

Price Monitoring and Analysis Country Brief

Dem. Rep. of the Congo

September 2011 - February 2012

Key Messages

- Food prices showed a very volatile trend in the reference period, registering the highest increases in January/February 2012.
- Food security is severely affected by conflict in many provinces. According to WFP, some 4.4 million people have been reached with food assistance in 2011.
- The security situation remains volatile in the east of the country, where military operations against armed groups continue to generate internal displacement.
- While FAO is supporting poor farmers production with input distribution programs, the government suspended VAT on basic food products.

Background

The Democratic Republic of the Congo has a total population of 66 million with a 2% growth rate per annum; 64% of its population lives below the poverty line of 1\$ PPP per day; and 69% is reported to be undernourished.

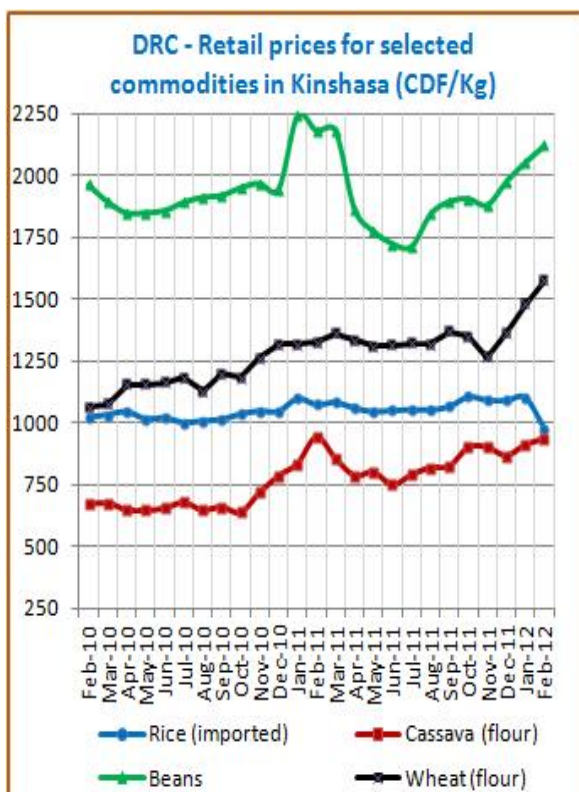
Economic Indicators	View Data
Total Population (millions) - 2010 (WB)	65.965
Population growth rate - 2010 (WB)	2%
GNI per capita, \$ PPP - 2010 (WB)	320
Population below 1\$ PPP per day - 2006 (MDGI)	59%
Rural population - 2010 (WB)	64%
Agriculture, value added (% of GDP) - 2009 (WB)	42%

Food Consumption	
Undernourished Population - 2005/2007(FAO)	69%
Cereal share in total dietary energy consumption - 2007 (FAO)	23%
Meat share in total dietary energy consumption	n.a.

Health Indicators	
Pop. with sustainable access to improved sanitation - 2008 (WHO)	23%
Life expectancy at birth (years) both sexes - 2009 (WHO)	49
Pop. with access to improved drinking water sources - 2008 (WHO)	46%
Prevalence of HIV among adults aged >= 15 years - 2005 (WHO)	2.93%

Prices

After the slight increase between September and October, prices of major staple crops, dropped in Nov and Dec, while they increased again in Jan and Feb 2012. In Kinshasa, wheat flour prices declined by 8% between Sept and Nov, but then rose by 25% in Feb 2012. Imported rice prices, after increasing slightly, declined by 12% in Jan and Feb and were at 975 CDF/Kg, some 98% above prices of Rice Thai A1 Super. In Kinshasa and Kisangani, cassava flour prices went up by 13% since Sept, and in Feb prices were at 932 CDF/Kg and 442 CDF/Kg respectively. In Kisangani, maize prices in Feb were 23 % above prices in Sept.



Source: GIEWS Country Briefs

Food Security Situation Assessment

In 2011, the inter-agency food security assessments indicated high levels of food insecurity across the country. In Orientale Province, about 3 million persons are moderately food insecure, including 720,000 who were estimated as severely food insecure. A similar situation is also prevalent in Kasai Oriental Province, where 916,000 people are severely food insecure and 2.2 million are moderately food insecure. Assistance is being provided to affected households and WFP targeted 4.4 million persons for food assistance in 2011. GIEWS reports severe localized food insecurity. According to the FAO Hunger map, the level of undernourishment is very high while the IFPRI GHI estimates an extremely alarming situation of hunger.

CURRENT EMERGENCY ASSESMENT

Exceptional shortfall in aggregate food production supplies	Widespread lack of access	Severe localized food insecurity	FAO/GIEWS CPFS 2011

Dem. Rep. of the Congo is not covered by FEWSNET. FEWSNET coverage is limited 14 African countries 1 Caribbean (Haiti) and 1 Central Asia (Afghanistan). Food security status is given for different parts of the country in each case. [FEWSNET](#)

SCALE OF HUNGER (% of Undernourishment)

Very high (>= 35%)	High (25-34%)	Moderately high (15-24%)	Moderately low (5-14%)	Very low (< 5% under.)	FAO Hunger Map

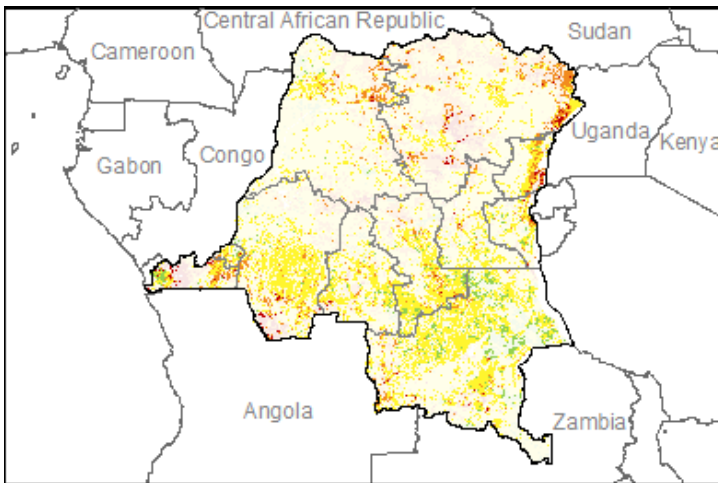
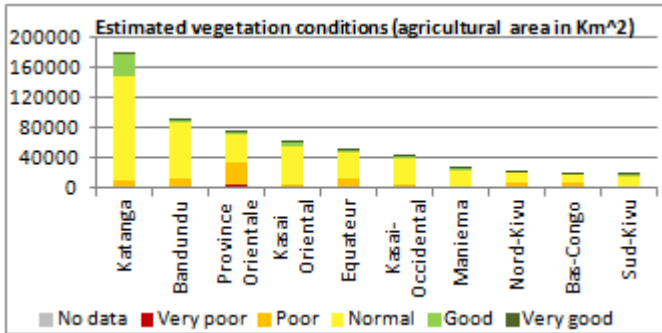
FAO Hunger Map classifies all countries of the world into five based on % of population undernourished.

Extremely alarming	Alarming	Serious	Moderate	Low	IFPRI/2011 GHI

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Vegetation Condition

Normal conditions are observed throughout the country. Local poor conditions are observed in Province Orientale. Local good conditions are observed in Katanga. The general indicator of vegetation condition provided below is the absolute difference between the NDVI for February 2012 and the average of the last 10 years, calculated on the agricultural zones derived from the UCL - RDC map (2006, Belgium).



Source: JRC MARS – FoodSec

Crop phase in the reference period

Sowing	Cassava (South) - Maize (Centre second/South)
Growing	Maize (Centre/South) - Rice (South)
Harvesting	Cassava (North) - Maize (Centre/North main) - Millet - Rice (North) - Sorghum

Natural Disasters, Drought and Conflicts

Recent clashes have continued to cause massive displacements in the Kivus and in Katanga Province. According to UNHCR, since November, more than 100,000 civilians fled their homes; some 35,000 were estimated to be displaced in North Kivu, while in the South the number reached 70,000 people. Additionally, more than 12,000 have been forcibly displaced in central Katanga Province.

Refugees and IDPs	2008	2009	2010
Total in the country	1669323	2362295	2366035
Total outside the country	1918424	2662821	2718356

Source: UNHCR Statistical Online Population Database, United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), Data extracted on 01/03/2012.

Disaster Type (last year)	Date	Location	Alert
Earthquake	2010-12-12	Kivu Province	1/3
Earthquake	2010-12-11	Haut-Zaire Province	1/3
Earthquake	2010-01-28	Kivu Province	1/3

Source: Global Disaster Alert and Coordination System - 3 = 1000 or more people killed or 800000 or more people displaced. 2 = 100 or more people killed or 80000 or more displaced.

Food Balance Sheet

Crops' planting activities of 2011/12 main season (October-July) in central and southern areas are nearly complete. Harvesting of the main 2011/12 maize crop in southern areas is expected to begin in March 2012. However, persistent insecurity continues to restrict access to land and agricultural inputs, limiting households' productive capacity, which is already predominantly at the subsistence level.

Government Policies

Since January 9, VAT on basic food products, has been suspended for six months. These include wheat, wheat flour, bread, and milk. In 2011 FAO provided agricultural inputs and training in an effort to increase households' production capacity. Assistance is being provided to conflict-affected people; WFP targeted 4.4 million persons for food assistance in 2011.

Consumer and market oriented measures	n.a.
Producer oriented measures	n.a.
Trade policy measures	n.a.
Safety net (increased or introduced)	Food transfers; Input distribution

Different sources

Current events to watch (Click to see the full report)

No News Found

For more information, contact: Information-for-action@fao.org
Website: www.foodsec.org

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The Programme on Linking Information and Decision Making to Improve Food Security is funded by the European Union and implemented by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations.