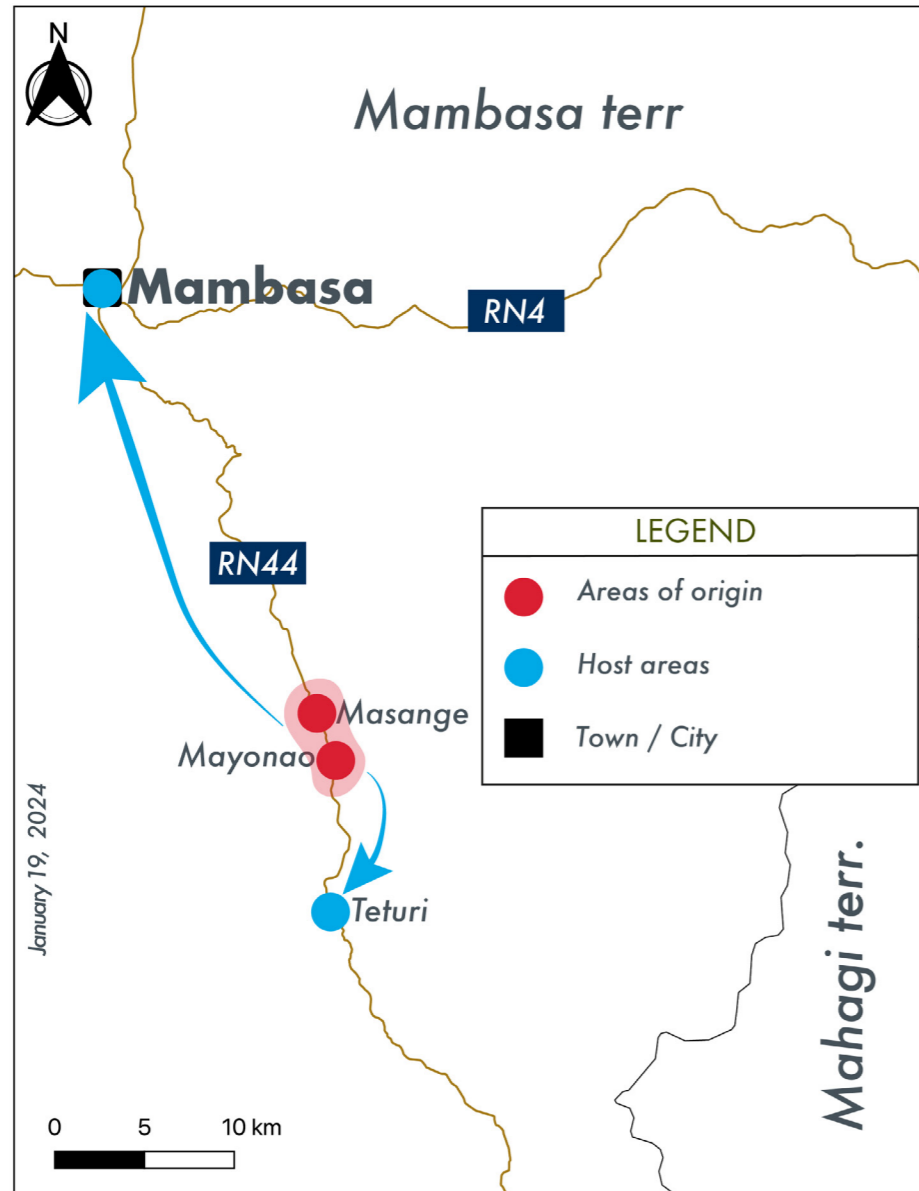


Map 3: Installation of CODECO positions in Djugu territory, December 2023. Source: OCHA, CAT-DRC visualization.

Mambasa territory

POPULATIONS DISPLACEMENTS

Following ADF attacks, around 860 households were forced to displace inside the Mandima HZ. These populations specifically moved from the Mayoano and Masange localities to the Teturi and Mambasa-center localities.⁴



Map 4: Movement of populations in Mambasa territory, December 2023. Source: OCHA, CAT-RDC visualization.

North-Kivu Province

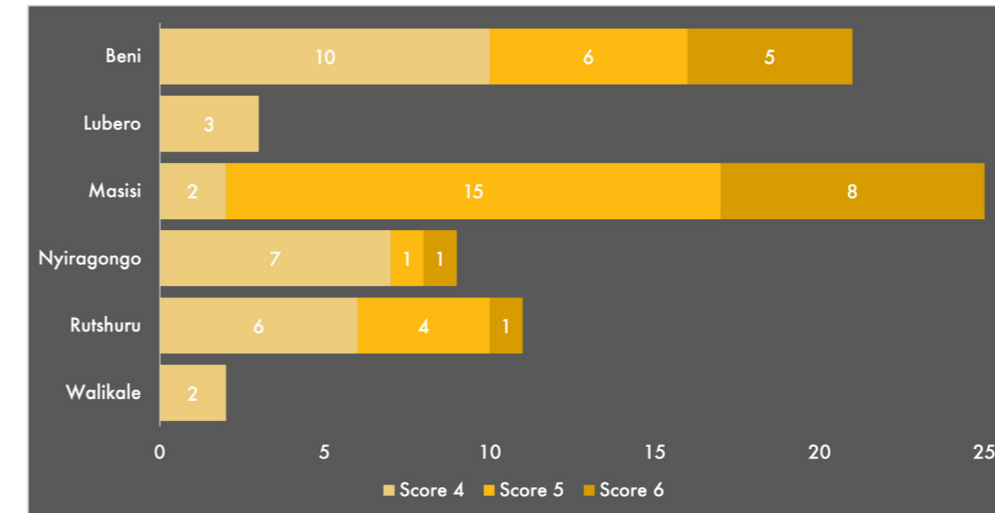


Figure 3. Security incidents causing high to extreme humanitarian access constraints in North Kivu in December 2023. Source: INSO, CAT-DRC design and visualization.

Beni territory

POPULATIONS DISPLACEMENTS

In December, nearly 2,003 households were forced to move due to ADF attacks against civilian populations. The displacements occurred within the Kamango HZ, specifically from the localities of Kikingi, Kitsanga, Kasanjji, Kombo, Musu, Mambausu, Matolu, Ndama, Bandiguya, Maale, Gogo, Mbimba, and Kakindo to Nobili, Nsungu, Kahondo, Kamango, Kikura, Lu-anoli, and Babolue.⁵

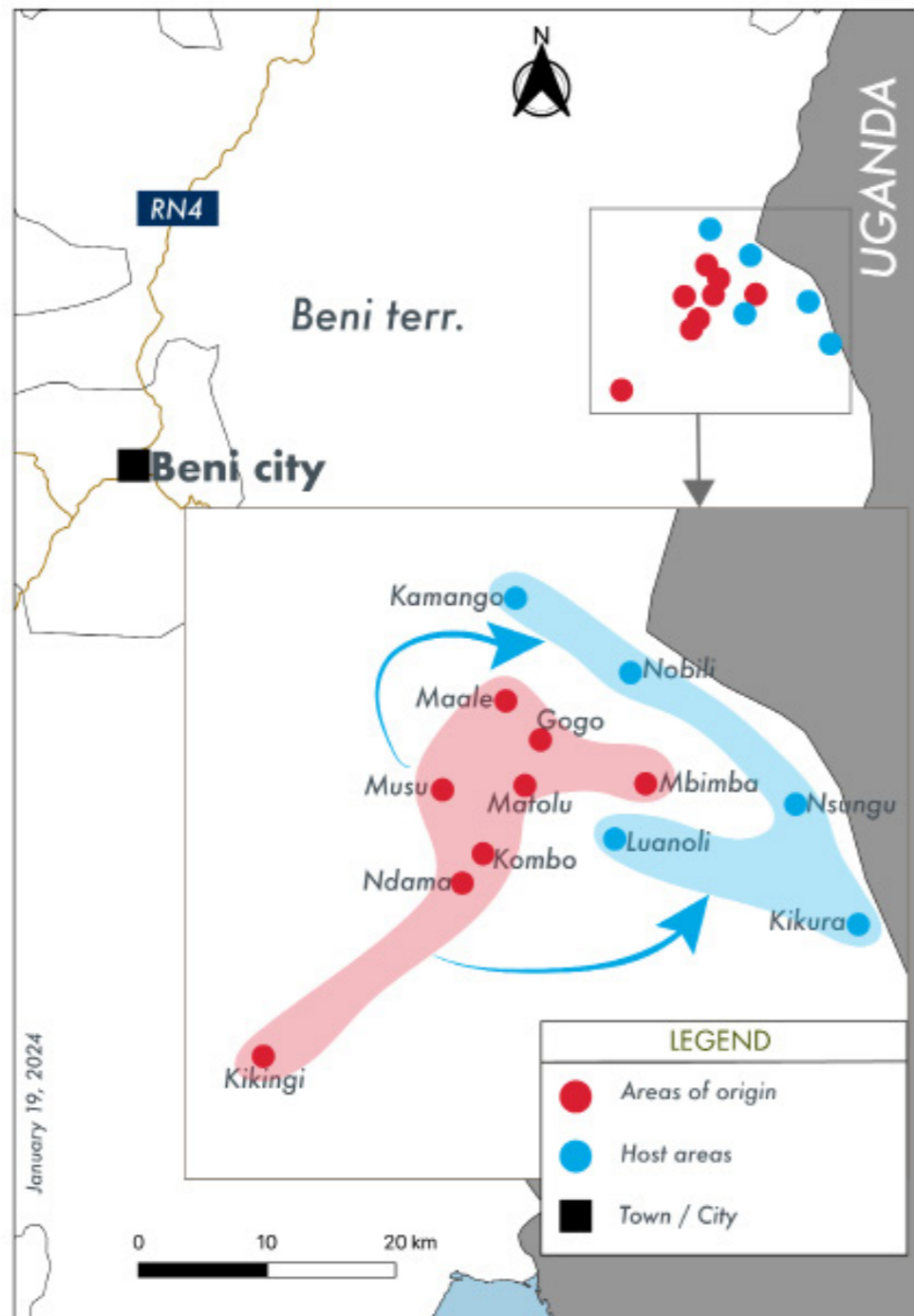
HUMANITARIAN ACCESS

The humanitarian access situation in December remained similar to that of November, marked by the activism of the Allied Democratic Forces (ADF). In December, the ADF carried out seven attacks against civilian populations and FARDC in the localities of Mayi Moya and Makembi (Bambumba Kisi-ki grouping), Oicha (Batangi Mbau grouping), and Kilya (Malambo grouping). These attacks hindered humanitarian access on the national road RN4 (axes Beni-Eringeti, Beni-Kasindi, Oicha-Eringeti) and at kilometer point 17 (PK 17) on the Mbau-Kamango axis. The ADF also set up an ambush against a FARDC patrol, resulting in civilian casualties in Ntoma (Bolema group-

⁵ EHtools, alerte 5031 du 01 décembre 2023

⁴ EHtools, alerte du 04 décembre 2023

ing). However, military operations against the ADF were infrequent. Only one patrol by the FARDC-UPDF coalition was conducted in Kitevya (Batangi Mbau grouping). These patrols may be intensified in early 2024, which should reduce the level of nuisance posed by ADF fighters.



Map 5. Population movements in Beni territory, December 2023. Source: OCHA, CAT-DRC visualization.

Rutshuru territory

POPULATIONS DISPLACEMENTS

No population displacement was recorded in December originating from Rutshuru. However, this territory is among those that have hosted significant waves of displaced/returned populations, and it is important to describe the humanitarian access there.

HUMANITARIAN ACCESS

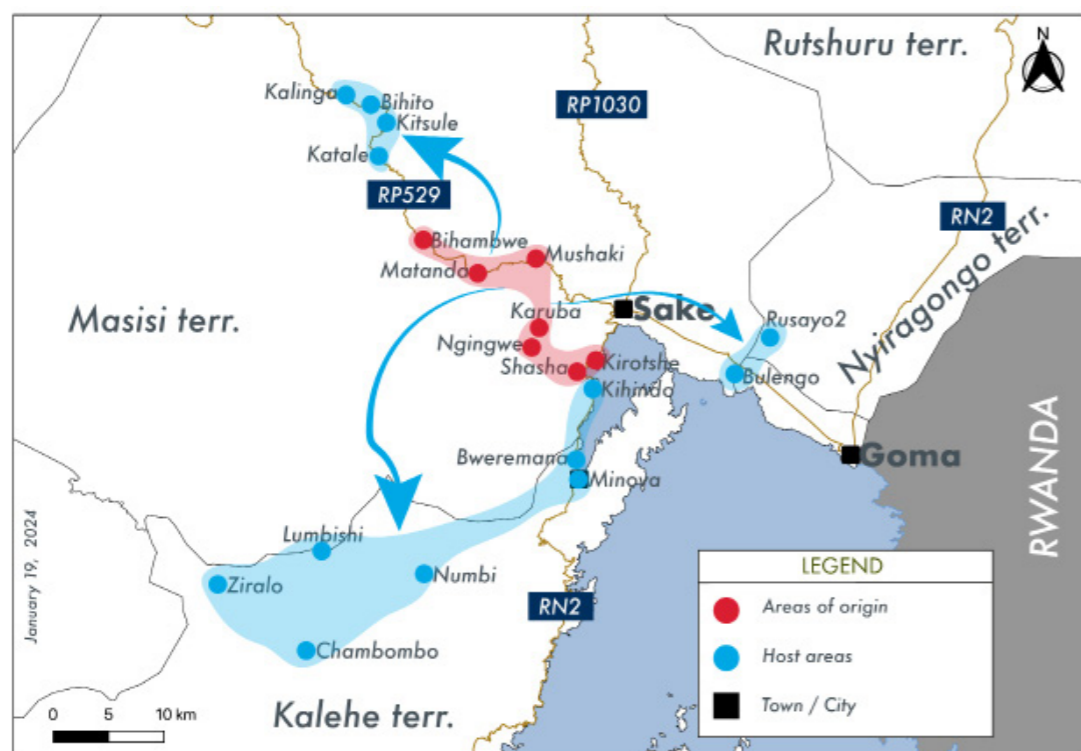
The security situation in the territory of Rutshuru has relatively improved, with half as many high-impact incidents on humanitarian access in December (11 incidents) compared to November (26 incidents). December incidents include five armed clashes between the M23 and armed groups Nyatura MC and FDLR. These clashes impeded access in the Tongo grouping and on the RN2 (Mabenga-Rwindi section). The M23 also targeted armed groups with ambushes in Kapopi (Bukoma groupement, Mabenga-Tongo axis), Kazuba (Bukombo groupement), and Karama on the RN2 (Kiwanja-Mabenga axis). The reduction in M23 activism in Rutshuru is explained by its concentration of efforts in the neighboring territory of Masisi. The creation of the Alliance du Fleuve Congo (AFC) movement, closely collaborating with M23, has not, to date, altered the dynamics of the activism of this armed group. However, several recruitments calls to join AFC have been issued, suggesting a reorganization of M23 with possible intensification of attacks in the coming months.

Additionally, similar to November, MONUSCO (United Nations Organization Stabilization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo) was the target of a popular demonstration on RN2. Individuals barricaded the road in Bumbi on the Kiwanja-Mabenga section, thereby preventing access for the organization of the organization. Incidents targeting MONUSCO may continue in connection with the anti-MONUSCO sentiment observed for several months among the population of North Kivu.

Masisi territory

POPULATIONS DISPLACEMENTS

Nearly 24,695 households have moved within the territory of Masisi due to the conflicts related to the M23 crisis. These populations have moved in several waves. A first wave of 2,317 households moved from the localities of Mushaki, Karuba, Ngingwe, Matanda (HZ Kirothse), and Bihambwe (HZ Katoyi) to the localities of Katale, Kitsule, Kalinga, Bihito, and Rona (HZ Katoyi). A second wave, consisting of 16,241 households, moved from Karuba and Ngingwe to Kihindo and Bweremana (HZ Kirotshe). A third wave of 6,137 households departed from Mushaki, Karuba, Ngingwe to Bweremana (HZ Kirotshe). The arrival of displaced populations from this last wave has been continuously reported in the preceding months. These households are particularly exposed to the cholera epidemic.^{6,7,8}



Map 6. Population movements in Masisi territory, December 2023. Source: OCHA, CAT-DRC visualization.

6 EHtools, alerte du 15 décembre 2023
 7 EHtools, alerte 5049 du 22 décembre 2023
 8 EHtools, alerte 5050 du 28 décembre 2023

HUMANITARIAN ACCESS

The humanitarian situation in the Masisi territory continues to be affected by the M23 crisis. Despite a 50% decrease in incidents with a high impact on humanitarian access between November (58) and December (25), access constraints persist in this territory. The reduction in incidents with a high impact on access is explained by the ceasefire negotiated by the United States to end hostilities between December 14 and 28 in the context of the M23 crisis.³ Although this ceasefire was not meticulously observed by the M23 and local armed groups, it still reduced the clashes during the specified period. The ceasefire agreement recommended, among other things, that the M23 vacate the city of Mushaki, a recommendation that was not followed.

In December, the M23 carried out eight attacks and faced four others from the Armed Forces of FARDC and various local armed groups (ANCDH, Nyatura CMC, Mai-mai PARECO/FF, APCLS). The clashes occurred in Kamuronza, Bashali Mokoto, Muvunyi Shanga, Muvunyi Karuba, and Muvunyi Matanda groupements, further impeding humanitarian access on Provincial Road (RP) 1030 (Sake-Kitchanga section) and RP529 (axes Sake-Mushaki-Masisi, Mushaki-Bihambwe). These attacks led to population displacement.

The direct intervention of the FARDC in the clashes with heavy and light artillery, including the use of fighter planes (SOUKHOÏ), can be interpreted as a deviation from recommendations arising from various sub-regional peace processes that the DRC recently adhered to. Previously, the FARDC justified their attacks against the M23 as responses to its provocations, thus adopting a defensive position. Recent developments in the situation indicate that the FARDC can now launch offensives against the M23, confirming their shift toward a military solution rather than negotiation with the M23.

Furthermore, as predicted, the APCLS and Mai-mai Kifufuafua fighters multiplied acts of economic predation during the festive period. These incidents targeting civilian populations were recorded in several groupements such as Bashali Mokoto, Bashali Kayembe, Ufamandu I and II, Kamuronza.

Nyiragongo territory

POPULATIONS DISPLACEMENTS

Following the M23 crisis, continuous displacement movements have been recorded towards the Nyiragongo territory and the city of Goma. A total of 5,960 households recently arrived at the Rusayo 2 site (ZS Nyiragongo) and Bulengo (ZS Goma), including 165 households arriving in early December from the localities of Sake and Mushaki (ZS Kirotshe).⁹

HUMANITARIAN ACCESS

In December, Nyiragongo territory experienced relatively low constraints on humanitarian access. The holding of elections did not lead to major security incidents. However, some protests contesting the election results took place in the Majengo and Katoyi quarters, without significantly impacting the overall activities of the city. These protests temporarily hindered access to the Station Mutinga-Afia Bora axis. Additionally, the UN mission MONUSCO was once again the target of popular demonstrations in Himbi and Kihisi (Munigi group), indicating an anti-MONUSCO persistent sentiment expressed for several months in public opinion.

Furthermore, the security situation in North Kivu, especially in Goma, was marked by the deployment of a new regional force from SADC, intervening after the withdrawal of the EAC force. The contingents of this new force include troops from Malawi, South Africa, and Tanzania.¹⁰ The departure of the EAC force followed criticisms leveled against it, particularly regarding the advance of the M23 and its increased control over several areas in the territories of Masisi and Rutshuru.

9 EHtools, alerte 5037 du 06 décembre 2023

10 Actualite.cd, les troupes de la sadc debutent leur deployment dans l'est de la RDC, décembre 2023

South-Kivu Province

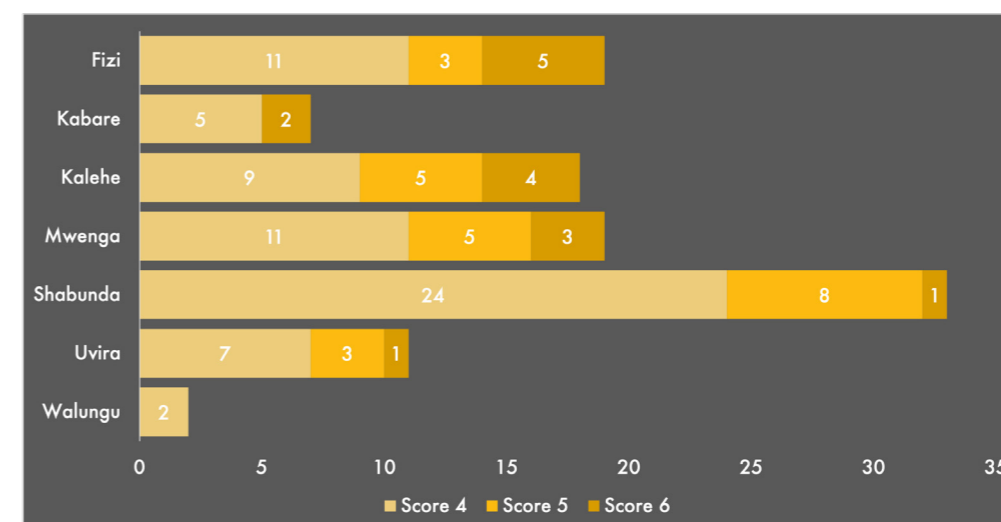


Figure 4. Security incidents causing high to extreme humanitarian access constraints in South Kivu in December 2023. Source: INSO, CAT-DRC design and visualization.

Kalehe territory

POPULATIONS DISPLACEMENTS

The clashes in the Masisi territory due to the M23 crisis led to the displacement of 3,360 households to the Kalehe territory. These households came from the localities of Shasha, Kirotshe, Mushaki, Bihambwe, Karuba (HZ Kirotshe) and settled in the localities of Minova, Numbi, Ziralo, Lumbishi, and Chambombo in the HZ of Minova.^{11,12}

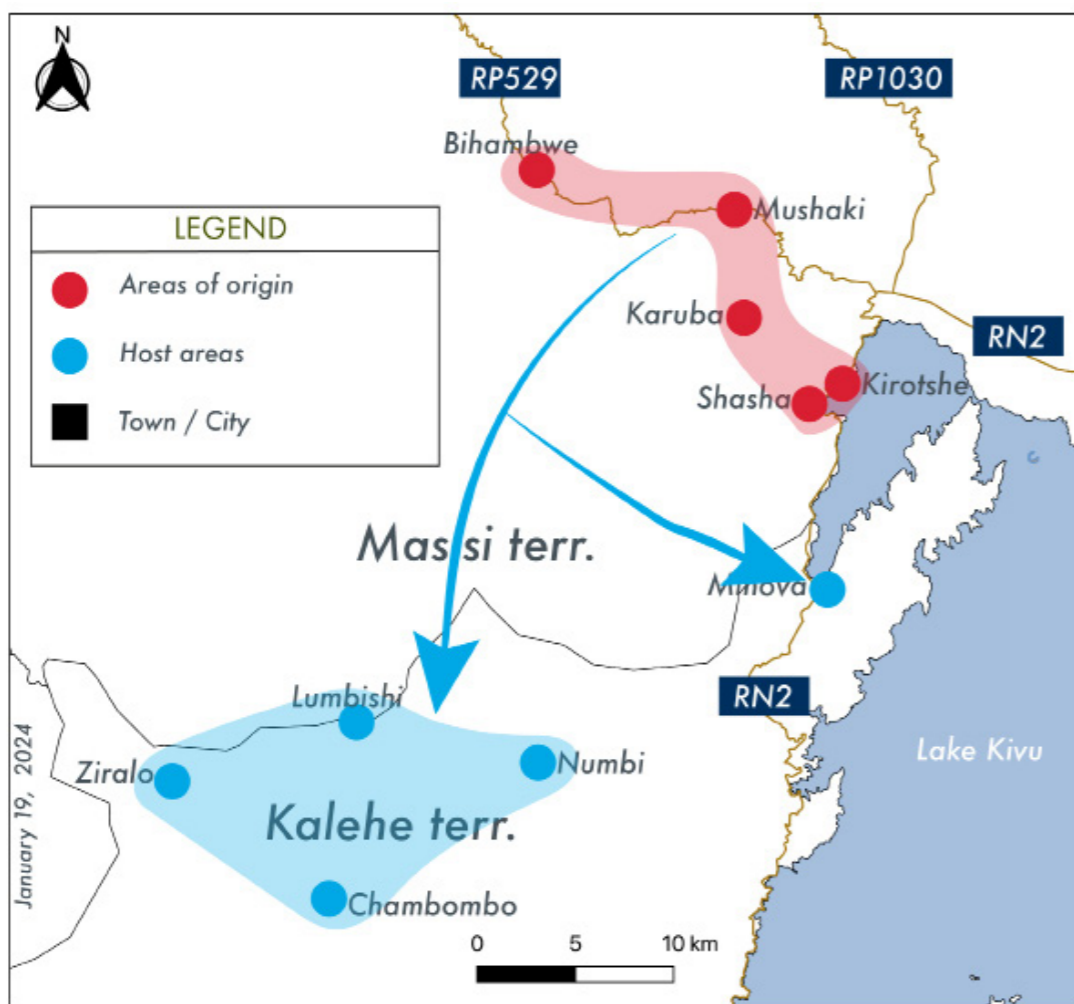
HUMANITARIAN ACCESS

The humanitarian access situation in Kalehe in December remained similar to that of November, marked by low constraints. As in previous months, the limited access constraints in Kalehe result from a reduction in the activities of local armed groups. On one hand, the decreased activity of the Nyatura is partly due to the death of their leader, Mr. Bazungu, reducing their level of nuisance. However, this death has led to a leadership conflict within the armed group, recently resulting in a split that gave rise to a new faction

11 EHtools, alerte 5038 du 11 décembre 2023

12 EHtools, alerte 5041 du 12 décembre 2023

of Nyatura MCDPIN. For territorial control and economic predation, clashes have occurred between different Nyatura factions (MCDPIN, Bazungu, Kalume) and between Raia Mutomboki factions (Bipopa faction against the Blaise faction). In December, clashes between the FARDC and Nyatura and Raia Mutomboki Butaichibera fighters took place in the localities of Nyalugusha, Lowa-Numbi, and Bushaku. These clashes hindered humanitarian access on the Kitindiro (Madépôt (Ziralo group), Fungamwaka-Ruhuha (Buzi group), and Nyawarngo-Lemera (Mubuku group) axes.

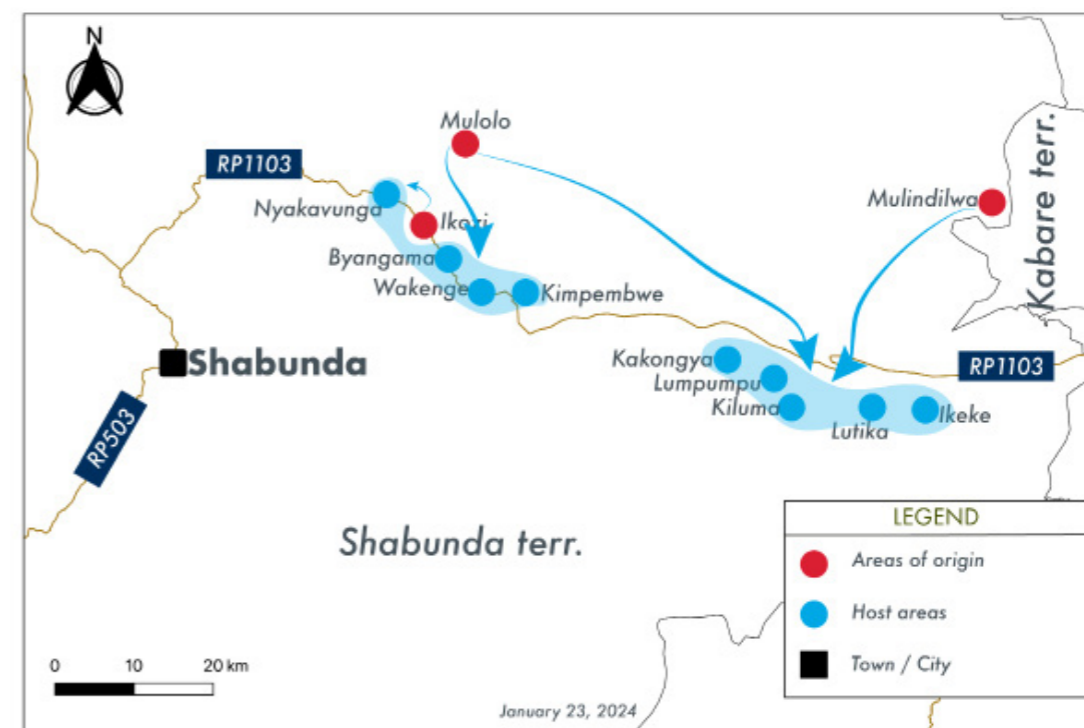


Map 7. Population movements in Kalehe territory, December 2023. Source: OCHA, CAT-DRC visualization.

Shabunda territory

POPULATIONS DISPLACEMENTS

Raia Mutomboki attacks against civilian populations for economic predation reasons led to the displacement of nearly 1,607 households in Shabunda territory. On one hand, 1,186 households fled from the localities of Mulindilwa, Mulolo, to the localities of Lutika, Ikeke, Lumpumpu, Kakongya, and Kiluma. On the other hand, 421 households fled from Tumbambu and Mwanansege, Ikozi, and Wankenge Kimpembwe, Nyakavunga, and Byangama (ZS Mulungu).^{13,14}



Map 8. Population movements in Shabunda territory, December 2023. Source: OCHA, CAT-DRC visualization.

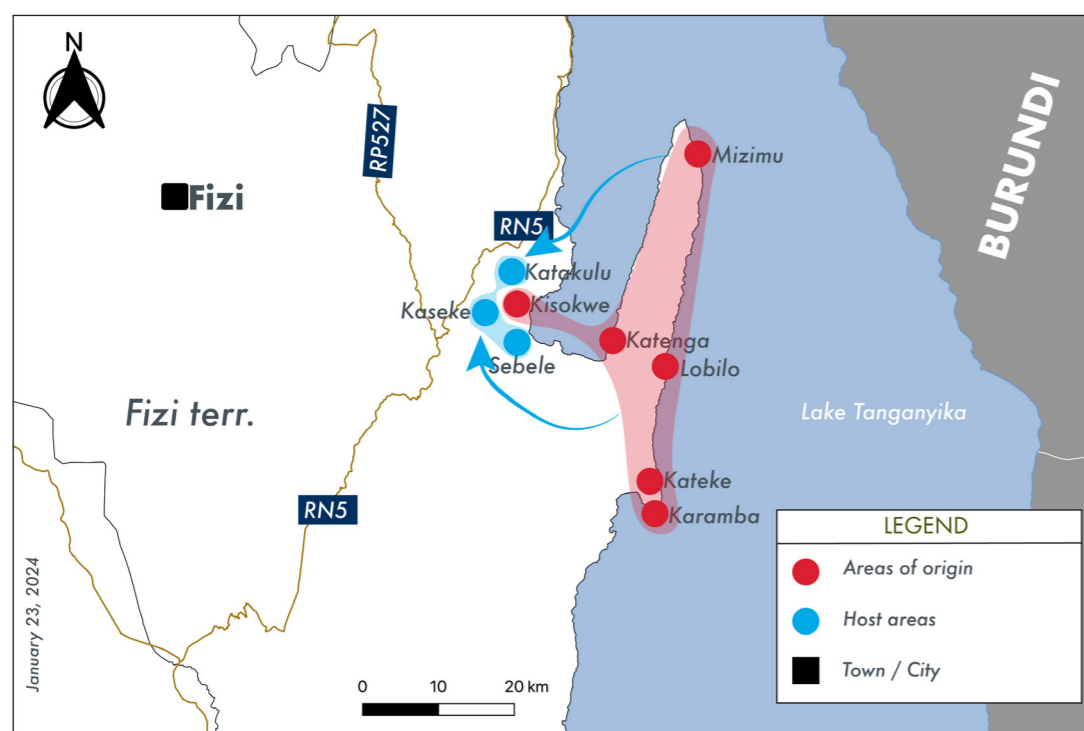
13 EHtools, alerte 5047 du 18 décembre 2023

14 EHtools, alerte 5053 du 29 décembre 2023

Fizi territory

POPULATIONS DISPLACEMENTS

In December, nearly 5,579 households were displaced within Fizi territory due to the activism of the Mai-Mai Yakutumba threatening their security. These displacements occurred in multiple waves since mid-October. The households moved from the localities of Kalirenge, Karamba, Katenga, Katedete, Katoi, Kisokwe, Kivundji, Lobilo, Mikelenge, Mizimu, and Mwanzalulu to the localities of Katalukulu, Kaseke, Kotongo, and Sebele (ZS Fizi).¹⁵



Map 9. Population movements in Fizi territory, December 2023. Source: OCHA, CAT-DRC visualization.

HUMANITARIAN ACCESS

Humanitarian access in Fizi territory was characterized by constraints due to conflicts between the Mai-Mai Biloze Bishambuke and Gumino Twirwaneho Makanika fighters, hindering access to the locality of Minembwe on the Minembwe-Babengwa and Kawera-Kalingi axes. Mai-Mai Yakutumba fighters also attacked Mai-Mai Sengi positions in Bimbili (groupement Obekulu). Additionally, new positions were established by the Mai-Mai Yakutumba in Katupu (groupement Basimimbi) and Kalumba (groupement Basimukuma Sud), as well as by the Mai-Mai Toronto in Bibokoboko (groupement Basimukindje) and the Gumino Twigwaneho Android in Kakangara (groupement Basimunyaka Sud).

The establishment of these positions raises concerns about potential new attacks on civilian populations in the short term. Furthermore, armed individuals, whose identity remains unknown, set up ambushes for economic predation against civilian populations, particularly traders in the localities of Maindombe (Penemende-Takalama axis) and Akye (Lulimba-Lubondja axis), without significantly disrupting humanitarian access on these axes.

The humanitarian situation in Fizi was further marked by two protests. One, led by the civilian population protesting against insecurity in the locality of Lweba (groupement Basimunyaka Nord), impeded humanitarian access on the Lusenda-Baraka axis on RN5. Another protest was conducted by refugees in the locality of Lusenda (groupement Balala Nord), demanding the reinstatement of their former camp president. This protest, along with the dispersion of crowds by the national police, resulted in access constraints on the Makobola-Lweba axis (RN5).

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Maniema Province

Kabambare territory

POPULATIONS DISPLACEMENTS

No populations displacements were reported in December in the province of Maniema. It is important to note, however, that Kambambare has been one of the territories where significant population movements have been observed over the last four months (September to December 2023).

HUMANITARIAN ACCESS

No high-impact incidents on humanitarian access were recorded in December across the entire territory of Kabambare. Similar to November, no armed clashes were registered in the territory of Kabambare, illustrating a relatively good access situation that has been maintained over time. The Mai-Mai Malaika and Apa na Pale focused their activism on acts of urban crime. In total, nearly 55 cases of arrests, robberies, and extortion were reported, primarily in the Lumumba neighborhood, in the Babuyu Bahombo and Bene Kabambare groupements (Kabambare-Buledi axis), and Kanyengele. Mai-Mai Malaika also carried out recruitments and forced labor against civilian populations in the localities of Lusangi (Nonda groupement), Kalibonda (Lugambo groupement), and Wamaza (Kanyengele groupement).

Tanganyika Province

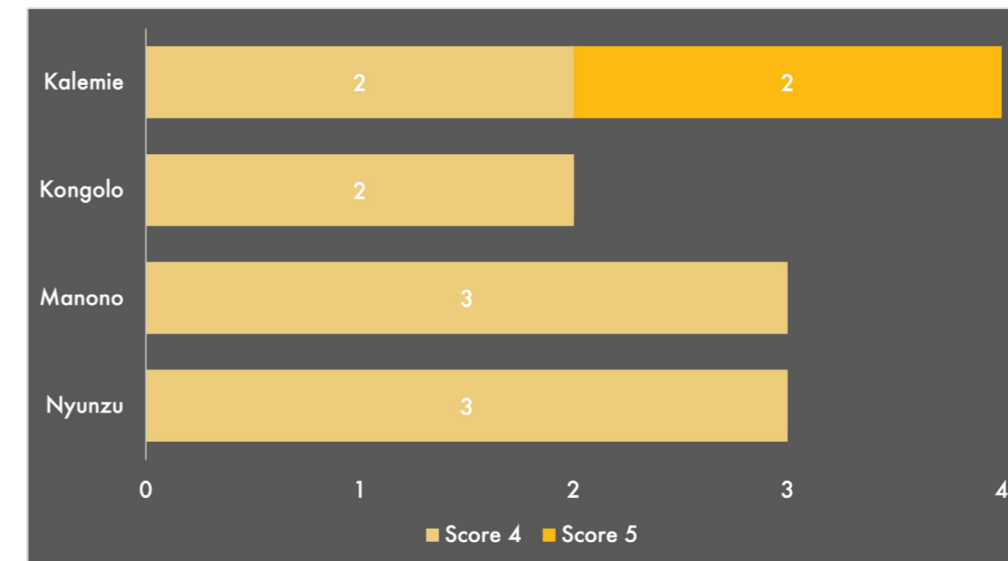


Figure 5. Security incidents causing high to extreme humanitarian access constraints in Tanganyika in December 2023. Source: INSO, CAT-DRC design and visualization.

POPULATIONS DISPLACEMENTS

No populations displacements were recorded in December in the province of Tanganyika.

HUMANITARIAN ACCESS

The province of Tanganyika experienced a relative worsening of humanitarian access constraints due to the activism of armed members of the Twa community and the Mai-Mai Malaika and Katakotanga. Armed members of the Twa community engaged in multiple acts of extortion against civilian populations, leading, on several occasions, to FARDC intervention to track down these fighters with the aim of protecting the populations. The resulting clashes notably constrained humanitarian access on RN33 (Mugonda and Kyoto groupings) and RN5 (Miketo and Mahila groupements). The Mai-Mai activism (Malaika and Katakotanga factions) was primarily driven by economic predation. Two Mai-Mai incidents, involving incursions into the village and the burning of civilian homes, particularly hindered humanitarian access on the Kiambi-Mpenge axis (Kalamata grouping) and Lubaza-Kitambilo (north of Kongolo).

The territory of Kalemie remains marked by urban criminality. In December, nearly 140 incidents of robbery and extortion against civilian populations were recorded in the territory, with a high concentration in the city of Kalemie, on RN5 and RN33. Mai-Mai Apa na Pale and armed members of the Twa community were notably the main perpetrators of these incidents.

Also in November, torrential rain fell in the Kankomba district of the town of Kalemie, causing significant material and human damage. In addition, a popular demonstration was organized by motorcyclists' associations against the authorities to protest against the growing insecurity in the town.

Annex 1. Categorization of needs and selection of priority areas for humanitarian access analysis

Categorization of displacement hotspots

In order to categorize territories according to humanitarian needs, we have represented classes of humanitarian needs using the Sturges formula.¹ For a statistical series of n values, Sturges proposes the number k of classes based on the formula [1].

$$k = 1 + 3.3 * \log(n) \text{ formula [1]}$$

where log is the base logarithm 10

The class interval i is then calculated by equation [2].

$$i = \frac{\text{max-min}}{k} \text{ formula [2]}$$

where max and min are the maximum and minimum values of the series respectively.

Applying these formulas to the population displacement data series (over 1,000 households) has enabled us to group territories into 6 household interval classes, as illustrated in the table below. Territories whose displacements do not reach the threshold of 1,000 households over the last four months (from September to December 2023) are grouped in a dedicated class, noted as "< 1,000 households"

¹ Herbert A. Sturges. "The Choice of a Class Interval" Journal of the American Statistical Association, March 1926.

Table 1. Number of households displaced between September and December 2023. Only territories with at least one displacement of over 1 000 households were considered. Source: OCHA, presentation: CAT-DRC.

Num	Province	Territory	Displacement households	Priority
1	Nord-Kivu	Masisi	56 441	Yes
2	Nord-Kivu	Rutshuru	34 405	Yes
3	Sud-Kivu	Kalehe	20 234	Yes
4	Sud-Kivu	Fizi	14 444	Yes
5	Nord-Kivu	Nyiragongo	13 300	Yes
6	Nord-Kivu	Beni	11 150	Yes
7	Ituri	Djugu	9 500	Yes
8	Maniema	Kabambare	8 848	Yes
9	Ituri	Mahagi	7 536	Yes
10	Ituri	Irumu	6 944	No
11	Sud-Kivu	Shabunda	6 614	No
12	Nord-Kivu	Lubero	6 053	No
13	Nord-Kivu	Walikale	4 927	No
14	Ituri	Mambasa	4 734	No
15	Sud-Kivu	Mwenga	1 669	No
16	Tanganyika	Kalemie	1 350	No
17	Tanganyika	Manono	1 200	No
18	Sud-Kivu	Uvira	1 129	No
Min			1 129 households	
Max			56 441 households	
Median			7 240 households	
Number k of classes		1+3,3log(18)	5,14 ~ 5 classes	
Interval i of classes		(max-min)/k	1062 ~ 1100 households	

Selection of priority territories

Humanitarian access is analyzed in territories considered to be major displacement hotspots. For a territory to be considered a “major displacement hotspot”, the number of households hosted (and not assisted) in that territory must be greater than or equal to the median value of displacements recorded in all territories over the last four months. Thus, for the data series in Table 1, with a median number of trips of 7,240 households, the major trip hotspots are those territories where the number of households moved is greater than or equal to 7,240. These territories are identified by the “priority” column and are those for which the analysis of humanitarian access has been detailed in this report.

Acronyms & Armed Groups

ADF (Allied Democratic Forces) – founded in the 1970s as a Ugandan Islamist group in opposition to the Ugandan government, they fled to the DRC in the 1990s. In April 2019, they declared themselves the Central African Wilaya under the Islamic State. In November 2019, they pledged allegiance to the Islamic State’s new leader after Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi’s death.

APCLS (Alliance of Patriots for a Free and Sovereign Congo) – Formed in 2010 and led by Janvier Karairi, traditionally located in Masisi. The APCLS claim to defend the interests of the Hunde population.

Banro (Banro Corporation) – a Cayman Islands-based gold mining company focused on the development of its four projects in the South Kivu and Maniema provinces of the DRC.

CNRD (National Council for Renewal and Democracy) – armed dissident group of the FDLR created in 2016.

CODECO (Coalition for the Defense of East Congo) – In November 2019, a faction split off and called itself Mai Mai Sambaza. Please refer to information below for the URDPC.

FARDC (Armed Forces of the Democratic Republic of the Congo) – The official armed forces of the DRC.

FDLR-FOCA (short form, FDLR in this report; Democratic Forces for the Liberation of Rwanda) – Established in 2000 by remaining Interahamwe groups from pre-genocide Rwanda. An ethnically Hutu group traditionally opposed to Tutsis.

FNL (National Forces of Liberation) – A Burundian rebel group formed in 1985. Currently allied with the Mai-Mai Yakutumba and the FDLR in South Kivu.

FRPI (Patriotic Resistance Front Ituri) – Established in 2002 to support the Lendu-dominated Nationalist Integrationist Front (FNI). Have demobilized in the past and are going through a third demobilization effort.

Gumino – A self-defense group claiming to protect the interests of the Banyamulenge in the upper plateau of Uvira and Fizi.

ICCN (Congolese Institute for Nature Conservation) – Congolese government department that oversees the protection of national parks in the DRC.

Mai-Mai Kifuafua – Established in 2002 by Delphin Mbaena, one of the longest-standing armed groups in the country and established to combat the FDLR. Traditionally Tembo roots and based in South Kivu. Currently in negotiations with the Congolese government for integration into the FARDC and/or PNC.

Mai-Mai Mazembe – A collection of self-defense militias established between 2015 and 2016 in response to FDLR abuses against the Nande and Kobo communities in Lubero and Walikale. Control much of southern Lubero.

Mai-Mai Sambaza – Breakaway armed group from CODECO due to differences regarding the peace process.

Mai-Mai Simba – A group established in 1964 based in Ituri, Haut-Uele and Maniema provinces. They are considered the oldest Congolese armed group. They were established to fight for a Congolese State based on the ideals of the first Congolese Prime Minister, Patrice Lumumba.

Mai-Mai UPLC (Union of Patriots for the Liberation of Congo) – An armed group based in North Kivu, in areas south of Beni and on the road to Butembo.

MAC (Mouvement acquis pour le changement) – Led by Mbura Matondi, they can be found in Toto, Walikale in North Kivu.

MONUSCO (UN Stabilization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo) – The UN mission to the DRC that took over from earlier peacekeeping operations. Has a controversial mandate in the DRC.

NDC-R (Ndume Defence of Congo, Renove) – Created by Guidon Shimiray Mwiswa in 2015 and traditionally based in Walikale and southern Lubero. Established to counter the Democratic Forces for the Liberation of Rwanda (FDLR), a Rwandan Hutu group targeting Tutsis in eastern Congo.

Nyatura CMC (Coalition of Movements for Change) – An umbrella movement of mostly Nyatura groups and Congolese Hutu militias that may have emerged as local partners to the FDLR.

Nyatura FPC – A Congolese Hutu self-defense militia that emerged between 2013 and 2014 under the leadership of Dominique Ndaruhutse (Domi) and part of the CMC coalition. Traditionally based in Bukombo in Rutshuru.

PNC (Congolese National Police) – The national police force of the DRC.

Raia Mutomboki – A series of self-defense groups under different leaders traditionally based in Kalehe and Walikale in South Kivu and in Masisi in North Kivu, and existing in opposition to the FDLR.

Red Tabara (Resistance for a State of Law) – A Burundian armed group that has been highly active since 2015 in opposition to president Nkurunziza.

RDF (Rwanda Democratic Forces) – The official armed forces of the Rwandan government.

RPRC (Patriotic Resistance of Eastern Congo) – A coalition of armed groups formed in November 2019 with the Mai-Mai Mazembe, Mai-Mai Simba, Raia Mutomboki, Alliance of Patriots for the Liberation of Congo, and Movement Acquired for Change in Lubero, Rutshuru, Masisi, and Walikale. They are mainly fighting another coalition of armed groups that includes the Democratic

Forces for the Liberation of Rwanda, Nyatura, and National Council for Renewal and Democracy.

Turarambiwe – A local self-defense group claiming to protect the interests of the Hutu population against the exactions of the NDC-R in Masisi. Established recently and considered a Nyatura group.

Twirwaneho – A Banyamulenge militia based mostly in the high plateau of Fizi. Maintains ties with Ngumino.

Sokola 1 and Sokola 2 – “Sokola” means “to clean” in Lingala. Sokola 1 and Sokola 2 are two FARDC operations against armed groups. Sokola 1 focuses on the territories of Beni and Lubero. Sokola 2 focuses on the territories on Masisi and Walikale and, in August, also in Rutshuru. They are also present in South Kivu.

UNPOL – The United Nations Police

UPC (Congolese Patriots Union) – a former militia now political group in Ituri, created in the context of the Ugandan occupation. The initial movement was founded by Thomas Lubanga and supported and mostly composed by the Hema community in the province.

UPDF – Uganda People’s Defense Force

URDPC – Union of Revolutionaries for the Defense of the Congolese People (a CODECO faction). In his announcement, Ngudjolu presented the URDPC’s three objectives: (1) to defend the DRC against foreign aggression; (2) to guarantee freedom and prosperity on national soil; and (3) to fight for the rule of law.

ZDF – Zambian Defense Forces

CRISIS ANALYSIS
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