



COI QUERY

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| Topic(s) | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Political and security developments in DRC 2. Security situation in Kinshasa 3. Incidents 4. Sexual violence 5. Humanitarian situation 6. Internally displaced persons (IDPs) |
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COI QUERY RESPONSE – Democratic Republic of the Congo

Security situation in Kinshasa

1. Political and security developments

In 2019, the first peaceful transfer of power since the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) gained independence from Belgium, took place, with Felix Tshisekedi becoming president after 18 years of governance by Joseph Kabila.¹ Political elites reportedly manipulated the electoral process and elections were not considered transparent.² In 2023, members of the opposition and their supporters faced obstacles to demonstrate and exert their fundamental rights,³ including intimidation and restrictions on campaigning and organising of public events.⁴ Human Rights Watch (HRW) reported on instances of political violence that took place across the country in the run-up to the 20 December 2023 elections.⁵ The presidential election gave Tshisekedi a second five-year term as President, but several actors reported irregularities in the electoral process.⁶ Nonetheless, Tshisekedi was confirmed as the winner by the Constitutional Court in early January 2024.⁷

DRC saw an increase in violence at the end of 2023 caused by fighting over resources and territories with armed groups, violence by security forces, and political violence.⁸ According to Transparency International, political instability and corruption enabled activities of 'illegal armed groups.'⁹ Corruption and poor governance of security forces contributed to security challenges due to the lack of resources.¹⁰

The UN Organization Stabilization Mission in the DR Congo (MONUSCO) was established as the UN peacekeeping mission in the country in 2010.¹¹ On 21 November 2023, the UN and DRC agreed on a disengagement plan for the MONUSCO to withdraw its activities in the country.¹² The withdrawal was agreed in an atmosphere of statements by the Congolese government on the failure of the mission to protect civilians¹³ and anti-UN protests.¹⁴

¹ UN News, First peaceful transfer of power in DR Congo 'an extraordinary opportunity' for advancing rights, 19 March 2019, [url](#)

² Freedom House, Freedom in the World 2023 - Democratic Republic of the Congo, 2023, [url](#)

³ HRW, DR Congo: Crackdown on Opposition Ahead of Elections, 22 August 2023, [url](#)

⁴ Freedom House, Freedom in the World 2023 - Democratic Republic of the Congo, 2023, [url](#)

⁵ HRW, DR Congo: Electoral Violence Threatens Vote, 16 December 2023, [url](#)

⁶ AA, Democratic Republic of Congo's President Tshisekedi re-elected for 2nd term, 31 December 2023, [url](#)

⁷ France24, DR Congo constitutional court confirms Tshisekedi won election, 9 January 2024, [url](#)

⁸ CFR, Instability in the Democratic Republic of Congo, last updated December 2023, [url](#)

⁹ Transparency International, Report Corruption Perceptions Index 2022, 31 January 2023, [url](#), p. 10

¹⁰ Transparency International, Report Corruption Perceptions Index 2022, 31 January 2023, [url](#), p. 10

¹¹ MONUSCO, About, n.d., [url](#)

¹² MONUSCO, Press Release - The Government of the Democratic Republic of the Congo and MONUSCO sign a disengagement plan for the withdrawal of the Mission, PR/OSMR/2023, 22 November 2023, [url](#)

¹³ Al Jazeera, All UN peacekeepers to leave DR Congo by end of 2024, 13 January 2024, [url](#)

¹⁴ France 24, UN demands 'independent' probe after nearly 50 killed in DR Congo crackdown on rally, 1 September 2023, [url](#); BBC, DR Congo's deadly anti-UN protest: Soldiers go on trial in Goma, 6 September 2023, [url](#)



In eastern DRC, attacks against civilians by armed groups intensified in 2022, and in western DRC, members of the Congolese army and police committed human rights abuses, according to reports by local human rights groups.¹⁵ According to 2022 and 2023 reports, approximately 120 armed groups were operating in eastern DRC.¹⁶ Al Jazeera reported that, as of December 2023, M23 and the Allied Democratic Forces (ADF) were the two ‘most active armed groups.’¹⁷ The ADF originated in Uganda¹⁸ and M23 is reportedly supported by Rwanda.¹⁹ The resurgence of M23 in October 2021²⁰ worsened the security situation in eastern DRC.²¹ In November 2023, the ADF were accused of committing attacks in eastern DRC with several casualties.²²

2. Security situation in Kinshasa

The conflict between the Teke and Yaka communities,²³ which began in 2022 over a land dispute, ‘caused a deterioration’ in the humanitarian and security situation in several provinces near the capital city of Kinshasa.²⁴ The conflict also reached the capital Kinshasa.²⁵ According to the UN Security Council, in Kwamouth territory and in the Maluku commune of Kinshasa, the conflict led to the destruction of half of the villages, where ‘hundreds of schools and medical centres were destroyed or forced to close. Serious human rights violations, including sexual violence, kidnappings for ransom, and torture, were reported.’²⁶

Amnesty International (AI) reported in 2022 that ‘administrative authorities in Kinshasa, unlawfully and systematically banned all demonstrations deemed critical of President Tshisekedi or his government.’²⁷ For instance, on 20 May 2023, security forces ‘fired tear gas and fought running battles in the streets of the capital Kinshasa with anti-government protesters’ demonstrating against rising living costs, insecurity, and irregularities in voter registration.²⁸ According to International Crisis Group, security forces responded with violence

¹⁵ AI, The State of the World's Human Rights; Democratic Republic Of The Congo 2022, 27 March 2023, [url](#)

¹⁶ Al Jazeera, Five key issues at stake in the DR Congo’s crucial election, 11 December 2023, [url](#); HRW, World Report 2023 - Democratic Republic of Congo, 12 January 2023, [url](#)

¹⁷ Al Jazeera, Five key issues at stake in the DR Congo’s crucial election, 11 December 2023, [url](#)

¹⁸ CSIS, Examining Extremism: Allied Democratic Forces, 29 July 2021, [url](#)

¹⁹ Al Jazeera, Five key issues at stake in the DR Congo’s crucial election, 11 December 2023, [url](#)

²⁰ African Arguments, The return of M23: Is there a way out for the DRC?, 1 November 2022, [url](#)

²¹ AI, The State of the World's Human Rights; Democratic Republic Of The Congo 2022, 27 March 2023, [url](#)

²² AA, Suspected ADF terrorists kill 19 civilians in eastern DRC: Civil society official, 13 November 2023, [url](#); VOA Africa, Suspected Militants Kill at Least 14 in Congo Night Raid, 24 November 2023, [url](#)

²³ UN Security Council, Midterm report of the Group of Experts on the Democratic Republic of the Congo, 30 December 2023, [url](#), paras. 7-14

²⁴ Reuters, Ethnic conflict kills 11 people in western Congo, 31 January 2024, [url](#); UN Security Council, Midterm report of the Group of Experts on the Democratic Republic of the Congo, 30 December 2023, [url](#), para. 7

²⁵ New Humanitarian (The), Conflict in western DRC simmers unnoticed amid rebel gains in the East, 12 February 2024, [url](#)

²⁶ UN Security Council, Midterm report of the Group of Experts on the Democratic Republic of the Congo, 30 December 2023, [url](#), para. 9

²⁷ AI, Amnesty International Report 2022/23; The State of the World's Human Rights; Democratic Republic of The Congo 2022, 27 March 2023, [url](#)

²⁸ Reuters, DR Congo security forces clash with anti-govt protesters in Kinshasa, 25 May 2023, [url](#)



that left ‘dozens injured’, according to the opposition.²⁹ In December 2023, 11 civilians were allegedly injured during a clash between the police and opposition protesters in Kinshasa.³⁰

3. Incidents

The following are among the incidents as reported by sources on the security situation in Kinshasa:

- On 22 January 2024, sources reported clashes in Bandalungwa, Kinshasa, between supporters of politicians Patrick Muyaya and Levy Mpayi after the announcement that Muyaya won the legislative elections; the clashes resulted in many injuries.³¹
- On 20 December 2023, supporters of the UDPS (Union for Democracy and Social Progress) party in Kinshasa attacked a Radio France International (RFI) correspondent who was covering the elections; the attackers, who were reportedly armed with knives, assaulted the journalist, dragged him on the ground, and stole his belongings.³²
- On 12 November 2023, the Mobondo militia³³ attacked civilians in the village of Maluku (Kinshasa province), causing nine fatalities.³⁴
- On 23 August 2023, the Mobondo militia clashed with Armed Forces of the Democratic Republic of the Congo (FARDC) in Muluono, near Mbankana, Kinshasa, leaving four members of the FARDC and 10 of the Mobondo militia killed.³⁵
- On 13 July 2023, a member of parliament from the opposition party was found dead in Kinshasa with gunshot wounds; the Congolese government responded by condemning the ‘assassination’, making arrests, and initiating a commission of inquiry, with international assistance, though the motive behind the murder remained unclear.³⁶

²⁹ International Crisis Group, Tracking Conflicts Worldwide - Democratic Republic of Congo, May 2023, [url](#)

³⁰ BBC News, DR Congo elections: Fayulu's supporters clash with police in Kinshasa, 27 December 2023, [url](#); Africanews, Opposition protesters clash with police in Kinshasa after partial results released, 28 December 2023, [url](#); France 24, DR Congo police disperse banned protest by the opposition, 27 December 2023, [url](#)

³¹ Factshimetric, Violent clashes between supporters in Bandalungwa: Political rivalry threatens the stability of the commune, 22 January 2024, [url](#); Mediacondo.net, Bandal : affrontement entre les partisans de Patrick Muyaya et Levy Mpayi, 22 January 2024, [url](#)

³² Actualite.cd, L'ACPI-RDC condamne l'agression brutale du journaliste Pascal Mulegwa par des partisans présumés du parti présidentiel lors de la couverture des opérations de vote à Kinshasa, 20 December 2023, [url](#); Africa News, DRC elections: RSF condemns attack on RFI correspondent, 22 December 2023, [url](#)

³³ The Mobondo is a group of militias organized by the Yaka community in response to attacks on what they perceive as "non-native" communities, particularly the Teke. This group draws in members from allied communities such as the Suku, Mbala, Ndinga, Songe, and Ngongo, and engages in violent retaliation against perceived aggressors. UN Security Council, Midterm report of the Group of Experts on the Democratic Republic of the Congo, 30 December 2023, [url](#), para. 11

³⁴ Mediacondo.net, Maluku (Kinshasa) : 9 morts signalés suite à une violence meurtrière par des Mobondo, 16 November 2023, [url](#) ; Infos.cd, Kinshasa : 9 morts après une incursion des Mobondo à Maluku, 15 November 2023, [url](#)

³⁵ Actualite.cd, RDC: la milice Mobondo fait la loi à la porte de Kinshasa, plusieurs morts lors des affrontements avec l'armée mercredi, 24 August 2023, [url](#) ; Congo Rassurance, Kinshasa : Affrontements signalés mercredi entre l'armée et la milice Mobondo dans la commune de Maluku, 24 August 2023, [url](#)

³⁶ HRW, World Report 2024 - Democratic Republic of Congo, 11 January 2024, [url](#); HRW, Opposition Politician's Murder Shakes Congo, 14 July 2023, [url](#)



- On 6 June 2023, Mobondo militiaman killed the Teke chief commune of Maluku (Kinshasa province).³⁷ Additional information could not be found among the sources consulted by EUAA within the time constraints.
- On 11 May 2023, clashes between security forces and Mobondo militias in the village of Nguma, Kinshasa, resulted in the death of a soldier and four Mobondo militants.³⁸
- In December 2022, attacks attributed to armed men from Kwamouth territory killed at least 12 people in the village of Maluku, Kinshasa.³⁹
- On 8 December 2022, unknown armed assailants attacked the village of Nkana, nearby Maluku, Kinshasa, leaving three civilians and three security forces dead and several houses destroyed.⁴⁰

4. Sexual violence

In 2022, the United States Department of State (USDOS) indicated that instances of gender-based violence (GBV), including rape, occurred across the country in areas with and without active conflicts.⁴¹ According to a report on socio-economic conditions in Kinshasha by the Danish Immigration Service (DIS), state protection mechanisms are 'limited' and there is a 'lack of infrastructure', including shelters or emergency houses for victims of GBV.⁴² The same source also indicated that 'women are usually referred to family members for support'.⁴³ In a 2023 article, UN Women illustrated that '52% of women in the DRC are survivors of domestic violence and 39% of Congolese women report having been threatened or harmed'.⁴⁴

For additional information on sexual violence in DRC, see [EUAA, DRC, Sexual and Gender Based Violence against Women](#), published on 7 February 2024.

5. Humanitarian situation

According to a 2023 press release published by the European Commission, 'the Humanitarian needs in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) are among the highest in the world'.⁴⁵

³⁷ International Crisis Group, Tracking Conflicts Worldwide - Democratic Republic of Congo, June 2023, [url](#)

³⁸ TRT Africa, West DRC militia clashes claim 11 lives, curfew imposed, 14 May 2023, [url](#); News 24, 11 killed in west DR Congo militia clashes, curfew declared, 13 May 2023, [url](#)

³⁹ Actualite.cd, RDC : Maluku touché par les attaques des assaillants venus de Kwamouth, déjà 12 morts enregistrés!, 3 December 2022, [url](#)

⁴⁰ Radio Okapi, Mai-Ndombe : 6 morts dans une attaque d'hommes armés à Nkana sur le fleuve Congo, 9 December 2022, [url](#)

⁴¹ USDOS, 2022 Country Report on Human Rights Practices: Democratic Republic of the Congo, 20 March 2023, [url](#), p. 34

⁴² Denmark, DIS, Country of Origin Information Report on Socioeconomic conditions in Kinshasa, October 2022, [url](#), p. 46

⁴³ Denmark, DIS, Country of Origin Information Report on Socioeconomic conditions in Kinshasa, October 2022, [url](#), p. 46

⁴⁴ UN Women, DRC: Bringing women's civil society organisations together, 10 July 2023, [url](#)

⁴⁵ EU, European Commission, Democratic Republic of Congo: EU allocates over €32 million in additional humanitarian funding, 26 April 2023, [url](#)



According to the World Bank, around 62 % of the population lived on less than USD 2.15 [EUR 1.99] a day in 2022, making DRC ‘among the five poorest nations in the world.’⁴⁶

In May 2023, the Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre’s (IDMC) indicated that DRC hosted ‘the largest number of acutely food insecure people worldwide’.⁴⁷ Driven by conflict and internal displacement, acute food insecurity was estimated to affect a quarter of the country’s population, or 26.4 million people.⁴⁸ In the 2024 Humanitarian Action for Children report, UNICEF indicated that in DRC, ‘more than 1.2 million under 5 years of age require treatment for severe wasting; 4 million women/children need protection services; 6.6 million children require emergency water and sanitation; and 1.6 million children require emergency education.’⁴⁹

Since 2022, DRC dealt with various epidemics, including cholera, Ebola, measles, monkey pox, plague, yellow fever, vaccine-derived polio, and COVID–19.⁵⁰ According to UNOCHA, DRC was particularly affected by cholera in 2023, recording the worst situation since 2017.⁵¹ In 2023, Kinshasa recorded 443 964 malaria cases, with at least 1 583 fatalities, a 50 % increase, as reported by the provincial health minister.⁵²

UNOCHA reported that heavy rains and river flooding in DRC between mid-November 2023 and January 2024 have affected 2.1 million people, resulting in 300 deaths.⁵³ Floods ‘have reportedly destroyed or damaged almost 100 000 households, 1 325 schools, and 267 health facilities’ across the country.⁵⁴ Flooding affected seven villages in Kinshasa province, resulting in the deaths of 12 people and the destruction of 1 177 houses, as reported by Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF).⁵⁵

The International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) documented damages in Kinshasa caused by torrential rains on 13 December 2022, which flooded 16 out of 24 municipalities.⁵⁶ According to IFRC, ‘the floods brought significant loss and damage, including the destruction of homes, basic infrastructure, and water, more than a dozen schools, health centers, and farms, loss of property and livelihoods, and food stocks.’⁵⁷

⁴⁶ The World Bank, The World Bank in DRC - Overview, 25 September 2023, [url](#)

⁴⁷ IDMC, Country Profile - Congo, Democratic Republic of, last updated 24 May 2023, [url](#)

⁴⁸ IDMC, Country Profile - Congo, Democratic Republic of, last updated 24 May 2023, [url](#)

⁴⁹ UNICEF, Humanitarian Action for Children – Democratic Republic of the Congo, 2024, [url](#), p. 2

⁵⁰ ECHO, Democratic Republic of Congo – Epidemics (DG ECHO, WHO, authorities) (ECHO Daily Flash of 20 May 2022), 20 May 2022, [url](#); WHO, Democratic Republic of the Congo - WHO 2024 Health Emergency Appeal, 15 January 2024, [url](#), p. 1

⁵¹ UNOCHA, Democratic Republic of the Congo – Overview, 2024, [url](#)

⁵² Actualite.cd, Kinshasa : près de 1 500 personnes décédées du paludisme en 2023, 25 January 2024, [url](#); Radio

Okapi, Kinshasa : plus de 1500 décès dus au paludisme en 2023, 15 January 2024, [url](#)

⁵³ UNOCHA, Democratic Republic of the Congo – Overview, 2024, [url](#)

⁵⁴ UNICEF, UNICEF strengthens response to DRC’s worst floods in 60 years and growing cholera outbreak, 7 Feb 2024, [url](#)

⁵⁵ MSF, Kinshasa: MSF assists over 2,500 flood victims, 31 January 2024, [url](#)

⁵⁶ IFRC, Floods in Kinshasa – Operational update, 28 April 2023, [url](#), p. 3

⁵⁷ IFRC, Floods in Kinshasa – Operational update, 28 April 2023, [url](#), p. 3



6. Internally displaced persons (IDPs)

According to UN sources, the IDP population in the DRC is the largest in Africa,⁵⁸ with over 80 % of displacements attributed to attacks and armed clashes.⁵⁹ As of 30 November 2023, UNHCR reported that DRC has around 6.5 million IDPs, including 17 539 IDPs in Kinshasa.⁶⁰ Displacement is 'caused by the activities of a multiplicity of armed groups, deep-rooted inter-community tensions over issues of national identity, and access to and management of natural resources.'⁶¹

In December 2023, Deutsche Welle (DW) reported that around 30 internally displaced families who fled due to land conflicts between the Teke and Yaka tribes in the province of Mai-Ndombe had been living since August 2022 in Kinshasa's Nzamu camp located in Maluku.⁶² Similarly, RFI reported that 'thousands' of refugees fleeing violence in Mai-Ndombe are hosted in Kinshasa by families or in churches.⁶³ In another article RFI mentioned that IDPs in Maluku live in 'precarious' conditions, are hosted in small crowded houses, and 'rely on solidarity to obtain what they need to survive'.⁶⁴

On 16 February 2024, Reuters reported that about 2 400 people living in a makeshift camp outside Kinshasa displaced by the floods of January 2024, reported facing constraints and difficult living conditions.⁶⁵

⁵⁸ UNOCHA, Democratic Republic of the Congo – Overview, 2024, [url](#); UNHCR, Democratic Republic of the Congo, 2024, [url](#)

⁵⁹ UNOCHA, République Démocratique Du Congo Personnes Déplacées Internes Et Retournées, December 2023, [url](#), p. 1

⁶⁰ UNHCR, Democratic Republic of the Congo; DRC At a Glance; Situation as of 31 December 2023, 3 February 2024, [url](#)

⁶¹ UNHCR, Democratic Republic of the Congo, 2024, [url](#)

⁶² DW, RDC : les déplacés de Kwamouth ne veulent pas être oubliés, 29 December 2023, [url](#)

⁶³ RFI, RDC : les réfugiés fuyant les violences dans le Mai-Ndombe affluent à Kinshasa, 21 October 2022, [url](#)

⁶⁴ RFI, RDC : Maluku, au nord de Kinshasa, le refuge des déplacés du Mai-Nombé, 13 December 2022, [url](#)

⁶⁵ Reuters, Thousands homeless after DR Congo's worst floods in sixty years, 16 February 2024, [url](#)

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