



EXECUTIVE SUMMARY: RESULTS OF THE IN-DEPTH EMERGENCY FOOD SECURITY ASSESSMENT (EFSA) OF DISPLACED, RETURNEE AND HOST HOUSEHOLDS IN THE ORIENTALE PROVINCE: SEPTEMBER 2011

The Orientale province is the largest of the Democratic Republic of Congo. It extends over a surface area of 503 239 km², that is a little more than 20 % of the country's total surface area (2 345 000 km²). It is bordered by the Central African Republic and the Sudan to the North, by the provinces of Nord-Kivu, Maniema and Kasai Oriental to the South, by Uganda to the East and by the Equateur province to the West. It comprises four districts: Tshopo, Bas Uélé, Haut Uélé and Ituri. The province's total population was estimated at 12 924 585 inhabitants¹ in 2008, unevenly distributed with densities ranging from 250 inhabitants per km² in the district of Ituri (more specifically in the subdistrict of Mahagi) to 2.5 inhabitants per km² in the district of Tshopo (Bafwasende). The different armed conflicts affecting the country, in particular its East part, keep taking a heavy toll on the region. It has been facing a quasi widespread insecurity since 2005 with the presence of the LRA (Lord Resistance Army) rebels and armed military groups (NALU) which commit serious exactions, of which thefts, pillaging, rapes of women, kidnappings, ... on civilian populations; causing thousands of people to be displaced. This chronic instability has brought about a downturn in the agricultural production, exacerbated food problems and intensified dependence on food assistance. The proportion of households having poor and limit food consumption went up from 37 % (of which 5 % of households with poor food consumption) in 2008 according to the results of the overall analysis of food security and (CFSVA) to 40 % (of which 10 % of households with poor food consumption) according to the results of the investigation conducted in 2010 into food security in emergency situations (EFSA). The nutritional situation is also fragile with an overall acute malnutrition rate of 11 % against 9 % at the national level² (MICS 210). During these last years, the WFP has brought food assistance to vulnerable populations (children, pregnant and breastfeeding women, refugees, the displaced, returnee, host populations) in the Orientale province through its prolonged relief and recovery intervention (PRRO) and its emergency operation (EMOP) in the districts of Haut Uélé and Bas Uélé. From January to September 2011, the WFP brought food assistance to 771 162 people for a global tonnage of 14 716 MT through its two flagship programmes in the region: EMOP and PPRO. It is in this context that the present evaluation intervenes so as to better identify the most vulnerable populations, adapt and direct food assistance in relation to their needs.

OBJECTIVE THE SURVEY

The main objective of this survey is to assess the food situation of the households of the province's displaced, returnee and host populations in order to direct and adapt currently on-going actions to the needs of the vulnerable populations. More specifically, the survey aims to collect and analyse secondary and primary data on food consumption, incomes and livelihoods, shocks and coping strategies, agricultural production, access to social services (health, education) as well as the evolution of prices on the markets. It also aims to identify the underlying causes of food insecurity in the region so as to suggest, options of responses best appropriate in order to deal with this food insecurity.

METHODOLOGY OF THE SURVEY

The sampling and the choice of the zoning were determined by the food security cluster, which the ministry of agriculture is part of. The sampling was chosen so as to have representative results at the level of each investigated subdistrict. In order to have information according to the different household categories present in the province, a stratification of the sample was made according to the status of the household (displaced in host family, displaced on site, returnee, host population) while ensuring that the zones of conflict and interest for the

¹ Government of the Orientale province : Demographic data of the Orientale province (September 2008).
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study are indeed taken into account. These choices led to the survey of 50 % of the sites in the districts of Haut Uélé and Bas Uélé where the WFP is running its emergency operation, 40 % in the district of Ituri and 10 % in the district of Tshopo. The statistics of the populations in the subdistricts and the list of villages were obtained at the office of the district, Division of Plan, 2008. Information on the displaced and returnee population's zones were supplied by the food security cluster and the Orientale province July 2010 EFSA report. A total of 1700 households was surveyed in 170 villages on the basis of 10 households per village. The data were collected from 13 June to 20 August 2011. The survey was planned, coordinated and carried out in partnership with the Ministry of Agriculture, PRONANUT, INS, FAO and national and international NGO's members of the food security cluster. The data were collected with mini computers (PDA) and therefore directly captured with an instant control of the quality of collected data. Missing and erroneous data were automatically corrected before leaving the household. They are then transferred, encoded and analysed with the SPSS software.

LIMITS OF THE SURVEY

The insecurity and hemmed-in position which render several places of the subdistrict inaccessible constitute a major challenge that the survey faced. This situation led the survey design team to make reasoned choices so as to take these constraints into account. Furthermore, the great expanse of the region brought about a strong dispersion of the sample and lengthened the survey time limits. Access to certain zones was dependent on prior UN security clearance and military escort.

HOW MANY PEOPLE ARE IN INSECURITY IN RURAL AREAS IN PROVINCE ORIENTALE ?

The analysis of food insecurity based on the food consumption⁴ score and indicators of access (survival strategies and wealth index) shows that on the whole 41.1 %, that is, a little more than four households out of ten in the surveyed subdistricts are affected by severe or moderate food insecurity. Severe food insecurity affects 11.8 % households whereas moderate food insecurity shakes 29.3% of households. It is clear that because of constraints related to security and access difficulties, the survey field restricts only to the surveyed zone and therefore the results could not be extrapolated to the whole of the province. Nonetheless, it is on the other hand possible to make estimations of the number of people shaken by food insecurity from the results, as a minimum number ensuring statistical representativeness was reached in 9 subdistricts out of the 16 covered by the survey. The other subdistricts with weak rates of cover in relation to what was anticipated because of the abovementioned problems were grouped together according to a level of acceptable statistic representativeness.⁵

Household status	Estimated distribution of the population	In severe food insecurity	In moderate food insecurity	In severe and moderate food insecurity
Displaced	445 597 ⁶	94 467	147 493	241 959
Returnee	143 369 ⁷	21 792	52 616	74 409
Host	9 038 438	605 575	2 277 686	2 883 262
Total	9 627 404 ⁸	721 834	2 477 795	3 199 629

⁴ 6.4 % of the households have poor food consumption, 27.5 % have moderate food consumption and 66.1 % have an acceptable food consumption.

⁵ Ango/Bondo (n=100), Bambesa/Poko (n=100), Rungu/Wamba/Watsa (n=138); the results for Bafwasende are indicative (the sampling size is weak)

⁶ Source : OCHA, August 2011, the number of displaced [households] in non surveyed subdistricts is negligible. The estimations are thus made on the number of displaced [households] of all the province.

⁷ Source: OCHA, August 2011



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The table above provides the distribution of the estimation of the people affected by food insecurity as per the results of the survey and helps to observe that severe food insecurity shakes 2 477 795 people. In total, food insecurity affect 3 199 629 people in the 16 surveyed subdistricts.

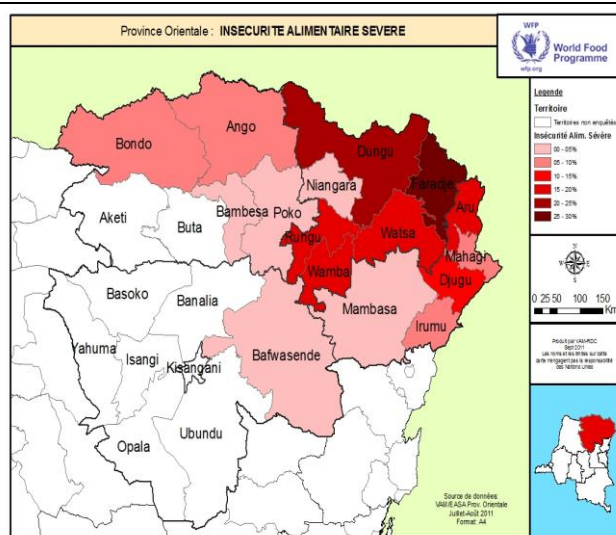
GEOGRAPHICAL DISTRIBUTION OF FOOD INSECURITY

The rates of severe food insecurity are higher in the following subdistricts/groups of subdistricts: Faradje (26.9 %), Dungen (23.7 %), Aru (15.4 %), Rungu/Wamba/Watsa (15.2 %), Djugu (12.2 %).

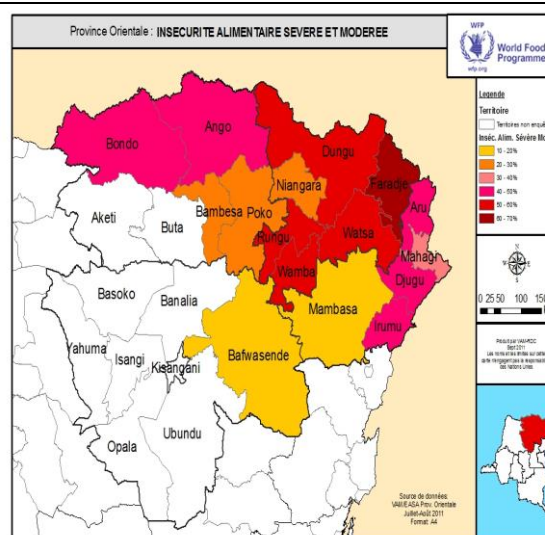
The rates of moderate food insecurity are higher in the following subdistricts: Faradje (40.4 %), Djugu (37.4 %), Rungu/Wamba/Watsa (34.8 %), Ango/Bondo (34 %), Irumu (34 %)

If severe food insecurity and moderate food insecurity are considered together, the rates are higher in the following subdistricts: Faradje (67.3 %), Dungen (52.3 %), Rungu/Wamba/Watsa (50 %), Djugu (49.6 %), Aru (44.8 %), Ango and Bondo (42.0 %). The rates of food insecurity are below the average of the sample in the subdistricts of Mahagi (32.4 %), Bambesa/Poko (28 %), Niangara (23 %) and Mambasa (11 %).

% of households in severe food insecurity per subdistrict



% of households in severe and moderate food insecurity per subdistrict



PROFILE OF FOOD INSECURE HOUSEHOLDS

The analysis of the distribution of food insecurity as per the gender of the household head does not show any significant difference according to whether the household head is a woman or a man. Severe food insecurity shakes 11.2 % of the households led by men against 13 % for those managed by women but this difference is not statistically significant. Likewise, the prevalence of moderate food insecurity is similar according to whether the household is run by a man or a woman (29.1% and 29.8% respectively). On the other hand, it is established that the rates of food insecurity tend to be higher among the households of which the head does not have any level of instruction in relation to those having at least a primary education⁹ level. The results show that severe food insecurity affects 29% of the households of which the head does not have any level of instruction against 13%

⁸ Statistics of the Provincial Government: estimated population in the 16 surveyed subdistricts.

⁹ Significant statistic test ($p = 0.000$)



for the households having a primary education level, 4.3% for the households having a secondary education level. For from being a causal relation with direct effect, it once again shows the importance of the human capital in the amelioration of socio-economic conditions in general. As to the household size, the analysis has not shown any significant difference according to whether the household is of big or small size, as all the categories of households are shaken by food insecurity. The average household includes 6 people regardless of the household's level of food insecurity. The geographical distribution also shows that the north part of the province is more affected by food insecurity than the south part in particular because; insecurity is more persistent in this part. The poorest households are the most shaken and the results indicate important differences according to the households' poverty level. By way of illustration, the food insecurity rate among the 33% of the sample's poorest households¹⁰ is 25.6% against 2.9% only for the 33% of the most affluent households. If one also examines the results according to the household's status, the distribution shows that the level of food insecurity varies according to whether the household is displaced in host family, displaced on site or host.¹¹ The examination of the household's expenditure structure shows that the major part of the expenses (70%) is allocated to food thus restricting the possibility of facing other basic needs such as health and education. The average share of food in household expenses reaches 73% for the households of populations displaced in host family and host households, 67% for the households of returnees and 63% only for the households displaced on site in particular because of the systematic food assistance that the latter receive.

CAUSES OF FOOD INSECURITY IN THE ORIENTALE PROVINCE'S RURAL AREAS

In spite of important potentialities in the agricultural, animal husbandry, fishing, forestry and mining fields, food insecurity is persistent in the Orientale province for both structural and current economic climate reasons :

Structural causes: The deficit in socio-economic infrastructures of recent exacerbated by political and military conflicts contributed to the fall in the production and restricted the development of growth, income and employment generating activities. The lack of supervision and the high demographic pressure in some parts of the province (in particular in Ituri) helped toward the continuous parceling out of cultivated surface areas and strong ethnic polarizations do not foster expansion over spaces yet available but unexploited. Production tools remain rudimentary and many farmers have no inputs (seeds, chemicals, pesticides, fishing equipment, inoculation park,...), access to credit. About 70% of the agricultural households raised the lack of access to seeds as one of the main constraints to agriculture. The other constraints that were mentioned are the lack of agricultural equipment (65%) the lack of land (41%) and insecurity 39%. The same constraints affect agriculture in particular the difficulties for reconstituting the livestock decimated by the different conflicts (88.3% of the households), the thefts of animals (47% of the households) or still insecurity (36.1). Investment in social sectors was also relatively very weak in these last years resulting in a high illiteracy rate especially among women, a low access to health and drinking water services. The population's continuous impoverishment contributes to the aggravation of food and nutritional problems.

Aggravating current economic shocks causes: It is obvious that the widespread and persistent insecurity over several years largely contributed to the disorganization of paths, deprived several households of access to their fields and caused important population movements. Population movements caused an important reduction in agricultural production and weakened the sustenance essentially based on agriculture and animal husbandry. The result is a strong dependence of one segment of the population on food assistance. Self – sufficiency capacities are generally weak and the widespread rise in food stuff prices as well as the strong volatility characterizing them reduce their food access capacity. The nominal prices of the main basic foodstuffs, recorded important rises

¹⁰ The poverty level was evaluated according to the terciles of the wealth index. Similar results were obtained by also considering the terciles of expenses

¹¹ Displaced in host family (n = 203), Displaced on site (n = 349). The host population also includes the resident population not sheltering displaced people (n = 1008)



both in relation to year 2010 and to the average of the last three years in the Kisangani and Bunia markets. Cassava flour recorded rises going from 27% in relation to the same period of the last three years (July). The same rises were recorded for cereals. For example, on the Bunia market, the nominal price of the kg of imported rice rose by 54% in July 2010 and by 50% in comparison to the average of the same period of the last three years. The data collected during the survey also helps to note that many households are confronted with recurrent economic climate shocks shaking their capacity to ensure their food security. Among these shocks, the three that households cite the most are: death of a relative (30.9%), illness / accident of a relative (30.2%) and insecurity (20.9%). The other shocks that household cite the most frequently are theft (13.7%), the rise in foodstuff prices (11.2%). Nonetheless, important differences appear especially concerning security problems. 44% of the displaced households mentioned insecurity, against 34.7% for the returnee households and 6.6% for the host population. All these adverse factors increase the vulnerability of households to food insecurity and child malnutrition.

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR INTERVENTIONS AND PROGRAMMES

The complexity of the food situation in the province calls for a multisectoral and multiform response adapted to the needs of the different categories of households. The responses to be brought to the problems of food insecurity may hinge on short, middle and long term interventions.

General order recommendations

It is clear that the widespread and persistent insecurity in the province constitutes a major handicap for socio – economic development. It contributed to the observed deterioration of the food and nutritional situation and further weakens households' self-sufficiency capacity. **The ameliorating of security conditions must be a major priority for the government, with the support of its partners.** It will help to encourage the return of displaced populations in their native villages. Guarantee a better protection of these populations so as to avoid the daily abuses that they are subjected to by the LRA and the various armed groups.

Recommendation for displaced populations:

The results of the survey show that this category of the population remains the most shaken by food insecurity and that therefore emergency food assistance in various forms remains pertinent and justified. Households' self-sufficiency capacities are weak and only 20 to 30% of their consumption is assured by the said households' own production during the period immediately following the harvests and over a period not exceeding three months after the harvests. Important constraints weigh heavy on households' sustenance's in particular the specially difficult access to land in high density areas, the lack of seeds and agricultural tools and the resulting low agricultural productivity, difficulties of livestock reconstitution and insecurity. Even though a great part of this population is affected by food insecurity (50 to 70%), it seems that some households are more vulnerable than other and that therefore food assistance either in the form of **free of charge distribution should target only the most vulnerable while making other categories of households benefit from other forms of assistance (food for work, food for asset, cash for work, seed support, income generating activities, access to credit, ...)**. Food assistance must be articulated with rehabilitation and development programmes in order to reinforce livelihoods and gradually increase self-sufficiency.

Recommendations for returnee populations

Returnee populations remain vulnerable because of the lack of infrastructure in the native villages, difficulties to restore destroyed sustenances and the pervading quasi widespread insecurity. In this respect, equipping these villages with social infrastructure (schools, school cafeterias, health centres, water supplies, roads or rural tracks) as well as security amelioration constitute a major priority. These conditions not only favour the amelioration of these populations' living but also constitute incentive elements for the return of other displaced people. The



current data show that 15.2% of this population are shaken by severe food insecurity and 36.7% by moderate food insecurity but 48.1% are considered as enjoying relative food security. **If food assistance in the form of free of charge distribution remain justified, it must as a matter of priority target the households stricken by severe and moderate food insecurity but over a well specified period (gap bridging periods).** Nonetheless because of the high impoverishment level characterizing them, other complementary forms of both food and non food assistance are also necessary. **Food assistance may take the form of food for work, food for asset, cash for work, school cafeterias or purchase for P 4P progress in order to stimulate local production and increase self-sufficiency and at the same time ameliorate agricultural incomes.** These intervention must however be aligned with the agricultural calendar for greatest effectiveness. **Certain activities are more favorable during the gap bridging period whereas other are less so. Whatever the case, the formulation of these programmes must take into account the local context, their effective as well as their feasibility.** The distributed rations must also be adjusted according to the agricultural calendar. During the 3 months following the harvests the rations may be adjusted to the fall in order to take into account the availabilities issued from the harvests and thus prevent the surplus of supplies being found on the markets. In addition, the seasons of agricultural rest may be used in order to develop manpower high intensity jobs for rural tracks maintenance, bridge building and community work building. **Non food assistance may take the form of seed support, advisory supervision in order to ameliorate agricultural production and improve in comes.** The support to the reconstitution of the live stocks is also necessary for relaunching animal husbandry activities where that is possible (secured zones for example).

Recommendations for host populations

Because of precarious conditions of the food and nutritional situation and poverty, it is appropriate to also bring host populations food and non food assistance in different forms. The results show that 6.7% of the host population households are stricken by severe food insecurity and 25.2% by moderate food insecurity. **Forms of food assistance in order to at the same time support households' current consumption, ameliorate agricultural production and productivity as well as the rehabilitation and maintenance of agricultural works, rural tracks as well as the generation of income generating activities remain also pertinent.** They may take the form of food for work, cash for work, P 4 P (purchase for progress) in order to stimulate agricultural production and ameliorate formers' incomes. The support in agricultural intrants (seeds, chemicals, pesticides) as well as the supervision and restoration of cash crop sectors should help to sustainably ameliorate food security in the region. The support to the reconstitution of the livestock is also necessary in order to relaunch animal husbandry activities in animal husbandry zones where security conditions allow this.

Pour en savoir plus

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