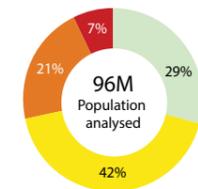


## Key Figures | Current Situation | February - July 2021



Around 27.3 million people out of 96 million people analysed are experiencing high levels of acute food insecurity (IPC Phase 3 or above) in the Democratic Republic of Congo, making it the country with the greatest need of assistance in the world.

Population in Phases of acute food insecurity



With a displaced population of 5.2 million, the Democratic Republic of Congo currently hosts the second largest number of internally displaced people (IDPs) in the world. The country also hosts 527,000 refugees from neighbouring countries.

## Overview

Around 27.3 million people in the Democratic Republic of Congo are experiencing high levels of acute food insecurity (IPC Phase 3 or above), making the central African country the host of the highest number of people in urgent need of humanitarian assistance in the world. Although the magnitude is unprecedented, partly due to new and urban areas analysed, the prevalence of people in IPC Phase 3 or above slightly decreased compared to the previous analysis.

The latest results indicate that approximately a third of the population analysed is experiencing high levels of acute food insecurity (IPC Phase 3 or above), with 6% to 7% in Emergency (IPC Phase 4), adding up to 6.7 million people in this situation.

The highest number of people in high acute food insecurity (IPC Phase 3 or above) peaked in September 2020, which coincided with the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic, forcing the Congolese authorities to put in place restrictive measures. In the same period, an increase in localised conflicts triggered population displacement, which, combined with the ailing economy, led to higher than usual levels of acute food insecurity.

Although the situation remains alarming, the February 2021 IPC analysis (28% of the population analysed in IPC Phase 3 or above) shows a slight improvement in the prevalence compared to July 2020 (33% of the population analysed in IPC Phase 3 or above).

Compared to the analysis of 2017, when the same areas were covered, a slight decrease in the prevalence of population in Emergency (IPC Phase 4) is observed. However, the total magnitude increases due to the size of the population analysed (66 million in July 2020 versus 96 million in February 2021).

## Key Drivers



### Conflict and Insecurity

Armed and inter-communal conflict, mainly in the east, continued to force population displacement. The activities of more than 40 armed groups continues to affect the living conditions of the population, mainly in Ituri, North and South Kivu, Maniema, and Tanganyika province.



### COVID-19

Although the restrictive measures to mitigate the spread of COVID-19 have been lifted, their impact on the population is long running. The reduction in the movement of people and goods continues to limit physical access to markets and food products and economic access.



### Economic Decline

Weak economic performance, coupled with the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic, have resulted in lower economic growth than in previous years. For 2021, the government has reduced its budget by 38%, from USD 11 billion to USD 6.9 billion.

## Recommended Actions



### End Intercommunal Violence & Conflict

Take all necessary measures to halt the violence in eastern DR Congo and protect civilians from ongoing and future insecurity. Prevent any resurgence of the conflict through support to conflict resolution at all relevant levels.



### Humanitarian Assistance

Immediate and urgent humanitarian action is needed for populations experiencing high levels of acute food insecurity (IPC Phase 3 or above) to save lives, reduce food gaps and protect livelihoods.



### Livelihood Support

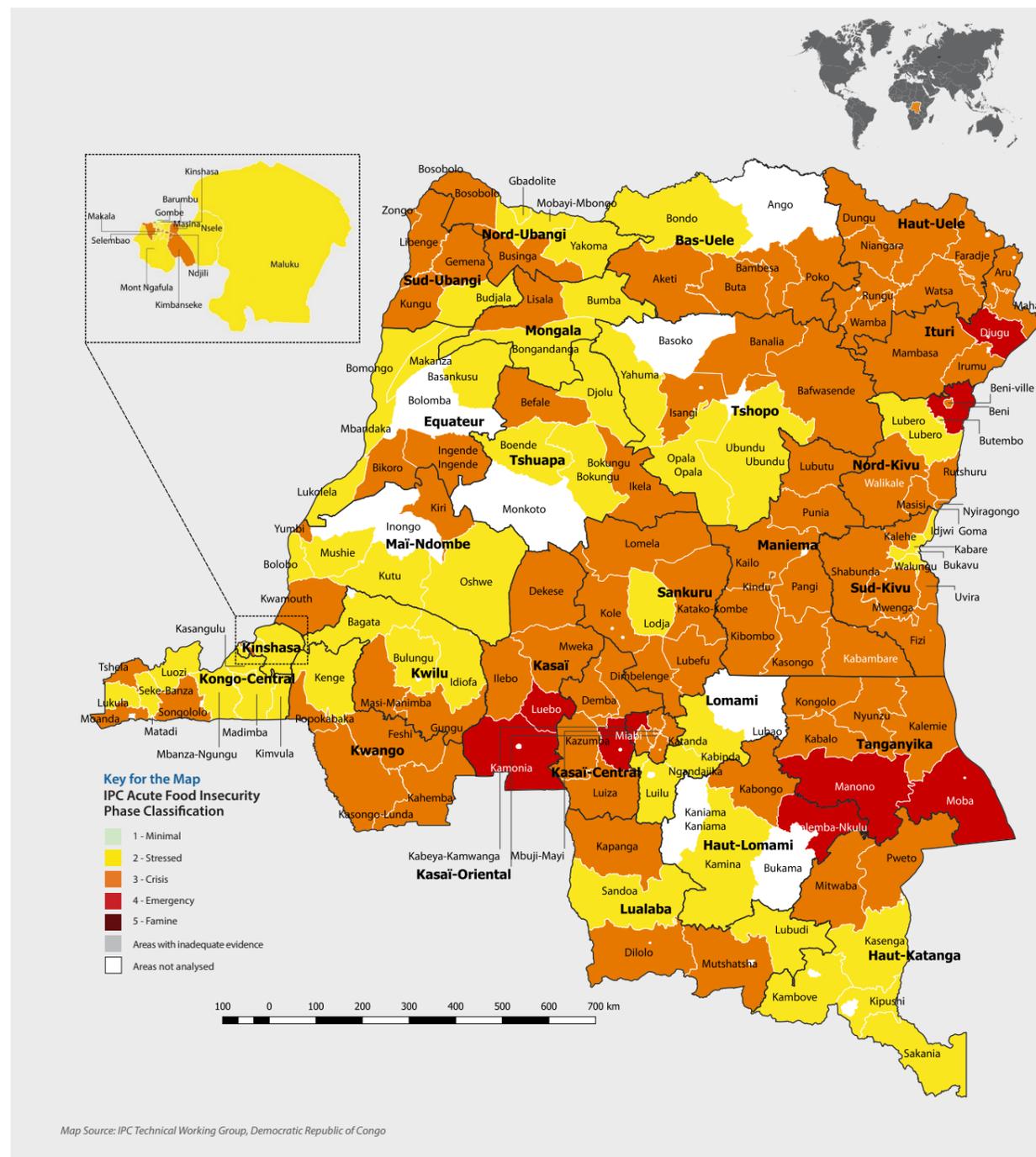
Support the livelihoods of households in Crisis (IPC Phase 3) and Emergency (IPC Phase 4) by strengthening households' access to inputs and local technical capacities; support livestock breeders and small farmers in the fight against diseases through the supply of necessary inputs.



### Nutrition Response

Strengthen nutritional screening, support the capacity of health facilities, and provide support to the nutritional response in alert areas, primarily in areas classified as Emergency (IPC Phase 4) or with high proportions of populations in Emergency (IPC Phase 4).

## CURRENT: Acute Food Insecurity Situation | February - July 2021



## PROJECTION: Acute Food Insecurity

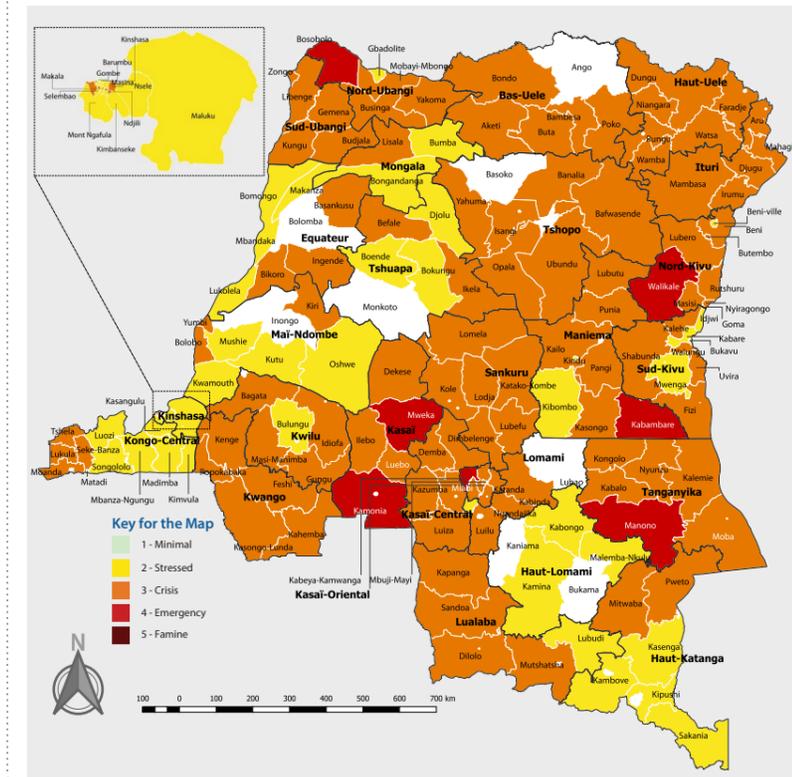
August - December 2021



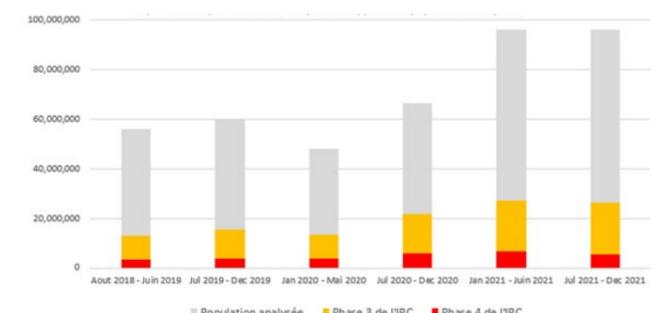
## Overview of the Projected Situation

It is expected that approximately 26.2 million people (27% of the 96 million people analysed) will be in high acute food insecurity (IPC Phases 3 & 4), including more than 5.6 million (5.82% in Emergency (IPC Phase 4) between August and December 2021. Assumptions for this estimate include the likely continuation of armed and inter-communal conflicts in the eastern and north-eastern regions of the country and the resulting displacement of people, the COVID-19 pandemic, and poor macroeconomic performance. Rising food prices and erratic rainfall are also expected to keep the number of acutely food-insecure people in DRC high over the projection period.

## PROJECTION: Acute Food Insecurity | August - December 2021



## Population in Phase 3 or above (2018 - 2021)



Publication date: 30 March 2021 | \*IPC population data is based on population estimate by the DR Congo's National Institute of Statistics. | \*\* Displacement estimates are from UNOCHA | Feedback: IPC@FAO.org | Disclaimer: The information shown on this map does not imply official recognition or endorsement of any physical and political boundaries.

**Background of the DR Congo Crisis**

The Democratic Republic of Congo has been engulfed in a complex humanitarian crisis for decades, fuelled by armed conflict, natural disasters and disease outbreaks. While the poverty rate of the largest country in Sub-Saharan Africa has fallen slightly over the past two decades, particularly in rural areas, the DRC nonetheless remains one of the poorest countries in the world. Women and children remain the most vulnerable. The crisis context is aggravated by the political standstill, the slowdown in economic growth, and structural weaknesses in terms of development.

**Conflict**

To date, over 120 armed groups are active in the east of the country, uprooting more than 5.2 million people from their homes. As a result, fragmented armed groups often prevent civilians from accessing their fields. War and unrest have been the most protracted in North Kivu, South Kivu, and Ituri, and Tanganyika and the central Kasai provinces more recently. In the eastern provinces, the situation remains particularly volatile and cyclical, heavily impacting food security and driving millions into high acute food insecurity. The impact of conflict on food security is long-running. For instance, although conflict subsided in Kasai, half of the areas in the region are classified in Emergency (IPC Phase 4), similar or worse compared to areas currently experiencing conflict.

**Diseases**

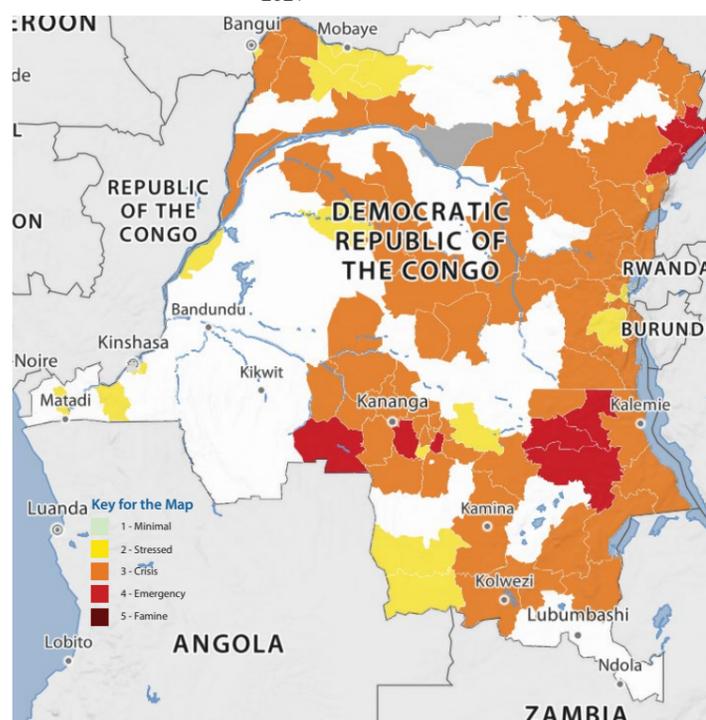
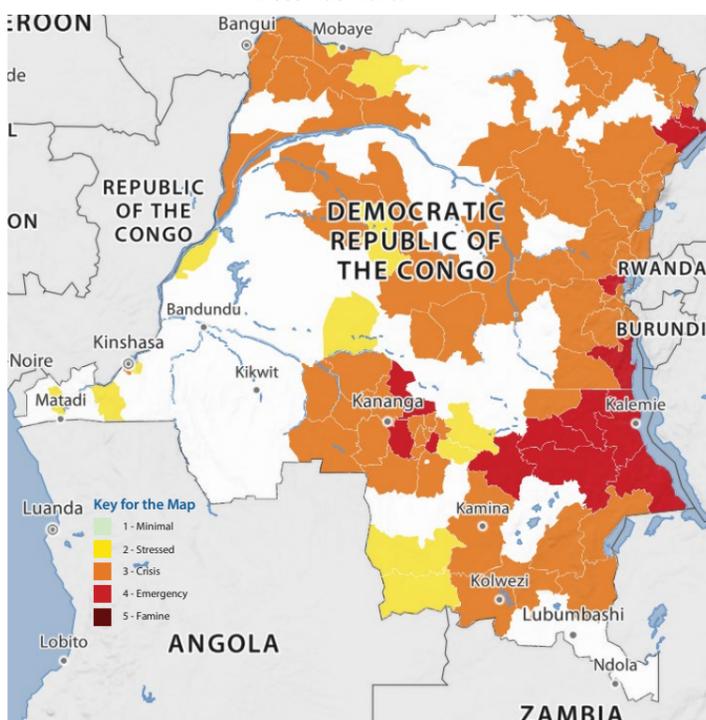
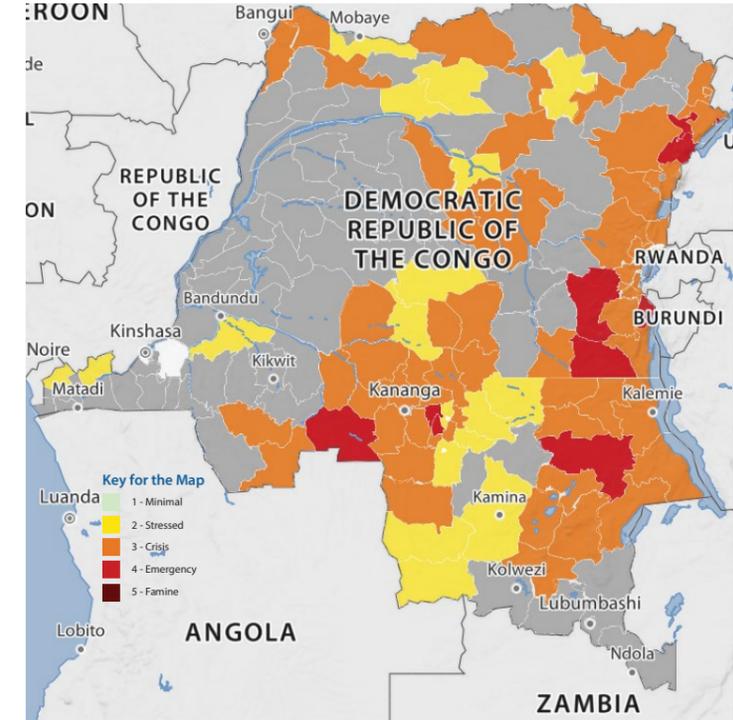
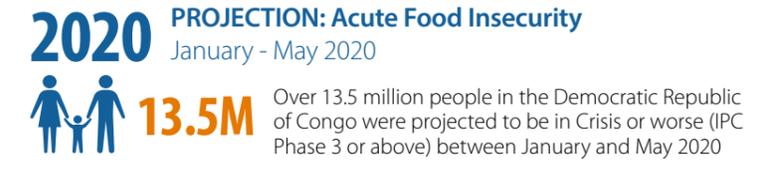
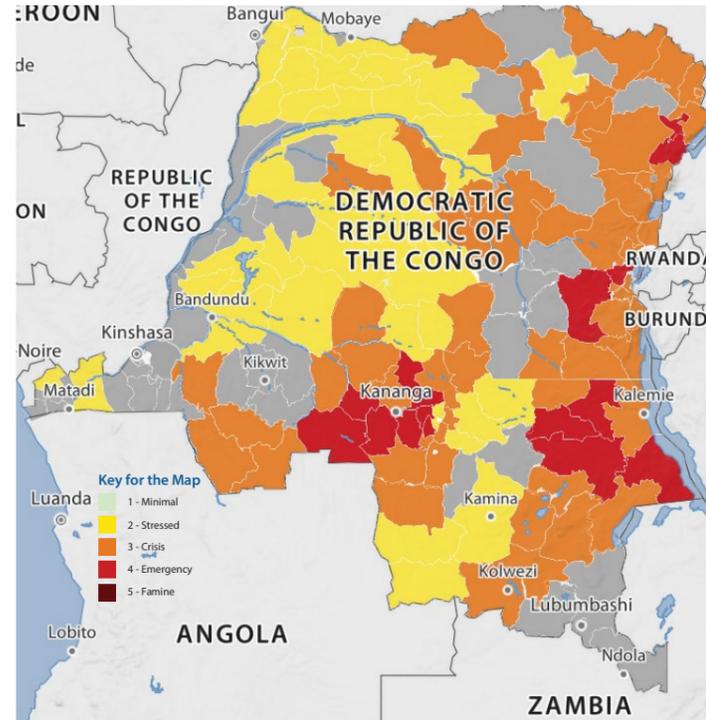
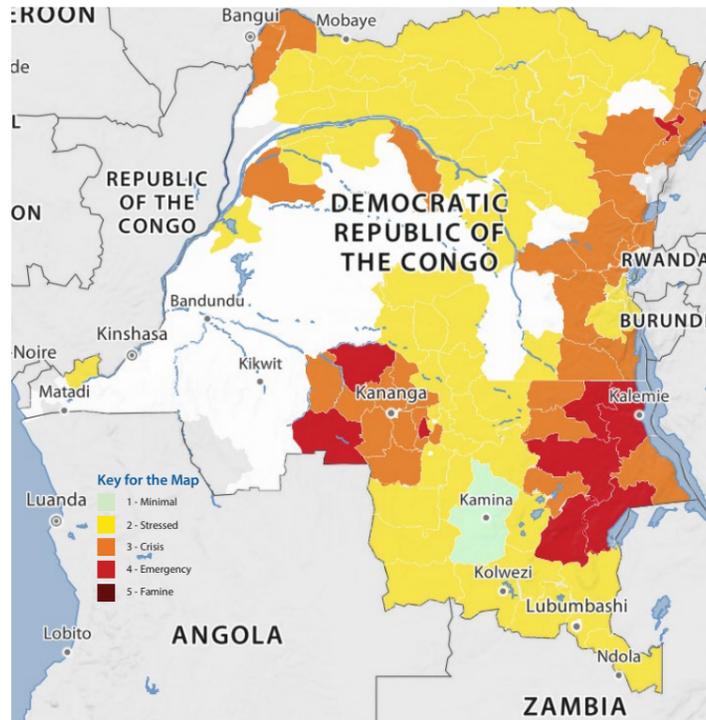
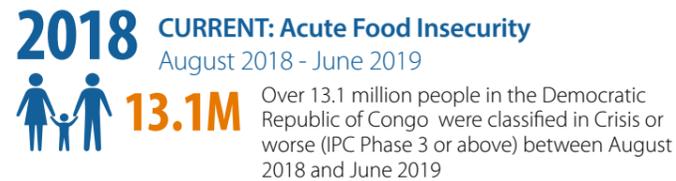
The country has suffered some of the most severe Ebola outbreaks the world has ever seen, second only to the West Africa epidemic, which claimed over 11,000 lives. For about two years, the DRC faced an Ebola epidemic in Beni territory (North Kivu). On 7 February 2021, authorities announced the resurgence of Ebola Virus Disease (EVD) in the east of the country, three months after the declaration of the end of a previous epidemic. The country was also faced by the COVID-19 pandemic, which continues to negatively affect the economy and the macro-economic framework. The country's measles outbreak was compounded by low immunisation coverage in vulnerable communities, malnutrition, weak public health systems, outbreaks of other diseases with epidemic potential, poor access to health care for vulnerable populations and insecurity, which hampered the response in some areas. The DRC continues to struggle with malaria, which affects all provinces of the country and is the leading cause of morbidity and mortality.

**State of roads and basic infrastructure**

Nearly 70% of the Congolese population live in rural areas, mainly engaging in cropping, fishing, and livestock farming, in precarious conditions and absolute poverty despite the immense potential. The absence or poor state of road and communication infrastructure are major casual factors as the rural population is kept in isolation. This has compounded access to basic social services and functioning of markets—making movement of goods and humanitarian assistance difficult.

**Economic Decline**

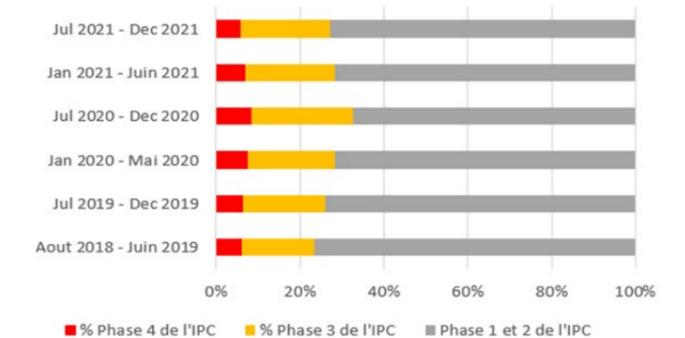
The economy of DR Congo has declined drastically since the mid-1980s, despite being home to vast potential in natural resources and mineral wealth. In 2018, 72% of the population, especially in the North West and Kasai regions, lived in extreme poverty on less than \$1.90 a day, according to the World Bank. In 2020, the country experienced its first recession in 18 years as a result of the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic. The DRC's real GDP contracted by 1.7% in 2020 after increasing by 4.4% in 2019 and 5.8% in 2018.



**Comparison**

Compared to the results of the same areas analysed since 2018, there was a decrease in the prevalence of the population in Emergency (IPC Phase 4) while the total magnitude increased due to the size of the population analysed (66 million in July 2020 versus 96 million in February 2021). Comparing the two previous IPC analyses from June 2019 and June 2020, the total number of people in high acute food insecurity (IPC Phase 3 or above) also increased from 15.6 to 21.8 million in the current period (June to December 2020) and from 13.6 to 19.6 million in the projected period (January to June 2021). This is mainly due to a significant increase in the total population analysed, from 58.9/48 million (current/projected in the 2019 analysis) to 66.6 million (current/projected in the 2020 analysis), in addition to a slight increase in the prevalence of high acute food insecurity: 26% in June-December 2019 to 28% in January-June 2020, to 33% in July-December 2020, and to 29% in January-June 2021.

**Prevalence of population in Phase 3 or above (2018 - 2021)**



The organizations that participated in this analysis are: The Ministry of Agriculture, the Ministry of Planning, the Ministry of Health, INS, IPAPEL, PRONANUT, CAID, SNSA, FAO, WFP, Food Security Cluster, FEWS-NET, REACH, ACF, PNRM, CREPADECO, CHRISTIAN AID, ALDI, INERA, CONCERN, CRS, FH, ACTED, APROBES, and RIA-AGRI KIVU, with technical support from the IPC Global Support Unit.