



IN NUMBERS



15.6 million
people severely food insecure



3 175 cases
of confirmed and probable Ebola virus disease (EVD)



50-75%
of families rely on subsistence agriculture for their food and income



1.3 million
people internally displaced (IDPs)



USD 40 million
still needed for 2019 under the 2017-2019 Humanitarian Response Plan

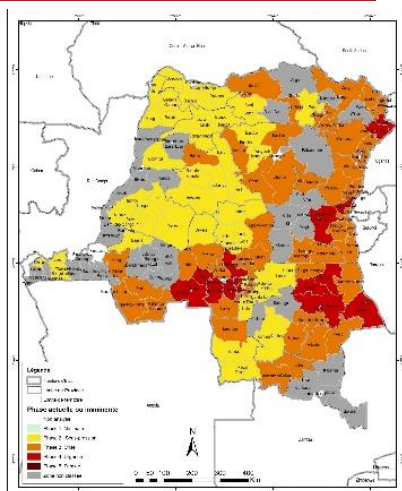
KEY POINTS

- According to preliminary results of the latest Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC) analysis (August 2019) 15.9 million Congolese are severely food insecure and struggle to feed themselves daily – only second to Yemen (Global Report on Food Crises, 2019).
- The current EVD outbreak has resulted in a total of 2 119 recorded deaths (World Health Organization [WHO], 24 September 2019). The disease has spread exclusively through human-to-human transfer of the virus. There is no epidemiological link between human cases in this outbreak and exposure to animals or animal products.
- FAO is fully engaged in multisectoral coordination at the national, regional and international levels through the activation of an internal FAO Ebola Incident Coordination Group.
- FAO continues to work closely with United Nations agencies such as the World Food Programme and the United Nations Children’s Fund to prevent food crises and build resilience in the framework of strengthened cooperation among humanitarian, development and peace actors.
- While USD 40 million is still needed by FAO by the end of 2019, USD 14 million is urgently required to provide timely agricultural assistance to 84 000 people in the greater Kasai region and the provinces affected by the Ebola crisis (North Kivu and Ituri).

MAP

IPC, August 2019

The map has not yet been endorsed by the Government



BACKGROUND

For 25 years, the Democratic Republic of the Congo has experienced a complex, protracted emergency. Further to the drastic deterioration in the food security situation registered in 2018 – from 7.7 to 13.3 million people in IPC Phases 3 and 4 – the results of latest IPC analysis (August 2019) that have yet to be endorsed by the Government indicate that nearly 15.9 million people are severely food insecure.

Furthermore, people are facing high levels of malnutrition, with 4.3 million malnourished children under five, out of whom 1.3 million are severely malnourished. This is due to increased intercommunal conflict, triggering massive population displacements, the destruction of infrastructure, high food prices, lack of income opportunities, undiversified diets, pest infestations and health epidemics such as Ebola, cholera and measles.

The Democratic Republic of the Congo is currently facing the most severe EVD outbreak in the country’s history. From a global perspective, it is second only, in terms of severity, to the Ebola outbreak in West Africa in 2014–2016. The current wave started on 1 August 2018 in North Kivu. As of 28 June 2019, 144 549 people at risk have consented to and received Ebola vaccine. FAO is working with WHO and other United Nations agencies to support the Government’s efforts to address the EVD threat, and focusing on supporting life-saving activities while also safeguarding food security, nutrition and livelihoods.

CHALLENGES FACING FOOD SECURITY AND AGRICULTURE

The deterioration of the food insecurity situation, particularly in the Kasai, Tanganyika and eastern regions, is mainly caused by a decline in agricultural production. Livestock production is declining due to looting and repetitive animal diseases. Accessing productive assets is especially challenging for IDPs as well as returnees who frequently go back to areas that were looted and find themselves without the means to resume livelihood activities. Furthermore, the low levels of supplies available on the markets has resulted in increased prices of staple food commodities. While the country has the agricultural potential to feed 2 billion people, its population of 90 million faces one of the most serious food and nutrition crises in the world.

FAO RESPONSE, TARGETS AND FUNDING

2019 PLANNED RESPONSE



1.8 million people targeted



Restore livelihood production activities through the provision of agricultural inputs; improve the conservation, processing and marketing of agricultural products; and promote the sustainable management of natural resources



Support vulnerable households in Ebola-affected areas through livelihood activities (training, seed multiplication, cash-based transfers, vegetable and crop production, small livestock, etc.)



Implement income-generating activities through cash for work and conditional cash transfers, 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; and improve the collection, analysis and dissemination of food security information

RESPONSE TO DATE



1.1 million people assisted



Provided beneficiaries with **41 500 kg of vegetables seeds** and **185 500 agricultural kits**, as well as a total of **1 600 tonnes of crop and cereal seeds**, allowing them to cultivate **72 600 ha of land and produce 30 000 tonnes of food** for an estimated **161 million meals**



Transferred **2.1 million** to beneficiaries through *caisses de résilience* activities

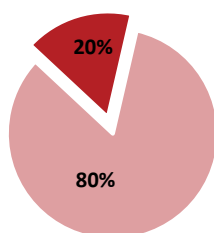


Provided beneficiaries with **1 000 guinea pigs and rabbits**, and **240 goats** for share farming



Procured agricultural inputs benefiting 43 000 households in Ebola-affected areas

FUNDING



- Funding to-date: USD 10 million
- Funding gap: USD 40 million

Given the deteriorating food insecurity and alarming humanitarian situation, with a significant increase in needs, FAO's financial requirements had also increased. Of the total revised amount of USD 142.5 million requested under the 2017-2019 HRP, FAO requires USD 50 million for 2019 to assist 1.8 million people.

FAO requires: USD 50 million **To assist:** 1.8 million people

Resource partners: the Governments of Belgium, Canada, Germany, Sweden, France, Italy, Ireland and of the United States of America, the World Bank the Central Emergency Respond Fund, the United Nations Peacebuilding Funds, the European Union and the Humanitarian Pooled Fund.

CONTACT

Aristide Ongone Obame | FAO Representative | Kinshasa, Democratic Republic of the Congo | FAO-CD@fao.org

Dominique Burgeon | Director, Emergency and Resilience Division and Strategic Programme Leader, Resilience | Rome, Italy | PSE-Director@fao.org