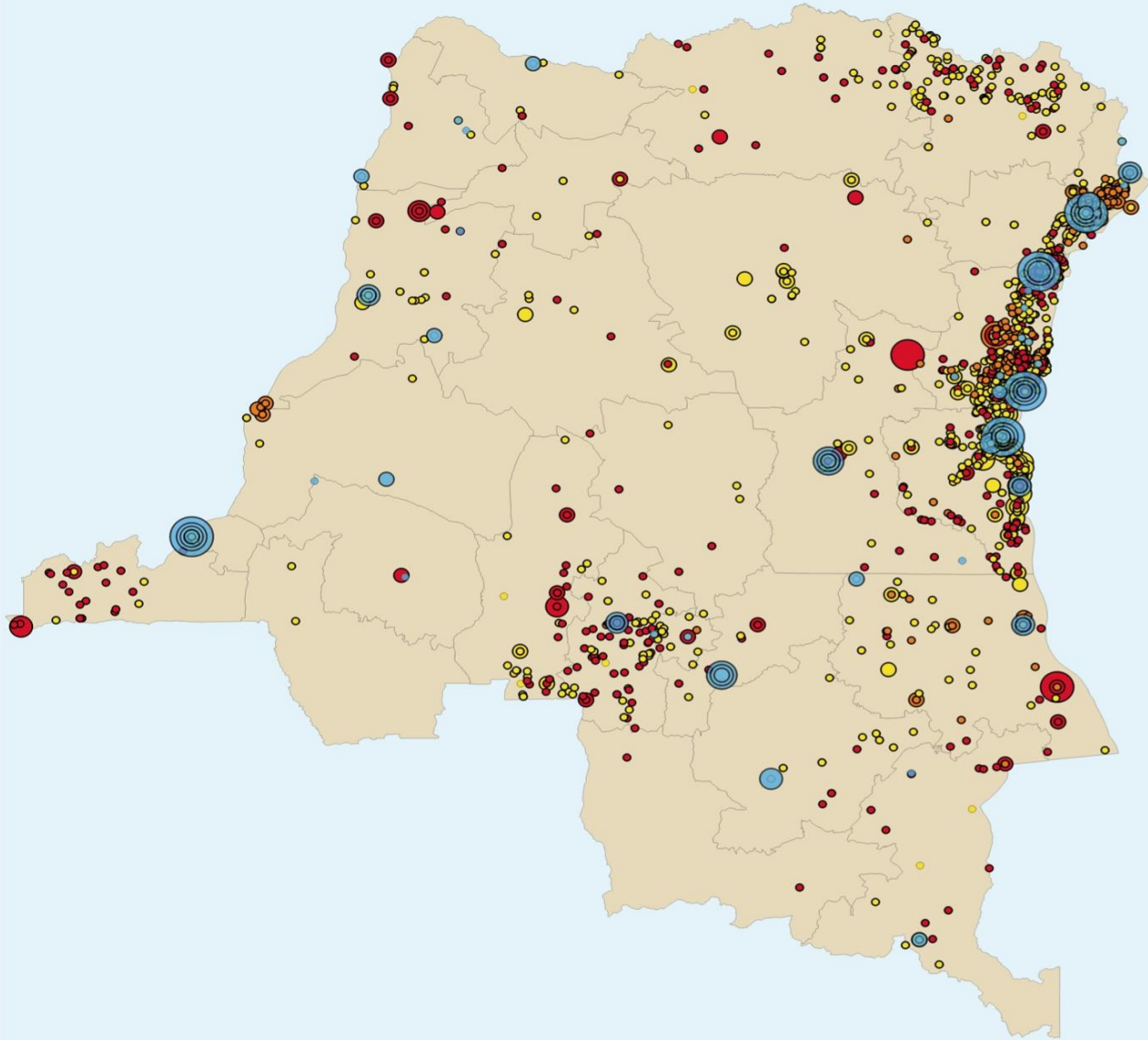


## THE DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO PEACEKEEPING MISSIONS AND CONFLICTS



### LEGEND

#### UN Peacekeeping Missions, by Size

- Operation Size: 0 - 200
- Operation Size: 200 - 500
- Operation Size: 500 - 1000
- Operation Size: 1000 - 2000
- Operation Size: 2000 - 4424

#### Conflict Areas, by Type and Size

- State-Based Conflicts
- 0 - 100 Casualties
- 100 - 500 Casualties
- 500 - 1000 Casualties
- 1000 - 2364 Casualties

- Non-State Based Conflict
- 0 - 100 Casualties
- 100 - 500 Casualties
- 500 - 1000 Casualties
- 1000 - 3000 Casualties

- One-Sided Conflict
- 0 - 100 Casualties
- 100 - 500 Casualties
- 500 - 1000 Casualties
- 1000 - 3200 Casualties

Throughout the varying waves of state conflict in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, the UN has mobilized three different Peacekeeping Missions to quell violence. The longevity of the conflict, despite the presence of peacekeepers, has raised concerns among scholars<sup>1</sup> about the potency of the UN's missions. To gather more insight, this map illustrates the presence of peacekeepers, geographically, in relation to locations of conflicts; this visualization helps to clarify whether the peacekeeping forces have been deployed to locations with lower levels of conflicts.

It is important to note that the symbols intended to depict peacekeeping deployments are of a larger scale than those used to depict conflict. This difference is purely for clearer visualization, as the sizes are not much, if at all, larger than those of the depicted conflicts. Further, where the dots are stacked on top of each other, they are depicting that many more deployments in the same location. Using this map, we can see in the eastern region of the country where conflicts predominate, that Peacekeeping missions have been deployed to particularly violent areas. In the western and northeastern portions of the country, however, we can see that peacekeeping missions are more scattered and are less spatially proximate to areas of conflict. This, perhaps, can mean that peacekeeping deployments are more proximate to areas of major conflict ('major' in a relative sense, as related to the scale of other conflict spots in the country/region), but are less proximate to smaller or less major areas of conflict. The hypothesis posited by researchers, stating that peacekeepers are deployed in relatively safe areas seems to be the case only in areas of the country that are not part of the major chain of conflicts on the eastern border.

A limitation of this assessment is that it only relies on a visual analysis of this data, rather than using a systematic assessment with quantitative methods that precisely measure the distance between conflict and deployments, as Ruggeri, Dorussen and Gizelis did. This would provide for a more concrete evaluation on just how close these points are, compared to that which was yielded through a quicker visual assessment of the data points plotted out and differentiated by size and type.

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<sup>1</sup> Ruggeri, A., Dorussen, H., & Gizelis, T. I. (2018). On the frontline every day? Subnational deployment of United Nations peacekeepers. *British Journal of Political Science*, 48(4), 1005-1025.