





### HIGHLIGHTS

 **6.1 million** individuals displaced in North Kivu, South Kivu, Ituri, and Tanganyika  
**590,786** individuals displaced by the M23 crisis

 **1,270** emergency shelters constructed  
**3,112** NFI kits distributed

 **8,200** individuals benefited from WASH assistance

 **2,773** households were relocated since June 2023

### Funding Overview (USD)



37%

RECEIVED: \$38.5 M

REQUESTED: \$100 M



Emergency shelters at Awara camp site in Mahagi, Ituri province ©IOM August 2023

### SITUATION OVERVIEW

The Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) continues to face multiple conflicts that have created one of the world's most complex and persistent crises. The declaration of the Inter-Agency Standing Committee (IASC) humanitarian system-wide scale-up, in parallel with the internal L3 declaration by IOM, has facilitated the mobilization of greater resources to provide urgent multisectoral assistance to displaced persons, returnees, and other affected communities.

In September, the security situation was characterized by an upsurge in armed violence in the Masisi and Rutshuru territories, in the North Kivu province, leading to a deterioration of the already acute humanitarian crisis. There has been a resurgence in violence in Rutshuru and Masisi territories between M23 and various self-defense armed groups such as the Collectif des Mouvements pour le Changement (CMC), the Forces Démocratiques de Libération du Rwanda (FDLR) as well as fighting between the M23 and the Congolese National Army. This situation caused many victims including women and children and has led to massive population movements and increased humanitarian needs.

Most of the displaced people have settled in spontaneous sites near the base of the United Nations Organization Stabilization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (MONUSCO)

in Kitshanga (North Kivu) and near the military bases of the East Africa Community (EAC) forces, hoping a return to stability and access to humanitarian aid. According to DTM<sup>1</sup>, a total of 590,786 displaced individuals remain affected by the M23 crisis.

Furthermore, during this reporting period, there has been notable population movements in the Kwamouth territory of the Mai-Ndombe province (in the western part of DRC). These movements are linked to the renewed activity of newly recruited Mobondo militias, born out of a longstanding land conflict between the Teke and Yaka communities. This inter-community conflict, which emerged in June 2022, revolves around the claim of land ownership along the Congo River by the Teke community.

Since June 2023, despite these challenges IOM has scaled up its capacities and increased its activities in the provinces of North Kivu, Ituri, and South Kivu. As of September 2023, IOM has reached more than 10,000 affected individuals with shelter/non-food items (NFIs), water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH), health, psychosocial support and mobility tracking.

<sup>1</sup>. IOM, Displacement Tracking Matrix, RDC — Nord Kivu: Évaluation Rapide de Crise M23 (Août 2023) | Displacement Tracking Matrix (iom.int)

## DISPLACEMENT TRACKING MATRIX (DTM)

IOM continues to conduct regular assessments to capture displacement trends and the needs of the displaced population. During the reporting period, DTM published the 7th conflict analysis report<sup>2</sup> on the M23 crisis, reporting 590,786 internally displaced persons (IDPs), with an increase of 10 per cent in the number of returnees (818,266 individuals).

A total of 96 per cent of the displaced people are located in the North Kivu province, and remaining 4 per cent in the South Kivu province. The displaced people are currently either residing with host families, or in collective centers, spontaneous sites or planned sites. In North Kivu, the Masisi territory is the most affected by displacement, with 25 per cent of people displaced, followed by Rutshuru with 24 per cent, Nyiragongo with 21 per cent and Lubero and Goma with 13 per cent each. There has been a 4 per cent decrease in the number of displaced people, in comparison to the cumulative data from July 2023 during which 613,073 displaced people were reported.

Over 400,000 returnees were registered in Rutshuru, a territory largely controlled by the M23 group. On the other hand, in the chiefdom of Bwito, groupement de Tongo, locality of Shonyi, where conflicts regularly break out between armed groups, the population is nevertheless making a timid comeback.

IOM has begun verification and registration of individuals in more than 70 sites and collective centers following the M23 crisis in North Kivu province, particularly in Goma and Nyiragongo territories. Approximately 290,000 individuals will be targeted through this verification and registration process. IOM's DTM team aims to provide updated monthly statistics to the humanitarian community to better inform response plans.

Furthermore, in North Kivu, IOM organized the first of many trainings that aims at building capacity of the supporting site block leaders and committee displacement sites in North Kivu, this will support the ongoing registration efforts within IOM-managed sites. A total of 760 committee members have been trained so far, with a target of 2,500. With the goal to ensure that the demographic information remains up to date in response to population dynamics.

During the same period, the DTM through its Mobility Tracking exercise between August and September 2023 was able to identify 1.3 million displaced individuals in the Ituri province and 291,000 in Tanganyika. The data was presented to and approved by the respective provincial Population Movement Commissions (CMP) and contributes to the HNO/HRP.

## CAMP COORDINATION AND CAMP MANAGEMENT



Hand-washing demonstration by an IOM agent on the Nyamusasi in Ituri Province © IOM

From September 25th to 29th, IOM resumed relocating vulnerable households living in two existing sites in Goma (Lac-Vert/Bulengo and Rusayo 1) to the newly planned site of Rusayo 2. A total of 684 households were successfully transferred. Since the beginning of the relocation efforts back in June, a total of 2,773 households were relocated out of the overall target of 5,000.

During the reporting period, IOM and its partner, AIDES piloted the newly deployed Zite Manager complaint and feedback mechanism across five sites in the vicinity of Goma: Lac Vert-Bulengo, Rusayo 1, Bushagara, Mudja, and Axe Kanyaruchinya. During these activities, a total of 1,014 complaints and requests from the community were collected as part of the Complaints and Feedback Management Mechanism. These concerns are now being referred appropriately to the Wash Cluster for matters related to WASH, to WFP for feedback regarding food, to CCCM for transfer requests, and to the DTM for inquiries related to registration.

In a continued effort to improve site management services in sites managed by IOM and its partner AIDES as part of the L3 scale up and in line with the launch of the Zite Manager Application, training sessions continued for a total of 65 including 18 female participants of both IOM staff and AIDES. In addition to Complaints and Feedback Mechanisms, the training also covered site monitoring, and service mapping functions.

<sup>2</sup> IOM, [Displacement Tracking Matrix, RDC — Nord Kivu: Évaluation Rapide de Crise M23 \(Août 2023\) | Displacement Tracking Matrix \(iom.int\)](#)



## NFI SHELTER AND NON-FOOD ITEMS (NFI)

In September 2023, a total of 1,270 emergency shelters were constructed and 3,112 NFI kits were distributed in the North Kivu, Ituri and Tanganyika provinces. Out of the 1,270 emergency shelters provided, 17 were distributed to vulnerable households with specific needs.

137 existing shelters were rehabilitated in sites previously set up by IOM in the three provinces affected by the conflict. IOM also continued to encourage the involvement of affected communities in the construction of shelters provided for displaced people. During the reporting period, IOM trained 130 people in construction techniques, involving them in supporting emergency shelter construction and rehabilitation as part of their community engagement. In Ituri province, assessments were conducted in 15 sites located in the territories of Mahagi (12), Djugu (1) and Irumu (2) to evaluate the shelter-related needs. In the same period, the shelter team also conducted assessments in the Tanganyika province to determine the requirements for their upcoming intervention in the three newly established sites in the Kongolo territory, which is scheduled to start in October.

IOM worked to raise awareness among authorities and potential landowners about the need to ensure the continued implementation of

shelter activities. The Organization also continued to advocate with provincial authorities for improved land access and enhanced security in Goma and Nyiragongo, North Kivu province, to provide an adequate shelter response in displacement sites.



Emergency shelters built at Hungbe site, Ituri province © IOM DRC 2023

## WATER, SANITATION AND HYGIENE

During the reporting period, IOM was actively involved in addressing critical sanitation and water-related needs in the North Kivu and Tanganyika provinces. In North Kivu, a total of 176 emergency latrines were constructed in the Rusayo2 and Bushagara sites, along with 52 emergency showers. To ensure the proper maintenance and cleanliness of these facilities, communal hygiene kits were provided for each latrine block, which consists of two latrines. Furthermore, comprehensive sensitization campaigns were carried out to engage and mobilize WASH committees. The construction of latrines will continue, and these WASH facilities have already had a positive impact, benefiting cumulatively a total of 4,080 IDPs living in the Rusayo and Bushagara camps.

In Tanganyika, efforts were made to address water accessibility by constructing 14 water points in sites such as Kabembe, Katanga, and Rugo. Additionally, construction and installation work for water points commenced in the Rusayo site. These initiatives aimed to improve the availability of clean and safe drinking water for displaced populations in the area. In total, the WASH activities undertaken during this period benefitted 8,200 individuals (52% females and 48% males). This crucial support targeted 1,200 beneficiaries in North Kivu and 7,000 in Tanganyika who received improved access to sanitation and clean water sources.

## MENTAL HEALTH AND PSYCHOSOCIAL SUPPORT

On 10th October IOM and its implementing partner, Living Peace Institute, supported the Provincial Coordination of the National Mental Health Program (PNSM) in commemorating the World Mental Health Day in Ituri. With the aim to raise awareness among communities and health system stakeholders about the interconnection between mental health and human rights. Preparatory meetings were also organized with partners to facilitate the establishment of the mental health and psychosocial support technical working group, which will be launched during the month of October 2023. In total, 24 humanitarian organizations participated in these meetings.

These initiatives aim to build capacity and resources to provide crucial support to populations in need, particularly in areas marked by displacement and vulnerability, as displaced communities also suffer from psychological distress, including symptoms such as stress, insomnia, anxiety, and traumatic stress related to lack of access to health care and livelihoods, loss of loved ones and material possessions, unresolved grief, a lack of hope for the future, and problems of social cohesion with members of the host community.

### IOM ACTIVITIES IN DRC ARE SUPPORTED BY :



### CONTACTS