Democratic Republic of Congo – IPC 8th cycle Results Synthesis

December 2012

The humanitarian situation is deteriorating and 6.4 million people are in need of emergency food and agricultural assistance

Main results of the most affected areas

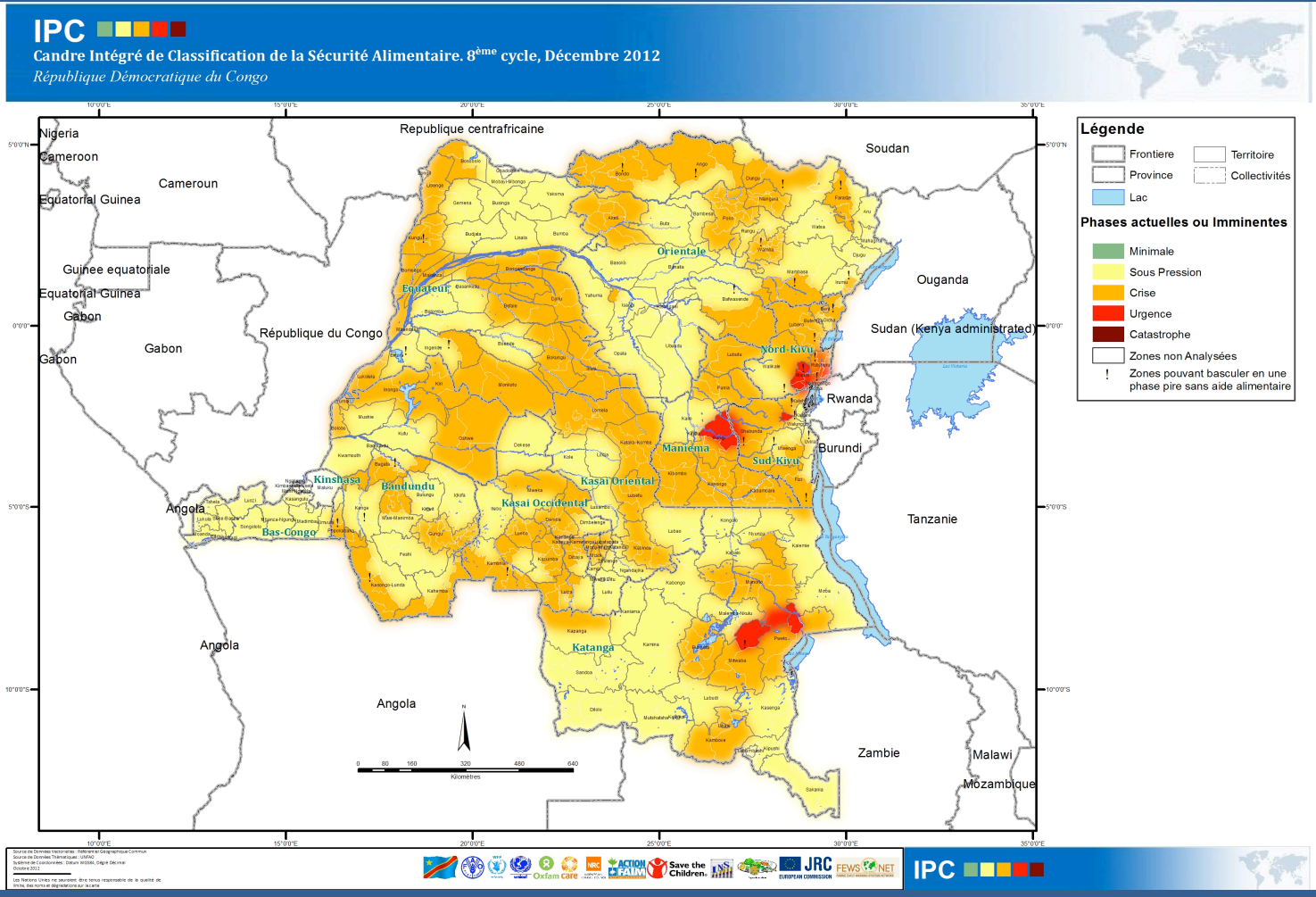
Food consumption: on average, 19.5% of DR Congo households have poor food consumption score and 65% have poor and limited food consumption.

Evolution of means of existence: rural zones are in general agricultural zones. Cattle farming are practiced on mean and high plateaus in the eastern part of the country. These activities are confronted with insecurity and experience losses due to looting, farmers fleeing from their farms, plant diseases and epizootics. Climatic disturbances have negative impact on agricultural output. Markets and products supply chains are disturbed because of the serious degradation of roads. This aforementioned reason partly justifies the increase in foodstuffs prices and the low number of households that have access to adequate food.

Nutrition: malnutrition is an important issue and constitutes a challenge to address in DRC provinces: the weighted food shortage rate is 24%, the overall acute malnutrition rate is 11% and the chronic malnutrition rate is 43% (MICS 2010).

Background, causes and main issues summary

At present, DRC is experiencing a resumption of armed conflicts in the Northern and Southern Kivu provinces, in the Eastern Province, and in the Center of the Katanga province, as a consequence, there is a high rate of population displacement. These movements have intensified further to the resumption of fighting in the North of Kivu between FARDC and M23, with the capture of Goma on November 20, 2012. These displacements though mostly take place within the aforesaid areas; they also affect the Maniema province which is close to the Northern and Southern Kivu provinces. Although relatively more stable as far as security is concerned, the western part of the country is also confronted with a chronic food security mainly due to the fact that it is landlocked , lack of social infrastructure and the consequences of several aggravating cyclical shocks. With regard to the latter aspect, we can enumerate the issue of the repatriated, people expelled from Angola, the Central-African refugees, floods even though they are specific to some areas, but have negative impacts on livelihoods; epizootics which decimated cattle and cholera epidemics.



IPC Global Partners

Part 2: Conclusions, Methods, and Future actions summary

Main conclusions and issues

The 8th analysis cycle on the Integrated Food Security Classification Framework (IPC) of DRC held in December 2012 identified 6.4 million people affected by a situation of food and livelihood crises, 77 regions have been classified in phase 3 and 8 regions in phase 4 throughout DRC in need of an emergency food and agricultural assistance. Regions in humanitarian emergency situation (phase 4) are located in areas affected by armed conflicts of Northern Kivu (Rutshuru, Masisi), of Southern Kivu (Kalehe, Shabunda), of Maniema (Pangi) and Katanga (Mitwaba, Manono, Pweto), whereas all the provinces in DRC are taken into account in phase 3. Established on the basis of a multidimensional analysis of food security, this classification is based on food security indicators which are household food consumption, livelihoods evolution, and nutritional state of children from 6-59 months and the mortality rate.

As a matter of fact, four different situations arise from the analysis of acute food insecurity carried out in DRC i.e. : (i) regions affected by the resurgence of armed conflicts and other types of violence due to intercommunity conflicts – in the eastern part of the country (Northern and Southern Kivu, Eastern Province, and Maniema) and in the center of the Katanga Province; (ii) the issue of people expelled from Angola (Western Kasaï), Congolese repatriated to their country and the Central-African refugees in the West (Equatorial Provinces); (iii) the landlocked regions of the center and the western part of the country confronted with chronic poverty and malnutrition and infant mortality rates superior to intervention and emergency thresholds in (Bandunku and western Kasaï) and (iv) the entire country which prevails in a chronic food insecurity situation due mainly to poverty, precarious economic situation and insufficiency of adequate infrastructure. Specifically, the Maniema province is characterized by the effects of conflicts in neighboring provinces (Northern and Southern Kivu), with displacement of people fleeing from armed conflicts zones. The most affected people are those who underwent the effects of recent or recurrent shocks such as displacements, repatriation or expulsions. The host families whose living conditions have been precarious for quite a while are also very affected.

As compared to the 7th IPC analysis cycle on DRC (June 2012), we notice an overall increase of 17% in the number of people affected by food and livelihood crises in the country (5.4 million people in June 2012 against 6.4 million people in December 2012). With regard to geographical dimension, more regions are affected in comparison with June 2012 cycle, namely zones affected by armed conflicts: 77 regions are entirely or partly classified in phase 3 (against 63 in June 2012) and 8 regions have zones in phase 4 (against 3 in June 2012). 43% of the regions were classified in phase 3 in June 2012 against 53% in December 2012. 2% of the regions were classified in phase 4 in June 2012 against nearly 5% in December 2012.

Methods, Processes and main Challenges

The 8th analysis cycle on acute Food Insecurity was based on four food security indicators namely food consumption, evolution of livelihood, nutritional state and mortality rate. The analysis unit is the region (a total of 145). The analysis took into account the entire country with a surface area of 2. 345. 000 Km^2, an estimated population of 77 million people (51 million in rural areas and 26 million in cities). The method used during this 8th IPC cycle consisted in undertaking an analysis throughout the DRC including a-2-day provincial workshops in provinces with critical food insecurity situation and also a 2-day national workshop in which representatives from all the provinces participated. Focal points trained in IPC 2.0 version were in charge of data collection, and the establishing of working forms in Western provinces (Bas Congo, Bandunku, Western Kasaï, Eastern Kasaï, and Equateur). 6 main workshops were held in Kindu (Maniema), Kisangani (Eastern province), Bunia (Western province), Bukavu (Southern Kivu), Kalemie (Katanga) and Goma (Northern Kivu) and the national workshop took place from October 24 to 25, 2012 in Bukavu, Southern Kivu. 47 analysts representing technical services of the government (Agriculture, Health, and Planning), the United Nations agencies (FAO, WFP, UNICEF, OCHA), international and national NGOs also took part in the analysis. In the wake of November 2012 events in the North of Kivu, the IPC map was updated on December 19, 2012.

Recommendations for response

Improve the accessibility of affected zones to humanitarian assistance and ensure the protection of vulnerable people (Gvt and partners), Pursue and intensify humanitarian actions, Improve the coordination and complementarity of actions for better efficiency (Gvt and partners), Mobilize adequate resources to meet people's needs, Ensure a continuum among emergency, rehabilitation, transitional and developmental activities in order to break up for good the vicious of poverty and food insecurity in DRC (Gvt and partners).

Recommendations for future actions

In DRC, the huge size of the country and the lack of recent and detailed data on all the 145 regions remain the major constraints to carry out situational analysis on acute food insecurity. It is high time to identify an efficient analysis methodology at national level by taking into account the realities of DRC in collaboration with the Technical Working Group and supported by provincial workshops and focal points for the realization of at least 2 annual IPC cycle analyses. Scheduled and situational analysis on chronic food insecurity shall be discussed in 2013. Zone-based study of livelihoods would facilitate the classification of groups in situations of worst food insecurity. This classification will permit these groups to be given priority with regard to the high level of needs throughout the country due to the overall poverty level. Resources mobilization and capacity building of national stakeholders in IPC 2.0 techniques with a view to improving the quality of analysis remain a challenge to be addressed.

For further information