



IN NUMBERS



7.7 million

people severely food insecure (Integrated Food Security Phase Classification [IPC] Phases 3 and 4, June–December 2017)



50-75%

of families rely on subsistence agriculture for their food and income



4.1 million

people internally displaced, of which the majority reside with host communities



USD 71 million

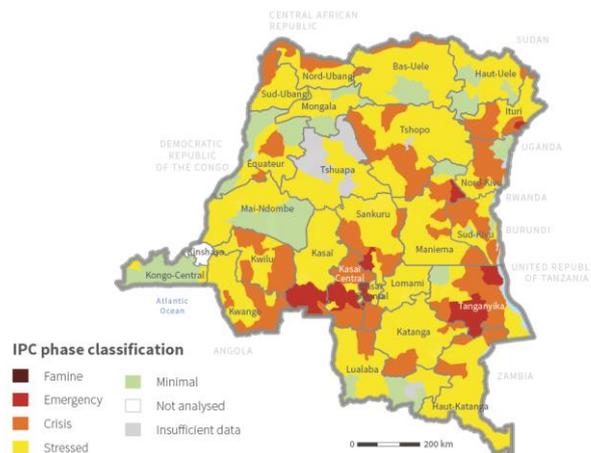
still needed for 2018 under the 2017-2019 Humanitarian Response Plan (HRP)

KEY POINTS

- Renewed conflict and the expansion of violence in 2017 has forced 3 in 5 people from their homes (January–June 2017) bringing the current caseload to 4.1 million IDPs in the Democratic Republic of the Congo – one of the world’s largest humanitarian crises.
- Food insecurity levels continue to worsen and major increases in malnutrition rates were recorded, with about 4.6 million children acutely malnourished.
- The overall context in the country continues to be marked by population movements triggered by insecurity (particularly in the eastern regions), high vulnerability, high mortality and morbidity rates, epidemics, the slowdown in economic growth and development, and socio-political tensions around the electoral process.
- As agriculture is the only sector able to provide displaced and returnee families with nutritious food, income and dignity, implementing agricultural activities and rehabilitating value chains are key to contribute to reducing food insecurity and malnutrition, generating socio-economic development, building resilience, stabilizing peace and building more prosperous futures.
- FAO works closely with the World Food Programme in developing joint strategies and programmes enabling people to rapidly resume food production and boost markets as soon as the security conditions improve. FAO has also partnered with NGOs and collaborates with the Ministry of Agriculture at all levels.
- FAO urgently requires USD 4.8 million by May 2018 to assist 15 800 households in Kasai through vegetable production, quality seed multiplication and livestock restocking. An additional USD 1.5 million is urgently needed to support 70 000 people in Ituri through emergency agricultural kits, allowing for beneficiaries to rapidly produce food and diversify their diets.

MAPS

IPC June–December 2017



BACKGROUND

The Democratic Republic of the Congo is facing Africa’s most severe internal displacement crisis. The conflict has intensified and expanded causing widespread insecurity and population displacements in North Kivu, South Kivu, Ituri, Tanganyika and Haut-Katanga provinces and Kasai region. In 2017 alone, about 2.2 million have fled their homes. The majority of displaced people are living with host families who already face chronic poverty and food insecurity. While the country has experienced a complex and protracted crisis for over two decades, the situation deteriorated significantly at the end of 2016 due to an unfavourable socio-economic environment and upswing of violence in provinces that had been relatively peaceful in the past. This led to massive displacement, loss of livelihoods and a rapid increase in severe food insecurity and malnutrition rates.

CHALLENGES FACING FOOD SECURITY AND AGRICULTURE

The latest IPC analysis (June 2017) reported a 30 percent increase of people living in food insecurity nationally since 2016 mainly due to the crisis in the Kasai and Tanganyika provinces. About 7.7 million people are facing crisis and emergency levels of food insecurity (Phases 3 and 4), representing 11 percent of the rural population. Returnees seeking to resume livelihoods activities face immense challenges, as they urgently require essential agricultural inputs and productive assets. Persistent inter-communal conflict in the country's eastern regions has caused the food security situation to sharply deteriorate. Farmers, many of whom were forced to flee, face significant hardships brought on by plant diseases such as banana wilt, cassava brown streak and mosaic as well as the loss of three consecutive planting seasons. This has resulted in the collapse of maize, cowpea and rice production along with disruptions in both trade and local economies. Moreover, the inability to access animal protein or vegetables have caused malnutrition rates to spike among displaced populations, with about 2 million children affected by severe acute malnutrition.

The impact of the conflict's rapid geographical expansion has been dramatic for a population already affected by poverty before the crisis, with around 74 percent of the population living on less than USD 1.25 a day. This is further compounded by a limited dietary diversity and the lack of livelihood opportunities and social, economic and agricultural investments.

As over 75 percent of rural families rely on agriculture for their livelihoods, ensuring access to inputs, the availability of which has been affected by the conflict, is critically needed in order to resume agricultural activities and restore their livelihoods. Given that the majority of displaced people are women, as most men were killed, they will be the main driver for recovery.

FAO RESPONSE, TARGETS AND FUNDING

2018 PLANNED RESPONSE



2.8 million people targeted



Access 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



520 420 people assisted



Provided beneficiaries with **3 032 kg of vegetables seeds** and **379 025 tools**, as well as a total of **878 985 kg of crop and cereal seeds**, allowing for them to cultivate 44 000 ha of land and produce 2 7921 tonnes of food for an estimated **140 million meals**.

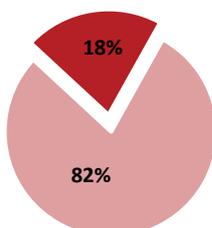


Transferred **USD 2 million** to beneficiaries through *caisses de résilience* activities.



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

FUNDING



■ Funding to-date:
USD 19 million

■ Funding gap:
USD 71 million

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 and of the United States of America, and the Central Emergency Response Fund, the European Union and the Humanitarian Pooled Fund.

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