

ARC East Africa Weekly Chronology 13 - 19 March 2025

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18 Mar 2025 **Bujumbura (Burundi)** *EU. European Union (EU)* allocates €200,000 (\$218,149) in humanitarian aid to **Congolese** asylum seekers in Burundi;

18 Mar 2025 **Kinshasa (DRC)** *Al Jazeera*. President **Felix Tshisekedi** and his **Rwandan** counterpart, **Paul Kagame**, hold direct talks in **Qatar** on the conflict in eastern DRC under the mediation of Emir Sheikh **Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani**, committing to a ceasefire;

18 Mar 2025 **Asmara (Eritrea)** *Borkena*. Eritrea, during a diplomatic briefing, asks the international community to increase pressure on **Ethiopia** amid rising tensions;

18 Mar 2025 **Nairobi (Kenya)** *BBC*. **World Health Organisation (WHO)** warns that eight countries, including **Nigeria**, Kenya and **Lesotho**, could run out of HIV drugs following the recent pause in **United States (US)** aid;

18 Mar 2025 **Dar es Salaam (Tanzania)** *Bloomberg*. Bloomberg exchange rate data indicate the shilling has weakened 8.9% this year, making it the world's worst performing currency;

17 Mar 2025 **Kinshasa (DRC)** *Al Jazeera*. The **Rwanda**-backed **M23** rebels announce they will not participate in peace talks on Tuesday being brokered by **Angola** but DRC maintains it will still send a delegation;

17 Mar 2025 **Nairobi (Kenya)** *Bloomberg*. **International Monetary Fund (IMF)** confirms it has reached an agreement with Kenya to not proceed with the ninth review of Kenya's current **Extended Fund Facility (EFF)** and **Extended Credit Facility (ECF)** arrangements, with Kenya requesting a new programme instead;

17 Mar 2025 **Kigali (Rwanda)** *DW*. Rwanda announces it will be cutting diplomatic ties with **Belgium**, accusing it of consistently undermining Rwanda during the conflict in eastern **Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC)**, to which Belgium responds and says it will declare Rwandan diplomats *personae non gratae*;

17 Mar 2025 **Kigali (Rwanda)** *Press release*. **European Union (EU)** imposes sanctions on nine individuals and one entity, Rwanda's only gold refinery, **Gasabo Gold Refinery**, for acts that constitute serious human rights violations and abuses in the **Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC)**, for sustaining the armed conflict, instability and insecurity in the DRC and exploiting the armed conflict through the illicit exploitation or trade of natural resources;

17 Mar 2025 **Dar es Salaam (Tanzania)** *The Chanzo*. President **Samia Suluhu Hassan** launches a revised **National Land Policy**, noting that the new edition – last updated in 1995 – will help national efforts to manage land and its resources;

16 Mar 2025 **Kinshasa (DRC)** *Reuters*. DRC confirms it will send a delegation to **Angola** for talks with **M23** rebels on 18 March, but M23 has not confirmed if it will join;

16 Mar 2025 **Addis Ababa (Ethiopia)** *Zawya*. Ethiopia and **African Development Bank (AfDB)** sign an agreement to cooperate on the construction of Ethiopia's new mega international airport, expected to cost \$7.8 billion;

15 Mar 2025 **Addis Ababa (Ethiopia)** *Addis Standard*. Ethiopia's and **Russia's** navies meet to discuss potential cooperation focused on training and capacity building;

14 Mar 2025 **Kigali (Rwanda)** *Addis Standard*. Rwanda and **Ethiopia** sign a defence cooperation agreement to collaborate in various military sectors;

13 Mar 2025 **Kinshasa (DRC)** *Mail & Guardian*. **Southern African Development Community (SADC)** announces a phased withdrawal of the **SADC Mission in the DRC (SAMIDRC)**;

13 Mar 2025 **Addis Ababa (Ethiopia)** *RFI*. **France's** foreign ministry warns citizens against travelling to **Tigray Region** following clashes between **Tigray People's Liberation Front (TPLF)** factions;

13 Mar 2025 **Nairobi (Kenya)** *Sudan Tribune*. **Sudan's** trade and supply minister suspends all imports from Kenya after Kenya hosted the paramilitary **Rapid Support Forces (RSF)** on 23 February;

12 Mar 2025 **Addis Ababa (Ethiopia)** *Relief Web*. Local authorities report that by 10 March, over 10,000 people had fled into **Gambella Region** from **South Sudan** amid rising tensions in South Sudan;

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