



IN NUMBERS



15.6 million
people in severe acute
food insecurity
(Integrated Food
Security Phase
Classification [IPC],
August 2019)



267 cases
confirmed of
coronavirus disease
2019 (COVID-2019)



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



5 million
internally displaced
persons (IDPs)



USD 55 million
needed for 2020 under the
2020 Humanitarian
Response Plan and
USD 22.8 million in response
to COVID-19

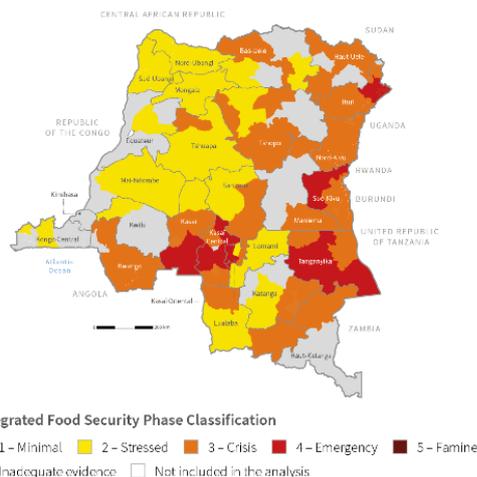
KEY POINTS

- The Democratic Republic of the Congo is the world's second most food-insecure country (Global Report on Food Crises, 2019), with 15.6 million Congolese facing severe acute food insecurity (IPC, August 2019, figure yet to be endorsed by the Government).
- While the Government of the Democratic Republic of the Congo and the World Health Organization (WHO) were preparing to officially declare the end of the largest-ever Ebola virus disease (EVD) outbreak on 13 April 2020, given no new cases and the discharge of the last patient from an EVD treatment centre (Beni, 3 March 2020), two new cases were confirmed in Beni.
- The first confirmed case of COVID-19 has been reported on 10 March 2020; there are currently 267 confirmed cases of which 22 deaths have been reported in the country (WHO, 17 April 2020).
- The spread of COVID-19 could further worsen the food security situation and severely affect food supply chains. The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) requires an additional USD 22 million to support the Congolese population in population in food production and access, local value chain development and income generating activities during the COVID-19 pandemic. It is imperative to support food production systems to avert a full-blown food crisis.
- The German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development, through the German Development Bank, has contributed USD 54 million for the implementation of the joint FAO/United Nations Children's Fund/World Food Programme (WFP) resilience building programme to assist 280 000 people in the Kivu provinces to support food production, conservation and processing, and to enhance social cohesion, nutrition, water, sanitation and hygiene.

MAP

IPC (August 2019) for July–December 2019

The map has yet to be endorsed by the Government



BACKGROUND

For 25 years, the Democratic Republic of the Congo has experienced a complex, protracted emergency. In 2018, the IPC analysis indicated a drastic deterioration of the food security situation. The number of people in severe acute food insecurity nearly doubled – from 7.7 to 13.3 million people in IPC Phases 3 and 4. The latest IPC analysis (August 2019) indicates that close to 15.6 million people are facing severe acute food insecurity. Moreover, people are facing high levels of malnutrition, with 4.7 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, limited diet diversification, pest infestations, epidemics such as Ebola, cholera and measles, and the recent spread of the COVID-19 pandemic, which is expected to further worsen the situation.

CHALLENGES FACING FOOD SECURITY AND AGRICULTURE

Movement restrictions related to the COVID-19 outbreak will strongly impact the food systems and livelihoods of smallholders and vulnerable people, including access to agricultural tools, seeds, markets and credit. Farmer organizations will face increased food prices. Shortage of fertilizers, veterinary supplies and other inputs could also affect food production in an already difficult situation. In addition, livestock production is declining due to looting and recurrent animal diseases. Accessing productive assets is especially challenging for IDPs as well as returnees who frequently go back to their areas of origin and find themselves without the means to resume livelihood activities. The Democratic Republic of the Congo has already more than 15.6 million people experiencing acute hunger; any further disruptions to food supply chains will exacerbate human suffering and hamper efforts to address and reduce food insecurity in the country.

FAO RESPONSE

2020 PLANNED RESPONSE



1.7 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



Disseminate information and increase awareness on COVID-19 prevention measures (e.g. through Dimitra Clubs); locally develop hand-washing equipment engaging youth and women; analyse the impact of COVID-19 on food security, livelihoods and value chains; increase and diversify local agricultural production; strengthen vulnerable households' safety nets; and ensure that sustainable supply systems for agricultural inputs are in place



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 million people assisted



Provided beneficiaries with **37 800 kg of vegetables seeds** and **168 506 agricultural kits**, as well as a total of **14 534 tonnes of crop and cereal seeds**, allowing them to cultivate **65 948 ha of land** and produce **27 251 tonnes of food** for an estimated **146 million meals**

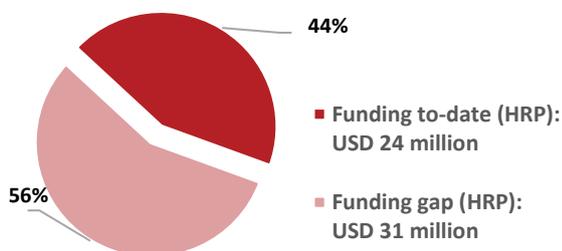


Transferred **2.6 million** to beneficiaries through *caisses de résilience* activities



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

FUNDING



FAO requires: USD 55 million under the HRP and USD 22.8 million for COVID-19 **To assist:** 1.7 million people

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

ASSESSMENTS

Two integrated context analyses were carried out under the German-funded project in collaboration with WFP to define priority areas of intervention. An IPC analysis is planned to be carried out in May 2020.

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