



GIEWS Country Brief

The Congo

Reference Date: 04-March-2022

FOOD SECURITY SNAPSHOT

- **Floods in late 2021 damaged standing maize crops in affected areas**
- **National gross domestic product (GDP) continued to decline in 2021**
- **State of emergency declared in late 2021 due to floods**

Floods in late 2021 affected standing maize crops in affected areas

The main food crop is cassava, which is cultivated throughout the year, alternatively in northern and southern regions, depending on the rainy season. A limited quantity of cereals is grown in the country, mainly maize, which is largely used for the production of livestock feed.

Harvesting of the 2021 main season maize crop finalized last January and the output is estimated at a near-average level, following overall beneficial weather conditions during the season, which had a positive impact on yields. However, heavy rainfall since September 2021 triggered floods, which resulted in localized losses of standing maize crops in Likouala, Sangha, Cuvette and Plateaux departments.

Planting of the 2022 secondary season maize crop, to be harvested in June and July, is ongoing under overall favourable weather conditions. According to satellite-based imagery, precipitation amounts have been adequate and well distributed since December 2021 in most croplands, benefitting soil moisture levels. However, weather forecasts until May point to below-average rainfall amounts in most croplands, which may negatively affect yields.

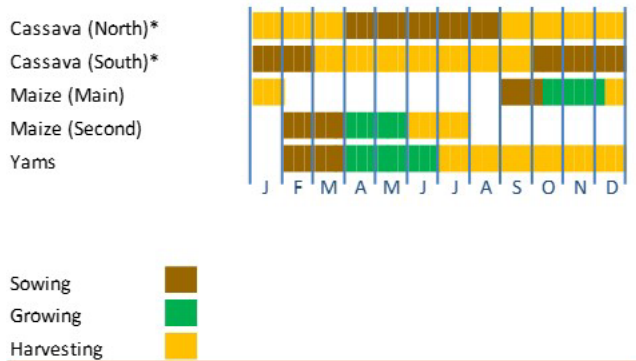
National GDP continued to decline in 2021

Agriculture contributes to a small portion of the national GDP, reflecting the predominance of the petroleum industry. The national GDP contracted by about 8 percent in 2020, owing to the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic on global oil prices (which fell sharply due to weak demand) and on the country's economy. In 2021, the GDP is estimated to have declined by 1.2 percent, as the need of large maintenance work (that had been delayed by

Congo

Crop Calendar

(*major foodcrop)



Source: FAO/GIEWS.

the pandemic) curbed crude oil production capacity.

Domestic cereal production covers only a small portion of the consumption requirements and imports account for approximately 90 percent of the total cereal utilization. With a population of about 5.6 million, the total cereal imports for the 2021 marketing year (January/December) are estimated at 250 000 tonnes, including 134 000 tonnes of wheat, well below the average level due to high wheat international prices, and 90 000 tonnes of rice.

State of emergency declared in late 2021 due to floods

The country hosts about 64 800 refugees and asylum seekers from the Democratic Republic of the Congo and the Central African Republic, mostly located in the northern Likouala Department. The refugees' food security is essentially guaranteed by continued humanitarian assistance.

On 29 November 2021, a state of emergency was declared as floods affected about 72 000 people in Likouala, Sangha, Cuvette and Plateaux departments.

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GIEWS Country Brief The Congo

Reference Date: 30-April-2021

FOOD SECURITY SNAPSHOT

- Favourable weather conditions for 2021 secondary maize crop
- Import requirements in 2020 estimated at near-average level
- Restrictive measures related to COVID-19 pandemic had severe negative impact on economy and food security

Favourable weather conditions for 2021 secondary maize crop

The main food crop is cassava, which is cultivated throughout the year, alternatively in northern and southern regions, depending on the rainy season. A limited quantity of cereals is cultivated in the country, mainly maize, which is largely used for the production of livestock feed.

Harvesting of the 2020 main season maize crop finalized last January and the output is estimated at near-average levels, following beneficial weather conditions during the season, which had a positive impact on yields.

Planting of the 2021 secondary maize crop, to be harvested in June and July, was completed in March under overall favourable weather conditions. According to satellite-based imagery, precipitation amounts have been adequate and well distributed since the beginning of the season, benefitting soil moisture and resulting in near-average vegetation conditions as of mid-April.

Import requirements in 2020 estimated at near-average level

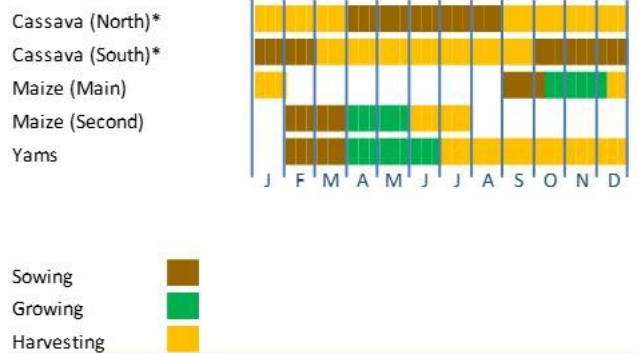
Domestic crop production covers only a small portion of the consumption requirements and imports account for approximately 90 percent of the total cereal utilization.

With a population of about 5.5 million, the total cereal import requirements for the 2020 marketing year (January/December) are estimated at a near-average level of 370 000 tonnes, including 244 000 tonnes of wheat and 110 000 tonnes of rice.

Congo

Crop Calendar

(*major foodcrop)



Source: FAO/GIEWS.

Restrictive measures related to COVID-19 pandemic had severe negative impact on economy and food security

The negative impact of the restrictive measures related to the COVID-19 pandemic on informal labour and on food supply chains, resulted, on one side, in the loss of income and, on the other, in high food prices due to a decline in food supply. These factors limited the access to food for the most vulnerable population.

Agriculture contributes to a small portion of the national Gross Domestic Product (GDP), reflecting the predominance of the petroleum industry. It is estimated that the national GDP contracted by about 9 percent in 2020, owing to the effects of the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic on global oil prices (which fell sharply) and on the country's economy.

The country hosts about 247 000 refugees and asylum seekers from the Democratic Republic of the Congo, the Central African Republic and Rwanda. The northern Likouala Province hosts 27 000 refugees from the Central African Republic and 21 000 refugees from the Democratic Republic of the Congo. Following an outbreak of violence related to the 27 December 2020 elections in the Central African Republic, an additional 5 000 refugees arrived in Likouala Province, mostly in Kpakaya Department, between mid-December 2020 and late February 2021. The refugees' food security is essentially guaranteed by continued humanitarian assistance.

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GIEWS Country Brief The Congo

Reference Date: 16-October-2020

FOOD SECURITY SNAPSHOT

- **Planting of 2020 main season maize crop finalized under favourable weather conditions**
- **Import requirements in 2020 forecast slightly below-average level**
- **About 700 000 people estimated food insecure in Brazzaville as of July 2020**

Planting of 2020 main season maize crop finalized under favourable weather conditions

Agriculture only contributes to a small portion of the national Gross Domestic Product. The main food crop is cassava, which is cultivated throughout the year, alternatively in northern and southern regions, depending on the rainy season. A limited quantity of cereals is cultivated in the country, mainly maize, which is largely used for the production of livestock feed.

Harvesting of cassava is underway in the northern regions, while planting of the 2020 main season maize crop finalized in early October under favourable weather conditions and harvesting is expected to take place from mid-December.

Import requirements in 2020 forecast slightly below-average level

Domestic crop production covers a small portion of the consumption requirements and imports account for approximately 90 percent of the total cereal utilization.

With a population of about 5.5 million people, the total cereal import requirements for the 2020 marketing year (January/December) are forecast at 320 000 tonnes, slightly below the average level, including 200 000 tonnes of wheat and 110 000 tonnes of rice.

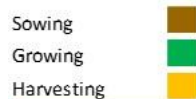
About 700 000 people estimated to be food insecure in Brazzaville as of July 2020

Between October 2019 and January 2020, heavy rainfall triggered flooding that affected approximately 170 000 people, including 30 000 refugees from the Central African Republic and the Democratic Republic of the Congo, in northern and eastern areas. Flooding caused displacement and serious crop, livestock and fisheries losses in the affected areas, where prices of staple

Congo

Crop Calendar

(*major foodcrop)



Source: FAO/GIEWS.

foods, particularly of cassava and bananas, increased in the first months of 2020 due to low supply.

In addition, the negative impact of the restrictive measures related to the COVID-19 pandemic on informal labour and on food supply chains, resulted, on one side, in the loss of income and, on the other, in low food availability and consequent price increases. These factors further limited the access to food for the most vulnerable population. In Brazzaville, as of July 2020, about 700 000 people (35 percent of the city's population) were estimated to be food insecure as a consequence of the socio-economic impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, according to a [study](#) by the Ministry of Social Affairs and Humanitarian Action and the World Food Programme.

The country also hosts about 43 000 refugees from neighbouring Democratic Republic of the Congo and Central African Republic. The refugees mostly reside in northern and eastern areas of the country, where host communities face food shortages and livelihood opportunities are limited. The refugees' food security is essentially guaranteed by continued humanitarian assistance.

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GIEWS Country Brief The Congo

Reference Date: 01-June-2020

FOOD SECURITY SNAPSHOT

- Favourable conditions of 2020 secondary maize crops
- Import requirements in 2019 estimated at average level
- Flooding and high prices weigh on food security conditions of refugees and host communities

Favourable conditions of 2020 secondary maize crops

Agriculture only contributes to a small portion of the national Gross Domestic Product (GDP). The main food crop is cassava, which is cultivated throughout the year, alternatively in the northern and the southern regions, depending on the rainy season. A very limited quantity of cereals is cultivated in the country, mainly maize, which is largely used for the production of livestock feed.

Harvesting of cassava is underway in the southern regions, while harvesting of the 2020 secondary maize crop is expected to begin in June. Satellite-based vegetation indexes indicate that crop conditions in mid-May were generally favourable in most regions.

Import requirements in 2019 estimated at average level

Domestic crop production covers a small proportion of the consumption requirements and imports, mainly sourced through commercial channels, account for approximately 90 percent of the total cereal utilization.

With a population of about 5.4 million people, the total cereal import requirements for the 2019 marketing year (January/December) are estimated at about 360 000 tonnes, including 196 000 tonnes of wheat and 160 000 tonnes of rice.

Flooding and high prices weigh on food security conditions of refugees and host communities

Between October 2019 and January 2020, heavy rainfall triggered flooding that affected approximately 170 000 people, including 30 000 refugees from the Central African Republic and the Democratic Republic of the Congo, in northern and eastern

Congo

Crop Calendar

(*major foodcrop)

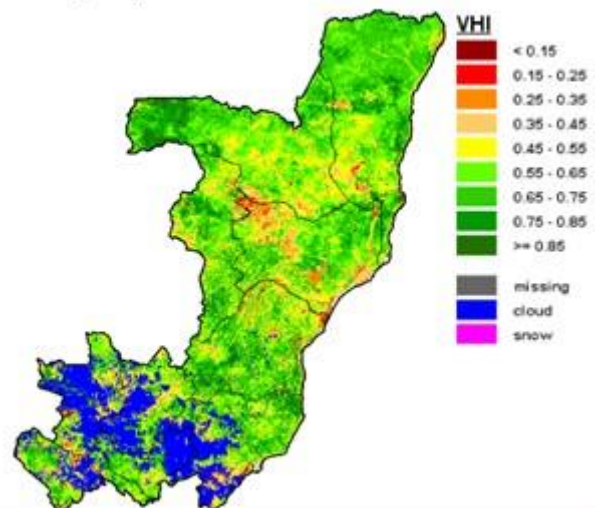


Sowing
Growing
Harvesting

Source: FAO/GIEWS.

Congo - Vegetation Health Index (VHI)

Dekad 2, May 2020



Source: FAO/GIEWS Earth Observation System.

areas. Flooding caused displacement and serious crop, livestock and fisheries losses in the affected areas, where prices of staple foods, particularly of cassava and bananas, increased in the first months of 2020 due to low supply. In addition, food supply chain disruptions caused by the irregularity of both international and local transports, amid the COVID-19 emergency (see box below), resulted in low food availability and consequent price increases, further limiting the access to food for the most vulnerable population.

Conflicts in neighbouring Central African Republic and the Democratic Republic of the Congo resulted in an influx of people into northern and eastern areas of the country, where host communities face food shortages and livelihood opportunities are limited. Refugees' food security is essentially guaranteed by continued humanitarian assistance.

COVID-19 and measures adopted by the Government

In response to the COVID-19 epidemic, on 28 March 2020, the Government declared a State of Emergency:

- Restricting the entering and exiting from the country.
- Imposing quarantine measures and movement limitations within the country and forbidding gatherings of more than 50 people.
- Imposing the closure of religious centres, restaurants, bars and clubs.
- Imposing a partial lockdown (essential activities, such as food shopping, are allowed) and curfews.
- Reducing the opening of the markets to three per week.

On 23 April 2020, the World Bank approved [USD 11.3 million](#) in financing from the International Development Association (IDA) to help the country respond to the COVID-19 emergency.

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GIEWS Country Brief The Congo

Reference Date: 04-December-2019

FOOD SECURITY SNAPSHOT

- Favourable weather conditions benefitting 2019 main maize crops
- Inflation rate forecast to remain at low levels in 2019
- Increased assistance needed due to growing influx of refugees from Democratic Republic of Congo

Favourable weather conditions benefitting 2019 main maize crops

Agriculture only contributes to a small portion of the national GDP and the country produces a very limited quantity of cereals, mainly maize, largely used for the production of livestock feed. Harvesting of the 2019 main season maize, planted between September and early October, is expected to begin by mid-December. A timely onset of seasonal rains in September favoured land preparation activities and, as of November, remote sensing images show that vegetation conditions were near the average level in most cropping areas.

Import requirements in 2019 forecast slightly above average

Domestic crop production covers a small proportion of the consumption requirements and imports, mainly sourced through commercial channels, and account for approximately 90 percent of the total cereal utilization.

With a population of about 5.5 million, the total cereal import requirements for the 2019 marketing year (January/December) are forecast at about 395 000 tonnes, including 230 000 tonnes of wheat and 160 000 tonnes of rice.

Inflation rate forecast to remain low in 2019

The annual inflation rate is expected to remain below 1.5 percent in 2019, but to slightly increase compared to 2018 as a result of increased domestic demand and a weakening of the CFA franc against the US dollar.

Increased assistance needed due to growing influx of refugees from Democratic Republic of the Congo

Conflicts in neighbouring Central African Republic and the Democratic Republic of the Congo resulted in an influx of people into northern and eastern areas of the country, where host

Congo

Crop Calendar

(*major foodcrop)



Sowing
Growing
Harvesting

Source: FAO/GIEWS.

communities face food shortages and livelihood opportunities are limited. Refugees' food security is essentially guaranteed by continued humanitarian assistance.

Since December 2018, when clashes erupted in Yumbi and Mai-Ndombe regions in western Democratic Republic of the Congo, the number of refugees has been increasing. As of July 2019, the Congo hosted about 20 000 asylum seekers, mainly in the Plateaux Region.

According to the UNHCR, as of September, the country also hosts about 22 000 refugees from the Central African Republic, mainly located in Likouala and Brazzaville provinces.

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GIEWS Country Brief The Congo

Reference Date: 13-May-2019

FOOD SECURITY SNAPSHOT

- Adequate weather conditions at start of 2019 for main crops
- Inflation rates forecast to remain at low levels in 2019
- Since end-2018, about 16 000 refugees from Democratic Republic of Congo sought refuge in country increasing needs for humanitarian assistance

Adequate weather conditions at start of 2019 for main crops

Planting of cassava, the principal staple in the country, is currently underway. Planting of the 2019 maize crop, for harvest in June-July, was completed in March. According to remote sensing analysis, seasonal rains started on time in February, facilitating planting operations. Subsequently, rainfall has been generally adequate over most cropping areas, benefitting crop development.

Disturbing resurgence of plant and animal pathologies

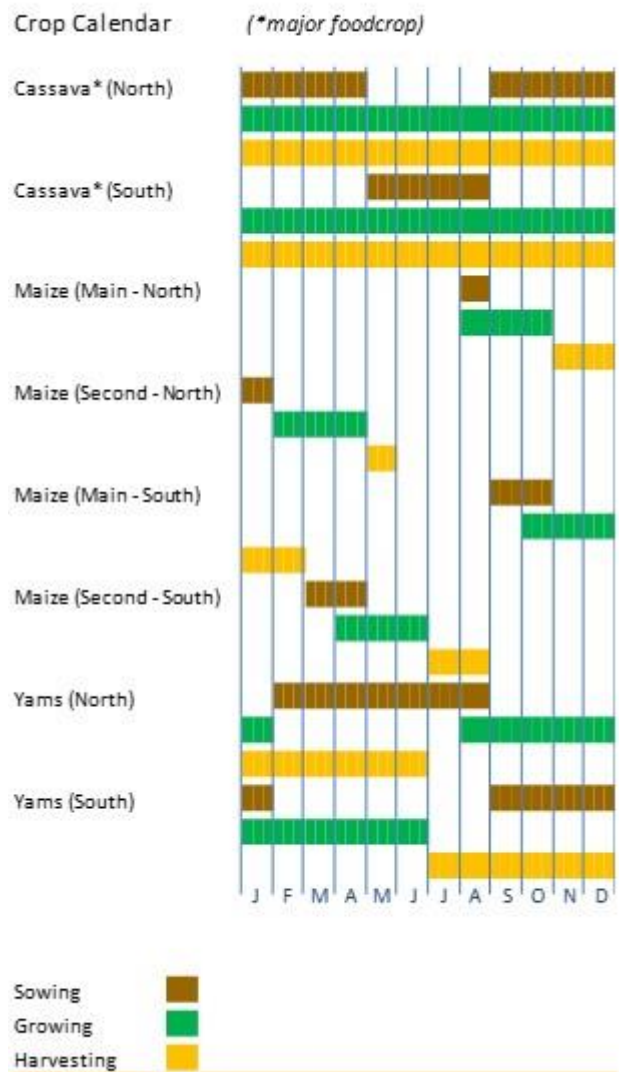
Maize is mainly grown for the production of livestock feed. A small portion is for human consumption. However, this crop is severely affected by pests, the most important of which is Fall Armyworm. This pathogen has spread throughout the country and deserves national action to keep it under control. This is also the case for cassava cultivation where Mosaic Virus and Root Rot dominate in some production areas. Endemic, re-emerging and emerging animal diseases, including Zoonoses are a serious concern in addition to the threat of their anti-microbial resistance. Moreover, the country is at risk of the introduction of the Ebola Virus Disease from neighbouring countries.

Import requirements in 2019 forecast at above average level

Domestic crop production covers a small proportion of the consumption requirements, with imports accounting for approximately 90 percent of the total cereal utilization, mainly through commercial channels.

In 2019 marketing year (January/December), cereal import requirements, mainly wheat and rice, are forecast at about

Congo



Source: FAO Congo (Observations)

372 000 tonnes, similar to the previous year's above average level.

Inflation rates forecast to remain low in 2019

In 2018, the average inflation rate was estimated at 1.6 percent. The low level was mainly due to the country's membership with the CFA Franc currency, which helps to anchor prices. In 2019, the average inflation rate is forecast to remain below 2 percent.

Increased assistance needed due to recent influx of refugees from Democratic Republic of Congo

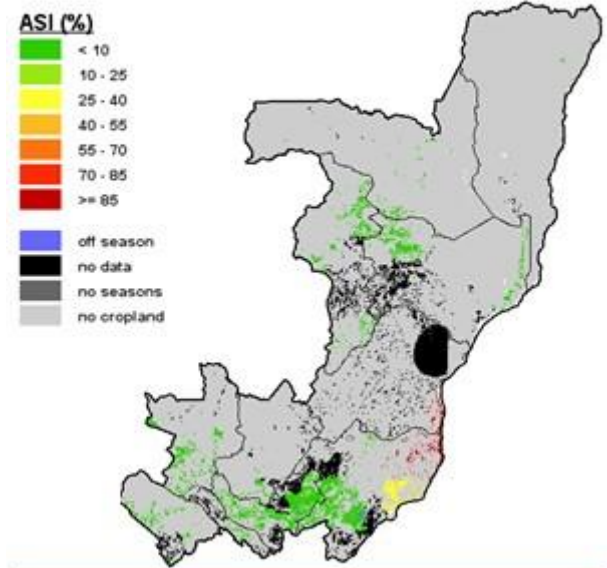
At the end of December 2018, clashes erupted between two communities in the Yumbi and Mai-Ndombe regions in western Democratic Republic of Congo, resulting in about 16 000 refugees fleeing to seek refuge in the country. Almost all new arrivals have settled with host communities in the localities of Makotipoko, Bouemba, Mopongo and Mpouya, increasing the local needs for humanitarian assistance.

According to the UNHCR, the country hosts about 32 000 refugees from the Central African Republic. Most refugees are located in Likouala Province, in particular in two sites of Bétou and Impfondo, close to the Central African Republic border along the Ubangi River. Their food security is essentially guaranteed by continued humanitarian assistance.

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Congo - Agricultural Stress Index (ASI)

from start of season 1 to dekad 2, April 2019



Source: FAO/GIEWS Earth Observation System.



GIEWS Country Brief The Congo

Reference Date: 04-October-2018

FOOD SECURITY SNAPSHOT

- Overall favourable weather conditions benefited crops in 2018
- Inflation rates to remain at low levels in 2018
- Refugees from Central African Republic estimated at 32 000 in 2018

Cereal output of 2018 harvests expected to be slightly above average

Planting of the main season maize crop, for harvest in December-January, is underway. A timely onset of seasonal rains in September favoured land preparation activities. So far, rainfall has been generally adequate over most cropping areas. Earlier in the year, the secondary season maize crop, harvested in June-July, benefited from adequate rainfall throughout the growing period. Overall prospects for the 2018 aggregate production point to a slightly above average level.

Inflation rates remain low in 2018

According to the International Monetary Fund, the average inflation rate, dropped from 3.1 percent in 2016 to 0.4 percent in 2017 due to the decline of global food prices and a less accommodative monetary policy. In 2018, the average inflation rate is forecast to remain at low levels due to membership of the the CFA Franc currency, which helps to anchor prices.

About 32 000 refugees from Central African Republic estimated to be living in country

According to the UNHCR, the country hosts about 32 000 refugees from the Central African Republic. Most of the refugees are located in Likouala Province, in particular in two sites close to the Central African Republic border along the Ubangi River (Bétou and Impfondo). Their food security is essentially supported by continued humanitarian assistance.

Due to ongoing armed conflict between Government forces and rebel groups, about 81 000 people have been displaced in the Pool and Bouenza departments in the south of the country since April 2016. The situation undermined agriculture, hindered market access and disrupted local livelihoods in the respective departments. As of June 2018, the security situation has stabilized and the displaced populations are returning to their places of origin.

Congo

Crop Calendar

(*major foodcrop)

Cassava*

Maize (Main)

Maize (Second)

Yams



Sowing

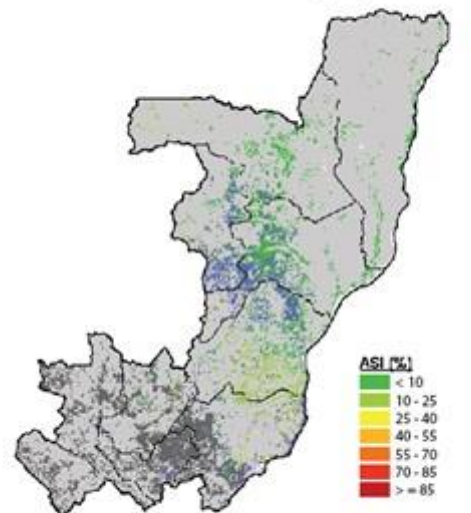
Growing

Harvesting

Source: FAO/GIEWS.

Congo - Agricultural Stress Index (ASI)1

from start of season 2 to dekad 2, September 2018



¹ASI measures the percent of cropland affected by drought per GAUL 2 region. The index calculation is based on METOP-AVHRR data.

off season
no data
no crop land

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GIEWS Country Brief The Congo

Reference Date: 22-January-2018

FOOD SECURITY SNAPSHOT

- Overall favourable weather conditions benefited crops in 2017
- Inflation rates forecast to further decrease in 2018
- Refugees from Central African Republic estimated at 50 000 as of end-October 2017

Cereal harvests in 2017 estimated at near-average level

Harvesting of the 2017 main maize crop will be completed in end-January, while harvesting of cassava, the principal staple in the country, is underway and will be completed at the end of March. According to satellite-based information, vegetation conditions during the cropping season were generally favourable due to adequate rainfall in most regions.

Preliminary estimates for the 2017 harvest point to an average level of production. The country does not produce a significant amount of cereals with imports covering approximately 94 percent of the total cereal utilization requirements, mainly through commercial channels. In the 2018 marketing year (January/December), the volume of commercially-imported cereals, mainly wheat and rice, is forecast at about 310 000 tonnes, similar to the previous year.

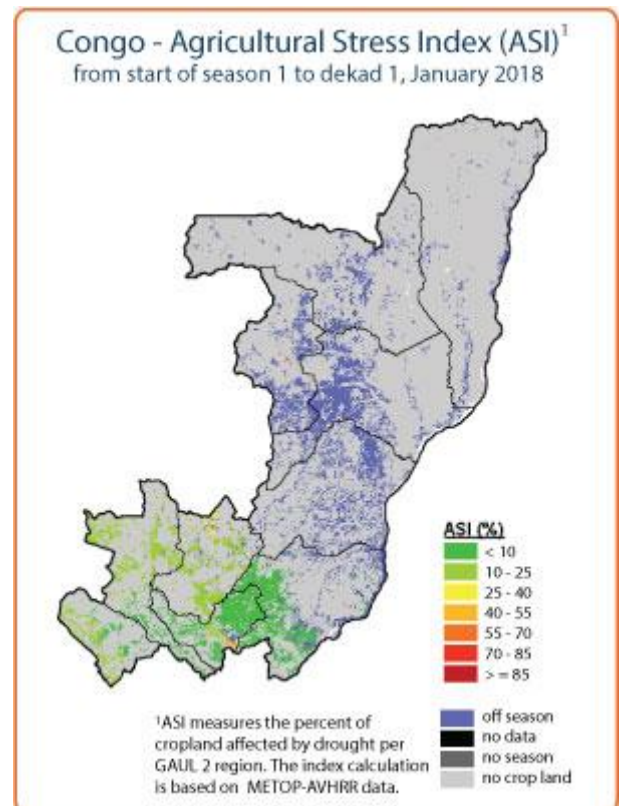
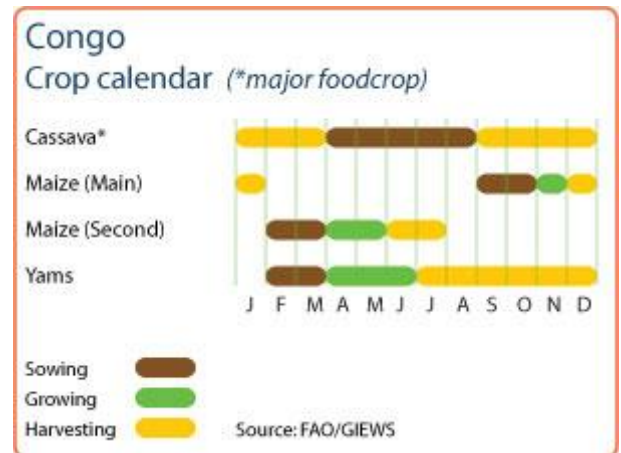
Inflation rates forecast to further decrease in 2018 due to declining global food prices

According to the International Monetary Fund, the average inflation rate, dropped from +3.6 percent in 2016 to -0.4 percent in 2017 due to the decline of global food prices and a less accommodative monetary policy. In 2018, the average inflation rate is forecast to further decrease to -1.1 percent.

About 50 000 refugees from Central African Republic estimated to be living in country

According to UNHCR, the country hosts about 50 000 refugees from the Central African Republic. Most of the refugees are located in Likouala Province, in particular in two sites close to the Central African Republic border along the Ubangi River (Bétou and Impfondo). Their food security is essentially supported by continued humanitarian assistance.

Moreover, according to the Government of the Republic of Congo, about 81 000 people have been displaced in the Pool and



Bouenza Department (South of the country) following the armed conflict escalation in these departments. This situation has undermined agriculture, hindered market access and disrupted local livelihoods in the region.

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GIEWS Country Brief The Congo

Reference Date: 24-April-2017

FOOD SECURITY SNAPSHOT

- Overall favourable weather conditions benefited crops in 2016
- Inflation rates forecast to rise moderately in 2017
- Refugees from Central African Republic estimated at 30 000 in end of February

Cereal harvests in 2016 estimated at near-average level

Harvesting of the 2016/17 main maize crop was completed in January 2017, while planting of the second maize crop was carried out in February and March 2017. Harvesting of cassava, the principal staple in the country, was also completed in March. Satellite estimates indicate that the overall rainfall during the cropping season was above average in most departments.

No official production estimates are available, but FAO preliminary estimates for the 2016 harvest point to a level of production similar to both the previous year and the average of the previous five years. The country does not produce a significant amount of cereals with imports covering approximately 94 percent of total cereal utilization requirements, mainly through commercial channels. In the 2017 marketing year (January/December), the volume of commercially-imported cereals, mainly wheat and rice, is forecast at about 310 000 tonnes, about 3 percent below the previous year.

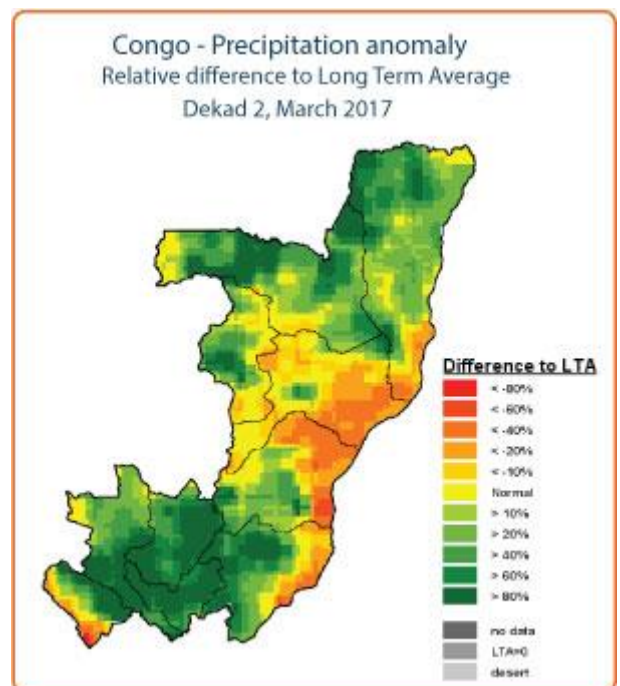
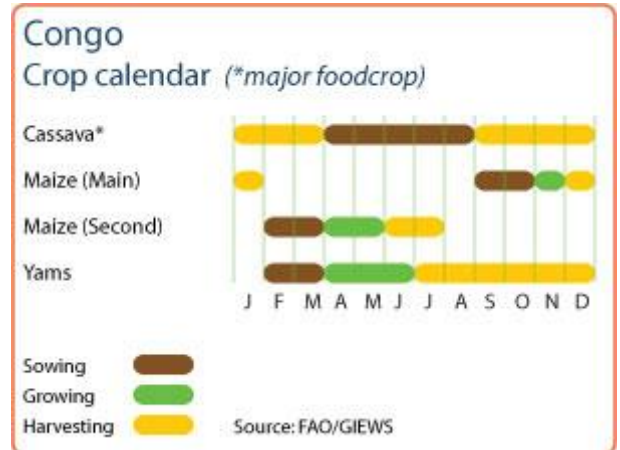
Average import requirement levels forecast in 2017

Domestic cereal production only covers a small proportion of the consumption requirements with imports, mainly through commercial channels, accounting for approximately 94 percent of the country's total utilization.

In the 2017 marketing year (January/December), the cereal import requirement, mainly wheat and rice, is forecast at around 312 000 tonnes, similar to the previous year.

Inflation rates forecast to rise moderately in 2017

According to the International Monetary Fund, the average inflation rate, which increased from a low of 1 percent in 2014 to 2 percent in 2015 due to a rise in public sector wages, increased



moderately to 4 percent in 2016. As of the first quarter of 2017, the average inflation rate is forecast to further increase to about 3.7 percent.

In the last several years, the rates of inflation were very volatile, increasing from 2.6 percent in 2007 to about 5 percent in 2008-2010, then declining to 1.8 percent in 2011 and increasing again to about 5 percent in 2012 and 2013.

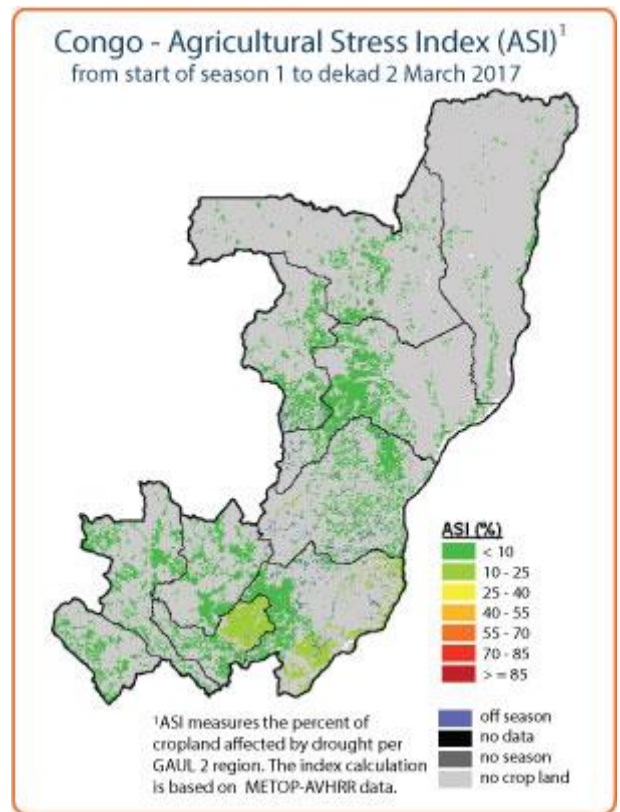
About 55 000 refugees are estimated to be living in the country mostly from Central African Republic

According to UNHCR, Congo continues to host about 55 000 refugees, about 30 000 of the refugees residing in the country are from the Central African Republic, that is 17 percent less than the peak recorded in September 2015 after the resurgence of inter-communal violence in the capital, Bangui, and in other areas of the country.

Most refugees are located in Likouala Province, in particular in two sites close to the Central African Republic border along the Ubangi River (Bétou and Impfondo). Their food security is essentially supported by continued humanitarian assistance. Moreover, about 30 000 people have been displaced in the country.

According to the Congo Observatory of Human Rights (OCDH), nearly 30 000 people would have been displaced in the Pool Department (South of the country) following the armed conflict escalation in this Department. This unstable situation has undermined the agriculture in that region.

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GIEWS Country Brief The Congo

Reference Date: 14-October-2016

FOOD SECURITY SNAPSHOT

- Generally favourable weather conditions at start of 2016 main maize cropping season
- Inflation rates forecast to rise moderately in 2016
- Refugees from Central African Republic estimated at 29 300 in early October

Generally favourable weather conditions at start of 2016 main maize cropping season

Planting of the main season maize crop, for harvest in December-January, is well underway. The rainy season, which normally starts in September, had an early onset in central areas, where rains started in the second dekad of August (see rainfall anomaly map) thus favouring land preparation activities. Subsequently, rainfall was above average in September over most cropping areas, except in southwestern parts (Lekomou, Niari, Koiyou, Bouenza provinces), where dry weather conditions prevailed.

Earlier in the year, the secondary season maize crop, harvested in June-July, was affected by early season dryness in January and February, which delayed planting operations. Subsequently, above average precipitation in March and April offset early seasonal moisture deficits and despite below average rains received in May, according to remote sensing data, vegetation conditions in the second dekad of May, before the harvest, were satisfactory (see ASI Map).

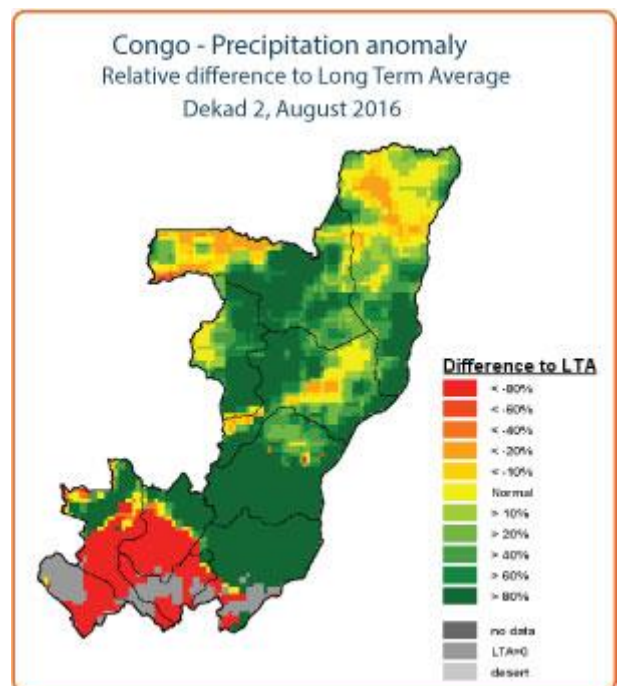
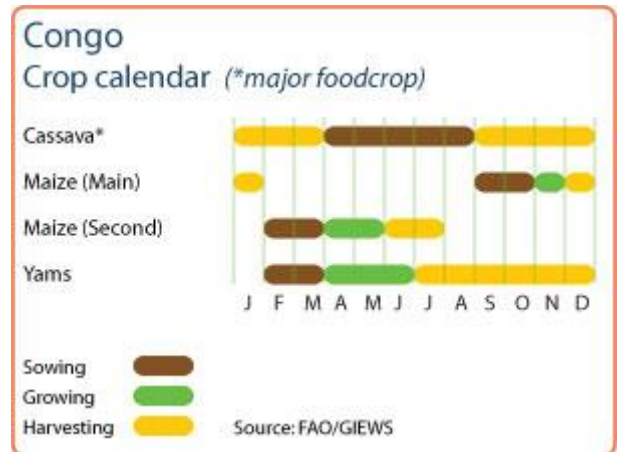
Average import requirement levels forecast in 2016

Domestic cereal production only covers a small proportion of the consumption requirements with imports, mainly through commercial channels, accounting for approximately 94 percent of the country's total utilization.

In the 2016 marketing year (January/December), the cereal import requirement, mainly wheat and rice, is forecast at around 300 000 tonnes, similar to the previous year.

Inflation rates forecast to rise moderately in 2016

According to the IMF, the average inflation rate, which increased from a low of 1 percent in 2014 to 2 percent in 2015 due to a rise



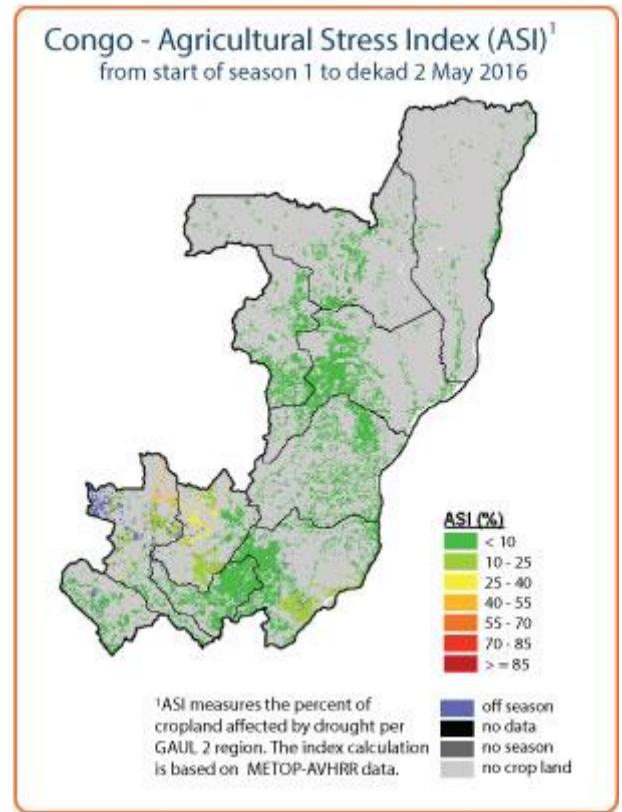
in public sector wages, is forecast to rise moderately to 2.3 percent in 2016.

In the last several years, the rates of inflation were very volatile, increasing from 2.6 percent in 2007 to about 5 percent in 2008-2010, then declining to 1.8 percent in 2011 and increasing again to about 5 percent in 2012 and 2013.

Refugees from Central African Republic estimated at 29 300 in early October

In early October 2016, the number of refugees that entered the country from the Central African Republic was estimated at 29 300, that is 24 percent less than the peak recorded in September 2015 after the resurgence of inter-communal violence in the capital, Bangui, and in other areas of the country.

Most refugees are located in Likouala Province, in particular in two sites close to the Central African Republic border along the Ubangi River (Bétou and Impfondo). Their food security is essentially guaranteed by continued humanitarian assistance.





GIEWS Country Brief The Congo

Reference Date: 09-September-2016

FOOD SECURITY SNAPSHOT

- Favourable weather conditions at start of 2016 main maize cropping season
- Inflation rates forecast to rise moderately in 2016
- Refugees from Central African Republic estimated at 28 600 in late May

Favourable weather conditions at start of 2016 main maize cropping season

Planting of the main season maize crop, for harvest in December-January, has recently started. The rainy season, which normally starts in September, had an early onset in central areas, where rains started in the second dekad of August (see rainfall anomaly map) thus favouring land preparation activities. Earlier in the year, the secondary season maize crop, harvested in June-July, was affected by early season dryness in January and February, which delayed planting operations. Subsequently, above average precipitation in March and April offset early seasonal moisture deficits, and despite the below average rains received in May, according to remote sensing data, vegetation conditions in the second dekad of May, before the harvest, were satisfactory (see ASI Map).

Average import requirement levels forecast in 2016

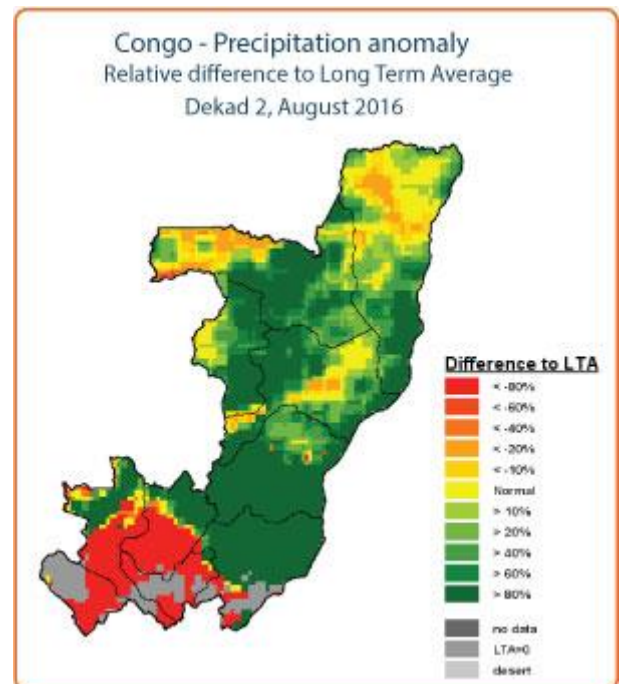
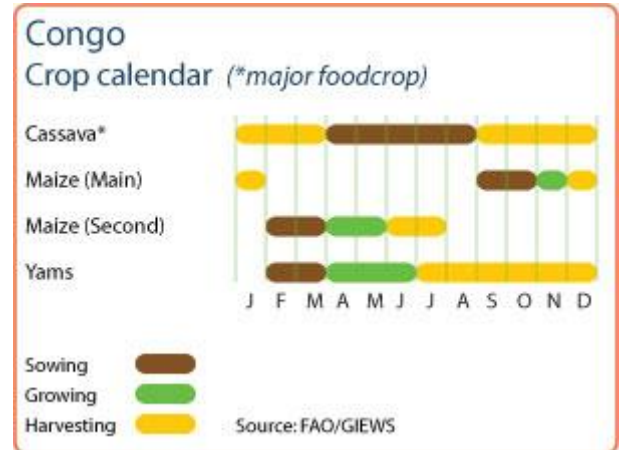
Domestic cereal production covers a small proportion of the consumption requirements, with imports accounting for approximately 94 percent of the total utilization, mainly through commercial channels.

In the 2016 marketing year (January/December), the cereal import requirement, mainly wheat and rice, is forecast at around 300 000 tonnes, similar to the previous year.

Inflation rates forecast to rise moderately in 2016

According to the IMF, the average inflation rate, which increased from a low 1 percent in 2014 to 2 percent in 2015 due to a rise in public sector wages, is forecast to rise moderately to 2.3 percent in 2016.

In the last several years, the rates of inflation were very volatile, increasing from 2.6 percent in 2007 to about 5 percent in

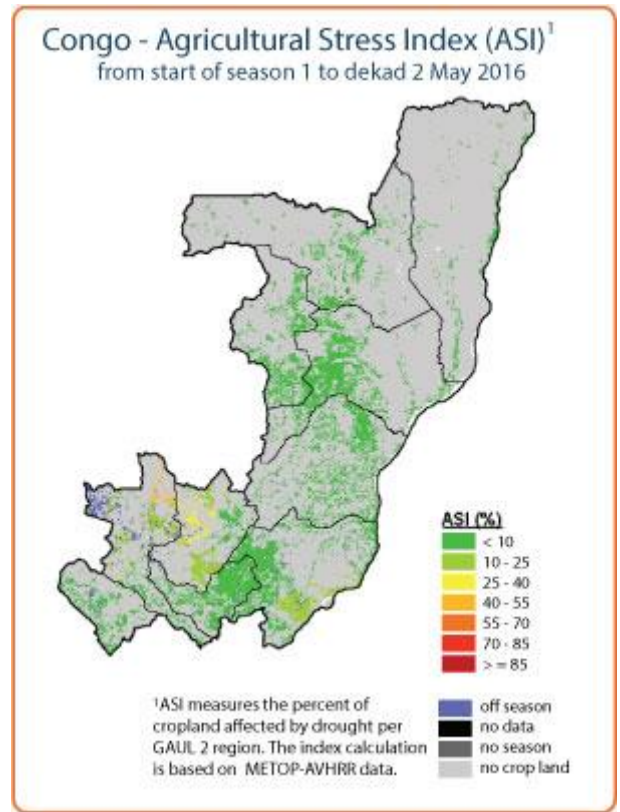


2008-2010, then declining to 1.8 percent in 2011 and increasing again to about 5 percent in 2012 and 2013.

Refugees from the Central African Republic estimated at 28 600 in late May

In late May 2016, the number of refugees which entered the country from the Central African Republic was estimated at 28 600, 25 percent less than the peak recorded in September 2015, after the resurgence of inter communal violence in the capital, Bangui, and in other areas of the country.

Most refugees are located in Likouala Province, in particular in two sites close to the Central African Republic border along the Ubangi River (Bétou and Impfondo). Their food security is essentially guaranteed by continued humanitarian assistance.



Reference Date: 25-April-2016

FOOD SECURITY SNAPSHOT

- Dry weather conditions at start of 2016 secondary maize cropping season
- Inflation rates forecast to remain stable at low levels in 2016
- Refugees from Central African Republic (CAR) estimated at 28 500 in late March

Dry weather conditions at start of 2016 secondary maize cropping season

Planting of cassava, the principal staple in the country, is currently underway. Planting of the 2016 secondary season maize crop, for harvest in June-July, is normally completed in March. However, dry weather conditions in January, which continued in parts until the second dekad of February (see Precipitation anomaly map), delayed planting operations. Subsequently, above average precipitation offset moisture deficits, and in March, according to satellite imagery, vegetation conditions were good in most cropping areas (see Vegetation Health Index map).

Average import requirement levels forecast in 2016

Domestic crop production covers a small proportion of the consumption requirements, with imports accounting for approximately 94 percent of the total cereal utilization, mainly through commercial channels.

In the 2016 marketing year (January/December), the cereal import requirement, mainly wheat and rice, is forecast at around 300 000 tonnes, similar to the previous year.

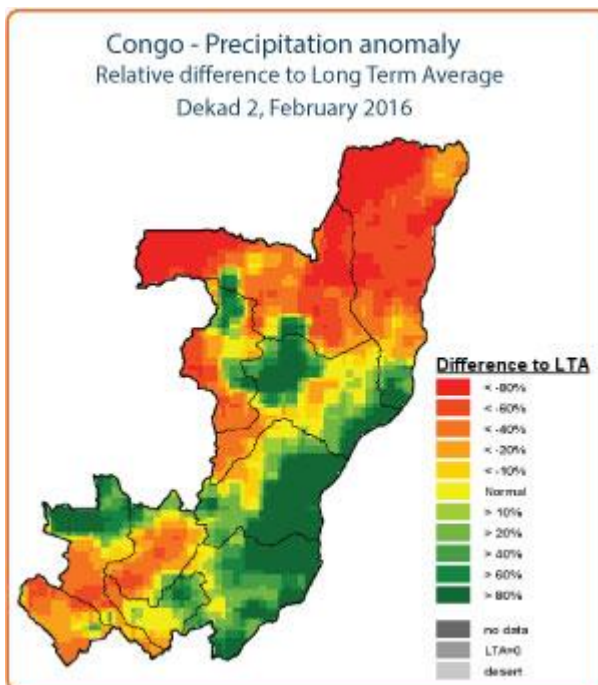
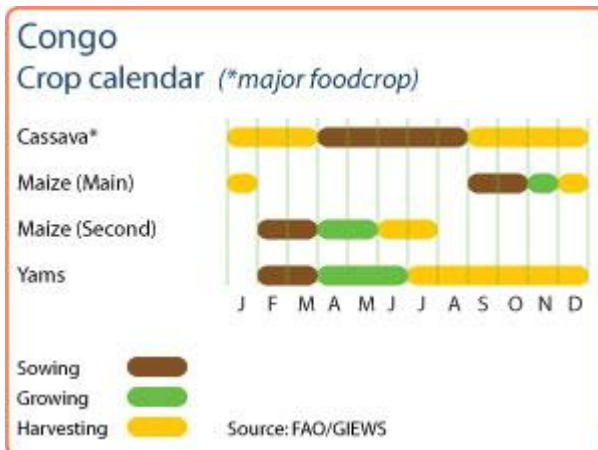
Inflation rates forecast to remain stable at low levels in 2016

According to the IMF, the average inflation rate, which increased from a low 1 percent in 2014 to 2 percent in 2015 due to a rise in public sector wages, is forecast to remain stable in 2016.

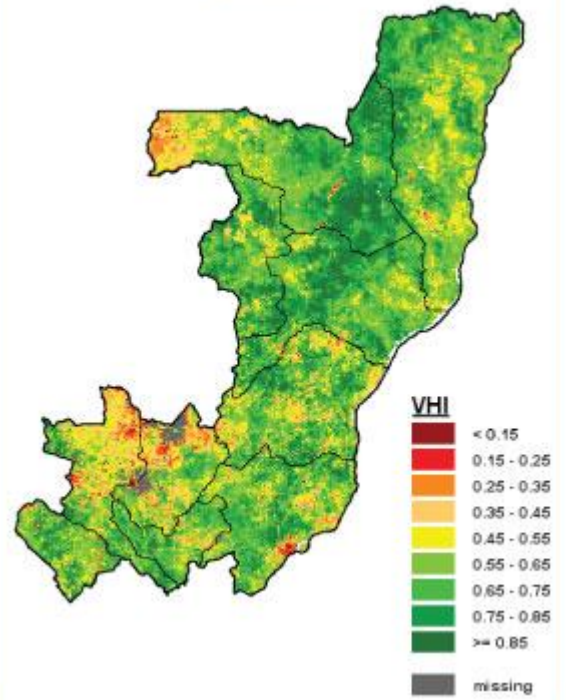
In the last several years, the rates of inflation were very volatile, increasing from 2.6 percent in 2007 to about 5 percent in 2008-2010, then declining to 1.8 percent in 2011 and increasing again to about 5 percent in 2012 and 2013.

Refugees from CAR estimated at 28 500 in late March

In late March 2016, the number of refugees, which entered the country from the CAR was estimated at 28 500. The refugees are mostly located in Likouala Province, more specifically in two sites close to the CAR border on the Ubangi River: Bétou and Impfondo. The general food consumption levels of refugees have been improving over the past year due to the assistance operations carried out by the international community; by contrast, malnutrition levels for children between 6-59 months of age increased.



Congo - Vegetation Health Index (VHI)
March 2016



Reference Date: 09-March-2016

FOOD SECURITY SNAPSHOT

- Dry weather conditions at start of 2016 secondary maize cropping season
- Inflation rates forecast to increase in 2016 but still at low levels
- Refugees from the Central African Republic (CAR) estimated at 27 000 in January

Dry weather conditions at start of 2016 secondary maize cropping season

Harvesting of cassava, the principal staple in the country, is currently underway. Planting of the 2016 secondary season maize crop, for harvest in June-July, is normally completed in March. However, dry weather conditions in January, which continued in parts until the second dekad of February (see precipitation anomaly Map), may have delayed planting operations.

Average import requirement levels forecast in 2016

Domestic crop production covers a small proportion of the consumption requirements, with imports accounting for approximately 94 percent of the total cereal utilization, mainly through commercial channels.

In the 2016 marketing year (January/December), the cereal import requirement, mainly wheat and rice, is forecast at around 300 000 tonnes, similar to the previous year.

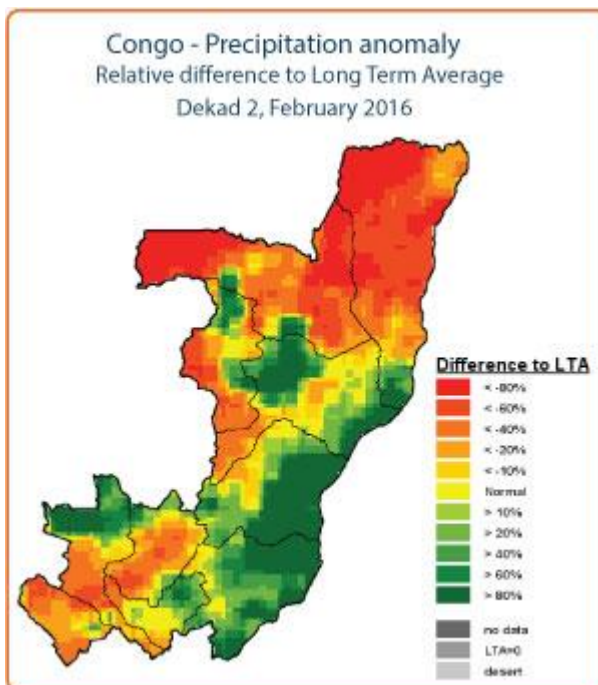
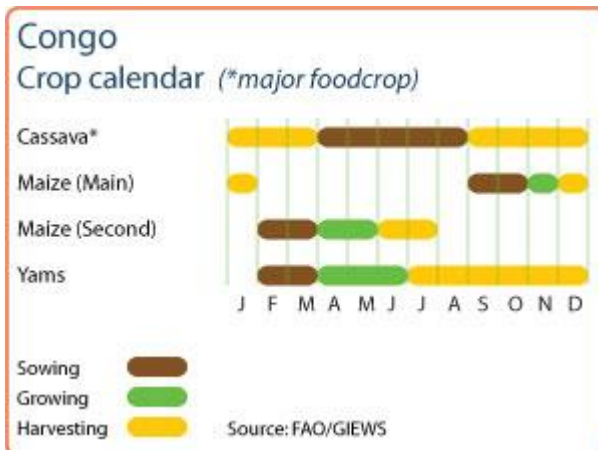
Inflation rates forecast to increase in 2016 but still at low levels

According to the IMF, the average inflation rate, stable at around 1 percent in 2014 and 2015, is forecast to slightly increase to 1.6 percent in 2016 due to a rise in public sector wages.

In the last several years, the rates of inflation were very volatile, increasing from 2.6 percent in 2007 to about 5 percent in 2008-2010, then declining to 1.8 percent in 2011 and increasing again to about 5 percent in 2012 and 2013.

Refugees from CAR estimated at 27 000 in January

In late January 2016, the number of refugees, which entered the country from the CAR, was estimated at about 30 000, 10 percent less than in September 2015. The refugees are mostly located in the Likouala Province, more specifically in two sites close to the CAR border on the Ubangi River: Bétou and Impfondo. The general food consumption levels of refugees have been improving over the past year due to the assistance operations carried out by the international community; by contrast, malnutrition levels for children between 6-59 months of age increased.



Reference Date: 26-November-2015

FOOD SECURITY SNAPSHOT

- Favourable weather conditions during 2015 main maize cropping season except in some coastal areas
- Secondary cropping season in 2015, harvested last summer, also benefited from good weather
- Inflation rates stable at low levels in 2015
- Refugees from the Central African Republic (CAR) estimated at 30 000 in late September; new arrivals in October due to renewed violence in CAR

Favourable weather conditions at start of main maize cropping season except in some coastal areas

Harvesting of cassava, the principal staple in the country, is currently underway. Satellite-based information and analysis indicates that crop growing conditions have been generally favourable. The main maize crops, for harvest in December, benefited from a timely onset of seasonal rains in October, except in some coastal areas where early season dryness may have affected planting operations (see Map 1).

Earlier in the year, the second season maize crop, planted from February, was harvested in June-July. According to satellite imagery analysis, crops benefited from adequate rainfall throughout the growing period (see Map 2).

Average import requirement levels forecast in 2016

Domestic crop production covers a small proportion of consumption requirements, with imports accounting for approximately 94 percent of the total cereal utilization, mainly through commercial channels.

In the 2016 marketing year (January/December), the cereal import requirement, mainly wheat and rice, is forecast at around 300 000 tonnes, similar to the previous year.

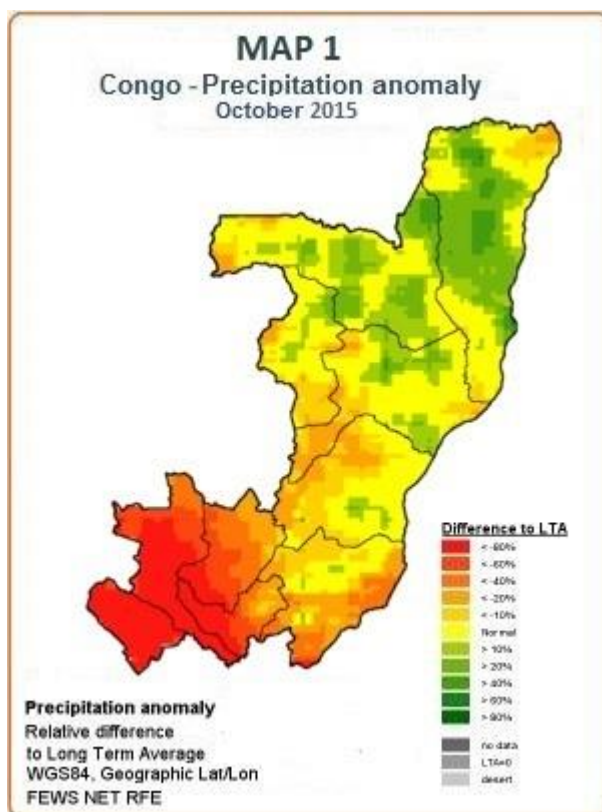
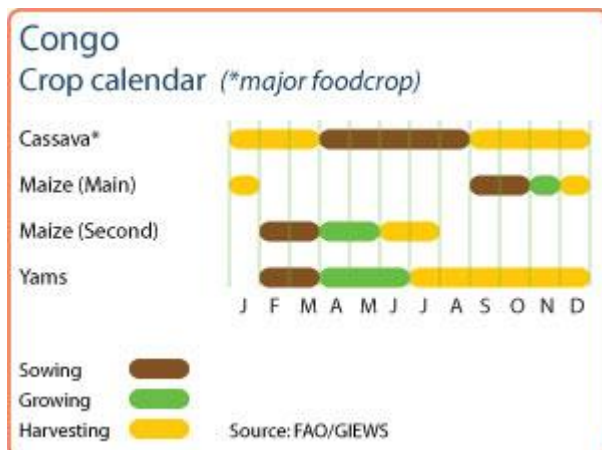
Low inflation rates in 2014 and 2015

According to the IMF, the average inflation rate, after having declined from 4.6 percent in 2013 to 1 percent in 2014, mainly due to a stronger currency and lower global food prices, remained stable in 2015.

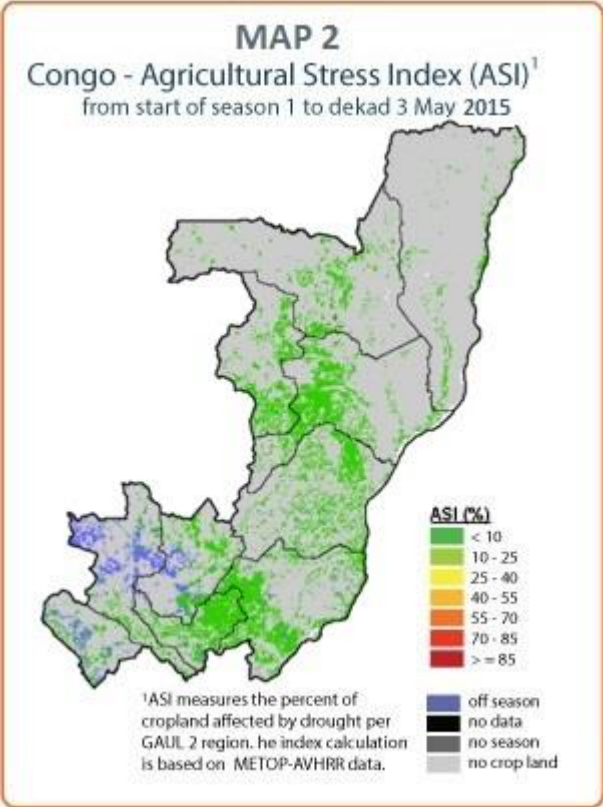
In the last several years, rates of inflation were very volatile, increasing from 2.6 percent in 2007 to about 5 percent in 2008-2010, then declining to 1.8 percent in 2011 and increasing again to about 5 percent in 2012 and 2013.

Refugees from CAR estimated at 30 000 in late September; new arrivals in October due to renewed violence in CAR

In late October 2015, the number of refugees, which entered the country from the CAR, was estimated, in late September, at more than 30 000 and are assisted through international organizations. About 20 000 refugees are registered and settled near the town of Betou in



Likouala Province and about 8 000 in the capital, Brazzaville; other settlements are in Impfondo, Ouessou/Pokola and Pointe Noire. Since the resurgence of violence in CAR in October 2015, significant new arrivals have been reported; registration of new asylum seekers is underway.



Reference Date: 03-November-2014

FOOD SECURITY SNAPSHOT

- Early season dryness may have caused delays in planting of main 2014 maize crop, normally completed in October
- Favourable weather conditions at start of 2014 second cropping season in February/March benefited both maize and cassava crops
- Inflation rates declined in 2014 mainly due to stronger currency and lower global food prices
- Serious food insecurity situation is reported among refugees from Central African Republic, estimated at about 20 000 as of late October 2014

Erratic rainfall in September and October affect planting of main season maize crop

Harvesting of cassava, the principal staple in the country, is currently underway. Satellite-based information and analysis indicate that crop growing conditions have been generally favourable. By contrast, the planting of the main 2014 maize crop, normally completed in October, may have been delayed by early season dryness in several parts of the country (see Map 1).

Earlier in the year, the second season maize crop, planted from February, was harvested in June-July. According to satellite imagery analysis, crops benefited from adequate rainfall throughout the growing period (see Map 2).

Average import requirement levels forecast in 2015

Domestic crop production covers a small proportion of consumption requirements, with imports accounting for approximately 94 percent of total cereal utilization, mainly through commercial channels.

In the 2015 marketing year (January/December), the cereal import requirement, mainly wheat and rice, is forecast at around 300 000 tonnes, similar to the previous year.

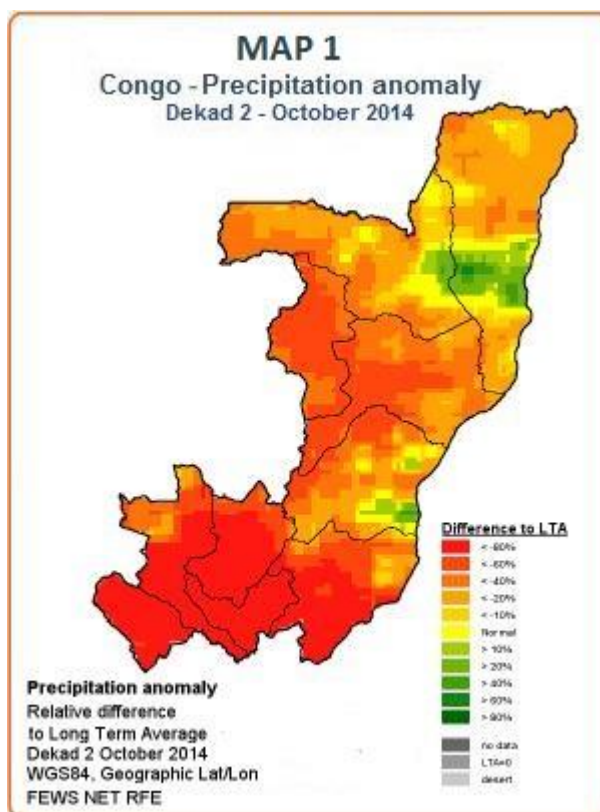
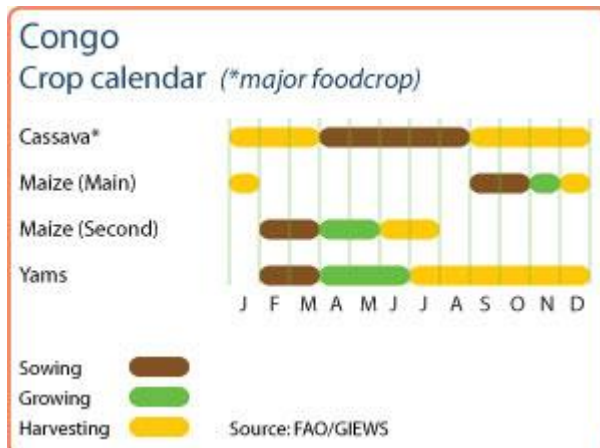
Inflation rates declining in 2014

According to the IMF, the average inflation rate, which was estimated at 4.6 percent in 2013, declined to 2.2 percent in 2014, mainly due to a stronger currency and lower global food prices.

In the last several years, rates of inflation were very volatile, increasing from 2.6 percent in 2007 to about 5 percent in 2008-2010, then declining to 1.8 percent in 2011 and increasing again to 5 percent in 2012.

Serious food insecurity among the refugees from the Central African Republic

In late October 2014, the number of refugees, which entered the country from the Central African Republic (CAR), was estimated at more than 20 000 and are assisted through international organizations.

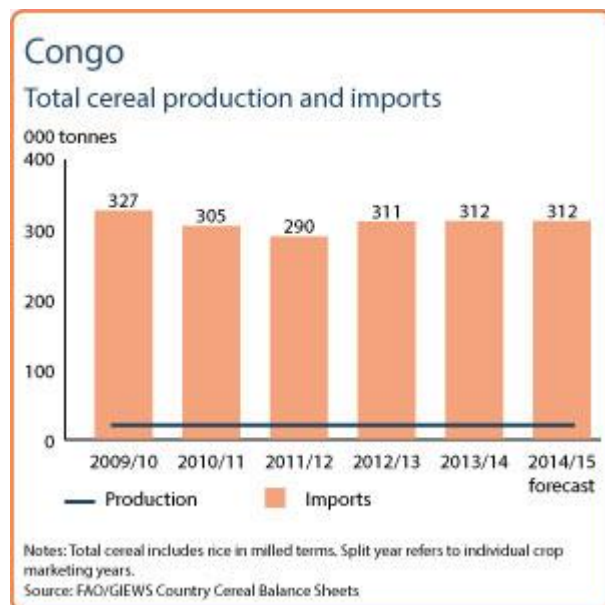
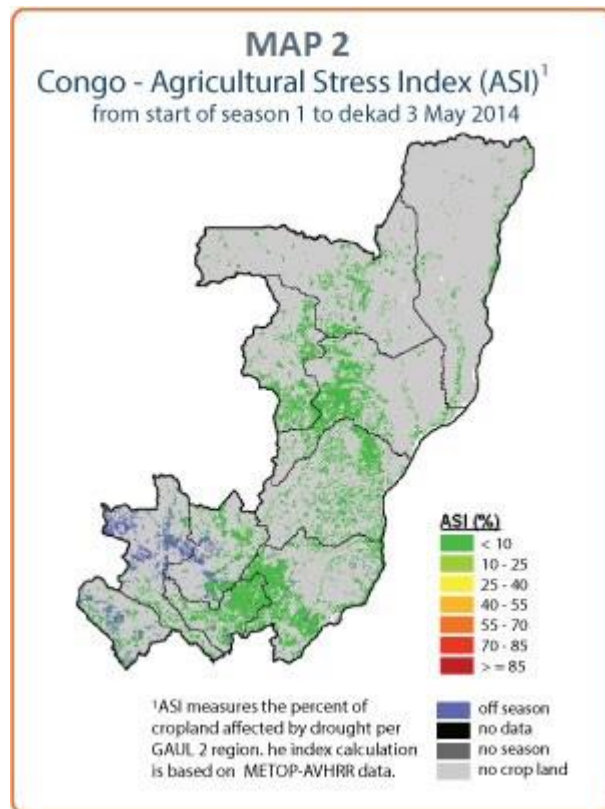


About 70 percent of the refugees are registered and settled near the town of Betou in Likouala province and about 20 percent in the capital, Brazzaville; other settlements are in Impfondo and Pointe Noire.

According to the findings of a joint WFP/UNHCR Food Security and Household Vulnerability Assessment conducted in April 2014, an estimated 56.8 percent of the refugee households from CAR are food insecure (46.5 percent being moderately food insecure and 10.3 percent severely food insecure). In addition, the large majority (74.7 percent) of the households has already experienced an extreme loss of livelihood assets, with more than 49 percent of them not possessing basic goods (furniture, machetes, lamps, etc.), and 69 percent of them having lost all their savings. In addition, about 10 percent of the refugee households rely on emergency coping strategies like begging or engaging in illegal activities.

In the framework of the CAR Regional Response Plan launched on 16 April 2014 and revised on 22 July, UNHCR appealed for USD 8.4 million to assist the CAR refugees in Congo. As of late October, only USD 2.2 million was received.

Financial constraints have seriously limited the level of interventions to date. For example, only 47 permanent shelters could be completed out of 200 initially planned at the “15 avril” site in Betou. However, humanitarian interventions resulted in improvements in food security and nutrition. For instance, since the beginning of the emergency, in the Betou area moderate acute malnutrition rates declined from 14 percent to 11 percent and severe acute malnutrition rates decreased from 9 percent to 7 percent.



Reference Date: 20-June-2014

FOOD SECURITY SNAPSHOT

- Favourable weather conditions at the start of the 2014 cropping season
- Inflation rate forecast to decline in 2014
- Refugees from Central African Republic estimated at about 17 000 as of mid June 2014

Favourable weather conditions at the start of the 2014 cropping season

Planting of cassava, the principal staple in the country, for harvest from September is underway while harvesting of the second season maize crop, planted from last February, is underway. Satellite-based information and analysis indicate that crop growing conditions from February to the third dekad of May 2014 have been generally favourable in most regions following well-distributed rainfall.

Overall, however, domestic crop production covers a small proportion of consumption requirements, with imports accounting for approximately 94 percent of total cereal utilization, mainly through commercial channels. In the 2014 marketing year (January-December), the cereal import requirement, mainly wheat and rice, is forecast at around 300 000 tonnes, similar to the previous year.

Inflation rate forecast to decline in 2014

According to the IMF, the average inflation rate, which was estimated at 4.6 percent in 2013, is forecast to decline to 2.4 percent in 2014, mainly due to a stronger currency and lower global food prices.

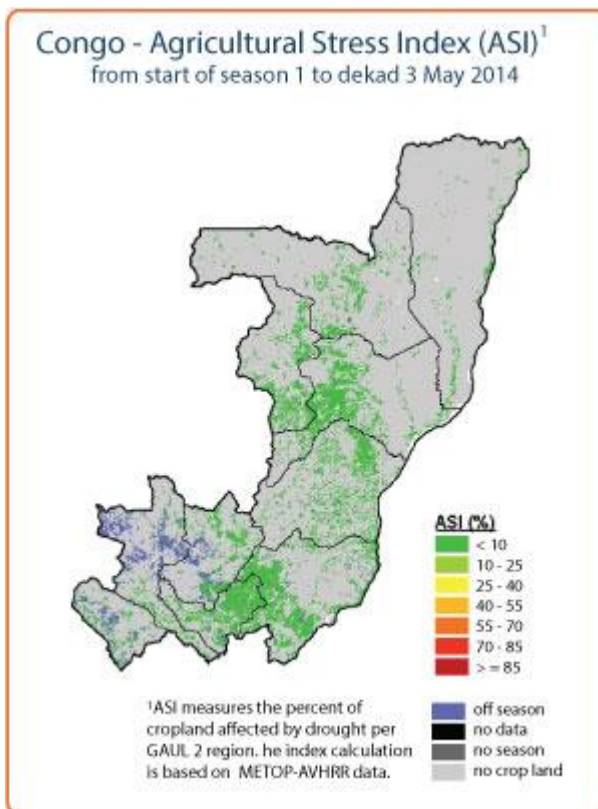
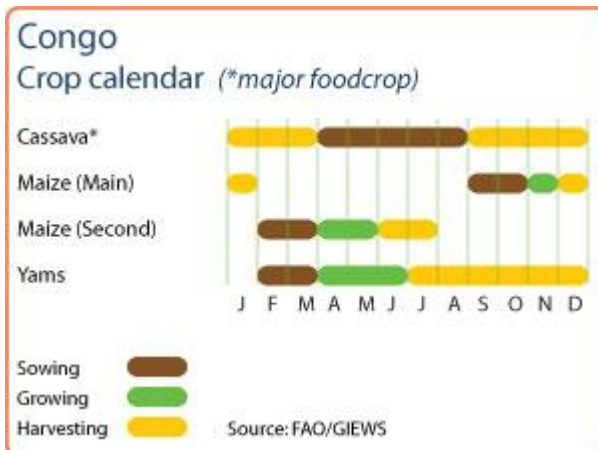
In the last several years, rates of inflation were very volatile, increasing from 2.6 percent in 2007 to about 5 percent in 2008-2010, then declining to 1.8 percent in 2011 and increasing again to 5 percent in 2012, following the damage caused by the explosion of an ammunition storage depot in the capital in March 2012 and the subsequent massive fiscal injection for reconstruction.

The number of refugees from the Central African Republic is so far estimated at 17 000

In mid June 2014, the number of refugees, which entered the country from the Central African Republic (CAR), was estimated at 17 000. Predominantly located near the town of Betou and Likouala province, they are assisted through international organizations.

In the framework of the CAR Regional Response Plan, launched on 16 April 2014, UNHCR appealed for USD 4.7 million to assist the CAR refugees in Congo. As of late May, USD 800 000 was received.

Financial constraints have seriously limited the level of interventions to date. The severe acute malnutrition rate among refugees is 2.5 percent, 0.5 percent above the "emergency" threshold of 2 percent. In addition, malaria and acute respiratory infections currently affect 39 and 23 percent, respectively, of the refugee population, reflecting the precarious living conditions.



Reference Date: 15-May-2014

FOOD SECURITY SNAPSHOT

- Favourable weather conditions at the start of the 2014 cropping season
- Inflation rate forecast to decline in 2014
- Refugees from Central African Republic estimated at about 16 000 as of early May 2014

Favourable weather conditions at the start of the 2014 cropping season

Planting of cassava, the principal staple in the country, for harvest from September, is underway, while harvesting of the second season maize crop, planted from last February, is expected to start from June. Satellite-based information and analysis indicate that crop growing conditions from February to the first dekad of May 2014 have been generally favourable in most regions following well-distributed rainfall.

Overall, however, domestic crop production covers a small proportion of consumption requirements, with imports accounting for approximately 94 percent of total cereal utilization, mainly through commercial channels. In the 2014 marketing year (January-December), the cereal import requirement, mainly wheat and rice, is forecast at around 300 000 tonnes, similar to the previous year.

Inflation rate forecast to decline in 2014

According to the IMF, the average inflation rate, which was estimated at 4.6 percent in 2013, is forecast to decline to 2.4 percent in 2014, mainly due to a stronger currency and lower global food prices.

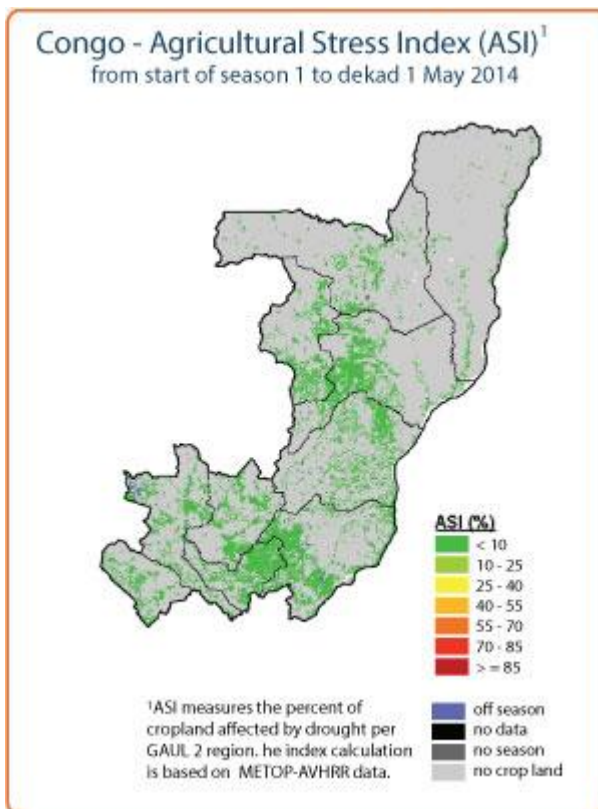
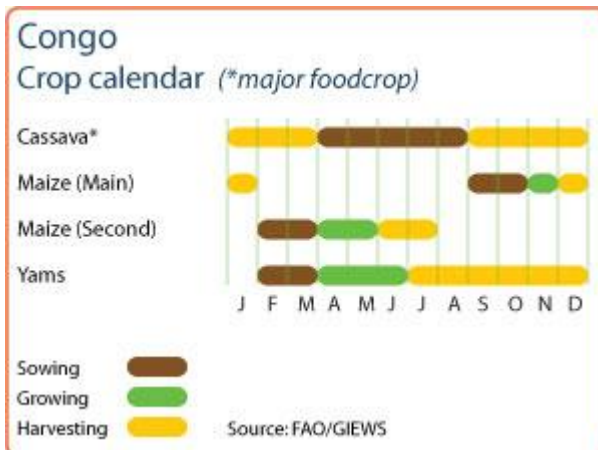
In the last several years, rates of inflation were very volatile, increasing from 2.6 percent in 2007 to about 5 percent in 2008-2010, then declining to 1.8 percent in 2011 and increasing again to 5 percent in 2012, following the damage caused by the explosion of an ammunition storage depot in the capital in March 2012 and the subsequent massive fiscal injection for reconstruction.

The number of refugees from the Central African Republic is so far estimated at 16 000

In early May 2014, the number of refugees, which entered the country from the Central African Republic (CAR), was estimated at 16 000. Predominantly located near the town of Betou and Likouala province, they are assisted through international organizations.

In the framework of the CAR Regional Response Plan, launched on 16 April 2014, UNHCR appealed for USD 4.3 million to assist the CAR refugees in Congo. As of mid-May, USD 800 000 was received.

Financial constraints have seriously limited the level of interventions to date, especially the provision of non-food items, such as the construction of shelters. Reflecting precarious living conditions, malaria and acute respiratory infections currently affect 39 and 23 percent, respectively of the refugee population.



Reference Date: 10-February-2014

FOOD SECURITY SNAPSHOT

- Favourable weather conditions benefit 2013 crops
- Inflation rate forecast to decline in 2014
- Central African Republic refugees estimated at 13 800

Good rains benefit 2013 crops

Harvesting of cassava (the principal staple in the country) is underway, while harvesting of the main season maize crop has been concluded in January. Satellite based information and analysis indicate that adequate rainfall was received in most regions during the cropping period.

Likewise, the second season maize crop, harvested in July/June 2013, benefited from favourable crop growing conditions.

Overall, however, the domestic crop production covers a small proportion of consumption requirements, with imports covering approximately 94 percent of total cereal utilization, mainly through commercial channels. In the 2014 marketing year (January-December), the cereal import requirement is forecast at around 300 000 tonnes, mainly wheat and rice.

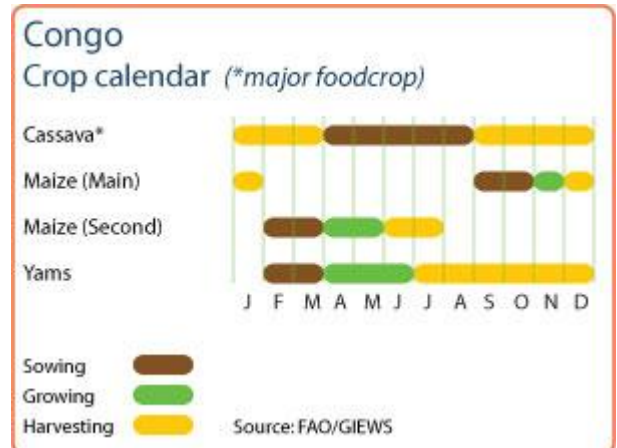
Inflation rate forecast to decline in 2014

According to the IMF, the average inflation rate, which was estimated at 5.3 percent in 2013, is forecast to decline to 2.8 percent in 2014, mainly due to a stronger currency and lower global food prices.

In the last several years, rates of inflation were very volatile, increasing from 2.6 percent in 2007 to about 5 percent in 2008-2010, then declining to 1.9 percent in 2011 and increasing again to 5 percent in 2012, as a result of the damage caused by the huge explosion in the capital in March 2012, and the subsequent massive fiscal injection for reconstruction.

The number of refugees from the Central African Republic are so far estimated at 13 800

In early February 2014, the number of refugees which entered the country from the Central African Republic was estimated at 13 800. UNHCR and UNICEF pledged USD 3 millions to assist them; however, the critical funding situation has seriously limited the level of interventions to date.



Reference Date: 27-November-2013

FOOD SECURITY SNAPSHOT

- Favourable weather conditions benefit crops
- Inflation stable in 2013
- Almost 10 000 refugees from the Central African Republic received

Good rains benefit crops

Harvesting of cassava (the principal staple in the country) is underway, while harvesting of the main season maize crop is about to start.

Satellite based information and analysis indicate that so far crop growing conditions have been generally favourable in most regions following near average to average rainfall.

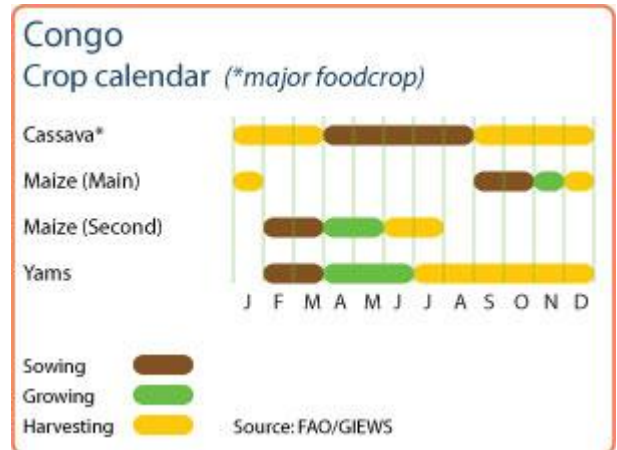
Overall, however, the domestic crop production covers a small proportion of consumption requirements, with imports covering approximately 94 percent of total cereal utilization, mainly through commercial channels. In the 2013 marketing year (January-December), the cereal import requirement is forecast at around 300 000 tonnes, mainly wheat and rice.

Inflation rates stabilizing in 2013 after having surged in 2012

During 2013, the average inflation rate was stable at about 5 percent compared to 2012, when it sharply increased from 1.8 percent in 2011 as a result of the damage caused by the huge explosion in the capital in March 2012, and the subsequent massive fiscal injection for reconstruction. In the last several years, rates of inflation were highly volatile, increasing from 2.6 percent in 2007 to about 6 percent in 2008 then declining to 4.3 percent in 2009 and subsequently rising to 5 percent in 2010.

Almost 10 000 refugees from the Central African Republic received

In November, the number of refugees which entered the country from the Central African Republic was estimated at about 10 000. Of the USD 3 millions pledged by UNHCR and UNICEF to assist them, only USD 130 000 have been received. The critical funding situation has seriously limited the level of interventions to date.



Reference Date: 23-September-2013

FOOD SECURITY SNAPSHOT

- Favourable weather conditions benefit crops
- Inflation forecast to decline in 2013

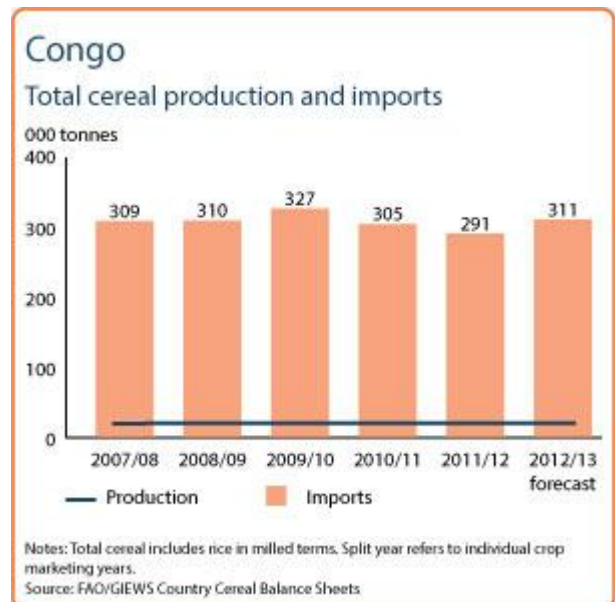
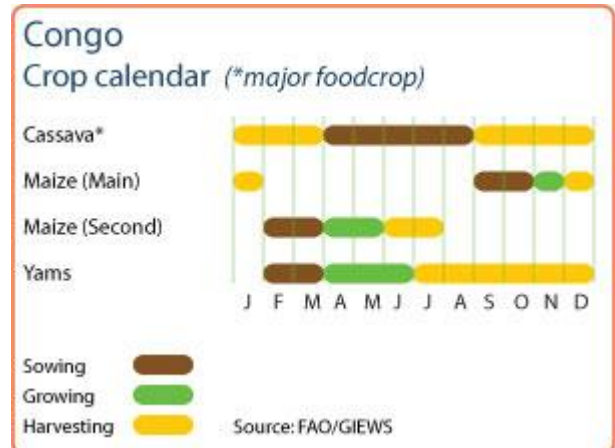
Good rains benefit crops

Harvesting of cassava, the principal staple in the country, is currently underway. By contrast, harvesting of the second season maize crop was completed in July and the planting of the main 2013 crop is currently underway. Satellite based information and analysis indicate that so far crop growing conditions have been generally favourable in most regions following well distributed rainfall.

Overall, however, the domestic crop production covers a small proportion of consumption requirements, with imports covering approximately 94 percent of total cereal utilization, mainly through commercial channels. In the 2013 marketing year (January-December), the cereal import requirement is forecast at around 300 000 tonnes, mainly wheat and rice.

Inflation forecast to decline in 2013

The average inflation rate is forecast by the IMF to decline to 4.5 percent after having peaked at 5 percent in 2012, when it sharply increased from 1.8 percent in 2011 as a result of the damage caused by the huge explosion in the capital in March 2012, and the subsequent massive fiscal injection for reconstruction. In the last several years, rates of inflation were highly volatile, increasing from 2.6 percent in 2007 to about 6 percent in 2008 then declining to 4.3 percent in 2009 and subsequently rising to 5 percent in 2010.



Reference Date: 28-May-2013

FOOD SECURITY SNAPSHOT

- Favourable weather conditions at the start of the 2013 cropping season
- Inflation forecast to decline in 2013

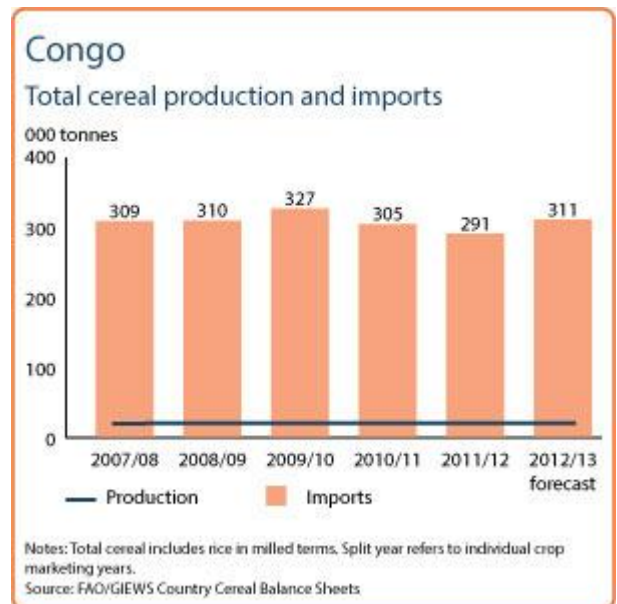
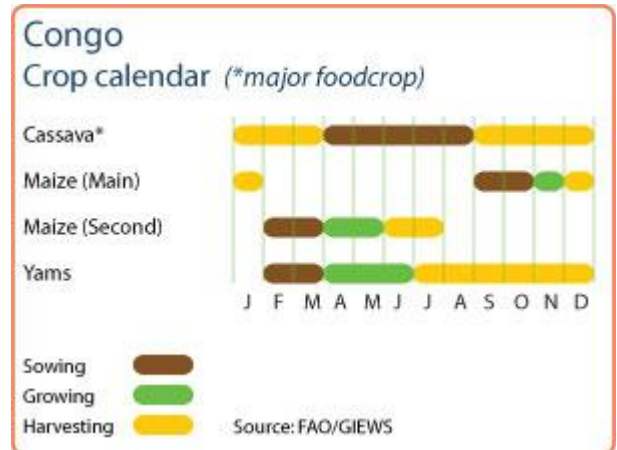
Favourable weather conditions at the start of the 2013 cropping season

Planting of cassava, the principal staple in the country and for harvest from September is underway. By contrast, harvesting of the second season maize crop, planted from last February, is expected to start from June. Satellite based information and analysis indicate that crop growing conditions from February to May 2013 have been generally favourable in most regions following well distributed rainfall.

Overall, however, the domestic crop production covers a small proportion of consumption requirements, with imports covering approximately 94 percent of total cereal utilization, mainly through commercial channels. In the 2013 marketing year (January-December), the cereal import requirement is forecast at around 300 000 tonnes, mainly wheat and rice.

Inflation forecast to decline in 2013

The average inflation rate is forecast by the IMF to decline to 4.5 percent after having peaked at 5 percent 2012, when it sharply increased from 1.8 percent in 2011 as a result of the damage caused by the huge explosion in the capital in March 2012, and the subsequent massive fiscal injection for reconstruction. In the last several years, rates of inflation were highly volatile, increasing from 2.6 percent in 2007 to about 6 percent in 2008 then declining to 4.3 percent in 2009 and subsequently rising to 5 percent in 2010.



Reference Date: 29-January-2013

FOOD SECURITY SNAPSHOT

- Above average rainfall in 2012 benefited crop production
- Rates of inflation accelerated in 2012
- Floods result in population displacements in the two largest cities

Favourable weather conditions benefit crops

Harvesting of the main maize crop is about to be completed, while harvesting of cassava is underway. Satellite based vegetation indexes indicate that crop growing conditions in 2012 have been generally favourable in most regions following well distributed rainfall.

No official production figures are as yet available, but tentative estimates for the 2012 harvest point to a level of production that is similar to the average of the previous five years.

Overall, however, the domestic crop production covers a small proportion of consumption requirements with imports covering approximately 94 percent of total cereal utilization, mainly through commercial channels. In the 2013 marketing year (January-December), the cereal import requirement is forecast at around 300 000 tonnes, mainly wheat and rice.

Increased inflation rates recorded in 2012

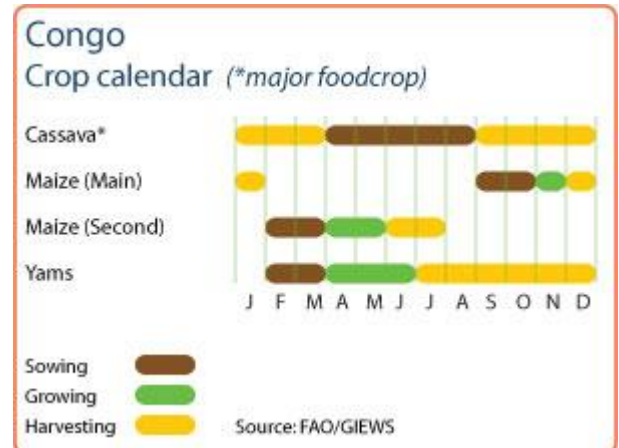
According to the IMF, the average inflation rate increased sharply from 1.8 percent in 2011 to 5.1 percent in 2012, partly due to the disruption and the damage caused by the huge explosion in the capital in March 2012, and the subsequent massive fiscal injection for reconstruction. In the last several years, rates of inflation were highly volatile, increasing from 2.6 percent in 2007 to about 6 percent in 2008, then declining to 4.3 percent in 2009 and subsequently rising to 4.9 percent in 2010.

Extensive flooding cause damage

Heavy rains in mid-November 2012 have caused extensive flooding in Pointe-Noire, the second largest city in the country, and in several villages, including Loango, Diosso, Malele, Bilala, Bilinga and Saras where about 6 000 persons (1 200 households) have been displaced. Subsequently, in December 2012, torrential rains hit the capital, Brazzaville, where about 1 000 houses were completely or partially destroyed by the floods, leaving about 7 500 persons (1 500 households) homeless.

Most of the displaced households in the two cities were relocated into evacuation centers and schools but by the end of December, as the flood water began to recede, the displaced were requested to return to their former residence areas where homes are either totally or partially destroyed.

Widespread destruction of the drainage system, overflowed wells and latrines as well as stagnant water have caused concern for waterborne diseases, and two weeks after the flooding, the first cholera case was reported in Pointe-Noire.



In response, USD 490 000 have been allocated from the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent (IFRC) through its Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF) to deliver assistance to 8 370 beneficiaries (5 970 in the Pointe-Noire area and 2 500 in Brazzaville).

Reference Date: 01-August-2012

FOOD SECURITY SNAPSHOT

- Erratic precipitation at the start of the 2012 cropping season
- Continued presence of large number of refugees from Democratic Republic of Congo in the north
- Violent explosion in Brazzaville displacing about 10 000 people

Erratic precipitation at the start of the 2012 cropping season

Harvesting of the second season maize crop is almost complete, while planting of cassava, the principal staple in the country, is underway. Satellite based estimates indicate that abundant rainfall during March was followed by a dry spell in April. Above average rains resumed in May, and although the cumulative rainfall levels during the growing period is estimated at average levels, the erratic distribution of rains may have negatively impacted crop development and yields.

Inflation at low levels, but likely to accelerate in 2012

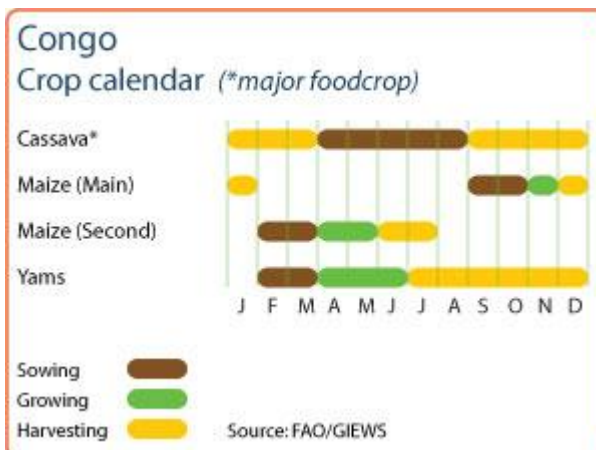
Congo does not produce a significant amount of cereals, with imports covering approximately 94 percent of total cereal utilization, mainly through commercial channels. In the 2012 marketing year (January-December), the volume of commercially imported cereals, mainly wheat and rice, is forecast at 327 000 tonnes, similar to the previous year.

The country suffered from increased inflation in 2007 and 2008 (when the annual inflation rate reached 7.8 percent) due to the country's high dependence on imported cereals, which eroded the purchasing power and access to food of a large number of vulnerable people in both urban and rural areas. Food prices remained mostly stable in 2009 and the first half of 2010. In spite of renewed increase in international prices in 2010 and 2011, the inflationary pressure was rather limited. The average annual consumer price inflation is estimated to have substantially decreased from 5.0 to 1.9 percent between 2010 and 2011, mainly as a result of the elimination of school fees.

Inflation is likely to accelerate in 2012, mainly due to a weaker currency and increased government spending. According to the Economist Intelligence Unit, the average annual consumer price inflation is expected to reach 3.5 percent in 2012.

Food assistance provided to refugees in the north of the country and to vulnerable households in urban areas

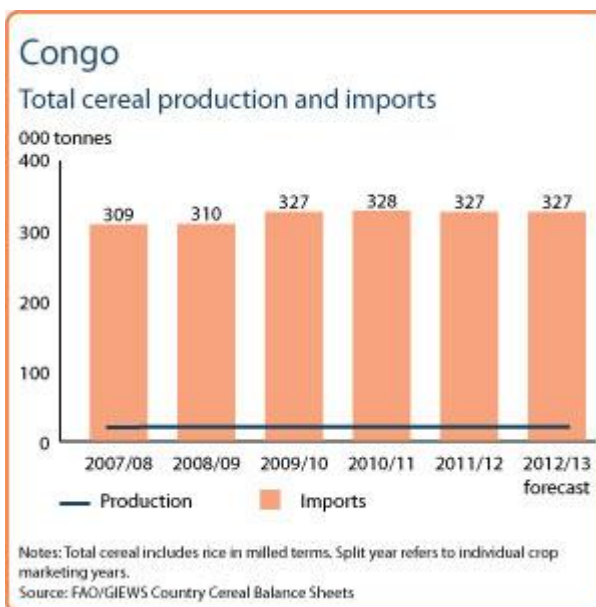
Civil conflict in neighbouring Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) led to a large influx of refugees from the Equateur province, estimated at 120 000, during October and November 2009. A significant portion of these refugees (less than 2 000 individuals had returned to DRC as of October 2011) are still living in precarious conditions in Likouala province, a structurally food-deficit region, in the far north of Congo. Likouala is the poorest and currently the most food insecure province in



Congo Cereal production

	2007-2011 average	2011	2012 forecast	change 2012/2011
	000 tonnes			percent
Millet	10	10	10	0
Maize	8	8	8	0
Cereals nes	2	2	2	0
Others	1	1	1	0
Total	21	21	21	0

Note: percentage change calculated from unrounded data.
Source: FAO/GIEWS Country Cereal Balance Sheets



Congo. The sharp increase in population (by 89 percent in the affected areas) puts pressure on natural resources, major source of livelihood for the local population. Trading routes between DRC and Congo have been disrupted, further affecting food availability.

A Protracted Relief and Recovery Operation (PRRO) by WFP is currently underway providing food assistance to 115 100 people for a period of 22 months (March 2011-December 2012).

In addition, on the 26th of June, the Government launched the “Food safety net” programme, which is expected to provide food assistance for a period of 12 months to 4 000 vulnerable households in urban and peri-urban areas of Brazzaville and Pointe Noir, the largest cities of the country.

Violent explosion in Brazzaville displacing about 10 000 people

On 4 March 2012, a fire occurred in Brazzaville, causing a series of explosions in the arms depot of the Congolese National Army, resulting in the devastation of the surrounding neighbourhoods. The disaster killed 286 people, left another 3 277 injured, and caused the displacement of about 10 000 people, following the destruction of their houses.

On the 26th March, an emergency appeal for USD 1.27 million was launched by the International Federation of the Red Cross and the Red Crescent societies, aiming to provide food and non food assistance to 13 800 people for a period of 8 months.

Currently, the displaced persons are accommodated in 9 transit sites, where they receive basic relief by the international community. However, despite the good will and efforts made by Government and partners to improve the living conditions in the transit sites, the situation remains a concern and the lack of space, hygiene and sanitation resulted in the outbreak of epidemics such as measles and cholera.

Reference Date: 03-April-2012

FOOD SECURITY SNAPSHOT

- Crops benefited from above average rainfall in 2011/12
- Continued presence of large number of refugees from Democratic Republic of Congo in the north

Favourable weather conditions benefit crops

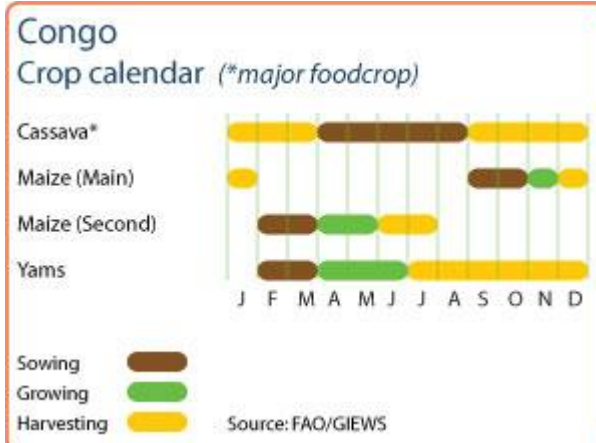
Harvesting of the main maize crop was completed in January 2012, while the cassava crop, the principal staple in the country, was completed in March. Satellite estimates indicate that the overall rainfall during the cropping season was above average in all departments. No official production estimates are available, but estimates for 2011 harvest point to a level of production that is similar to the previous year and to the average of the past five years.

The country does not produce a significant amount of cereals with imports covering approximately 94 percent of total cereal utilization requirements, mainly through commercial channels. In the 2012 marketing year (January-December), the volume of commercially imported cereals, mainly wheat and rice, is forecast at 327 000 tonnes, similar to the previous year.

Food assistance provided to refugees in the north of the country

Civil conflict in neighbouring Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) led to a large influx of refugees from the Equateur province, estimated at 120 000, during October and November 2009. A significant portion of these refugees (less than 2 000 individuals had returned to DRC as of October 2011) are still living in precarious conditions in Likouala province, a structurally food-deficit region, in the far north of Congo. Likouala is the poorest and currently the most food insecure province in Congo. The sharp increase in population (by 89 percent in the affected areas) puts pressure on natural resources, major source of livelihood for the local population. Trading routes between DRC and Congo have been disrupted, further affecting food availability.

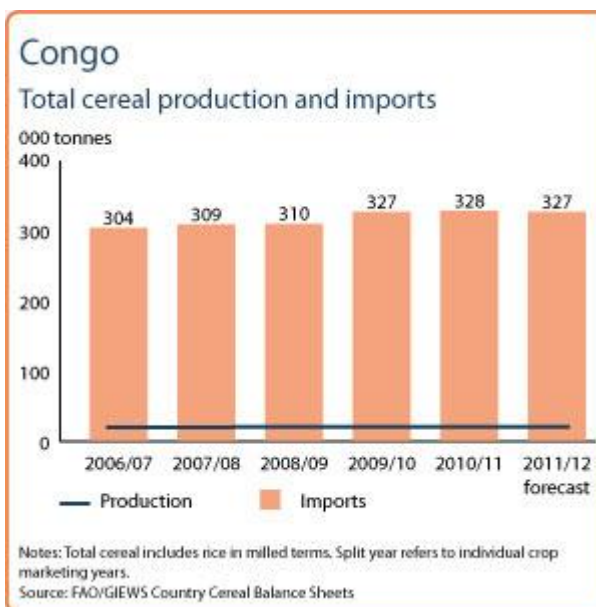
A Protracted Relief and Recovery Operation (PRRO) is currently underway providing food assistance to 115 100 people for a period of 22 months (March 2011-December 2012).



Congo Cereal production

	2006-2010 average	2010	2011 estimate	change 2011/2010
	000 tonnes		percent	
Millet	10	10	10	0
Maize	8	8	8	0
Cereals nes	2	2	2	0
Others	1	1	1	0
Total	21	21	21	0

Note: percentage change calculated from unrounded data.
Source: FAO/GIEWS Country Cereal Balance Sheets



Reference Date: 13-September-2011

FOOD SECURITY SNAPSHOT

- Crops benefited from adequate rainfall
- Staple Food prices declined compared to 2010
- Civil insecurity in neighbouring Democratic Republic of Congo led to an increase in the number of refugees in northern parts

Favourable weather conditions benefit crops; but the country relies heavily on cereal imports

Land preparation is underway for planting of the main maize crop. Planting of cassava, the main staple crop, has been completed under satisfactory weather conditions.

The country does not produce a significant amount of cereals; with imports covering approximately 94 percent of total cereal utilization requirements, mainly through commercial channels. In the 2011 marketing year (January-December), the volume of commercially imported cereals, mainly wheat and rice, is forecasted to approach 328 000 tonnes, almost similar to the previous year.

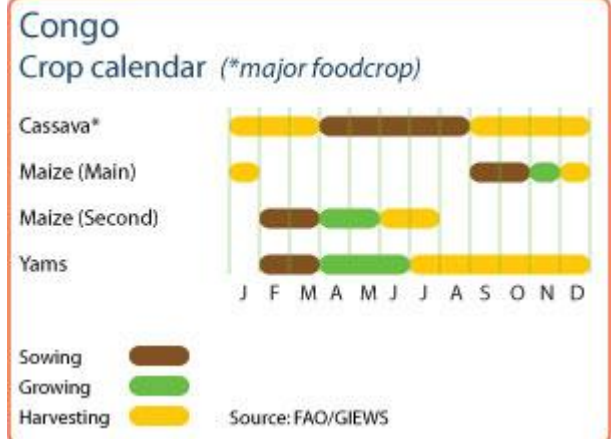
Staple Food prices decrease

As of May 2011, food price index of the Consumer Price Index (CPI) for Brazzaville increased by 1 percent compared to last year. While the price of bread and cassava decreased by respectively 22 and 11 percent, the price of rice and common grains increased by 7 percent.

Food assistance provided to refugees in the north of the country

Civil conflict in neighbouring Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) led to a large influx of refugees from the Equateur province during October and November 2009. The estimated 120 000 refugees, 82 percent of whom are women and children, are still living in precarious conditions in Likouala province (a structurally food-deficit region), in the far north of Congo. Likouala is the poorest and currently the most food insecure province in Congo. The sharp increase in population (by 89 percent in the affected areas) puts pressure on natural resources, major source of livelihood for the local population. Trading routes between DRC and Congo have been disrupted, further affecting food availability.

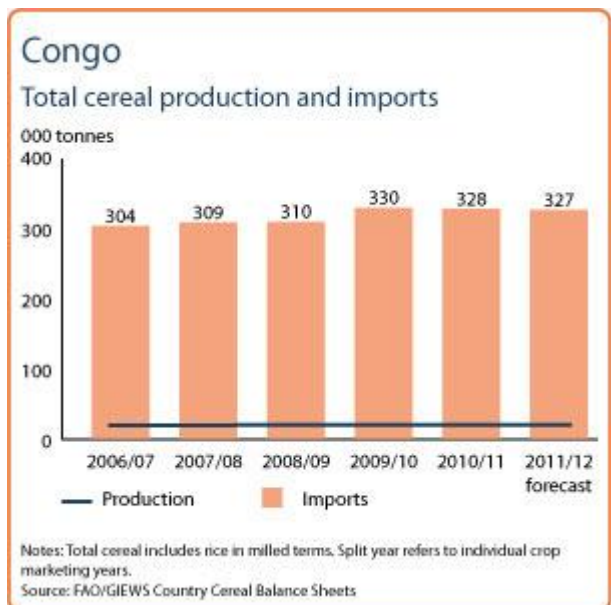
A Protracted Relief and Recovery Operation (PRRO) is currently underway providing food assistance to 115 100 people for a period of 22 months (March 2011-December 2012).



Congo
Cereal production

	2006-2010 average	2010	2011 forecast	change 2011/2010
	000 tonnes			percent
Millet	10	10	10	0
Maize	8	8	8	0
Cereals nes	2	2	2	0
Others	12	12	12	0
Total	21	21	21	0

Note: percentage change calculated from unrounded data.
Source: FAO/GIEWS Country Cereal Balance Sheets



Reference Date: 27-May-2011

FOOD SECURITY SNAPSHOT

- Crops benefited from adequate rainfall.
- Civil insecurity in neighbouring Democratic Republic of Congo led to an increase in the number of refugees in northern Congo

Favourable weather conditions benefited crops but the country relies heavily on cereal imports

Harvesting of the main maize crop was completed in January, while harvesting of the second crop is about to start. Planting of cassava, the principal staple in the country, is underway. Satellite imagery indicate that crop growing conditions have been favourable in most regions with sufficient precipitation.

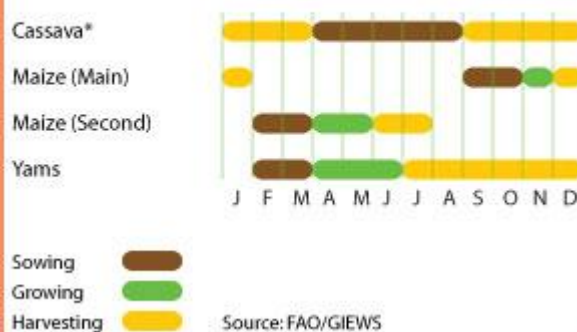
However, the country does not produce a significant amount of cereals; with imports covering approximately 90 percent of total cereal utilization requirements, mainly through commercial channels. Cereal production in 2010 is estimated at some 21 000 tonnes, mainly millet, and maize. In the 2011 marketing year (January-December), the volume of commercially imported cereals is forecasted to approach 350 000 tonnes.

Food assistance provided to refugees in the north of the country

Civil conflict in neighbouring Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) during the end of 2009 led to a large influx of refugees from the Equateur province during October and November 2009. Current figures from UNHCR estimate that 115 100 civilians have fled to Likouala province (a structurally food-deficit region), in the far north of Congo. Likouala is the poorest and currently the most food insecure province in Congo. The sharp increase in population (by 89 percent in affected areas) puts pressure on natural resources, major source of livelihood for the local population. Trading routes between DRC and Congo have been disrupted, further affecting food availability. An emergency operation (EMOP) has been implemented for one year (January-December 2010), distributing food to an estimated 124 700 people, including 10 000 vulnerable people from the host community. A Protracted Relief and Recovery Operation (PRRO) is currently underway providing food assistance to 115 100 people for a period of 22 months (March 2011-December 2012).

Congo

Crop calendar (*major foodcrop)



Congo

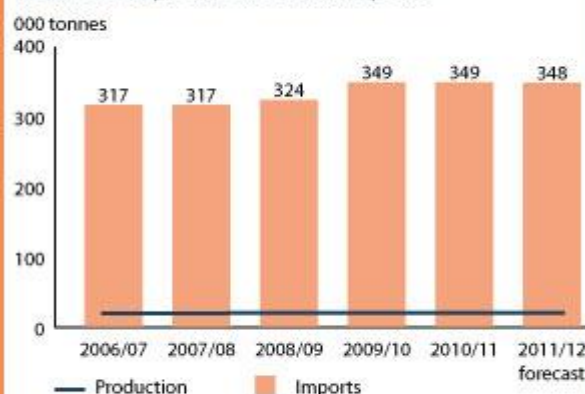
Cereal production

	2006-2010 average	2010	2011 forecast	change 2011/2010
	000 tonnes			percent
Millet	10	10	10	0
Maize	8	8	8	0
Cereals nes	2	2	2	0
Others	12	12	12	0
Total	21	21	21	0

Note: percentage change calculated from unrounded data.
Source: FAO/GIEWS Country Cereal Balance Sheets

Congo

Total cereal production and imports



Notes: Total cereal includes rice in milled terms. Split year refers to individual crop marketing years.
Source: FAO/GIEWS Country Cereal Balance Sheets

Reference Date: 07-February-2011

FOOD SECURITY SNAPSHOT

- Crops benefited from above average rainfall.
- Civil insecurity in neighbouring Democratic Republic of Congo led to an increase in the number of refugees in northern Congo.

Favourable weather conditions benefited crops but the country relies heavily on cereal imports

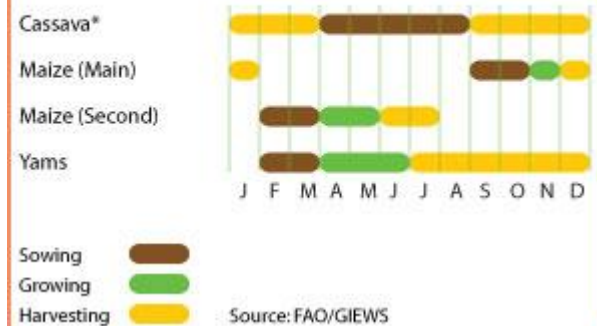
Harvesting of the main maize crop was completed in January, while planting of the second crop is underway. Cassava, the principal staple in the country, is being harvested. Satellite estimates indicate that crop growing conditions have been favourable in most regions with sufficient and well distributed precipitation.

However, the country does not produce a significant amount of cereals; with imports covering approximately 95 percent of total cereal utilization requirements, mainly through commercial channels. Cereal production in 2010 is estimated at some 21 000 tonnes, mainly millet and maize. In the 2011 marketing year (January-December), the volume of commercially imported cereals is forecasted to reach 330 000 tonnes.

Emergency supplies provided to refugees in the north of the country

Civil conflict in neighbouring Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) during the end of 2009 led to a large influx of refugees from the Equateur province during October and November. Current figures from UNHCR estimate that 114 700 civilians have fled to Likoula province (a structurally food-deficit region), in the far north of Congo, and taken refuge in 100 settlements along the border. Trading routes between DRC and Congo have been disrupted, further affecting food availability. An emergency operation (EMOP) has been implemented for one year (January-December 2010), distributing food to an estimated 124 700 people, including 10 000 vulnerable people from the host community.

Congo Crop calendar (*major foodcrop)



Congo Cereal production

	2005-2009 average	2009	2010 estimate	change 2010/2009
	000 tonnes			percent
Millet	10	10	10	0
Maize	8	8	8	0
Cereals nes	2	2	2	0
Others	1	1	1	0
Total	21	21	21	0

Note: percentage change calculated from unrounded data.
Source: FAO/GIEWS Country Cereal Balance Sheets

Reference Date: 16-September-2010

FOOD SECURITY SNAPSHOT

- Crops benefited from above average rainfall.
- Civil insecurity in neighbouring Democratic Republic of Congo leads to an increase in the number of refugees in northern Congo, who are receiving food aid.

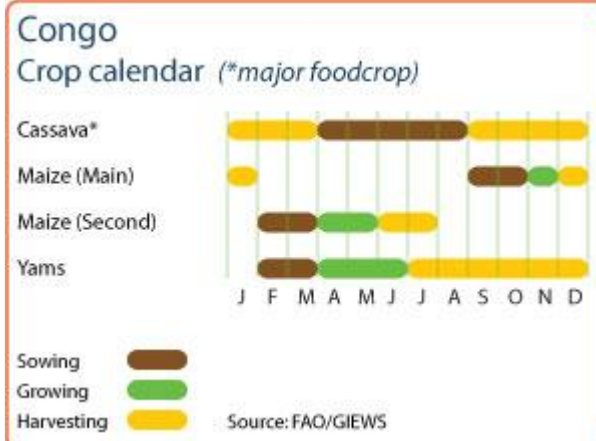
Favourable weather conditions benefited crops but the country relies heavily on cereal imports

Land preparation is underway for planting of the main maize crop. Planting of cassava, the main staple crop, has been completed under satisfactory weather conditions.

The country does not produce a significant amount of cereals; with imports covering approximately 95 percent of total cereal utilization requirements, mainly through commercial channels. Cereal production in 2009 is estimated at some 21 000 tonnes, mainly millet and maize. In the 2010 marketing year (January-December), the volume of commercially imported cereals is forecasted to reach 320 000 tonnes.

Emergency supplies provided to refugees in the north of the country

Civil conflict in neighbouring Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) during the end of 2009 led to a large displacement people from the Equateur province and crossed the border into Congo during October and November. Current figures from UNHCR estimate that 114 700 civilians have fled to Likoula province (a structurally food-deficit region), in the far north of Congo, and taken refuge in 100 settlements along the border. Trading routes between DRC and Congo have been disrupted, further affecting food availability. An emergency operation (EMOP) is currently underway, distributing food to an estimated 124 700 people, including 10 000 vulnerable people from the host community. The Operation, initially planned for 6 months, has been extended recently until the end of the year.



Congo
Cereal production

	2004-2008 average	2008	2009 estimate	change 2009/2008
	000 tonnes			percent
Millet	9	10	10	0
Maize	8	8	8	0
Cereals nes	2	2	2	0
Others	1	1	1	0
Total	21	22	21	-5

Note: percentage change calculated from unrounded data.
Source: FAO/GIEWS Country Cereal Balance Sheets

Reference Date: 16-April-2010

FOOD SECURITY SNAPSHOT

- Above average rainfall benefit secondary maize and yam crops
- Civil insecurity in neighbouring Democratic Republic of Congo leads to an increase in the number of refugees in northern Congo, who are receiving food aid.

Abundant rainfall during the beginning of the year

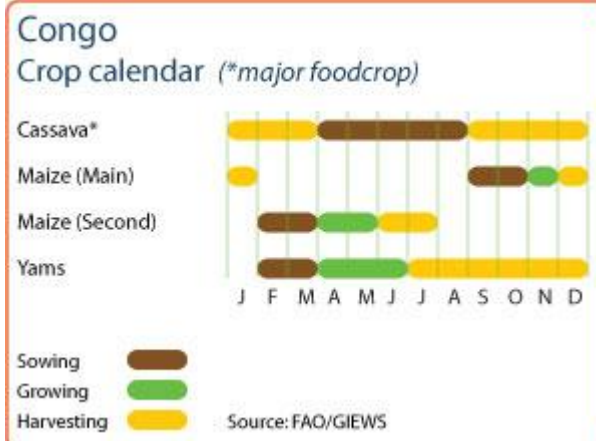
Harvesting of the main maize crop was completed in February, following a period of heavy rainfall in January. Planting of the secondary maize and yam crops is complete and benefited from a period of above average rains during March.

Heavy dependence on cereal imports

Cassava is the main food staple. The country does not produce a significant amount of cereals; with imports covering approximately 95 percent of total cereal utilization requirements, mainly through commercial channels. Cereal production in 2009 is estimated at some 21 000 tonnes, mainly millet and maize. In the 2010 marketing year (January-December), the volume of commercially imported cereals is forecasted to reach 320 000 tonnes.

Emergency supplies provided to refugees in the north of the country

Civil conflict in neighbouring Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) during the end of 2009 led to a large displacement people from the Equateur province and crossed the border into Congo during October and November. Current figures from UNHCR estimate that 114 000 civilians have fled to Likoula province (a structurally food-deficit region), in the far north of Congo, and taken refuge in 100 settlements along the border. Reports indicated that market prices of staple foods, including cassava, doubled between September and November, as a result of insufficient supplies and increased demand. In addition, trading routes between DRC and Congo have been disrupted, further affecting food availability. An emergency operation (EMOP) is currently underway, distributing food to an estimated 94 000 people, including 10 000 vulnerable people from the host community. The initial length of the operation is for 6 months, ending in June 2010.



Congo
Cereal production

	2004-2008 average	2008	2009 estimate	change 2009/2008
	000 tonnes			percent
Millet	9	10	10	0
Maize	8	8	8	0
Cereals nes	2	2	2	0
Others	1	1	1	0
Total	21	22	21	-5

Note: percentage change calculated from unrounded data.
Source: FAO/GIEWS Country Cereal Balance Sheets

Reference Date: 19-January-2010

FOOD SECURITY SNAPSHOT

- Country hard hit by high food prices due to very high imports dependence
- Regional insecurity impedes agricultural recovery and deteriorates food security conditions in the north

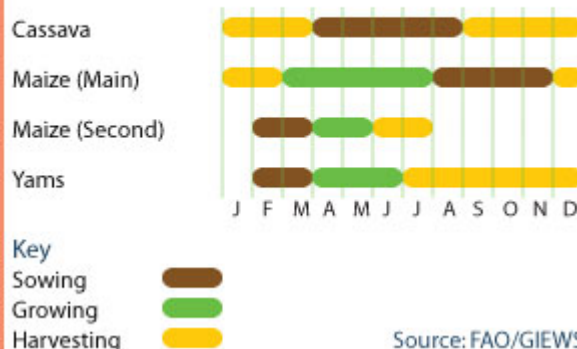
Heavy dependence on imports exposes the country to international price swings

Cassava is the main staple foodstuff. Domestic cereals production covers about 5 percent of total utilization requirements; the balance is imported, mainly through commercial channels. Harvesting of the main maize crop is scheduled to be completed in February. In 2010 marketing year (Jan-Dec), the commercially imported cereals requirement will be around 320 000 tonnes. Congo was seriously affected by the rise in international cereals prices due to its high dependency on wheat and rice imports. Consequently, the government decided to suspend value-added tax on rice, and to reduce VAT on other staples such as wheat and oil, from 18 to 5 percent. But despite these measures average inflation reached 6.6 percent in 2008 compared with 2.7 percent in 2007. Inflation was estimated to have slowed to an average of 4 percent in 2009, with transport bottlenecks contributing to the inflationary pressure.

Civil insecurity in neighbouring DRC results in large influx of civilians crossing into Congo

Civil conflict in neighbouring Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) during the end of 2009 has led to a large displacement people from the Equateur province, who crossed the border into Congo during October and November. Current figures from UNHCR estimate that over a 100 000 civilians have fled to Likoula province (a structurally food-deficit region), in the far north of Congo. The Congolese are in need of emergency food supplies and reports have indicated that market prices of staple foods, including cassava, doubled between September and November, as a result of insufficient supplies and heightened demand. In addition, trading routes between DRC and Congo have been disrupted, further affecting food availability. An emergency operation (EMOP) is currently underway, distributing food to an estimated 94 000 people, including 10 000 vulnerable people from the host community. The initial length of the operation is for 6 months.

Crop calendar Congo

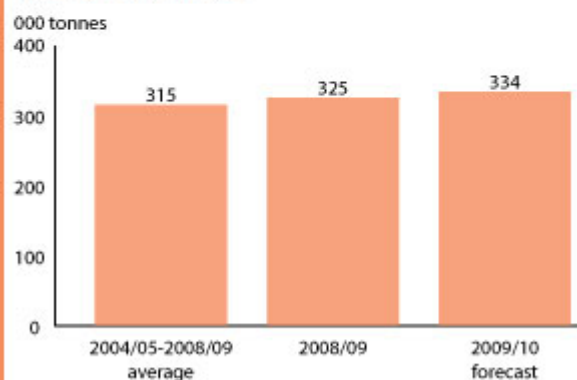


Congo Cereal production

	2004-2008 average	2008	2009 forecast	change 2009/2008
	000 tonnes			percent
Millet	9	10	10	0
Maize	8	8	8	0
Cereals nes	2	2	2	0
Total	21	22	21	-5

Note: percentage change calculated from unrounded data.

Total cereal imports



Notes: Total cereal includes rice in milled terms. Split year refers to individual crop marketing years.

Source: FAO/GIEWS Country Cereal Balance Sheets

Reference Date: 24-September-2009

FOOD SECURITY SNAPSHOT

- Country hard hit by high food prices due to very high imports dependence
- Lingering effects of past conflict continue to affect food security

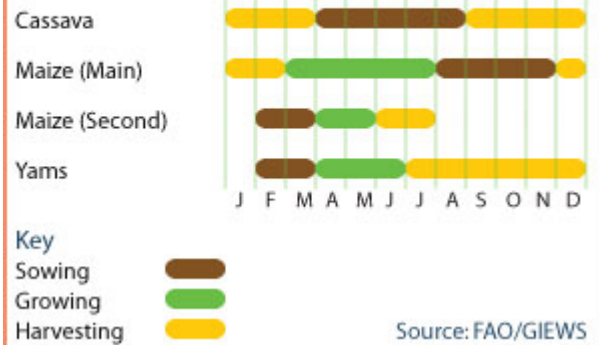
Heavy dependence on imports exposes the country to international price swings

Cassava is the main staple foodstuff. Domestic cereals production covers about 5 percent of total requirements; the balance is imported, mainly through commercial channels. In 2009, the commercially imported cereals requirement will be around 300 000 tonnes. Congo was seriously affected by the rise in international cereals prices due to its high dependency on wheat and rice imports. Consequently, the government decided to suspend value-added tax on rice, and to reduce VAT on other staples such as wheat and oil, from 18 to 5 percent. But despite these measures average inflation reached 6.6 percent in 2008 compared with 2.7 percent in 2007.

The food situation remains precarious in certain parts of the country

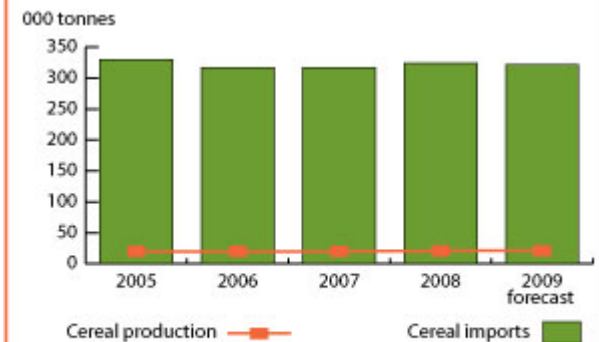
The aftermath of the civil war from 1997 to 1999 is still having repercussions on the agriculture sector, because of the interruption to production and marketing in the country. Since October 2005 the government has been implementing a disarmament, demobilisation and integration programme for the former militiamen. Some 30 000 veterans should benefit from reintegration assistance under this programme, but the lack of security, particularly in the Pool region, is interfering with activities and hampering humanitarian assistance. According to the UNHCR, the country is host to a large number of refugees who have fled from the conflict in neighbouring countries, particularly nationals of the Democratic Republic of Congo, Angola and Rwanda.

Crop calendar Congo



Cereal production and imports Congo

Cereal production	2004-2008	2008	2009	change
	average			
	000 tonnes			percent
Millet	9	10	10	0%
Maize	8	8	8	0%
Cereals NES	2	2	2	0%
Other	1	1	1	0%
Total Cereals	20	21	21	0%



Source: FAO/GIEWS Country Cereal Balance Sheets