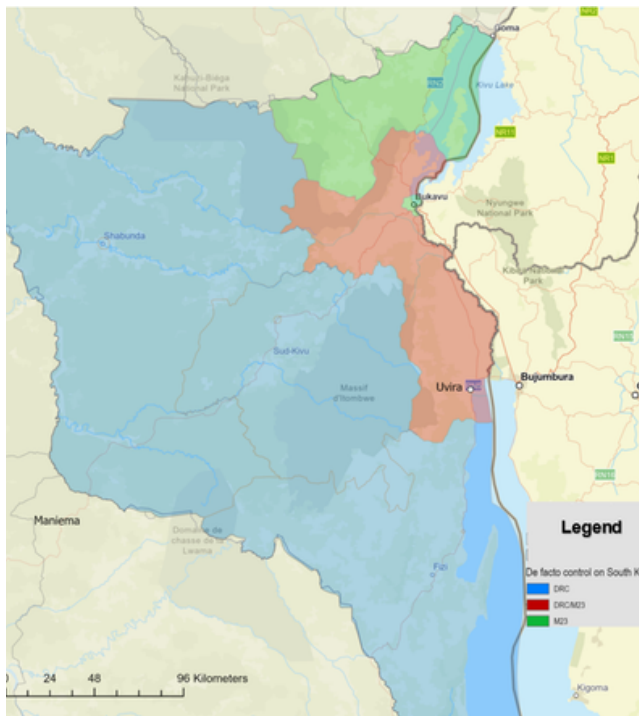




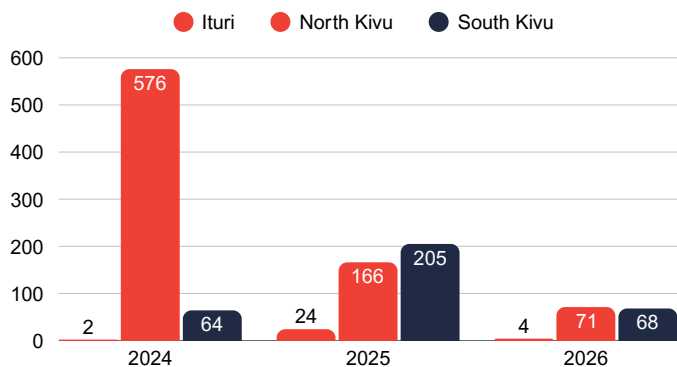
SECURITY SITUATION



The current security landscape in South Kivu, Democratic Republic of Congo, has reached a critical juncture characterized by high-intensity combat and a shifting front line that increasingly endangers civilian populations. Following the 2025-2026 escalation, the province is witnessing a complex territorial struggle as the AFC/M23 coalition and allied Ngumino-Twirwaneho fighters have seized key localities in the Uvira highlands, forcing the withdrawal of state forces and triggering mass displacement. This volatility is further exacerbated by the introduction of sophisticated technology, including the frequent use of FARDC drone strikes and heavy weaponry in territories such as Mwenga, Fizi, and Kalehe, which significantly increases the risk of collateral damage and civilian casualties (especially vulnerable populations such as IDPs, women and children). These active hostilities have created 'severe' impediments to humanitarian access, with aid organizations advised to suspend movements in conflict-affected sectors like the Ziralo and Mubuku groupements due to ongoing mobilizations and the presence of unpredictable roadblocks.

Updated 20th of April 2026

EO casualties from Jan 2024 to April 2026



Contamination Type (see map attached)	#
Battle area clearance NDSF Camps	9
Minefields at least	5
New minefields identified by DCA	3
Spot Tasks	136

HUMANITARIAN & OPERATIONAL NEEDS

1. Explosive Ordnance Risk Education (EORE)

In South Kivu, there is a stakeholder consensus on the urgent need for targeted sensitization. Efforts must focus on high-risk zones, specifically protecting children, women, IDPs, and returnees. The last EORE sessions campaigns stopped on the 31st May 2024 due to the lack of finance.

2. Explosive Threat Reduction

The presence of mines and ERWs in South Kivu such as Uvira Center and the Port of Kalundu poses an immediate lethal risk. This contamination acts as a blockade to recovery by:

- Restricting access: cutting off safe routes to farms/lands, schools, markets, and hospitals.
- Stalling aid: obstructing humanitarian actors and delaying long-term development.

3. Weapons & Ammunition Management (WAM)

- Substandard storage in populated areas threatens public safety. Those critical requirements include:
- Infrastructure: rehabilitating FARDC and PNC facilities to international standards.
- Security: installing safes and containers to prevent weapon diversion.
- Prisons: restoring the ransacked Uvira Central Prison's armory.

4. Restoration of State Authority Fragile state services

- require immediate institutional reinforcement:
- Police (PNC): rebuilding capacity following a catastrophic resource loss.
- Health: restocking the General Hospital and rehabilitating the pillaged PNC clinic.
- Technical support: assisting FARDC Military Engineering with the disposal of the large stock of unstable ammunitions.



ADDITIONNAL NEEDS

To enhance operational impact, a formal coordination mechanism must be established to synchronize efforts between the Government, UN agencies, and both national and international NGOs. Currently, in South Kivu, the capacity is limited to a single six-member DCA team, making it essential to systematically integrate coordination into broader humanitarian actions. A primary example of this need is the integration of Explosive Ordnance Risk Education (EORE) into UNHCR transit sites for Congolese returnees from Burundi. To ensure these life-saving interventions are effective, they must be supported by the development of localized, contextually relevant communication materials tailored to the specific needs of high-risk communities.

UNMAS VALUE PROPOSITION

While emergency interventions (Such as Non-technical Survey, EORE for vulnerable population) must be implemented immediately, sustainable security is built upon the professionalization of Congolese institutions. UNMAS and its partners are committed to a dual-priority approach: addressing urgent humanitarian needs while simultaneously transitioning to a model that empowers NDSF and state institutions as the primary guardians of their own territory.

This 2 sword strategy

By funding this two-pronged strategy, donors enable both surge operations for immediate threats and a long-term strategic shift toward national autonomy.

A key pillar of this transition is the opening of the EOD School in Beni, North Kivu, which serves as a provincial training hub for:

- EOD Levels 1 & 2: Precision Explosive Ordnance Disposal.
- Search & Detect (S&D): Proactive threat identification.
- Post-Blast Investigation (PBI): Forensic capabilities to enhance accountability and intelligence.

Strengthening State Sovereignty

Additionally, UNMAS is expanding its capacity in Kinshasa to foster and advocate for Congolese state independence. These efforts are reinforced through:

- National Empowerment: Systematic training of the National Defense and Security Forces (NDSF).
- Information Management (IM): Technical support to ensure the DRC owns and manages its own threat data.

Our immediate goals are maintaining operations in Ituri and North Kivu and we are scaling humanitarian efforts including Small Arms and Light Weapons (SALW) control into South Kivu.

Sponsoring UNMAS means more than clearing land it's about building the state institutions that keep it clear. You are financing a legacy of independence. By investing in this transition strategy, you provide the DRC with the tools, infrastructure, and expertise to handle explosive threats effectively and permanently on its own terms.

Thanks to our donors for funding UNMAS over the past 24 years



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CONTAMINATION MAP

