

Overview

The Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) continues to face a severe food security crisis amid persistent conflict in the east, large-scale population displacement, and the expansion of Ebola, alongside climate and economic shocks. Worsening conditions in the east and northeast offset slight improvements in other areas of the country.

Approximately 28.8 million people, representing 23 percent of the population analysed, are experiencing high levels of acute food insecurity (IPC Phase 3 or above) between September and December 2026. More than 3.6 million people (3 percent) are facing Emergency conditions (IPC Phase 4), marked by large food consumption gaps and elevated levels of acute malnutrition.

While the national proportion of the population in Phase 3 or above is only marginally higher than in the previous analysis, conditions have deteriorated more markedly in the north-eastern and eastern provinces. North Kivu, South Kivu and Ituri remain the hardest-hit provinces, with 10.4 million people in Phase 3 or above; within these provinces, the territories of Djugu, Fizi, Shabunda and Walungu are classified in Phase 4.

Internally displaced persons (IDPs), returnees, refugees, and poor households remain the most affected. In eastern DRC, conflict and violence continue to drive displacement, disrupt livelihoods and restrict access to food and markets. A rapidly expanding Ebola outbreak, recurrent disease epidemics, rising food and fuel prices, and the impacts of floods and other climate shocks are compounding vulnerabilities, leaving millions of people with limited means to meet their basic food needs.

The food security situation is expected to worsen slightly from January to June 2027, with 30.3 million people (23 percent) projected to face Phase 3 or above, including 4.2 million people likely to face Phase 4. This represents an increase of nearly 1.5 million people in Phase 3 or above compared with the current period, driven by continued conflict and displacement, the spread of Ebola, and the anticipated impacts of El Niño, including flooding that could disrupt agricultural production and market access. Rising food, fuel and agricultural input prices are expected to place further pressure on vulnerable households, while declining humanitarian assistance and limited coping capacity increase the risk of further deterioration in food security conditions.

IPC analysis partners:



Publication date: 30 October 2026. Population data is based on the Technical Working Group (TWG) Information management team and DRC's National Institute of Statistics, 2026 Population Estimates. | Contact: ipc@fao.org | Disclaimer: The information shown on this map does not imply official recognition or endorsement of any physical and political boundaries.

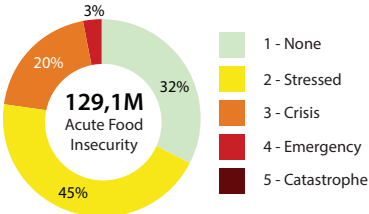


Current Acute Food Insecurity Situation | September - December 2026

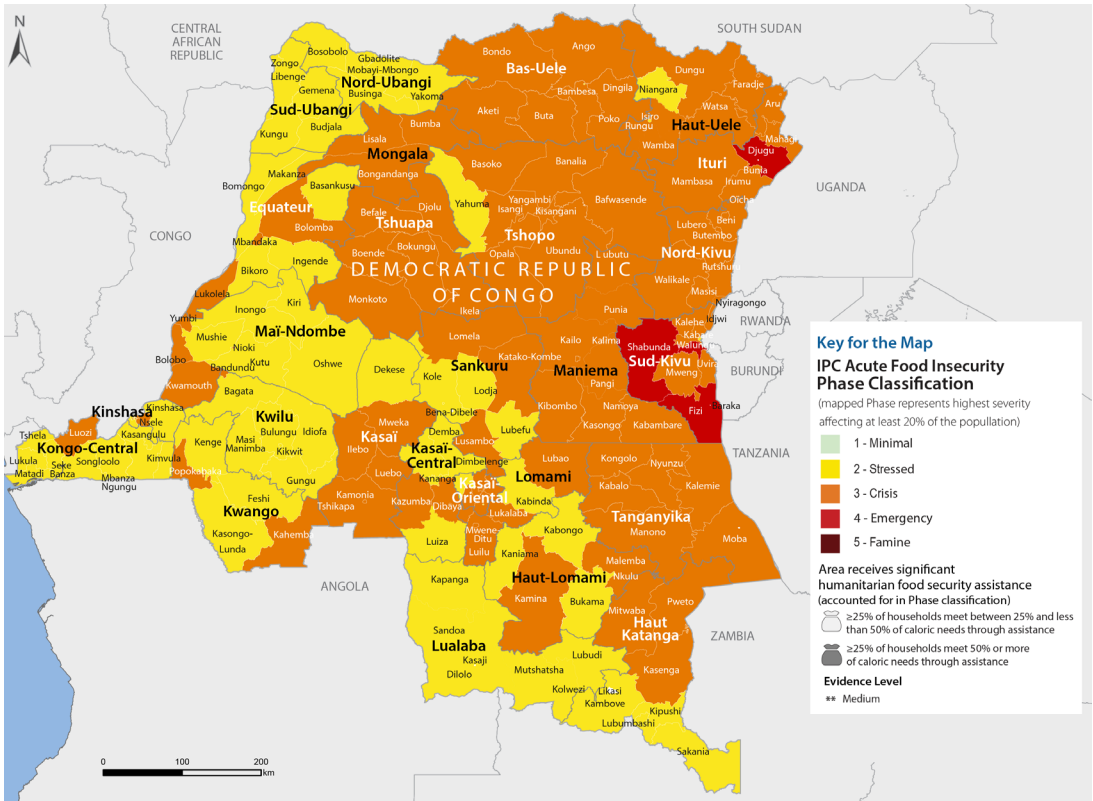


28.8M

Approximately 28.8 million people in DRC (23 percent of the population analysed) are experiencing high levels of acute food insecurity (IPC Phase 3 or above) between September and December 2026.



Current Acute Food Insecurity Situation | September - December 2026



Key Drivers



Conflict and insecurity: Persistent conflict and insecurity continue to displace populations, disrupt agricultural and economic activities, and restrict access to land and markets, particularly in North Kivu, South Kivu, Ituri and Tanganyika.



Economic shocks: The effects of the crises in the Middle East, the Red Sea, and Ukraine continue to drive up fuel, food and agricultural input costs. Insecurity, climate shocks and limited access to agricultural inputs reduce production, incomes and household purchasing power.



Disease outbreaks and health pressures: The rapidly expanding Bundibugyo Ebola outbreak, centred in Ituri, together with recurring epidemics such as Mpox and other public health emergencies, continues to disrupt livelihoods, economic activity and population mobility, while increasing household expenditures and straining fragile health systems. Food availability and access remain major concerns in affected areas.



Climate shocks: Climate-related shocks, including the anticipated impacts of El Niño, erratic rainfall, flooding, and other extreme weather events, continue to disrupt agricultural activities, damage productive assets and infrastructure, and reduce food availability, further increasing household vulnerability.

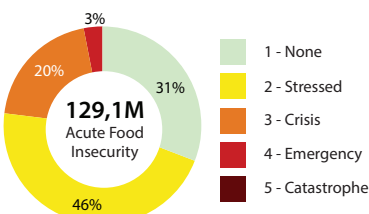


Projection Acute Food Insecurity Situation | January - June 2027

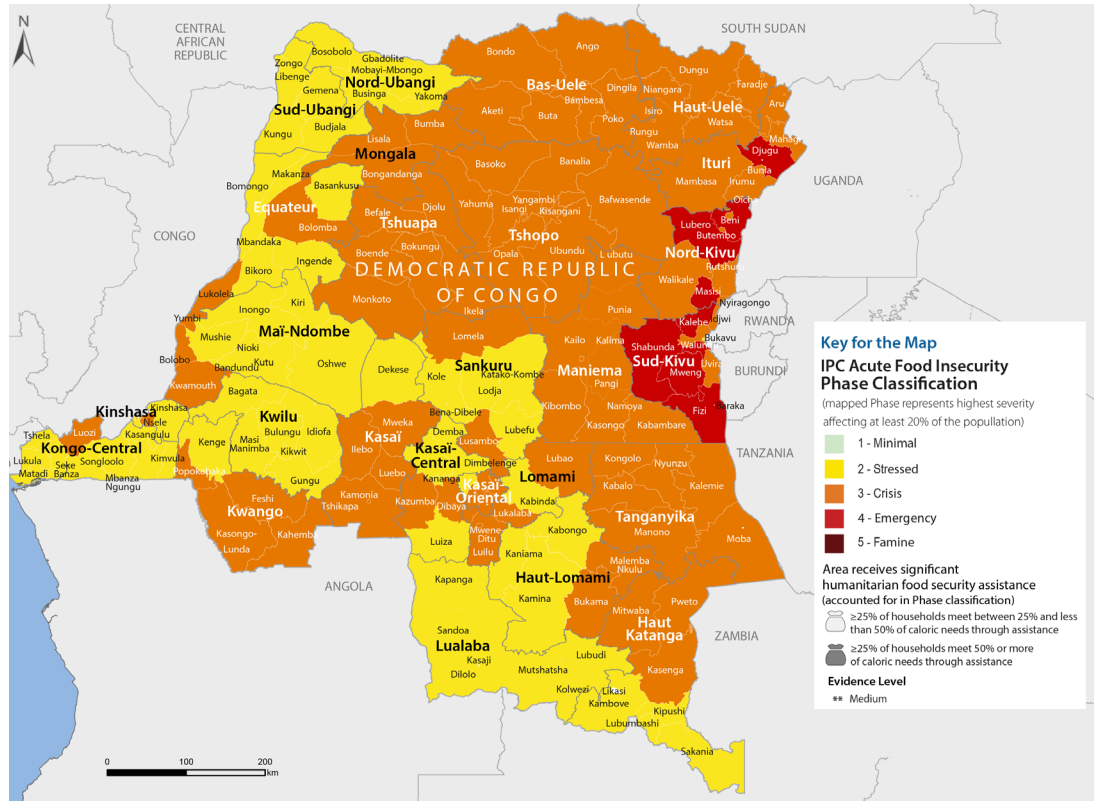


30.3M

Between January and June 2027, the situation is expected to deteriorate with around 30.3 million people in DRC (23 percent of the population analysed) likely to experience high levels of acute food insecurity (IPC Phase 3 or above).



Projection Acute Food Insecurity Situation | January - June 2027



Recommended Actions



End violence and conflict: Restore peace and security in eastern DRC, protect civilians, and prevent further displacement by strengthening efforts to address ongoing conflict and insecurity, particularly in North Kivu, South Kivu, Ituri and Tanganyika.



Humanitarian assistance: Mobilise funding to scale up life-saving assistance for populations in Phase 3 or above, particularly IDPs and overstretched host households, while ensuring humanitarian access to conflict-affected and hard-to-reach areas through secure corridors.



Food security and livelihoods: Strengthen price monitoring and support livelihood recovery through agricultural inputs, infrastructure rehabilitation and climate-resilient agriculture.



Social protection: Expand social protection programmes, social safety nets, and access to basic services, including safe water, sanitation, and healthcare, to support vulnerable households and strengthen resilience to food insecurity.



Preparedness and disease surveillance: Invest in early warning systems and preparedness for climate shocks, while strengthening surveillance and response to Ebola, Mpox and other disease outbreaks.