

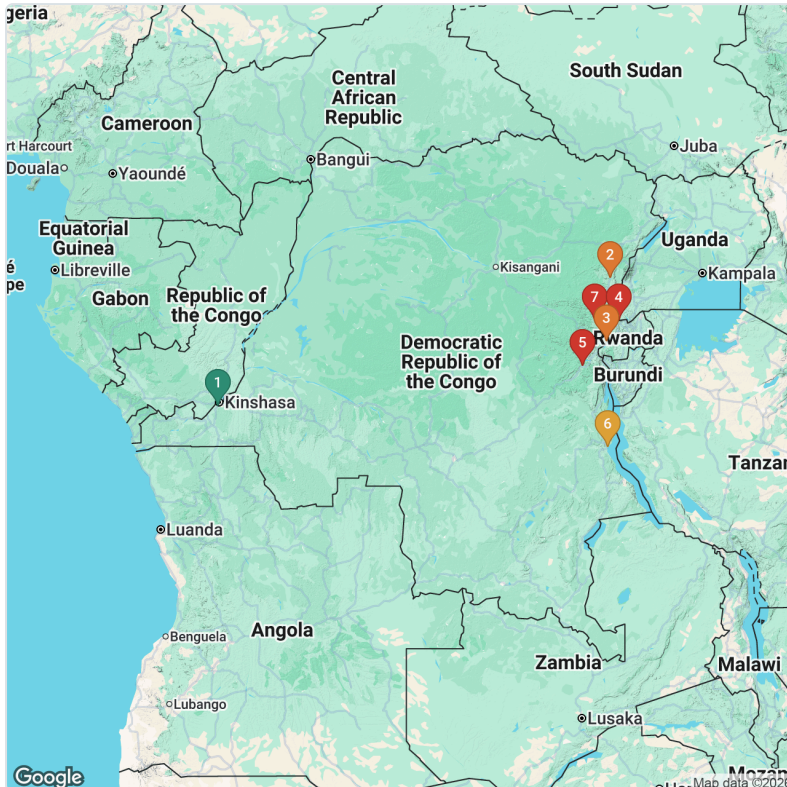


Copper **\$14,595/t** ▲ **+0.39%** | Cobalt **\$39,345/t** → | Tin **\$50,700/t** ▲ **+0.6%** | Gold **\$4,181.10/oz** ▲ **+0.26%** |
Brent **\$109.86/bbl** ▲ **+3.7%** | CDF per USD **2,265.50** ▼ **-0.1%**

Market data — end-of-day close · LME cash settlement · LME/Fastmarkets Cobalt · COMEX front-month · ICE Brent front-month · BCC indicative rate · as of 16 Oct 2026.
Prices pulled from source at collection, not model-generated.

SITUATION MAP — EVENTS (LAST 24H)

● SECURITY ● PUBLIC HEALTH ● MINING ● POLITICS ● ECONOMY ● GEOPOLITICS



- 1** Government launches UN-backed conflict prevention initiative — Kinshasa
- 2** Ebola outbreak disproportionately affects children in North Kivu — Butembo, North Kivu
- 3** MSF transfers medical operations to Première Urgence Internationale — Sake
- 4** FRN armed forces declare readiness to march on Kinshasa — Goma
- 5** Kivu massacre survivors demand formal transitional justice framework — North and South Kivu
- 6** Local militias profit from anti-M23 war through artisanal gold mining — Kalemie region (Katanga)
- 7** Erik Prince mercenaries fighting for DRC government in exchange for mineral concessions — Eastern DRC

THREAT LEVEL CRITICAL HIGH ELEVATED GUARDED — also the coloured bar beside each item

VERIFICATION CONFIRMED corroborated by 2+ sources REPORTED single source

SECURITY & CONFLICT

FRN armed forces declare readiness to march on Kinshasa

GUARDED

Armed forces of the Front pour la Refondation de la Nation (FRN) — the new politico-military coalition formed in rebel-held Goma on 12 October under former President Joseph Kabila — publicly announced on 15 October their readiness to protect civilians and 'liberate the entire country,' explicitly stating an intention to march on the capital Kinshasa. The statement follows the FRN's founding declaration that it would end what it calls 'tyranny' under President Félix Tshisekedi 'by any means necessary, including the use of force.' The FRN incorporates former AFC/M23 forces, with Corneille Nangaa, Bertrand Bisimwa and Maj Gen Sultani Makenga as vice-presidents. Peace talks in Doha are ongoing but the FRN's declaration of offensive intent significantly raises the stakes of any diplomatic settlement.

REPORTED

Erik Prince mercenaries fighting for DRC government in exchange for mineral concessions

HIGH

An AFP investigation published 16 October reveals that US businessman Erik Prince — founder of the Blackwater private military company — and Western paramilitaries have emerged as key players in the DRC conflict, fighting on behalf of the Congolese government. The arrangement is described as 'peace for minerals': mercenary forces receive rare-earth mining concessions in return for military services. The report documents a broader network of guns-for-hire operating in eastern DRC, raising serious questions about accountability, command structures, and the role of foreign armed actors in a conflict that has already displaced millions of civilians. Prince's involvement was previously flagged by the UN Group of Experts.

REPORTED AFP / Courthouse News

Local militias in SE Congo profit from anti-M23 war through artisanal gold mining

ELEVATED

An AFP report published 16 October documents how local Mayi-Mayi and Wazalendo-affiliated armed groups in southeastern DRC are leveraging the conflict against M23 to consolidate control over artisanal gold mines in the Kalemie region. Teenagers armed with Kalashnikovs guard mining sites while their commanders profit from war-economy structures built around mineral extraction. The report illustrates how the military campaign against M23 is enabling parallel criminal economies, complicating any eventual DDR (Disarmament, Demobilisation and Reintegration) process.

REPORTED AFP

FRN takes over Doha peace process seat from defunct AFC/M23

HIGH

The newly formed Front pour la Refondation de la Nation (FRN) formally claimed on 15 October all rights and obligations of the former AFC/M23 in the Doha peace talks with Kinshasa. The transition follows the FRN's establishment in Goma on 12 October, which dissolved the AFC/M23 brand. The FRN now positions itself as the primary negotiating counterparty to the Tshisekedi government in the Qatar-mediated process. Kinshasa has yet to formally accept this transition of standing at the negotiating table. The shift is complicated by the FRN's simultaneous declaration of readiness to use force against the government.

REPORTED Eastleigh Voice / New Times Rwanda

Kivu massacre survivors demand formal transitional justice framework

GUARDED

Civil society organisations and survivors of mass atrocities in North and South Kivu formally called on 16 October for the DRC state to establish a transitional justice framework addressing war crimes committed in eastern Congo over the past three decades. The groups argue that without a credible accountability mechanism, armed actors face no deterrent and impunity remains structural. The demand follows a series of documented civilian massacres in Kivu provinces and comes amid the ongoing FRN/M23 conflict. International advocacy organisations have backed the call, noting the DRC's obligations under the Rome Statute.

REPORTED Streamline Feed

DIIS report: 694 active roadblocks sustain eastern DRC war economy

ELEVATED

A major report published by the Danish Institute for International Studies (DIIS) on 15 October documents 694 active roadblocks across eastern DRC controlled by four main armed actors — M23/FRN, FARDC, Wazalendo, and other groups — spanning three key commodity corridors. The study finds that control over circulation routes, rather than territorial occupation alone, is the primary driver of the regional conflict economy. Revenue from roadblock taxation funds armed groups and sustains the war, making any peace agreement that fails to address extraction from civilian movement commercially unviable for the belligerents. The report is the most comprehensive spatial mapping of the DRC war economy to date.

CONFIRMED DIIS (diis.dk)



PUBLIC HEALTH

Kenya confirms second Ebola case linked to DRC outbreak

ELEVATED

Kenya confirmed a second Ebola case on 15 October, a 39-year-old close relative of the first victim (a 40-year-old man who died after traveling from the DRC through Uganda). The second patient was already in quarantine when symptoms developed. Health officials confirmed both cases are linked with no evidence of wider community transmission. Authorities have traced 128 contacts of the first patient, with 113 in quarantine and efforts continuing to locate the remaining 15. Kenya has maintained that travel, trade, and public gatherings remain unrestricted. More than 4,000 people have died from Ebola in the DRC in 2026.

REPORTED AllAfrica

MSF transfers Sake operations to Première Urgence Internationale

ELEVATED

After 13 months of operations in Sake (Masisi territory, North Kivu), Médecins Sans Frontières transferred its medical activities to Première Urgence Internationale (PUI) on 15 October. During its intervention, MSF treated approximately 3,500 children aged 6–59 months for malnutrition, supported over 1,740 women during childbirth, treated over 10,300 survivors of sexual violence, and provided psychosocial support to over 10,400 people. MSF had rehabilitated and equipped the Sake health center following its damage during January 2025 fighting and established a cholera treatment unit. The transfer includes provision of medical supplies, equipment, and logistics support to ensure continuity of care. MSF is reorienting resources to other areas with difficult security situations and greater humanitarian needs, particularly Katoyi in Masisi territory.

REPORTED

Actualite.cd



POLITICS & GOVERNMENT

Government launches UN-backed conflict prevention initiative

ELEVATED

The DRC government held the first steering committee meeting of the 'Vision and Governance for Peace' (VGP) project on 15 October, coordinated by Prime Minister Judith Suminwa Tuluka and chaired by Vice-Prime Minister of Interior Jacquemin Shabani Lukoo. The UN-supported initiative, funded at \$1.1 million USD, aims to strengthen conflict prevention and peace consolidation. The meeting validated a multi-year work plan (2026–2028), mapped instability hotspots and existing conflict prevention mechanisms, and reinforced inter-ministerial coordination.

CONFIRMED

@PrimatureRDC



POLITICS & DIPLOMACY

President Tshisekedi receives Ivorian defense minister

GUARDED

President Félix-Antoine Tshisekedi received Côte d'Ivoire's Vice-Prime Minister and Minister of Defense Téné Birahima Ouattara on 15 October at the African Union headquarters in Kinshasa. Ouattara carried a message from Ivorian President Alassane Dramane Ouattara. Discussions focused on strengthening bilateral relations and deepening cooperation between the two countries.

CONFIRMED

@Presidence_RDC



LEGAL & REGULATORY

Congolese civil society leader calls for Kabila's ICC prosecution

ELEVATED

Jean-Claude Muyambo Kyassa, national president of the Solidarité congolaise pour la démocratie (SCODE), publicly called on 15 October for Joseph Kabila to be transferred to the International Criminal Court (ICC), arguing that Kabila's actions justify such prosecution. Muyambo drew a parallel to Jean-Pierre Bemba's ICC prosecution and stated that Kabila should face the same international justice process. He also declared that Kabila should not be allowed to return to Katanga province, characterizing Kabila's current political-military role as incompatible with his status as a former head of state.

REPORTED

Actualite.cd



ECONOMY & MACRO

DRC presents \$16.5B urban development and housing plan

ELEVATED

Minister of State for Urbanism and Habitat Alexis Gisaro Muvunyi presented the 10-Year Plan for Urbanism and Habitat (2026–2035), valued at \$16.5 billion USD. The plan aims to finance decent housing for 500,000 households, strengthen urban infrastructure, and improve access to basic services. Of the total, \$6.4 billion USD is allocated to SOSAK and PDTK projects in Kinshasa, \$4 billion to secondary cities and economic corridors, \$3 billion to major agglomerations, \$2.3 billion to housing and a future Habitat Bank, and \$750 million to urban resilience and erosion control. By 2035, the government aims to adopt 26 urban master plans, establish 62,000 hectares of land reserves, and increase urban access to potable water to 80% and electricity to 75%. Implementation will rely on public-private partnerships, donor financing, and state contributions. Technical studies will be conducted in nine pilot cities: Kinshasa, Lubumbashi, Kisangani, Mbuji-Mayi, Kolwezi, Kananga, Tshikapa, Likasi, and Matadi.

REPORTED

DeskEco



ENERGY

DRC establishes National Electricity Dispatching Service

ELEVATED

The SND will coordinate electricity production and transport, optimize real-time energy flows across the national grid, and manage electricity exchanges. The initiative is led by President Félix-Antoine Tshisekedi and coordinated by Prime Minister Judith Suminwa Tuluka, with implementation overseen by the Minister of Hydraulic Resources and Electricity, Aimé Sakombi Molendo.

CONFIRMED

@Min_Resshyd_rdc



WATCHLIST

- ▶ Monitor FRN/Kabila military posture and any armed advance toward Kinshasa; track Doha peace talks response to FRN's claim of AFC/M23 successor status and Kinshasa's formal position.
- ▶ Track scrutiny of Erik Prince/Western paramilitary operations in DRC; watch for UN Group of Experts reporting, US Congressional or EU reaction, and DRC government's formal acknowledgement of the arrangement.

Disclaimer: This report is generated using automated, open-source intelligence tools and publicly available information. It is provided for informational purposes only, does not constitute professional advice, and may contain inaccuracies or omissions; recipients should independently verify its content before relying on it. Full terms & conditions: <https://tellurianresearch.com/terms-and-conditions/>