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Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC)

Mobility estimates derived from Vodacom Call Detail Records

DRC population mobility and displacements

May 2025

Flowminder Foundation





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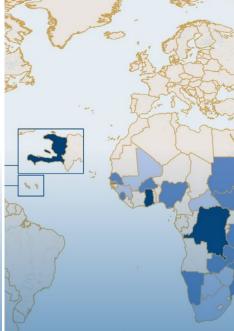




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Non-profit funded by key actors in humanitarian & development aid

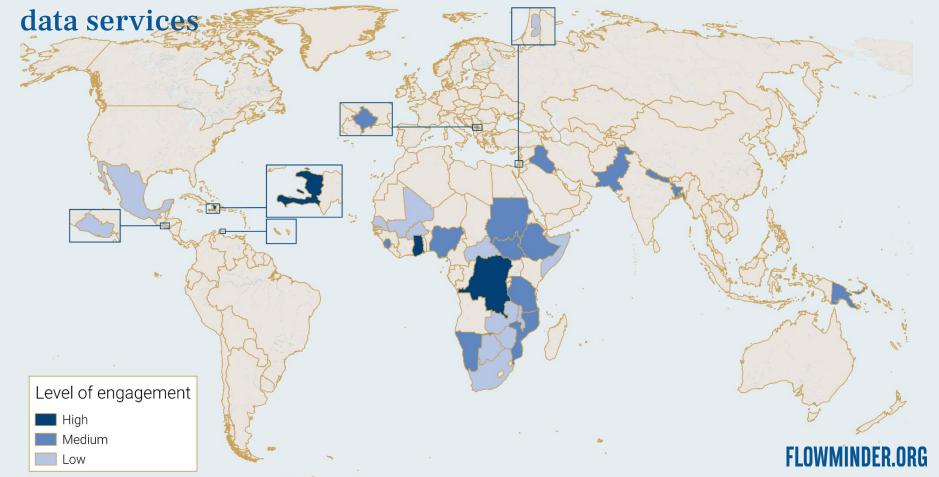


Our work

Providing statistics and analyses in data-scarce contexts in LMICs



Current footprint | Engagement in mobile data and geospatial



Enabling decision makers to access the data they need to transform the lives of vulnerable people, at scale.











vodacom FLOWMINDER.ORG

We have been active in the DRC since 2018, supporting the Ebola response alongside WFP.

Since then, our role has broadened to support the national response to COVID-19 and, as a technical partner to the EPI, to strengthen routine childhood immunisation.

Flowminder in the DRC

We have been operating in the DRC **since 2018**, with **Vodacom DRC** as our primary mobile network partner. As the country's largest mobile network operator, the collaboration with Vodacom makes it possible for us to analyse population movements at scale across the country.

The main analyses we have conducted on population density and mobility have supported key projects related to:

- Ebola outbreak (2018)
- <u>COVID-19</u> presidential task force (2020)
- Nyiragongo volcanic eruption (2021)
- Improving childhood vaccination coverage The Ministry of Health's Expanded Programme on Immunisation (2019-present)

Premiers aperçus des effets de la restriction de mobilité en République Démocratique du Congo à l'aide de données anonymes et agrégées de téléphonie mobile

Analyse de la mobilité en vue de soutenir le gouvernement de la République Démocratique du Congo (RDC) dans sa réponse à l'épidémie de COVID-19

Vodacom Congo Fondation Flowminder Mai 2020





Expanding the use of Vodacom's data to humanitarian work





April 2025: Discussions to broaden use of Vodacom's data

- Vodacom's executive team has a strong social impact mission and is keen to drive use of the data - especially by the UN sectors
- ARTPC, the telecoms regulator, is informed and supportive of mobile data being used to support social impact initiatives



CDR-derived population mobility estimates in the DRC

CDRs = Pseudonymised call detail records, a type of mobile operator metadata used by mobile network operators for billing purposes



CDR-derived population mobility estimates in the DRC

We produce population and mobility estimates per month, per health zone, for the purpose of supporting the Ministry of Health (MoH) with immunisation planning, monitoring and evaluation.

These estimates are weighted: scaled and adjusted to the general population using survey data.

These monthly estimates can provide valuable information on migration trends and seasonal mobility, as well as on internal displacements.

We also produce 'weekly demo data' of displacement estimates - consisting of unusually large movements of subscribers between health zones per week, and large variations in subscriber numbers per week per health zones.

These weekly demo data are **not yet weighted (they are numbers of moving subscribers),** but may be of use to
humanitarian work notably in North Eastern
DRC.



Reports for the Ministry of Health in the DRC

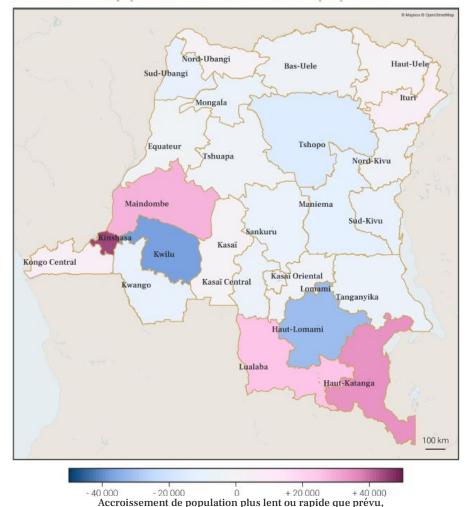
National overview synthesis reports

These reports produced monthly to support immunisation planning - can also inform on long-term and seasonal mobility, as well as on the displacement situation in the North East of the DRC.

They are based on quality checked weighted estimates derived from Vodacom Call Details Records and survey data.



2.3. Différences de population estimée dues à la mobilité par province



en raison de la mobilité interne du pays (difference nombre de personnes)

Population change in each province due to mobility

Provinces in pink: Population larger than expected in Haut-Katanga, Lualaba (corresponding to vaccination coverage of over 100%), as well as in Maï-Ndombe and Kinshasa.

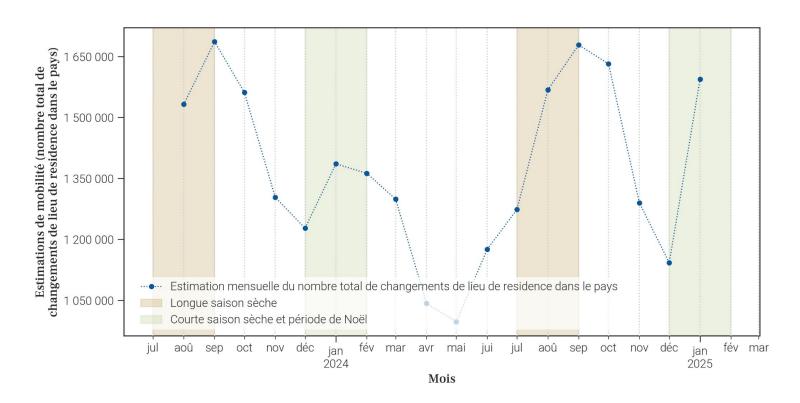
Provinces in blue: Population lower than expected

(Kwilu, Haut-Lomami), due to more departures than arrivals.

Main migration flows between provinces



Mobility decreases nationwide during wet seasons



Kinshasa

Province page

More arrivals than departures, except in October — resulting in an increase in the province's population (both in the city center and on the outskirts).

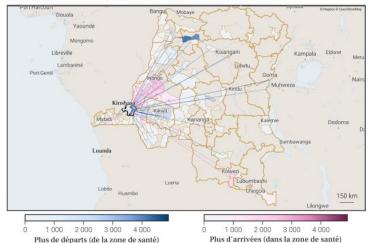
Peak arrivals in August 2024, mainly from Kwilu, Kwango, Mongala, and the east.

However, people leave Kinshasa for Mai-Ndombe, Kolwezi, and Haut-Katanga.

15. Estimations de mobilité et population pour Kinshasa.

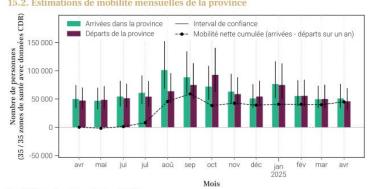
Population et mobilité en RDC - Synthèse sur 12 mois

15.1. Flux nets entre la province et les zones de santé extérieures

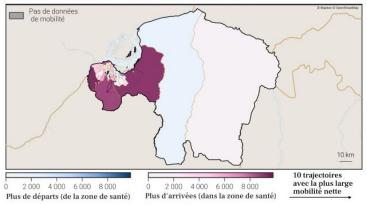


Province: Kinshasa | Zones de santé: 35 / 35 avec des données CDR

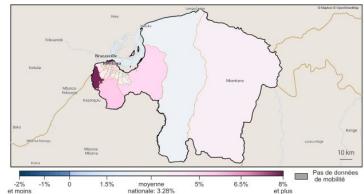
15.2. Estimations de mobilité mensuelles de la province



15.3. Flux nets pour chaque zone de santé de la province.



15.4. Estimations de croissance de la population par zone de santé



Croissance annuelle relative de la population par zone de santé, par rapport à l'accroissement annuel moyen national (taux DHIS21 = 3.28%)









North Kivu

Province page

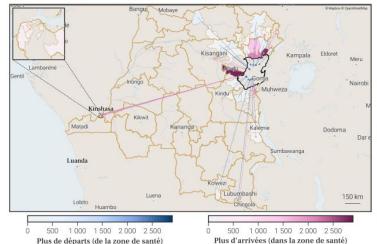
North Kivu: more departures than arrivals since February

Movements to Tshopo and Ituri

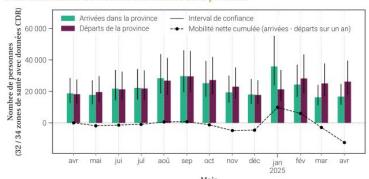
The report covers all 26 provinces.

24. Estimations de mobilité et population pour Nord-Kivu.

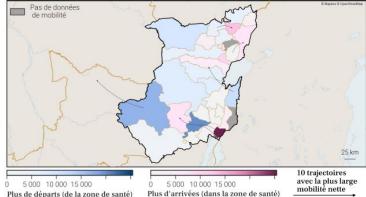
24.1. Flux nets entre la province et les zones de santé extérieures



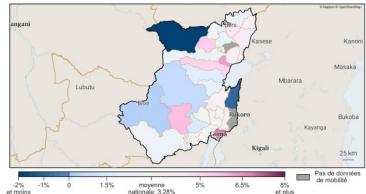
24.2. Estimations de mobilité mensuelles de la province



24.3. Flux nets pour chaque zone de santé de la province.



24.4. Estimations de croissance de la population par zone de santé



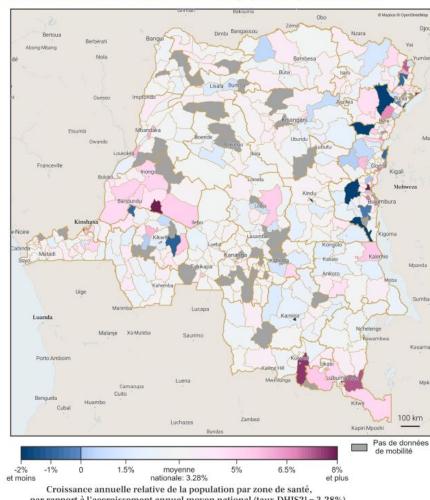
Croissance annuelle relative de la population par zone de santé,

par rapport à l'accroissement annuel moyen national (taux DHIS21 = 3.28%)





1.2. Carte des estimations de croissance de la population par zone de santé



Population change in each health zone due to mobility

Health zones in pink: population growth higher than the natural growth rate of 3.28% (e.g. 8% in Kolwezi, Manika)

Health zones in light blue: growth lower than 3.28% (more departures than arrivals)

Health zones in dark blue: zones with **declining populations**: some in Kwilu and in the north-east.

Reports for the Ministry of Health in the DRC

Detailed health zone-level monthly reports

These reports produced monthly to support immunisation planning - can also inform on long-term and seasonal mobility, as well as on the displacement situation in the North East of the DRC.

They are based on quality checked weighted estimates derived from Vodacom Call Details Records and survey data.



Estimations de Population et Mobilité en RDC Province : Nord-Kivu | Zone de santé : Goma Avril 2025



1. Variations mensuelles des estimations de population et de mobilité sur une année

1.1. Tableau des estimations de population et de mobilité

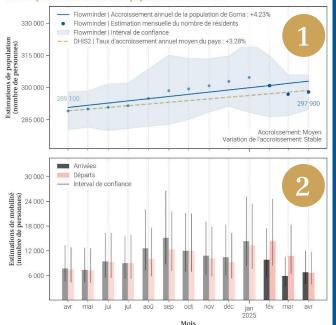
Date (année- mois)	Estimation de population (nombre de personnes)	Changement au mois précédent (différence)	Changement au mois précédent (pourcentage)	Arrivées estimées (nombre de personnes)	Départs estimés (nombre de personnes)	Solde migratoire (différence), accroissement naturel exclus
2025-04	297 900	+1 000	+0.34%	+6 800	-6 600	+200
2025-03	296 900	-4 000	-1.33%	+5 900	-10 700	-4 800
2025-02	300 900	-3 800	-1.25%	+9 800	-14 300	-4 500
2025-01	304 700	+1 900	+0.63%	+14300	-13 300	+1 000
2024-12	302 800	+2 000	+0.66%	+10 400	-9 200	+1 200
2024-11	300 800	+1 500	+0.5%	+10 800	-10 100	+700
2024-10	299 300	+800	+0.27%	+12 000	-12 000	0
2024-09	298 500	+3 600	+1.22%	+15 100	-12 300	+2 800
2024-08	294 900	+3 400	+1.17%	+12 600	-10 000	+2 600
2024-07	291 500	+700	+0.24%	+9 000	-9 000	0
2024-06	290 800	+800	+0.28%	+9 400	-9 300	+100
2024-05	290 000	+900	+0.31%	+7 300	-7 200	+100
2024-04	289 100	+1 000	+0.35%	+7 700	-7 400	+300

		Taux moyen d'accroissement de la population (TMAP) sur l'année
-1.0%	+3.83%	+4.23%

1.3. Données de population rapportées dans DHIS21

Année	Estimation de population de DHIS2 (nombre de personnes)		
2025	339 431	+9 892	+3.0%
2024	329 539	X	Х

1.2. Graphes des estimations de population et de mobilité



• Le tableau et les graphiques montrent le nombre de résidents dans Goma pour le mois de avril 2025 et les 12 mois précédents. Un 'résident' désigne ici une personne ayant passé plus de 2 semaines dans Goma pour un mois donné.

Page 1

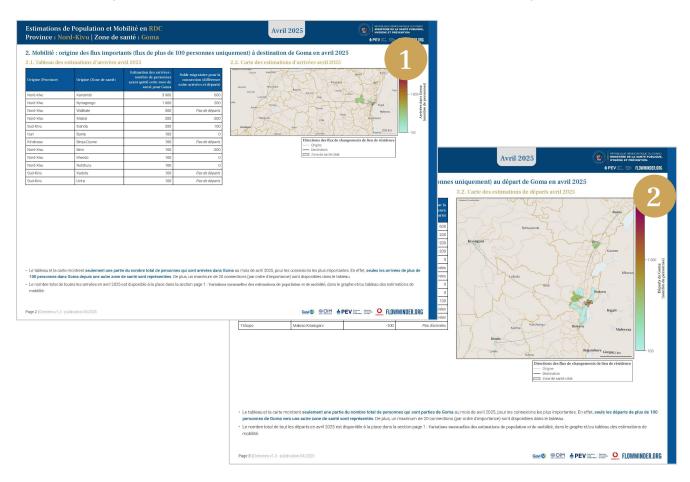
Monthly estimates of:

1.

population andmobility (total arrivals and departures)

with accompanying statistics in tables,

for the Health Zone of Goma, North Kivu, for the month of reference (April 2025) and one year prior.



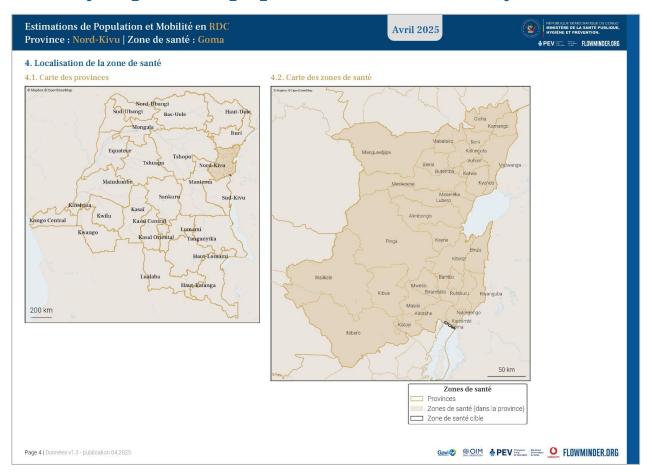
Page 2 & 3

Maps of relocations estimates from/to all Health Zones to/from the Health Zone of Goma, North Kivu:

- 1. connections with important arrivals connections with
- important departures

with accompanying statistics in tables,

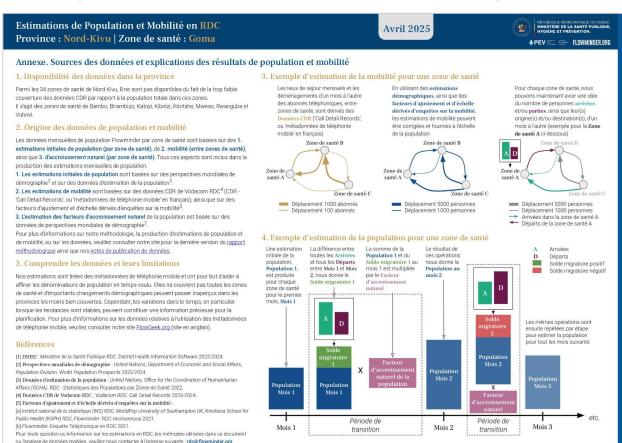
for the month of reference (April 2025).



Page 4

Localisation of **Goma**, the Health Zone of interest in the Province of **North Kivu**.

Those individual reports are produced for approximately **380** different health zones, and are made available to health practitioners in the country to improve vaccination planning and coverage in the country.



Page 5 | Données v1.3 - publication 04.2025

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Page 5

Explanations on data coverage, data sources, and visual explanations of the methodology used to produced the estimates of mobility and population.

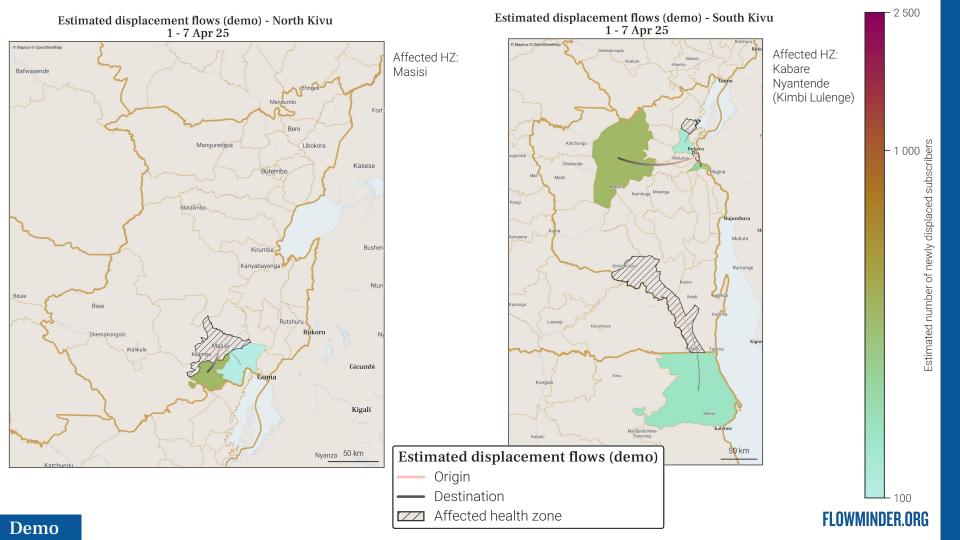
More in depth explanations are available in a separate **methodological report**, distributed with the reports.

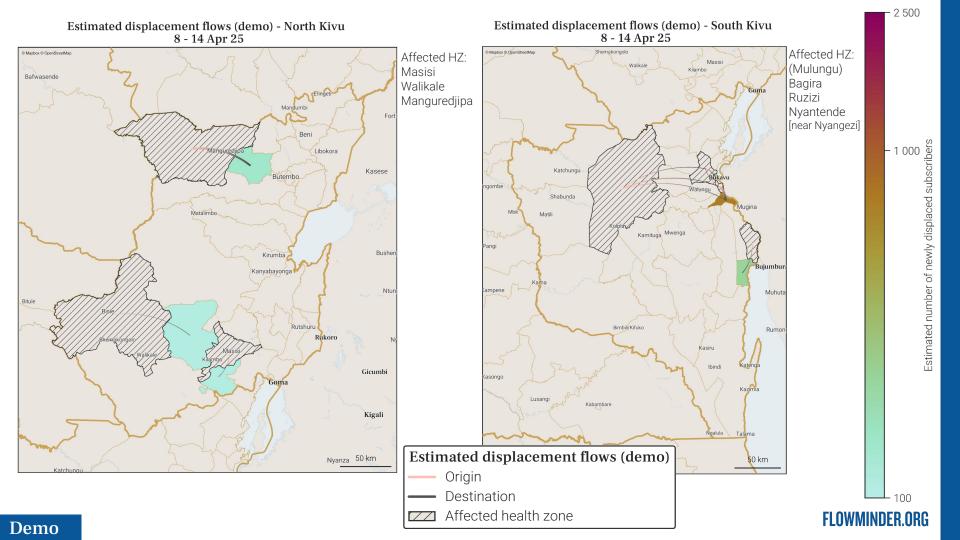
Displacement estimates (Weekly demo data)

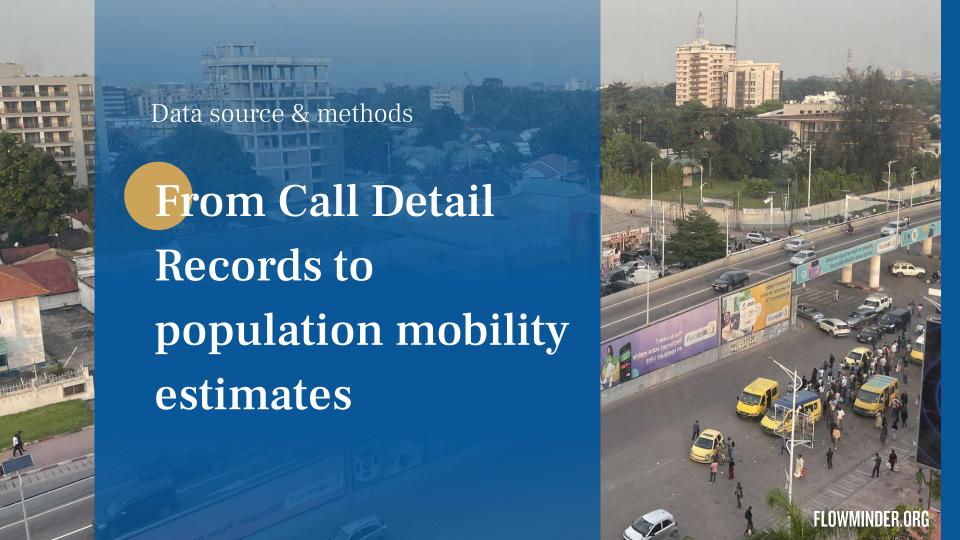
*Demo data - data that are not quality checked nor weighted to the population. They were produced specifically for this slide deck, for the purpose of communicating the potential usefulness of aggregated data from Vodacom CDRs to inform the

displacement situation in the North East of the DRC.









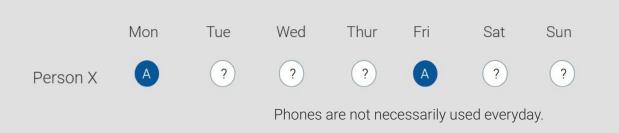
Mobile phone metadata: Pseudonymised Call Detail Records (CDRs)

Subset example

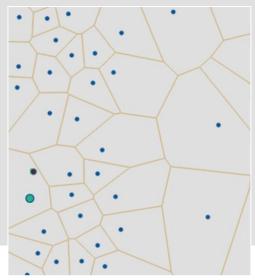
MSISDN	MSISDN_COUNTERPART	CELL_ID	REGION	EVENT_TYPE	TIMESTAMP	to one ev
AA204V1542DCA00	VEWV782AS945GJE	451154211	north	voice	10/03/2025 15:35	
AA204V1542DCA01	GNBE72BEA00HE51	451354312	north	voice	10/03/2025 20:03	
AA204V1542L 102	EYB470HRK504EC	451354312	north	voice	10/03/2025 21:21	A CDR
AA204V1542DC Calling party identifier (anonymised)			north	voice	10/03/2025 21:59	dataset fo
			central	voice	10/03/2025 22:42	
B45QHV45CAEVA5	ETG942BCVAEH36L	476126941	south	sms	10/03/2025 08:13	one coun
B45QHV45CAEVA6	ETG942BCVAEH36L	476126941	south	sms	10/03/2025 08:14	will often
B45QHV45CAEVA7	ETG942BCVAEH36L	476126941	south	sms	10/03/2025 08:14	billions o
B45QHV45CAEVA8	RBY25B 942HCE4	476126941	south	sms	10/03/2025 12:41	
B45QHV45CAEVA9	Receiving party identitier (a			ns	10/03/2025 13:10	events.
B45QHV45CAEVA10				obile data	10/03/2025 15:20	
B45QHV45CAEVA11		413579554	south	mobile data	10/03/2025 18:08	
B45QHV45CAEVA12		413579554	south	mobile data	10/03/2025 1	
B45QHV45CAEVA13		413579554	south	mobile data	10/03/2025 20:53	Timestamp
B45QHV45CAEVA14	DOB40ZVRM70GIBE	4135, 354	south	sms	10/03/2025 21:21	
CZW926NRV43WEP1	ZW926NRV43WEP1 EBI69BC03AK3KK6		486201 Cell_ID: location		10/03/2025 09:01	
CZW926NRV43WEP2	EBG663JIEB234PM	492500516	east	voice	10/02/2025 21:50	
CZW926NRV43WEP3	TTBE206B67FDWUT	420594230	central	voice Ev	ent_type: call, SMS, or n	nobile data
CZW926NRV43WEP4		420594230	central	mobile data	10/03/2025 15:46	
DBT396BCW22YTVR	CRQB506BHCLR38Y	455193201	central	sms	10/03/2025 16:28	

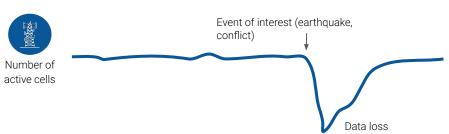
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Subscribers' location and mobility need to be approximated from mobile phone usage data (CDRs) The exact location of the phone is **different** from that of the cell tower (and is much further than on this illustration!).

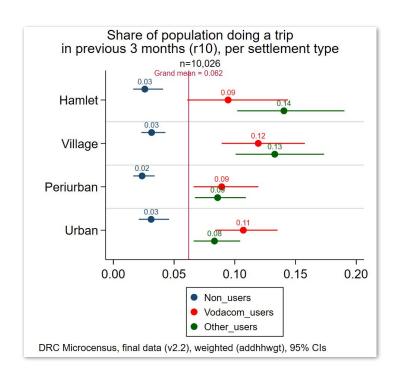




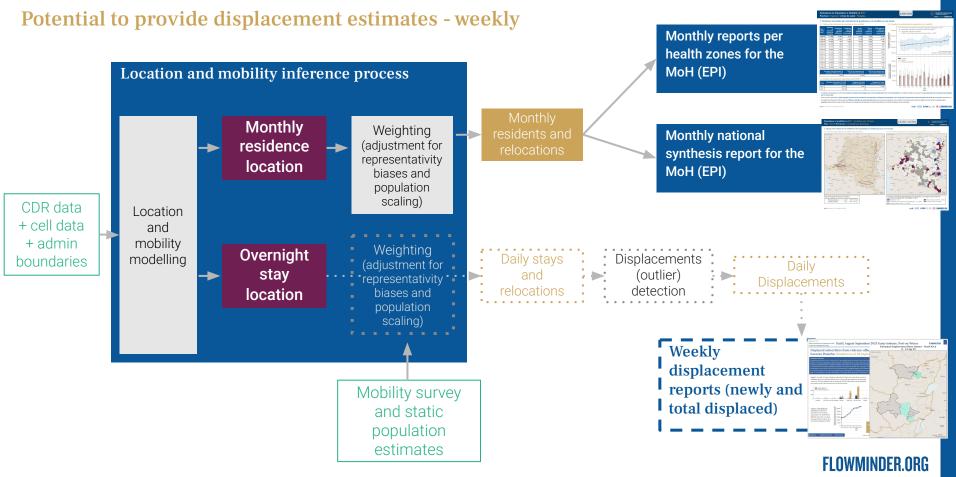
Biases due to population coverage need to be corrected

Mobility is often different between mobile phone users and **non-users**

- With mobile phone users showing higher mobility, on average, than non-users
- Mobility estimates based on phone user data alone often overestimate (at times: underestimate) mobility
- We adjust for such biases using survey data collected for this purpose



Current pipeline in the DRC: Monthly reports the Ministry of Health





Already in place: monthly population mobility

What we need to start weekly CDR-derived displacement monitoring:



Refine statistics & dissemination from user needs

(Frequency, geographic focus, report content (tables, maps), data sharing)



Method development

Quality control and weighting specific to displacement statistics



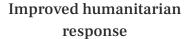
Pipeline set up

To operate frequently and with reduced lag

Future potential

Continuous insights on mobility, close to real time





Reaching displaced populations, understanding disease spread



Improved placement of health & financial services



Improved infrastructure and transport planning



Improved national statistics

All at local, provincial and national scales.

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