

AFRICA RISK CONSULTING

DRC Monthly Briefing September 2026

DRC Summary 16 September 2026

President Félix Tshisekedi (2019-present) signs an ordinance on 13 September creating a national dialogue committee, which he appoints in full. The Article 64 coalition marches on parliament on 15 September in protest of the constitutional changes this committee will review. Talks are held in Geneva (Switzerland) in August on DRC's parallel peace processes, producing a negotiating roadmap and a monitoring commitment, yet only two of eight Doha protocols are signed. The government tables a record 2027 budget of \$24.8 billion in parliament on 15 September. China-headquartered Zijin Mining values its Congolese investments at approximately \$6 billion as the mines ministry presses for domestic processing. The Ebola outbreak reaches 7,200 cases and 3,475 deaths, the second largest on record.

Tshisekedi appoints his own dialogue committee days before opposition marches

President **Félix Tshisekedi** (2019-present) [signed](#) an ordinance on 13 September creating the committee that will organise the national dialogue on peace, cohesion and the refounding of the state that he convened in late August to address the war in the east and the country's institutional crisis. The ordinance creates a preliminary organising committee with a coordinator, a deputy coordinator and members all designated by the president, supported by a technical secretariat of eleven experts. Its mandate ends when it submits a report, which then triggers a second ordinance formally convening the dialogue. Tshisekedi launched the dialogue, formally the **National Dialogue for Peace, Cohesion and the Refounding of the State**, on [27 August](#), with consultations to run across all 26 provinces over no more than three months. Armed groups are excluded, which separates the exercise from the negotiations running in parallel and defines it as a domestic political process.

Notably, Tshisekedi signed this ordinance two days before a planned march on parliament in **Kinshasa**, organised by the **Article 64** coalition, also known as **C64** after the constitutional article calling on citizens to oppose anyone who seizes power unconstitutionally. On the eve of the protest, the **Commission Nationale des Droits de l'Homme (CNDH)** (national commission for human rights [called on organisers, authorities and citizens](#) to keep the demonstration peaceful.

The march went ahead on 15 September, the day parliament opened its session, after the Kinshasa provincial government and the organisers [agreed a route on 14 September](#) that avoided the **Palais du Peuple** and moved the sit-in to the electoral commission's headquarters opposite the **Stade des Martyrs**. Turnout estimates ranged from several hundred to approximately 5,000, and the procession left the **Échangeur de Limete** after midday under police escort. **Confrontations broke out in Limete** near the headquarters of the ruling **Union pour la Démocratie et le Progrès Social (UDPS)**, where party youths erected barriers, the two sides threw stones and police fired tear gas to separate them. Outside the capital, police used tear gas and made arrests to break up or pre-empt gatherings in several cities. The underlying dispute is the referendum bill parliament adopted in June that allows constitutional changes to be put to a referendum. The [constitutional court validated the bill in July](#), with reservations on certain articles.

The two-term limit is entrenched in the constitution and unchanged, but Tshisekedi said in May that while he has not sought a third term, he would accept one if Congolese people asked him to continue. A dialogue whose organisers are appointed entirely by the presidency is unlikely to bind the opposition to any outcome, which leaves the 2028 succession unresolved and raises ongoing questions about the validity of any constitutional change.

Geneva keeps both peace tracks alive while fighting moves west

Geneva (Switzerland) hosted both DRC's parallel peace processes in the second half of August, producing a negotiating roadmap with the **Alliance Fleuve Congo (AFC)/M23** rebel coalition and a monitoring commitment with **Rwanda**. However, neither has slowed the fighting, which has since moved onto a new axis in **North Kivu Province**.

The sixth meeting of the **Joint Security Coordination Mechanism**, created under the December 2025 **Washington Accords**, met in Geneva from [12 to 13 August](#) with representatives of the DRC, Rwanda, the **United States (US)**, **Qatar**, **Togo** as **African Union (AU)** mediator, and the **African Union Commission (AUC)**. The parties agreed to strengthen monitoring and verification on the ground and to convene a trilateral planning conference with the US in October.

Separately, the DRC and AFC/M23 delegations met in Geneva from 17 to 21 August and [agreed a roadmap on 22 August](#) setting sequenced steps and timelines under the **Doha** framework, together with a standardised method for reporting ceasefire violations and a mechanism to review implementation. Two of the framework's eight protocols are signed, on ceasefire oversight and detainee release, and **United Nations Security Council (UNSC)** [report](#) notes the remaining six, covering humanitarian access, restoration of state authority, interim security arrangements, returns, economic recovery and transitional justice, are still outstanding.

A first verification mission under the **Expanded Joint Verification Mechanism Plus**, comprising the DRC government and AFC/M23 representatives alongside observers from **International Conference on the Great Lakes Region** member states, [deployed](#) to **Minembwe (South Kivu Province)** on 24 August, before going on to **Uvira** and **Kalehe**. The parties used the deployment to stand up the mechanism's secretariat and agree a reporting format for alleged violations, but no findings on specific violations have been published since. The mechanism's two-party scope struggles to capture a conflict involving regional actors and armed groups that consider themselves unbound by it.

Meanwhile, fighting opened a new front. M23 forces took the **Kazinga** and **Humura** trading centres in **Masisi** territory on [7 and 8 September](#) after clashes with the pro-government **Wazalendo** militia, displacing civilians towards **Kyumba** and **Langira** in **Walikale Territory** (North Kivu); the Congolese army and allied forces [recaptured Humura on 10 September](#), and clashes continued around **Kibati** in Walikale into 11 September. Further south, M23 and Wazalendo fighters [clashed](#) around Kaniola in Walungu Territory (South Kivu) between 6 and 8 September, part of a militia offensive in the Walungu highlands launched in late August.

The Masisi-Walikale axis carries the road links between **Goma** and North Kivu's mining interior, so the shift in fighting bears directly on haulage, artisanal supply chains and displacement pressure on Goma. MONUSCO's mandate runs only to [20 December 2026](#) and its area of operation is limited to North Kivu and **Ituri Province**, with South Kivu deployment for ceasefire monitoring still contested inside the Security Council, which leaves verification in the province where the first mission deployed institutionally thin.

A record \$24.8 billion budget lands at parliament on the day of the march

The DRC government adopted a draft 2027 finance law of 57.5 trillion CDF (\$24.8 billion) at a council of ministers meeting on [11 September](#), the largest in the country's history and 12% above the amended 2026 budget of approximately \$22 billion. For suppliers, contractors and lenders the budget sets the size of the domestic market for the coming year; for the currency and the **International Monetary Fund (IMF)** programme, it sets the question of whether the revenue assumptions behind it hold.

Vice-prime minister and budget minister **Adolphe Muzito** presented the budget, with education, infrastructure and security identified as the priority sectors. Prime minister **Judith Suminwa** [tabled the bill at the national assembly on 15 September](#), meeting the constitutional deadline, which put the most expensive budget the DRC has ever proposed in the same building, on the same day, as the

opposition march against the president's dialogue (see above). The **National Assembly** now has 40 days from the deposit date to adopt it, followed by 20 days for the Senate in second reading, before it goes to the president for promulgation, putting adoption around late October at the earliest. Two pressures sit underneath the headline figure. Defence absorbed nearly 15% of the 2026 budget, and the war in the east has not abated since. The **Ebola** response is a second, unbudgeted claim on the treasury, and the [IMF has already identified both the conflict and the outbreak as strains](#) on public finances under the programme that released \$348.5m in June.

A 12% nominal increase is modest against Congolese inflation history but ambitious against a revenue base that depends on mining receipts, and the draft will now be amended by a chamber whose September session opens amid a succession fight for the 2028 election.

Zijin puts its Congolese investment at \$6 billion as Kinshasa presses for local value

China-headquartered **Zijin Mining** [confirmed](#) to mines minister **Louis Watum Kabamba** on 12 September that its cumulative investments in the country total approximately \$6 billion, a disclosure made at the 28th **China Mining Conference and Exhibition** in **Tianjin**. The figure is a stocktake rather than a new commitment, and it quantifies the scale of Chinese capital the DRC is now trying to convert into domestic processing, jobs and Congolese participation in supply chains.

Zijin used the meeting to review **COMMUS**, its copper-cobalt operation at **Kolwezi (Lualaba Province)**, and the **Manono** lithium project in **Tanganyika Province**. The company's own disclosures put COMMUS's annual capacity [above 120,000 tonnes of copper and approximately 2,000 tonnes of cobalt](#). Zijin subsidiary **Jinxiang Lithium**, the state mining company **COMINIÈRE** and the Congolese state jointly hold **Manono Lithium SAS**, which is developing first-phase mining, processing and logistics facilities in stages during 2026 and which Zijin expects to create approximately 1,500 direct and more than 8,000 indirect jobs once fully developed. Watum, who also met **CREC Resources** in Tianjin, argued that Congolese mining should be measured by jobs created, local companies integrated, technology transferred and minerals processed at home rather than by tonnes exported.

[The DRC pressed this argument from a strong position](#). Canada-headquartered **Ivanhoe Mines** on 8 September raised the indicated resource at its **Western Forelands** exploration licences, adjacent to **Kamoa-Kakula** in Lualaba, by 30% to 42 million tonnes grading 2.66% copper, or approximately 1.1 million tonnes of contained copper. The ground is not yet a mine, but at roughly four times the average grade of global copper operations it signals that the country's endowment, and therefore its leverage over investment terms, is still expanding.

Bundibugyo Ebola outbreak becomes the largest on record, with no licensed vaccine

The DRC's **Ebola** outbreak, caused by the rare **Bundibugyo** virus, had infected 6,757 people and killed 3,267 as of [7 September](#), a crude case-fatality ratio of 48.3%, making it the deadliest outbreak of any Ebola species the country has recorded. The **World Health Organisation (WHO)** added 963 confirmed cases and 481 deaths between its 28 August and 10 September updates alone.

The outbreak now covers 61 health zones across six of the DRC's 26 provinces. Ituri remains the epicentre, with 5,406 cumulative cases and 28 of its 36 health zones affected; North Kivu follows with 1,066 cases and one of the highest case-fatality ratios of the outbreak, at 65.4%; **Tshopo**, **Haut-Uélé** and **Bas-Uélé** are also affected, while South Kivu has recorded no new case since 29 May.

The outbreak passed the country's previous record on [17 August](#), when deaths reached 2,325 against the 2,299 of the 2018-2020 epidemic; only **West Africa's** 2014-2016 epidemic, with 28,616 cases and 11,310 deaths, has been larger anywhere. The UN said on [14 August](#) that the disease was killing one person every 30 minutes, and WHO has described its own response as outpaced. UN senior Ebola coordinator **Julien Harneis** said on 20 August that more than 160 health workers had contracted the disease and 40 had died, and at least a dozen Ebola treatment facilities have been attacked.

The UN **International Coordinating Group** allocated [70,000 doses of the Ervebo vaccine on 20 August](#), 20,000 of them for a clinical trial and 50,000 for health workers. Ervebo is licensed against

the Zaire species, and WHO has [cautioned](#) that early laboratory and animal data only suggest it “*may provide some protection*” against Bundibugyo; its expert immunisation group concluded on 19 August that the evidence does not support programmatic use, confining the vaccine to a research protocol. Vaccination has moved slowly as a result: 2,007 people had been vaccinated across six health zones in Tshopo, Bas-Uélé and Ituri by 6 September.

On 20 August, M23 announced it would suspend shared taxi and boat services between its territory and Ebola-affected government-held areas, so companies moving staff or goods across the line of control now face quarantine decisions taken by a sanctioned armed group as well as the government. WHO continues to advise against travel and trade restrictions, and screening remains operational at airports, ports and official land crossings, though informal crossings persist. WHO's 14 August assessment rates the risk very high nationally, high for neighbouring states and low globally.

Planner

Sep 2026 **New York (United States)** The **United Nations Security Council (UNSC)** holds its briefing and consultations on the DRC, with **United Nations Organization Stabilization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (MONUSCO)** head **James Swan** expected to brief;

Oct 2026 (TBC) **DRC, Rwanda** and the **United States (US)** convene a trilateral planning conference to finalise the document guiding monitoring and verification under the **Washington Accords**;

7-9 Oct 2026 **Kolwezi (DRC)** **DRC Critical Minerals & Industrialisation Forum**

Nov 2026 **Kinshasa (DRC)** The dialogue organising committee reports to the president, triggering a second ordinance formally convening the national dialogue;

20 Dec 2026 **New York (United States)** **United Nations Organization Stabilization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo's (MONUSCO)** mandate under resolution 2808 expires;

Chronology

15 Sep 2026 **Kinshasa (DRC)** *Monitor*. Police disperse protests in Kinshasa against proposed constitutional reforms backed by President **Félix Tshisekedi**;

10 Sep 2026 **Kinshasa (DRC)** *Bloomberg*. Authorities confirm **Ebola** has now spread to a seventh province in DRC, **Sud-Ubangi**, after a man travelled cross-country, raising concerns over the virus spreading along heavily travelled transport corridors;

10 Sep 2026 **Bukavu (DRC)** *Al Jazeera*. A fire in the **Chimpunda** neighbourhood spreads to the **Ujamaa** and **Furaha** schools, killing at least 29 people, mostly in a stampede, and destroying approximately 300 wooden homes;

8 Sep 2026 **Mutobo (Rwanda)** *Actualite.cd*. **United Nations Organization Stabilization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (MONUSCO)** repatriates 120 Rwandan rebel group, **Forces démocratiques de libération du Rwanda (FDLR)**, members and their dependents to Rwanda's **Mutobo** demobilisation centre in coordination with the DRC and Rwandan governments;

8 Sep 2026 **Kinshasa (DRC)** *La Prospérité*. Senate president **Sama Lukonde** meets **United States (US)** assistant secretary of state for African affairs **Frank W. Garcia Jr.** to review bilateral agreements covering security, mining governance, energy transition and agriculture;

7 Sep 2026 **Kinshasa (DRC)** *La Prospérité*. **Chinese**-owned mining companies in the DRC have pledged \$1m to support the government's response to the **Ebola** outbreak, following an appeal by mines minister **Louis Watum Kabamba**;

6 Sep 2026 **Bukavu (DRC)** *Radio Okapi*. A fire on **Avenue Virunga** in the **Nyamugo** district destroys market stalls, leaving nearly 80 **Kadutu** market traders without a livelihood;

5 Sep 2026 **Kinshasa (DRC)** *Associated Press*. A fire at a wedding party in the **Lingwala** commune, which broke out on the night of 4 September, kills at least 22 people; an electrical fault is suspected and the government orders systematic inspections of public event venues;

4 Sep 2026 **Masisi (DRC)** *Critical Threats Project*. Fresh displacement is reported as fighting intensifies between the Congolese armed forces, **Wazalendo** and the **M23** rebel group around Masisi (**North Kivu Province**);

3 Sep 2026 **Kinshasa (DRC)** *Al Jazeera*. **World Health Organisation (WHO)** director-general **Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus** warns that the DRC's Ebola outbreak will continue to threaten the country and region unless all transmission chains are identified and broken, with deaths exceeding 3,000 and up to 80% of new cases occurring outside known contacts;

2 Sep 2026 **Kinshasa (DRC)** *Reuters*. Government data shows the **Ebola** outbreak has killed 3,007 people and infected 6,186, making it the country's largest and deadliest outbreak after spreading to six provinces since being declared in **Ituri Province** in May;

2 Sep 2026 **Brussels (Belgium)** *Reuters*. Court orders trial of **Semlex** CEO **Albert Karaziwan**, **Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC)** ex-ministers, **Raymond Tshibanda**, **Yav Mulang** and 10 others for corruption, money laundering and tax fraud linked to biometric passports sold from 2015-2025, under presidents **Joseph Kabila** and **Felix Tshisekedi**; the passport price was raised from \$43 to \$185, \$65 for DRC, \$60 to Semlex and \$60 paid to **UAE** based **LRPS Ltd**;

1 Sep 2026 **Kinshasa (DRC)** *Radio Okapi*. The government suspends academic and para-academic activities for the 2026-2027 year at 11 public higher-education institutions in **M23**-held **Goma** (**North Kivu Province**) and **Bukavu** (**South Kivu Province**);

26 Aug 2026 **Luanda (Angola)** *Jornal de Angola*. President **João Lourenço** concludes a working visit to **Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC)**, where witnessed the signing of a contract related to the **Lobito Corridor** and met with President **Felix Tshisekedi**;

23 Aug 2026 **Geneva (Switzerland)** *US Department of State*. The DRC government and **AFC/M23** conclude five days of talks and agree a roadmap of sequenced steps and timelines under the **Doha** framework, including a standardised ceasefire-violation reporting method and a mechanism to review implementation;

19 Aug 2026 **Geneva (Switzerland)** *WHO*. The **World Health Organisation (WHO)** **Strategic Advisory Group of Experts on Immunization** concludes that evidence is insufficient to support programmatic use of **Ervebo** against **Bundibugyo**, confining the vaccine to a research protocol;

18 Aug 2026 **Kinshasa (DRC)** *La Prosperite*. President **Félix Tshisekedi** visits **Gabon's Nkok Special Economic Zone** to explore cooperation on sustainable forest management and the industrial processing of natural resources;

17-21 Aug 2026 **Geneva (Switzerland)** *Euronews*. DRC and **AFC/M23** negotiators hold five days of closed-door talks with **United States**, **Qatari**, **Swiss**, **African Union** and **Togolese** mediators;

17 Aug 2026 **Kinshasa (DRC)** *WHO*. The **Ebola** outbreak becomes the DRC's deadliest on record at 2,325 deaths, passing the 2,299 of the 2018-2020 epidemic, with 4,945 confirmed cases and a fatality rate of 46%;

13 Aug 2026 **Washington (United States)** *US Department of State*. The **International Contact Group for the Great Lakes** urges DRC to produce an operational plan and realistic timeline for neutralising the **FDLR** and to work with the **United Nations Organization Stabilization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (MONUSCO)** on implementation;

About Africa Risk Consulting:

Africa Risk Consulting (ARC) is a pan-African consulting company that provides timely, relevant information and advice that enables its clients to take informed investment decisions and to safeguard their reputations.

ARC's core consulting services include integrity due diligence and corporate investigations, political advisory and country assessments, opportunity monitoring and reputation risk management. Most relevant to private equity firms is ARC's integrity due diligence and corporate investigations capability. Specifically, ARC offers pre-deal integrity checks to highlight red flags before negotiations start; full detailed multi-jurisdictional reputation due diligence; and supplier and senior hire vetting and repeat due diligence for compliance programmes. ARC is unique in that it offers a 10-day delivery for a routine integrity due diligence. ARC also offers a suite of corporate investigations services from immediate investigation, evidence gathering, e-discovery, forensic accounting and whistleblower support on one end to crisis media management and regular monitoring on the other.

www.africariskconsulting.com

About ARC Briefing:

ARC Briefing is ARC's essential business information service.

Companies at any stage in their Africa expansion, whether building or communicating an Africa strategy, investing directly, expanding current operations, financing other investors, doing the legal leg-work or researching the Africa growth trend, need ARC Briefing.

ARC Briefing is an information service keeping you:

- Up to date with Country Chronologies of business-critical events
- In the know via Country Briefings on political, economic, business and operating trends. Written in-country, ARC experts analyse and comment
- Ahead with Country Planner which details future elections, budgets, regulatory changes etc.

www.africariskconsulting.com

Getting in touch

Please contact us by email info@africariskconsulting.com

Africa Risk Consulting (ARC) Pty Ltd expressly forbids the collection of information and content from ARC Briefing as data to train generative artificial intelligence models.

© Africa Risk Consulting (ARC)