



### IN NUMBERS



**7.7 million**

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



**75%**

of rural families rely on agriculture for their food and income



**4.1 million**

people internally displaced, of which nearly 2 million in the Kasais and Tanganyika



**USD 36.9 million**

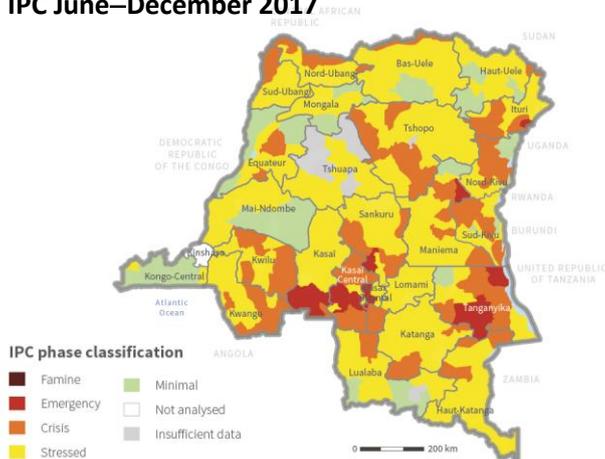
still needed for the implementation of FAO's 2017–2018 Response Plan

### KEY POINTS

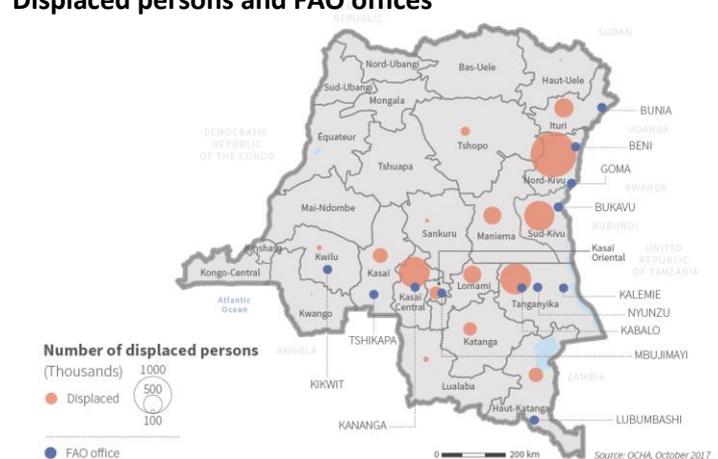
- Violence has broken out in unexpected areas of the country, spreading from eastern provinces to central and southeastern areas as well. This has caused Africa's largest internal displacement crisis, with an alarming humanitarian situation.
- Food insecurity has increased by 30 percent since 2016 due to a lack of access to food, suspended agricultural activities, insufficient food reserves and income, and the fact that previous harvests have been either looted or burnt as a result of the conflict. Between 40 and 60 percent of households were forced to adopt negative coping mechanisms.
- As agriculture is the only sector able to provide nutritious food and income, implementing agricultural activities and rehabilitating value chains are key activities to contribute to reducing food insecurity and malnutrition, generating socio-economic development, building resilience, stabilizing peace and building more prosperous futures.
- Given the recent deterioration of the humanitarian situation, FAO is scaling up its response and urgently requires USD 15 million by January 2018 to support families during the next planting season starting in March, allowing them to secure access to food and generate sufficient income to strengthen their livelihoods and return to a sense of normalcy.

### MAPS

IPC June–December 2017



Displaced persons and FAO offices



### BACKGROUND

The Democratic Republic of the Congo is facing Africa's most severe internal displacement crisis. There are about 4.1 million IDPs – more than double the number of 2016 – of which nearly 2 million in the Kasais and Tanganyika provinces, and 1 million in North and South Kivu. Some 93 percent are displaced as a result of violence, insecurity and armed attacks, and the majority are living with host families who already face chronic poverty and food insecurity. While the country has experienced a complex and protracted crisis for over two decades, the situation deteriorated significantly in 2016 due to an unfavourable socio-economic environment and worsening insecurity with outbreaks of conflict in provinces that have been peaceful in the past, such as in the Kasais. This led to massive displacement, loss of livelihoods and a rapid increase in severe food insecurity and malnutrition rates. In particular, women continue to face disproportionate economic, social, and health challenges in the country, including constraints in access to income, land, education and reproductive healthcare. Women in general and young girls in particular have been especially affected by the conflict, with 1 429 cases of sexual and gender-based violence recorded in the Kasais (August 2016–May 2017). Furthermore, the presence of fall armyworm in over half of the country is exacerbating the rapid deterioration of food security and nutrition.

## CHALLENGES FACING FOOD AND AGRICULTURE

The latest IPC analysis (June 2017) reported a 30 percent increase of people living in food insecurity nationally since 2016 mainly due to the crisis in the Kasai and Tanganyika provinces. About 7.7 million people are facing crisis and emergency levels of food insecurity (Phases 3 and 4), representing 11 percent of the rural population. People fleeing from the violence have not been able to tend their fields and have lost their productive assets. With the exception of cassava and sweet potatoes, other crops, such as maize, cowpea and rice, have been lost or burnt. By not being able to engage in agricultural activities, trading activities in general have been disrupted as well as local economies. The impact of the conflict's rapid geographical expansion has been dramatic for a population already affected by poverty before the crisis, with around 74 percent of the population living on less than USD 1.25 a day. This is further compounded by a limited dietary diversity and the lack of livelihood opportunities and social, economic and agricultural investments. In addition to fall armyworm outbreaks severely affecting maize production, there are other plant diseases such as banana wilt and the cassava brown streak and mosaic, further deteriorating communities' food security and nutrition. In various parts of the country, the humanitarian situation has been exacerbated by cholera and measles outbreaks. As a result of the challenges linked to not being able to access animal protein or vegetables, malnutrition rates have severely increased among displaced populations, with about 2 million children affected by severe acute malnutrition.

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

## FAO RESPONSE, TARGETS AND FUNDING

### 2017-2018 PLANNED RESPONSE



**1 320 000 people (220 000 households)** targeted



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



Access animal protein through support to livestock production, including breeding of guinea pigs



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



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



Strengthen Cluster coordination to boost local and national food security capacities through monitoring and analysis

### RESPONSE TO DATE

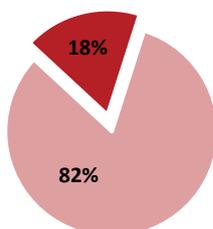


**156 390 people (26 065 households)** assisted



Beneficiaries received a total of **431 kg of vegetable seeds, 90.8 tonnes of crop seeds** and **106 382 tools** in the Kasais, Kwilu and Tanganyika; this allowed them to obtain food production for an estimated **ten million meals** – enough for three months. By selling the surplus of production, families are also able to generate **USD 100 a month**.

### FUNDING



■ Funding to-date:  
USD 8.1 million

■ Funding gap:  
USD 36.9 million

### ASSESSMENTS

An emergency food security assessment was carried out by WFP in collaboration with the Food Security Cluster (August 2017) in the Greater Kasai region. Results indicated that 2016 maize production decreased by 26 percent compared with 2015 which is the main source of food and income for the majority of the population in the region. In addition, displaced families and returnees have reduced the number of daily meals to an average of 1.3/day. A post-harvest assessment (November 2017) indicated that the conflict has severely impacted food availability and prices in the Kasais, with an increase of 237 and 152 percent for maize and cowpea, respectively over a one-year period. An IPC analysis is expected to be carried out starting in December 2017.

**FAO requires:** USD 45 million

**To assist:** 1 320 000 people

**Resource partners:** the Governments of Belgium and of the United States of America, and the Central Emergency Response Fund

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