

Overview

People in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) continue to face a prolonged emergency, marked by ongoing conflict, massive population displacement and dire levels of humanitarian need.

This IPC projection update analysis focused on the provinces of North Kivu, South Kivu, Ituri and Tanganyika, and found that more than 9.9 million people in these four areas will continue to experience high levels of acute food insecurity between January and June 2026. Although this represents a slight improvement of 1.8 percent compared with the September 2025 projection for the same period, the situation still reflects a deterioration from the previous period of September to December 2025, underscoring the persistent severity of food insecurity in the region.

At the provincial level, the analysis shows a decrease in people in Phase 3 or above in North Kivu and Tanganyika—likely linked to a slight decline in clashes between armed groups, which has marginally improved people’s access to livelihood activities and markets. However, there is an increase in people in Phase 3 or above in South Kivu, which is linked to intensified fighting on the frontlines. Humanitarian food security assistance (HFSA) is not reaching nearly enough people, with only 1.1 million people receiving assistance in the four provinces between January and February 2026.

At the national level, approximately 26.5 million people (23 percent of the analysed population) are experiencing high levels of acute food insecurity between January and June 2026, including more than 3.6 million people in Phase 4 and 22.9 million people in Phase 3. While this is also a slight reduction compared to the projection for this time period in the September 2025 analysis, it nonetheless marks a deterioration compared to September to December 2025, when 24.8 million people faced Phase 3 or above (Crisis or worse).

Beyond the immediate impacts of conflict and economic pressures, the food security situation is further undermined by limited access to essential services and weakened infrastructure. In many affected areas, health facilities are either non-functional or operating with severe constraints due to insecurity. Poor road conditions restrict the movement of goods and humanitarian assistance, isolating communities and inflating market prices. At the same time, gaps in social protection systems and insufficient coverage of humanitarian assistance leave millions of vulnerable households without the support needed to stabilise their food consumption or rebuild their livelihoods. These structural challenges compound the crisis, reinforcing the protracted nature of the emergency.

IPC analysis partners:



Publication date: 12 May 2026. Population data is based on the Technical Working Group (TWG) Information management team and DRC’s National Institute of Statistics, 2026 Population Estimates. | Contact: ipc@fao.org | Disclaimer: The information shown on this map does not imply official recognition or endorsement of any physical and political boundaries.

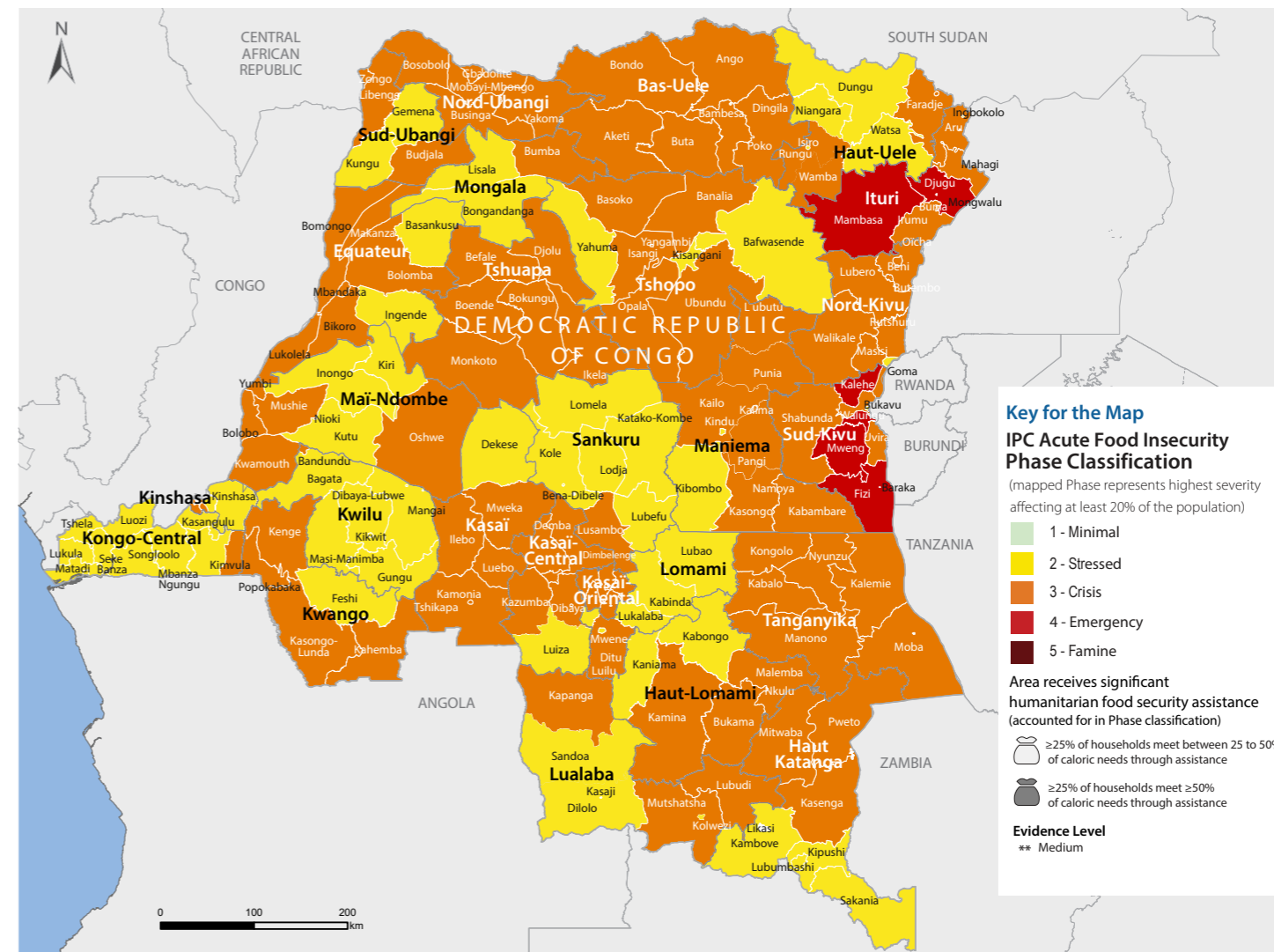
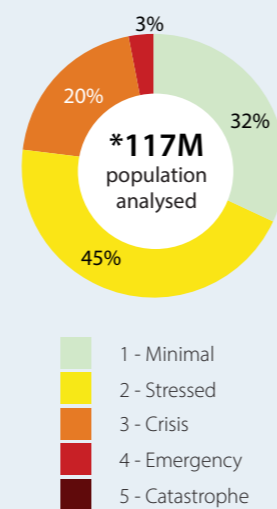


Key Figures | January - June 2026



An estimated 26.5 million people in the DRC are experiencing high levels of acute food insecurity - IPC Phase 3 or above (Crisis or worse) - between January and June 2026.

23 percent of the analysed population of 117 million people are experiencing IPC Phase 3 or above.



Key for the Map
IPC Acute Food Insecurity Phase Classification
 (mapped Phase represents highest severity affecting at least 20% of the population)

- 1 - Minimal
- 2 - Stressed
- 3 - Crisis
- 4 - Emergency
- 5 - Famine

Area receives significant humanitarian food security assistance
 (accounted for in Phase classification)

- ≥25% of households meet between 25 to 50% of caloric needs through assistance
- ≥25% of households meet ≥50% of caloric needs through assistance

Evidence Level
 ** Medium

Key Drivers

- Armed conflict:** Livelihoods are being destroyed by relentless armed conflict, insecurity and violence. Along with sharp drops in food production, loss of income, and long-term erosion of people’s resilience, conflict continues to trigger new waves of displacement and forced returns, deepening food consumption gaps.
- Economic shocks:** Economic pressures continue to significantly undermine household food security across nearly all areas. The steady decline in household income—driven by reduced livelihood opportunities, market disruptions, and the broader economic slowdown—has sharply weakened purchasing power. At the same time, the prices of staple foods remain persistently high, often rising faster than wages or daily labour rates.
- Climatic shocks:** Localised flooding, recurrent epidemics, and declining agricultural and livestock productivity—driven by crop diseases and animal epidemics—continue to disrupt food systems. These shocks are compounded by the poor condition of feeder roads, weakening value chains, reducing food availability, and heightening the vulnerability of households already facing multiple stresses.

Recommended Actions

- End conflict:** Restoring peace and security in the eastern part of the country is essential for establishing a stable environment. Additionally, implementing mediation mechanisms to resolve land-use conflicts will ensure peaceful coexistence and facilitate community rebuilding.
- Scale up HFSA:** Mobilise financial resources to scale up HFSA in conflict-affected areas, particularly for displaced populations and those in Phases 3 and 4. Take into account the vulnerabilities of host families and communities.
- Facilitate humanitarian access:** In conflict zones, facilitate humanitarian access to vulnerable populations. To secure humanitarian workers, negotiate access agreements with conflicting parties and establish humanitarian corridors to provide essential aid to those in need—displaced persons, returnees, and host communities in Phase 3 or above.
- Provide resources for the agricultural sector:** Establish strategic reserves of agricultural and petroleum products to stabilise prices in national markets and support and restore the livelihoods of food-insecure households by relaunching agricultural production for returnees, host families and highly vulnerable residents.