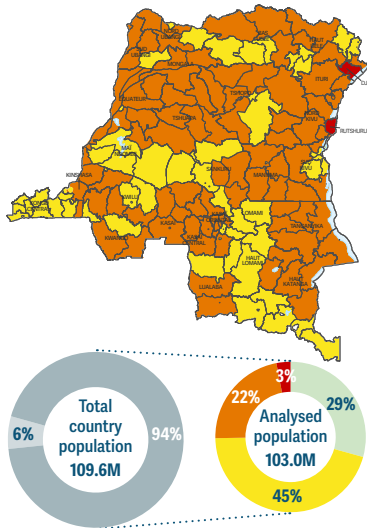


ACUTE FOOD INSECURITY | An improving situation according to an analysis carried out before the October 2023 major escalation of violence.

PEAK 2023 (JANUARY–JUNE)

25.8M people or **25%** of the analysed population faced high levels of acute food insecurity.

This decline of 0.6 million people since the 2022 peak in July–December followed the harvest, but escalating armed conflict and displacement led to a 5 percent increase in the number of highly acutely food-insecure people in North Kivu and Ituri (IPC, May 2023). Around 3.4 million people faced Emergency (IPC Phase 4).

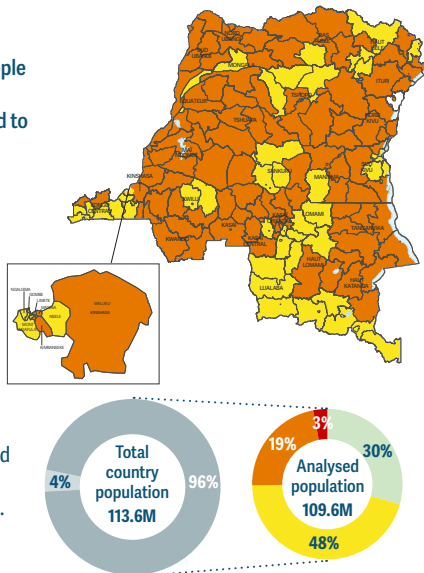


Source: Democratic Republic of the Congo IPC TWG, May 2023.

PROJECTION 2024 (JANUARY–JUNE)

23.4M people or **22%** of the analysed population are projected to face high levels of acute food insecurity.

This marks a third consecutive decline, with 2.43 million fewer people compared with the 2023 peak, but still very high due to persisting conflicts, political instability and displacement (IPC, September 2023). Around 2.9 million people were projected in IPC Phase 4.



Source: Democratic Republic of the Congo IPC TWG, September 2024.

DRIVERS OF THE CRISIS 2023–2024

Conflict/insecurity The 2023 resurgence of armed groups targeting civilians in eastern areas led to mass population displacement and disruption of agricultural activities and livelihoods. From January–November, 1.1 million people were newly displaced in North Kivu, South Kivu and Ituri. Armed conflict and intercommunal violence hampered access to and delivery of humanitarian aid (IOM, January 2024).

Economic shocks Local currency depreciation and foreign currency scarcity contributed to increasing food prices. Prices of key staples were higher than the previous year and five-year average throughout 2023, which, coupled with chronic underemployment and

poverty, constrained household purchasing power and food access (FEWS NET, December 2023).

Weather extremes Delayed rains at the start of the late 2023 crop season in some areas and prolonged below-average rainfall in others may affect yields (FEWS NET, November 2023). Many provinces experienced destructive flooding.

DISPLACEMENT

7.4M forcibly displaced people by 2023

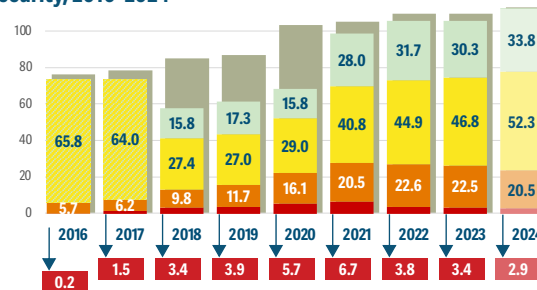
6.9M IDPs

0.5M refugees and asylum-seekers

Source: IOM, January 2024.

Source: UNHCR Nowcasted estimate, December 2023.

Peak numbers of people (in millions) by phase of acute food insecurity, 2016–2024



Source: Democratic Republic of the Congo IPC TWG.

A protracted major food crisis A low-income country, Democratic Republic of the Congo has been among the ten largest food crises in all eight editions of the GRFC, reflecting the humanitarian impact of more than three decades of conflict and insecurity, in a context of very low capacity to cope with shocks. The highest prevalence of acute food insecurity was in 2020 when 33 percent of the analysed population was in IPC Phase 3 or above. The population analysed has increased from 65–69 percent in 2018–2020 to 91–94 percent in 2021–2023.

ACUTE MALNUTRITION

2.8M children under 5 years old with acute malnutrition in 2023

1.9M MAM | 0.9M SAM

Source: Democratic Republic of the Congo IPC TWG, December 2022.

2.2M pregnant and breastfeeding women with acute malnutrition in 2023

Acute malnutrition among women and children is concerning, especially in the northeastern provinces following the escalation of conflict and major disease outbreaks (SMART 2023).

DRIVERS OF ACUTE MALNUTRITION 2023–2024

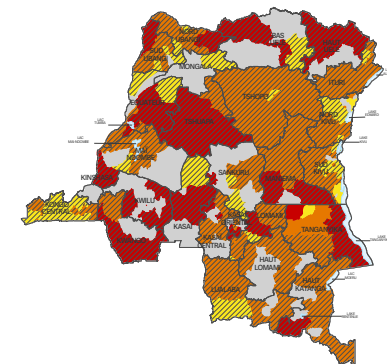
Inadequate practices Poor child-feeding practices drove malnutrition in health zones classified in Serious or worse (IPC AMN Phase 3 or above), with better practices having a protective role in others (IPC AMN, December 2023). Just 5–15 percent of children receive the Minimum Dietary Diversity (IPC, October 2022).

limit access to and availability of food.

Inadequate services Access to basic health services is limited by conflict and displacement, leading to low vaccination and vitamin A supplementation rates and enabling outbreaks of measles and cholera, especially in North Kivu and South Kivu. Poor sanitation and lack of access to potable water increased the risk of disease, especially among displaced people (IPC AMN, December 2023).

Lack of food Acute food insecurity was an underlying driver in many areas, in particular where conflict and displacement

PEAK 2023 (JANUARY–JUNE)



Source: Democratic Republic of the Congo, IPC TWG, December 2022.

