



Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations

In 2020, the humanitarian situation in the Democratic Republic of the Congo deteriorated significantly amid persistent armed conflict in the eastern regions and increased violence in several other parts of the country. While structural issues remain, such as extreme poverty, limited access to basic services and weak social protection systems, the coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) has aggravated the situation, deeply affecting the livelihoods of vulnerable households. Its socio-economic impact has exacerbated existing inequalities, triggered higher unemployment rates, led to worse living conditions and increased protection risks, especially for women and girls.

Objectives

The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) is working with partners in the Food Security Cluster to:

- Restore the livelihoods of the most vulnerable people affected by acute food insecurity to improve their ability to recover from shocks.
- Contribute to the prevention of malnutrition by boosting nutrition-sensitive agriculture.

Activities



Restore agriculture-based livelihoods

agricultural inputs | vegetable seeds and home gardening | small livestock (guinea pig, poultry and rabbit) | raise awareness on food diversification | cash for work | income-generating activities mainly benefiting vulnerable women | training in environmentally friendly production techniques | conflict management and prevention, secure land rights and set up Dimitra clubs



Enhance communication and awareness

emergency coordination and information sharing | increase awareness and understanding on COVID-19 at community level to limit its spread



The Democratic Republic of the Congo

Humanitarian Response Plan 2021



to assist
1.1 million people



FAO requires
USD 65 million

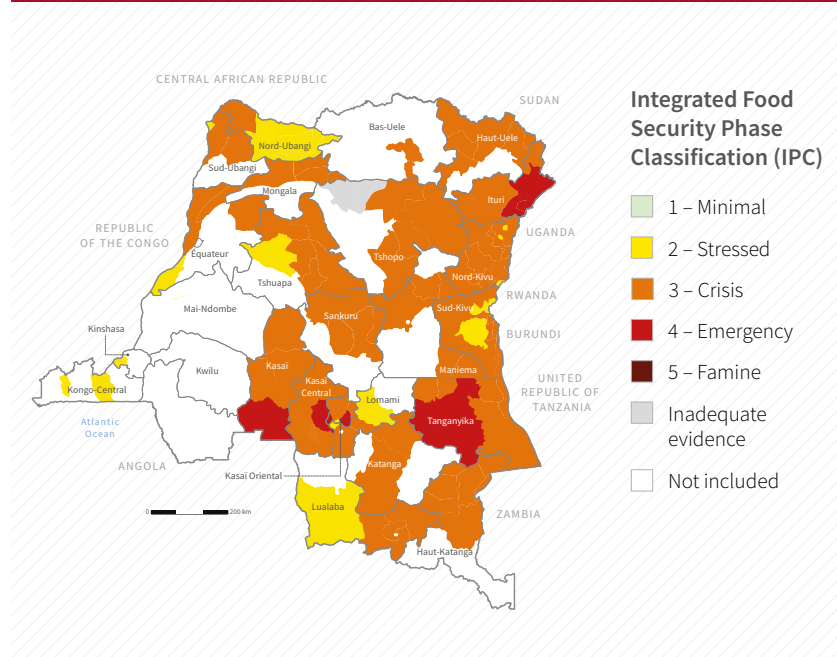


period
January–December 2021

Providing immediate agricultural support to vulnerable households in time for the upcoming planting season will allow them to produce their own food and generate income.



Projected acute food insecurity situation (January–June 2021)



Source: IPC. 2020. Democratic Republic of the Congo: Integrated Food Security Phase Classification Snapshot, July 2020–June 2021 [online]. Rome, Italy. [Cited 3 February 2020]. http://www.ipcinfo.org/fileadmin/user_upload/ipcinfo/docs/IPC%20DRC%20AcuteFoodSec%202020July2021June%20Snapshot%20ENGLISH.pdf

Situation analysis



19.6 million people projected to be in high acute food insecurity



3.4 million children under five suffer from acute malnutrition



5.2 million internally displaced people – Africa's largest displacement crisis



12 702 confirmed cases of COVID-19 (November 2020), of which **333** deaths

Impact on food security

The Democratic Republic of the Congo is the world's largest food crisis, with the highest number of people in acute food insecurity recorded in a single country. The main causes are armed violence, natural disasters and epidemics.

Based on the latest IPC analysis, about one in three households are acutely food insecure and are mainly located in areas affected by conflict and population displacement – Ituri, North and South Kivu, the greater Kasai region and Tanganyika. Vulnerable households' agricultural livelihoods are severely affected, particularly in rural areas, due to limited access to fields, inputs and markets, reduced production, looting of crops and livestock, and precarious road conditions and infrastructure. Other factors, including climate related (floods and rainfall deficits), plant pests (fall armyworm, cassava mosaic disease, etc.) and animal diseases (African swine fever, *peste des petits ruminants*, etc.) have also affected crop and livestock production thereby contributing to increased levels of food insecurity and malnutrition.

In addition to the outbreak of COVID-19 in 2020, the country is experiencing four epidemics, namely the Ebola virus disease, measles, cholera and malaria, the effects of which

have disrupted the livelihoods of the most vulnerable by reducing access to income following illness or death of a household member, for example. In particular, the urgent and essential restriction measures put in place to curb the spread of the COVID-19 pandemic have slowed down economic activity and trade, causing job losses, increasing food prices and affecting households' purchasing power.

Despite disarmament, demobilization and reintegration initiatives in certain areas, armed conflict is expected to persist in the Kivus, Ituri and Tanganyika provinces, causing further population movements. Recurrent floods during the upcoming rainy season could also worsen the humanitarian situation in the eastern and northwestern regions. It is thus crucial to deliver livelihood assistance throughout the country, particularly so as not to miss the upcoming agricultural seasons (season B in February–March; season C in May–June; and season A in August–September) which would otherwise result in a serious protracted crisis with consequences stretching well into 2021.

Contact

FAO Representation in the Democratic Republic of the Congo
FAO-CD@fao.org | Kinshasa, Democratic Republic of the Congo

FAO Office of Emergencies and Resilience
OER-Director@fao.org | fao.org/emergencies
Rome, Italy

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