

Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC)

9th IPC analysis round – Summary of findings Acute food insecurity situation overview

June – September 2013

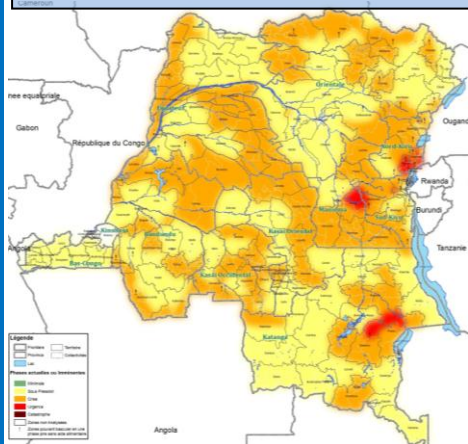
The persistence of armed conflicts in the east of the country and the chronic food insecurity jeopardize the efforts of all stakeholders

According to the 9th IPC analysis led in June 2013, 6.35 million people experience food insecurity in DRC, classified in IPC phases 3 Crisis and 4 Emergency. Compared to the previous analysis of October 2012 (updated in December 2012), there has been a very slight overall improvement. Efforts made through the various interventions allowed to avoid humanitarian catastrophes, but did not compensate for the continuity or the resurgence of some food crisis factors, evidenced by recent assessments showing a high degradation of the food and nutrition situation in some provinces, and the persistence of armed and intercommunity conflicts with recurrent populations movements (internally displaced people, refugees, repatriated and returnees from Angola).

Regarding the spatial dimension, while a higher number of territories have been classified in crisis i.e. phase 3 (82 regions in June 2013 against 77 in December 2012 and 63 in June 2012), on the other hand the number of territories in phase 4 i.e. emergency have decreased, from 7 in December 2012 to 5 in June 2013. While 4 provinces had areas in phase 4 during the previous analysis, only 2 provinces still do: Northern Kivu (Rutshuru, Nyragongo, Masisi and Walikale) and Katanga (Manono), which shows a slight decrease in the severity of acute food insecurity.

Looking back :

Previous IPC analysis, December 2012

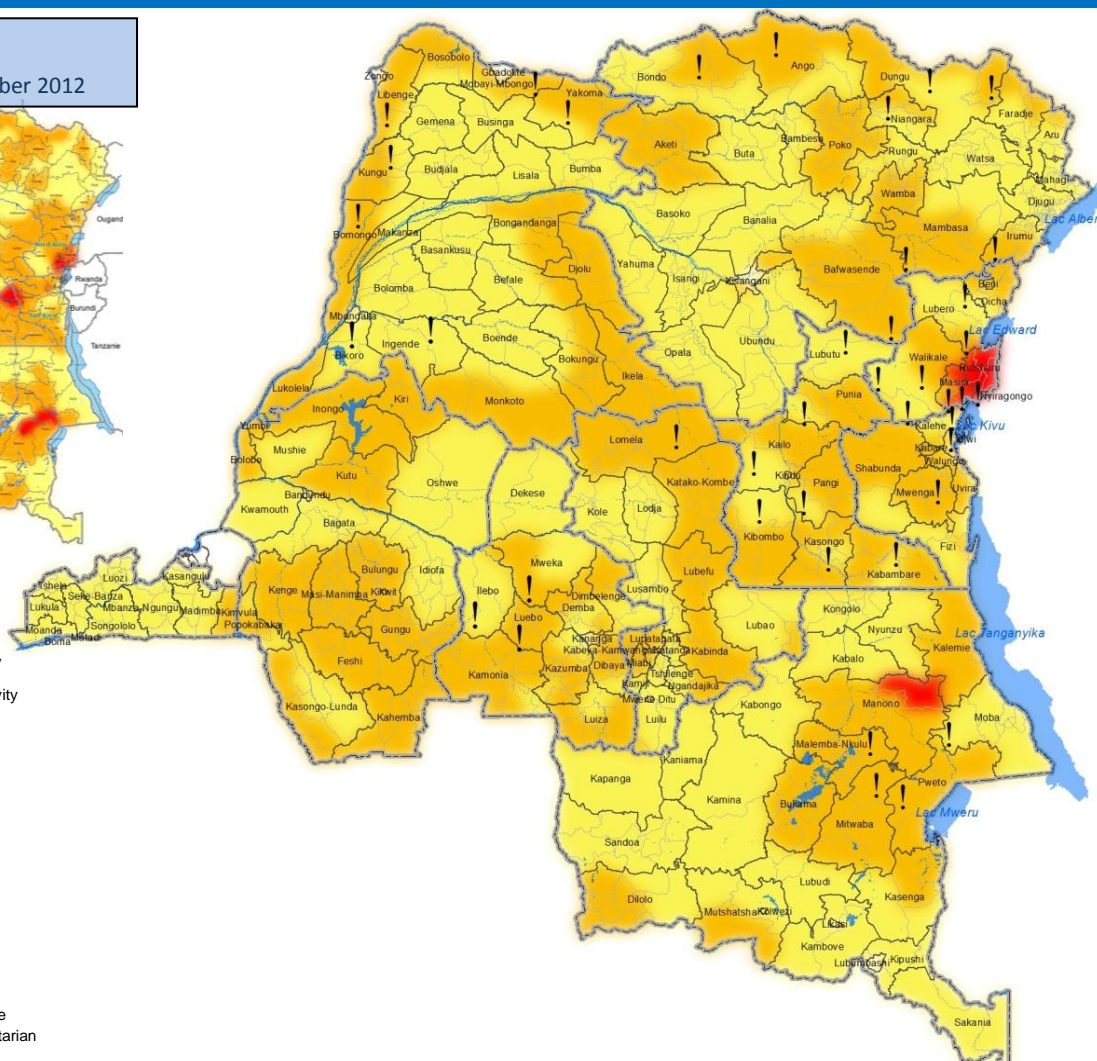


Key for map

- Lakes and Waterways
- Border
- Province
- Territory
- Collectivity

Acute Food Insecurity Phase

- Not Analyzed
- Area with inadequate evidence
- Minimal
- Stressed
- Crisis
- Emergency
- Famine
- Area would likely be at least 1 phase worse without the effects of humanitarian assistance



IPC National Analysis Partners and Supporting Organizations





Key findings and issues

According to the 9th analysis cycle of Acute food insecurity held in June 2013 with the Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC), 6.35 million people are in IPC phases 3 *Crisis* and 4 *Emergency*. This population is spread over 82 territories in phase 3 and 5 territories in phase 4 throughout the country. Territories in phase 4 which highlights an emergency situation are in areas affected by armed conflicts of Northern Kivu (Rutshuru, Nyragongo, Masisi and Walikale) and of the Katanga (Manono), whereas territories in phase 3 are present in all provinces. Based on a multidimensional analysis of food security, this classification used a broad set of indicators and evidence informing on the four food security outcomes according to the IPC framework: food consumption, livelihood change, nutritional status and mortality.

This analysis highlights mainly two clearly distinct situations. In the provinces located in the west of the country (Bandundu, Bas Congo, Western Kasai, Eastern Kasai and Equateur), the number of territories in phase 3 *Crisis* has increased compared to the previous analysis (7 regions shifted from phase 2 to phase 3), characterized by chronic food insecurity and recent inflow of refugees from Central Africa to some northern provinces i.e. the Equator and western provinces (38,471 as of April 30th 2013 according to UNHCR). Food and nutritional security indicators still reflect a problematic situation due to the persistence of unfavorable structural causes (very low agricultural productivity due to the precarious production factors, presence of epizootics and phytopathology, frequent flooding, high isolation of agricultural production areas, etc.). Poor and borderline Food Consumption Scores reach more than 50% and even up to 70% of the population in some territories. Due to, among other things, poverty, low purchasing power, epidemics and poor nutrition practices, acute malnutrition is persisting with GAM (Global Acute Malnutrition) rates largely exceeding the tolerance threshold of 10% in several isolated provinces of the country as well as in the mining areas. The other crisis factors such as intercommunity conflicts, the negative impact of the important inflow of refugees from Central African Republic and repatriated populations of the Republic of the Congo on the host population of Western Equateur, and the inflow of returnees in the provinces of Eastern Kasai and Bandundu following the ultimatum of Angolan authorities, all contribute to destabilizing the precarious food balance in the aforementioned provinces.

Armed conflicts determine the situation of the second set of provinces in the east of the country (Northern Kivu, Southern Kivu, Eastern Province, Maniema and Katanga). The period from November 2012 through May 2013 was characterized by ongoing armed conflicts, causing massive displacement of populations with undoubtedly livelihoods deterioration and its negative impact on the food security situation of the populations in these areas. Severe security incidents (involving FARDC, the M23, the separatist movements such as "Kata Katanga" and other armed groups) have been reported in the following areas: Goma, Rutshuru, Kitchanga in the north of Kivu, Punia, Kasese in Maniema, in areas located in the centre and north of Katanga, in the north of Anu, in the south of Irumu and Mambassa, in the District of Ituri, some other zones in the Ango and Banda areas in the District of Bas Uélé in the Eastern Province, as well as the reactivation of some armed groups in Southern Kivu. Nevertheless, improvements have been noticed in the food and nutritional situation of populations following the intervention of humanitarian and development partners and institutions; that is namely the case in the provinces of Northern Kivu (Lubero and Southern Masisi), of Katanga (Pweto and Mitwaba), of Maniema (Lubutu and Pangi) and of Southern Kivu (Kalehe). Out of 4 provinces which included territories in phase 4 Emergency in October/December 2012, only 2 provinces still do: Northern Kivu (Rutshuru, Nyragongo, Masisi and Walikale) and Katanga (Manono). In these two provinces, recent surveys have evidenced an overall degradation of food consumption following the repeated displacements of populations due to armed conflicts and a malnutrition situation as worrying as in the western areas of DRC. Structural causes highlighted in western areas are also the underlying causes of the aforementioned crises in the east of the country, with moreover a high population pressure and land conflicts limiting access to land.

Methods and process

The IPC analysis of acute food insecurity a large set of indicators and evidence to inform the four main food security outcomes namely food consumption, livelihood change, nutritional status and mortality. The analysis unit is the territory (a total of 145). The analysis covered the entire country. A technical national workshop, including 45 analysts from the different provinces and representing the Government technical services (Agriculture, Health, Plan), United Nations Agencies (FAO, WFP), as well as international and national NGOs was held from June 5 to 9, 2013 in Kinshasa. This report is the result of a technical consensus among all national partners.

The next round of IPC analysis should take place tentatively in October, pending the availability of funds.

Recommendations for next steps

Regarding the response. The persistence of civil insecurity and populations displacements in particular in the eastern provinces (northern Kivu, southern Kivu, eastern province and Maniema) and in the center and north of the Katanga province, and the chronic food insecurity have to some extent hindered and limited the impact of interventions implemented by the food security community in DRC. In order to improve the situation and meet efficiently the needs of vulnerable populations, it is recommended among other things that : (i) the Government and its partners improve the humanitarian access to areas confronted with armed conflicts and ensure the protection of vulnerable populations; (ii) Humanitarian and Development actors continue and intensify their current efforts especially in armed conflict areas; (iii) the Government and its partners improve the coordination and the complementarity of interventions for better efficiency and endeavor to ensure the continuum of emergency , rehabilitation, transitory, and development activities (strengthening the resilience of communities) in order to break the vicious circle of poverty and food insecurity in DRC ; (iv) Technical and Financial partners of the Government provide the necessary resources to meet the identified needs.

Regarding the IPC analysis in DRC. It is recommended to: (i) support a higher appropriation of the IPC by the Government, (ii) develop sustainable funding mechanism to avoid cessation of activities, (iii) strengthen capacity of national stakeholders, (iv) decentralize of the IPC analysis process at provincial level, and (IV) leading the analysis of chronic food insecurity using the specific IPC tools.

Contacts for further information

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