

AFRICA RISK CONSULTING

DRC Monthly Briefing November 2025

DRC Summary 24 November 2025

Representatives of the Congolese government and the Rwanda-backed M23 rebel group on 15 November sign a new framework agreement in Doha (Qatar), signalling another step in the efforts to end the long-running conflict in eastern DRC. The International Monetary Fund (IMF) concludes a staff review in DRC, reporting on 5 November that inflation in the DRC has notably eased, with year-on-year consumer prices dropping to 2.5% from 12% in 2024 amid a sharp appreciation of the Congolese franc. The United Nations (UN) World Food Programme (WFP) warns about the rapidly deteriorating humanitarian situation in the DRC, noting that funding shortfalls are pushing food assistance efforts to the brink of collapse.

DRC and M23 sign framework for peace deal...

Representatives of the Congolese government and the **Rwanda**-backed **M23** rebel group on 15 November [signed](#) a new framework agreement in **Doha (Qatar)**, signalling another step in efforts to end the conflict in eastern **Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC)**. The deal, which the **United States (US)** and Qatar both back, is meant to pave the way for a broader peace settlement to end conflict that has devastated the mineral-rich region, killing thousands and displacing millions.

US senior advisor for **Arab** and **African** affairs, **Massad Boulos**, said at the signing that the framework outlines eight protocols, but six of them still require consensus on the details of how they will actually be implemented. Boulos told reporters that even the first two protocols – related to prisoner exchanges and the monitoring of a ceasefire - have seen slow movement, reflecting the entrenched mistrust and logistical challenges on both sides, commenting:

“Yes, people were expecting to see probably some immediate results on the ground, but this is a process...This is not a light switch that you just switch on and off”.

Qatar has hosted several rounds of discussions since April, focusing largely on preconditions and confidence-building measures rather than the core issues dividing the parties, such as political and military reintegration, and M23’s territorial withdrawal from captured regions. A July declaration of principles left major questions unresolved, and an October deal on ceasefire monitoring laid groundwork without resolving the conflict’s root drivers, including regional interference - particularly Rwanda’s support for M23 - alongside local ethnic tensions and land disputes (*see ARC Briefing DRC Oct 2025*). Still, Qatari officials framed the latest agreement as meaningful progress. As Qatar’s minister of state for foreign affairs, **Mohammed bin Abdulaziz Al-Khulaifi**, [said](#) at the signing, peace is “*built through confidence, mutual respect and sincere commitment*” and not by force.

In another major development, after weeks of delay, negotiators from the DRC and Rwanda finally [agreed](#) on 7 November to a US-backed regional economic framework, an outcome the US views as essential to strengthening a fragile peace deal. Rwanda’s government spokeswoman, **Yolande Makolo**, confirmed that technical teams from both sides had concluded the agreement, with senior officials expected to sign it formally in the coming days. A joint statement by the DRC, Rwanda, US and mediator noted renewed commitments from both countries to implement their earlier peace accord. The economic framework is ambitious, involving mineral revenue sharing, cross-border road and rail infrastructure, and a proposed \$760m hydroelectric project. Still, many in the DRC question the urgency of an economic pact while fighting continues along the border and M23 showing no willingness to withdraw.

While the peace framework and regional economic framework add to several documents signed in recent months, it is clear that these agreements are only a milestone in a process that is far from complete. Meanwhile, the situation on the ground remains volatile. M23 has continued to advance across **North** and **South Kivu** provinces and now controls more territory than at any point in its history, deepening regional anxieties and complicating diplomatic efforts. Former US assistant secretary of state, **Tibor Nagy**, [warned](#) on 15 November that unless the deeper political and structural causes of the conflict are addressed, these agreements risk becoming another round of “drive-by” peace processes, especially as *“the players seem more interested in getting credit than results”*.

Complicating matters further, eastern DRC continues to face violence from multiple armed groups beyond M23. Even as talks unfolded in Doha, DRC officials reported that the **Allied Democratic Forces (ADF)**, an **Islamic State**-aligned militant group from **Uganda**, killed as many as 28 people in North Kivu. The **United Nations (UN)** further [reported](#) on 21 November that the IDF killed at least 89 people in multiple attacks in eastern DRC in the past week. This highlights a broader reality that negotiations with M23 alone may not stabilise the region, even if they succeed.

Inflation drops to 2.5% as IMF staff approve loan review

The **International Monetary Fund (IMF)** [reported](#) on 5 November that inflation in the DRC had notably eased, with year-on-year consumer prices dropping to 2.5% from 12% in 2024 amid a sharp appreciation of the Congolese franc. The statement followed the conclusion of discussions on the second review of the DRC’s economic and financial programme supported by the IMF’s **Extended Credit Facility (ECF)** and the first review of the climate-focused programme supported by the IMF’s **Resilience and Sustainability Facility (RSF)**.

According to the IMF, the decline in inflation is mainly due to corrective prudential measures implemented on the **Banque Centrale du Congo’s (BCC)** (central bank) foreign-currency reserves, which helped strengthen the franc. The currency has appreciated nearly 27% against the US dollar this year, one of the strongest performances globally. The rapid fall in inflation, from 23.8% in 2023 to below 12% last year, has provided welcome breathing room to the BCC, which aims for inflation around 7%. It also reduced its benchmark rate from 25% to 17.5% last month amid easing price pressures. Despite the easing inflation, the IMF highlighted the importance of greater transparency in foreign-exchange operations and closer coordination between fiscal and monetary authorities to protect recent gains and sustain price stability in the future.

IMF mission head, **Chief Calixte Ahokossi**, [said](#) that economic activity in the DRC has remained surprisingly resilient, even as persistent conflict in the east continues to strain public finances and demands significant defence spending. The DRC remains the world’s second-largest copper producer and the leading source of cobalt, a critical mineral for global battery supply chains. However, the country’s broader development remains constrained by chronic poverty and insecurity, with more than 100 armed groups active across resource-rich eastern provinces. The IMF’s latest projections expect the DRC economy to grow by more than 5% in both 2025 and 2026, driven primarily by continued expansion in the mining sector.

Ahokossi confirmed that the mission’s findings will now be presented to the IMF board, potentially unlocking the next tranche of the DRC’s roughly \$2.8 billion in loan support as early as December. He noted that ongoing fiscal consolidation measures, such as phasing out fuel subsidies for mining companies and ending tax exemptions on basic food imports, will remain essential to narrowing the budget deficit at a time when the state faces both rising social needs and heavy security costs.

Taken together, the IMF’s review points to a more stable economic outlook for the DRC, but lasting progress will hinge on whether the government can pair its recent gains with consistent fiscal discipline and deeper reforms in an environment still shaped by insecurity.

UN agencies warn of looming hunger crisis in the DRC

The **United Nations (UN) World Food Programme (WFP)** [issued](#) a stark warning on 7 November about the rapidly deteriorating humanitarian situation in the DRC, where funding shortfalls are pushing food assistance efforts to the brink of collapse. Years of conflict, particularly in eastern DRC, have displaced millions and sharply increased hunger levels, as well as compounded a dramatic decline in international funding. **Cynthia Jones**, the WFP's country director for the DRC, reported that the WFP has received only \$150m so far this year in the DRC, less than half of the \$350m it needs just to sustain immediate operations. This marks a steep decline from previous years, when funding reached as high as \$600m. Cuts in US foreign aid and reduced contributions from major **European** donors - many diverting budgets to defence - have further strained relief efforts. As a result, WFP has already reduced monthly food assistance from one million people to 600,000, and warns it may have to completely pause aid by February or March if resources do not materialise.

The WFP, which needs \$349m through April, and the **UN Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO)**, which requires \$127m for its 2025 programmes, further [announced](#) on 29 October that more than 26 million people across the DRC now require food assistance, with nearly half of Congolese children under five suffering from undernutrition. In eastern DRC alone over 3.2 million people are facing emergency levels of acute food insecurity, marked by severe food gaps and high malnutrition. The UN agencies said that the situation is expected to worsen by January 2026, when more than ten million people in four conflict-affected provinces - North Kivu, South Kivu, **Ituri**, and **Tanganyika** - could experience crisis-level hunger or worse. The resurgence and territorial gains of M23 have intensified instability, alongside violence involving other armed groups active in the region.

UN officials stress that without urgent new financing, millions of lives are at risk and the region's already fragile stability could deteriorate even further. As Jones cautioned, the humanitarian system is nearing a breaking point, and the window to avert a major food catastrophe in DRC is rapidly closing. Without immediate international support, the DRC risks sliding into one of the world's worst hunger emergencies, with consequences that will reverberate far beyond its borders.

Planner

2025/2026 **(DRC)** Presidential signing of DRC-**Rwanda** peace agreement;
 2025/2026 **(DRC)** Final signing of DRC-**M23** peace agreement;
 2025 **(DRC)** Constitutional review process;
 2025 **Kinshasa (DRC)** Withdrawal of the **Southern African Development Community (SADC) Mission in the Democratic Republic of Congo (SAMIDRC)** peacekeeping forces from DRC;
 1 Jan 2026 - 1 Jan 2028 **(DRC)** DRC to serve on the **United Nations Security Council (UNSC)**;

Chronology

21 Nov 2025 **Kinshasa (DRC)** *United Nations*. The **United Nations (UN)** says that **Islamist Allied Democratic Forces (IDF)** have killed at least 89 people in multiple attacks in the eastern DRC in the past week;
 21 Nov 2025 **Kinshasa (DRC)** *Al Jazeera*. **Qatari** Emir Sheikh **Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani** visits the DRC, days after the government and the **Rwanda**-backed **M23** rebel group signed a framework agreement for a peace deal aimed at ending fighting in the country's east;
 19 Nov 2025 **Kinshasa (DRC)** *Heineken*. **Dutch** brewer **Heineken** agrees to transfer its brewery in **Bukavu (South Kivu Province)** to **Mauritian** company **Synergy Ventures Holdings** for €1 (\$1.15), after losing operational control of the facility earlier this year;
 17 Nov 2025 **Kinshasa (DRC)** *Reuters*. The DRC extends a ban on the trading of minerals from dozens of artisanal mining sites in conflict-hit **North** and **South Kivu** provinces for six months;
 16 Nov 2025 **Kinshasa (DRC)** *Jornal de Angola*. **African Union (AU) Commission** chairperson **Mahmoud Ali Youssouf** briefs **Angola** President **João Lourenço** -

the outgoing AU chair - on the latest developments in **Sudan's** conflict during meetings in the DRC;

16 Nov 2025 **Kinshasa (DRC)** *The East African*. The **European Union** is seeking **Uganda's** help to move humanitarian relief into war-affected eastern DRC;

15 Nov 2025 **Kinshasa (DRC)** *Al Jazeera*. Representatives of the Congolese government and the **Rwanda-backed M23** rebel group sign a framework peace deal in **Doha (Qatar)** to guide future negotiations aimed at ending the long-running conflict in eastern DRC;

11 Nov 2025 **Kinshasa (DRC)** *Semafor*. The DRC suspends operations at the **Chinese-owned Congo Dongfang International Mining (CDM)** copper and cobalt mine after a dam collapse released toxic wastewater into **Lubumbashi**, flooding homes and contaminating local water supplies;

10 Nov 2025 **Kinshasa (DRC)** *Bloomberg*. **Swiss-based Mercuria Energy Group** and **Irish-based TechMet Ltd** are considering a venture to modernise mining and processing at a tantalum project near the town of **Rubaya**;

8 Nov 2025 **Kinshasa (DRC)** *Bloomberg*. The DRC and **Rwanda** confirm they have agreed on an economic pact in the **United States (US)**, as President **Donald Trump** seeks to implement a peace deal and spur **Western** investment in the region;

7 Nov 2025 **Kinshasa (DRC)** *Reuters*. The **United Nations (UN) World Food Programme (WFP)** warns that it may have to pause food aid to help millions of malnourished people in eastern DRC by February due to a major funding crisis;

3 Nov 2025 **Kinshasa (DRC)** *Reuters*. President **Felix Tshisekedi** accuses his **Rwandan** counterpart **Paul Kagame** of wanting to “split” his country and “annex the (resource-rich) eastern part” in a speech his office shared;

2 Nov 2025 **Kinshasa (DRC)** *TRT Afrika*. The DRC criticises the **Rwanda-backed M23** rebel group's “cynical” opposition to reopening **Goma** airport (**North Kivu Province**) to help funnel much-needed aid to the crisis-ridden east;

31 Oct 2025 **Kinshasa (DRC)** *La Prosperite*. Deputy prime minister and national economy minister **Daniel Mukoko Samba** meets with **International Monetary Fund** officials to review the DRC's economic programme;

28 Oct 2025 **Kinshasa (DRC)** *La Prosperite*. The DRC's proposed ‘minerals for security’ deal with the **United States** continues stalling amid ongoing conflict and **Rwanda's** military presence;

24 Oct 2025 **Kinshasa (DRC)** *Bloomberg*. **China's CMOC Group** plans to invest as much as \$1.08 billion at one of its copper mines in the DRC, after third-quarter profit almost doubled;

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