



IN NUMBERS



13.1 million

people severely food insecure (draft 2019 Humanitarian Response Plan [HRP])¹



50-75%

of families rely on subsistence agriculture for their food and income



3 million

people displaced



USD 50 million

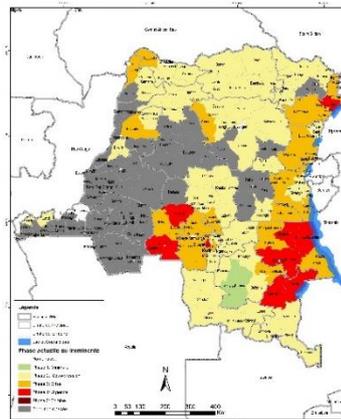
still needed for 2018 under the 2017-2019 HRP

KEY POINTS

- According to preliminary results of the latest Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC) analysis (August 2018), the number of people severely food insecure (IPC Phases 3 and 4) has nearly doubled compared with the previous analysis – from 7.7 to 13.1 million people (23 percent of the rural population). The areas in IPC Phase 3 (crisis) and 4 (emergency) are mainly in the eastern provinces and in the Kasai region.
- There are 2.2 million children at risk of dying from malnutrition in the Democratic Republic of the Congo.
- In addition to 536 000 refugees, a significant proportion of the population has been affected by forced displacements in the country, including 2.4 million people internally displaced, 1.8 million returnees and 476 000 host communities.
- FAO and WFP have been working closely together in the Democratic Republic of the Congo for more than ten years now. Since January 2018, a joint FAO/WFP Resilience Unit has been developed to strengthen the resilience and livelihood of rural populations. The projects are all multi-year, multi-dimensional that focus on strengthening simultaneously economic, social, technical and financial capacities to enhance resilience. To date, 380 000 people have been assisted in the provinces of Tanganyika and North and South Kivu.
- The agricultural season from September to December 2018 will have a major impact on food availability during the first half of 2019. FAO urgently requires USD 20 million to support families in the eastern provinces and greater Kasai region during this period and for the next planting season starting in March, particularly in areas of displacement and return, where populations are most in need of food.

MAPS

Preliminary IPC map (August 2018)²



² The map has not been endorsed by the Government yet

BACKGROUND

The Democratic Republic of the Congo continues to be affected by a severe and widespread humanitarian crisis, with conflict and insecurity as the main drivers affecting food security and livelihoods, and causing massive displacement. Currently, 22 of the country's 26 provinces are affected by the crisis, and preliminary results of the latest IPC analysis (August 2018) indicate that the number of people severely food insecure (IPC Phases 3 and 4) has nearly doubled compared with the previous analysis – from 7.7 to 13.1 million people.

The high vulnerability of the population is the result of two decades of instability due to the activity of militias and armed groups as well as violent intercommunal conflict. Further compounding the situation are insufficient infrastructure, devastating natural disasters, the resurgence of cholera, Ebola and measles outbreaks, limited access to basic goods and services, as well as tensions fueled by the electoral process. While in certain areas a relative security lull seems to reduce population displacement and increase returns, major humanitarian challenges remain throughout the country.

¹ The figure has not been endorsed by the Government yet.

CHALLENGES FACING FOOD SECURITY AND AGRICULTURE

According to the results of the joint FAO/WFP Crop and Food Security Assessment Mission, the food deficit is estimated at 22 percent, potentially putting 21 million people at risk of food insecurity. The deficit is mainly caused by a number of factors, including population movements that prevents farmers from engaging in production activities, poor quality of agricultural inputs, limited knowledge of good agricultural practices, lack of farmer organizations and epidemics. The poor quality of rural roads and storage infrastructure also increases post-harvest losses (by around 39 percent) and reduces market access.

Moreover, the country is facing a resurgence of plant diseases that were thought to have disappeared; 77 percent of the territory is infested with the fall armyworm. As a result, maize losses are estimated at an average of 45 percent (900 000 tonnes of maize) – a 17 percent increase compared with last year. As people return to their areas of origin, returnees are likely to face difficulties in accessing land in areas frequently ransacked or looted, and find themselves without seeds and tools.

FAO RESPONSE, TARGETS AND FUNDING

2018 PLANNED RESPONSE



2.8 million people targeted



Increase access to animal protein through support to fish and livestock production and nutrition training



Promote nutrition-sensitive agriculture through support to short-cycle vegetable production, quality seed multiplication and crop diversification; improve food processing equipment for farmer organizations and women associations



Implement income-generating activities through cash transfers and savings and loan schemes, especially for women and farmer organizations



Improve resilience through integrated activities to foster social cohesion, production of nutritious food and enhance financial capacities



Strengthen Cluster coordination to boost local and national food security capacities through monitoring and analysis, early warning systems and information sharing

RESPONSE TO DATE



978 000 people assisted



Provided beneficiaries with **36 700 kg of vegetables seeds** and **163 000 agricultural kits**, as well as a total of **1 350 tonnes of crop and cereal seeds**, allowing them to cultivate 63 175 ha of land and produce 26 000 tonnes of food for an estimated **140 million meals**

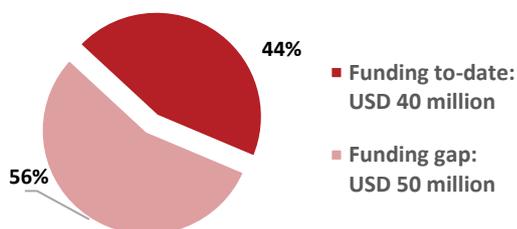


Transferred **USD 2 million** to beneficiaries through *caisses de résilience* activities



Provided beneficiaries with **1 000 guinea pigs and rabbits**, and **240 goats** for share farming

FUNDING



Given the deteriorating food insecurity and alarming humanitarian situation, with a significant increase in needs, FAO's financial requirements have also increased. Under the 2017-2019 HRP, FAO previously required a total of USD 135 million. For 2018, FAO requires USD 90 million, which adds to the USD 52.5 million requested in 2017. This brings the total amount requested by FAO under the 2017-2019 HRP to USD 142.5 million, while the amount for 2019 is yet to be determined based on the evolving humanitarian and food security situation.

FAO requires: USD 90 million **To assist:** 2.8 million people

Resource partners: the Governments of Belgium, Canada, Germany, Sweden, France and of the United States of America, and the Central Emergency Respond Fund, the European Union and the Humanitarian Pooled Fund.

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