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GIEWS Country Brief

The Democratic Republic of the Congo

Reference Date: 06-June-2024

FOOD SECURITY SNAPSHOT

- Cereal production affected by increased violence, population displacements, plant diseases and effects of climate change in form of rainfalls
- Inflation expected to remain at high levels due to depreciation of national currency
- Over 23 million people estimated to be severely food insecure in 2024

Cereal production affected by increased violence, population displacements, plant diseases and effects of climate change in form of rainfalls

In northern and central regions, the harvest of the main season maize crops was completed in January 2024, while it finalized at the end of February in southern provinces. In bimodal central provinces, harvesting of the secondary season maize crop started in March under overall favourable weather conditions. In South Kivu, widespread floods between November 2023 and January 2024 affected the sowing, growing and harvesting of critical staple crops.

The conflict between various non-state armed groups and government, regional and international forces as well as the expansion of high-intensity conflict into North Kivu Province continued to disrupt agricultural activities and limited farmers' access to crop growing areas. As a result, the aggregate 2024 crop production is expected to be below the five-year average.

Inflation expected to remain at high levels due to depreciation of national currency

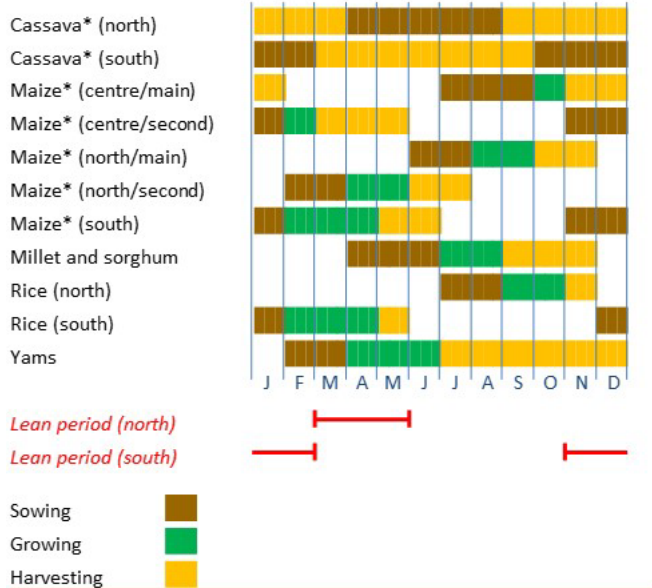
Prices of imported staple foods are at high levels due to limited availability in local markets, resulting from reduced imports and high transport costs. The average price of some basic food commodities such as beans, corn flour and rice in April 2024, was 50 percent higher than one year before and above the five-year average.

According to the national central bank, inflation reached 22.6 percent in 2023 compared to 9.2 percent in 2022 due to the continuous depreciation of the national currency.

Democratic Republic of the Congo

Crop Calendar

(*major foodcrop)





GIEWS Country Brief The Democratic Republic of the Congo

Reference Date: 14-July-2022

FOOD SECURITY SNAPSHOT

- Cereal production in eastern provinces affected by increased violence, population displacements and floods
- Inflation expected to decline in 2022, but remaining at high levels
- About 26 million people estimated severely food insecure in first semester of 2022

Cereal production in eastern provinces affected by increased violence, population displacements and floods

Harvesting of the 2022 secondary maize crop is underway in bimodal rainfall northern provinces and production outlook is generally favourable as precipitation amounts have been near the average levels in most cropping areas.

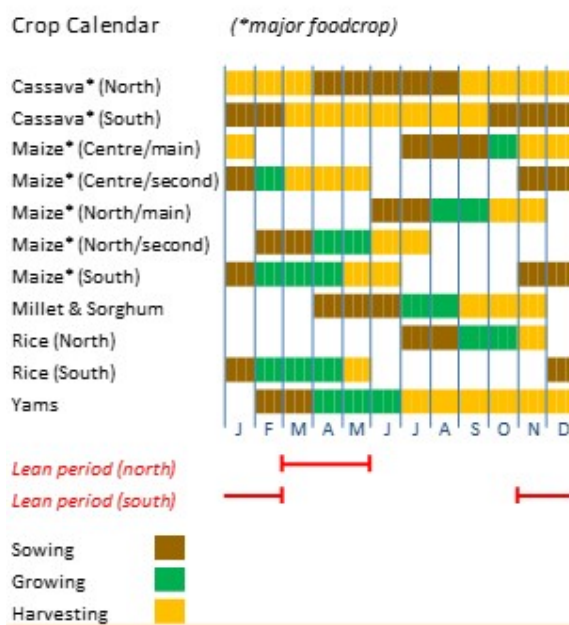
In bimodal central provinces, harvesting of the 2022 secondary season maize crop took place between March and May, under overall favourable weather conditions, except in parts of Maniema, North Kivu and South Kivu provinces, where heavy rains in mid-April caused localized flooding, resulting in some damage to standing crops. Increased violence in the eastern provinces caused new population displacements, resulting in localized disruption of agricultural operations, including harvesting of the 2022 secondary season maize crops and land preparation of the 2022 main season maize crops. Planting of the latter began in July and favourable weather conditions are forecast during the growing period between September and November. Elevated international prices of fuel and fertilizers (largely imported, mainly from South Africa and Zambia) could lead to a lower use of agricultural inputs and potentially reduced yields in 2022.

In southernmost unimodal rainfall areas, harvesting of the 2022 maize crops finalized by end-June. Near-average cumulative rainfall amounts were conducive for an adequate crop development and maize yields are estimated at near-average levels.

Inflation expected to decline in 2022, but remaining at high levels

Prices of imported staple foods are at high levels as a result of

Democratic Republic of the Congo



Source: FAO/GIEWS.

limited availabilities in the local markets due to reduced imports of some commodities, such as maize flour and vegetable oil, amid high transportation costs.

According to the International Monetary Fund (IMF), inflation is expected to decline in 2022, compared to the 2021 rate of 9 percent, but to remain high at 6.4 percent. Although some small quantities of crude oil are produced in the country, the requirements for refined petroleum products are met through imports owing to limited refinery capacity. As a result, the recent surge in global crude oil prices compared to the 2021 levels prompted the government to raise domestic prices of petrol and diesel, exerting inflationary pressure. A strong growth of minerals export earnings is expected in 2022, likely preventing further increases in the inflation rate.

About 26 million people estimated severely food insecure in first semester of 2022

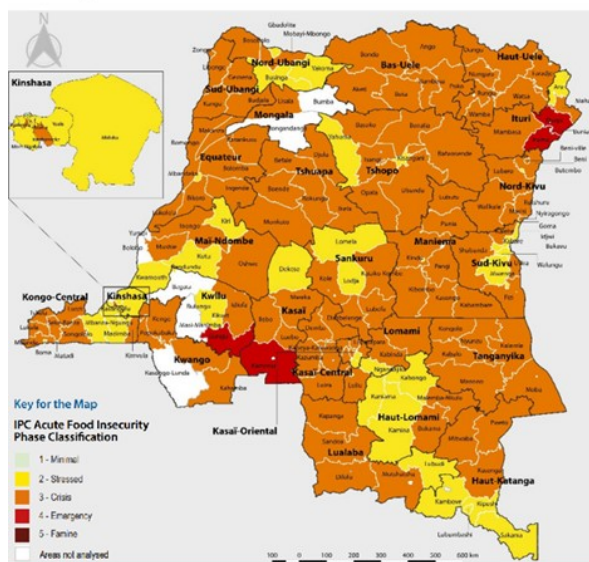
According to the latest IPC analysis, published in November 2021, about 26 million people (25 percent of the total population) were projected to face Phase 3 (Crisis) or worse and above levels of acute food insecurity between January and June 2022. This would mark a slight improvement compared to the 27.3 million people in Phase 3 (Crisis) or worse and above levels for the same period in 2021. However, as a result of the recent escalation of conflicts in eastern provinces and consequent population movements, coupled with the high prices of staple food, the magnitude and severity of acute food insecurity may exceed the projected levels.

The first [IPC Acute Malnutrition analysis](#) in the country was conducted in September 2021 in 70 “health zones” (out of a total of 519). According to the analysis, about 857 000 children under the age of five were estimated to be acutely malnourished (IPC Phase 2 [Alert] or higher) between April and August 2022, including 219 300 estimated to be severely malnourished (IPC Phase 3 [Severe] or higher). In addition, about 468 400 pregnant or lactating women were estimated to be in IPC Phase 2 [Alert] or higher, in the reporting period. This is mainly due to acute food insecurity levels, high prevalence of childhood illnesses, such as malaria and diarrhoea, frequent outbreaks of measles and cholera, inaccessibility to adequate sanitation facilities and very limited access to drinking water.

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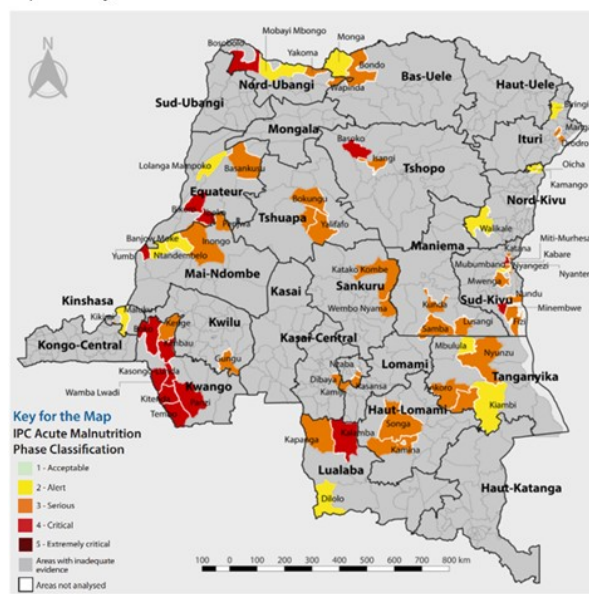
Democratic Republic of the Congo - Integrated Food Security Phase Classification

January-June 2022



Democratic Republic of the Congo - IPC Acute Malnutrition Analysis

April-August 2022





GIEWS Country Brief

The Democratic Republic of the Congo

Reference Date: 07-December-2021

FOOD SECURITY SNAPSHOT

- Near-average cereal production expected in 2021 in most provinces
- Despite expected slight decline in 2021, inflation will remain high
- About 27 million people estimated severely food insecure in late 2021

Near-average cereal production expected in 2021 in most provinces

Harvesting of the 2021 main maize crop finalized in November in the bimodal rainfall northern provinces, while it is ongoing in the bimodal central provinces and is expected to finalize in January next year.

In most provinces of the country, a near-average cereal production is expected in 2021, following mostly adequate and well-distributed precipitation amounts during the season. However, a below-average crop production is forecast in some areas. In the westernmost Kongo-Central Province, below-average precipitation amounts since the onset of the rainy season in October negatively affected soil moisture levels, likely resulting in a reduced cereal output. In eastern regions, ongoing conflict and displacements, coupled with restrictive measures to control the COVID-19 pandemic, affected agricultural activities and limited farmers' access to crop growing areas and inputs, with a negative impact on 2021 crop production.

In the southernmost unimodal rainfall areas, planting of the 2022 maize crops, to be harvested from May next year, is ongoing under overall favourable weather conditions. Similarly, planting of the 2022 secondary season maize crop started in November in central provinces and harvesting will begin next March.

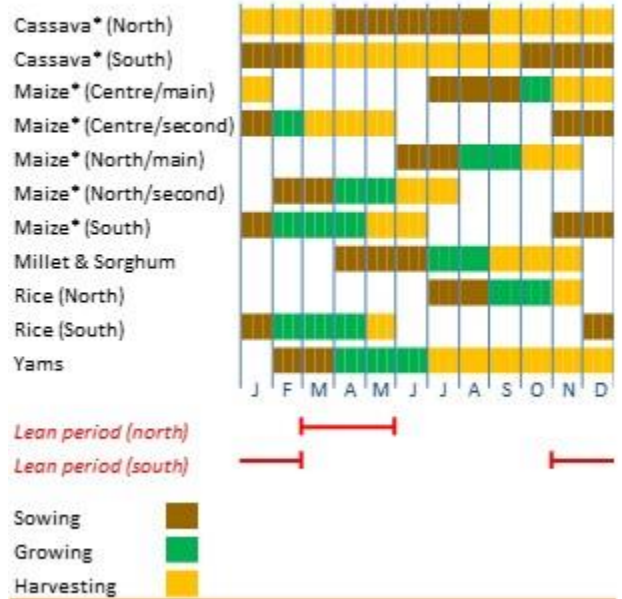
Despite expected slight decline in 2021, inflation will remain high

Since mid-March 2020, cash crop exports declined due to the slowdown of trade flows amid the COVID-19 pandemic and resulted in a significant decrease of foreign exchange earnings with consequent depreciation of the Congolese franc and significant domestic price increases. The average annual

Democratic Republic of the Congo

Crop Calendar

(*major foodcrop)



Source: FAO/GIEWS.

inflation, which amounted to about 5 percent in 2019, spiked to an average of 11.4 percent in 2020. According to the International Monetary Fund (IMF), inflation in 2021 is expected at a high level of about 9 percent, a slight decline compared to the previous year.

About 27 million people estimated severely food insecure in late 2021

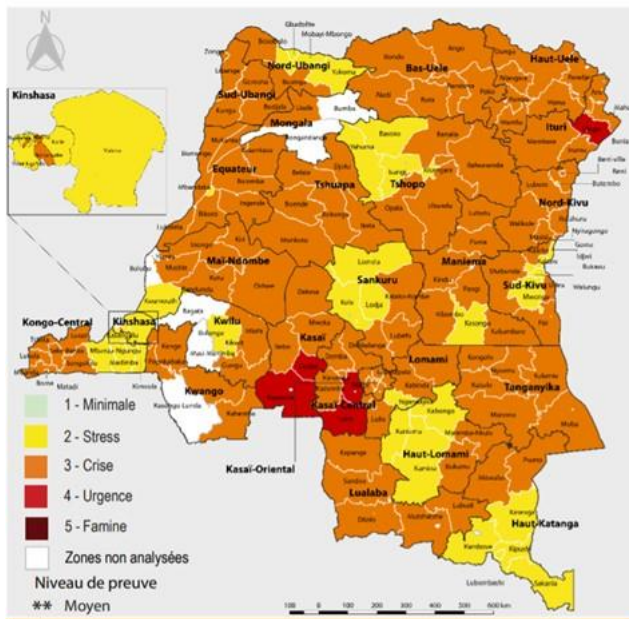
According to the latest IPC analysis, published in November 2021, about 27 million people (26 percent of the total population) are estimated to be severely food insecure (IPC Phase 3 [Crisis] or above) between September and December 2021. This is mainly due to persisting conflict in the eastern provinces of North Kivu, South Kivu and Ituri, which continues to cause displacements, as well as to the socio-economic effects of the COVID-19 pandemic. In eastern areas, violence has been increasing since early 2021, causing new displacements and leading to the declaration, on 6 May 2021, of a “State of Siege” in the provinces of North Kivu and Ituri. Since then, the “State of Siege” has been prolonged several times.

The first [IPC Acute Malnutrition analysis](#) in the country was conducted in September 2021 in 70 “health zones” (out of the total of 519). According to the analysis, 857 000 children under the age of five are estimated to be acutely malnourished (IPC Phase 2 [Alert] or higher) between September 2021 and March 2022, including 219 300 estimated to be severely malnourished (IPC Phase 3 [Severe] or higher). In addition, about 468 400 pregnant or lactating women are estimated to be in IPC Phase 2 [Alert] or higher, in the reporting period. This is mainly due to acute food insecurity levels, high prevalence of childhood illnesses, such as malaria and diarrhoea, frequent outbreaks of measles and cholera, inaccessibility to adequate sanitation facilities and very limited access to drinking water.

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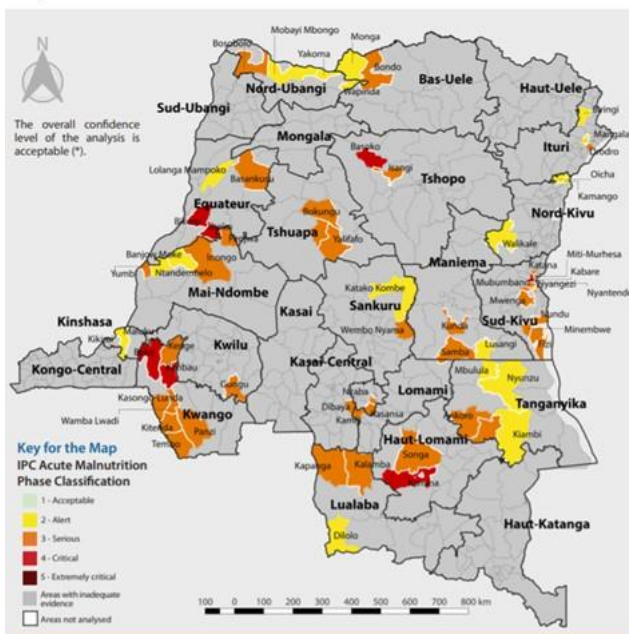
Democratic Republic of the Congo - Integrated Food Security Phase Classification

September - December 2021



Democratic Republic of the Congo – IPC Acute Malnutrition analysis

September 2021 – March 2022





GIEWS Country Brief The Democratic Republic of the Congo

Reference Date: 26-July-2021

FOOD SECURITY SNAPSHOT

- Food production in 2021 affected by conflict, displacements and COVID-19 restrictive measures
- Despite expected decline in 2021, inflation will remain high
- About 27.3 million people estimated severely food insecure in first half of 2021, an all-time high

Food production in 2021 affected by conflict, displacements and COVID-19 restrictive measures

Harvesting of the 2021 secondary maize crop is underway in the bi-modal rainfall northern provinces and the production outlook is generally favourable as precipitation amounts have been at near-average levels in most cropping areas. In the bi-modal central provinces, harvesting of the 2021 secondary season maize crop finalized in May, under overall favourable weather conditions, except in South Kivu Province, where heavy rains in mid-April caused localized flooding, resulting in some damage to standing crops. Increased violence in the eastern provinces, coupled with the eruption of the Nyiragongo Volcano, caused new population displacements, resulting in localized disruption of agricultural operations, including harvesting of the 2021 secondary season maize and land preparation of the 2021 main season maize crops, planting of which is currently underway. In the southernmost uni-modal rainfall areas, harvesting of the 2021 maize crops finalized in June. Despite irregular rainfall distribution during the season, cumulative amounts were near average and overall agro-climatic conditions were conducive for an adequate crop development.

Ongoing conflict and displacements, coupled with restrictive measures to control the COVID-19 pandemic, are expected to continue affecting agricultural activities and limit farmers' access to crop growing areas and inputs, with a negative impact on the 2021 crop production.

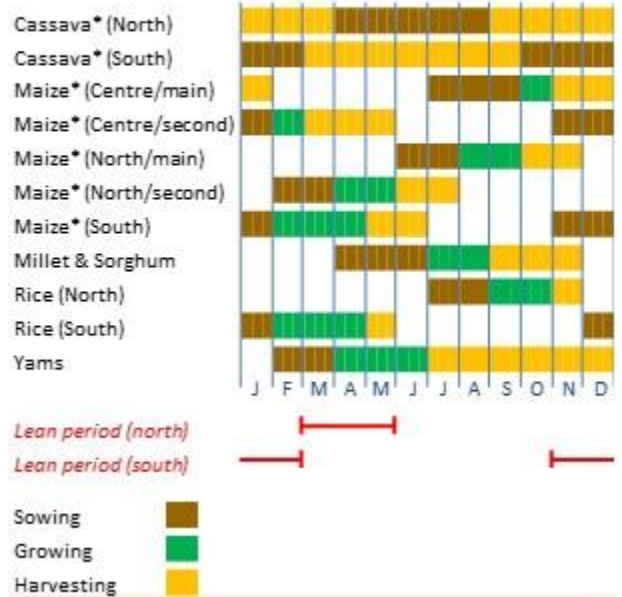
Despite an expected decline in 2021, inflation will remain high

Since mid-March 2020, reduced cash crop exports, due to the slowdown of trade flows amid the COVID-19 pandemic,

Democratic Republic of the Congo

Crop Calendar

(*major foodcrop)



Source: FAO/GIEWS.

resulted in a significant decrease of foreign exchange earnings, causing the depreciation of the Congolese franc and triggering significant price increases. The average annual inflation, which amounted to about 5 percent in 2019, spiked to an average of 14.6 percent in 2020. According to the International Monetary Fund (IMF), inflation in 2021 is expected to decline to about 11 percent.

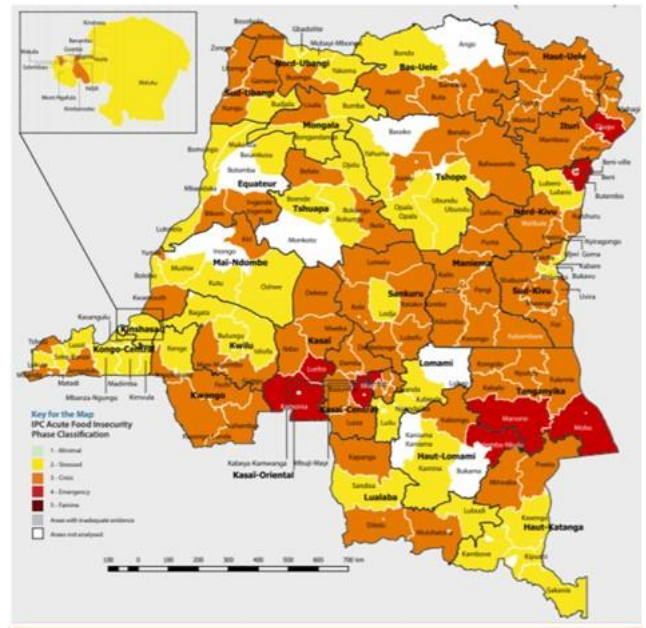
About 27.3 million people estimated severely food insecure in first half of 2021, an all-time high

According to the March 2021 IPC analysis, about 27.3 million people (28 percent of the total population) were estimated to be severely food insecure (IPC Phase 3: “Crisis” or above) between February and July 2021, the highest level on record. This is mainly due to movement restrictions related to the COVID-19 pandemic, which continued to limit cross-border trade and access to the markets, to the severe impact of COVID-19 on the local economy and to the ongoing conflict in eastern provinces, which causes displacements and locally disrupts crop production. In eastern areas, violence has increased in early 2021, causing new displacements and leading to the declaration, on 6 May 2021, of a one-month “State of Siege” in the provinces of North Kivu and Ituri. The “State of Siege” was prolonged various times, with the latest two-week extension decided on 19 July 2021. Tensions remain also in South Kivu Province and, to a lesser extent, in Tanganyika Province. The displacement of an additional 415 000 people was caused by the eruption of the Nyiragongo Volcano in North Kivu Province on 22 May 2021.

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Democratic Republic of the Congo - Integrated food security Phase Classification (IPC)

February - July 2021





GIEWS Country Brief

The Democratic Republic of the Congo

Reference Date: 16-April-2021

FOOD SECURITY SNAPSHOT

- About 27.3 million people estimated severely food insecure in early 2021, an all-time high
- Persisting conflicts, displacements and COVID-19 prevention measures continue limiting agricultural activities
- Inflation spiked in 2020

About 27.3 million people estimated severely food insecure in early 2021, an all-time high

According to the latest IPC analysis, carried out in February 2021, about 27.3 million people are estimated to be severely food insecure (IPC Phase 3: "Crisis" or above) during the February-July 2021 period, the highest level on record, corresponding to 28 percent of the total population.

The key drivers of the extremely high levels of food insecurity are the following:

- Movement restrictions related to the COVID-19 pandemic continue to limit cross-border trade and access to the markets.
- The COVID-19 pandemic had a severe impact on the local economy, in particular causing the loss of jobs and incomes in the informal sector, therefore, drastically reducing access to food for the vulnerable households.
- Ongoing conflicts in eastern Ituri, North Kivu, South Kivu, Maniema and Tanganyika provinces continue to trigger population displacements and locally disrupt crop production, resulting in shortages of food supplies in some markets. With a displaced population of 5.2 million, the country hosts the second largest number of IDPs in the world.

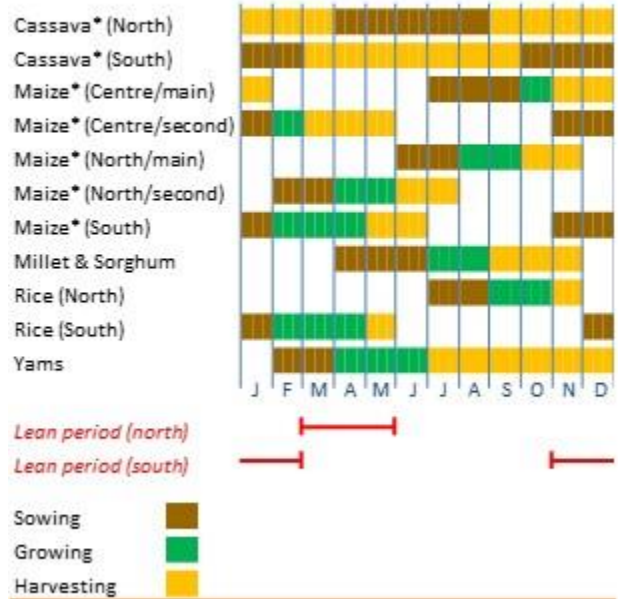
Persisting conflicts, displacements and COVID-19 prevention measures continue limiting agricultural activities

Planting of the 2021 secondary season maize crop, to be harvested from June, was completed in March in the bi-modal northern provinces, under overall conducive weather conditions. In central provinces, harvesting of the secondary season maize crop is ongoing and the output is expected at

Democratic Republic of the Congo

Crop Calendar

(*major foodcrop)



Source: FAO/GIEWS.

near-average levels following adequate and well-distributed precipitations during the season. In eastern provinces, the ongoing conflicts continue to affect agricultural activities by limiting farmers' access to crop-growing areas and inputs. In the southernmost uni-modal rainfall areas, planting of maize crops, to be harvested from May, finalized in January. Weather conditions have been overall favourable since December 2020 over most crop lands, except in southern Lualaba Province, where crops have been affected by reduced rainfall amounts.

Persisting conflicts in eastern areas, population displacements and movement restrictions related to the COVID-19 prevention measures continue to limit farmers' access to crop growing areas and agricultural inputs.

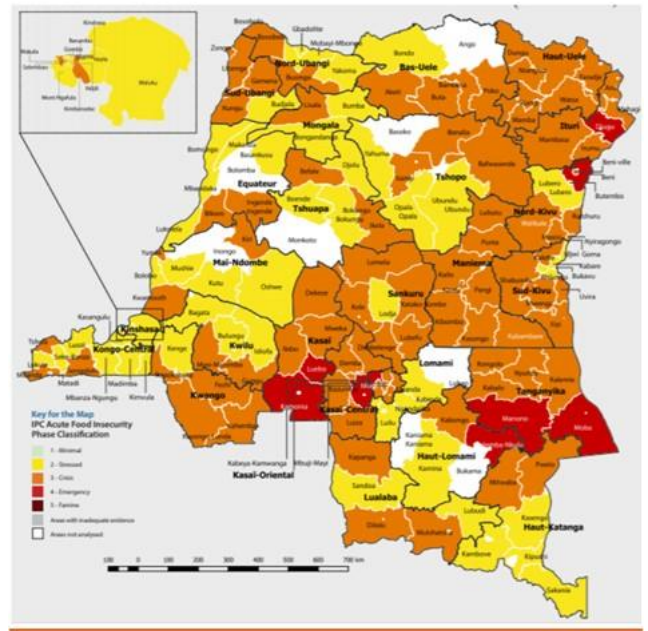
Inflation spiked in 2020

Since mid-March 2020, reduced cash crop exports, due to low demand by importing countries and the slowdown of trade flows due to the COVID-19 pandemic, resulted in a significant decrease of foreign exchange earnings, causing the depreciation of the Franc Congolais and triggering price increases. As a result, the average annual inflation, which amounted to about 5 percent in 2019, spiked to 17 percent in 2020. According to the International Monetary Fund, in 2021, inflation is expected to decline, but to remain high, at about 8 percent.

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Democratic Republic of the Congo - Integrated food security Phase Classification (IPC)

February - July 2021





GIEWS Country Brief

The Democratic Republic of the Congo

Reference Date: 02-March-2021

FOOD SECURITY SNAPSHOT

- **Persisting conflicts, displacements and COVID-19 prevention measures continue limiting agricultural activities**
- **Inflation spiked in 2020**
- **About 19.6 million people estimated severely food insecure in early 2021**

Persisting conflicts, displacements and COVID-19 prevention measures continue limiting agricultural activities

Planting of the 2021 secondary season maize crop, to be harvested from June, is underway in the bi-modal northern provinces, under overall conducive weather conditions. In central provinces, harvesting of the secondary season maize crop will begin in March and crop conditions are generally good following adequate and well-distributed precipitations during the season. In eastern provinces, the ongoing conflicts continue to affect agricultural activities by limiting farmers' access to crop-growing areas and inputs. In the southernmost uni-modal rainfall areas, planting of maize crops, to be harvested from May, finalized in January. Weather conditions have been overall favourable since December 2020 over most crop lands, except in the southern Lualaba Province, where crops have been affected by reduced rainfall amounts.

Persisting conflicts in eastern areas, population displacements and movement restrictions related to COVID-19 prevention measures continue to limit farmers' access to crop growing areas and agricultural inputs.

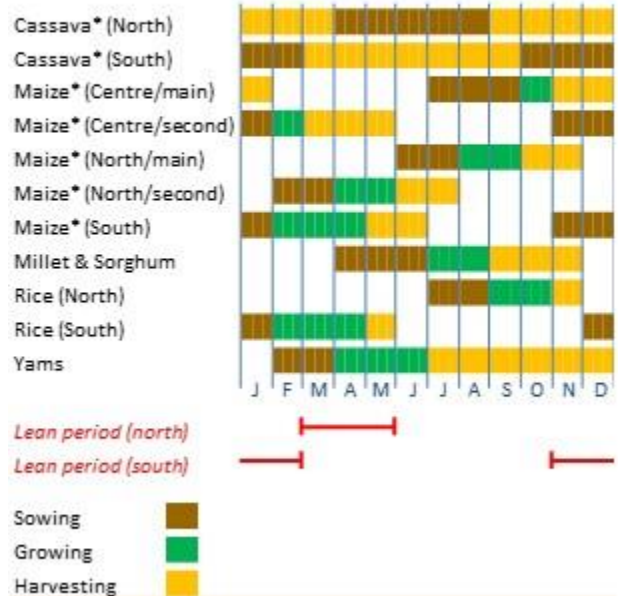
Inflation spiked in 2020

Since mid-March 2020, reduced cash crop exports, due to low demand by importing countries and the slowdown of trade flows due to COVID-19, resulted in a significant decrease of foreign exchange earnings, causing the depreciation of the Franc Congolais and triggering price increases. As a result, the average annual inflation, which amounted to about 5 percent in 2019, spiked to 17 percent in 2020. According to the International Monetary Fund, in 2021, inflation is expected to decline, but to remain high, at about 8 percent.

Democratic Republic of the Congo

Crop Calendar

(*major foodcrop)



Source: FAO/GIEWS.

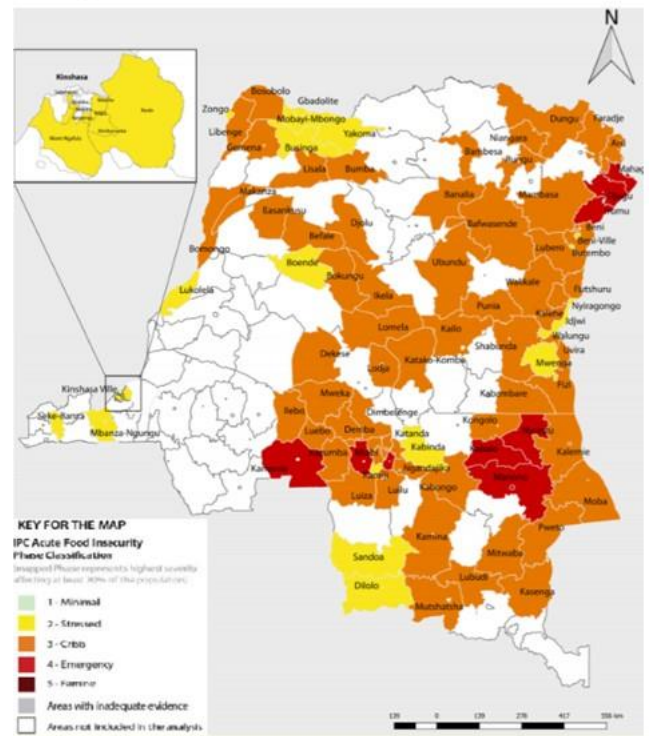
About 19.6 million people estimated severely food insecure in early 2021

According to the latest IPC analysis, carried out in August 2020, 19.6 million people were projected to be severely food insecure during the first semester of 2021, 10 percent below the high figure estimated for the July-December 2020 period. The decline is mainly attributable to a modest recovery of the economic activity and the improved food availability in this period of the year due to the harvest of secondary maize crops in central and northern areas, and rice and maize outputs in the uni-modal southern areas. However, shortages of food supplies are likely to occur in some markets where local crop production has been disrupted by pandemic-related movement restrictions and insecurity, especially in Kasai, Ituri, North Kivu, South Kivu and Tanganyika provinces. Despite the overall improvement, the food security situation remains dire, with about 30 percent of the analyzed population estimated to be still severely food insecure (IPC Phase 3 or above). Ongoing violence in North Kivu, South Kivu, Ituri, Tanganyika and Maniema provinces continued to disrupt livelihoods and displace large populations. In addition, fighting in neighbouring Central African Republic resulted in an influx of about 92 000 refugees into the northern provinces of North Ubangi, South Ubangi and Bas Uele in early 2021.

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Democratic Republic of the Congo - Integrated food security Phase Classification (IPC)

January-June 2021





GIEWS Country Brief

The Democratic Republic of the Congo

Reference Date: 21-September-2020

FOOD SECURITY SNAPSHOT

- Crop production expected below average in 2020 due to floods, pests, conflict and COVID-19 prevention measures
- Food prices increased sharply between April and July 2020
- About 21.8 million people estimated severely food insecure until end of year

Crop production expected below-average in 2020 due to floods, pests, conflict and COVID-19 prevention measures

In northern Equatorial and Oriental provinces, harvesting of the 2020 main maize crop is expected to begin in October. Production prospects are favourable as overall adequate and well-distributed precipitation during the season resulted in generally good crop conditions.

In central provinces, planting of the 2020 main season maize crops started in July under favourable weather conditions, except in the eastern parts, where heavy rains in mid-April and mid-September caused localized flooding, disrupting land preparation and planting activities. Floods affected particularly Uvira and Fizi territories (South Kivu Province), but also Kalemie territory (Tanganika Province) and Djugu and Mahagi territories (Ituri Province). In addition, an escalation of violence in eastern provinces since June 2020 resulted in the displacement of about 367 000 people, hampering agricultural operations. Activities were disrupted particularly in some areas such as Djugu, Irumu, Mambassa and Mahagi territories (Ituri Province), Beni territory (North Kivu Province) and Nyunzu territory (Kalemie Province), resulting in localized reduced crop production.

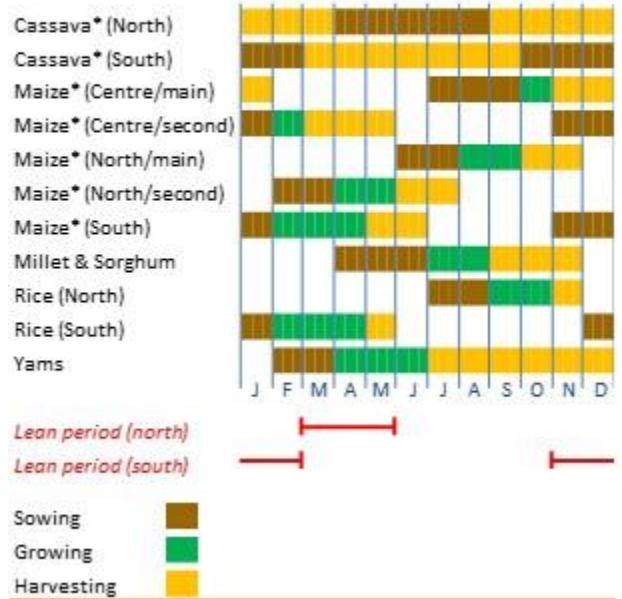
In the southernmost uni-modal rainfall areas, harvesting of the 2020 maize crops finalized in June and the output is estimated at below-average levels, mainly due to Fall Armyworm infestations.

Persisting conflicts in eastern areas, population displacements and movement restrictions related to COVID-19 prevention measures continue limiting farmers' access to crop growing areas and agricultural inputs. These factors, coupled with the

Democratic Republic of the Congo

Crop Calendar

(*major foodcrop)



Source: FAO/GIEWS.

impact of pests and floods on yields, are anticipated to result in a below-average agricultural output in 2020.

Food prices increased sharply between April and July 2020

Prices of imported food commodities strongly increased between April and July 2020. Reduced cash crop exports, due to low demand by importing countries and the slowdown of trade flows due to COVID-19, resulted in the decrease of foreign exchange earnings, causing the depreciation of the Franc Congolais and triggering the increase in prices. In July, maize prices in Kinshasa were reported to be nearly 80 percent higher than their levels in February 2020.

About 21.8 million people estimated severely food insecure until end of year

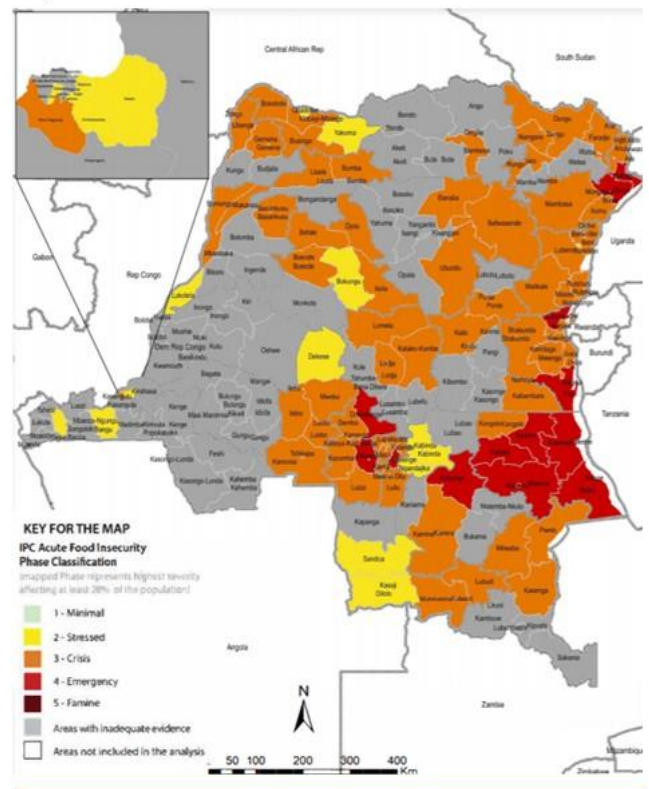
The ongoing conflict continues to be the major cause of food insecurity. It resulted in massive population displacements, particularly in eastern and southern areas, leading to widespread disruption of agricultural and marketing activities, with a severe negative impact on food availability and access. In addition, despite the end of the state of emergency on 22 July and the easing of some COVID-19 restrictive measures, the limitation of people movements in the country continues to have adverse effects on households' livelihoods. The pandemic also had a severe impact on the economy and, in particular, on the informal sector, which employs more than 70 percent of the households. The loss of income for informal workers, the unavailability of sufficient Government social protection measures and the high level of prices drastically reduced households' access to food in the third quarter of 2020.

According to the latest IPC analysis carried out in July 2020, about 21.8 million people (over 30 percent of the analyzed population), are estimated to be severely food insecure (IPC Phase 3 or above) during the July-December 2020 period. This figure is 60 percent above the figure projected in June 2019, which obviously did not consider the COVID-19 pandemic. The largest number of severely food insecure people is located in areas with a high concentration of Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) and refugees, including the eastern provinces of Ituri, North Kivu and South Kivu.

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Democratic Republic of the Congo - Integrated food security Phase Classification (IPC)

July-December 2020





GIEWS Country Brief

The Democratic Republic of the Congo

Reference Date: 12-May-2020

FOOD SECURITY SNAPSHOT

- Overall favourable weather conditions for 2020 secondary season maize crops
- Below-average 2019 harvest estimated due to floods, pests and conflict
- Low market supplies and high demand put upward pressure on food prices
- Persisting civil conflict continues to severely affect food security

Overall favourable weather conditions for 2020 secondary season maize crops

In northern Equatorial and Oriental provinces, planting of the 2020 secondary season maize crop, to be harvested from June, finalized in March and precipitation amounts have mostly been near the average levels. In these areas, planting of the 2020 main season maize is expected to begin in June.

In central provinces, harvesting of the 2020 secondary season maize crops is ongoing under overall favourable weather conditions. Heavy rains in mid-April caused localized flooding in South Kivu Province, resulting in damage to standing crops. In Maniema Province, an escalation of violence since February 2020 resulted in the displacement of about 47 000 people and the consequent disruption, in some areas, of agricultural operations, including harvesting of the secondary season maize and land preparation of the main season maize crops to be planted from July.

In the uni-modal southeastern provinces of Tanganyika, Haut Lomami and Haut Katanga, heavy rains in the first quarter of 2020 resulted in flooding, which triggered the early harvest of cassava crops and damaged or washed away other basic food staple crops.

According to remote sensing data, crop conditions in mid-April were favourable across the country (see ASI map).

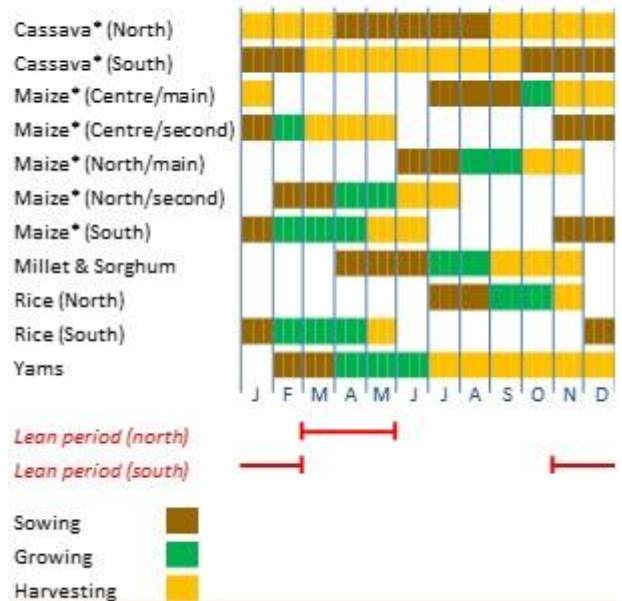
Below-average 2019 harvest estimated due to floods, pests and conflict

Harvesting of the 2019 cereal crops finalized last November in northern and southern provinces, while in central provinces it completed in January 2020. Although weather conditions were overall conducive for crop growth, the 2019 cereal production is

Democratic Republic of the Congo

Crop Calendar

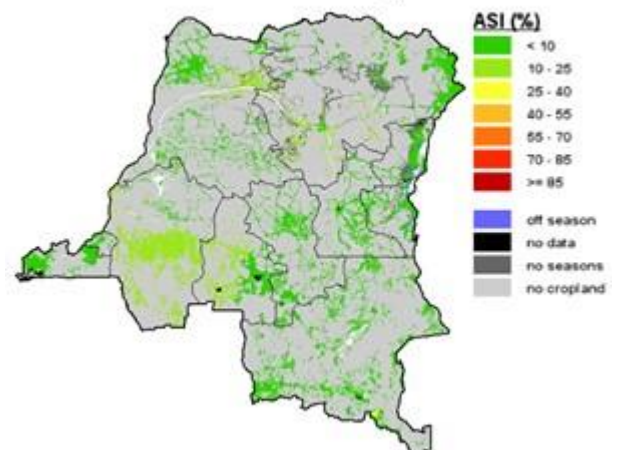
(*major foodcrop)



Source: FAO/GIEWS.

Agricultural Stress Index (ASI)

from start of season 1 to Dekad 2, April 2020



Source: FAO/GIEWS Earth Observation System.

estimated at a slightly below-average level due to Fall Armyworm infestations, floods and conflict in eastern areas of the country, particularly in Kasai, North Kivu, South Kivu, Ituri and Tanganyika provinces, which continued to disrupt agricultural activities.

Low market supplies and high demand put upward pressure on food prices

Staple foods prices increased steeply between December 2019 and February 2020, mostly due to a low supply and high demand following the reduced harvests. For instance, in Bunia (located in the Ituri Province), the price of green beans increased from CDF 1 350 (USD 0.8) to CDF 2 000 (USD 1.2) per kg. Prices of cereals, mainly of maize flour, were reported to be particularly high in February in (former) Katanga Province and parts of Kasai Province, due to a below-average local production, high import costs and reduced imports from Zambia, where the 2019 harvest was well below average. Floods in the southern provinces of Tanganyika, Haut Lomami and Haut Katanga triggered price increases for cassava and other basic food staples in the first quarter of 2020. Further price rises were registered between March and April, as commodity trade flows were delayed and impaired due to border controls and limitations to people's movements, in the framework of measures put in place by the Government to contain the spread of COVID-19 (see Box below).

Persisting civil conflict continues to severely affect food security

The ongoing conflict continues to be the major cause of food insecurity. It resulted in massive population displacements, particularly in eastern and southern areas, leading to the widespread disruption of agricultural and marketing activities, with a severe negative impact on food availability and access. In addition, in March and April, the Government introduced a range of restrictive measures to contain the COVID-19 outbreak (see Box below), which are reported to negatively impact the livelihoods and agriculture, affecting households' income in the informal sector in urban areas, hampering movements of agricultural workers, slowing down trade flows and triggering price increases.

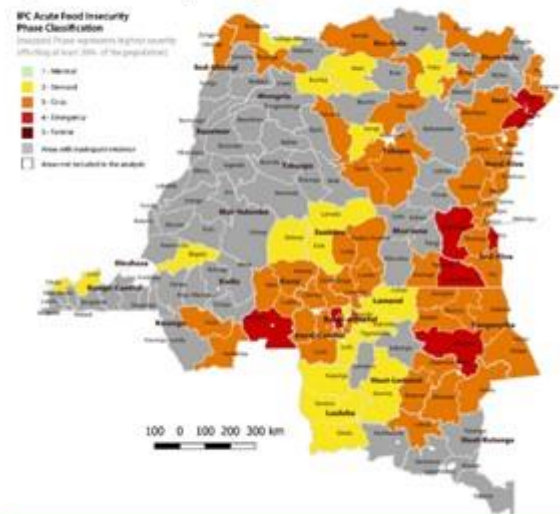
According to the latest Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC) analysis, about 13.6 million people (28 percent of the analysed population) are estimated to be severely food insecure (IPC Phase 3: "Crisis" and IPC Phase 4: "Emergency") during the January-May 2020 period. The largest number of severely food insecure people are located in the areas with a high concentration of Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) and refugees, including the eastern provinces of Ituri, North Kivu and South Kivu.

As of 31 March 2020, the country hosted about 527 000 refugees, mainly from Rwanda, the Central African Republic and South Sudan. About 50 percent of the refugees were hosted in the provinces of North Kivu and South Kivu, while the remaining 50 percent was located in the northern provinces of South-Ubangi, North-Ubangi, Bas-Uele, Haut-Uele and Ituri. In addition, about 5 million people are estimated to be internally displaced due to conflict in the country.

In the framework of the Humanitarian Response Plan 2020, FAO is assisting the crisis-affected households and supporting the establishment of income-generating activities.

Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC)

Projection January - May 2020



The main activities include:

- Restore livelihood production through the provision of agricultural inputs; improve the conservation, processing and marketing of agricultural products and promote the sustainable management of natural resources.
- Implement income-generating activities through cash for work and conditional cash transfers.
- Strengthen households' resilience through the implementation of the "Caisses de Résilience", a community-centred approach which brings together sustainable agricultural practices, improved access to credit and strengthened social cohesion through farmers' groups and women's associations.

COVID-19 and measures adopted by the Government

In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, on 25 March 2020, the Government declared a State of Emergency, closing all land and air borders, except for imported food cargo shipments, and encouraging the population to stay at home. In the following weeks, a nationwide curfew has been established, schools have been closed and access to, as well as exit from, the cities of Kinshasa, Bukavu, Goma, Bunia and Beni have been restricted.

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GIEWS Country Brief

The Democratic Republic of the Congo

Reference Date: 12-May-2020

FOOD SECURITY SNAPSHOT

- Overall favourable weather conditions for 2020 secondary season maize crops
- Below-average 2019 harvest estimated due to floods, pests and conflict
- Low market supplies and high demand put upward pressure on food prices
- Persisting civil conflict continues to severely affect food security

Overall favourable weather conditions for 2020 secondary season maize crops

In northern Equatorial and Oriental provinces, planting of the 2020 secondary season maize crop, to be harvested from June, finalized in March and precipitation amounts have mostly been near the average levels. In these areas, planting of the 2020 main season maize is expected to begin in June.

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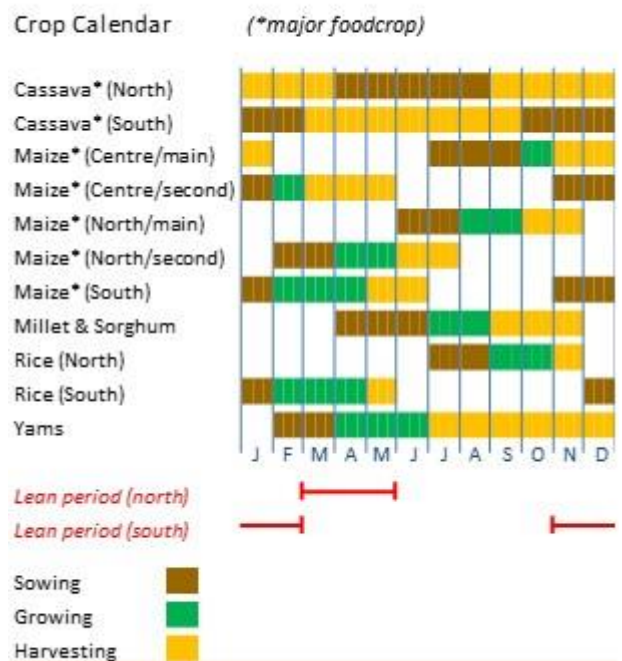
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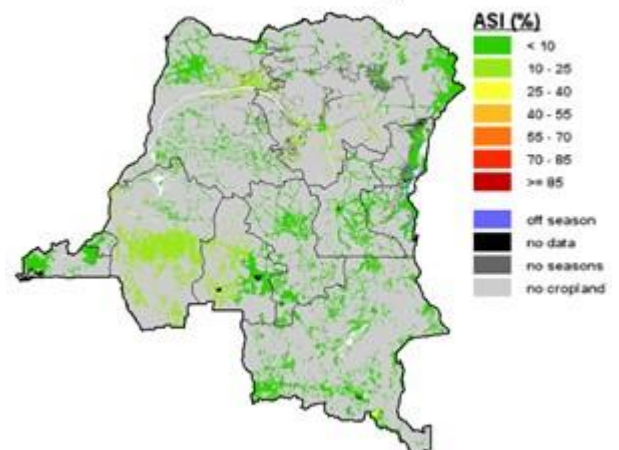
Democratic Republic of the Congo



Source: FAO/GIEWS.

Agricultural Stress Index (ASI)

from start of season 1 to Dekad 2, April 2020



Source: FAO/GIEWS Earth Observation System.

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Persisting civil conflict continues to severely affect food security

The ongoing conflict continues to be the major cause of food insecurity. It resulted in massive population displacements, particularly in eastern and southern areas, leading to the widespread disruption of agricultural and marketing activities, with a severe negative impact on food availability and access. In addition, in March and April, the Government introduced a range of restrictive measures to contain the COVID-19 outbreak (see Box below), which are reported to negatively impact the livelihoods and agriculture, affecting households' income in the informal sector in urban areas, hampering movements of agricultural workers, slowing down trade flows and triggering price increases.

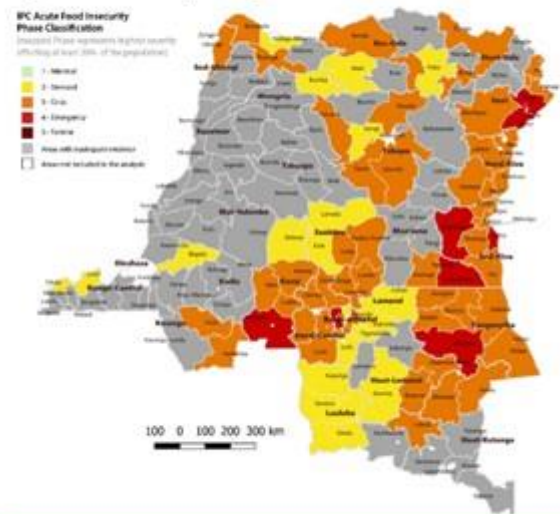
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Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC)

Projection January - May 2020



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GIEWS Country Brief

The Democratic Republic of the Congo

Reference Date: 12-May-2020

FOOD SECURITY SNAPSHOT

- Overall favourable weather conditions for 2020 secondary season maize crops
- Below-average 2019 harvest estimated due to floods, pests and conflict
- Low market supplies and high demand put upward pressure on food prices
- Persisting civil conflict continues to severely affect food security

Overall favourable weather conditions for 2020 secondary season maize crops

In northern Equatorial and Oriental provinces, planting of the 2020 secondary season maize crop, to be harvested from June, finalized in March and precipitation amounts have mostly been near the average levels. In these areas, planting of the 2020 main season maize is expected to begin in June.

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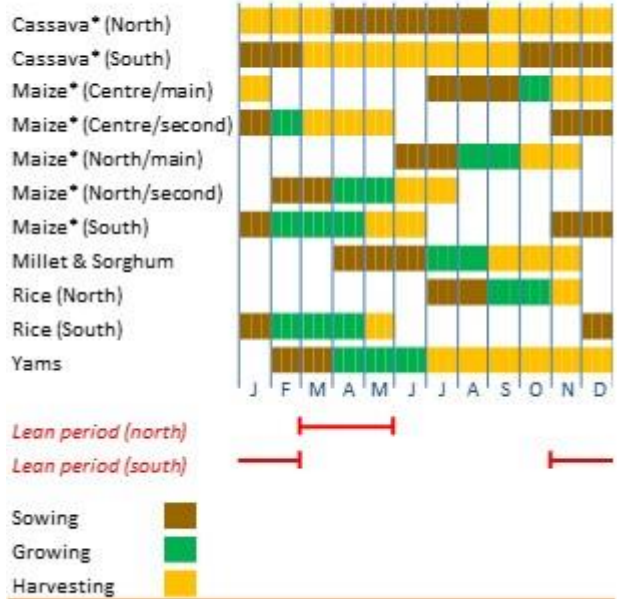
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Democratic Republic of the Congo

Crop Calendar

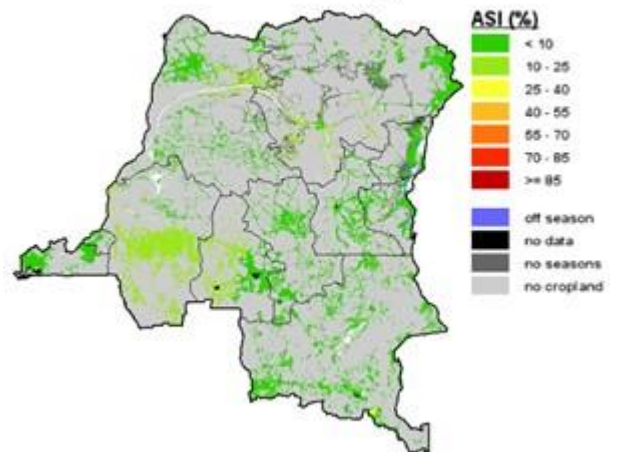
(*major foodcrop)



Source: FAO/GIEWS.

Agricultural Stress Index (ASI)

from start of season 1 to Dekad 2, April 2020



Source: FAO/GIEWS Earth Observation System.

estimated at a slightly below-average level due to Fall Armyworm infestations, floods and conflict in eastern areas of the country, particularly in Kasai, North Kivu, South Kivu, Ituri and Tanganyika provinces, which continued to disrupt agricultural activities.

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Staple foods prices increased steeply between December 2019 and February 2020, mostly due to a low supply and high demand following the reduced harvests. For instance, in Bunia (located in the Ituri Province), the price of green beans increased from CDF 1 350 (USD 0.8) to CDF 2 000 (USD 1.2) per kg. Prices of cereals, mainly of maize flour, were reported to be particularly high in February in (former) Katanga Province and parts of Kasai Province, due to a below-average local production, high import costs and reduced imports from Zambia, where the 2019 harvest was well below average. Floods in the southern provinces of Tanganyika, Haut Lomami and Haut Katanga triggered price increases for cassava and other basic food staples in the first quarter of 2020. Further price rises were registered between March and April, as commodity trade flows were delayed and impaired due to border controls and limitations to people's movements, in the framework of measures put in place by the Government to contain the spread of COVID-19 (see Box below).

Persisting civil conflict continues to severely affect food security

The ongoing conflict continues to be the major cause of food insecurity. It resulted in massive population displacements, particularly in eastern and southern areas, leading to the widespread disruption of agricultural and marketing activities, with a severe negative impact on food availability and access. In addition, in March and April, the Government introduced a range of restrictive measures to contain the COVID-19 outbreak (see Box below), which are reported to negatively impact the livelihoods and agriculture, affecting households' income in the informal sector in urban areas, hampering movements of agricultural workers, slowing down trade flows and triggering price increases.

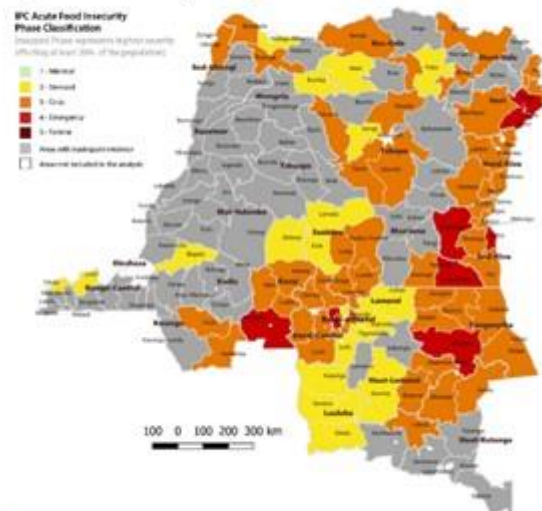
According to the latest Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC) analysis, about 13.6 million people (28 percent of the analysed population) are estimated to be severely food insecure (IPC Phase 3: "Crisis" and IPC Phase 4: "Emergency") during the January-May 2020 period. The largest number of severely food insecure people are located in the areas with a high concentration of Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) and refugees, including the eastern provinces of Ituri, North Kivu and South Kivu.

As of 31 March 2020, the country hosted about 527 000 refugees, mainly from Rwanda, the Central African Republic and South Sudan. About 50 percent of the refugees were hosted in the provinces of North Kivu and South Kivu, while the remaining 50 percent was located in the northern provinces of South-Ubangi, North-Ubangi, Bas-Uele, Haut-Uele and Ituri. In addition, about 5 million people are estimated to be internally displaced due to conflict in the country.

In the framework of the Humanitarian Response Plan 2020, FAO is assisting the crisis-affected households and supporting the establishment of income-generating activities.

Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC)

Projection January - May 2020



The main activities include:

- Restore livelihood production through the provision of agricultural inputs; improve the conservation, processing and marketing of agricultural products and promote the sustainable management of natural resources.
- Implement income-generating activities through cash for work and conditional cash transfers.
- Strengthen households' resilience through the implementation of the "Caisses de Résilience", a community-centred approach which brings together sustainable agricultural practices, improved access to credit and strengthened social cohesion through farmers' groups and women's associations.

COVID-19 and measures adopted by the Government

In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, on 25 March 2020, the Government declared a State of Emergency, closing all land and air borders, except for imported food cargo shipments, and encouraging the population to stay at home. In the following weeks, a nationwide curfew has been established, schools have been closed and access to, as well as exit from, the cities of Kinshasa, Bukavu, Goma, Bunia and Beni have been restricted.

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GIEWS Country Brief

The Democratic Republic of the Congo

Reference Date: 23-September-2019

FOOD SECURITY SNAPSHOT

- **Below-average 2019 harvest expected due to floods, pests and conflict**
- **Low market supplies and weak local currency put upward pressure on food prices**
- **Persisting civil conflict continues to severely affect food security**

Below-average 2019 harvest expected due to floods, pests and conflict

In northern Equatorial and Oriental provinces, harvesting of the 2019 main season maize will start in October, while planting of the main season maize crops is about to be completed in central provinces and harvesting is expected to begin in November. In these areas, the 2019 secondary season maize harvest was concluded in July under favourable weather conditions.

In the uni-modal (former) Katanga Province in the south, the 2019 cropping season was concluded in June and planting of the 2020 maize crops is expected to start in November.

Across the country, adequate and well-distributed precipitation during most of the season benefited crops. However, localized heavy rains, particularly in the agro-pastoral mountains of South Kivu Province, resulted in flooding and damage to crops.

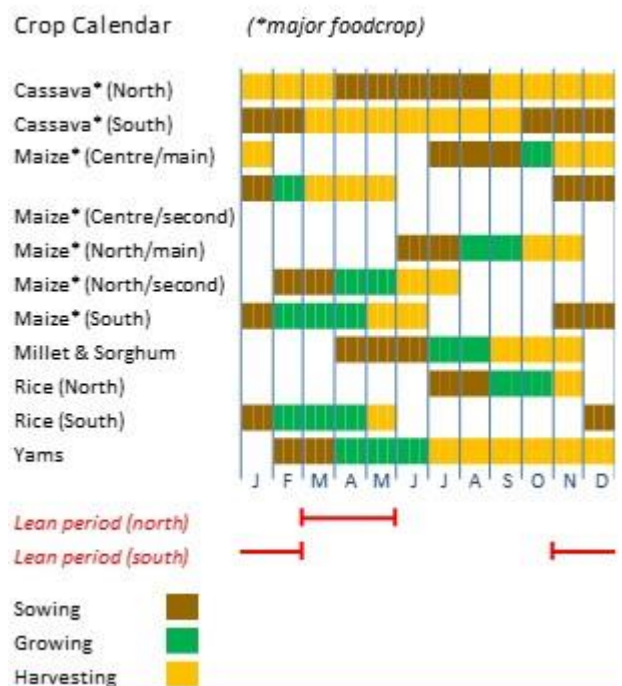
Significant crop losses were reported throughout the country due to infestations of Fall Armyworm, particularly in maize-growing regions. Furthermore, the ongoing conflicts in Kasai, North Kivu, South Kivu, Ituri and Tanganyika provinces continue to disrupt agricultural activities, including planting.

Despite generally favourable rainfall amounts, the 2019 cereal output is expected slightly below average due to the impact of floods, pests and conflict.

Low market supplies and weak local currency put upward pressure on food prices

Inflation decelerated during the last three years and, in 2019, it is forecast to decline further at about 8.4 percent, 20 percentage points below the level registered in 2018 and about one-fifth of the rate recorded in 2017. Despite the slowdown in price increases, the

Democratic Republic of the Congo



Source: FAO/GIEWS.

cost of key cereal products still remains high. Prices increased steeply between June and July 2019, mostly due to limited supplies prior to the main harvest period and a weak local currency. Prices rose particularly in the southeastern parts of the country. For instance, in the cities of Goma (located in the North Kivu Province) and Kananga (Kasai Occidental Province), prices of maize flour increased by more than 20 and 15 percent, respectively, between June and July 2019. Prices of imported rice also rose in the cities of Uvira (South Kivu Province) and Kananga, by about 10 and 15 percent month on month, respectively.

Due to the estimated below average secondary season harvests, which resulted in limited supplies available in the markets, the lean season has started one month earlier than usual: in August in the north and central eastern provinces, and in September in the south eastern provinces.

Persisting civil conflict continues to severely affect food security

Ongoing insecurity continues to cause massive population displacements in eastern and southern areas, leading to widespread disruption of agricultural and marketing activities, with a severe negative impact on food availability and access.

The latest Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC), valid for the period from July to December 2019 and covering 109 of the 145 territories of the country, estimated that about 16 million people (26 percent of the analyzed population) are severely food insecure (IPC Phase 3: “Crisis” and IPC Phase 4: “Emergency”). The provinces with the largest number of severely food insecure people are Ituri, Kasai, Kasai Central, North Kivu, South Kivu and Tanganika. In these areas, most households face serious food access constraints and the dietary diversity has drastically diminished. Since late 2014, animal protein in-take fell sharply and cassava substituted the more nutritious cereal and vegetable staples.

As of 31 May 2019, the country hosted about 537 000 refugees. About 217 000 came from Rwanda, 173 000 from the Central African Republic, 101 000 from South Sudan and 45 000 from Burundi. About 50 percent of refugees were hosted in the provinces of North Kivu and South Kivu, while the remaining 50 percent was located in the northern provinces of South-Ubangi, North-Ubangi, Bas-Uele, Haut-Uele and Ituri.

In addition, the Ebola virus disease continues to be a growing and serious concern since its first outbreak in August 2018 and, as of 15 September 2019, the WHO reported that a total of 3 129 people have been affected, of which 2 096 have died.

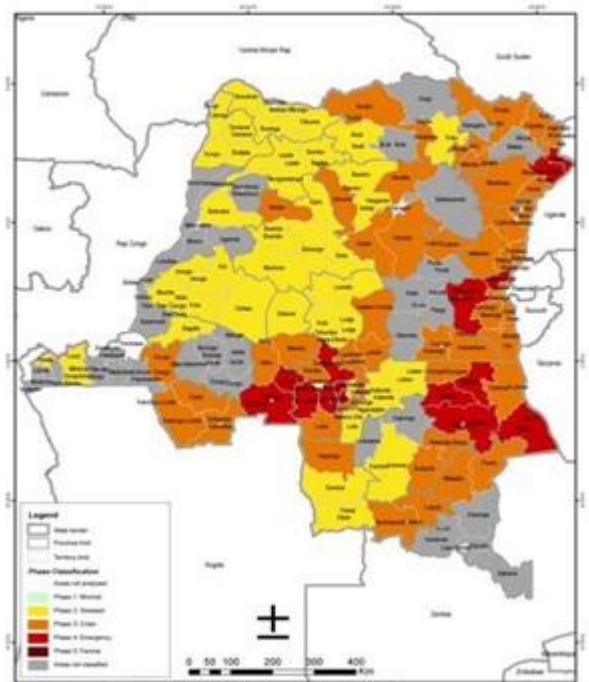
In the framework of the Humanitarian Response Plan 2017-2019, FAO assists the crisis-affected households and supports the establishment of income-generating activities.

The main activities include:

- Restore livelihood production 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

Democratic Republic of the Congo

Integrated Food Security Phase Classification - August 2019



through livelihood activities (such as training, seed multiplication, cash-based transfers, vegetable and crop production, small livestock).

- Implement income-generating activities through cash for work and conditional cash transfers, especially for women and farmer organizations.
- Strengthen households' resilience through the implementation of the "Caisses de Résilience", a community-centred approach which brings together sustainable agricultural practices, improved access to credit and strengthened social cohesion through farmers' groups and women's associations.

As of July 2019, FAO reached 1.1 million people, which were provided in total with almost 4 000 kg of cereal and vegetable seeds, and 186 000 agricultural kits. These allowed beneficiaries to cultivate about 73 000 hectares of land and produce 30 000 tonnes of food for an estimated 161 million meals. In addition, USD 2.1 million were transferred to beneficiaries through "Caisses de Résilience" activities.

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GIEWS Country Brief

The Democratic Republic of the Congo

Reference Date: 15-February-2019

FOOD SECURITY SNAPSHOT

- **Below-average 2018 crop production due to ongoing conflict and pest outbreaks**
- **Inflation expected to fall in 2019, but still remains relatively high**
- **Food prices generally at high levels driven by limited supplies**
- **Food security situation remains dire particularly in regions of Kasai, Tanganyika and in eastern parts of country**

Below-average harvest expected due to ongoing conflict and pest outbreaks

In northern and central regions, the harvest of the main season maize crops was completed in January, while in southern provinces it is expected to finalize at the end of February. Although crops benefitted from adequate rains during the season in the main producing areas, the ongoing conflict in the Kasai, North Kivu, South Kivu, Ituri and Tanganyika regions continued to disrupt agricultural activities and limited farmers' access to crop growing areas. Moreover, Fall Armyworm infestations throughout the country have caused significant crop damage and production losses, particularly in maize-growing regions. As a result, aggregate production of the 2018 crop production is expected below the near average level of 2017.

Low market supplies put upward pressure on food prices

The ongoing political strife has resulted in the local currency depreciating by more than 100 percent since 2015. The weak currency is putting upward pressure on domestic food supplies due to reduced imports from neighbouring countries. Moreover, imported inflationary pressure has contributed to higher food prices and diminishing of households' purchasing power.

In recent months, prices have increased in several parts of the country, particularly in the southeastern part of the country. The upward pressure on the prices of maize is due to limited supplies available in the markets owing to the recent below-average harvests. Moreover, import restrictions from Zambia and the United Republic of Tanzania have also impacted availability in many local markets.



Food security situation remains dire due to persisting conflict

Ongoing insecurity continues to cause widespread disruption of agricultural and marketing activities as well as exacerbated the massive displacements, with a severe negative impact on both food availability and access. However, since December 2018, there has been a relative improvement in the security situation, allowing for the population to return, particularly in the Kasai Region and Tanganyika Province.

The total IDP caseload in the country is estimated at 4.5 million. Most IDPs face extremely limited access to livelihoods. A significant portion of them live with host communities, whose limited resources are put under additional stress with the high risk to fall into unsustainable coping mechanisms and livelihood strategies. The country also hosts about 535 000 refugees from Burundi, Central African Republic, Rwanda and South Sudan.

Most households in North Kivu, South Kivu, Tanganyika, Ituri, Kasai, Central Kasai and Ecuador regions face serious food access constraints. The dietary diversity has drastically diminished since late 2014 by the substitution of more nutritious cereal and vegetable staples with cassava and the sharp reduction of animal proteins intake. On 1 August 2018, the country declared the tenth outbreak of Ebola Virus Disease (EVD) in 40 years and, as of end-January 2019, about 698 cases have been confirmed.

According to the latest Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC), valid for the period from August 2018 to June 2019, about 13.1 million people are estimated to be in need of urgent assistance (IPC Phase 3: "Crisis" and IPC Phase 4: "Emergency"). This is about 70 percent more than in the previous IPC. The most severely food insecure people continue to be located in Ituri, North Kivu, Kasai and Tanganyika regions due to the lingering effects of persisting conflict.

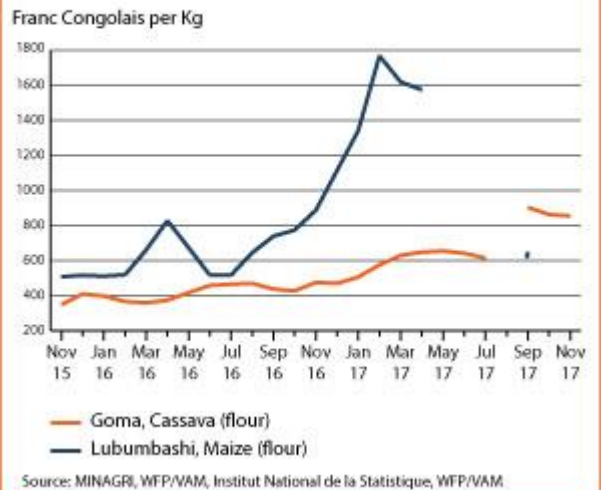
In the framework of the 2017-2019 Humanitarian Action Plan, FAO has allocated about USD 7.4 million to assist 2.1 million people (about 350 000 households), mainly residing in North Kivu, South Kivu, Ituri, Haut Uélé, Maniema, Tanganyika, Bas Uélé, North Ubangi and South Ubangi provinces.

The main activities include:

- Support to food production through agricultural, fishing and livestock-rearing input distributions.
- Cash-for-work activities.
- Promotion of income-generating activities, particularly for vulnerable women.
- Strengthening households' resilience through the implementation of the "Caisses de Résilience", a community-centred approach which brings together sustainable agricultural practices, improved access to credit and strengthened social cohesion through farmers' groups and women's associations.

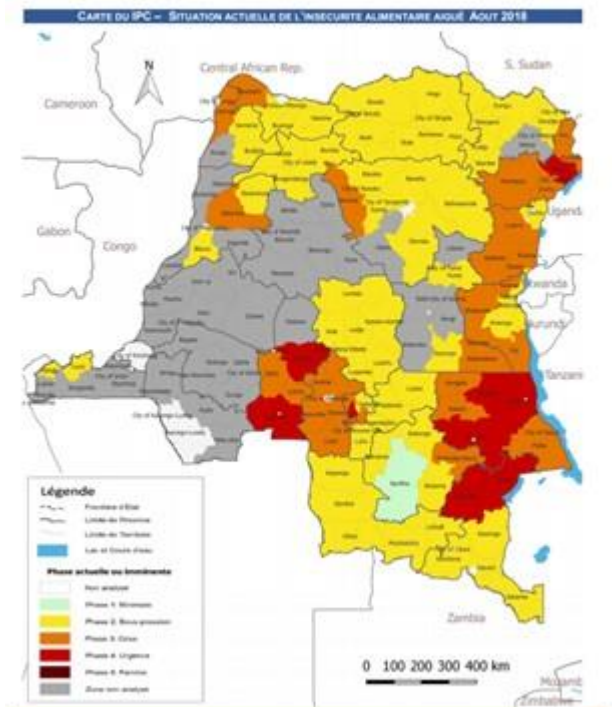
Disclaimer: The designations employed and the presentation of material in this information product do not imply the expression of any opinion whatsoever on the part of FAO concerning the legal status of any country, territory, city or area or of its authorities, or concerning the delimitation of its frontiers or boundaries.

Democratic Republic of the Congo Retail prices of cassava (flour) and Maize (flour)



Democratic Republic of the Congo

Integrated Food Security Phase Classification - August 2018





GIEWS Country Brief The Democratic Republic of the Congo

Reference Date: 12-November-2018

FOOD SECURITY SNAPSHOT

- Below average 2018 season crops due to ongoing conflict, floods and infestations of Fall Armyworm
- Inflation rates expected to fall in 2018 but will remain relatively high
- Food prices generally at high levels driven by limited supplies
- Food security situation continues to deteriorate in regions of Kasai, Tanganyika and in eastern parts of country

Below average 2018 season crops due to floods, pests and conflict

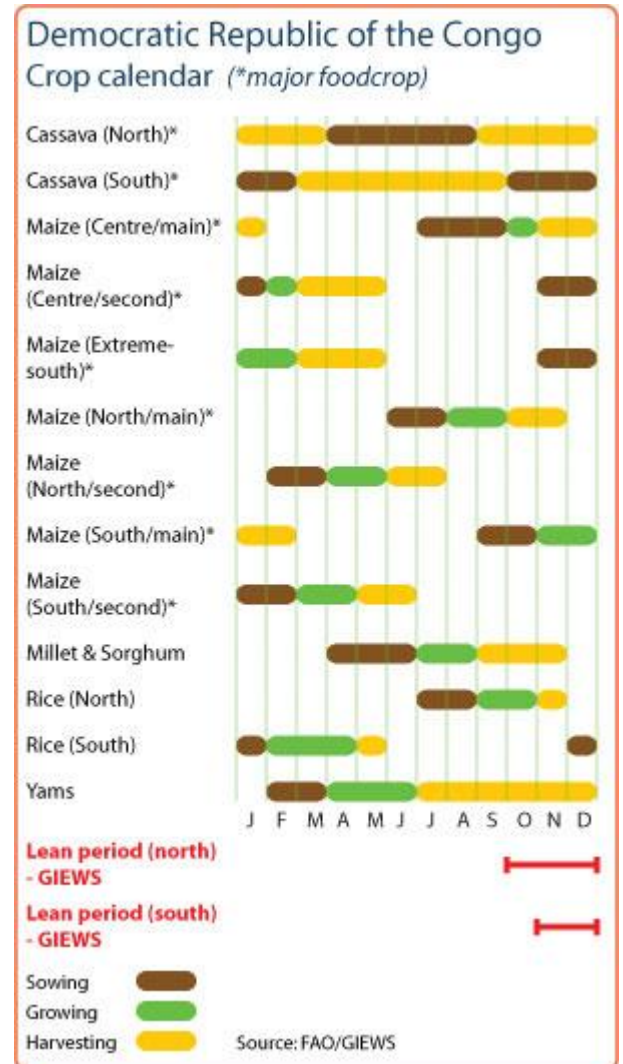
Harvesting of the main 2018 maize crop is underway in northern and central areas, while crops in southern regions are still at the vegetative stage and will be harvested early next year. Overall, seasonal cumulative rainfall amounts were above average. The heavy rainfall, particularly in North Kivu, South Kivu and Tanganyika regions, resulted in localized floods and consequent damage of crops.

Despite the overall favourable weather conditions, aggregate production of the 2018 season crops is expected at below average levels due to ongoing conflicts in the Kasai, North Kivu, South Kivu, Ituri and Tanganyika regions which continued to disrupt agricultural activities and limited the available crop-growing areas. Moreover, infestations of Fall Armyworm throughout the country have caused significant crop damage and production losses particularly in maize-growing regions. According to preliminary estimates, national maize production in 2018 is estimated to fall significantly compared to the near average 2017 levels.

High inflation and low market supply continue to hinder food access

In 2018, inflation is forecast at about 23 percent, well below the 42 percent registered in 2017, but still relatively high due to high Government spending combined with declining export revenues owing to low international prices of the mining sector's exported commodities.

The lean season had an early onset following depleted stocks as a result of the reduced harvests of the last two agricultural seasons. The low levels of supplies available on the markets has



consequently resulted in generalized increases of prices of major food commodities.

Civil insecurity continues to negatively impact food security conditions

In June 2018, inter-ethnic clashes have resulted in new pockets of insecurity in South Kivu resulting in the displacement of about 76 000 people. Moreover, the escalation of the civil conflict since 2013, especially in eastern and southern areas of the country, severely disrupted the local livelihood systems and caused massive population displacements. Since September 2016, the Kasai Region is facing a major humanitarian crisis and the conflict has caused the displacement of nearly 2.4 million people. Due to a relative improvement in the security situation in the Kasai Region since late 2017, over 1.4 million refugees have returned to the country.

The total IDP caseload in the country is estimated at 4.5 million. Most IDPs lost their productive assets and face extremely limited access to livelihoods. A significant portion of them live with host communities, whose limited resources are put under additional stress with the high risk to fall into unsustainable coping mechanisms and livelihood strategies. The country also hosts more than 538 000 refugees from Burundi, Central African Republic, Rwanda and South Sudan.

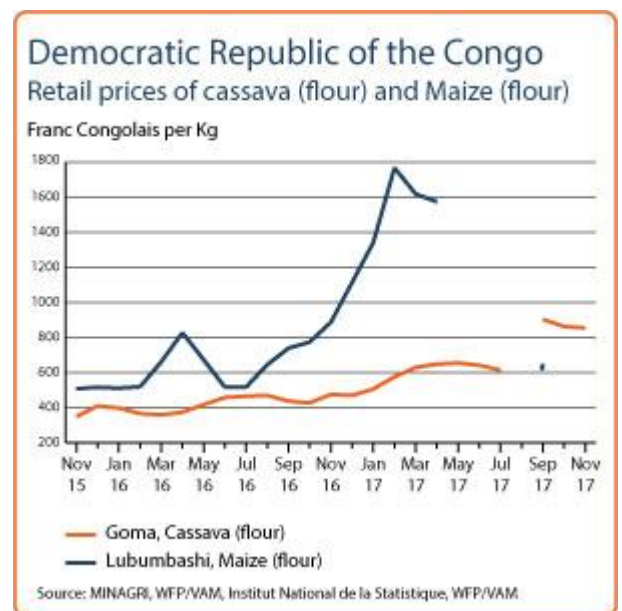
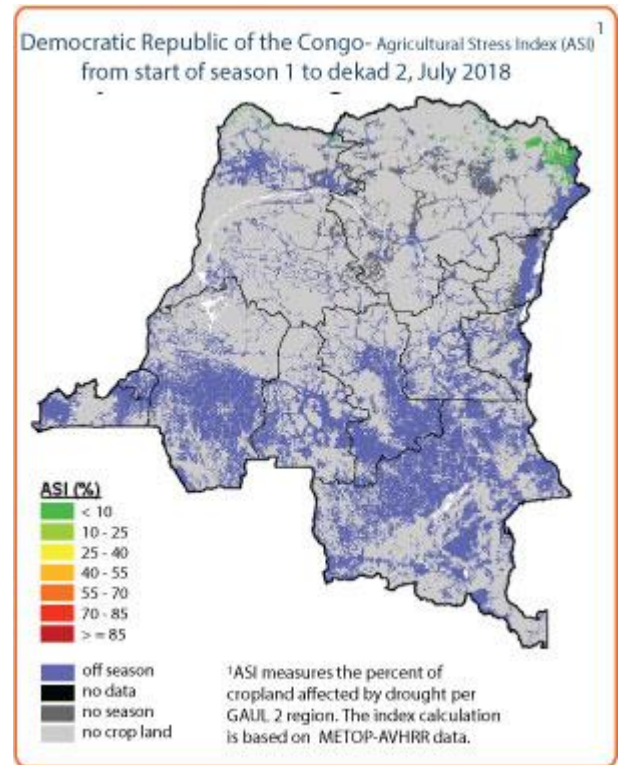
Most households in North Kivu, South Kivu, Tanganyika, Ituri, Kasai, Central Kasai and Ecuador regions are facing serious food access constraints. The quantity of food intake and the dietary diversity has also drastically diminished since late 2014 by the substitution of more nutritious cereal and vegetable staples with cassava and the sharp reduction of animal proteins intake. The widespread dietary deterioration raises serious concerns in terms of nutrition and health. On 1 August 2018, the country declared the tenth outbreak of Ebola Virus Disease (EVD) in 40 years and, as of early November 2018, about 300 cases have been confirmed.

According to preliminary results of the latest Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC), valid for the period from August 2018 to June 2019, about 13.1 million people are estimated to be in need of urgent assistance (IPC Phase 3: "Crisis" and IPC Phase 4: "Emergency"). Most of the severely food insecure people are currently located in Ituri, North Kivu, Kasai and Tanganyika regions. The rise in armed conflict in Ituri and South Kivu; the escalation of conflicts in the eastern and southern areas; as well as the humanitarian crisis in the Kasai Region are the key drivers of the deterioration of food insecurity.

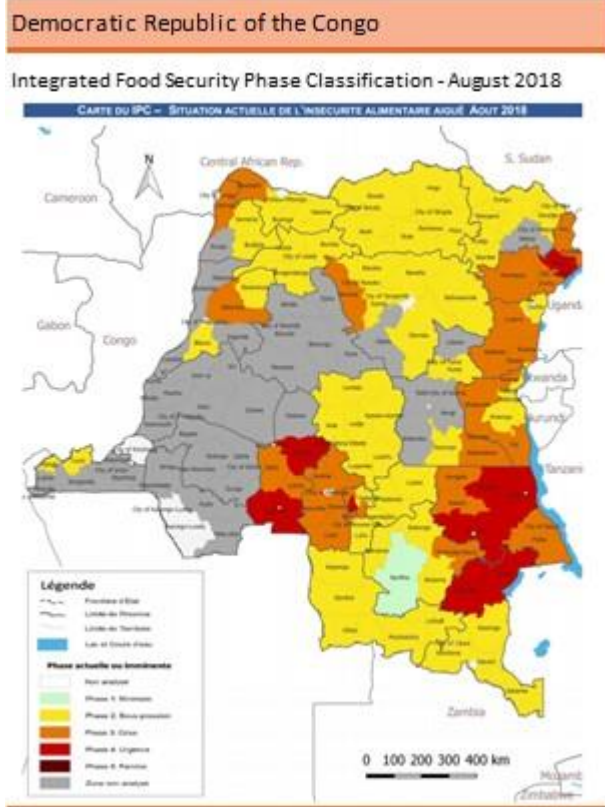
In the framework of the 2017-2019 Humanitarian Action Plan, FAO has allocated about USD 7.4 million to assist 2.1 million people (about 350 000 households), mainly residing in North Kivu, South Kivu, Ituri, Haut Uélé, Maniema, Tanganyika, Bas Uélé, North Ubangi and South Ubangi provinces.

The main activities include:

- Support to food production through agricultural, fishing and livestock rearing input distributions.
- Cash-for-work activities.
- Promotion of income-generating activities, particularly for vulnerable women.
- Strengthening households' resilience through the



implementation of the “Caisses de Résilience”, a community-centred approach which brings together sustainable agricultural practices, improved access to credit and strengthened social cohesion through farmers’ groups and women’s associations.



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GIEWS Country Brief

The Democratic Republic of the Congo

Reference Date: 08-August-2018

FOOD SECURITY SNAPSHOT

- Concerns over secondary 2018 season crops due to floods, pests and conflict in some regions
- Inflation rates expected to fall in 2018 but will remain relatively high
- Food and livestock prices generally at high levels driven by limited supplies
- Food security situation continues to deteriorate in regions of Kasai, Tanganyika and in eastern parts of country

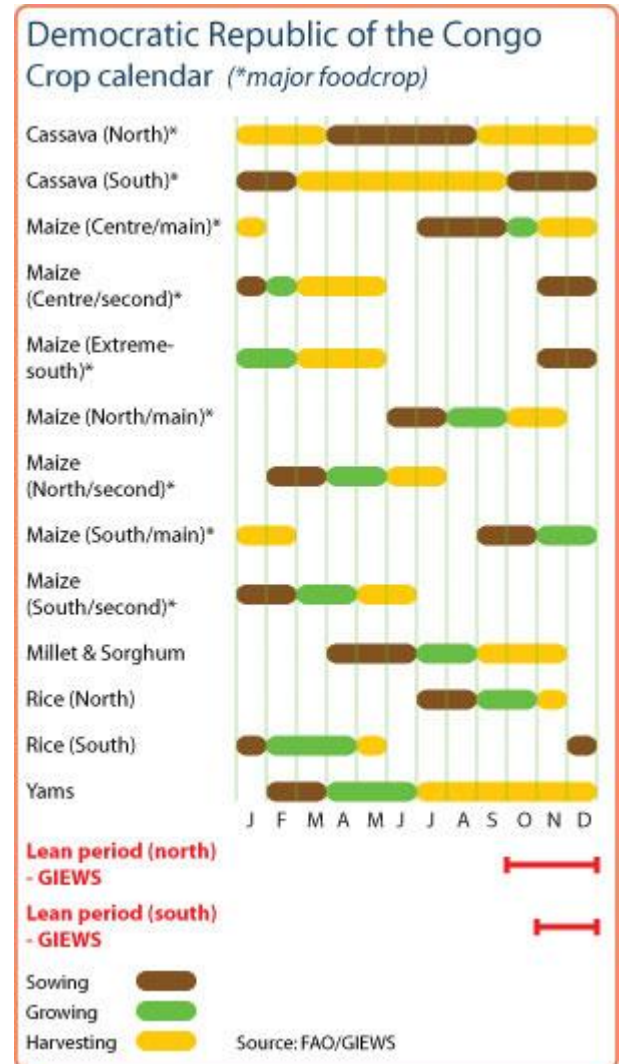
Concerns over secondary 2018 season crops due to floods, pests and conflict

In the northern bi-modal rainfall areas, harvesting of the second season maize crop was completed in July. In southern uni-modal rainfall areas, harvesting of the 2018 maize crop was concluded in May. According to remote sensing analysis, precipitation amounts in the eastern and southern parts of the country have been above average. The heavy rainfall, particularly in North Kivu, South Kivu and Tanganyika regions, resulted in flooding and consequently damaging of cropland. Weather conditions were generally favourable in the rest of the country with the exception of erratic rainfall in a few localized areas.

Infestations of Fall Armyworm throughout the country have reportedly caused significant losses particularly in maize-growing regions. Moreover, ongoing conflicts in the Kasai, North Kivu, South Kivu, Ituri and Tanganyika regions continued to disrupt agricultural activities and limited the available crop-growing areas. Overall, the floods, pests and conflict have raised concerns over the secondary 2018 season crops.

High inflation and low market supply continue to hinder food access

In 2018, inflation is forecast at about 26 percent, well below the 42 percent registered in 2017 but still relatively high due to high Government spending combined with declining export revenues owing to low international prices of the mining sector's exported commodities. The local currency has depreciated by about 45 percent since end-2016, putting upward pressure on domestic food supplies due to reduced imports from neighbouring countries. Moreover, imported inflationary pressure has contributed to higher food prices and diminishing of households' purchasing power.



In May 2018, prices of maize and cassava flour were above average in all markets, with the exception of Lubumbashi markets. The price of maize flour fell by 7 percent in the Lubumbashi markets between April and May and was over 23 percent below the five-year average. The low levels of supplies available on the markets, due to the impact of conflicts and flooding on production, is likely to put upward pressure on prices during the lean season. The lean season is expected to have an early onset at the beginning of August.

Food security situation continues to sharply deteriorate due to persisting civil conflict

The escalation of the civil conflict since 2013, especially in eastern and southern areas, severely disrupted the local livelihood systems and caused massive population displacements. Since September 2016, the Kasai Region is facing a major humanitarian crisis and the conflict has caused the displacement of nearly 2.4 million people. Due to the relative improvement in the security situation in the Kasai Region, late last year, more than 1.4 million people returned to the country but about 900 000 are still internally displaced.

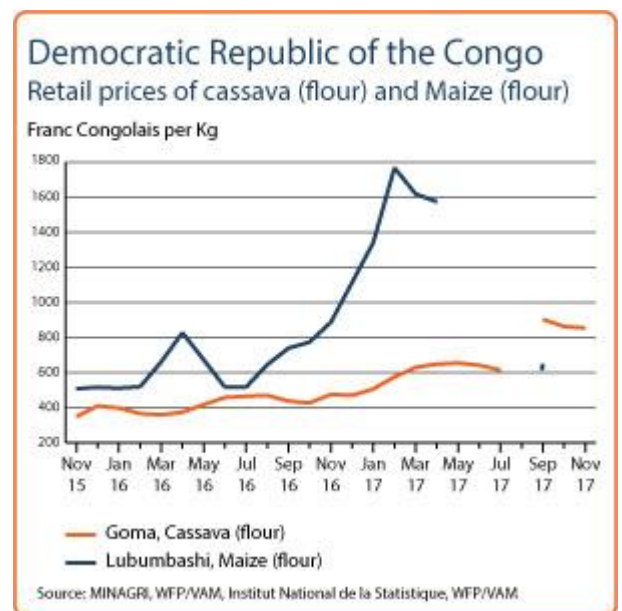
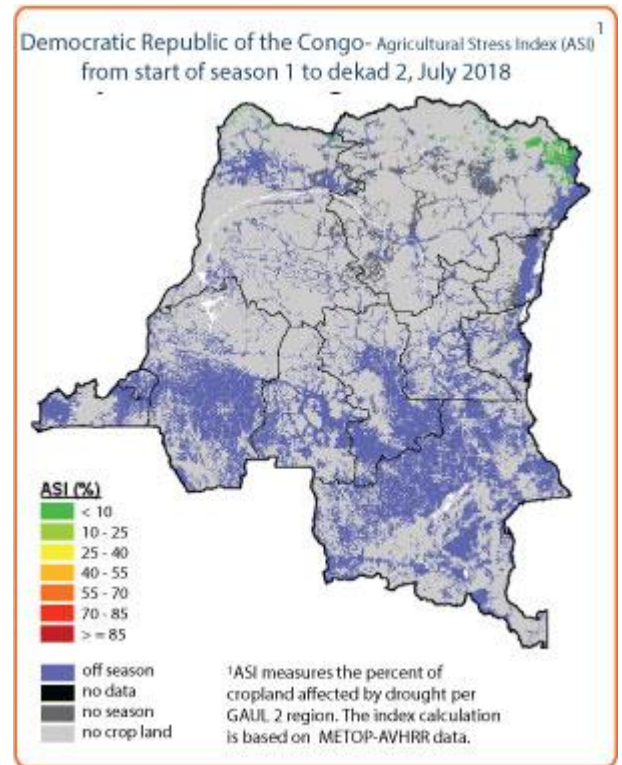
The total IDP caseload in the country is estimated at 4.5 million. Most IDPs lost their productive assets and face extremely limited access to livelihoods. A significant portion of them are hosted by local families and communities, putting added strain on their limited resources with the high risk to further push them into unsustainable coping mechanisms and livelihood strategies. The country also hosts more than 541 000 refugees from Burundi, Central African Republic, Rwanda and South Sudan. Moreover, an outbreak of the Ebola Virus Disease (EVD) is ongoing and, as of 11 July 2018, 38 cases have been confirmed.

In the framework of the 2017-2019 Humanitarian Action Plan, FAO has allocated about USD 7.4 million to assist 2.1 million people (about 350 000 households), mainly residing in North Kivu, South Kivu, Ituri, Haut Uélé, Maniema, Tanganyika, Bas Uélé, North Ubangi and South Ubangi provinces.

The main activities include:

- Support to food production through agricultural, fishing and livestock rearing input distributions.
- Cash-for-work activities.
- Promotion of income-generating activities, particularly for vulnerable women.
- Strengthening households' resilience through the implementation of the "Caisses de Résilience", a community-centred approach which brings together sustainable agricultural practices, improved access to credit and strengthened social cohesion through farmers' groups and women's associations.

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GlEWS Country Brief

The Democratic Republic of the Congo

Reference Date: 26-February-2018

FOOD SECURITY SNAPSHOT

- Cereal production in 2017 estimated at near-average levels despite localized erratic rainfall and outbreaks of Fall Armyworms
- Inflation rates expected to increase in 2018 due to high Government spending combined with declining export revenues
- Food and livestock prices generally at high levels driven by limited supplies and market disruptions due to ongoing conflict
- Food security situation continues to deteriorate due to humanitarian crisis in Kasai Region and inter-communal conflicts in Tanganyika Region and eastern parts of country

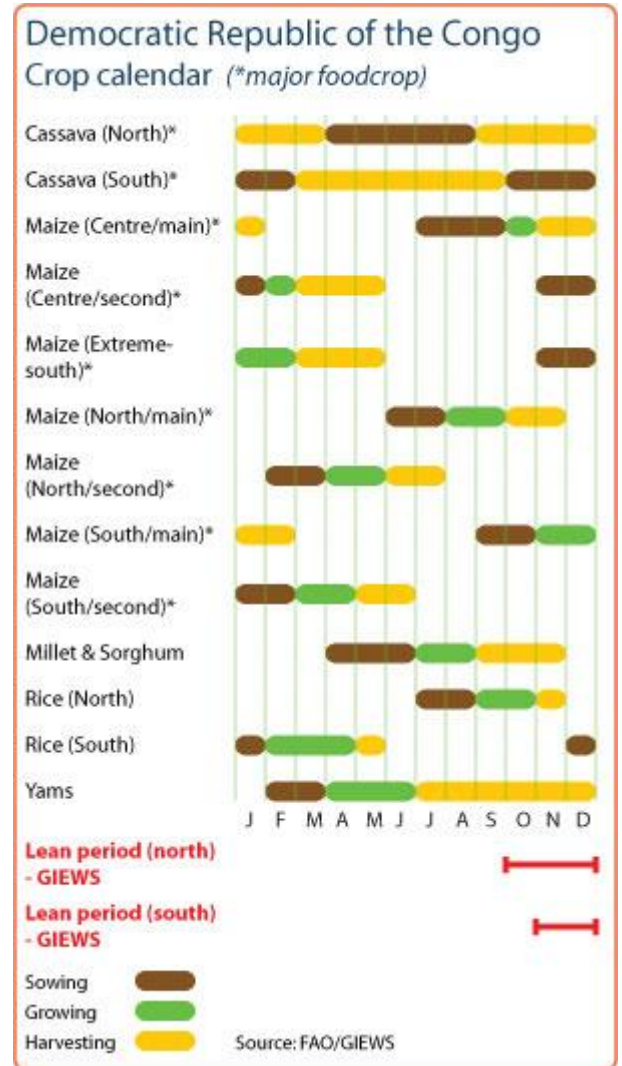
Average 2017 cereal output expected

Harvesting of the main 2017 maize crop was completed in November 2017 in northern bi-modal rainfall areas and has been recently concluded in central bi-modal rainfall areas. Overall, seasonal cumulative rainfall amounts were average, with the exception of some eastern parts of the country that experienced a few dry spells and received below-average cumulative amounts. Aggregate cereal production of the 2017 season is expected to be at about average levels despite the continuing disruption of agricultural activities and reduced planting area in conflict zones of Kasai and Tanganyika regions. Moreover, in North Kivu and Katanga regions, outbreaks of Fall Armyworms, mainly at the sowing stage, negatively affected the maize crop.

In southernmost uni-modal rainfall areas, where the rainfall pattern is similar to Southern Africa, planting of the secondary season maize crop, to be harvested from May, started in January under generally favourable weather conditions.

Hyperinflation and conflict-driven market disruptions hindered food access

Inflation surged to about 42 percent in 2017 from an estimated 18 percent in 2016 as a result of high Government spending combined with declining export revenues owing to low international prices of the mining sector's exported commodities. In 2018, inflation is expected to increase to 44 percent. The local currency depreciated significantly against the US dollar since the beginning of last year, resulting in more expensive and reduced imports from



neighbouring countries and consequent significant upward pressure on domestic food supplies and prices. This contributed significantly to the decline in the purchasing power of the poor households.

There has been an upward trend in food prices in recent months caused by the ongoing conflict in the Tanganyika Region which continues to disrupt the food and livestock markets. The countrywide, cereal prices are generally high, driven by limited supplies. In the Tanganyika Region, since July 2017, there has been a surge of dependence on cross-border flows from the United Republic of Tanzania, resulting in a sharp increase in local prices of maize and cassava.

Food security situation continues to sharply deteriorate due to persisting civil conflict

The escalation of the civil conflict since 2013, especially in eastern and southern provinces, severely disrupted the local livelihood systems and caused massive population displacements. Since September 2016, the Kasai Region is facing a major humanitarian crisis and the conflict has caused the displacement of nearly 2.4 million people. Due to the relative improvement in the security situation in the Kasai Region, as of December 2017, more than 1.4 million people returned to the country but about 900 000 are still internally displaced.

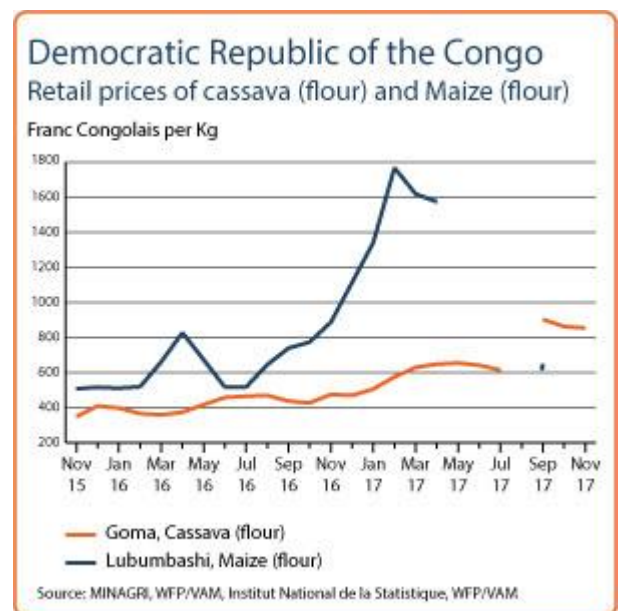
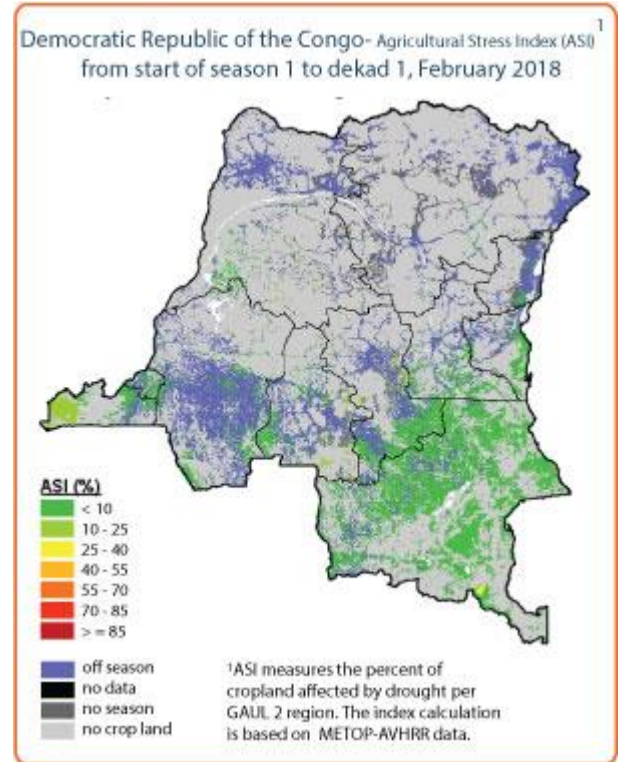
As of February 2018, the total IDP caseload in the country was estimated at 4.5 million. Most IDPs lost their productive assets and face extremely limited access to livelihoods. A significant portion of them are hosted by local families and communities, putting added strain on their limited resources with the high risk to further push them into unsustainable coping mechanisms and livelihood strategies. Moreover, as of late November 2017, the country hosts more than 500 000 refugees from Burundi, Central African Republic, Rwanda and South Sudan.

According to the latest Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC), valid for the period from June to December 2017, about 7.7 million people (11 percent of the total population) were in need of urgent assistance (IPC Phase 3: "Crisis" and IPC Phase 4: "Emergency"). The humanitarian crisis in the Kasai Region and the extension of inter-communal conflicts in the Tanganyika Region and in the eastern parts of the country are the key drivers of the deterioration of food insecurity. In addition, internal displacement and above-average malnutrition rates exacerbated the already aggravated situation and fuelled the increasing food insecurity.

In the framework of the 2017-2019 Humanitarian Action Plan, FAO is expected to assist 2.1 million people (about 350 000 households), mainly residing in North Kivu, South Kivu, Ituri, Haut Uélé, Maniema, Tanganyika, Bas Uélé, North Ubangi and South Ubangi provinces.

The main activities include:

- Support to food production through agricultural, fishing and livestock rearing input distributions.
- Cash-for-work activities.
- Promotion of income-generating activities, particularly for vulnerable women.
- Strengthening household resilience through the



implementation of the “Caisses de Résilience”, a community-centred approach which brings together sustainable agricultural practices, improved access to credit and strengthened social cohesion through farmers’ group and women’s associations.

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GIEWS Country Brief

The Democratic Republic of the Congo

Reference Date: 17-November-2017

FOOD SECURITY SNAPSHOT

- Average to below average 2017 season crops due to reduced planting area, erratic rainfall in parts and invasion of Fall Armyworms
- Inflation rates forecast to slightly increase in 2017
- Food and livestock prices at high levels driven by limited supplies and ongoing conflict which continue to disrupt markets
- Humanitarian crisis in Kasai Region and extension of inter-communal conflicts in Tanganyika Region and in eastern part of country continue to deteriorate food security situation

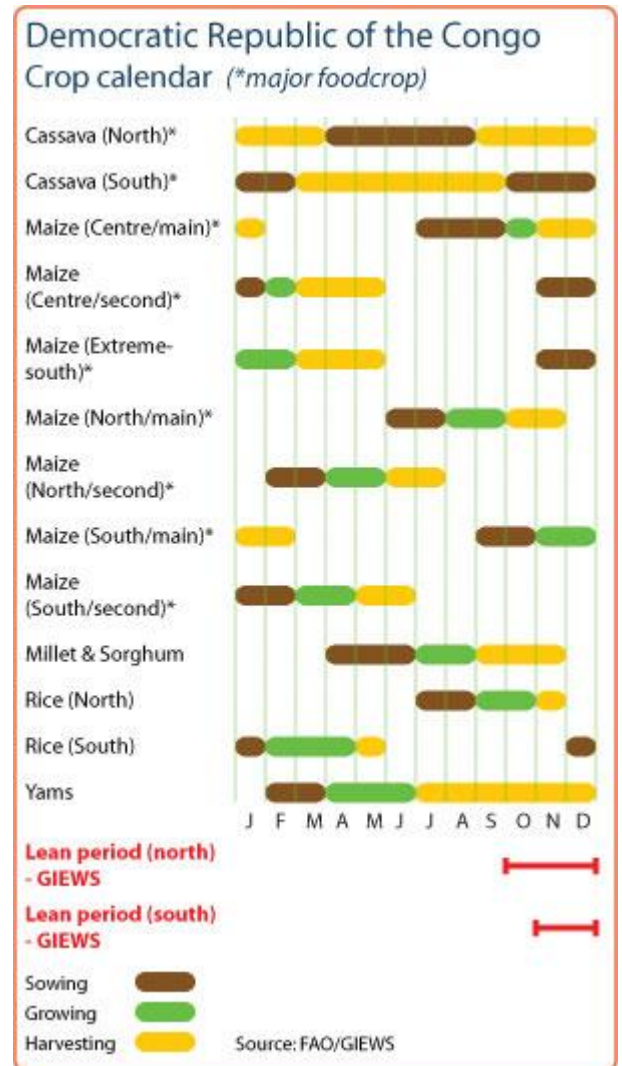
Uncertain general prospects for 2017 season crops

Harvesting of the main 2017 maize crop is underway in northern and central areas, while crops in southern regions are still at the vegetative stage and will be harvested early next year. Overall, seasonal cumulative rainfall amounts were average, with the exception of some southeastern parts of the country that experienced a few dry spells and received below average cumulative amounts. Aggregate production of the 2017 season crops is expected at average to below average level due to reduced planting area in conflict zones of Kasai and Tanganyika as well as attacks of Fall Armyworms mainly at the sowing stage of the second maize crop particularly in North Kivu and Katanga regions.

Inflation rates forecast to slightly increase in 2017, food prices remain at high levels due to disruption of markets by ongoing conflict

Inflation, which stood at 46 percent in 2009, fell to 1 percent in 2013 and remained stable at this level in 2014 and 2015 as a result of the implementation of economic reforms and tighter fiscal and monetary policies. In 2016, inflation rates are estimated to have slightly increased to 1.7 percent due to a relatively strong economic growth and a loosening fiscal policy which boosted domestic demand. In 2017, inflation rates are forecast to continue to grow to about 2.7 percent.

The local currency has depreciated significantly against the US dollar over the past months, resulting in more expensive and



reduced imports from neighbouring countries and consequent significant upward pressure on domestic food supplies and prices. This contributed to the decline in the purchasing power of poor households. As of November 2017, the Congolese franc has depreciated by about 36 percent compared to November 2016.

There has been an upward trend in food prices in recent months caused by the ongoing conflict in the Kasai and the Tanganyika regions which continue to disrupt markets for food and livestock. Countrywide, cereal prices are generally high driven by the limited supplies. In the Tanganyika Region, in the last six months, there has been a surge of dependence on cross-border flows from the United Republic of Tanzania, resulting in almost doubling the local prices of maize and cassava.

Food security situation continues to sharply deteriorate due to persisting civil conflict

The escalation of the civil conflict since 2013, especially in eastern and southern provinces, severely disrupted local livelihood systems and caused massive population displacements. Since September 2016, the Kasai Region is facing a major humanitarian crisis and the conflict has caused the displacement of about 1.4 million people. As of October 2017, the total IDP caseload in the country was estimated at 3.9 million.

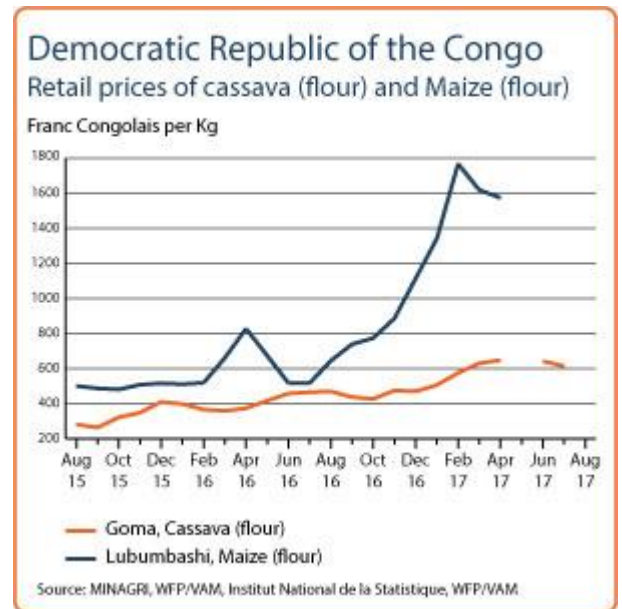
A significant portion of IDPs are hosted by local families and communities, putting added strain on their limited resources with the high risk to further push them into unsustainable coping mechanisms and livelihood strategies. Moreover, as of late June 2017, the country hosts about 102 000 refugees from the Central African Republic, 81 000 from South Sudan and 44 000 from Burundi. Most households are facing serious food access constraints. The quantity of food intake has reduced and the dietary diversity has also drastically diminished by the substitution of more nutritious cereal and vegetable staples with cassava and the sharp reduction of animal proteins intake. This widespread dietary deterioration raises serious concerns of having a dire effect in terms of nutrition and health. The food situation is particularly severe in the Kasai Region.

According to the latest Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC), valid for the period from June to December 2017, about 7.7 million people (11 percent of the total population) were in need of urgent assistance (IPC Phase 3: "Crisis" and IPC Phase 4: "Emergency"). The humanitarian crisis in the Kasai Region and the extension of inter-communal conflicts in the Tanganyika Region and in the eastern part of the country are the key drivers of the deterioration of food insecurity. In addition, internal displacement and above average malnutrition rates exacerbated the already aggravated situation and fueled the increasing food insecurity.

In the framework of the 2017-2019 Humanitarian Action Plan, FAO is expected to assist 2.1 million people (about 350 000 households), mainly residing in North-Kivu, South-Kivu, Ituri, Haut Uélé, Maniema, Tanganyika, Bas Uélé, North-Ubangi and South-Ubangi provinces.

The main activities include:

- Support to food production through agricultural, fishing and livestock rearing input distributions.
- Cash-for-work activities.



- Promotion of income-generating activities, particularly for vulnerable women.
- Strengthening household resilience through the implementation of the “Caisses de Résilience”, a community-centred approach which brings together sustainable agricultural practices, improved access to credit and strengthened social cohesion through farmers’ group and women’s associations.

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GIIEWS Country Brief

The Democratic Republic of the Congo

Reference Date: 27-June-2017

FOOD SECURITY SNAPSHOT

- Overall, favourable vegetation conditions for secondary 2017 season crops
- Inflation rates forecast to slightly increase in 2017
- Food prices at high levels in eastern and southern parts of the country
- Serious humanitarian situation in eastern and southern provinces due to persisting civil conflict

Overall, favourable vegetation conditions for secondary 2017 season crops

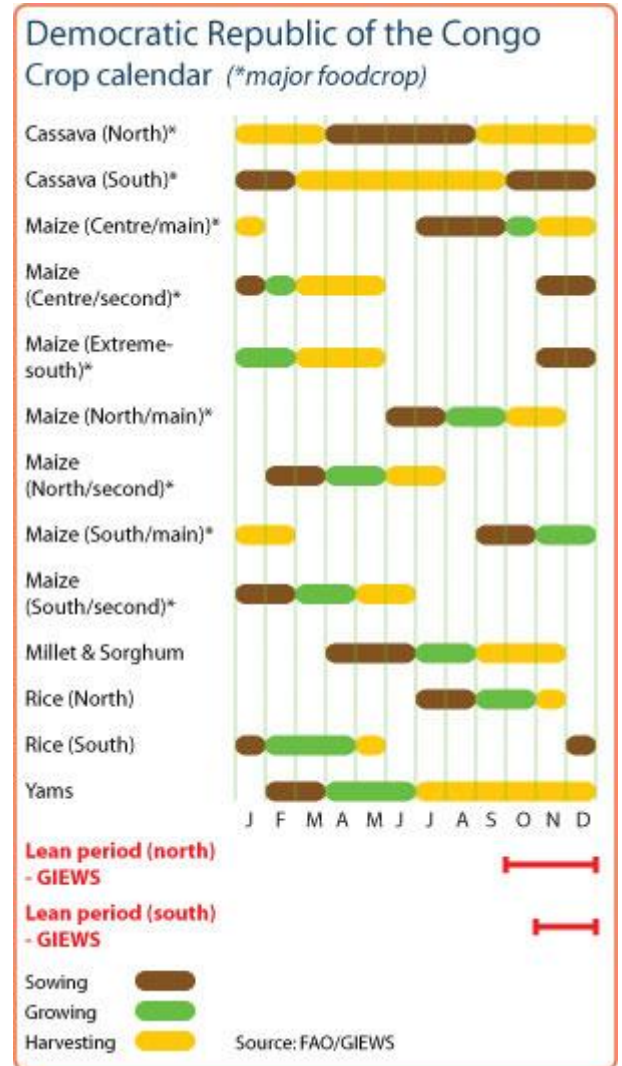
Harvesting of the second season maize crop is about to start in the northern provinces of Equateur and Oriental, while it is almost complete in the centre and in the south. Overall, rainfall was adequate and well-distributed during the cropping period resulting in favourable vegetation conditions in most cropping areas, as reported by FAO satellite-based Agricultural Stress Index (ASI).

Inflation rates forecast to slightly increase in 2017, food prices remain at high levels in eastern and southern provinces

Inflation, which stood at 46 percent in 2009, fell to 1 percent in 2013 and remained stable at this level in 2014 and 2015 as a result of the implementation of economic reforms and tighter fiscal and monetary policies. In 2016, inflation rates are estimated to have slightly increased to 1.7 percent due to a relatively strong economic growth and a loosening fiscal policy which boosted domestic demand. In 2017, inflation rates are forecast to continue to grow to about 2.7 percent.

In Goma market, located in the northeastern North-Kivu Province, prices of cassava flour, the main staple in northern and central areas, declined between August and October by 10 percent. Subsequently, prices increased by 19 percent between October and January, when they were still 38 percent higher than 12 months earlier. In March 2017, cassava prices increased by 7 percent compared to February 2017.

In Lubumbashi market, located in the southern Haut Katanga Province, prices of maize, the main staple in southern areas, have been highly volatile since early 2016. In February 2017, maize



prices peaked and were 143 percent higher than 12 months earlier, mainly due to reduced imports from neighbouring Zambia. The Zambian border was re-opened during the peak of the maize harvest resulting in an increase in supplies and downward pressure of food prices despite the continued depreciation of the local currency against the US dollar. In March 2017, maize prices decreased by 11 percent compared to February 2017.

Humanitarian situation remains serious in eastern and southern provinces due to persisting civil conflict

The escalation of the civil conflict since 2013, especially in eastern and southern provinces, severely disrupted local livelihood systems and caused massive population displacements. As of May 2017, the IDP caseload was estimated at 3.7 million, of which more than 1.3 million are in the Kasai Region.

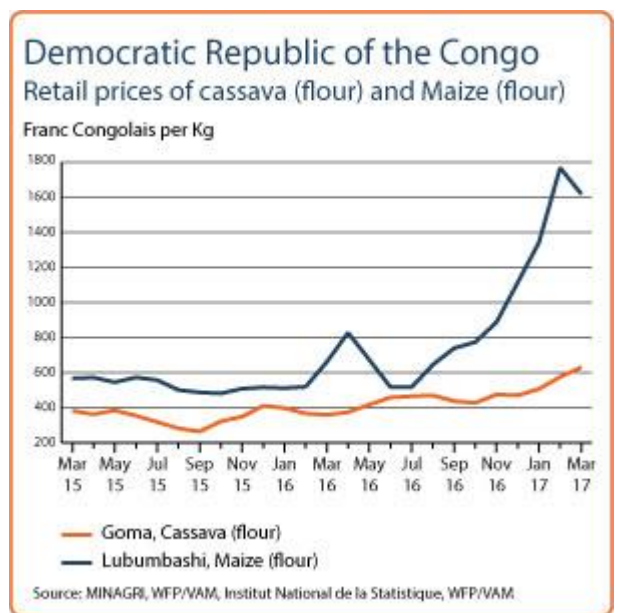
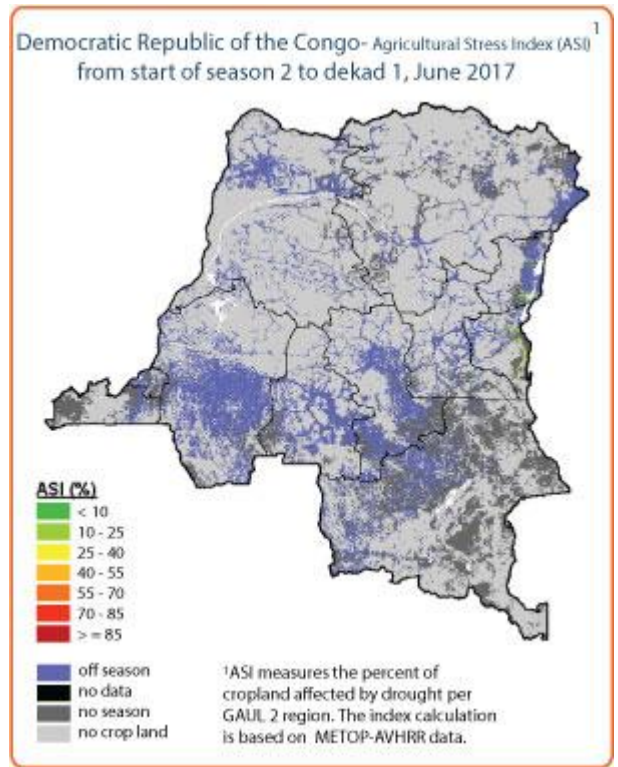
A significant portion of IDPs is hosted by local families and communities, putting added strain on their limited resources with the high risk to further push them into unsustainable coping mechanisms and livelihood strategies. Moreover, as of late April 2017, the country hosts 103 000 refugees from the Central African Republic, 71 000 from South Sudan and 37 000 from Burundi.

According to the latest available IPC analysis, conducted in June 2016, the number of people in acute food insecurity and livelihood crisis (IPC Phase 3: “Crisis” and IPC Phase 4: “Emergency”) was estimated at about 5.9 million, nearly 10 percent less than a year earlier, due to a relative improvement in the security situation in the conflict-affected Tanganyika, Sud-Kivu, Nord-Kivu, Maniema and Ituri provinces, where more than half of the total national food insecure population reside. However, armed clashes in late October-early November 2016 in the Dibaya Territory (Kasai Central Province) caused the destruction of standing crops and food stocks and affected about 100 000 individuals, thus bringing the food insecure total caseload to 6 million.

In the framework of the 2017-2019 Humanitarian Action Plan, FAO is expected to assist 2.1 million people (about 350 000 households), mainly residing in North-Kivu, South-Kivu, Ituri, Haut Uélé, Maniema, Tanganyika, Bas Uélé, North-Ubangi and South-Ubangi provinces.

The main activities include:

- Support to food production through agricultural, fishing and livestock rearing input distributions.
- Cash-for-work activities.
- Promotion of income-generating activities, particularly for vulnerable women.
- Strengthening household resilience through the implementation of the “Caisses de Résilience”, a community-centred approach which brings together sustainable agricultural practices, improved access to credit and strengthened social cohesion through farmers’ group and women’s associations.



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GIEWS Country Brief

The Democratic Republic of the Congo

Reference Date: 03-May-2017

FOOD SECURITY SNAPSHOT

- Overall favourable prospects for 2017 season crops
- Crop diseases, armyworms, floods and population displacements resulted in localized crop losses
- Inflation rates forecast to slightly increase in 2017
- Food prices at high levels in eastern and southern parts of the country
- Serious humanitarian situation in eastern and southern provinces due to persisting civil conflict

Good start of 2017 cropping season

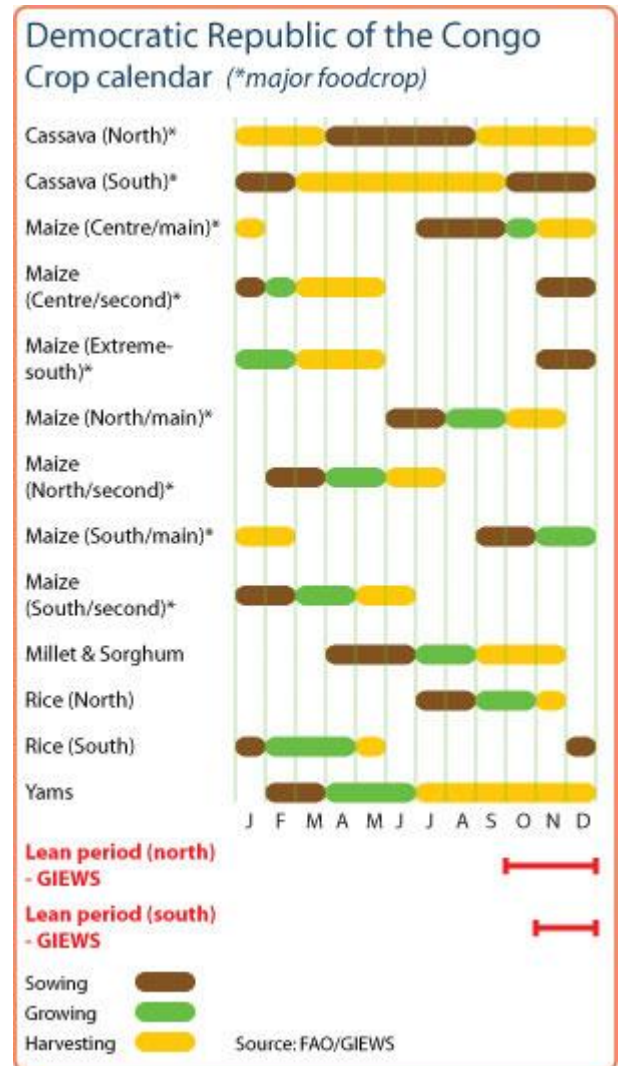
In the northern provinces of Equateur and Oriental, planting activities of the second season crops to be harvested from June were completed in March and precipitation levels have mostly been average to above average. In southern most uni-modal rainfall areas, harvesting of the 2017 maize crops is currently underway and will be completed in May, while in central/southern and northern bi-modal rainfall areas the 2017 secondary season maize crops will be harvested from May and June, respectively. According to satellite images, vegetation conditions at the start of the 2017 second cropping season were generally favourable (see ASI map).

Abundant rainfall benefited crops in 2016, but floods resulted in localized crop losses

Harvesting of the 2016 main maize crops was completed in November in northern bi-modal rainfall areas, while in central/southern bi-modal rainfall areas it has been recently concluded. According to remote sensing analysis, nearly average rainfall was received in most cropping areas. However, crop diseases, armyworms, floods and population displacements affected the growing season in parts. As a result, a below-average 2016 maize output was estimated.

Inflation rates forecast to slightly increase in 2017, food prices remain at high levels in eastern and southern provinces

Inflation, which stood at 46 percent in 2009, fell to 1 percent in 2013 and remained stable at this level in 2014 and 2015 as a result of the implementation of economic reforms and tighter fiscal and monetary policies. In 2016, inflation rates are estimated to have



slightly increased to 1.7 percent due to a relatively strong economic growth and a loosening fiscal policy which boosted domestic demand. In 2017, inflation rates are forecast to continue to grow to about 2.7 percent.

In Goma market, located in the northeastern North-Kivu Province, prices of cassava flour, the main staple in northern and central areas, declined between August and October by 10 percent. Subsequently, prices increased by 19 percent between October and January, when they were still 38 percent higher than 12 months earlier. In March 2017, cassava prices increased by 7 percent compared to February 2017.

In Lubumbashi market, located in the southern Haut Katanga Province, prices of maize, the main staple in southern areas, have been highly volatile since early 2016. In February 2017, maize prices peaked and were 143 percent higher than 12 months earlier, mainly due to reduced imports from neighbouring Zambia. In March 2017, maize prices decreased by 11 percent compared to February 2017.

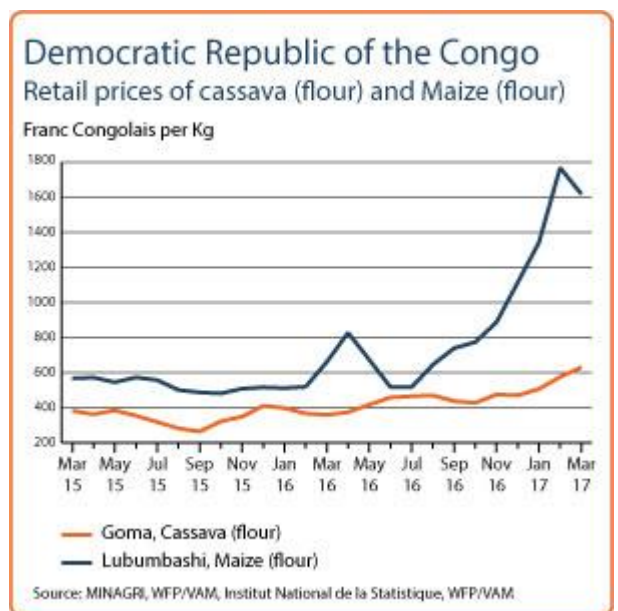
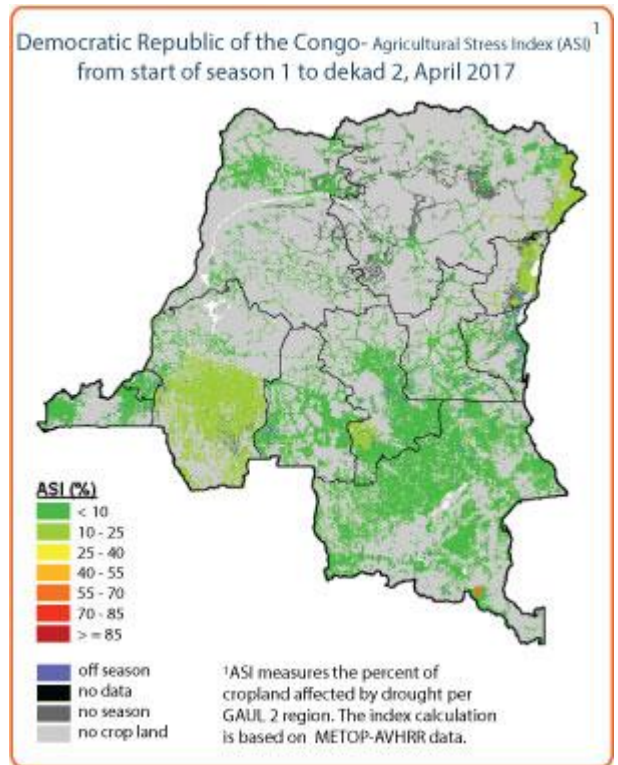
Humanitarian situation remains serious in eastern and southern provinces due to persisting civil conflict

The escalation of the civil conflict since 2013, especially in eastern and southern provinces, severely disrupted local livelihood systems and caused massive population displacements. As of March 2017, the IDP caseload was estimated at 2.2 million, 300 000 more than the previous estimates in late September 2016. Most of the displaced population is located in North Kivu, South-Kivu, Maniema and the former Katanga Province.

Over 1.5 million IDPs are hosted by local families and communities, putting added strain on their limited resources with high risk to further push them into unsustainable coping mechanisms and livelihood strategies. Moreover, as of late February 2017, the country hosts 104 000 refugees from the Central African Republic, 71 000 from South Sudan and 36 000 from Burundi.

According to the latest available IPC analysis, conducted in June 2016, the number of people in acute food insecurity and livelihood crisis (IPC Phase 3: "Crisis" and IPC Phase 4: "Emergency") was estimated at about 5.9 million, about 10 percent less than a year earlier, due to a relative improvement in the security situation in the conflict-affected Tanganyika, Sud-Kivu, Nord-Kivu, Maniema and Ituri provinces, where more than half of the total national food insecure population reside. However, armed clashes in late October-early November 2016 in the Dibaya Territory (Kasaï Central Province) caused the destruction of standing crops and food stocks and affected about 100 000 individuals, thus bringing the food insecure total caseload to 6 million.

In the framework of the 2017-2019 Humanitarian Action Plan, FAO is expected to assist 2.1 million people (about 350 000 households), mainly residing in du North-Kivu, South-Kivu, Ituri, Haut Uélé, Maniema, Tanganyika, Bas Uélé, North-Ubangi and South-Ubangi provinces.



The main activities include:

- Support to food production through agricultural, fishing and livestock rearing input distributions.
- Cash-for-work activities.
- Promotion of income-generating activities, particularly for vulnerable women.
- Strengthening household resilience through the implementation of the “Caisses de Résilience”, a community-centred approach which brings together sustainable agricultural practices, improved access to credit and strengthened social cohesion through farmers’ group and women’s associations.



GIEWS Country Brief The Democratic Republic of the Congo

Reference Date: 22 November-2016

FOOD SECURITY SNAPSHOT

- Overall favourable prospects for 2016 season crops
- Inflation rates forecast to slightly increase in 2016
- Food prices at high levels in eastern and southern parts of the country
- Serious humanitarian situation in eastern and southern provinces due to persisting civil conflict

Overall favourable prospects for 2016 season crops

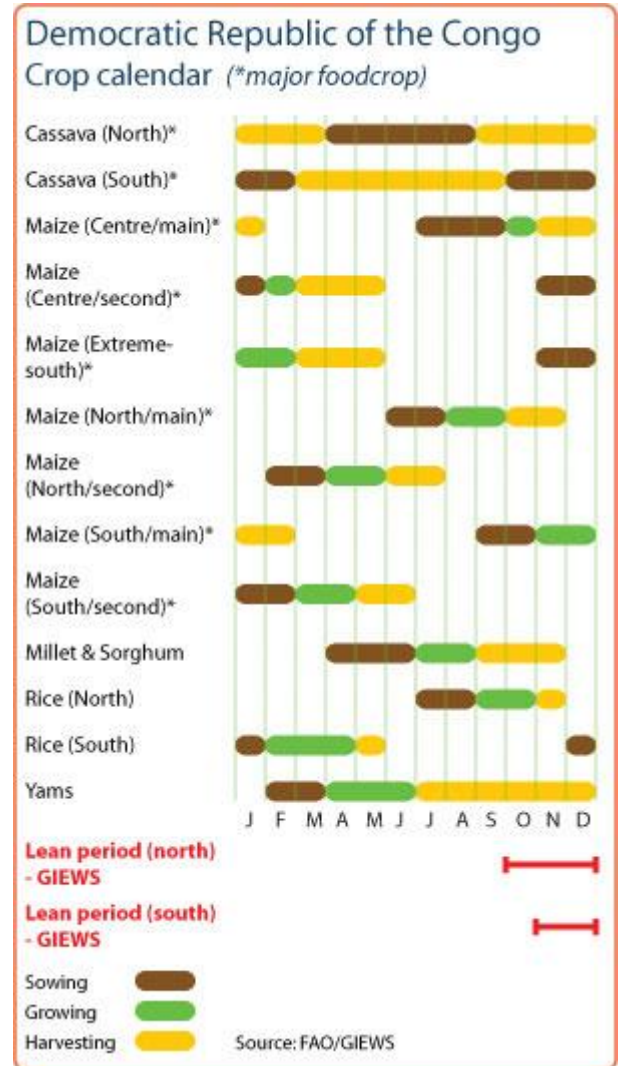
Harvesting of the main 2016 maize crop is well underway in northern areas, while crops in central regions are still at the vegetative stage and will be harvested early next year. According to remote sensing analysis, vegetation conditions are favourable in most northern and central cropping areas despite below-average rainfall in October in some central parts.

In southern uni-modal rainfall areas, planting of the maize crop, for harvest from March 2017, is underway under favourable weather conditions. However, planting operations have been delayed in the southernmost Haut Katanga province by early season dryness. According to the Southern Africa Regional Climate Outlook Forum (SARCOF), rainfall is forecast at above-average levels from December through March, with likely positive impact on yields.

Earlier in the year, the secondary season maize crops received abundant precipitation over most cropping areas, with a positive impact on vegetation conditions and yields. However, the heavy rainfall, linked to the strong El Niño episode, triggered widespread floods which damaged more than 5 500 hectares of crop land.

Inflation rates slightly increased in 2016, food prices at high levels in eastern and southern provinces

Inflation, which stood at 46 percent in 2009, fell to 1 percent in 2013 and remained stable at this level in 2014 and 2015 as a result of the implementation of economic reforms and tighter fiscal and monetary policies. In 2016, inflation rates are estimated to have slightly increased to 1.7 percent due to a relatively strong economic growth and a loosening fiscal policy which boosted domestic demand.



In Goma market, located in the northeastern North-Kivu Province, prices of cassava flour, the main staple in northern and central areas, increased between April and August by 30 percent. Subsequently, prices declined by 10 percent between August and October, when they were still 33 percent higher than 12 months earlier, partly due to the additional demand from increasing numbers of Burundian refugees.

In Lubumbashi market, located in the southern Haut Katanga Province, prices of maize, the main staple in southern areas, have been highly volatile since early 2016. In October, maize prices were 60 percent higher than 12 months earlier, mainly due to reduced imports from neighbouring Zambia.

Humanitarian situation remains serious in eastern and southern provinces due to persisting civil conflict

The escalation of the civil conflict since 2013, especially in eastern and southern provinces, severely disrupted local livelihood systems and caused massive population displacements. As of late September 2016, the IDP caseload was estimated at 1.9 million, 100 000 more than the previous estimates in late April. About 40 percent of the displaced population is located in North Kivu and the rest mainly reside in South-Kivu, Maniema and the former Katanga Province.

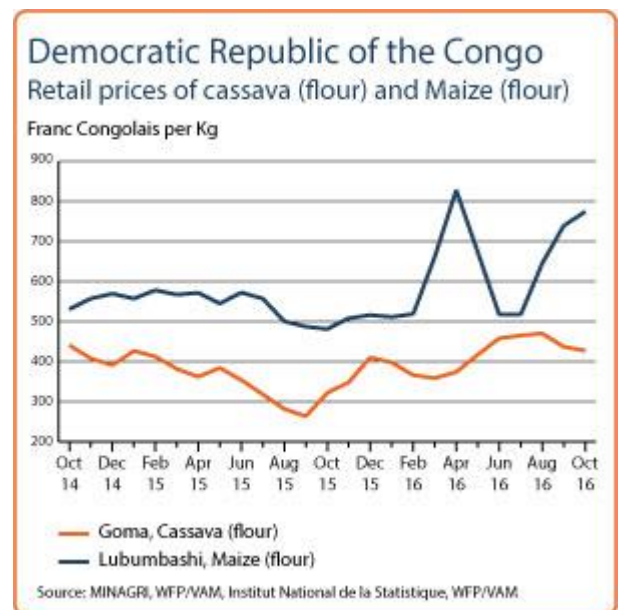
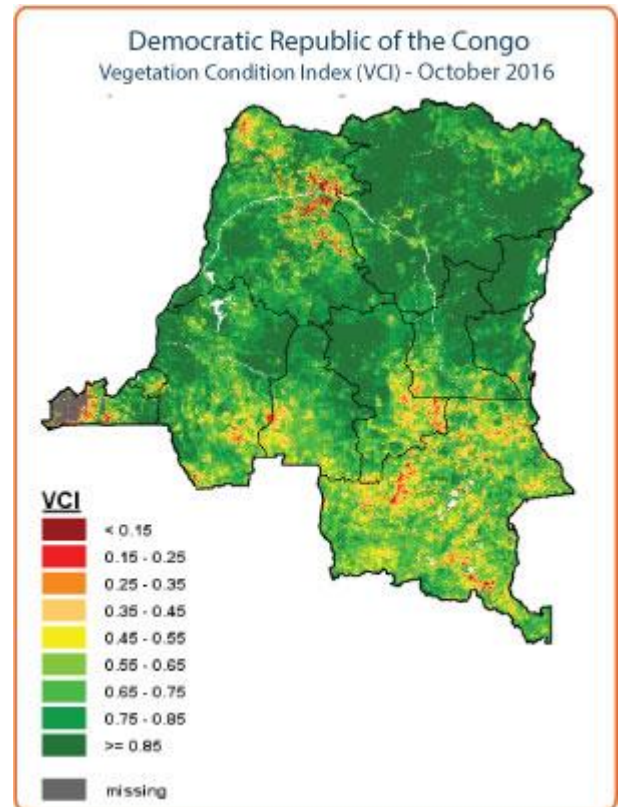
Over 1.5 million IDPs are hosted by families and communities, putting added strain on the resources of host communities who are already facing chronic poverty, limited livelihood opportunities and social services (health, sanitation, education) and are likely to be further pushed into unsustainable coping mechanisms and livelihood strategies. Moreover, as of late October, the country hosts 96 500 refugees from the Central African Republic, 60 300 from South Sudan and 33 900 from Burundi.

According to the latest available IPC analysis, conducted in June 2016, the number of people in acute food insecurity and livelihood crisis (IPC Phase 3: "Crisis" and IPC Phase 4: "Emergency") was estimated at about 5.9 million, about 10 percent less than a year earlier, due to a relative improvement in the security situation in the conflict-affected Tanganyika, Sud-Kivu, Nord-Kivu, Maniema and Ituri provinces, where more than half of the total national food insecure population reside. However, armed clashes in late October-early November in the Dibaya territory (Kasai Central province) caused the destruction of standing crops and food stocks and affected about 100 000 individuals, thus bringing the food insecure total caseload to 6 million.

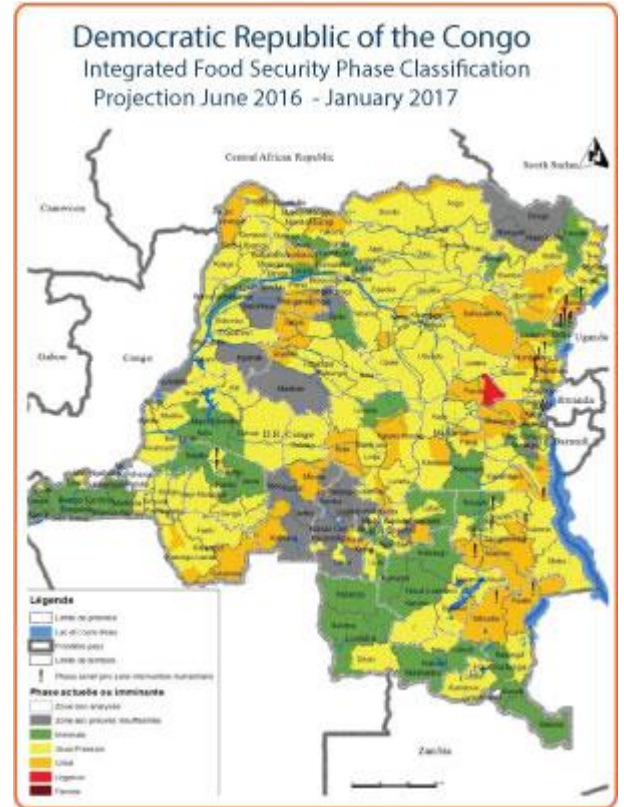
In response, in the framework of the 2017-2019 Humanitarian Action Plan, FAO will assist 2.1 million individuals (350 000 households), mainly residing in du North-Kivu, South-Kivu, Ituri, Haut Uélé, Maniema, Tanganyika, Bas Uélé, North-Ubangi and South-Ubangi provinces.

The main activities include:

- Support to food production through agricultural, fishing and livestock rearing input distributions.



- Cash for work activities.
- Promotion of income generating activities, particularly for vulnerable women.
- Strengthening household resilience through the implementation of the “Caisses de Résilience”, a community-centred approach which brings together sustainable agricultural practices, improved access to credit and strengthened social cohesion through farmers’ group and women’s associations.





GIEWS Country Brief

The Democratic Republic of the Congo

Reference Date: 20-July-2016

FOOD SECURITY SNAPSHOT

- Overall favourable vegetation conditions for secondary 2016 season crops
- Inflation rates forecast to slightly increase in 2016
- Prices of maize surging in south
- Serious humanitarian situation in eastern and southern provinces due to persisting civil conflict

Overall favourable vegetation conditions for secondary 2016 season crops

In northern and central bi-modal rainfall areas, harvesting of the second season maize crop was completed in July and June, respectively. In southern uni-modal rainfall areas, harvesting of the 2016 maize crop was concluded in May.

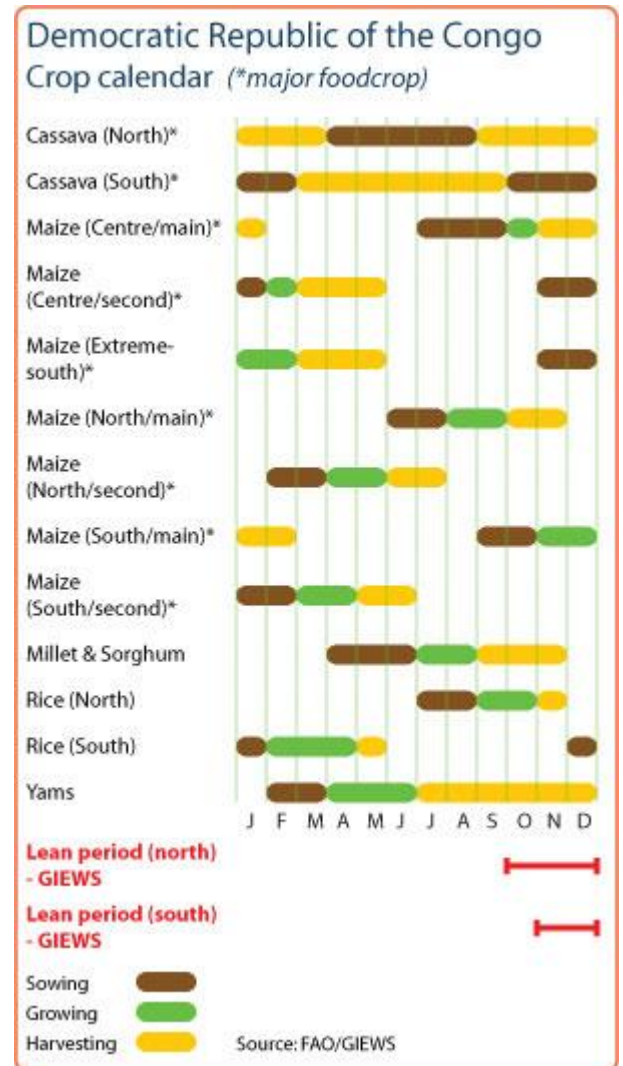
According to remote sensing analysis, abundant precipitation was received over most cropping areas, thus benefiting vegetation conditions. However, the heavy rainfall, linked to the strong El Niño episode, triggered widespread floods in 10 out of 26 provinces, damaging more than 5 500 hectares of crop land.

Inflation rates forecast to slightly increase in 2016, prices of maize surging in south

Inflation, which stood at 46 percent in 2009, fell to 1 percent in 2013 and remained stable in 2014 and 2015 as a result of the implementation of economic reforms and tighter fiscal and monetary policies. Inflation rates are forecast to slightly increase to 1.7 percent in 2016, due to a relatively strong economic growth and a loosening fiscal policy, which is expected to boost domestic demand. In Lubumbashi market, located in the southern Haut Katanga Province, prices of maize flour surged by about 60 percent between February and April, in part due to reduced imports from neighbouring Zambia.

Humanitarian situation remains serious in eastern and southern provinces due to persisting civil conflict

The escalation of the civil conflict since 2013, especially in eastern and southern provinces, severely damaged local livelihood systems and caused massive population displacements. As of late March 2016, the IDP caseload was estimated at 1.8 million, 300 000 more than in December 2015, mainly due to the



worsening security in the Nord-Kivu Province. About 43 percent of the displaced population is located in North Kivu and the rest mainly reside in Sud-Kivu, Maniema and the former Katanga Province.

Over 1.4 million IDPs are hosted by families and communities, putting added strain on the resources of host communities who are already facing chronic poverty, limited livelihood opportunities and social services (health, sanitation, education) and are likely to be further pushed into unsustainable coping mechanisms and livelihood strategies.

Moreover, DRC hosts refugees from CAR and Burundi: their number was estimated at 113 000 in late April and 23 340 in early July, respectively.

Furthermore, the torrential rains received in the last quarter of 2015 and in the first quarter of 2016, resulted in widespread floods, which affected more than 770 000 people and caused the displacement of more than 40 000 individuals. The most affected areas are located along the Congo River and in the former Katanga Province. Destruction of food stocks has also been reported in Manono, Nyunzu and Kalemie territories in Tanganyika.

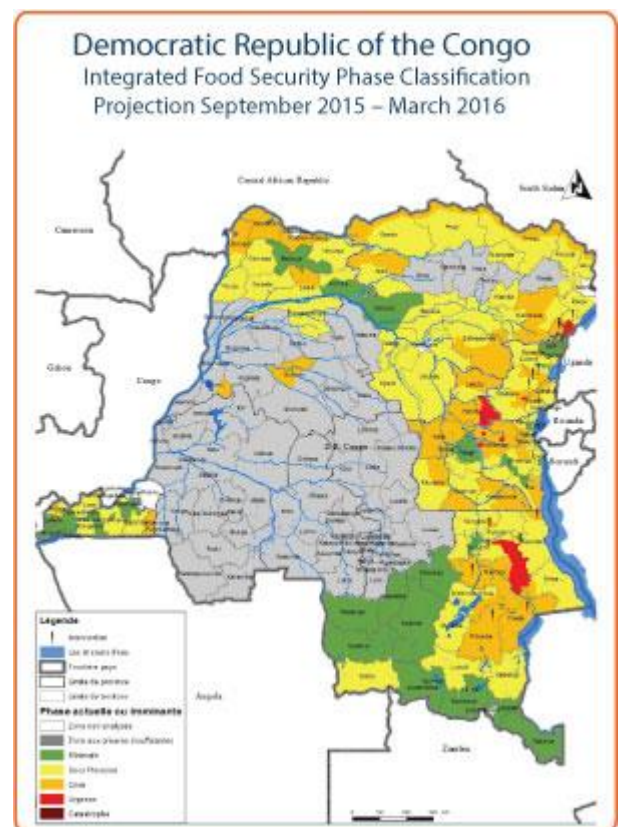
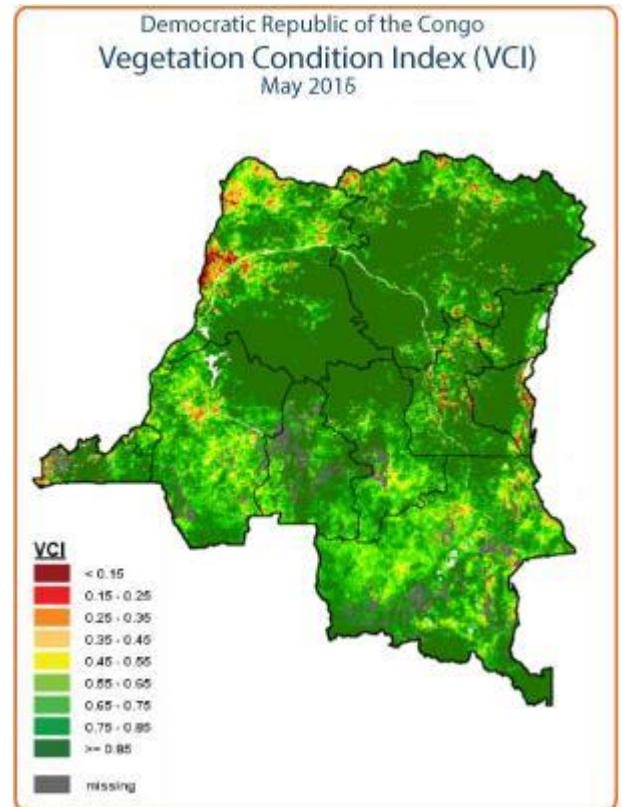
The widespread floods exacerbated the incidence of water borne diseases: between January and June, nearly 21 000 cases of cholera have been reported, twice the caseload estimated in the same period last year and a severe outbreak of malaria was reported in Haut-Uele Province, with over 250 000 cases recorded between January and May, four times the number reported in the comparable period of 2015. In addition, a yellow fever epidemic was declared on 20 June in Kinshasa, Kwango and Kongo-Central provinces. From January to June, 68 confirmed and 1 798 suspected cases were recorded, including 85 deaths.

According to the latest available IPC analysis, that covers the period from September 2015 to March 2016, the number of people in acute food insecurity and livelihood crisis Phase 3: "Crisis" and Phase 4: "Emergency" was estimated at about 4.5 million. The areas most affected by food insecurity are the conflict-affected Maniema, Katanga and North Kivu provinces, where 18, 16 and 13 percent, respectively, of the total national food insecure population reside.

In late 2015, the international community launched the 2016 Strategic Response Plan. The food security cluster, led by FAO and WFP, plans to assist 3.7 million beneficiaries for a total cost of USD 184 million, providing food assistance to severely food insecure populations and protecting and strengthening livelihoods.

In particular, FAO will:

- Support food production through agricultural, fishing and livestock rearing input distributions, seed fairs and farming field schools.
- Reinforce household resilience through market gardening support, trainings in nutrition and post-harvest preservation and processing techniques, and agricultural infrastructure rehabilitation.



Reference Date: 25-April-2016

FOOD SECURITY SNAPSHOT

- Good start of 2016 cropping season
- Inflation rates forecast to slightly increase in 2016
- Serious humanitarian situation in eastern and southern provinces due to persisting civil conflict

Good start of 2016 cropping season

In southern-most unimodal rainfall areas, harvesting of the 2016 maize crops is currently underway and will be completed in May, while in central/southern and northern bi-modal rainfall areas the 2016 secondary season maize crops will be harvested from May and June, respectively. According to remote sensing analysis, vegetation conditions in the first dekad of April were generally favourable (see ASI map).

Inflation rates forecast to slightly increase in 2016

Inflation, which stood at 46 percent in 2009, fell to 1 percent in 2013 and remained stable in 2014 and 2015 as a result of the implementation of economic reforms and tighter fiscal and monetary policies. Inflation rates are forecast to slightly increase to 1.6 percent in 2016, due to a relatively strong economic growth and a loosening fiscal policy, which is expected to boost domestic demand.

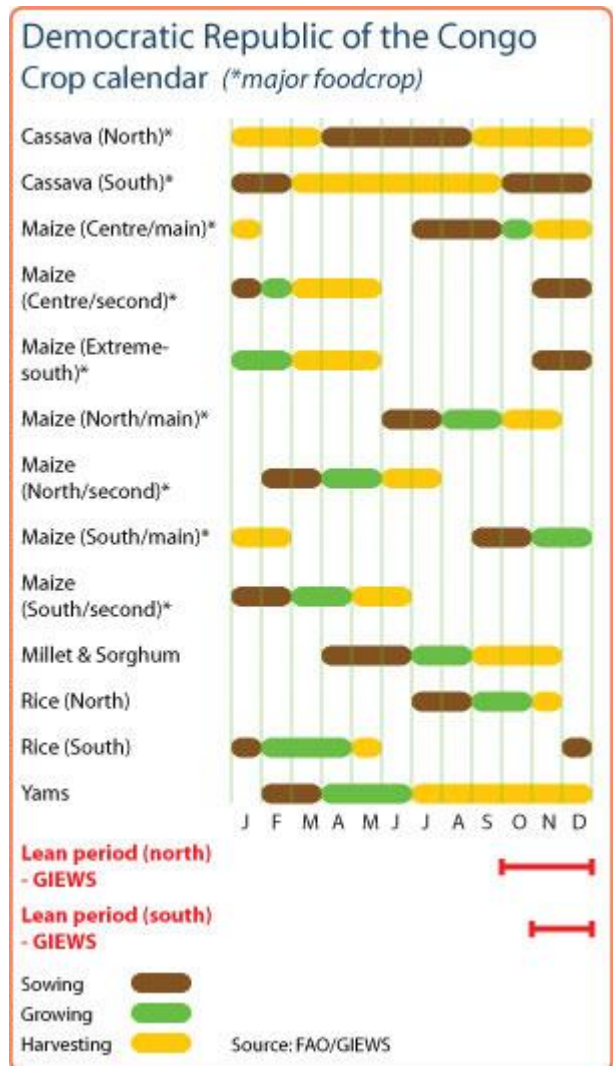
Humanitarian situation remains serious in eastern and southern provinces due to persisting civil conflict

The escalation of the civil conflict since 2013, especially in eastern and southern provinces, severely damaged local livelihood systems and caused massive population displacements. As of December 2015, the IDP caseload was estimated at 1.5 million, with about 41 and 22 percent of the displaced population located in North Kivu and South Kivu, respectively. Following fighting between Government forces and armed groups on 25 and 26 March, about 30 000 individuals were displaced in North Kivu Province. Most of them were residing in refugee camps before the fighting broke out.

Moreover, DRC hosts refugees from CAR and Burundi: as of late March, their number was estimated at 113 000 and 22 000, respectively.

According to UNHCR, around 1.2 million IDPs are hosted by families and communities, putting added strain on host communities' resources, who are already facing chronic poverty, limited livelihood opportunities and social services (health, sanitation, education) and are likely to be further pushed into unsustainable coping mechanisms and livelihood strategies.

Furthermore, the torrential rains received since October 2015, linked to the strong El Niño episode, have resulted in floods that



affected about 700 000 individuals and damaged about 5 500 hectares of crop land. Destruction of food stocks has also been reported. The most affected areas are Maniema Province in the East, Mongala (Equateur Province) in the Northwest, Orientale Province in the Northeast and Katanga Province in the South.

The widespread floods exacerbated the incidence of water-borne diseases including cholera: between January and March, over 5 700 cases of cholera have been reported, 25 percent more than the caseload estimated in the same period last year.

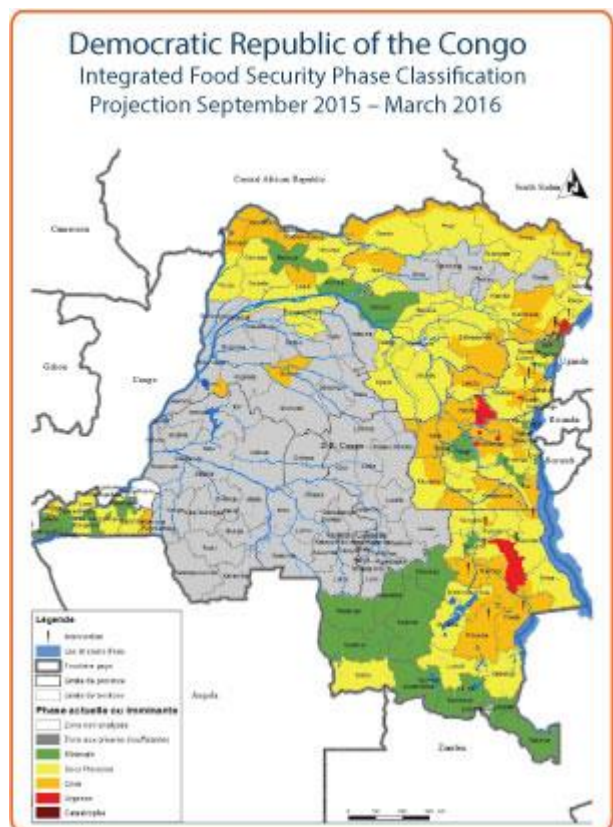
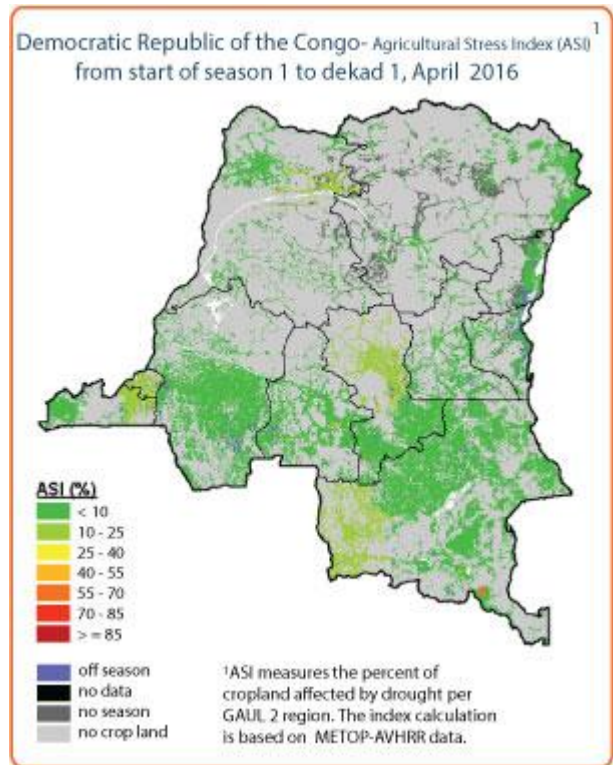
In Katanga, the already precarious food situation has been recently compounded by the decision taken in early April by the authorities of neighbouring Zambia (which is experiencing drought-related cereal shortages) to ban the export of maize and maize products. Although the restriction was lifted a week later, the volume of maize and maize products crossing into DRC has yet to recover to pre-ban levels, thus causing shortages in the country's south east.

According to the latest available IPC analysis, that covers the period from September 2015 to March 2016, the number of people in acute food insecurity and livelihood crisis Phase 3: "Crisis" and Phase 4: "Emergency" was estimated at about 4.5 million. The areas most affected by food insecurity are the conflict-affected Maniema, Katanga and North Kivu provinces, where 18, 16 and 13 percent, respectively, of the total national food insecure population reside.

In late 2015, the international community launched the 2016 Strategic Response Plan. The food security cluster, led by FAO and WFP, plans to assist 3.7 million beneficiaries for a total cost of USD 184 million, providing food assistance to severely food insecure populations, and protecting and strengthening livelihoods.

In particular, FAO will:

- Support food production through agricultural, fishing and livestock rearing input distributions, seed fairs and farming field schools.
- Reinforce household resilience through market gardening support, trainings in nutrition and post-harvest preservation and processing techniques, and agricultural infrastructure rehabilitation.



Reference Date: 09-March-2016

FOOD SECURITY SNAPSHOT

- Good start of 2016 cropping season in southern areas
- Abundant rainfall benefited crops in 2015, but floods resulted in localized crop losses
- Inflation rates forecast to slightly increase in 2016
- Serious humanitarian situation in eastern and southern provinces due to persisting civil conflict

Good start of 2016 cropping season in southern areas

In southern most uni-modal rainfall areas, harvesting of the 2016 maize crop has started recently. According to remote sensing analysis, vegetation conditions in the third dekad of February, immediately before the start of harvesting operations, were generally favourable (see ASI map).

Abundant rainfall benefited crops in 2015, but floods resulted in localized crop losses

Harvesting of the 2015 main maize crops was completed in November in northern bi-modal rainfall areas, while in central/southern bi-modal rainfall areas it has been recently concluded. According to remote sensing analysis, average to above-average rainfall was received in most cropping areas, resulting in generally favourable vegetation conditions during the main cropping season that began in June 2015 in northern provinces. However, torrential rainfall received towards the end of the cropping season in late 2015 and early 2016, linked to the strong El Niño episode, resulted in floods and localized crop losses.

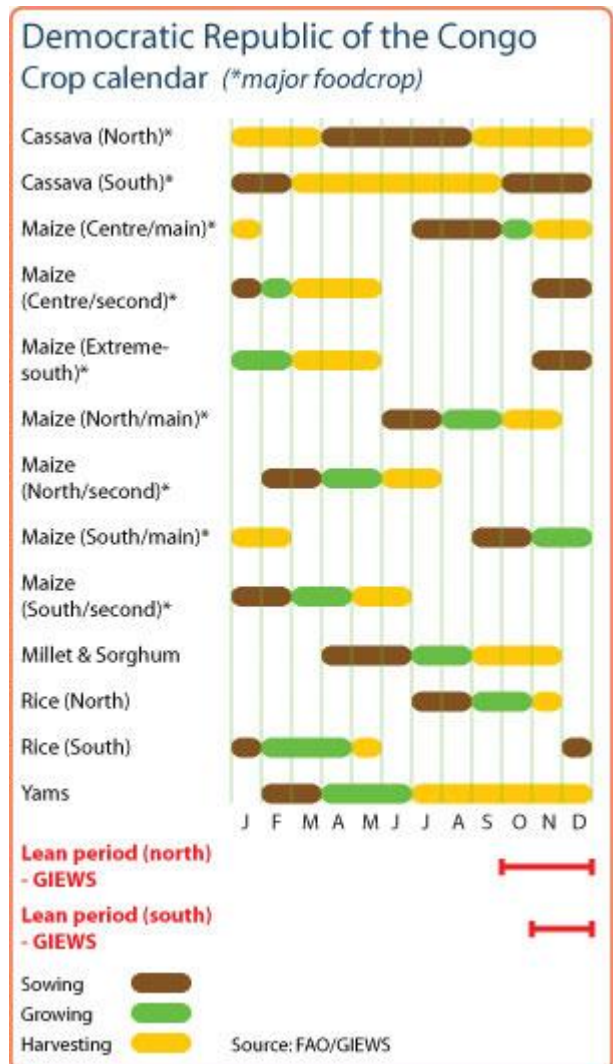
Earlier in the year, the secondary season maize crops also benefited from adequate rainfall. As a result, a satisfactory 2015 maize output was expected.

Inflation rates forecast to slightly increase in 2016

Inflation, which stood at 46 percent in 2009, fell to 1 percent in 2013 and remained stable in 2014 and 2015 as a result of the implementation of economic reforms and tighter fiscal and monetary policies. Inflation rates are forecast to slightly increase to 1.6 percent in 2016, due to a relatively strong economic growth and a loosening fiscal policy, which is expected to boost domestic demand.

Humanitarian situation remains serious in eastern and southern provinces due to persisting civil conflict

The escalation of the civil conflict since 2013, especially in eastern and southern provinces, severely damaged local livelihood systems and caused massive population displacements. As of December 2015, the IDP caseload was estimated at 1.5 million,



Reference Date: 17-June-2015

FOOD SECURITY SNAPSHOT

- Overall favourable vegetation conditions for secondary 2015 season crops
- Inflation rate is forecast to continue to rise to about 4 percent in 2015
- Persisting civil conflict continues to negatively impact on food security conditions

Overall favourable vegetation conditions for secondary 2015 season crops

Harvesting of the second season maize crop is about to start in the northern provinces of Equateur and Oriental, while it is almost complete in the centre and in the south. Overall the FAO satellite-based Agricultural Stress Index (ASI) indicated favourable vegetation conditions in most cropping areas.

Inflation rate is forecast to continue to rise to about 4 percent in 2015

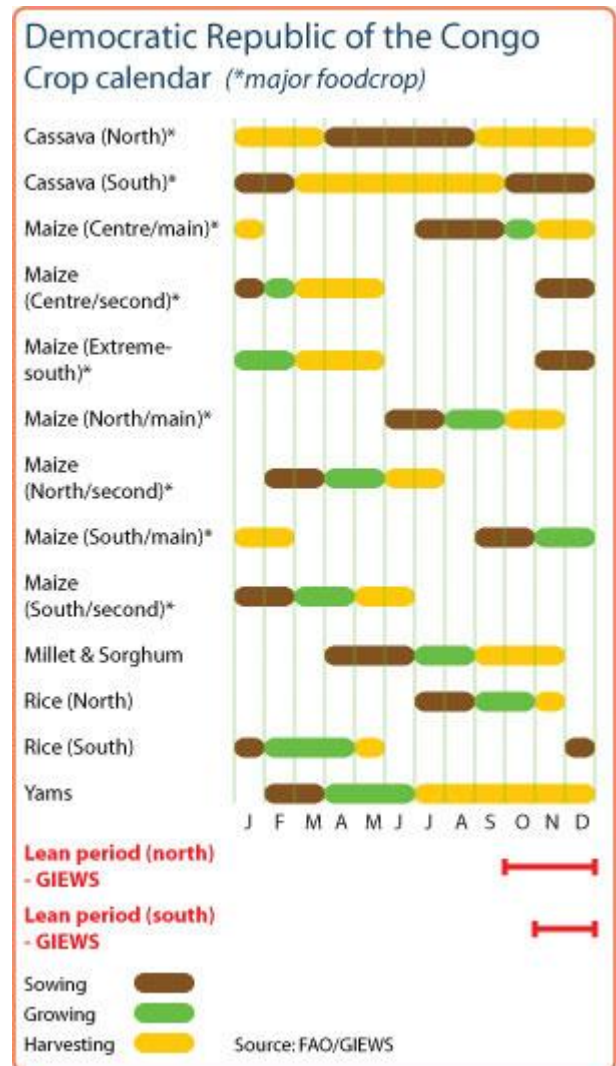
Inflation, which stood at 46 percent in 2009, fell to 1 percent in 2013 as a result of the implementation of economic reforms and tight fiscal and monetary policies. In 2014, the inflation rate increased to approximately 2 percent due to a slight loosening of monetary policy and sustained demand. The inflation rate is forecast to continue to rise to about 4 percent in 2015, owing to domestic demand pressure that reflects sustained economic growth.

Persisting civil conflict continues to escalate the dire humanitarian situation

Persistent insecurity in eastern provinces of Orientale, North Kivu, South Kivu and Katanga continues to restrict access to land and agricultural inputs, limiting households' productive capacity.

According to the latest available Integrated Phase Classification (IPC) food security analysis, that covers the period December 2014 to June 2015, the number of people in acute food insecurity and livelihood crisis (IPC Phase 3: "Crisis" and IPC Phase 4: "Humanitarian Emergency") was estimated at about 6.5 million. The IPC analysis of this current cycle compared to those of June 2014 (zones in the East) and December 2013 (entire country), shows that there was an overall reduction of 0.5 million people classified under "Crisis" (Phase: 3) and an increase by about 523 000 people for those under "Humanitarian Emergency" (Phase: 4). The acute food insecurity has risen in South Irumu (Orientale Province) and in Djera (Equateur Province). Since 2013, the escalation of civil conflict, especially in the eastern provinces, severely damaged local livelihood systems and caused massive displacement.

As of May 2015, the IDP caseload was estimated at more than 3 million, 11 percent up from the estimate in September 2014. The IDPs are mainly located in conflict-affected Oriental, Maniema, North Kivu, South Kivu and Katanga provinces. In the first quarter



of 2015 (January to March), 337 057 new people were displaced in these eastern conflict-affected provinces of which 60 percent of these IDPs were located in North Kivu.

According to UNHCR, around 80 percent of the IDPs are hosted by families and communities, putting added strain on host communities' resources, who are already facing chronic poverty, limited livelihood opportunities, social services (health, sanitation, education) and are likely to be further pushed into unsustainable coping mechanisms and livelihood strategies.

The upsurge in violence in the Central African Republic (CAR) since the beginning of the year forced the displacement of almost 50 000 people of which more than 19 000 people crossed into the neighbouring DRC's Equateur Province. As of late May 2015, the total number of refugees, that have entered the Democratic Republic of Congo from the Central African Republic, is estimated at about 97 000. Furthermore, about 105 000 Burundians moved to neighbouring countries since mid-April due to the election-related conflict, of them, 9 183 fled to DRC particularly in the province of South Kivu.

In late 2014, the international community launched the 2015 Strategic Response Plan. The food security cluster, led by FAO and WFP, planned to assist 2.5 million beneficiaries for a total cost of USD 182 million, providing food assistance to severely food insecure populations and supporting the agricultural sector by improving access to essential agricultural inputs, including seeds and tools. Currently, 7 million people are in need of humanitarian assistance of which 5.2 million are being targeted.

Reference Date: 25-January-2015

FOOD SECURITY SNAPSHOT

- Good 2014 crop production expected despite some below-average rainfall in some areas
- Inflation increased slightly in 2014 but still very low compared to recent years
- Persisting civil conflict and recent floods negatively impact on food security conditions

Good 2014 cereal output expected

The harvest of the main 2014 season maize crops is nearly complete in central regions, while in southern parts harvesting activities are underway and are expected to be finalized in February 2015. According to remote sensing analysis, adequate rains were received in most parts of the country, reflected in generally average vegetation conditions during the main cropping season that began in June 2014 in northern provinces. As a result, a good 2014 cereal production is expected.

Small increase in 2014 inflation rate, but still very low compared to recent years

Inflation, which stood at 46 percent in 2009, fell to 1 percent in 2013 as a result of the implementation of economic reform and tight fiscal and monetary policies. In 2014, the inflation rate increased to approximately 2 percent due to a slight loosening of monetary policy and sustained demand. The favourable 2014 cereal production is expected to help ease inflationary pressure in 2015, with the annual inflation rate decreasing to 1.4 percent in January.

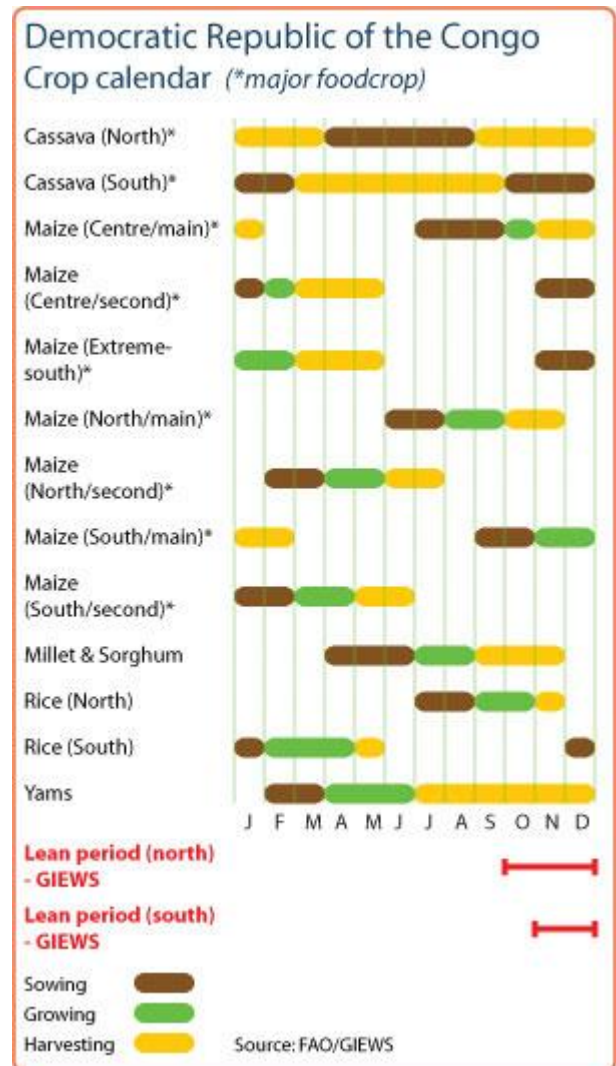
Persisting civil conflict continues to limit food access

Persistent insecurity in eastern provinces continues to restrict access to land and agricultural inputs, limiting households' productive capacity.

According to the latest available Integrated Phase Classification (IPC) food security analysis, conducted in June 2014 in the conflict-affected eastern provinces (Orientale, Maniema, North And South Kivu, Katanga), the number of people in acute food insecurity and livelihood crisis (IPC Phase 3: "Crisis" and Phase 4: "Humanitarian Emergency") was estimated at about 4.1 million, 8 percent up from the December 2013 figure. In these areas, the escalation of civil conflict since 2013 severely damaged local livelihood systems and caused massive displacement.

As of late September 2014, the IDP caseload was estimated at more than 2.7 million, 4 percent up from the estimate in June 2013. The IDPs are mainly located in conflict-affected Oriental, Maniema, North Kivu, South Kivu and Katanga provinces.

Since July, North Kivu experienced a resurgence of violence in Beni, Walikale, and Lubero territories which has resulted in widespread displacement. According to OCHA, the newly-displaced



people in the third quarter of 2014 (July-September) alone were estimated at 68 200 people, more than double than the previous quarter.

According to UNHCR, around 80 percent of the IDPs are hosted by families and communities, putting added strain on host communities' resources, who are already facing chronic poverty, limited livelihood opportunities, social services (health, sanitation, education) and are likely to be further push into unsustainable coping mechanisms and livelihood strategies.

In addition, as of 7 November, DRC was hosting about 22 200 refugees from the Central African Republic (CAR) which sought refuge mainly in the northern Equateur and Oriental provinces after the escalation of conflict in January 2014. This brings the total number of refugees from CAR residing in DRC to about 68 000.

In response, in late 2014, the international community launched the 2015 Strategic Response Plan. The food security cluster, led by FAO and WFP, planned to assist 2.5 million beneficiaries for a total cost of USD 182 million, providing food assistance to severely food insecure populations and supporting the agricultural sector by improving access to essential agricultural inputs, including seeds and tools.

On 4 November 2014, heavy rains in the Oriental Province caused the Aruwimi River to overflow, causing floods which affected over 10 000 people, including 8 000 left without shelter. Floods and landslides in Kahele territory, South Kivu, in late 2014 also resulted in severe and widespread damage to infrastructure and houses and left thousands homeless. The heavy rains also negatively affected 2 000 people in five localities of Masisi territory, North Kivu, causing crop losses.

Reference Date: 20-November-2014

FOOD SECURITY SNAPSHOT

- Overall favourable vegetation conditions for the 2014 crops despite below-average rainfall in some areas
- Inflation increased in 2014 but still very low compared to recent years
- Civil conflict and recent floods in eastern and southern parts affect food security

Good prospects for 2014 crops despite below-average rainfall in some areas

Harvesting of the main 2014 maize crop is almost complete in northern areas and is well underway in the centre, while crops in southern regions, for harvest early next year, are in vegetative stage. According to satellite-based analysis, rainfall levels and vegetation conditions are favourable in most cropping areas following adequate rainfall, except in the western Bas Congo province and in parts of the southern Katanga province, where below-average rainfall was received and signs of agricultural stress were recorded.

Earlier in the year, the secondary season maize crops received below-average rainfall in several provinces of the Centre/East and in the northern Equateur province. However, by the third decade of April, immediately before the start of harvesting operations, the FAO satellite-based Agricultural Stress Index (ASI) indicated favourable vegetation conditions in most cropping areas.

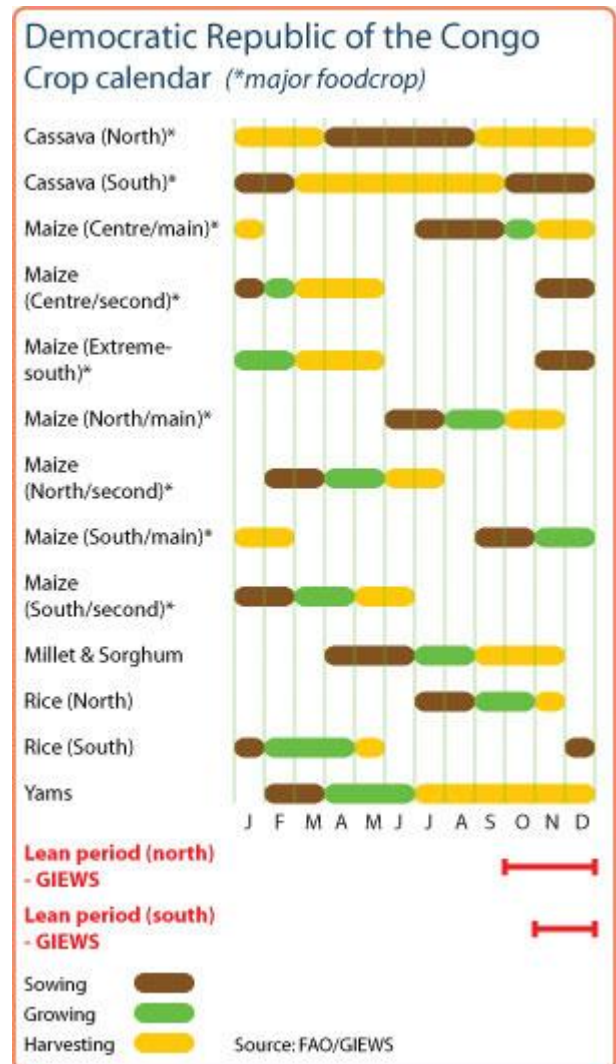
Inflation increased in 2014 but still very low compared to recent years

Inflation, which stood at 46 percent in 2009, fell to 1 percent in 2013 as a result of the implementation of economic reform and tight fiscal and monetary policies. In 2014, the inflation rate increased to 2.4 percent due to a slight loosening of monetary policy and sustained demand.

Civil conflict and recent floods in eastern and southern parts limit access to food

Persistent insecurity in eastern provinces continues to restrict access to land and agricultural inputs, limiting households' productive capacity. In addition, since early October, heavy rains in these areas caused floods which affected thousands of people, exacerbating the already precarious food security situation.

According to the latest available Integrated Phase Classification (IPC) food security analysis, conducted in June 2014 in the conflict-affected eastern provinces (Orientale, Maniema, North And South Kivu, Katanga), the number of people in acute food insecurity and livelihood crisis (IPC Phase 3: "Crisis" and Phase 4: "Humanitarian Emergency") was estimated at about 4.1 million, 8 percent up from the December 2013 figure.



In these areas, the escalation of civil conflict since 2013 severely damaged local livelihood systems and caused massive displacement.

As of late September 2014, the IDP caseload was estimated at more than 2.7 million, 4 percent up from the estimate in June 2013. The IDPs are mainly located in conflict-affected Oriental, Maniema, North Kivu, South Kivu and Katanga provinces.

Since July, North Kivu is experiencing a resurgence of violence in Beni, Walikale, and Lubero territories which has resulted in gender-based violence, kidnapping, looting and widespread displacement. According to OCHA, the newly-displaced people in the third quarter of 2014 (July-September) alone were estimated at 68 200 people, more than double than the previous quarter.

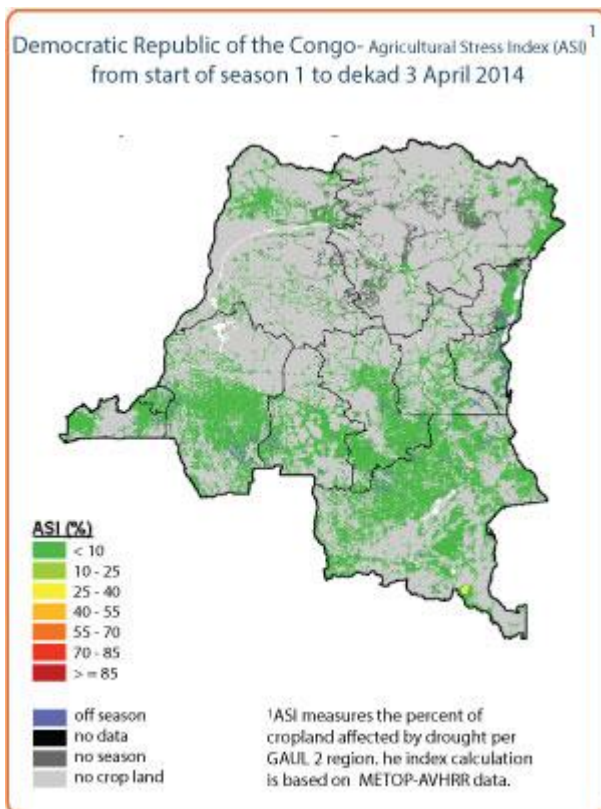
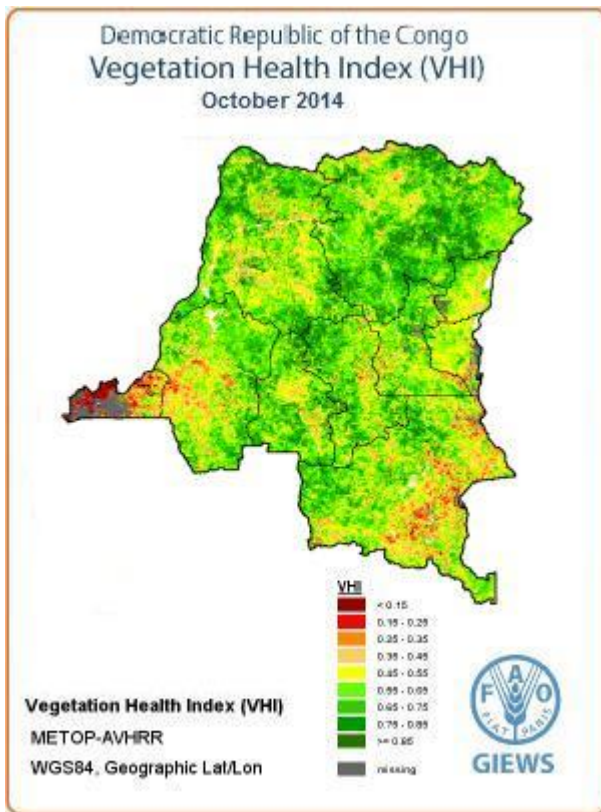
According to UNHCR, around 80 percent of the IDPs are hosted by families and communities. This is a huge challenge for host communities who are already facing chronic poverty, limited livelihood opportunities, social services (health, sanitation, education) and are likely to be further push into unsustainable coping mechanisms and livelihood strategies.

In addition, as of 7 November, DRC was hosting about 22 200 refugees from the Central African Republic (CAR) which sought refuge mainly in the northern Equateur and Oriental Provinces after the escalation of conflict in January 2014. This brings the total number of refugees from CAR residing in DRC to about 68 000.

In response, in late 2013, the international community launched the 2014 Strategic Response Plan. The food security cluster, led by FAO and WFP, planned to assist 4.8 million beneficiaries for a total cost of USD 256 million, providing food assistance to severely food insecure populations and supporting the agricultural sector by improving access to essential agricultural inputs, including seeds and tools.

On 4 November 2014, heavy rains in the Oriental province caused the Aruwimi River to overflow, causing floods which affected over 10 000 people. On 25 and 28 October, floods and landslides in Kafele territory, South Kivu, resulted in severe and widespread damage to infrastructure and houses and left thousands homeless. An assessment mission is underway to estimate the number of people affected and assess the most urgent needs.

On 4 October, about 2 000 people in five localities of Masisi territory, North Kivu affected were affected by floods that inundated at least 400 hectares of crops ready for harvest. This has raised serious food security concerns in addition to the violent storms on 2 and 3 October in Bukama territory, Katanga province, that left 4 500 people homeless.



Reference Date: 06-June-2014

FOOD SECURITY SNAPSHOT

- Overall favourable vegetation conditions for the secondary 2014 season crops despite below average rainfall in some areas
- High and volatile food prices observed in conflict-affected areas in eastern and southern DRC
- Civil insecurity continues to hamper food access in conflict-affected areas

Overall favourable vegetation conditions for the secondary 2014 season crops despite below average rainfall in some areas

Harvest of the second season maize is about to start in the northern provinces of Equateur and Oriental crops, while it is almost complete in the centre and in the south.

In several provinces of the Centre/East (Bandundu, Bas Congo, Kasai Occidental, Kasai Oriental, Maniema) and in the northern Equateur province, abundant rainfall in January/February was followed by reduced precipitation in March/April. In the rest of the country, adequate and well-distributed rains were received during the cropping period. Overall, by the third dekad of April, immediately before the start of harvesting operations, the FAO satellite-based Agricultural Stress Index (ASI) indicated favourable vegetation conditions in most cropping areas.

Food prices remain high in conflict-affected areas

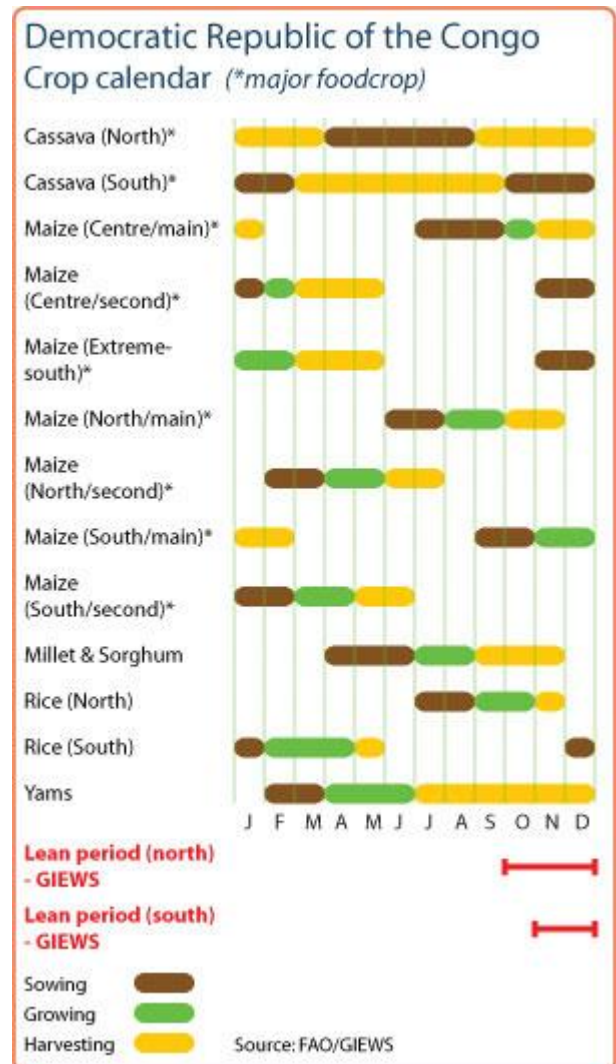
Prices of cereals have remained generally high and volatile since late 2012 in conflict-affected eastern and southern areas. In March 2013, prices of maize increased by 10 percent in Bunia, in the eastern Ituri province, following seasonal patterns, while they declined by 5 percent in Lubumbashi, in the southern Katanga province, as the 2013 main harvest, completed in February 2014, increased supplies. However, in these markets maize prices in March 2014 were still about 60 percent higher than in Kisangani, Mbandaka, Bandudu and Zongo markets, located in non-conflict areas of the country.

In the capital Kinshasa, prices of major staple food crops, for urban consumers, such as rice, wheat flour and cassava have been generally stable in recent months and in March they were around or below their levels of 12 months earlier.

Civil conflict continues to limit access to food

Persistent insecurity continues to restrict access to land and agricultural inputs, limiting households' productive capacity, while high food prices in eastern and southern provinces are exacerbating food insecurity for poor households.

According to the latest available Integrated Phase Classification



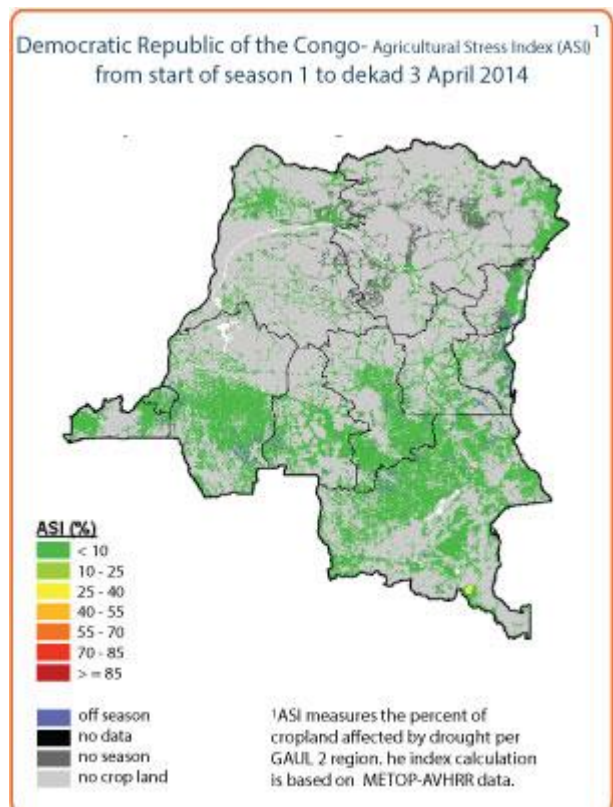
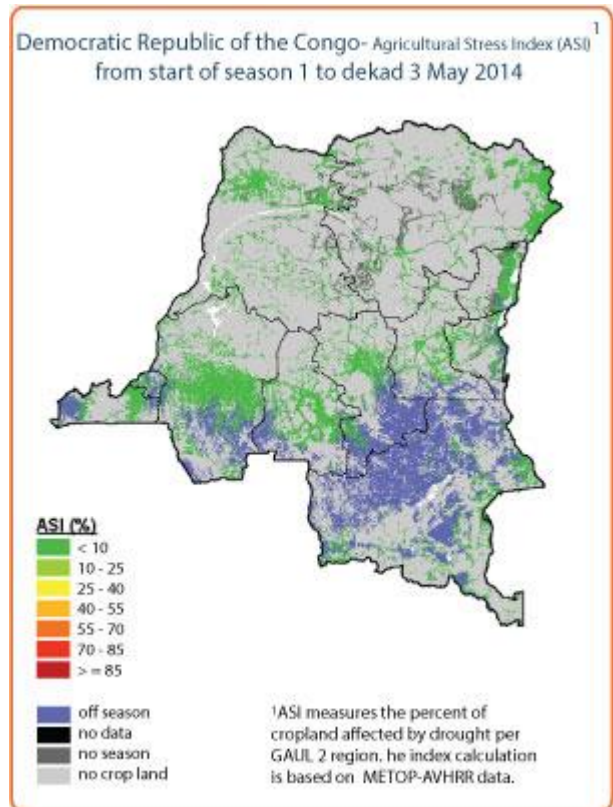
(IPC) food security analysis, conducted in December 2013 and valid for the period December 2013-June 2014, the number of people in acute food insecurity and livelihood crisis (IPC Phase 3: "Crisis" and Phase 4: "Humanitarian Emergency") was estimated at about 6.7 million as of December 2013, with a 5 percent increase compared to June 2013, when it was estimated at 6.4 million.

The areas most affected by severe food insecurity (IPC Phase 4: "Humanitarian Emergency") include parts of Maniema and Oriental provinces in the east and parts of Katanga province in the south, where the escalation of civil conflict during 2013 severely damaged local livelihood systems and caused massive displacement.

As of May 2013, the total number of IDPs was estimated at more than 2.6 million. Conflict-affected North and South Kivu and Katanga provinces account for about 80 percent of the total IDP number. According to UNHCR, around 80 percent of the IDPs are hosted by families and communities. This is a huge challenge for host communities who are facing already chronic poverty, limited livelihood opportunities, social services (health, sanitation, education) and are likely to be further pushed into unsustainable coping mechanisms and livelihood strategies.

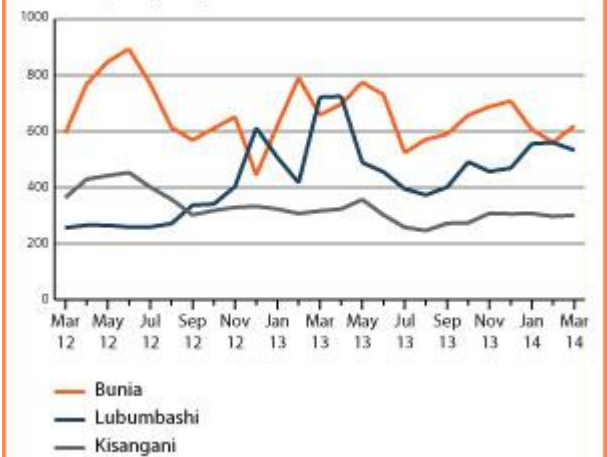
In addition, DRC has received about 56 000 refugees from CAR since early 2013 and about 120 000 and 50 000 forced returnees expelled from the Republic of Congo and from Angola, respectively. In April 2014, flooding in Bukama and Kasenga Territories in the Katanga province affected about 30 000 people.

In response, the international community launched in late 2013 the 2014 Strategic Response Plan. The food security cluster, led by FAO and WFP, plans to assist 4.8 million beneficiaries for a total cost of USD 256 million, providing food assistance to severely food insecure populations and supporting the agricultural sector by improving access to essential agricultural inputs including seeds and tools.



Democratic Republic of the Congo Retail prices of maize

Franc Congolais per Kg



Source: FAO and DRC Ministry of Agriculture

Reference Date: 11-February-2014

FOOD SECURITY SNAPSHOT

- Mixed performance of the main season harvest due to rainfall deficit in eastern areas
- High and volatile food prices observed in conflict-affected areas in eastern and southern DRC
- Civil insecurity continues to hamper food access in conflict-affected areas

Mixed performance of the main season harvest due to rainfall deficit in eastern areas

The harvest of the main season maize crops has been completed in northern and central regions between October 2013 and January 2014, while in southern provinces is currently underway. According to remote sensing analysis, adequate rains were received in several areas, with the exception of some eastern areas of Orientale, North Kivu, South Kivu, Maniema, Kasai Oriental and Katanga provinces, where rainfall deficits may have negatively impacted crops in parts.

Earlier in the year, the harvest of the second season maize crops was completed between May and July. Satellite based analysis indicate that adequate rains were received by most cropping areas throughout the country.

Food prices remain high in conflict-affected areas

Prices of cereals have remained generally high and volatile since late 2012 in conflict affected eastern and southern areas. In December 2013, prices of maize declined by 26 percent in Bunia, in the eastern Ituri province, as local harvests and increased imports from neighbouring Uganda increased supplies, while they remained stable in Lubumbashi, in the southern Katanga province. However, in these markets maize prices in December 2013 were still about 60 percent higher than in Kisangani, Mbandaka, Kananga and Zongo markets, located in non-conflict areas of the country.

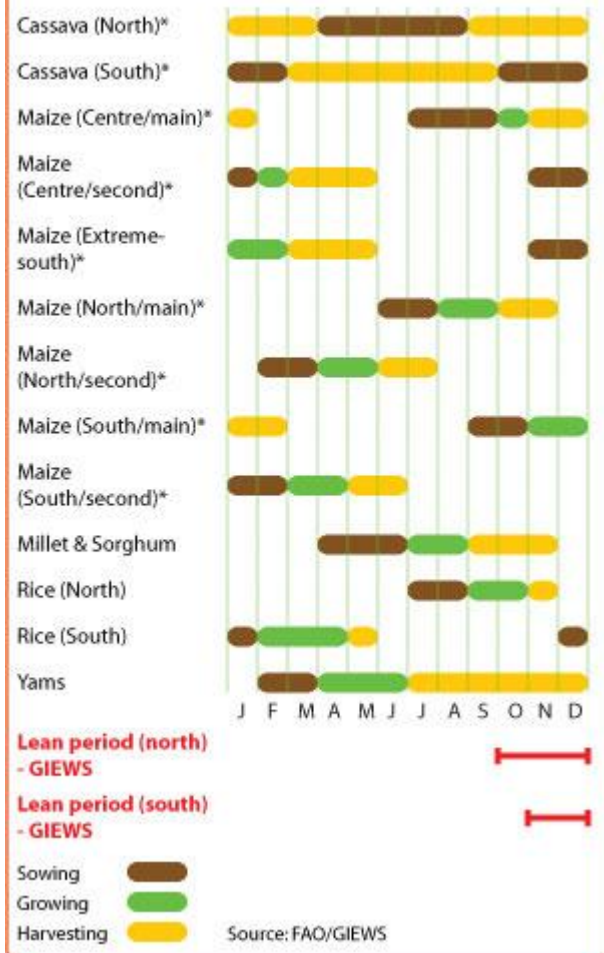
In the capital city Kinshasa, prices of major staple food crops for urban consumers such as rice, wheat flour and cassava have been generally stable during the last twelve months.

Civil conflict continues to limit access to food

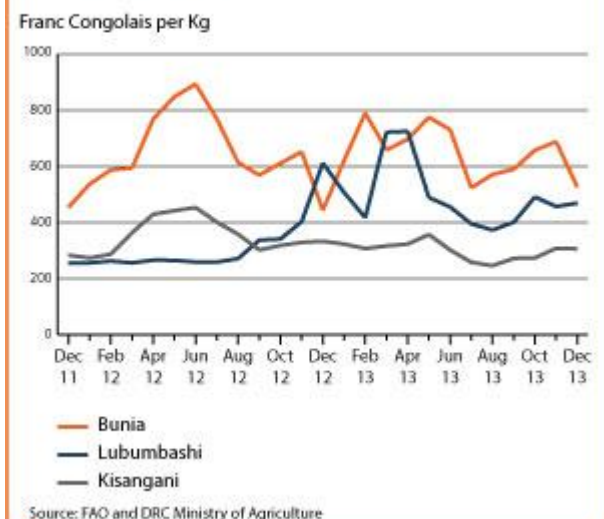
Persistent insecurity continues to restrict access to land and agricultural inputs, limiting households' productive capacity, while high food prices in eastern and southern provinces are exacerbating food insecurity for poor households.

According to the latest available Integrated Phase Classification (IPC) food security analysis, the number of people in acute food insecurity and livelihood crisis (IPC phase 3: "Crisis" and phase 4: "Humanitarian Emergency") was estimated at about 6.7 million as of December 2013, with a 5 percent increase compared to June 2013, when it was estimated at 6.4 million.

Democratic Republic of the Congo Crop calendar (*major foodcrop)



Democratic Republic of the Congo Retail prices of maize



The areas most affected by severe food insecurity (IPC phase 4: “Humanitarian Emergency”) include parts of Maniema and Oriental provinces in the east and parts of Katanga province in the south, where the escalation of civil conflict during 2013 severely damaged local livelihood systems and caused massive displacement.

As of late December 2013, the total number of IDPs was estimated at more than 2.9 million, with a 12 percent increase compared to June 2013, when it was estimated at 2.6 million. Conflict affected North and South Kivu and Katanga provinces account for more than 70 percent of the total IDP number. In addition, DRC has received about 53 000 refugees from CAR since early 2013 and about 120 000 Congolese who were expelled from Angola.

In response, the international community launched in late 2013 the 2014 Strategic Response Plan. The food security cluster, led by FAO and WFP, plans to assist 4.8 million beneficiaries for a total cost of USD 256 million, providing food assistance to severely food insecure populations and supporting the agricultural sector by improving access to essential agricultural inputs including seeds and tools.

Reference Date: 05-August-2013

FOOD SECURITY SNAPSHOT

- Planting of main season maize crop completed under average rainfall conditions
- Mixed performance of the just harvested second season maize crop
- High food prices observed in conflict-affected areas in eastern and southern DRC, while prices in western parts are stable
- Civil insecurity continues to hamper food access in conflict-affected areas

Average rainfall benefit planting of main season crops; the just concluded harvest of the second season maize crop results in mixed performance

In the northern provinces of Equateur and Oriental, the planting of the main season maize crops, to be harvested from October, has been completed under average rainfall conditions. Planting of the rice crop, for harvested from November, is nearing completion.

The harvest of the second season maize crops was completed between May and July. Satellite based analysis indicate that good rains benefited crops in northern and southern regions while poor rains may have affected crops in central provinces of Bandundu, Kasai Occidental and Kasai Oriental.

Food prices remain high in conflict-affected areas

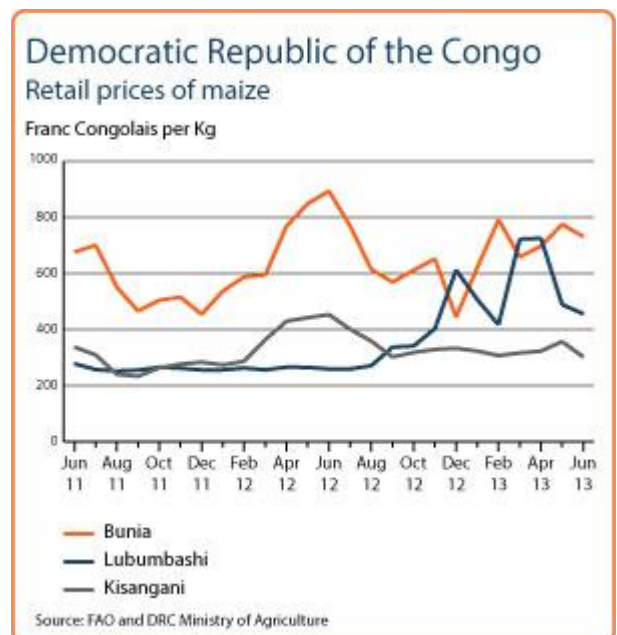
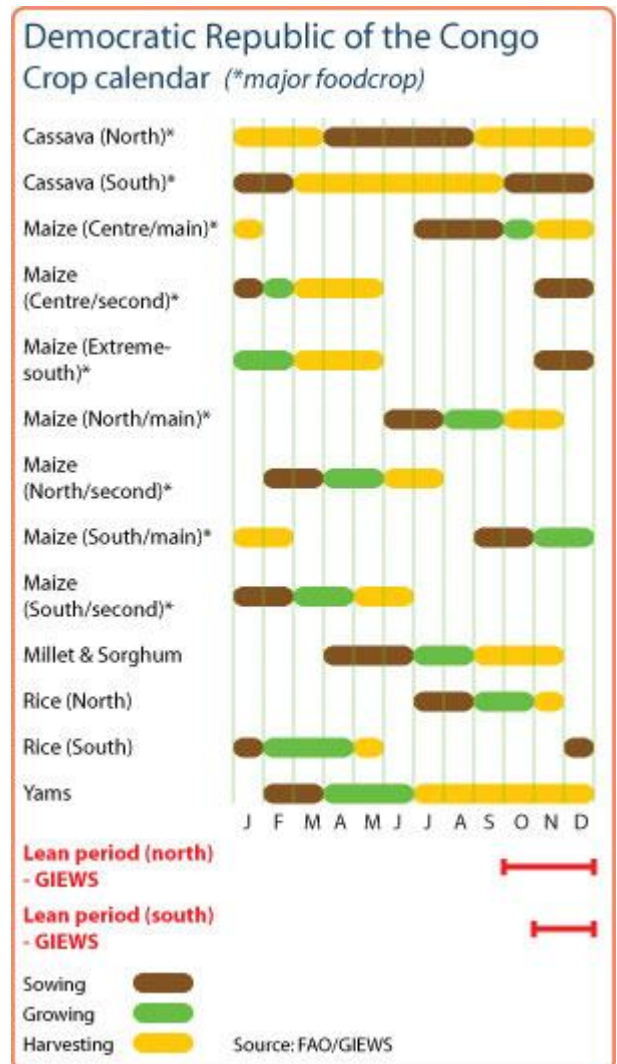
Prices of cereals increased sharply in recent months in areas affected by civil insecurity, reaching record levels and showing a marked volatility. In June, prices of maize in Bunia in the eastern Ituri province, and Lubumbashi in the southern Katanga province, despite having declined as newly harvested crops increased supplies, were still about 144 and 52 percent higher, respectively, than in Kisangani, Bandudu, Kikwit and Mbandaka markets, located in relatively peaceful areas of the country.

In the capital city Kinshasa, prices of major staple food crops for urban consumers such as rice, wheat flour and cassava have been generally stable during the last 12 months.

Civil conflict continues to limit access to food

Persistent insecurity continues to restrict access to land and agricultural inputs, limiting households' productive capacity, while high food prices in eastern and southern provinces are exacerbating food insecurity for poor households.

According to the latest available Integrated food security Phase Classification (IPC) analysis, the number of people in acute food insecurity and livelihood crisis (IPC phases 3 and 4) was estimated at about 6.4 million as of June, with an increase of about 75 000 people compared to October 2012. Two-thirds of them (about 4.2 million persons) are considered severely food insecure and are mostly concentrated in Northern Kivu province in the east and in Katanga province in the south, where the escalation of civil conflict in recent



months severely damaged local livelihood systems and caused massive displacement. As of late July, the total number of IDPs was estimated at about 2.6 million, with North and South Kivu and Katanga provinces accounting for almost 80 percent of them. Since mid-February 2013, DRC has received an increasing number of refugees from the Central African Republic and so far about 43 000 refugees have been registered by the UNHCR.

The international community plans to assist 3.9 million beneficiaries through a Consolidated Appeal Process, which by early August has received about 51 percent of its required funding of USD 893 million.

Reference Date: 30-April-2013

FOOD SECURITY SNAPSHOT

- Good start of seasonal rains in northern areas, but localised heavy downpours resulted in flooding
- High and increasing food prices observed in conflict-affected areas in eastern and southern DRC, while prices in western parts are stable
- Civil insecurity continues to hamper food access in conflict-affected areas

Timely start of the rainy season observed in northern provinces

In the northern provinces of Equateur and Oriental, planting activities of the second season crops to be harvested from June have been completed in March and precipitation levels have mostly been near average since then. In April, localized torrential rains caused the overflow of the Congo river which destroyed about two thousand hectares of cassava and rice in Isangi district of Oriental province.

In central areas of the country, harvesting of second season cereal crops is well underway, while it is about to start in the south. Cumulative seasonal (October-February) rainfall has been near normal levels in southern province of Katanga, while in central provinces of Bandundu, Kasai Occidental and Kasai Oriental precipitations were below normal.

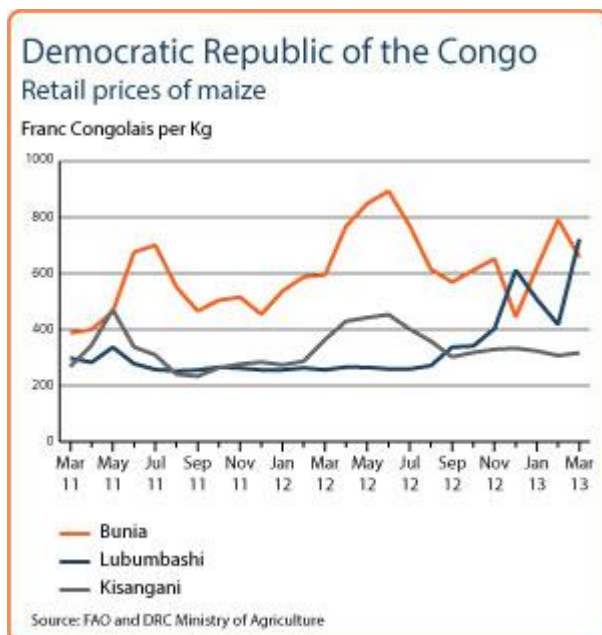
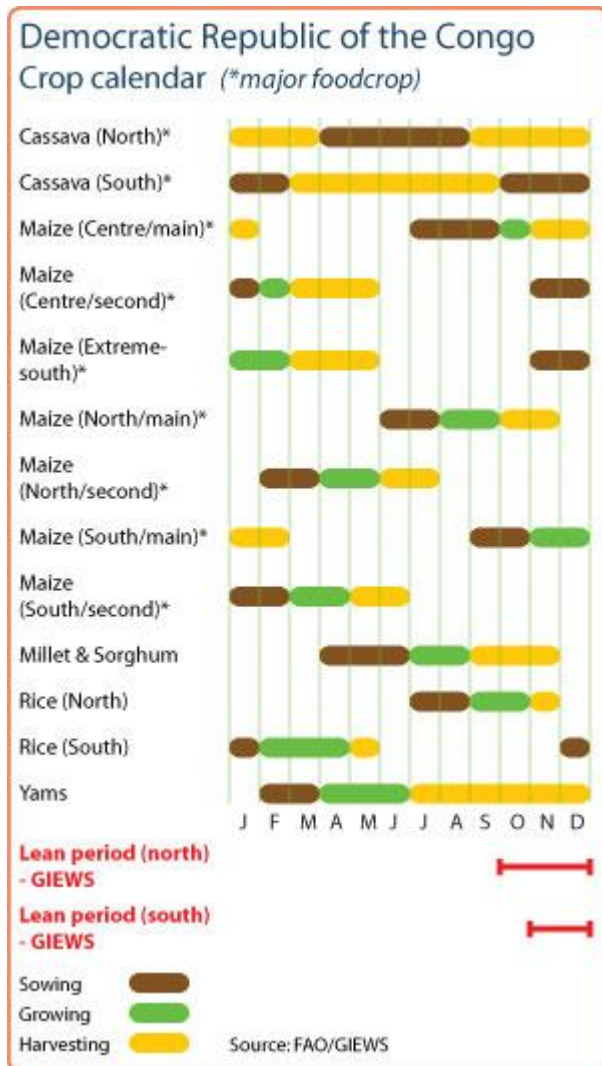
Food prices remain high in conflict-affected areas

Retail prices of cereals remain high in areas affected by civil insecurity. In March, maize was traded in conflict-affected eastern towns of Bunia, Bukavu and Isiro at about CDF 650-700 per kg (USD 1 = CDF 909), while it was traded between CDF 240 and CDF 320 in most western markets, such as Kisangani, Bandudu, Kikwit and Mbandaka, where security conditions are favourable. In the southern Katanga province, maize prices rose sharply between February and March (with peaks of up to 75 percent) in markets of Lubumbashi, Kolwezi and Likasi following the recent resurgence of local conflict and reduced imports from neighbouring Zambia. In the capital city Kinshasa, prices of major staple food crops for urban consumers such as rice, wheat flour and cassava have been generally stable during the last 12 months.

Civil conflict continues to limit access to food

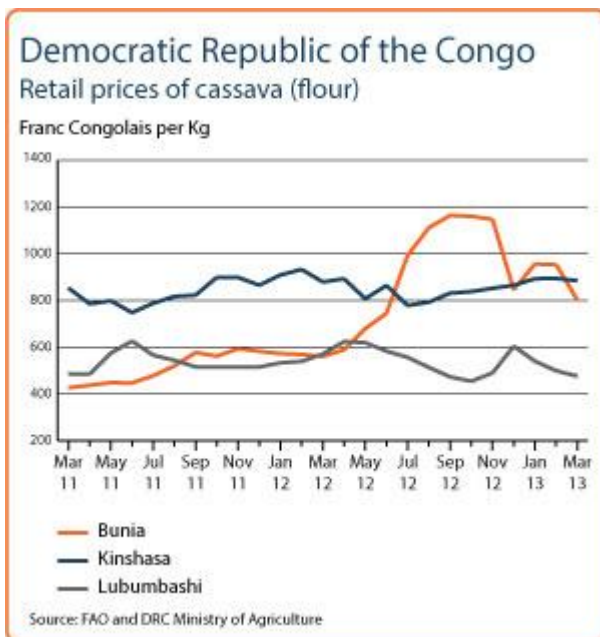
Persistent insecurity continues to restrict access to land and agricultural inputs, limiting households' productive capacity, which is predominantly at the subsistence level. High food prices in eastern and southern provinces are exacerbating food insecurity for poor households.

According to the latest available Integrated food security Phase Classification (IPC) analysis, the number of people in acute food insecurity and livelihood crisis (IPC phases 3 and 4) was estimated at about 6.4 million as of December 2012, with an increase of about 75 000 people compared to October 2012. The food insecure people are mostly concentrated in the provinces of North and South Kivu, Oriental, East and West Kasai, Katanga, Equateur and Bandudu. Two-



thirds of them or about 4.2 million persons are considered severely food insecure.

As of early April 2013, OCHA estimates the number of internally displaced people at about 2.6 million, mainly in the Kivus, Maniema and Katanga provinces as a result of armed conflict between the Congolese army and various rebel groups. Since mid-February 2013, DRC has received an increasing number of refugees from the Central African Republic and so far about 35 000 refugees have been registered by the UNHCR.



Reference Date: 19-March-2012

FOOD SECURITY SNAPSHOT

- Good rains in southern areas, but localised heavy downpours caused flooding
- Food prices increase in the north, but remain more stable in southern and western markets
- Civil insecurity continues to constrain agricultural production in affected areas

Good rains in southern areas

In southern and central areas of the country, harvesting of cereal crops is underway. Following a slight delay of seasonal rains (October-March), cumulative rainfall levels have been near normal in the south, while in the central provinces of Bandundu, Kasai Occidental and Kasai Oriental precipitation was below normal.

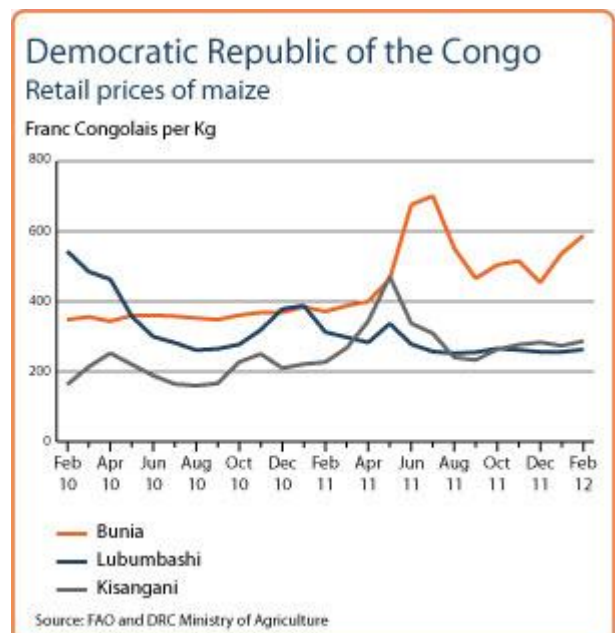
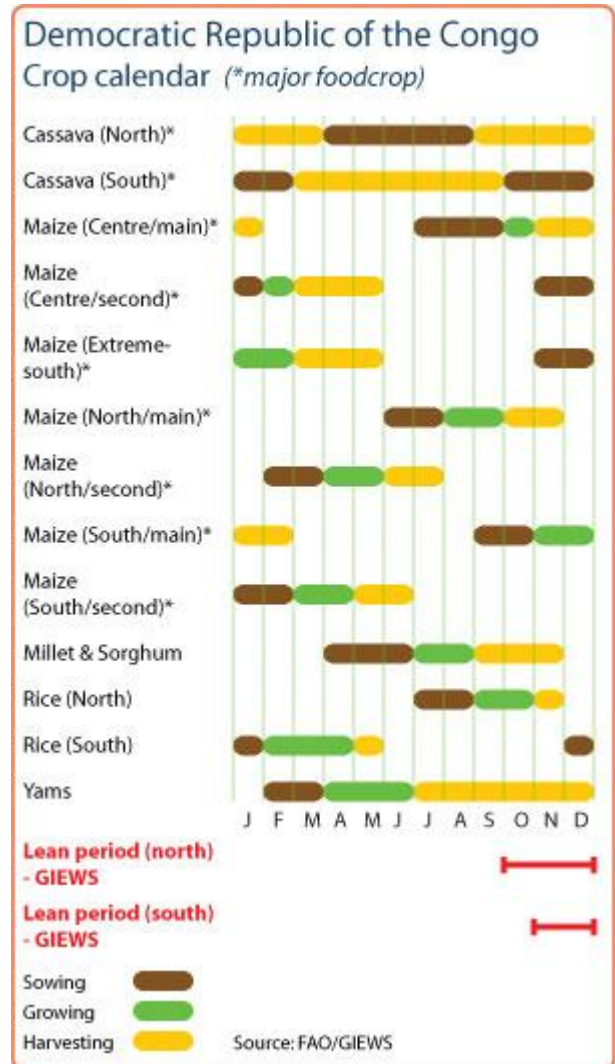
In northern regions, planting activities commenced in February for the long rainy season (February-September). However, rainfall levels have been below average during the first month.

Stronger price increases in the north

Food prices exhibited mixed trends across the country. In February 2012, maize prices in the northern market of Bunia were approximately 60 percent above levels of the same month last year, corresponding to similarly high prices in bordering Uganda. By contrast, in the far southern town of Lubumbashi, year-on-year maize prices fell by 16 percent in February 2012. Cassava flour, one of the main food staples, recorded an annual increase of 45 and 36 percent in Bunia and Kisangani respectively in February 2012. While in the markets of Lubumbashi and Kinshasa cassava prices in February remained unchanged from last year.

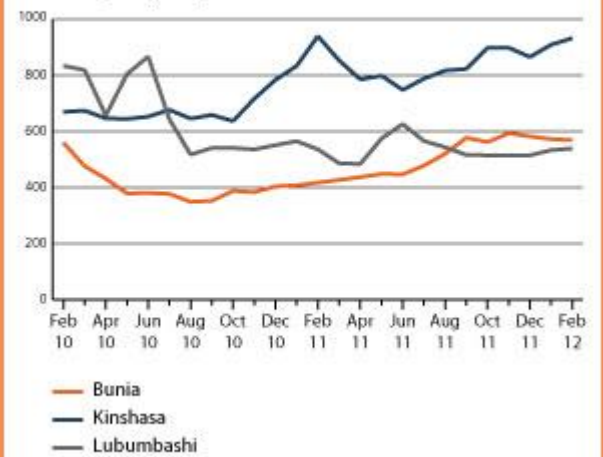
Continued civil conflict affect food insecurity

Persistent insecurity continues to restrict access to both land and agricultural inputs, limiting households' productive capacity, which is already predominantly at the subsistence level. The high food prices, in addition, exacerbate the poor food security situation for resource poor households, particularly in central and north-eastern provinces. Inter-agency food security assessments carried out in several provinces during 2011 indicate high levels of food insecurity across the country. In Orientale Province, for example, about 3 million persons are moderately food insecure, including 720 000 who were assessed to be severely food insecure. A similar situation is also prevalent in Kasai Oriental Province, where 916 000 people are severely food insecurity and 2.2 million are moderately food insecure. Assistance is being provided to affected households to bridge their food gap, while interventions, including distribution of agricultural inputs and training, are being implemented in an effort to increase households' production capacity.



Democratic Republic of the Congo Retail prices of cassava (flour)

Franc Congolais per Kg



Source: FAO and DRC Ministry of Agriculture

Reference Date: 23-January-2012

FOOD SECURITY SNAPSHOT

- Good rains in southern areas, but localised heavy downpours caused flooding
- Food prices in late 2011 remain generally higher than the previous year
- Insecurity continues to constrain agricultural production in affected areas

Generally favourable rains in southern areas

Planting activities of the 2011/12 main season (October-July) crops in central and southern areas are nearly complete. Generally good rains have been received since early November 2011. However, heavy rains were recorded in southern parts of Maniema and South Kivu, as well as central areas of Katanga, causing localised flooding that resulted in some crop damage. By contrast, poor rains in western areas of Katanga, as well as Bandundu, Kasai Occidental and Kasai Oriental provinces, could negatively impact on food crops. Remote sensed information confirms the poor vegetation conditions at the start of 2012.

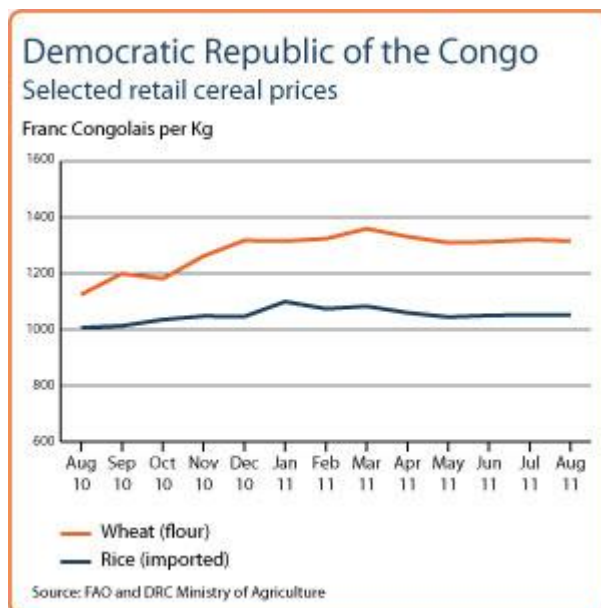
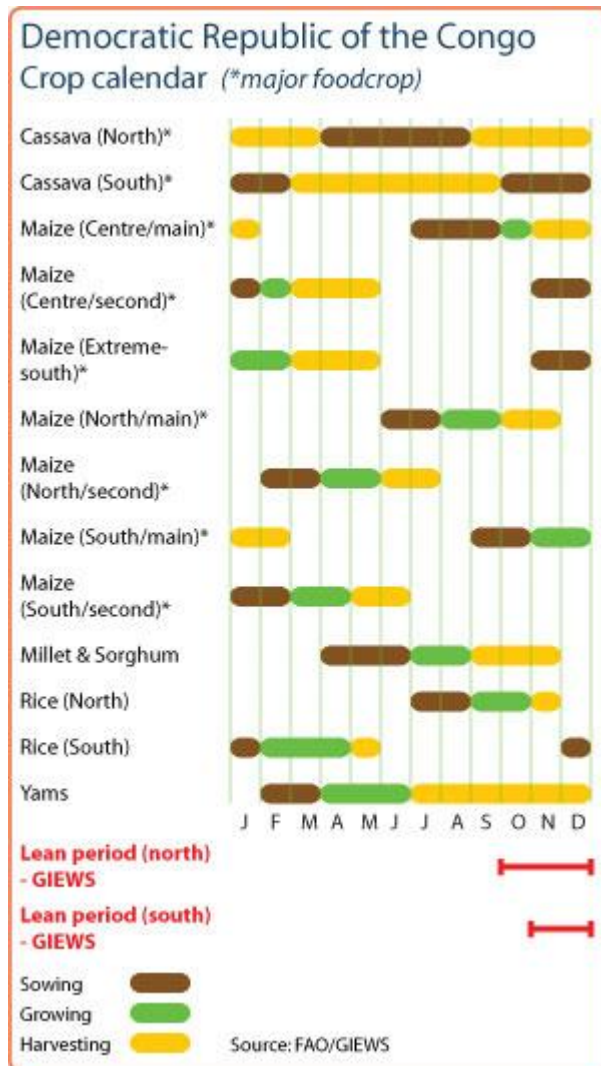
In addition, brown streak disease, which affects cassava crops, was detected in South Kivu and could reduce production of this key food staple in the affected areas. Harvesting of the main 2011/12 maize crop in southern areas is expected to begin in March 2012.

Higher prices persist in late 2011

Food prices were higher in October 2011 in most parts of the country compared to their levels in the previous year. One of the main food staples, cassava flour, recorded a year-on-year increase of over 40 percent in the Bunia, Kisangani and Kinshasa in October 2011. By contrast, maize prices experienced comparatively smaller annual increases and in Lubumbashi prices declined slightly compared with October 2010, partly following the good supplies from Zambia.

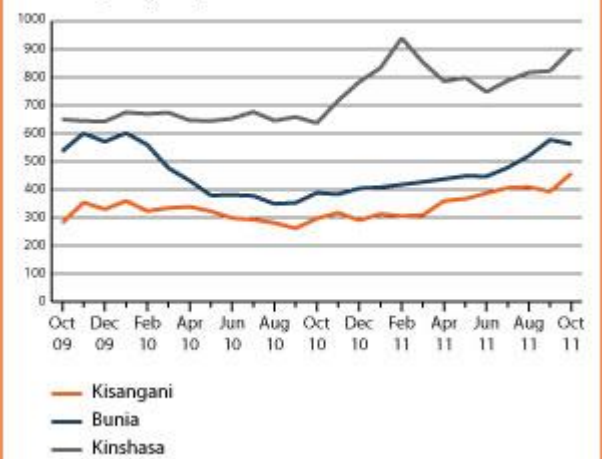
Continued civil conflict affect food insecurity

Persistent insecurity continues to restrict access to both land and agricultural inputs, limiting households' productive capacity, which is already predominantly at the subsistence level. The high food prices, in addition, exacerbate the poor food security situation for resource poor households, particularly in central and north-eastern provinces. Inter-agency food security assessments carried out in several provinces during 2011 indicate high levels of food insecurity across the country. In Orientale Province, for example, about 3 million persons are moderately food insecure, including 720 000 who were assessed to be severely food insecure. A similar situation is also prevalent in Kasai Oriental Province, where 916 000 people are severely food insecurity and 2.2 million are moderately food insecure. Assistance is continuing to be provided to affected households and accordingly in 2011 WFP targeted 4.4 million persons for food assistance, while FAO provided agricultural inputs and training to in an effort to increase households' production capacity.



Democratic Republic of the Congo Retail prices of cassava (flour)

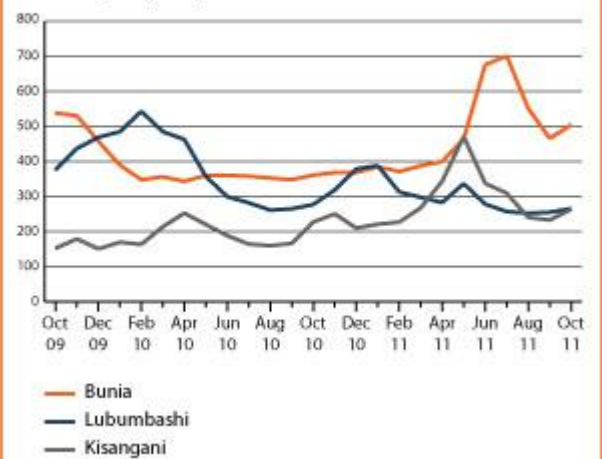
Franc Congolais per Kg



Source: FAO and DRC Ministry of Agriculture

Democratic Republic of the Congo Retail prices of maize

Franc Congolais per Kg



Source: FAO and DRC Ministry of Agriculture

Reference Date: 10-October-2011

FOOD SECURITY SNAPSHOT

- 2011 cereal harvest underway in northern areas
- Prices of cereals remain higher than last year
- IDPs and returnees continue to require international assistance

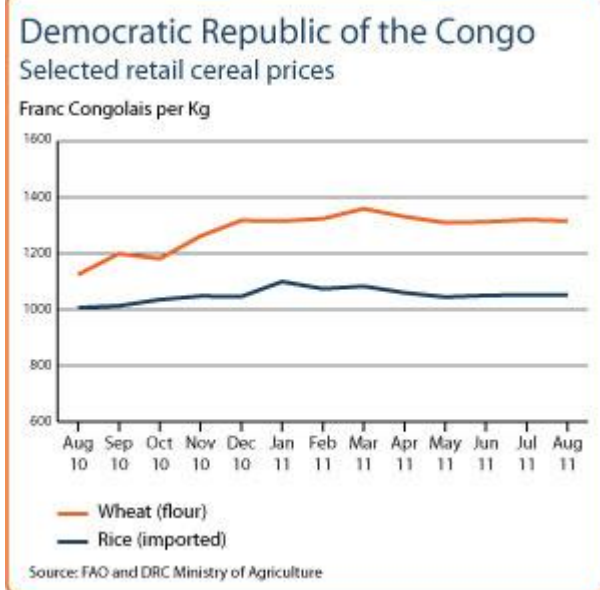
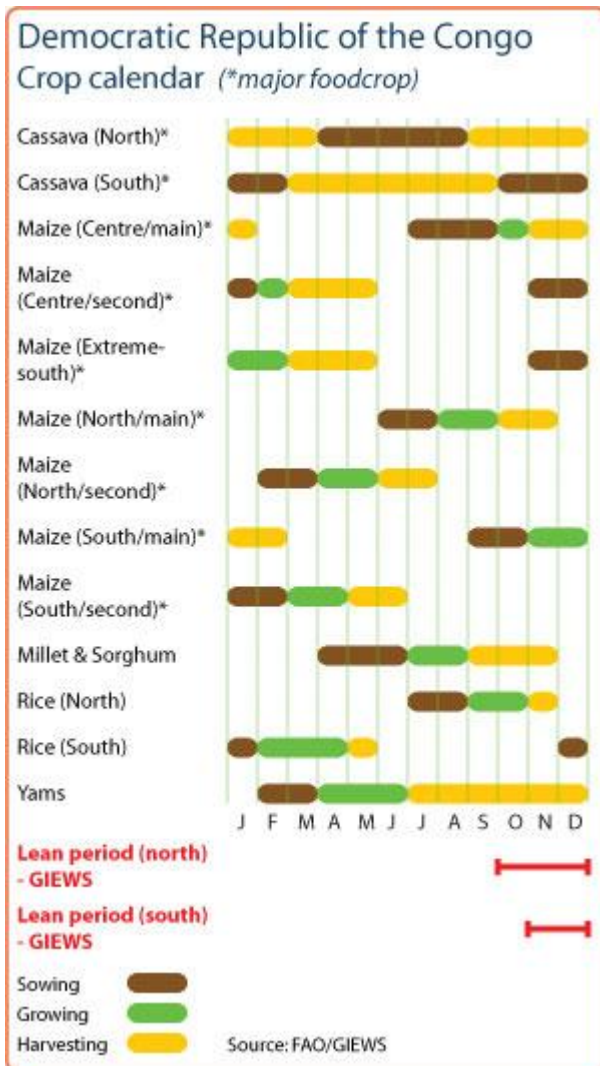
Poor rains in northern areas during cropping season

Harvesting of the main 2011 maize crop in northern areas began in October. Rainfall estimates indicate that much of the northern region received below average precipitation during the cereal cropping season (June-August), which could have affected crop development. Furthermore, persistent insecurity continues to restrict access to both land and agricultural inputs, limiting the productive capacity in the affected areas.

General increase in prices, but large variations exist across the country

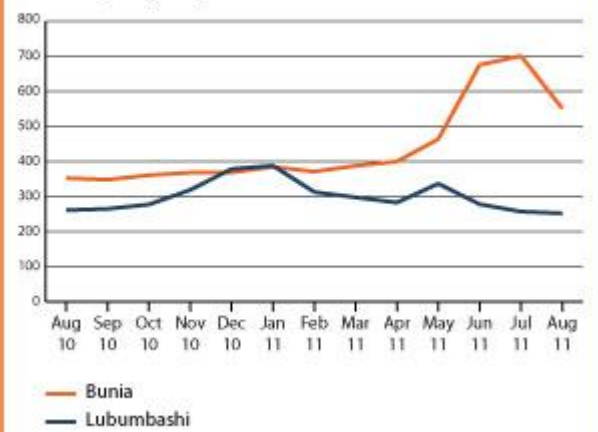
Food prices are higher in August 2011 in most parts of the country compared to their levels of last year, with maize prices experiencing the largest annual increase of food crops. However, prices exhibit varying rates of change across the country and in the southern town of Lubumbashi, maize prices declined during May/August 2011 to levels below last year due to imports from Zambia and the arrival of the 2011 harvest. By contrast, in the north-eastern town of Bunia, which borders Uganda, maize prices remain more than 50 percent higher than in August 2010, partly attributed to high sub-regional demand. In the capital Kinshasa, prices are similarly higher than last year. In August 2011, rice and wheat prices, at Franc Congolais 1 051 and 1 362 per kg, are, respectively, 4 and 17 percent higher than last year; however, these annual increases are lower than the average rate of increase in other monitored markets.

The high food prices, as well as civil insecurity, continue to exacerbate the poor food security situation for resource poor households, particularly in central and north-eastern provinces. Agricultural input assistance and food relief is being provided to affected households. During 2011 WFP's relief operation has targeted over 4 million persons for food distribution.



Democratic Republic of the Congo Retail maize prices

Franc Congolais per Kg



Source: FAO and DRC Ministry of Agriculture

Reference Date: 19-May-2011

FOOD SECURITY SNAPSHOT

- Harvesting of the cereal crops in southern areas is underway
- Prices of cereals remain high, but have started to fall in recent months
- IDPs and returnees continue to require international assistance

Maize harvest on-going in southern areas

Harvesting of the maize crop in central and southern areas is expected to be completed in May/June, while in the north planting of the main cereal crops will begin next month. No official crop production estimates are available, but satellite based images indicate good vegetation conditions during the main agricultural season in southern areas.

High food prices persist, but declines observed from the beginning of 2011 in parts

Maize prices have shown mixed trends across the country, with prices falling in Lubumbashi in the south during February and March, while they continued to rise in Bunia and Kisangani. The decline in Lubumbashi reflects an increase in imports from Zambia. Prices of maize are approximately 40 percent lower in March 2011, than at the same period last year.

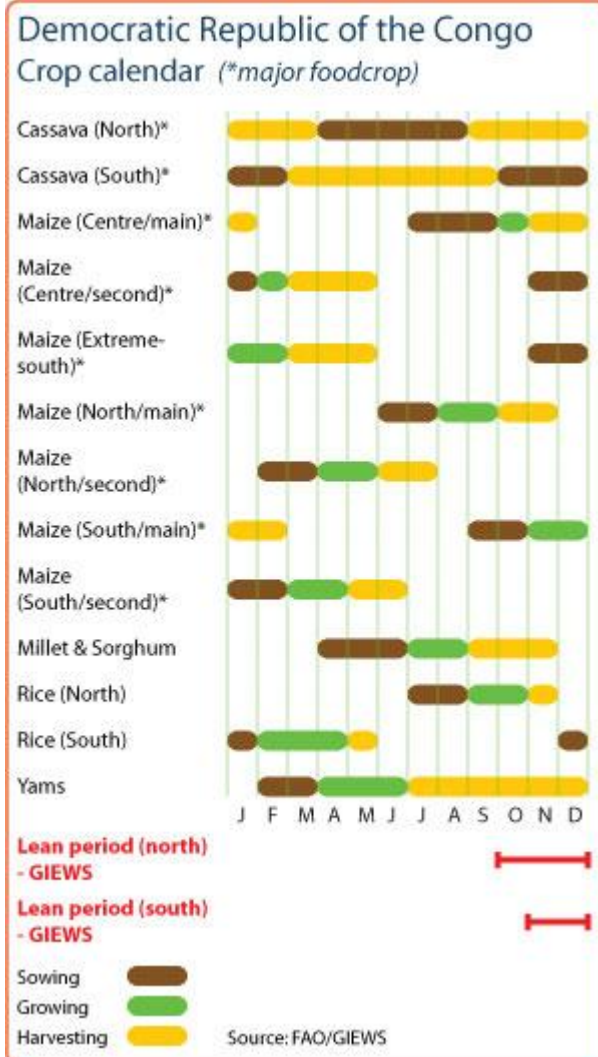
In the capital Kinshasa, rice and wheat prices have been rising gradually since early 2010, following increases in transportation costs and higher international food prices. By contrast, rice prices in the northern town of Kisangani, located in the main rice growing region, fell between November 2010 and February 2011, following the harvest, but rose marginally in March.

Cassava (flour) prices have been steadily increasing in the northern market town of Bunia since September 2010. However, prices in March 2011 are still 10 percent below prices recorded in March 2010. The Government has taken a number of measures to curb rising prices, including efforts to streamline administration procedures to facilitate increased trade and negotiating fixed prices with food importers.

Insecurity continues to negatively impact on food security conditions

The continuation of civil insecurity, particularly in the North Kivu, South Kivu and Orientale provinces, has led to large population displacements and a deterioration in food security conditions. Furthermore, in central provinces - Kasai Oriental, Occidental and Katanga - a combination of limited agricultural productive capacity and the deterioration of the mining industry has severely affected food security. The high food prices further exacerbate the situation.

In total, an estimated 1.8 million people are internally displaced, while just over 160 000 refugees, mainly from Rwanda and Angola, are located in the country.



Democratic Republic of the Congo Cereal production

	2005-2009	2009	2010	change
	average		forecast	2010/2009
	000 tonnes			percent
Maize	1165	1200	1250	4
Rice (paddy)	316	318	318	0
Millet	37	37	37	0
Others	16	16	16	0
Total	1534	1571	1621	3

Note: percentage change calculated from unrounded data.
 Source: FAO/GIEWS Country Cereal Balance Sheets

Democratic Republic of the Congo Selected retail prices

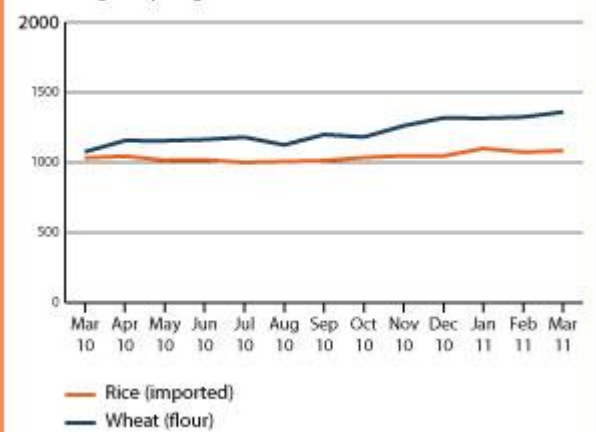
Franc Congolais per kg



Source: FAO and DRC Ministry of Agriculture

Democratic Republic of the Congo Retail prices of selected cereals in Kinshasa

Franc Congolais per kg



Source: FAO and DRC Ministry of Agriculture

Reference Date: 17-November-2010

FOOD SECURITY SNAPSHOT

- Harvesting of cereals in the north for the main season is scheduled to be completed in November.
- Prices of imported rice have remained relatively stable; approximately one third of the national cereal requirement is imported.
- IDPs and returnees continue to require international assistance.

Below average cumulative rainfall during the main cropping season in the north

Harvesting of cereal crops in northern provinces will be completed at the end of November. Rainfall estimates indicate that the northern regions received below average rainfall from the end of July to the beginning of October.

Although no official figures are available, cereal production is estimated to have increased marginally in the last two years, on account of mostly favourable rainfall levels.

Imported rice prices remain relatively stable during 2010

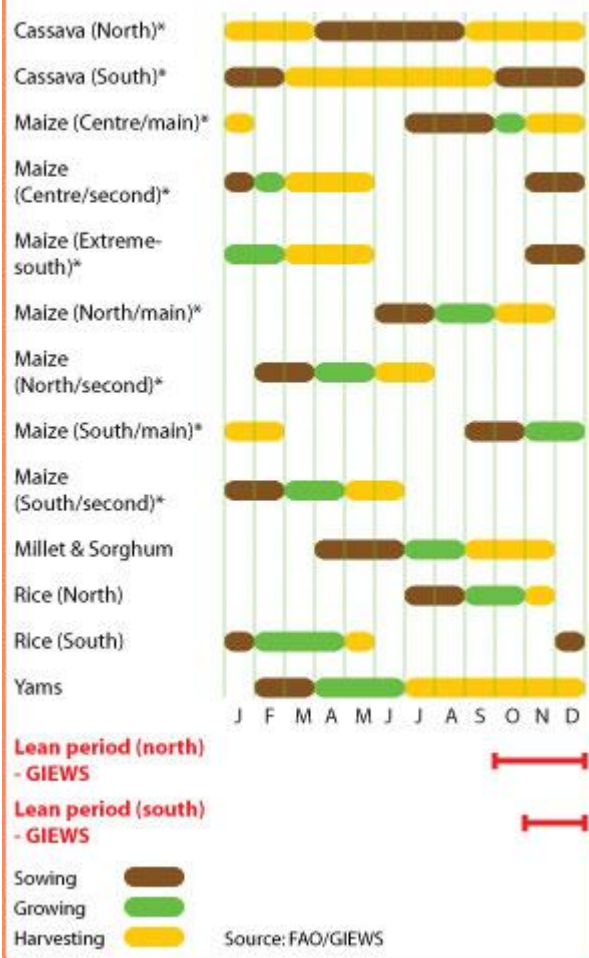
Prices of imported rice have remained comparatively stable, increasing only marginally between beginning of the year and October 2010. This reflects the relative stability of the exchange rate; approximately a third of the total national cereal supply is imported. However, at about Franc Congolais (CDF) 1035 per kg, latest available prices of rice in Kinshasa are still significantly above levels recorded two years earlier. In Bunia and Kisangani, rice (local) prices are similarly higher than those observed two years earlier, but price levels dropped between June and October.

Lower maize prices this season - about 20 percent lower in August 2010 compared to the previous year - on the Zambia side of the Kasumbalesa border point, as well as ample supplies, has supported an increased flow of maize into Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC). Estimates of cross-border trade from WFP/FEWSNet indicate that informal imports into DRC from Zambia, between April and August 2010, reached 5 871 tonnes, compared to 4 310 tonnes over the same period last year.

Insecurity continues to negatively impact food security conditions

Since October 2009 tens of thousands of people have been displaced in the Sud-Ubangi district of Equateur province in north western DRC and many more have fled to Central African Republic and the Republic of Congo following inter-communal violence. The number of internally displaced people (IDPs) has increased slightly between July and August, to just under 2 million. The highest concentration of IDPs are located in North and South Kivu. Nationally, latest figures indicate that there are an estimated 161 957 refugees, mainly from Angola and Rwanda.

Democratic Republic of the Congo Crop calendar (*major foodcrop)



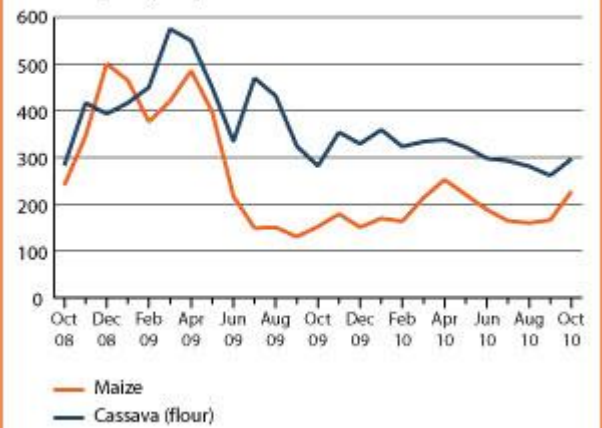
Democratic Republic of the Congo Cereal production

	2005-2009	2009	2010	change
	average		forecast	2010/2009
	000 tonnes			percent
Maize	1165	1200	1250	4
Rice (paddy)	316	318	318	0
Millet	37	37	37	0
Others	16	16	16	0
Total	1534	1571	1621	3

Note: percentage change calculated from unrounded data.
Source: FAO/GIEWS Country Cereal Balance Sheets

Democratic Republic of the Congo Retail maize and cassava prices in Kisangani

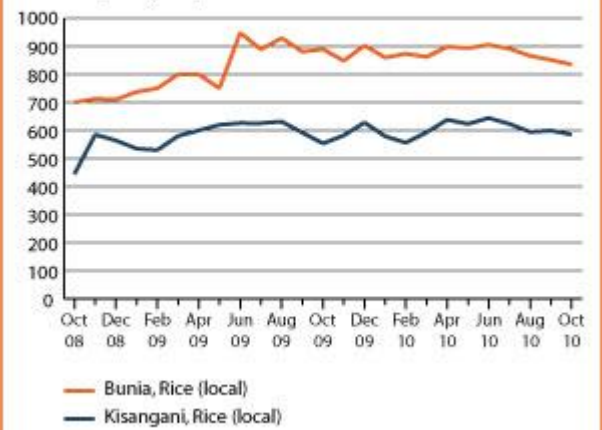
Franc Congolais per kg



Source: FAO and DRC Ministry of Agriculture

Democratic Republic of the Congo Retail rice prices

Franc Congolais per kg



Source: FAO and DRC Ministry of Agriculture

Reference Date: 14-September-2010

FOOD SECURITY SNAPSHOT

- Planting of cereals in the north for the main season was completed in August.
- Prices of imported rice have remained relatively stable and those for maize have declined; approximately one third of the national cereal requirement is imported.
- IDPs and returnees continue to require international assistance.

Below average rainfall during July and the beginning of August

Planting of the 2010 rice crop in northern regions was completed in August, while harvesting of millet and sorghum crops is scheduled to begin in September. Rainfall estimates indicate that the northern regions received below average rainfall from the end of July and to the beginning of August. However, localised heavy rains in the Ituri province caused crop damage in five localities.

Although no official figures are available, cereal production is estimated to have increased marginally in the last two years, on account of mostly favourable rainfall levels.

Rice prices remain high, but at a steady level

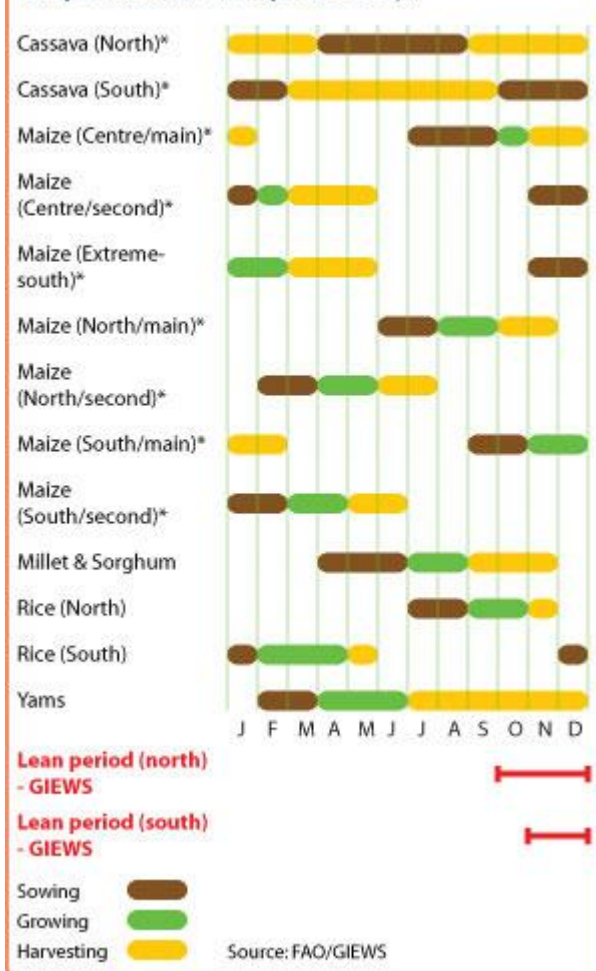
Prices of imported rice over the 12 month period from August 2009 to July 2010 have remained comparatively stable, increasing by only 7 percent. This reflects the relative stability of the exchange rate and of international prices; approximately a third of the total national cereal supply is imported. However, at about Franc Congolais 1000 per kg, latest available prices of rice in Kinshasa are still significantly above levels recorded two years earlier. In Bunia and Kisangani, rice price are similarly higher than those observed two years earlier, but are at a marginally lower level than the same month last year.

Lower maize prices on the Zambia side of the Kasumbalesa border point, by about 20 percent, has led to an increase flow of maize into DRC. Estimates from WFP/FEWSNet indicate that informal imports into DRC from Zambia in May 2010 reached 6 593 tonnes, compared to 724 tonnes in the same month last year.

Insecurity continues to negatively impact food security conditions

Since October 2009 tens of thousands of people have been displaced in the Sud-Ubangi district of Equateur province in north western DRC and many more have fled to Central African Republic and the Republic of Congo following inter-communal violence. Nationally, there are an estimated 164 520 refugees, mainly from Angola and Rwanda, and 78 341 internally displaced people (IDPs), according to the latest UNHCR report. Continuing insecurity is exacerbating the poor food security situation; at the beginning of August more than 38 000 persons were displaced in Shabunda due to recent conflicts.

Democratic Republic of the Congo Crop calendar (*major foodcrop)



Democratic Republic of the Congo Cereal production

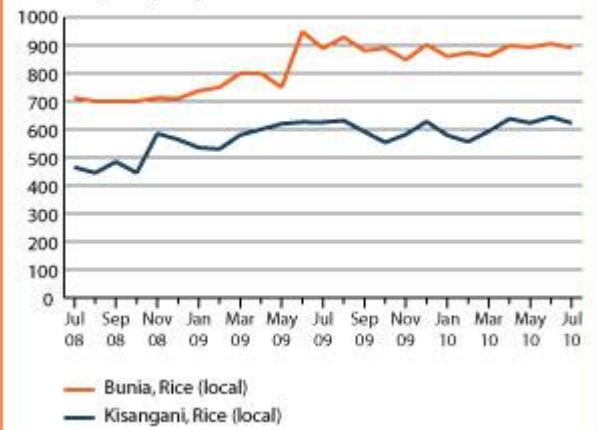
	2005-2009	2009	2010	change
	average		forecast	2010/2009
	000 tonnes			percent
Maize	1165	1200	1250	4
Rice (paddy)	316	318	318	0
Millet	37	37	37	0
Others	16	16	16	0
Total	1534	1571	1621	3

Note: percentage change calculated from unrounded data.
Source: FAO/GIEWS Country Cereal Balance Sheets

Democratic Republic of the Congo

Retail rice prices

Franc Congolais per kg

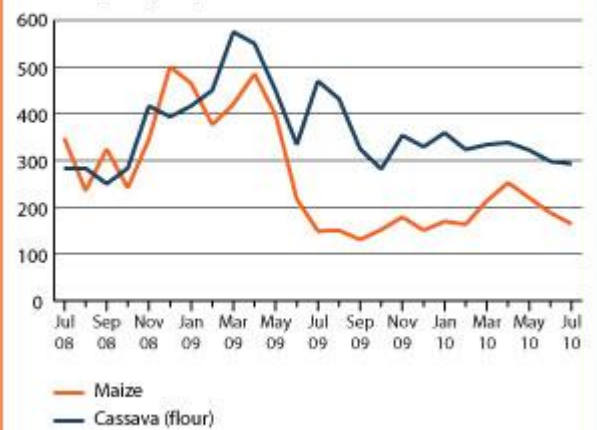


Source: FAO and DRC Ministry of Agriculture

Democratic Republic of the Congo

Retail maize and cassava prices in Kisangani

Franc Congolais per kg



Source: FAO and DRC Ministry of Agriculture

Reference Date: 25-March-2010

FOOD SECURITY SNAPSHOT

- Above average rainfall favours 2010 maize and other crops.
- High rice prices persists, supported by the depreciation of the currency, with lack of market integration and high transport costs resulting in regional price variations.
- IDPs and returnees continue to require international assistance.

Above average seasonal rainfall for 2010 crops

Secondary season maize crop for harvest in 2010 in the centre and extreme southern parts, and of cassava and rice in the south benefited from above average rains since planting in October and good crops are expected to be harvested. Although no official figures are available, cereal production is estimated to have increased in the last two years owing to generally favourable weather.

High food prices persist, supported by the depreciation of the currency

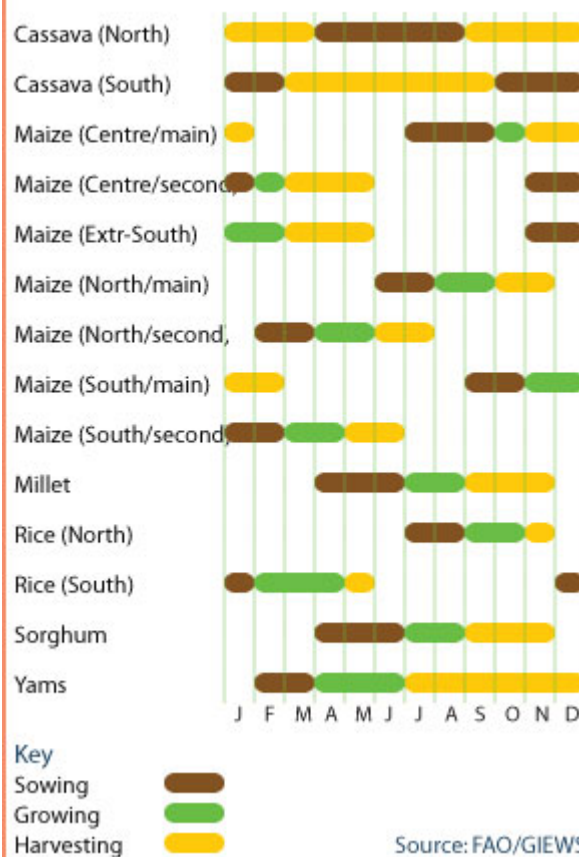
The prices of local rice in Bunia and Kisangani have been relatively stable in recent months but remain much higher than the level of prices two years earlier. By contrast, the prices of maize and cassava flour in Kisangani have declined since the early 2009 peaks (see charts below).

FAO has established a consumer food price monitoring system in 23 cities covering 17 food products. The February 2010 report shows that the average price for all markets/food products covered (or national average) was 46 percent higher than 12 months earlier with the highest variations (ranging from 159 and 91 percent) in Likasi, Gbadolite, Lumumbashi, Mbuji mayl and Bandundu. Among the commodities covered the average price for the 23 cities of maize, cassava and bananas were much lower in February than 12 months earlier, while those for most other food products, including rice, were much higher. The depreciation of the Congolese franc (by 30 percent in the last year) has been mostly responsible for the increase of many foods which are imported (approximately a third of the total national cereal supply is imported). Recorded informal imports of maize and beans from Zambia between April 2009 to January 2010 almost doubled compared with the same period in the previous marketing year while those for rice declined by over 50 percent.

Alarming situation of refugees in Equateur province

Since October 2009 tens of thousands of people have been displaced in the Sud-Ubangi district of Equateur province in north western DRC and many more have fled to Central African Republic and the Republic of Congo following inter-communal violence. According to the inter-agency mission concluded in late December, the humanitarian situation in the affected district is alarming. High child mortality and chronic malnutrition rates are reported with about two thirds of the population facing a situation of food insecurity. The access to the region remains limited with only 14 percent of the territory accessible. On the basis of this assessment, the UN has appealed in early March for USD 60 million to assist a total of 168 000 people in DRC, and in the

Crop calendar Democratic Republic of the Congo



Democratic Republic of the Congo Cereal production

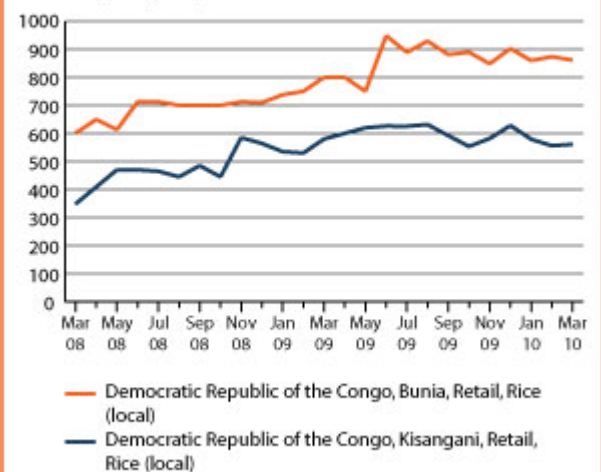
	2004-2008	2008	2009	change
	average		estimate	2009/2008
000 tonnes				
Maize	1156	1156	1200	4
Rice (paddy)	316	316	316	0
Millet	37	37	37	0
Others	16	16	16	0
Total	1524	1525	1569	3

Note: percentage change calculated from unrounded data.
Source: FAO/GIEWS Country Cereal Balance Sheets

Republic of Congo for six months. Nationally, according to the latest OCHA report, there are at least 1 350 000 IDPs present in the country, of whom over one million displaced during 2009. Approximately 30 percent of beneficiaries are not accessible, due to insecurity and logistical constraints. For a full report see the latest OCHA information note on the humanitarian situation in DRC at: <http://www.reliefweb.int>.

Democratic Republic of the Congo Retail rice prices

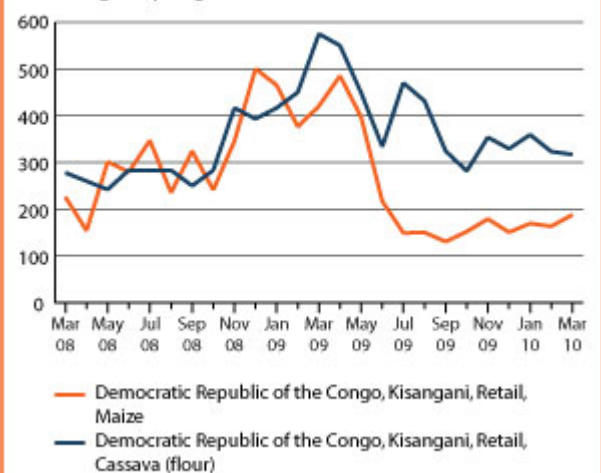
Franc Congolais per kg



Source: FAO and DRC Ministry of Agriculture

Democratic Republic of the Congo Retail maize and cassava prices

Franc Congolais per kg



Source: FAO and DRC Ministry of Agriculture

Reference Date: 9-February-2010

FOOD SECURITY SNAPSHOT

- Above average rainfall recorded in all regions benefiting early 2010 maize and other crops
- High rice prices persists, supported by the depreciation of the currency, with lack of market integration and high transport costs resulting in regional price variations
- IDPs and returnees continue to require international assistance

Above average rainfall levels received

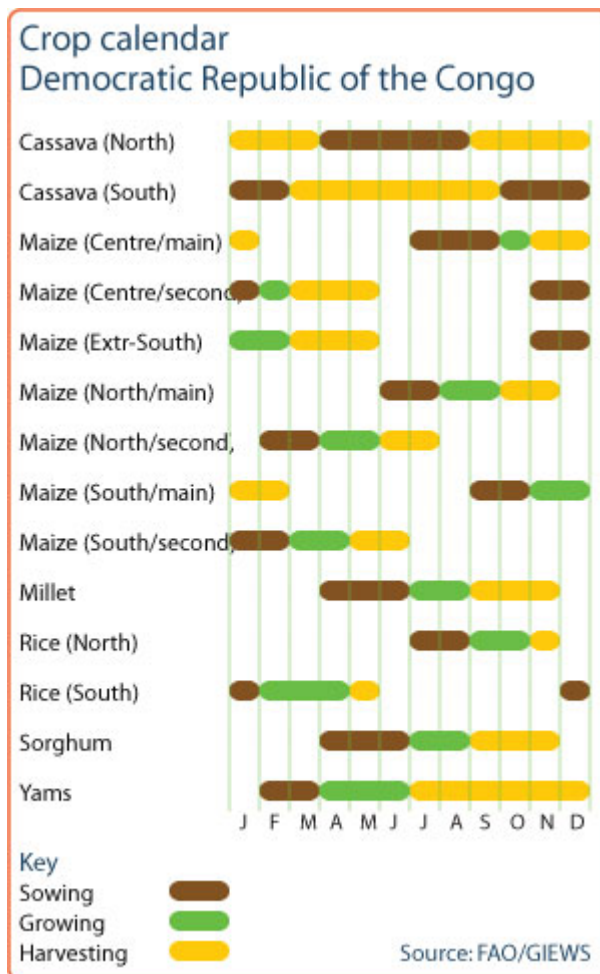
Planting and development of main season maize crop for harvest in 2010 in the centre and southern parts, and of cassava and rice in the south benefited from above average rains in the October-December 2009 period. Good harvests are expected between February and April. Although no official figures are available, cereal production for 2009 is estimated to have increased as compared to the previous year and the five-year average owing to generally favourable weather.

High food prices persist, supported by the depreciation of the currency

By December, rice prices in Bunia and Kisangani had stabilized but remained more than double the level of prices two years earlier. By contrast, the price of maize and cassava flour in Kisangani has declined since the early 2009 peaks. Food prices from selected markets show significant variations across the country. Prices of all commodities appear to be lower in Kisangani than in Bunia (close to the Uganda border). FAO has established a consumer food price monitoring system in 23 cities covering 17 food products. The January 2010 report shows that the average price for all markets/food products covered (or National average) was 41 percent higher than 12 months earlier with the highest variations (ranging from 116 and 74 percent) in Likasi, Gbadolite, Bandundu, Kisangani and Lumumbashi. The depreciation of the Congolese franc (by 42 percent in the last year) has contributed to maintaining prices of basic foods at high levels, given that approximately a third of the total national cereal supply is imported. Recorded informal imports of maize from Zambia, between April and September 2009, increased by 47 percent compared to the same period in 2008 while those for rice declined slightly.

Alarming situation of refugees in Equateur province

Tens of thousands people have been displaced in the Sud-Ubangi district of Equateur province in western DRC and many more have fled to Central African Republic and Republic of Congo following inter-communal violence in recent months. According to an inter-agency mission concluded in late December, the humanitarian situation in the affected district is alarming. High child mortality and chronic malnutrition rates are reported with about two thirds of the population facing a situation of food insecurity. The access to the region remains limited with only 14 percent of the territory accessible. The mission has called for humanitarian operations to start in January. Nationally, according to the latest OCHA report, there are at least 1 350 000 IDPs present today in the country, of whom over one million displaced during 2009.

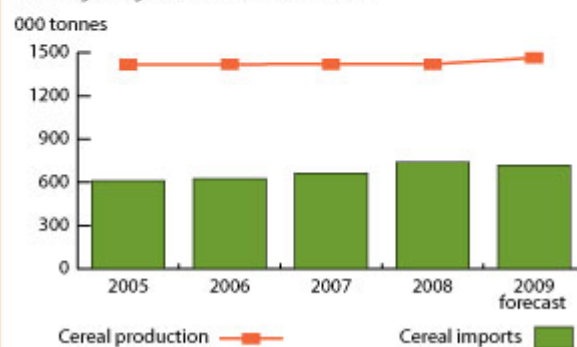


Approximately 30 percent of beneficiaries are not accessible, due to insecurity and logistical constraints.

Democratic Republic of the Congo Cereal production and imports

Cereal production	2004-2008	2008	2009	change*
	average		forecast	2009/2008
	000 tonnes			percent
Maize	1156	1156	1200	3.8%
Rice (milled)	211	211	211	0%
Millet	37	37	37	0%
Other	15	16	16	0%
Total Cereals	1419	1420	1464	3.1%

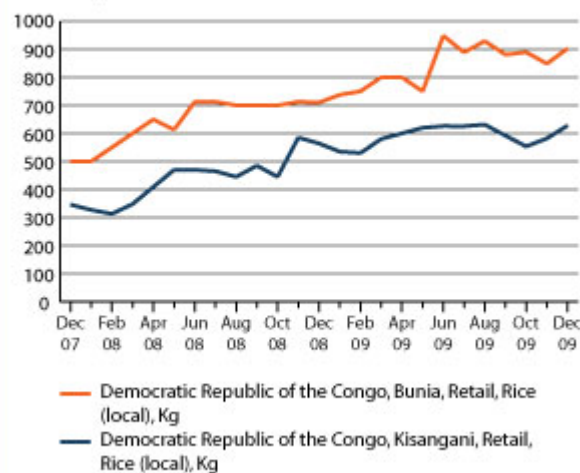
* Percentage change calculated from unrounded data.



Source: FAO/GIEWS Country Cereal Balance Sheets

Democratic Republic of the Congo Retail rice prices

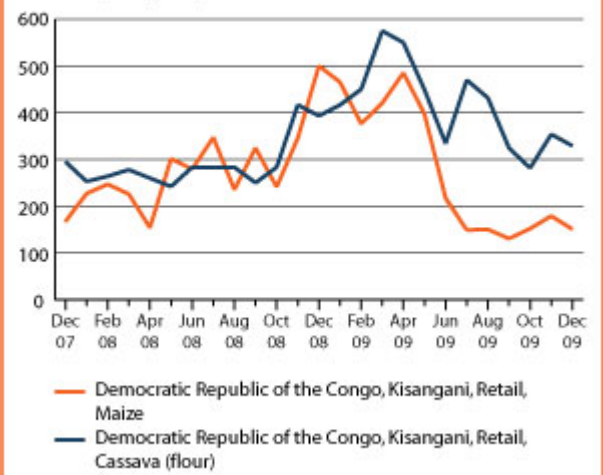
Franc Congolais



Source: FAO and DRC Ministry of Agriculture

Democratic Republic of the Congo Retail maize and cassava prices

Franc Congolais per kg



Source: FAO and DRC Ministry of Agriculture

Reference Date: 11-January-2010

FOOD SECURITY SNAPSHOT

- Above average rainfall recorded in all regions benefiting early 2010 maize and other crops
- High rice prices persists, supported by the depreciation of the currency, with lack of market integration and high transport costs resulting in regional price variations
- IDPs and returnees continue to require international assistance

Above average rainfall levels received

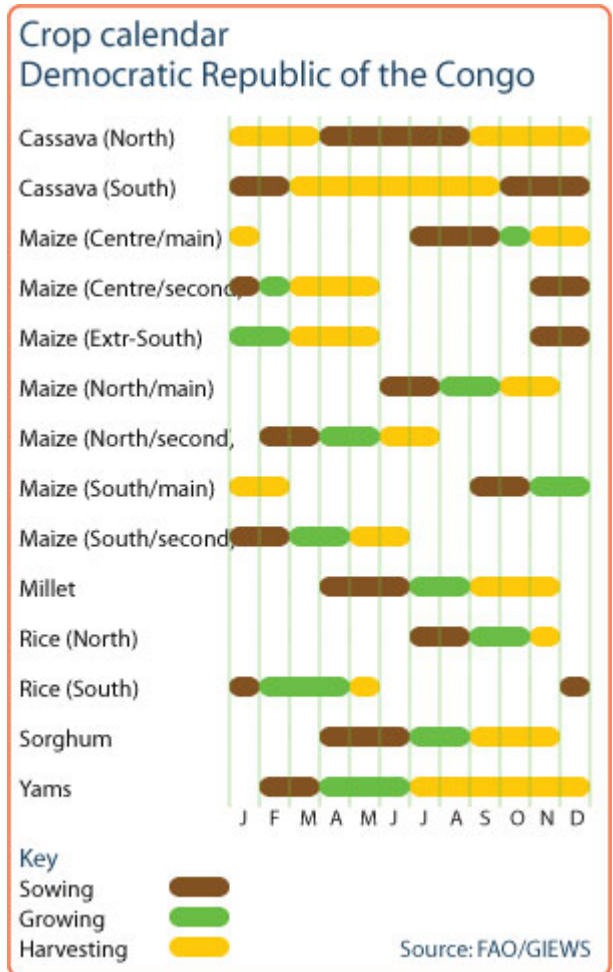
Planting and development of main season maize crop for harvest in 2010 in the centre and southern parts and cassava and rice in the south benefited from above average rains in the October-December 2009 period and good harvests are expected between February and April. Although no official figures are available, cereal production for 2009 is estimated to have increased as compared to the previous year and the five-year average.

High food prices persist, supported by the depreciation of the currency

By December, rice prices in Bunia and Kisangani had stabilized but remained more than double the level of prices two years earlier. By contrast, the price of maize and cassava flour in Kisangani has declined since the early 2009 peaks. Food prices from selected markets show significant variations across the country. Prices of all commodities appear to be lower in Kisangani than in Bunia (close to the Uganda border). The depreciation of the Congolese franc has contributed to maintaining prices of basic foods at high levels, given that approximately a third of the total national cereal supply is imported. Recorded informal imports of maize from Zambia, between April and September 2009, increased by 47 percent compared to the same period in 2008 while those for rice declined slightly.

Alarming situation of refugees in Equateur province

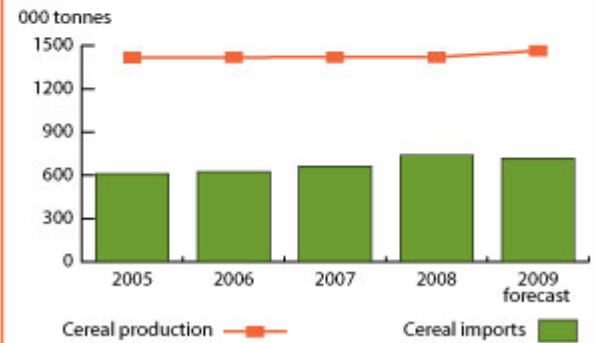
Tens of thousands people have been displaced in the Sud-Ubangi district of Equateur province in western DRC and many more have fled to Central African Republic and Republic of Congo following inter-communal violence in recent months. According to an inter-agency mission concluded in late December, the humanitarian situation in the affected district is alarming. High child mortality and chronic malnutrition rates are reported with about two thirds of the population facing a situation of food insecurity. The access to the region remains limited with only 14 percent of the territory accessible. The mission has called for humanitarian operations to start in January. Nationally, food assistance is provided to more than 1.1 million extremely vulnerable people, with the number of IDPs estimated at 2.2 million people.



Democratic Republic of the Congo Cereal production and imports

Cereal production	2004-2008	2008	2009	change*
	average		forecast	2009/2008
	000 tonnes			percent
Maize	1156	1156	1200	3.8%
Rice (milled)	211	211	211	0%
Millet	37	37	37	0%
Other	15	16	16	0%
Total Cereals	1419	1420	1464	3.1%

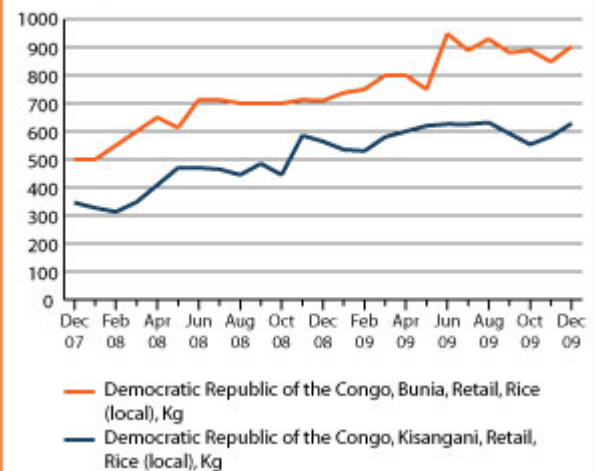
* Percentage change calculated from unrounded data.



Source: FAO/GIEWS Country Cereal Balance Sheets

Democratic Republic of the Congo Retail rice prices

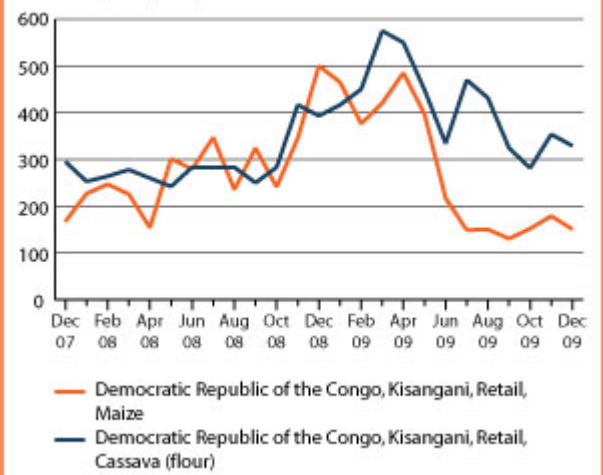
Franc Congolais



Source: FAO and DRC Ministry of Agriculture

Democratic Republic of the Congo Retail maize and cassava prices

Franc Congolais per kg



Source: FAO and DRC Ministry of Agriculture

Reference Date: 30-September-2009

FOOD SECURITY SNAPSHOT

- Above average rainfall recorded in northern regions
- High rice prices persists, with lack of market integration and high transport costs resulting in price variations
- High food prices persist, supported by the depreciation of the currency
- IDPs and returnees continue to require international assistance

Abundant rainfall levels received in north

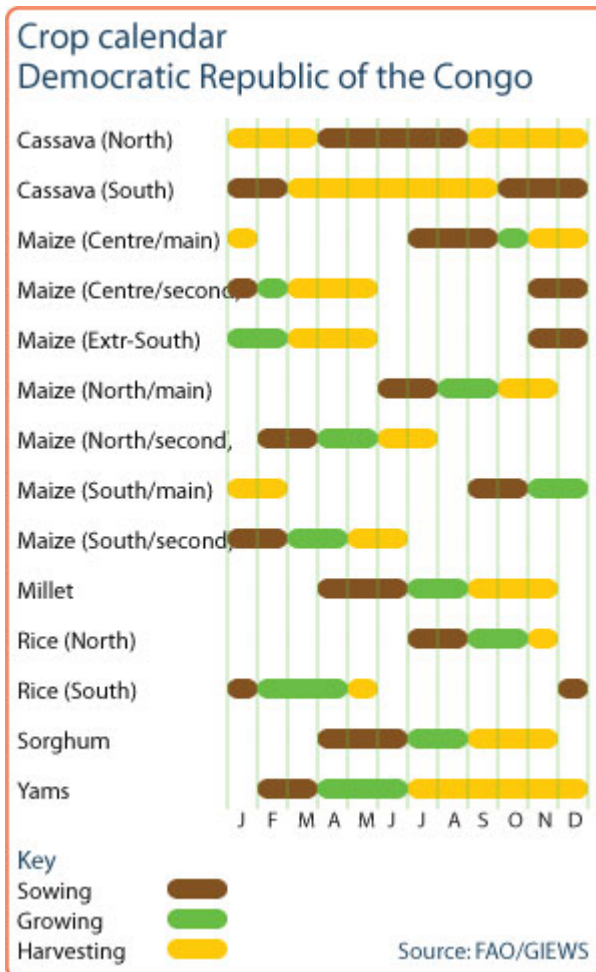
Planting of the 2009 rice crop in northern regions was completed in August, while harvesting of the main season's maize crop in the north is scheduled to begin in October. Rainfall estimates indicate that the northern regions received above average rainfall during the maize growing period (August-September). Although no official figures are available, cereal production for 2009 is estimated at be above last year's level and the five-year average.

High food prices persist, supported by the depreciation of the currency

Rice prices recorded in September, in Bunia and Kisangani, remain more than double the level of prices two years earlier. Food prices from selected markets indicate significant variations across the country. In Bunia, the price of cassava (flour) in September 2009 was 50 percent more than the market prices recorded in Kisangani. Similarly, local rice prices in Bunia were 52 percent above prices in Kisangani for the month of September. The depreciation of the Congolese franc has contributed to maintaining the high food prices, given that approximately a third of the total national cereal supply is imported. Informal imports of maize and rice from Zambia, between April and August 2009, increased slightly compared to the same period in 2008.

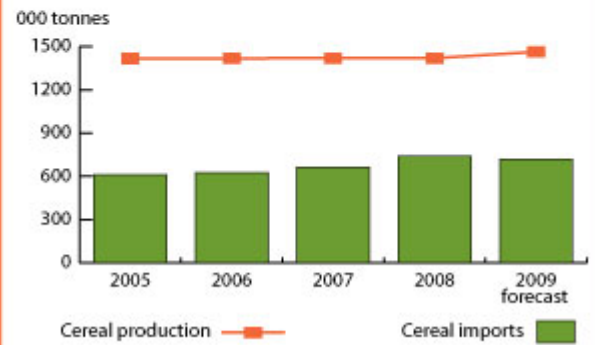
International assistance needed for IDPs and returnees

Fighting since September 2008 in the north-east displaced as many as 540 000 people. UNHCR reported that renewed fighting, concentrated in Faradje and Dungu in the north-eastern tip of the country, has led to the displacement of 12 000 civilians. The presence of armed groups and insecurity is also restricting access to agricultural fields in South Kivu. Nationally, food assistance is provided to more than 1.1 million extremely vulnerable people, with the number of IDPs estimated at 2.2 million people.



Cereal production and imports Democratic Republic of the Congo

Cereal production	2004-2008	2008	2009	change
	average		forecast	2009/2008
	000 tonnes			percent
Maize	1155	1156	1200	3.8%
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Total Cereals	1419	1420	1464	3.1%



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