KEY MESSAGES

• The new clashes between armed militias in the Minembwe and Itombwe highlands in South Kivu have exacerbated the deteriorating humanitarian situation and caused new waves of displacement, amounting to approximately 3,300 people between September 27 and 29, 2019. This fresh outbreak of violence in the highlands will affect both households, which will have limited access to their income sources, and humanitarian workers, who will face difficulties in channeling their assistance to vulnerable groups.

• Normal precipitation at the start of growing season A throughout the eastern part of the country enabled an effective start to the season, and the main subsistence crops, such as maize, groundnuts and beans, were sowed. In addition, above-normal precipitation in Maniema caused extensive material damage and destruction of household food stocks, with approximately 2,000 homes destroyed. This suggests that there will be a decline in harvests at the end of the growing season.

• While Ebola virus disease (EVD) appears to be controlled by response teams in affected areas (Beni and Lubero), with community involvement, there are also negative projections for cholera in 21 out of the 26 provinces that make up the DRC. This raises concerns about an upsurge of the epidemic in the coming months. Since January 2019, there have been 21,600 registered cholera cases, with an overall mortality rate of 2 percent. This situation requires effective epidemiological monitoring.

• During this scenario period, which will alternate between lean season peaks and harvest periods, and taking into account the poor performance of previous seasons, which have reduced stockpiles by about two months, the food security situation throughout the eastern part of the country will be marked by areas of Crisis (IPC Phase 3), including in Kasai, Tanganyika, North Kivu and Ituri, until January 2020. By the end of the season A and B harvests at the beginning of March 2020, the food situation in these areas could improve to Stressed (IPC Phase 2).
NATIONAL OVERVIEW

Current Situation

Macroeconomic situation: Annual GDP growth in the DRC is expected to reach 4.3 percent by the end of the last quarter of 2019, according to global macroeconomic models and forecasts by Trading Economics analysts. In the long term, annual GDP growth in the DRC is expected to be around 4.1 percent in 2020, according to our econometric models. Although declining and vulnerable to international commodity price volatility, global demand for copper and cobalt is expected to remain steady – mining products are the main source of income for many households in provinces such as Upper Katanga and Lualaba.

Security situation and population movements: The security situation in the DRC remains precarious, especially in conflict zones in the eastern region of the country. Since June 2019, there has been an explosion of violence between communities in the Djugu, Mahagi and Irumu areas of Ituri. A humanitarian crisis has erupted, with some 300,000 displaced persons in Djugu, and massacres of civilians continuing in Djugu and Mahagi along Lake Albert, affecting the Alur and Gegere communities (formerly spared by those conflicts) living in the area despite the intervention of both provincial and national authorities. Households in these zones, which are primarily dependent on agriculture, are suffering: in some cases, from disruption to the resumption of agricultural activities and, in others, from difficulties in maintaining planted areas.

In North Kivu, the violence in Beni took a new turn in July, with an increase in attacks on civilians and state armed forces (FARDC) attributed to the Alliance of Democratic Forces – National Army for the Liberation of Uganda (ADF-NALU) rebels. Local civil society organizations have run several protests. The territories of Masisi and Rutshuru have experienced an increase in criminality, especially kidnapping for ransom and murder, as well as fighting between different armed groups, including the Alliance of Patriots for a Free and Sovereign Congo (APCLS), Nduma Defense of Congolese Renové (NDC-R), Nyatura-FPC, Nyatura Biriko, National Council for Renewal and Democracy (CNRD), Coalition of Movements for Change (CMC) and Democratic Forces for the Liberation of Rwanda (FDLR), all of which are active in both territories. It should be stressed that this violence is occurring just as fields are being prepared for growing season A sowing. This situation once again restricts access to land for agriculture.

In South Kivu Province, the presence of the FDLR and Mayi-Mayi groups continues to create clashes, resulting in regular displacements into Kalehe Territory, while in the Fizi and Uvira territories, clashes between the Ngumino and a coalition of Mayi-Mayi groups in the Minembwe and Itombwe highlands continued in late August. The risk of a second outbreak of violence, leading to further displacements, remains high in this large production area, which is still the agricultural
breadbasket for the province. Poor food availability could be expected in these conflict areas, which have low levels of humanitarian assistance.

In addition, despite the improved political situation in the Kasai area, former refugees in Angola have been returning, adding to the most recent deportees. According to the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA), official sources indicate that more than 3,730,737 returnees came back from Angola to five provinces in the DRC between October and December. The numbers have dropped significantly since November, however the risk of a renewed increase remains. A humanitarian assessment mission to the area estimated that more than 77,731 people have returned to Luiza Territory.

Political instability in neighboring countries has also resulted in refugees coming to the DRC from South Sudan, Burundi and the Central African Republic. All of this instability causes regular population movements that prevent households from accessing their livelihoods and thus creates food insecurity.

**Price and market operations:** Since 2016, maize price speculation has occurred in the former Katanga Province on a regular basis, with each export ban implemented by neighboring countries. This situation worsened during the second half of August 2019, when prices for maize flour in the former Katanga Province rose sharply (experiencing a 120 percent change between July and September 2019). Significant price increases are now widespread in Central East DRC, which is partly dependent on maize from the same source.

There are two primary causes of this situation. First, the restriction on imports of maize from Zambia, which is self-sufficient in maize, and which experienced a maize production deficit of around 16 percent compared with the average for the 2018/19 growing season. In addition, in Southeast DRC, local production has experienced a deficit in several production areas due to rainfall disturbances characterized by irregular and poorly distributed precipitation during the growing cycle, as well as the proliferation of plant pathologies that continue to affect crops.

Despite this surge in prices, households prefer not to substitute maize with other, less expensive foods such as cassava, and continue to buy maize, but in smaller quantities.

**Natural disasters:** The resumption of rains in several areas of the country since September 2019 has been accompanied by flooding that has destroyed homes in Kinshasa and Maniema Province. In the latter, approximately 2,881 households (14,405 people) were affected, according to OCHA. Tens of thousands of houses were reported burned in Bukavu and Goma. The floods also destroyed cultivated areas, the scale of which has not been estimated. Below-normal harvests could be expected as a result of these cyclical natural disasters.

**2019–2020 growing season:** The growing season started well throughout the country, with the hope that it would be mainly normal, largely supported by normal rainfall at the start of season A.

**Nutritional situation:** In some conflict areas in Eastern DRC (Ituri, North Kivu and Tanganyika), the nutritional situation is already worrying, with global acute malnutrition (GAM) rates sometimes above the emergency humanitarian threshold of 10 percent.

**Epidemics:** Measles has claimed more deaths in the DRC (more than 2,700 since January 2019) in seven months than Ebola has in a year, according to Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF). At the same time, cholera has become endemic in some parts of the country, particularly in South Kivu and Tanganyika, due to lack of access to safe drinking water and poor sanitary
conditions. It should be noted that this epidemic caused more than 900 deaths in 2018. A year earlier, cholera killed 1,190 people in the DRC out of the 55,000 suspected cases that were recorded, representing a mortality rate of 2 percent.

**Plant pathologies and crop predators:** The fall armyworm is reported in more than 22 provinces in the country, while in the far north-east of the DRC (Aru and Buta territories), there is an increase in variegated grasshoppers. In addition, cassava brown streak virus disease and banana bacterial wilt continue to affect the production of these two crops in the eastern provinces, and this will have an impact on next season’s production.

**Assumptions**

The most likely scenario from October 2019 to May 2020 is based on the following assumptions at the national level:

- **Agroclimatology:** According to National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) forecasts, the rainy season in the eastern DRC will extend from September to December 2019 and is expected to be average, with some localized areas receiving above-normal levels of precipitation.

- **Seasonal crops:** With this favorable situation for agriculture, normal harvests might be expected from December 2019.

- **Conflicts and population movements:** Despite the efforts of the authorities and the surrender of some armed groups, the persistence of ethnic tensions and political conflicts could cause new crises and displacements in the coming months. It should also be noted that in some provinces which have surplus production areas, such as Ituri, South Kivu and North Kivu, populations on the move have missed several growing seasons and would require several seasons to catch up.

- **Livelihoods:** In most conflict zones in both Northeast and Central East DRC, lacking access to their natural resources, populations that are dependent on agriculture will find alternatives in terms of economic opportunities by substituting agriculture with other activities, such as small-scale trade and motorcycle transport, commonly called moto-taxi. These activities are more common among young people working in conflict areas.

However, the presence of more than 9,000 refugee households in Aru Territory involved in agriculture with the support of the UN Refugee Agency (UNHCR) and its partners will, in the short and medium term, be a major asset for the region’s supply of basic foodstuffs, including rice, beans, cassava and maize cultivated in sufficient quantities on the land granted. Atypical availability in this deficit area would therefore be expected because of the unusual presence of refugees.

- **Markets and prices:** The effects of the cereals shortfall, in particular that affecting maize flour, in southern African countries (Zambia, Malawi, Zimbabwe and South Africa) will continue to affect the availability of maize flour in southern regions, such as Katanga and Kasai. The DRC’s import capacity is likely to be affected by low production in neighboring countries and the export ban in Zambia. In the medium term, maize prices are expected to remain above average throughout most of Katanga and Kasai until December 2019. In December, which coincides with the end of the lean season, a significant proportion of agricultural households could be dependent on their own production for the first two months after the harvest. As a result, prices for the main food items could see a downward trend.
- **Seasonal price fluctuations**: Usually, the period from early September to late November is the peak of the lean season in the northeastern and central eastern parts of the country. This period was earlier than usual due to low levels of food stocks associated with below-average production in previous growing seasons.

- **EVD**: A positive trend in the response to EVD has been observed over the past two months in the affected areas. Since then, the number of confirmed cases has gradually decreased, particularly in North and South Kivu. The establishment and use of a new vaccine, combined with the involvement of local communities in the response, has mitigated the epidemic. The city of Goma has not seen any new cases for more than two months and Bukavu has not yet been affected. This situation reassures neighboring countries, which have reduced their threat of border closures. This could have enormous consequences for trade flows of imported staple foods and for the livelihoods of households near the borders.

**Most Likely Food Security Outcomes**

**October 2019 to January 2020**: This first scenario period will experience the peak lean season between October 2019 and January 2020 in East DRC, and at the same time the start of the first harvests of the growing season. Conditions for households throughout the area will be increasingly difficult, with limited access to food due to depletion of stocks, but it is believed that the green harvests in December will provide some relief for people who have begun to develop often damaging and irreversible coping strategies. Some areas may remain in Crisis (IPC Phase 3), including the provinces of Kasai, ex-Katanga, Ituri, South Kivu and Tanganyika, while the provinces of Lomami, Sankuru, Kasai Oriental, Maniema, South Kivu and ex-Katanga will remain Stressed (IPC Phase 2). By contrast, the provinces of Haut-Uele, Bas-Uele, Tshopo and part of Maniema will remain in Minimal (IPC Phase 1).

**February to May 2020**: During the second scenario period, the situation in the first two months could be alleviated by the availability of stocks from the latest harvests. The remaining two months, however, will see the peak of the lean season in season B. As a result, some areas may remain in Crisis (IPC Phase 3), including Kasai, Ituri, South Kivu and Tanganyika, while the provinces of Lomami, Sankuru and Kasai Oriental will remain in Stressed (IPC Phase 2). Conversely, the provinces of Haut-Uele, Bas-Uele, Tshopo and part of Maniema, which are generally stable, will remain in Minimal (IPC Phase 1). The Aru area could possibly move to Minimal (IPC Phase 1), as a result of the massive presence of refugees, who constitute a critical source of production for the area according to UNHCR, and partners have provided significant agricultural support to these refugees to revitalize agricultural activities in the asylum area.

**SEASONAL CALENDAR FOR A TYPICAL YEAR**

Source: FEWS NET
Events that Might Change the Outlook

Possible events over the next six months that could change the most likely scenario at the national level.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Area</th>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Impact on food security outcomes</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>National</td>
<td>The mass arrival of Mbororo livestock farmers</td>
<td>The farmers’ herds could destroy field products and could create tension between indigenous peoples and refugees from South Sudan living in the region, whose main activity is agriculture.</td>
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<td>National</td>
<td>Conflicts and population movements</td>
<td>As a result, the continued escalation of violence in the neighboring Djugu and Mahagi territories could potentially lead to the displacement of thousands of people to Aru Territory, causing them to abandon their livelihoods.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>National</td>
<td>Continuous deterioration of agricultural feeder roads during the next rainy season</td>
<td>This could also have an adverse effect in the area and weaken trade between territories.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>National</td>
<td>Climate disruption in the area</td>
<td>Excess and/or a lack of rain could affect agricultural production and exacerbate the damage caused by flooding and huge agricultural losses.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>National</td>
<td>The spread of plant pathologies</td>
<td>The resurgence of plant pathologies could jeopardize the proper development of agricultural production in the absence of effective control measures.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

AREAS OF CONCERN

Aru Territory, Ituri Province, Livelihood Zone: Northeast Highlands Agriculture (CD14)

Current Situation

**Agricultural production:** Agricultural households in Aru are at the beginning of growing season B and sowing of subsistence and market-garden crops continues. The most commonly cultivated subsistence crops include beans, groundnuts, rice, sweet potato and sorghum. Cassava is the basic foodstuff and is grown all year round.

However, according to the Agricultural Inspectorate, for more than five years there have been disruptions to rainfall in the area, characterized by delays compared with a typical year and irregular precipitation that is out of step with crop requirements. This distorts the agricultural calendar and is causing a shock to local farmers, who have not yet incorporated the change into their habits. It is estimated that more than 41,000 households and 4,000 hectares of land are affected by the consequences of climate disruption in the north-east of Aru. Last year, the volume of rainfall received was an average of 1,050 ml (slightly above the normal level, which is estimated at 1,000 ml) although it was irregularly distributed over the year. The closure of tobacco factories (which have been in operation for several decades) has slowed down industrial cultivation, resulting in the release of available land. Nevertheless, there is a land conflict problem that hinders equitable distribution and access to land and/or reduces agricultural production in the area, despite the presence of large markets. Agricultural production in Ituri Province is currently in deficit, according to the provincial Agricultural Inspectorate, compared
with the planted area per household for the three main agricultural crops (maize, cassava and beans). Given the massive presence of approximately 45,000 refugees in this northern area, representing some 9,000 agricultural households supported by UNHCR to revive agricultural activities in the area, and access to land authorized by local authorities, food availability in this region in the far north of the DRC is expected to improve by June.

**Security situation and population movements:** Aru Territory is relatively stable and no active armed group is currently present in the area, but there are concerns about possible confrontations between rival groups of refugees of different ethnicities from South Sudan. In addition, the activism of armed groups in the neighboring area of Faradje, including the Lord's Resistance Army (LRA) and Mbororo livestock farmers, is a risk factor. Aru Territory has hosted refugees for decades, mostly those from South Sudan and Uganda. According to a UNHCR report, Aru Territory was already hosting more than 100,000 Ugandan refugees and some 50,000 Sudanese refugees in 1980. There are currently about 45,000 refugees in the area, mostly from South Sudan. Aru Territory also regularly receives internally displaced persons from the neighboring territories of Mahagi and Djugu. By May 2019, OCHA had estimated that more than 3,284 displaced persons were in Aru. Internally displaced persons live in host families and therefore share the resources available.

**Livestock farming:** Aru is an agropastoral area. According to the Agriculture and Livestock Inspectorate, the area had more than 168,800 head of cattle in the second half of 2019. Livestock farming of small ruminants and poultry is also practiced in this area. However, livestock farming is affected by epizootic diseases that prevent the proper development of livestock. For example, from January to August 2019, there were more than 1,143 cases of bacterial anthrax and 170 cases of foot-and-mouth disease. The last vaccination of cattle against epizootic diseases organized by local authorities in this area dates back to 2013. However, local communities import a significant quantity of vaccines from neighboring Uganda.

It is reported that grazing land has been invaded by *Chromolaena odorata*, a wild plant not consumed by the animals, which appeared in the 2000s. It covers grazing land, thus preventing forage plants from re-establishing. It is commonly known as DEMILA in the Aru area, meaning the year 2000.

**Price and market operations:** Cross-border trade is well established in Aru Territory and there are no administrative restrictions on regional trade with Uganda or South Sudan. Basic necessities that support a degree of socioeconomic monetary equilibrium come mainly from Uganda and South Sudan. However, the current state of agricultural feeder roads, most of which are in poor condition due to heavy rains and flooding, and difficulties of access in some areas due to insecurity, pose problems for facilitating trade of this kind.

Despite the arrival of refugees, the prices of the main foodstuffs have remained relatively stable. For example, the price of a kilogram of maize flour that cost CDF 1.500 in August is currently running at CDF 1.615, slightly higher because of the seasonal effect. This is first, because there is a strong connection between Aru Territory and Mahagi Territory, and secondly, because local production by refugees is already flooding local markets.

**Assumptions**
The most likely scenario for October 2019 to May 2020 is based on the following assumptions:

- **Agroclimatology:** According to NOAA forecasts, the bimodal rainy season in the DRC, from September to December 2019, is likely to be average, with localized areas above average. This could also have a positive impact on the appearance of variegated grasshoppers and armyworms, which are more prevalent during periods of inadequate rainfall.

- **Conflicts and population movements:** The regional dynamics of peace and the rapprochement of two major rivals in the conflict in South Sudan could help bring about peace and thus reduce the flow of refugees from that country. In addition, the efforts of the new Congolese authorities to resolve internal conflicts in and around Ituri have significantly reduced the level of violence in the neighboring territories of Djugu and Mahagi. This will facilitate the return of displaced persons living in Ituri to their places of origin and help them to re-establish their livelihoods.
• **Growing seasons**: The expected output in the area suggests that food consumption by households will be better during the October–December scenario period. Harvests in season A are likely to be below average. The volume of production during the first harvest period may only cover an average of three months’ household food consumption, as estimated by households during group discussions as part of the field data collection exercise.

• **Humanitarian assistance**: UNHCR and its partners provide humanitarian assistance to refugees and some host families. The World Food Programme (WFP) Emergency Food Security Assessment (EFSA) carried out in May 2019 states that only 1 percent of the local population acknowledges having received assistance, consisting mainly of agricultural equipment. WFP data indicate that refugees in Aru Territory camps receive monthly assistance in the form of cash transfers, amounting to a total of USD 699,470 at USD 18 per person.

• **Markets and prices**: With a strong connection between Aru Territory and Mahagi Territory, on the one hand, and the bordering countries (Uganda and South Sudan) on the other, the availability of the main basic foodstuffs will be ensured during this projection period. However, price behavior for foodstuffs will be seasonal. Prices are expected to rise from October to November 2019 and from March to April 2020, with increases ranging from 10 to 20 percent. On the other hand, growing season A harvests, between the end of December 2019 and January-February 2020, could build up household stocks and, as a result, improve availability and lower the prices of staple foods. Season A harvests, which are expected to be below average, will not cover more than two months’ consumption. Prices will therefore rise by between 15 and 30 percent in March and April 2020.

**Most Likely Food Security Outcomes**

**October 2019 to January 2020**: January is the beginning of the harvest in Aru Territory. However, the level of harvest will be above average due to the involvement of refugee households in agricultural activities. Food availability in the area will be above average and access to food may improve. The food insecurity phase may improve from Crisis (IPC Phase 3) to Stressed (IPC Phase 2).

**February to May 2020**: This projected period will be the period of sowing (March and April) and harvesting (end of June and July) for growing season A. There may be a positive change in the food insecurity phase, which could move to Minimal (IPC Phase 1). In almost all cases, households will be dependent on their own production at this specific time of harvest.
Events that Might Change the Outlook

Possible events over the next six months that could change the most likely scenario.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Area</th>
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<th>Impact on food security outcomes</th>
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<td>The mass arrival of Mbororo livestock farmers</td>
<td>As they move, the livestock farmers’ herds destroy field products, and could create tension between indigenous peoples and refugees from South Sudan living in the region, whose main activity is agriculture.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aru</td>
<td>Continued conflicts and population movements</td>
<td>The resurgence of conflicts in South Sudan could create a new influx of refugees to share scarce resources with indigenous peoples. As a result, the continued escalation of violence in the neighboring Djugu and Mahagi territories could potentially lead to the displacement of thousands of people to Aru Territory, causing them to abandon their livelihoods.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aru</td>
<td>Irregularity of rainfall during the growing season</td>
<td>Excessive and/or inadequate/late rainfall could impact the growing cycle and ultimately agricultural production, and might exacerbate flood damage.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aru</td>
<td>Continuous deterioration of agricultural feeder roads during the current rainy season</td>
<td>This could also have an adverse effect in the area and weaken trade between territories.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Kamonia Territory, Kasai Province – High Agricultural Production and Marketing Livelihood Zone (CD 26)

Current Situation

Security situation: The security situation in the Kasai region has been relatively stable since the results of the presidential elections were published in January 2019, despite some areas of resistance due to inter-community conflicts. With ongoing military operations in the region, significant militia surrender movements have been observed since the beginning of this year. This is more conducive to the return of displaced households, especially in areas of large-scale production. However, according to informants, there are currently new militias known as Bana Mura and Ecuries Mbembe scattered in some localities of Kamonia Territory. These militias have reportedly been involved in several incidents in the area, including inter-community harassment and violence.

As a reminder, the Kasai region has received more than 234,000 deportees from Angola since October 2018, many of whom are in Kamonia Territory. Since last August, Kamonia Territory has also received more than 30,000 returnees.

Agriculture: The Kasai region as a whole has now been experiencing climatic disruptions since the beginning of the 2019–20 growing season, characterized by rainfall delays that are disrupting the cultivation cycle of the main crops, including maize, cassava and cowpea. In typical years, the region receives rainfall from the beginning of the second half of August, but this has not been the case for the current growing season. Compared with the last season, however, it is expected that more than 10 percent of households will be able to participate in agricultural activities following...
the return of almost all agricultural households. In addition, information received on the ground confirms that the 2018–19 growing season was comparable to the 2017–18 growing season.

**Road and rail infrastructure:** Road conditions remain a real problem in the region. Most agricultural feeder roads are in poor condition, making trade and access difficult across the region’s various routes, particularly in Kananga (Central Kasai). This limits market supplies from production areas (Mweka, Ilebo, Kazumba, Luiza, etc.). However, with the opening of the Muania Mbulu cross-border road in the territory of Luiza, trade in the region could gradually improve.

**Market operations:** Kamonia Territory shares a border with Angola, from which trade in the main subsistence food products takes place. During the FEWS NET field visit in September, agricultural household stocks were virtually non-existent, given that it coincided with the lean season. As a result, most of the food consumed was purchased at the market. In addition, there is strong demand in the region, with the presence of deportees and returnees/repatriates, resulting in higher prices for subsistence food products during the reporting period. However, this price increase is far from being considered atypical because the area has several sources of supply in the event of a surge in demand. The prices of maize flour and rice follow a seasonal trend despite breathtaking increases if current prices are compared with the two-year average, during a period of turbulence and occupation of the area by the militias.

**Food security:** It is noted that in the peripheral district, about half of households do not have stocks and do not have permanent access to food. Households that receive deportees and/or returnees are more affected by food insecurity in terms of the quality and quantity of food consumed, which is less diversified, and almost 70 percent of their income is likely to be allocated to buying food from markets. According to a WFP study carried out in May this year, Luebo and Kamonia are more affected by food insecurity, which concerns almost four out of five households. The same results show a very alarming situation with regard to food consumption by women and children aged 6 to 23 months. Overall, the food consumption situation remains precarious in the Kasai region, despite improved agricultural production and the presence of humanitarian organizations in the region. In addition, the continued arrival of deportees, repatriates and returnees is having a negative impact on the local economy and makes it difficult for poor households to access food.

Since the level of harvests for the second season of the previous growing season was below average, household stocks are almost finished at the start of the new growing season. Foodstuffs consumed by households are less diversified, i.e. limited to three out of the eight groups. The main foods consumed are leaves, cereals and insects (caterpillars) in some households. Currently, almost half of households use less preferred foods and/or substitutes such as millet instead of maize for poor households. The consumption of dairy products and meat is less reported in the region. It should be noted that the presence of deportees and returnees has a negative impact on host households that have to share their resources. Overall, almost half of households have poor food consumption in the Kasai region. The coverage of assistance during this period is low and more focused on rural areas.

**Humanitarian assistance:** As the situation in the Kasai region has been declared a Level 3 humanitarian emergency, many actors are preparing to position themselves. However, current assistance coverage remains below 10 percent of needs in the region, and there is a lack of multisectoral complementarity, which means that in some areas the assistance given is not complete due to a lack of resources.

**Assumptions**

The most likely scenario for October 2019 to May 2020 is based on the following assumptions:

- **Security situation:** Although there is still some resistance associated with inter-community conflicts in the Kasai region, the security situation is stable and promising. The region could experience progressive internal population returns during
the first scenario period. This could affect and weaken the livelihoods of agricultural households waiting for the current season B harvest.

- **Cultivation conditions:** Weather forecasts show some anomalies in the Kasai region during the first scenario period, according to North American Multi-Model Ensemble (NMME) projections in the Mweka area. This could cause flooding, wet soil that could cassava plants to rot, and the destruction of road infrastructure, which could disrupt current season A production and limit inter-community trade.

- **Agricultural production:** Apart from the anomalies mentioned above, the level of household participation in farming suggests that current production will be better compared with the last season B of the previous growing season, when many households did not work in the fields due to insecurity in the area. However, current harvests remain below average and will only be able to cover January and part of February 2020.

- **Household stocks:** Even in September, it was difficult to identify households with stockpiles of food, because of low production during the 2017–2018 growing season. Group discussions show that the stocks from season A harvests during the previous growing season only covered a minimum of one month’s household consumption, i.e. June or July, in some cases. However, markets remained the main source of food for most households during this period, which was characterized by an early lean season. Between October 2019 and January 2020, the volume of food on the markets is thought to be decisive for household supply.

- **Food consumption:** The situation of household food consumption will deteriorate during the lean season, from September to mid-December. However, the situation could improve with the green harvest that should occur around the second half of December 2019, and in January and February 2020 during the major harvests.

- **Markets and prices:** The expected level of harvests in the first growing season in the region could be lower than in the last growing season (2018–19) as a result of late rains in Kasai Province. The projection period, which coincides with the lean season in October and November 2019, will see increases in the prices of the main food products, including maize flour and cassava, which are more heavily consumed by households. From December onwards, the green harvests and the large harvests in January and February could build up agricultural household stocks, and this could have a downward impact on food prices during this period. Harvests in season A, which will probably be below average, will not cover more than two months of consumption. Prices will therefore rise by between 15 and 30 percent in March and April 2020. In addition, the presence of deportees and repatriates in the region is already burdening the local economy with increased demand.

### Most Likely Food Security Outcomes

**October 2019 to January 2020:** Currently, the security situation in the Kasai region is relatively stable overall but remains unpredictable as a result of the mass influx of deported and repatriated populations. This effectively exacerbates the food security situation of populations getting through the lean season, with the huge influx of people increasing pressure on local resources.

Faced with this situation and strong demand in the region, household food consumption could deteriorate further in October, November and mid-December 2019. From the second half of December 2019 and January 2020 onwards, the situation could improve slightly as a result of harvests from the 2018–2019 growing season B. Despite these harvests, one season cannot change the phase for the region as a whole, because the expected output, even if better than the last growing season, will be below average. As a result, the Kasai region will be in Crisis (IPC Phase 3) during this first scenario period.

**February to May 2020:** In view of the return of displaced persons, and the presence of deportees and refugees repatriated from Angola in the area, the food security situation will be relatively improved, particularly with planned humanitarian support and assistance for the area. As a result, we believe that the area could improve to Stressed (IPC Phase 2) during this period.
Events that Might Change the Outlook

Possible events over the next six months that could change the most likely scenario.

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<tr>
<td>Kamonia</td>
<td>Resurgence of armed groups (militias) and/or inter-ethnic conflicts</td>
<td>Likely renewal of hostilities – leading to further displacement of populations that could affect the level of production or livelihoods and risks discouraging agricultural households – would exacerbate this already fragile food insecurity phase.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kamonia</td>
<td>Deterioration of transport infrastructure</td>
<td>This could have an adverse effect in the region and weaken trade between territories.</td>
</tr>
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<td>Kamonia</td>
<td>Climate disruption</td>
<td>Excessive rain or a lack of rainfall could affect the cultivation cycle.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kamonia</td>
<td>New influx of returnees or deportees</td>
<td>Significant pressure on livelihoods.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

ABOUT SCENARIO DEVELOPMENT

To project food security outcomes, FEWS NET develops a set of assumptions about likely events, their effects, and the probable responses of various actors. FEWS NET analyzes these assumptions in the context of current conditions and local livelihoods to arrive at scenarios that project food security outcomes. Usually, FEWS NET outlines the most likely scenario. Learn more here.