Democratic Republic of the Congo

**Acute food insecurity overview 2021**

**27.26M people**

were in Crisis or worse (IPC Phase 3 or above) in February–July 2021

**20.53M people**

in Crisis (IPC Phase 3)

**6.73M people**

in Emergency (IPC Phase 4)

28% of the population analysed was in Crisis or worse (IPC Phase 3 or above)

The analysis covers 91% of the population of 105 million people and included the 26 provinces of the countries, including 133 territories in rural areas, 13 urban areas and the 24 communes of Kinshasa.

Source: IPCC, March 2021.


**40.78M people**

in Stressed (IPC Phase 2)

FEWS NET’s analyses suggest that the population requiring emergency food assistance was lower than the IPC estimate. See Technical Notes.

**Acute food insecurity trends**

Numbers have increased significantly since 2020. At 27.3 million, the number of people in Crisis or worse (IPC Phase 3 or above) was the highest in the world in 2021 and the highest in the history of the GRFC – partly due to expanded geographic coverage. But the prevalence fell from 33 percent in July–December 2020 to 28 percent in February–July 2021.

When comparing the same territories between 2020 and 2021, the number of people in Crisis or worse (IPC Phase 3 or above) stood at 15.7 million during February–July 2021 and subsequently fell to 14.7 million in September–December 2021, largely due to improved security in certain areas and the easing of pandemic-related restrictions.

During the first wave of COVID-19 in 2020, job losses in the urban informal sector exacerbated poverty and economic decline. In July–December 2020, 760,000 people in Kinshasa faced Crisis or worse (IPC Phase 3 or above). By February–July 2021, the number had fallen to around 525,000 (IPC, September 2020 and March 2021).

To ensure comparability across periods, the same 163 areas were considered – out of 170 areas in the February–July 2021 analysis, and out of 179 areas in the September–December 2021 and January–June 2022 analyses.