



Security Council

Distr.: General
23 June 2025

Original: English

United Nations Organization Stabilization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo

Report of the Secretary-General

I. Introduction

1. The present report, submitted pursuant to paragraph 49 of Security Council resolution [2765 \(2024\)](#), covers major developments in the Democratic Republic of the Congo since the report of 20 March 2025 ([S/2025/176](#)). It describes the progress and challenges in the implementation of the mandate of the United Nations Organization Stabilization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (MONUSCO).

II. Political developments

2. Political developments were characterized by renewed momentum behind national, regional and international mediation processes and initiatives, despite complex political dynamics and persistent distrust.

3. From 24 March to 8 April, the Presidency led consultations to form a government of national unity, intended to support the restoration of peace in eastern Democratic Republic of the Congo. While discussions remain ongoing, several members of the majority have called for additional posts to address electoral grievances. The former President, Joseph Kabila, and former presidential candidates Moïse Katumbi, Martin Fayulu, Denis Mukwege, Delly Sesanga and Augustin Matata Ponyo declined to participate in the consultations. In engagements with MONUSCO, several of them expressed concerns that the initiative was aimed at securing broader political support, including from opposition stakeholders, for the constitutional reform efforts of the President, Félix-Antoine Tshisekedi Tshilombo.

4. On 12 April, the African Union Commission appointed the then President of Togo, Faure Gnassingbé, as its mediator, succeeding the President of Angola, João Lourenço. Mr. Gnassingbé is supported by five co-facilitators: the former Presidents of Botswana (Mokgweetsi Masisi), the Central African Republic (Catherine Samba-Panza) Ethiopia (Sahle-Work Zewde), Kenya (Uhuru Kenyatta), and Nigeria (Olusegun Obasanjo). In his capacity as mediator, Mr. Gnassingbé held consultations with the President of the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Mr. Tshisekedi, the President of Rwanda, Paul Kagame and the President of Uganda, Yoweri Museveni, from 16 to 22 April. On 17 May, he convened the panel of co-facilitators of the



Southern African Development Community (SADC) and the East African Community (EAC) to enhance coordination and coherence among regional diplomatic efforts. On 3 June, in Lomé, he met with the Special Representative of the Secretary-General to discuss conditions conducive to inclusive dialogue and lasting peace in the Great Lakes region. The Special Representative reaffirmed the support of the United Nations for his mediation.

5. On 23 April, under the facilitation of Qatar, the Democratic Republic of the Congo and Alliance Fleuve Congo/Mouvement du 23 mars (AFC/M23) released statements agreeing to work towards concluding a truce, reaffirming their commitment to an immediate and effective ceasefire, supporting ongoing negotiations and rejecting all forms of hate speech and intimidation.

6. On 25 April, in Washington, D.C., the United States of America facilitated the signing of a Declaration of Principles between the Government of the Democratic Republic of the Congo and the Government of Rwanda in support of a pathway to peace, stability and integrated economic development in eastern Democratic Republic of the Congo. The Declaration reaffirmed mutual respect for sovereignty and territorial integrity and a commitment to peaceful dispute resolution and to refraining from supporting non-State armed groups. It also included provisions for joint security mechanisms; regional economic integration, particularly the equitable management of natural resources with United States support; the return of internally displaced people and refugees; and support for MONUSCO and regional forces to operate in line with their mandates, including for an agreed-upon ceasefire verification mechanism and interpositional force.

7. Coordination efforts between the various mediation initiatives reportedly commenced on 30 April in Doha, during a meeting attended by representatives from the Democratic Republic of the Congo, France, Rwanda, Togo and the United States. The same day, Joseph Kabila, Martin Fayulu, Moïse Katumbi and Delly Sesanga issued a joint statement welcoming the constructive mediation efforts led by Qatar, the United States and the African Union, while arguing that those efforts remained insufficient to achieve lasting peace. They called for regional and international processes to support the “social pact” for the peace initiative of the Catholic and Protestant Churches, emphasizing the primacy of Congolese-led initiatives. On 15 May, the United States Senior Adviser for Africa, Massad Boulos, submitted a first draft of a peace agreement to the Democratic Republic of the Congo and Rwanda. In a joint statement on 18 June, the Governments of the United States, the Democratic Republic of the Congo and Rwanda said that technical teams had initialled the text of a peace agreement in preparation for ministerial signing on 27 June. MONUSCO continued to provide its good offices in support of all peace initiatives, emphasizing coordination and complementarity.

8. The President of the Democratic Republic of the Congo and his supporters continued to express reservations regarding the Churches’ initiative, citing perceived attempts to challenge his leadership and/or to integrate M23 into the defence and security forces. On 9 June, the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Transport, Jean-Pierre Bemba, accused certain senior officials of the Episcopal Conference of the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Joseph Kabila and Moïse Katumbi, of attempting to destabilize State institutions, undermining State security and plotting to “remove” the President, Mr. Tshisekedi. In response, the Episcopal Conference announced on 11 June that it reserved the right to initiate judicial proceedings against the accusations. On 10 June, the National Council for Monitoring the Agreement and the Electoral Process reiterated its calls for inclusive national dialogue and confidence-building measures.

9. Following reports, that Joseph Kabila had returned to the Democratic Republic of the Congo on 18 April through Goma, several ministers and Congolese civil society organizations, including the Minister of State for Justice and Keeper of the Seals, Constant Mutamba, accused the former President of collaboration with AFC/M23 and Rwanda. Subsequently, the lifting of his immunities was requested and his Parti du peuple pour la reconstruction et la démocratie was suspended. In reaction, cadres of Parti du peuple pour la reconstruction et la démocratie and the opposition Front commun pour le Congo coalition warned that “repression against the opposition” may trigger what they labelled as “self-defence” measures.

10. On 23 May, the former President, Joseph Kabila, delivered a national address, a day after the Senate voted to lift his parliamentary immunities. He denounced the administration of the President, Mr. Tshisekedi, citing insecurity, poor governance, corruption, tribalism, human rights abuses and the erosion of democratic institutions. While expressing support for ongoing peace initiatives, he proposed a 12-point “citizens’ pact” to restore democracy, peace, national unity and State authority. On the night of 25 to 26 May, Kabila arrived in Goma, after which he held several meetings with political, economic and civil society actors. On 2 June, an opposition figure, Martin Fayulu, called for Kabila’s departure from Goma and urged the President, Mr. Tshisekedi, to engage in direct dialogue with him. The President and Fayulu met on 5 June to discuss the restoration of peace and territorial integrity.

11. On 19 May, the Constitutional Court sentenced a member of the National Assembly and former Prime Minister (in office from 2012 to 2016), Augustin Matata Ponyo, to 10 years of forced labour and ruled that he would be ineligible to stand in elections for 5 years, following his conviction for the embezzlement of public funds allocated to the Bukanga Lonzo agro-industrial park. While some members of the ruling majority coalition commended the sentence, opponents denounced it as political harassment against Matata Ponyo.

12. On 7 June, following the twenty-sixth ordinary session of the Conference of Heads of State and Government of the Economic Community of Central African States (ECCAS), held in Malabo, Rwanda announced its withdrawal from ECCAS following the postponement of its assumption of the rotating presidency, deploring the “instrumentalization of ECCAS by the Democratic Republic of the Congo with the support of certain member States”. The decision came amid objections by the Democratic Republic of the Congo, which expressed concerns about entrusting the leadership of ECCAS to a country involved in an ongoing conflict with one of its members. Burundi also objected to Rwanda assuming the presidency of ECCAS.

13. During the reporting period, MONUSCO engaged with a wide range of political actors to promote inclusive political dialogue on institutional and security governance issues and to build trust, particularly following the release by the Independent National Electoral Commission on 4 April, of the road map for 2025–2029 concerning the electoral process, as stakeholders continue to advocate for the holding of credible elections in 2028.

III. Protection of civilians

14. Amid continued control of M23 over large parts of North Kivu and South Kivu, with support from the Rwanda Defence Force, MONUSCO focused its protection of civilians mandate in M23-controlled areas of North Kivu on intensifying political engagement with AFC/M23, including efforts to facilitate the reopening of Goma airport, and on reinforcing protective measures for its bases, personnel and unarmed individuals sheltered within MONUSCO premises in Goma. In Government-held areas, MONUSCO maintained its comprehensive three-tiered protection approach

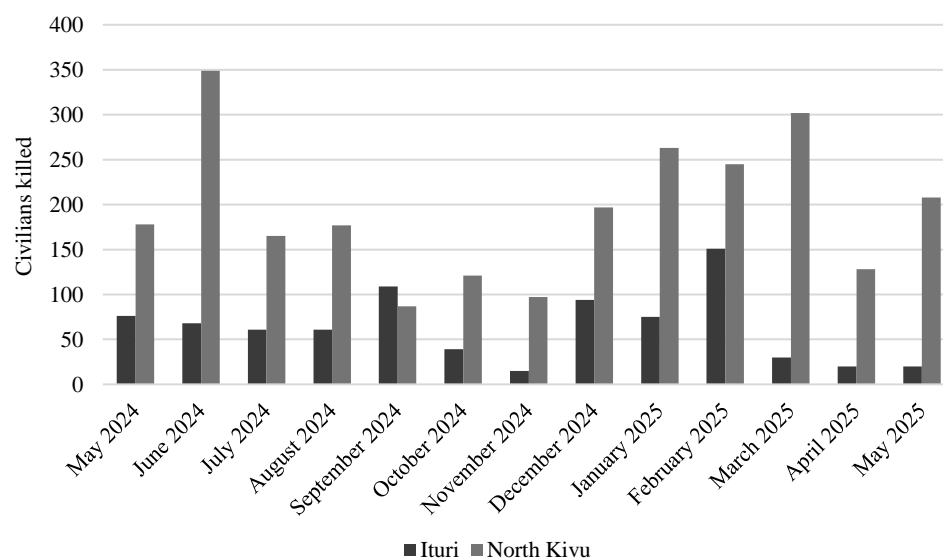
comprising protection through dialogue and engagement, the provision of physical protection and the establishment of a protective environment.

15. From 12 to 15 June, the Special Representative visited Goma to engage AFC/M23 leaders, reaffirming the Mission's commitment to all initiatives aimed at de-escalating tensions and supporting ongoing peace efforts. The visit included discussions on the establishment of a framework between AFC/M23 and MONUSCO to ensure the safety and freedom of movement of United Nations personnel, among other matters.

16. Despite movement and access constraints in areas controlled by M23, MONUSCO recorded 481 security incidents across Ituri and North Kivu, resulting in the reported killing of 489 civilians, including 54 women and 44 children, and 287 others injured, including 48 women and 43 children (see figure I). The main perpetrator of violence against civilians was M23, accounting for 248 civilian deaths. The Allied Democratic Forces (ADF), the main perpetrator of violence against civilians during 2024, was responsible for 101 civilian fatalities. In South Kivu, M23 continued its territorial expansion towards Luhwinja, through Kaziba, with recruitment and training in Kamanyola. The group took control of Katogota on 5 May, followed by Twangiza, a gold mining site, on 6 May, and attempted to push south towards Uvira, albeit with limited success.

Figure I

Reported killings of civilians in armed group-related incidents by province, May 2024–May 2025



Source: MONUSCO/Joint Operations Centre/Situational Awareness Geospatial Enterprise.

Note: Victim counts are likely underreported due to restrictions on access in North Kivu.

North Kivu

17. Following the capture of Goma, MONUSCO sheltered approximately 2,000 disarmed members of the Congolese defence and security forces and around 60 civilians, including human rights defenders and government officials, while continuing to ensure the safety and security of United Nations personnel and installations. After a series of voluntary departures formalized through signed waivers with MONUSCO, a complex 16-day relocation operation was successfully completed on 15 May. Facilitated by negotiations led by the International Committee of the Red Cross with

the Government and AFC/M23, an agreement was reached to enable the safe transfer from the Mission's bases in Goma to Kinshasa. With logistical support from MONUSCO, including 46 helicopter and 23 airplane flights, the operation ensured that 1,359 unarmed security forces safely reached Kinshasa. The Government arranged aircraft for the movements from Beni to Kinshasa.

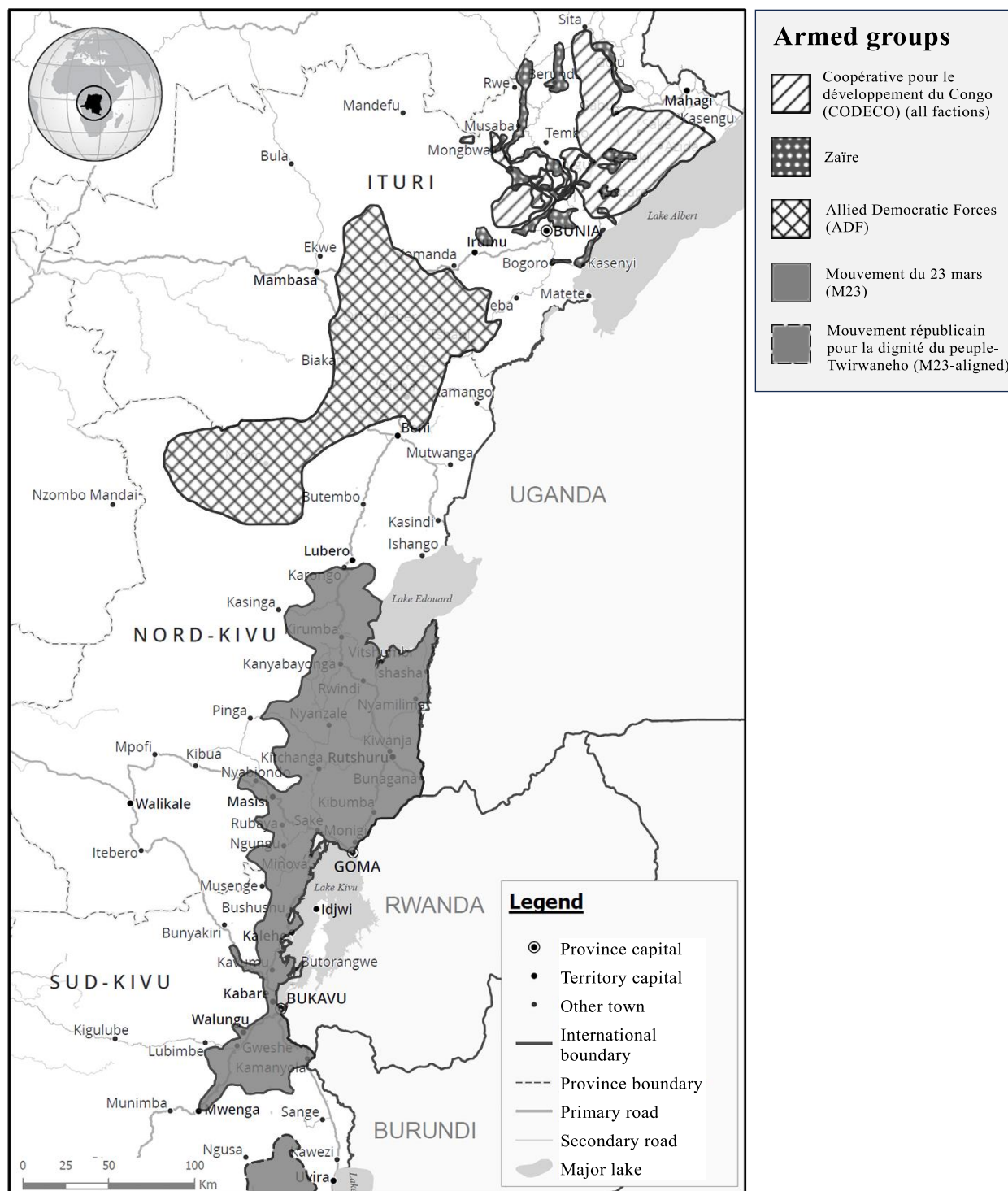
18. During the reporting period, the security situation in the periphery of Goma remained particularly volatile, as AFC/M23 sought to consolidate control around the city, with regular reports of armed attacks, killings, abductions and widespread criminality. In mid-May, M23 intensified cordon and search operations in Goma neighbourhoods and surrounding areas, including Sake, resulting in the detention of hundreds of individuals accused of links to the Armed Forces of the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Wazalendo and/or the Forces démocratiques de libération du Rwanda (FDLR). Clashes between M23, supported by the Rwanda Defence Force, and Wazalendo or the Volontaires pour la défense de la patrie led to further population displacements in Goma, Masisi, Rutshuru, Walikale, Lubero and Nyiragongo territories.

19. On 19 March, M23 took control of Walikale town and withdrew from the locality shortly after as peace talks initiatives in Qatar and Washington, D.C., were unfolding. On 2 May, M23 clashed with the Armed Forces of the Democratic Republic of the Congo while expanding westward in Lubero towards the shores of Lake Edward, and in mid-May, M23 resumed its expansion in the northern part of Walikale territory. Its further northward expansion was subsequently halted as the Armed Forces of the Democratic Republic of the Congo and the Uganda People's Defence Forces increased their deployments around Lubero as part of Operation Shujaa.

20. Despite movement restrictions imposed on MONUSCO by M23, and the resulting disruptions to existing early warning mechanisms, the Mission continued its engagement with local stakeholders, including civil society organizations in M23-controlled territories, to assess local protection needs and foster social cohesion. The Mission also continued to engage with AFC/M23 to advocate an end to all human rights violations and abuses.

21. In Beni and Lubero territories of North Kivu, and in Mambasa and Irumu territories of Ituri, ADF continued to pose a significant threat to civilians (see figure II). Since December 2024 and as part of Operation Usalama Kwetu, the MONUSCO Intervention Brigade has maintained two standing combat deployments in Mukoko and Mbau to counter ADF incursions through the deployment of mobile operating bases and intensified patrols. Under Operation Saka Maliongo, the Intervention Brigade continued to conduct mobile and static patrols in ADF hotspots and known crossing points, to facilitate civilians' freedom of movement and access to farming areas. MONUSCO, through strengthened joint security patrols involving United Nations police and the Intervention Brigade, also provided logistical support to the Congolese National Police in Beni and Oicha.

Figure II
Map of estimated armed group territorial control, June 2025



The boundaries and names shown and the designations used on this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by the United Nations.

Base map source: MONUSCO/Geospatial Information Section.

Note: Territorial control estimates by MONUSCO/Joint Mission Analysis Centre.

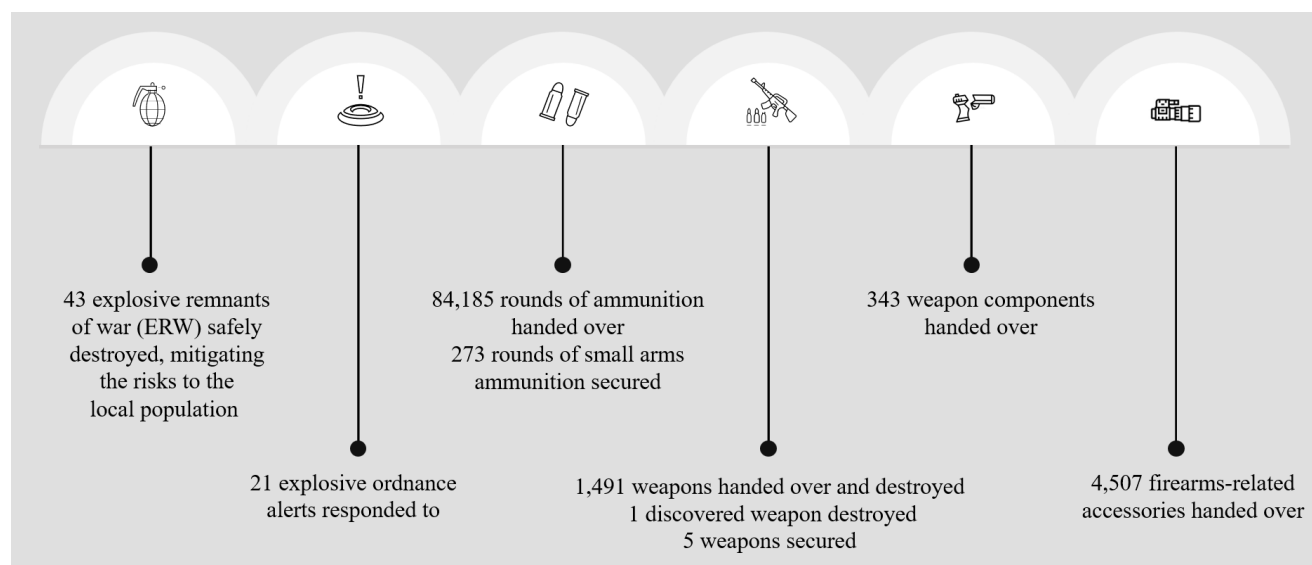
22. Despite continued restrictions by M23 on mine action operations, MONUSCO responded to 21 explosive ordnance alerts in North Kivu, resulting in the destruction of 43 pieces of explosive ordnance and one weapon, and the securing of 5 other pieces of ordnance, along with 273 rounds of small arms ammunition. In Goma, AFC/M23 only authorized alert verification, explosive ordnance risk education, the marking of hazardous items and providing AFC/M23 with the coordinates of explosive hazards. Explosive ordnance disposal remains prohibited.

23. Although full-scale clearance operations remain suspended, efforts to partially resume mine action activities contributed to safer handling practices, increased community awareness and strengthened civilian protection in areas affected by explosive remnants of war, particularly in and around Goma. MONUSCO has formally notified AFC/M23 to authorize accredited operators in order to resume unrestricted mine action activities so as to mitigate humanitarian consequences resulting from the use of explosive weapons in populated areas. The lack of formal authorization increases the risk of unaccredited actors engaging in mine action activities, which therefore raises serious safety concerns.

24. The Mission also collected and safely neutralized a total of 1,492 weapons, 343 weapon components, 4,507 firearms-related accessories, as well as 84,185 rounds of ammunition handed over to the Mission by disarmed Congolese defence and security forces and their allies in North Kivu (see figure III).

Figure III

Activities of the Mine Action Service, North Kivu, March–June 2025



Source: MONUSCO/Mine Action Service.

25. In the Government-held areas of northern North Kivu and Ituri, MONUSCO supported the Congolese National Police in strengthening public security and community trust and in enhancing responsiveness to public safety alerts, resulting in 818 arrests for various offences. The Mission also helped to activate toll-free hotlines within control, command and coordination centres in Bunia, Beni and Oicha. In parallel, MONUSCO force resumed its capacity-building activities for the Armed Forces of the Democratic Republic of the Congo, conducting two sessions of jungle warfare training for a total of 182 soldiers and mortar training for 42 soldiers.

Ituri

26. Clashes between Coopérative pour le développement du Congo (CODECO) and Zaïre continued to significantly affect villages and internally displaced persons' sites, leading to the temporary closure of Fataki hospital and disrupting urgent medical services for vulnerable populations. The Uganda Peoples' Defence Forces expanded operations toward Mahagi and Djugu, and clashed with CODECO. Meanwhile, improved cooperation between the Uganda Peoples' Defence Forces and provincial authorities enabled the launch of joint patrols by the Armed Forces of the Democratic Republic of the Congo and the Uganda Peoples' Defence Forces in Djugu and Bunia. During the reporting period, MONUSCO continued efforts to establish direct communication channels with the Uganda Peoples' Defence Forces to facilitate timely information-sharing and deconflict military activities. Those efforts notwithstanding, coordination remained limited, affecting the Mission's freedom of movement.

27. In March, Convention pour la révolution populaire (CRP) and Coalition nationale pour la libération du Congo (CNLC) armed groups were established in Kampala by Congolese nationals and sanctioned individuals, Thomas Lubanga and Innocent Kaina, respectively. Between 30 April and 11 May, along Lake Albert, CRP clashed at least four times with the Armed Forces of the Democratic Republic of the Congo, displacing civilians. CRP continued its attempts to consolidate its coalition with armed groups based in Ituri, including Zaïre factions, which could further exacerbate insecurity and population displacement.

28. The Mission's engagements with leaders of the armed groups CODECO, Zaïre, Force de résistance patriotique de l'Ituri, Front patriotique et intégrationniste du Congo and Chini ya Tuna led to their agreement to participate in the upcoming Aru II dialogue initiative. MONUSCO also worked with local civil society actors to raise awareness of armed group recruitment risks. To advance the ownership of local actors in political and peace initiatives, MONUSCO facilitated the launch of the Interfaith Network for Peace in Ituri and also provided its members with technical support on mediation and conflict resolution. The Mission also conducted workshops in collaboration with the Ministry of the Interior, Security, Decentralization and Customary Affairs for customary chiefs, local administrators and the Consultative Commission for the Settlement of Customary Disputes, which were focused on national policies related to customary and communal conflicts and on mediation and conflict resolution techniques.

29. As of mid-May, MONUSCO had deployed 25 mobile operating bases across hotspot areas in Ituri, thereby contributing to the containment of local tensions. Notably, 1,500 individuals benefited from MONUSCO protection in Fataki and Djaiba towns, and 2,000 people through MONUSCO patrolling in Drodoro.

IV. Human rights situation

A. Human rights and international humanitarian law

30. The human rights situation in the eastern provinces continued to deteriorate, especially in M23-controlled areas, where restrictions of movement significantly impeded the verification of allegations of human rights violations and abuses. During the reporting period, MONUSCO documented 1,428 human rights violations and abuses, affecting 4,666 victims (3,598 men, 551 women, 374 children and 143 individuals of unknown gender and age) nationwide (see figure IV). Up to 67 per cent of all violations and abuses documented occurred in North Kivu and South Kivu Provinces.

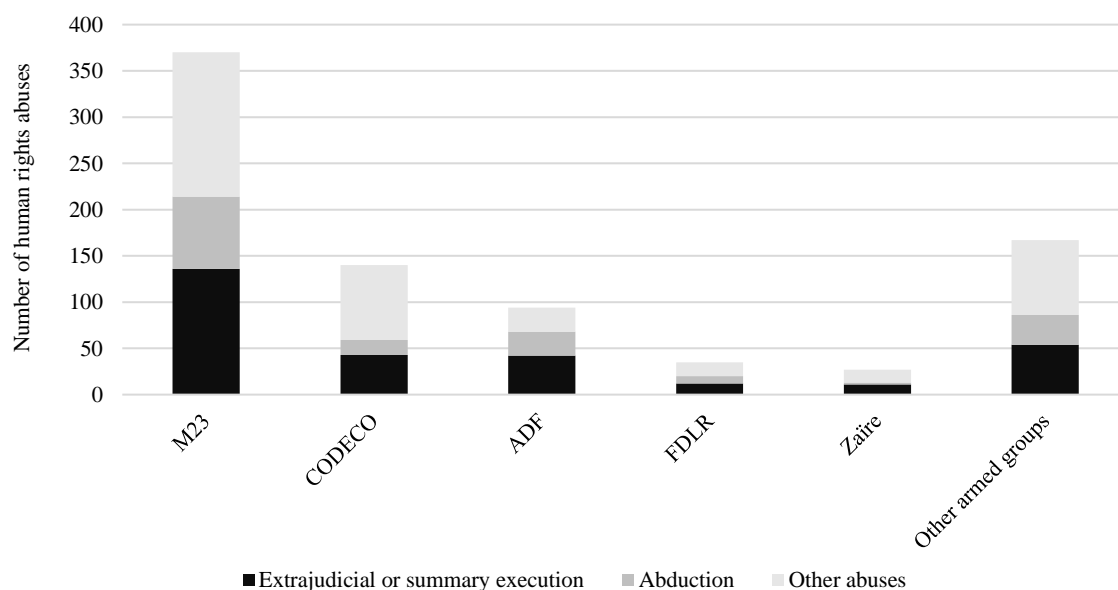
31. During the reporting period, M23 committed 536 abuses across North Kivu and South Kivu, including the abduction of 1,170 people (1,125 men, 20 women, 21 children and 4 individuals of unknown gender and age). The armed group was also responsible for the highest number of killings, reprisals linked to criticism of M23 or alleged affiliation with the Armed Forces of the Democratic Republic of the Congo, as well as forced recruitment and community labour. Meanwhile, human rights defenders also continued to face reprisals for their work. The United Nations Joint Human Rights Office in the Democratic Republic of the Congo documented 98 human rights abuses by ADF in North Kivu and Ituri, affecting 404 victims.

32. Ituri experienced a 7 per cent increase in human rights violations and abuses compared with the previous reporting period, with 148 documented abuses against 331 victims committed by CODECO, including the killing of 101 civilians, and attacks on internally displaced persons sites in Djugu territory.

33. State agents committed 466 human rights violations across North Kivu (130), Haut-Katanga (93), Ituri (67) and Kinshasa (65) and other parts of the country (see figure V). The Armed Forces of the Democratic Republic of the Congo was the second largest perpetrator of violations and abuses, after M23.

Figure IV

Human rights abuses by alleged armed groups in North Kivu and Ituri confirmed by the Mission during reporting period



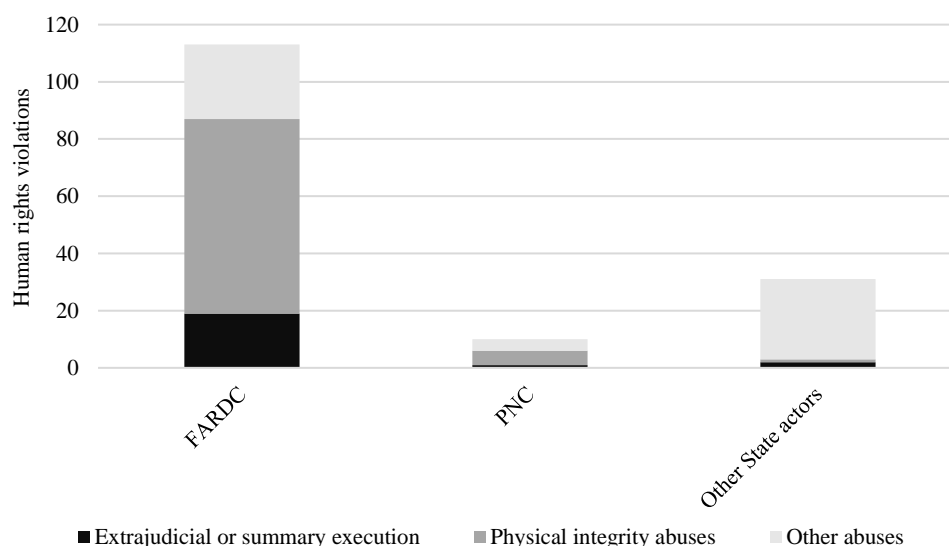
Source: MONUSCO/Joint Human Rights Office.

Note: Abuse counts likely underreported due to restrictions on investigations in North Kivu.

Abbreviations: ADF, Allied Democratic Forces; CODECO, Coopérative pour le développement du Congo;

FDLR, Forces démocratiques de libération du Rwanda; M23, Mouvement du 23 mars.

Figure V
Human rights violations by alleged State forces in North Kivu and Ituri confirmed by the Mission during the reporting period



Source: MONUSCO/Joint Human Rights Office.

Abbreviations: FARDC, Armed Forces of the Democratic Republic of the Congo;
PNC, Congolese National Police.

34. Civic space continued to shrink, as media outlets and journalists faced restrictions of freedom of opinion and expression. A total of 39 human rights violations and abuses related to civic space were recorded, among which 26 abuses are reportedly attributed to armed groups and 7 violations reportedly to State actors, affecting a total of 82 victims across the country. On 20 April, the Audiovisual and Communication Council threatened sanctions in relation to “unpatriotic” media content.

35. Since March, the United Nations Joint Human Rights Office in the Democratic Republic of the Congo has received 568 requests for individual protection from areas under M23 control and has protected and relocated 67 individuals deemed most at risk, including human rights defenders, journalists and their families.

36. Hate speech continued to spread, primarily targeting individuals perceived to support or be complicit with AFC/M23 and Rwanda, often on the basis of physical appearance. In response, on 5 May, MONUSCO and the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization launched a national awareness campaign over a two-month period to promote national cohesion, targeting youth, media, influencers and other stakeholders and aimed at reducing the propagation of hate speech and incitement affecting all communities. The Mission continued to advocate the adoption by the National Assembly of the draft law against tribalism, racism and xenophobia, and encouraged Indigenous Peoples’ associations to engage proactively with the multidisciplinary consultation framework for implementing the law on the protection and promotion of the rights of Indigenous Peoples, established on 2 April.

37. Military courts handed down 98 death sentences across North Kivu and South Kivu, Kinshasa and Kasai Oriental, under the lifted moratorium on the use of the death penalty. All the sentences are being appealed.

38. On 1 April, the Human Rights Council held an enhanced interactive dialogue on the Democratic Republic of the Congo, during which the deteriorating human rights

situation was highlighted and the Council called for greater international support. In this context, the Fact-Finding Mission on the situation in the South and North Kivu Provinces established by the Human Rights Council in February 2025 became operational, initiating engagements with State authorities and establishing an information-sharing and cooperation mechanism with MONUSCO and the United Nations country team.

39. The Mission also engaged with civil society actors to encourage the systematic registration of cases in M23-controlled zones, using forms created by the International Criminal Court and the Human Rights Council. MONUSCO also advocated the drafting of a law on the protection of whistleblowers with a view to facilitating responsible and safe reporting of abuses and increasing accountability.

B. Child protection

40. From 21 March to 31 May, MONUSCO verified 374 grave violations affecting 350 children (284 boys and 66 girls), of which 320 occurred in North Kivu and 54 in Ituri, including abduction (183) and killing and maiming (90) of children.

41. Through sustained advocacy from MONUSCO and civil society, 37 children formerly associated with armed groups were released in North Kivu (35) and Ituri (2) by national forces and referred to United Nations Children's Fund partners for reintegration services. Through the joint technical working group on children and armed conflict, MONUSCO continued to implement the action plan to prevent grave violations in Government-controlled areas. For instance, discussions focused on organizing age-verification training for security forces and finalizing the new child disarmament, demobilization and reintegration framework. Meanwhile, MONUSCO pursued good offices with Government officials for the adoption of a charter against the instrumentalization of children for political, electoral and conflict purposes. In parallel, MONUSCO conducted 15 capacity-building workshops targeting local child protection actors, youth leaders and internally displaced persons committees in Beni, Bunia and Kinshasa, in order to reinforce community-based mechanisms and sustain monitoring and advocacy in high-risk zones.

C. Gender and conflict-related sexual violence

42. During the reporting period, MONUSCO documented at least 133 cases of sexual violence against 212 victims (142 women, 67 girls, 2 men and 1 boy) in conflict-affected provinces. Armed groups were responsible for 71 per cent, while State actors were responsible for 28 per cent, of all victims. Insecurity, as well as survivors' fear of stigma and reprisals by armed groups contributed to underreporting. In this context, MONUSCO continued to work with human rights defenders and civil society organizations to make survivors aware of the importance of reporting cases of conflict-related sexual violence.

43. In North Kivu, reports by MONUSCO and the United Nations Joint Human Rights Office indicate an increase in the number of cases of conflict-related sexual violence and the continuing use of rape by M23 and FDLR as a form of reprisal against women and girls perceived to be affiliated with or dependent on rival armed groups. MONUSCO continued to build the capacities of Congolese defence and security forces on the prevention of and response to gender-based violence and conflict-related sexual violence, including training sessions for the Armed Forces of the Democratic Republic of the Congo in Beni, and several sessions across Beni, Bunia and Kinshasa that reached over 200 police officers, including 75 women.

44. In Bukavu, the safety and judicial protection of victims and witnesses of conflict-related sexual violence committed by detainees who have escaped prison remains a concern. In response, MONUSCO met with the Auditor General of the Armed Forces of the Democratic Republic of the Congo to discuss the provision of judicial protection to survivors and witnesses.

V. Humanitarian challenges and response

45. The humanitarian crisis in the Democratic Republic of the Congo remains among the most acute globally. As of April, 6.3 million people were internally displaced, including 1.8 million in North Kivu, 1.4 million in South Kivu and 1.5 million in Ituri. Escalating violence, including the expansion of AFC/M23 control, has severely restricted humanitarian access, and a sharp decline in humanitarian funding has deepened the crisis.

46. As of mid-April, 10.3 million people were facing acute food insecurity, of whom 2.3 million were experiencing emergency levels of food insecurity (Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC) phase 4) in North Kivu, South Kivu, Ituri and Tanganyika. These provinces also saw a sharp rise in outbreaks of disease, which were exacerbated by insecurity, reduced surveillance and significant funding cuts to public health programmes. Between January and May, the World Health Organization reported 43,300 suspected cases of mpox, compared with fewer than 7,000 over the same period in 2024. In May, the Ministry of Public Health, Hygiene and Prevention also declared a cholera epidemic in six provinces, including North Kivu, South Kivu, Tanganyika and Tshopo, with 25,600 cases reported between January and May.

47. In North Kivu and South Kivu, the humanitarian situation remained highly fluid, with large-scale returns and new displacements. As of March, 1.1 million were newly displaced since January and were mainly hosted in precarious conditions. Sustained armed clashes along main routes continued to restrict humanitarian access, and the continued closure of Goma airport, the suspension of the banking system and critical cash shortages in M23-controlled territories further disrupted humanitarian supply chains, raised delivery costs and delayed life-saving assistance.

48. In Ituri, the rise of intercommunal clashes and the emergence of new armed groups, including CRP and CNLC, together with intensified clashes in Djugu territory, obstructed essential service delivery and have displaced over 217,000 people since January.

49. As at 5 June, the 2025 humanitarian needs and response plan, budgeted at \$2.54 billion, was critically underfunded at just 11.2 per cent, less than half of the funding received by mid-year in 2024. The humanitarian country team undertook a reprioritization exercise to focus the limited resources available on life-saving assistance in the most critical areas. This adjustment does not reflect reduced needs – still affecting 21.2 million – but prioritizes the 6.79 million most vulnerable people based on three criteria: life-saving relevance; acute intersectoral severity; and areas facing overlapping shocks. The revised funding requirement of \$1.25 billion also remains severely underfunded.

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

A. Disarmament, demobilization and reintegration

50. While activities under the Disarmament, Demobilization, Community Recovery and Stabilization Programme were suspended in AFC/M23-controlled areas, implementation continued in Government-controlled areas, notably in Beni and Lubero territories of North Kivu and in Ituri. MONUSCO supported the voluntary repatriation of foreign combatants and their dependants, repatriating 7 male FDLR and Conseil national pour le renouveau et la démocratie/Nyatura combatants and 13 dependants from Goma to Rwanda, through joint efforts with the Conseil national pour les réfugiés and the Rwanda Demobilization and Reintegration Commission. The Mission's political engagement ensured a safe pathway for foreign armed groups seeking to disengage, setting a precedent for continued repatriation activities by MONUSCO from AFC/M23-controlled areas.

51. From 11 to 14 April, in Beni and Lubero, the Disarmament, Demobilization, Community Recovery and Stabilization Programme, jointly with the provincial government and MONUSCO, launched two reintegration projects that targeted 850 combatants and 1,600 community members, with at least 30 per cent of female beneficiaries, which were focused on strengthening community resilience, the role of women in stabilization initiatives and the socioeconomic reintegration of ex-combatants, among other areas of work.

52. In Ituri, following the demobilization of 1,130 Zaïre combatants in January, the Mission launched a community reinsertion project on 24 May in support of the Disarmament, Demobilization, Community Recovery and Stabilization Programme. The project provides short-term employment, psychosocial support, community dialogues and community-based recovery activities for 311 ex-combatants and 622 community members, including at least 186 women, in Djugu, Irumu and Mahagi territories.

53. From 20 to 22 May, the Disarmament, Demobilization, Community Recovery and Stabilization Programme, with support from MONUSCO, convened a workshop in Kinshasa to develop a priority action plan for the period 2025–2027. Over 50 participants, including representatives from State institutions, diplomatic missions, United Nations agencies (the United Nations Development Programme and the International Organization for Migration) and non-governmental organizations, collectively identified key priority actions, which included: strengthening the Programme's local presence; advancing community-based socioeconomic reintegration; and integrating the women and peace and security agenda and the youth and peace and security agenda across all activities.

54. Between 19 April and 7 May, the Disarmament, Demobilization, Community Recovery and Stabilization Programme, with the support of MONUSCO, issued biometric demobilization cards to 920 ex-combatants, including 277 women, in Ituri and in Beni and Lubero territories of North Kivu. Cardholders qualify for socioeconomic support that is aimed at facilitating their reintegration into civilian life. In close partnership with the United Nations country team, MONUSCO provided technical and operational support to the Programme to ensure the provision of effective, community-focused reintegration and stabilization processes for demobilized combatants, including women and youth.

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

55. The Mission continued its engagements with the National Security Adviser to further security sector reform and to encourage the operationalization of the National Commission on Security Sector Reform, with a view to supporting the development of a national security policy.

56. On 28 April, MONUSCO facilitated an inclusive, multi-stakeholder dialogue in Kinshasa to strengthen commitment to the civilian oversight of security sector reform, bringing together members of the parliamentary defence and security commissions, alongside the National Security Council, civil society representatives and international partners.

57. The Mission continued to support national criminal justice institutions in the fight against impunity, leading to the publication of key judgments by national courts on international crimes and a guide to the functions of the military.

58. In Ituri and North Kivu, the Mission supported two mobile court hearings. As a result, a member of CODECO, was convicted in Tchomia of crimes against humanity, on 21 March.

59. Two on-site investigative missions were conducted by the military justice authorities in Ituri, with technical and financial support from MONUSCO, in relation to alleged international crimes committed in Djaiba in 2025 and in Luna, Biakato Tchanitchani between 2020 and 2024. In Beni, Bunia and Kinshasa, the Mission trained judicial authorities in criminal analysis, ballistics, cybercrime, digital investigation and terrorism financing in order to advance the prosecution of international crimes, including the illicit exploitation of natural resources.

60. The Mission supported the development of additional security measures in the four priority prisons of Makala, Ndolo, Beni and Bunia through technical assistance, advocacy and capacity-building for 208 prison personnel, including 57 women, and the establishment of a prison database management system for real-time tracking of security incidents, including escapes.

61. Despite the Government's prison decongestion efforts, including a presidential pardon that released 1,275 inmates, including 23 women and 73 minors (5 girls), prison overcrowding persisted, with admissions outpacing releases in three priority prisons. Makala prison, however, reduced its population by 7.5 per cent recorded its lowest annual prisoner death toll to date, owing to improved conditions of detention.

VII. Gradual, responsible and sustainable withdrawal

62. In line with Security Council resolution [2765 \(2024\)](#), a joint note on the disengagement and transition, prepared by the Joint Working Group, signed on 24 April by the Minister of State and Minister for Foreign Affairs, International Cooperation and Francophonie of the Democratic Republic of the Congo and the Special Representative, was transmitted to the Security Council. The note underlines that the presence of M23 in North Kivu and South Kivu has suspended disengagement planning for North Kivu and Ituri, and severely affected transition efforts in South Kivu.

63. On 26 March, a reprogramming exercise for transition activities funded by MONUSCO in South Kivu was finalized, following a joint review conducted by MONUSCO and United Nations specialized agencies, funds and programmes implementing the United Nations support plan for the transition in the province. As a result, planned activities to support State institutions in areas now under AFC/M23

control were cancelled, including those planned to be financed by the Mission's transition portfolio through programmatic funding, the Peacebuilding Fund, the Stabilization Coherence Fund and the United Nations agencies' own resources. Reprogrammed interventions have been redirected towards strengthening community-based protection mechanisms, enhancing human rights monitoring and delivering vital support to children formerly associated with armed groups, as well as to other vulnerable populations, including women and young persons. Meanwhile, the activities of provincial level joint disengagement and transition mechanisms, including the provincial integrated transition teams, remained on hold.

VIII. Women and peace and security

64. The Mission continued to promote the meaningful, inclusive and safe participation of Congolese women in peace processes. Over the reporting period, 80 female mediators, civil society leaders and male peace advocates from Goma, Beni, Bunia, Bukavu and Kinshasa organized a series of consultative meetings to elaborate an advocacy note that set out recommendations calling for an end to the conflict in the east and greater participation of women in peace processes. The advocacy note was developed with guidance from the Special Representative of the Secretary-General and will be disseminated to national, regional and international stakeholders. In addition, from 1 to 23 April, MONUSCO supported the Ituri Mothers' Forum, organizing a series of consultative meetings, in Djugu and Mahagi territories, on strategies to reduce the vulnerability of women and girls and address their protection needs.

65. The Mission and the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women) supported the Ministry of Gender, Family and Children in organizing the first edition of the National Day of Positive Masculinity on 31 March. During the event, male political leaders and parliamentarians committed to reforming the electoral law and launching a dedicated initiative to strengthen women's political representation.

IX. Mission effectiveness

A. Mission performance

Military component

66. MONUSCO deployed 10,071 troops and 384 United Nations military experts on mission against an authorized strength of 11,500 troops and 600 military experts. The percentage of women among military staff officers and observers remained steady at 23 per cent. In line with its Action for Peacekeeping Plus commitments, MONUSCO evaluated 22 military units, implementing performance improvement plans for each.

67. Despite numerous challenges, the Mission adjusted its operational agility and resilience and sustained critical support to uniformed personnel and logistical continuity. The Mission established a temporary force headquarters in Beni, which contributed to strengthening coordination between MONUSCO and the Armed Forces of the Democratic Republic of the Congo. Currently, 182 military staff officers are based in Beni and 101 in Goma.

68. The continued closure of Goma airport and the ongoing refusal of AFC/M23 to allow MONUSCO military personnel to cross into Congolese territory at the M23-controlled border in Goma significantly disrupted scheduled troop rotations, with 81 per cent of troops in the Mission's central sector overdue for rotation, as well

as disrupting medical and casualty evacuations and cargo transportation and therefore requiring costly rerouting through Entebbe, Uganda. Strategic level IV medical evacuation flights to Kenya and Uganda remained suspended, while intra-area casualty evacuations into Goma continued to face critical delays. In the central sector, flight restrictions continued to impede aerial evacuations from key locations, including Kitshanga, Kiwanja, Kanyobagonga and Sake, resulting in prolonged ground movements and undermining established medical evacuation protocols.

69. In addition, AFC/M23 continued to impose advance notification requirements for MONUSCO logistical convoys and placed constraints on deliveries, thereby obstructing fuel supply chains and adversely affecting generator-dependent installations and essential communication infrastructure.

Police component

70. As at 5 June, the MONUSCO police component had deployed 1,301 personnel from 29 contributing countries, comprising 1,045 formed police personnel, including 211 women, from six formed police units deployed in Goma, Kinshasa, Beni and Bunia, and 256 individual police personnel, including 82 women. The performance rating of individual officers rose from 72 to 76 per cent since the previous reporting period, which was attributable to the implementation of improved training programmes combined with enhanced mentoring initiatives.

71. The Mission updated defence and contingency plans for all formed police units in response to the worsening situation in the east, reorganizing deployments while maintaining a proactive and robust posture to safeguard United Nations personnel and assets. Individual police officers were redeployed from Goma to Beni, Bunia and Kinshasa, which strengthened the police component's presence in Government-controlled areas, and there was an increase in joint patrols with the Congolese National Police, visits to internally displaced persons sites and community engagement.

Civilian component

72. As at 31 May, 2,010 civilian personnel (26 per cent of them women), including 249 United Nations Volunteers (47.6 per cent of them women) and 36 government-provided personnel (25 per cent of them women), were serving with MONUSCO.

B. Comprehensive Planning and Performance Assessment System

73. In line with its reporting obligations, MONUSCO used the Comprehensive Planning and Performance Assessment System to conduct a mission-wide assessment to enhance the information available to the Security Council including through the present report, on the Mission's impact vis-à-vis mandated priorities. Data generated against the Mission's results framework was also used to produce fact sheets and infographics.

C. Strategic communications

74. The Mission expanded its media engagements, conducting up to 10 awareness sessions, training sessions, focus groups and forums on mandate implementation and related challenges in M23-controlled areas. These activities reached 100 journalists and influencers across Kinshasa, Bunia and Beni, 30 per cent of whom were women. As part of efforts to counter persistent online misinformation and disinformation campaigns, the Mission delivered four training sessions of digital fact-checking and hate-speech monitoring for 120 participants (60 women and 60 men).

75. To counter disinformation portraying the Mission as being involved with armed groups, the trafficking of minerals or ethnic cleansing, MONUSCO launched a fact-checking campaign and developed explanatory videos and other visual content on its activities, which it disseminated on social media. The Mission also supported the production of Radio Okapi programmes focused on national cohesion and aimed at countering hate speech and anti-MONUSCO sentiment, as well as misinformation and disinformation, reaching 33 cities, towns and rural villages.

D. Serious misconduct, including sexual exploitation and abuse

76. Throughout the reporting period, MONUSCO implemented several measures to mitigate the risk of sexual exploitation and abuse, including regular joint patrols, day and night, of off-limit locations at different duty stations; daily monitoring by closed-circuit television (CCTV) of Mavivi camp (Beni) entrances and exits; and the dissemination of toll-free numbers for the local population to report cases of sexual exploitation and abuse. These efforts complemented ongoing training on the prevention of sexual exploitation and abuse for all civilian and uniformed personnel and risk assessments in field locations. Between 1 March and 31 May, seven cases of sexual exploitation and abuse, which occurred in 2006, 2012, 2016, 2023 and 2025, were reported to the Mission and are being investigated. Of the seven cases, three were reportedly perpetrated by military personnel and four by civilian personnel.

77. As part of its commitment to supporting victims of sexual exploitation and abuse, MONUSCO referred six victims to the United Nations Population Fund and three children to the United Nations Children's Fund. MONUSCO also developed its sexual exploitation and abuse action plan for 2025, including a communication strategy in support of prevention, enforcement and remedial actions.

X. Regional support

A. Implementation of resolution [2746 \(2024\)](#)

78. On 28 March, the Southern African Development Community (SADC) Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo and AFC/M23 agreed that the latter would facilitate the withdrawal of SADC Mission troops following the decision adopted on 13 March by the Extraordinary Summit of the Heads of State and Government of SADC on the phased withdrawal and termination of the SADC Mission mandate. The SADC Mission began withdrawing from Goma by road through Rwanda on 29 April. On 12 June, SADC launched the second phase of the Mission's withdrawal, involving the departure of personnel from Goma and Sake by road through Rwanda to the United Republic of Tanzania. At the request of SADC, in line with Security Council resolution [2765 \(2024\)](#), MONUSCO supported this process, including through logistical assistance.

B. Support of the Mission for the reinforced ad hoc verification mechanism

79. At the request of Angola, MONUSCO supported the withdrawal of the ad hoc reinforced verification mechanism. On 15 April, Brigadier Daniel Raimundo Savihemba was dismissed from the post of Commander of the verification mechanism.

XI. Safety and security of United Nations personnel

80. The safety and security situation for United Nations personnel deteriorated during the reporting period. As at 5 June, the temporary detention of at least 18 United Nations security management system personnel by AFC/M23 was reported, as well as seven cases of unauthorized visits by AFC/M23, and two by unidentified armed groups, to the residences of United Nations personnel. Three cases of sexual harassment of United Nations personnel by members of other armed groups and criminal gangs were also recorded.

81. Frequent movement restrictions of United Nations personnel were recorded at the M23-controlled border with Rwanda, including at least 42 reported instances of MONUSCO international staff being denied entry.

82. At least 56 security incidents targeted United Nations security management system personnel, including death threats, robberies, home invasions, physical assaults and illegal detentions involving national authorities. MONUSCO continued robust protective measures, coordinating closely with local authorities to mitigate these security risks. During a MONUSCO convoy in North Kivu in May, a peacekeeper and a language assistant were killed in a road traffic accident.

83. Non-critical staff and their dependants have fully returned to Beni. Only critical staff have been permitted to return to Goma, with others carrying out their duties remotely. In Kinshasa, the recommendation that family members of international staff remain outside the duty station was maintained until 15 June 2025.

XII. Observations

84. I am encouraged by the ongoing diplomatic efforts to bring an end to the conflict in eastern Democratic Republic of the Congo. I welcome the statements made on 23 April by the Government of the Democratic Republic of the Congo and AFC/M23 under the facilitation of Qatar. I also welcome the Declaration of Principles issued by the Democratic Republic of the Congo and Rwanda on 25 April and the progress towards a peace agreement under the auspices of the Government of the United States of America. I commend the President of Angola, João Lourenço, for the progress achieved under his leadership of the Luanda process and welcome the appointment of the former President of Togo, Faure Gnassingbé, as the African Union-designated mediator. I further welcome Mr. Gnassingbé's engagement to promote coordination and coherence among national, regional and international actors in support of peace efforts. The United Nations reaffirms its readiness to support these efforts, in close partnership with all key stakeholders.

85. I strongly urge all parties to commit to an immediate and unconditional cessation of hostilities, which is the essential first step on which peace can be built, and to fully comply with their respective obligations under Security Council resolution [2773 \(2025\)](#).

86. I welcome recent signs of progress towards the lifting of constraints on the Mission's freedom of movement and resupply in M23-controlled areas, which have undermined its ability to protect civilians, endangered the safety and security of United Nations personnel and delayed troop rotations. I commend the tireless efforts and commitment of MONUSCO uniformed and civilian personnel in these challenging conditions. I take note of the initial engagement of my Special Representative with AFC/M23 leadership during her recent visit to Goma to help to create a more conducive environment for the Mission, for the benefit of the

population. I urge AFC/M23 to lift all restrictions on MONUSCO and refrain from actions aimed at preventing the Mission from discharging its mandated priority tasks.

87. I call upon the parties to facilitate the reopening of the Goma and Kavumu airports and to ensure unhindered humanitarian access to those in need, particularly vulnerable women and children who continue to bear the brunt of the ongoing violence. I urge the Security Council to ensure that those responsible for impeding the work of MONUSCO or endangering the lives of United Nations peacekeepers and humanitarian personnel are held accountable for their actions.

88. I strongly condemn the killing of civilians, forced recruitment and other human rights abuses by M23, ADF, CODECO, Zaïre, FDLR and other armed groups. I am troubled by the recent emergence of new armed groups, such as in Ituri, including Convention pour la révolution populaire. I call upon all Congolese armed groups to join the Disarmament, Demobilization, Community Recovery and Stabilization Programme and urge members of foreign armed groups to return to their countries of origin. I call upon all neighbouring countries to respect the sovereignty and territorial integrity of the Democratic Republic of the Congo and refrain from any form of support to armed groups operating on Congolese soil, whether foreign or domestic.

89. I am also troubled by the continued shrinking of political and civic space in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, which undermines efforts to build national cohesion and trust among political actors. I urge Congolese political and civil society leaders to explore avenues for constructive dialogue and collaboration on the most pressing challenges facing the nation. The United Nations reaffirms its readiness to support initiatives aimed at addressing the legitimate aspirations of the Congolese people for peace, development and justice.

90. I reiterate my call for the swift adoption of the draft law against tribalism, racism and xenophobia. I further commend ongoing efforts to implement the law on the protection and promotion of the rights of Indigenous Peoples and encourage the inclusion of Indigenous Peoples in relevant institutions, in line with General Assembly resolution [61/295](#), entitled “United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples”. The proliferation of disinformation, misinformation and hate speech continues to erode national cohesion and greatly hamper the Mission’s ability to implement its mandate. I urge all stakeholders to refrain from actions that inflame hate and stoke division.

91. I am deeply alarmed by the impact of the sharp reduction in humanitarian funding for the Democratic Republic of the Congo. I call upon the Government and the international community to provide all necessary support for the reprioritized 2025 humanitarian needs and response plan. I urge all parties to the conflict to facilitate the delivery of humanitarian assistance and respect international humanitarian law.

92. I wish to express my gratitude to the Special Representative for her determined leadership and persistent efforts, and to all MONUSCO personnel, members of the United Nations system, troop- and police-contributing countries and the Office of the Special Envoy for the Great Lakes Region for their continued efforts towards lasting peace and stability in the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

