



World Food Programme

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M23 Goma Crisis 2025

Assessing the situation of the IDPs via mobile (mVAM)

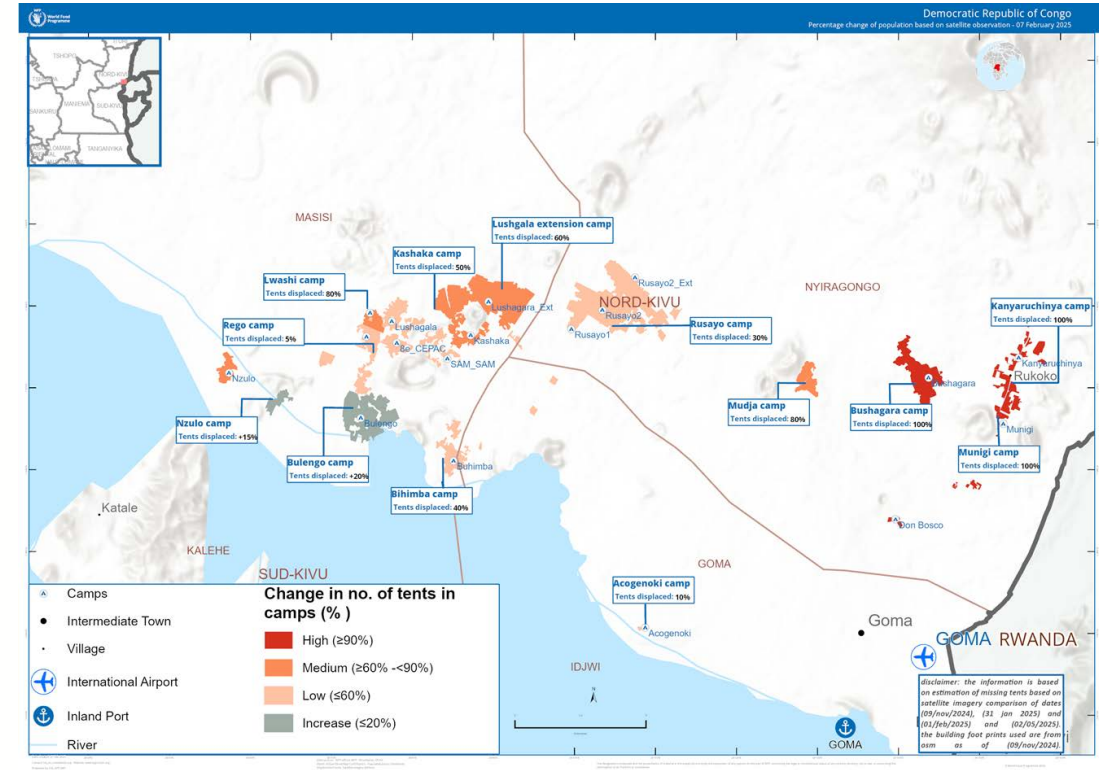
Data collected on 4-7 February 2025



vam
food security analysis

Context

- The intensification of conflicts in eastern DRC and the **capture of the city of Goma by the M23 at the end of January 2025** have significantly impacted the structure of the IDP camps in and around the city of Goma.
- **The camps of the Goma – Rushuru axis such as Kanyaruchinya, Munigi, Bushagara, Don Bosco etc. have been completely destroyed** and some of the displaced households living there have found refuge in collective centers (schools and churches) and host families in the city of Goma. The other IDPs on this axis have returned to their villages of origin.
- A joint mission led by OCHA in partnership with UNICEF and the NGOs Solidarité Internationale and ALIMA in the areas of Rugari, Kalenga and Kiwanja reports that **7,008 households have returned following the recent clashes and 31,461 households have returned between May and December 2024**.
- The IDPs camps on the Goma-Sake axis (Bulengo, Lushagala, Rusayo etc.), although still in place, have been significantly emptied of their populations. **Information from CCCM indicates that 50% to 60% of the displaced have left the camps around Bulengo, Lushagala and Lac Vert, while the Rusayo and Nzulo camps, which are more exposed to the fighting, have been emptied at more than 80%.**
- With the support of WFP Johannesburg regional bureau (RBJ) and HQ, a satellite imagery analysis has been carried out to assess the impact of the crisis on the IDP camps and give an estimate of populations movements – see the following map.
- To complement that analysis and get an idea of the humanitarian situation of these IDPs, most of whom have benefited from WFP assistance since 2023, a rapid telephone assessment was conducted by leveraging WFP's phone numbers database in early february.



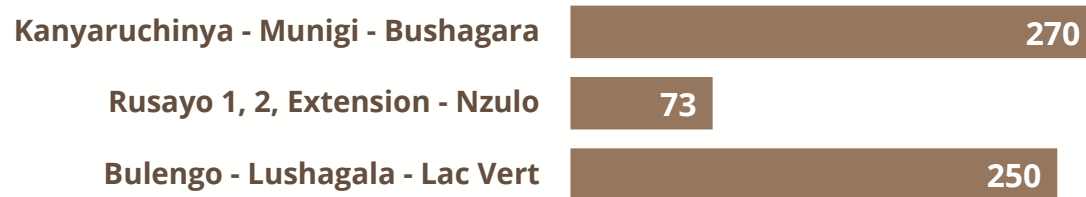
CCCM : Camps Coordination and Camps Management
OCHA : United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs

Methodology

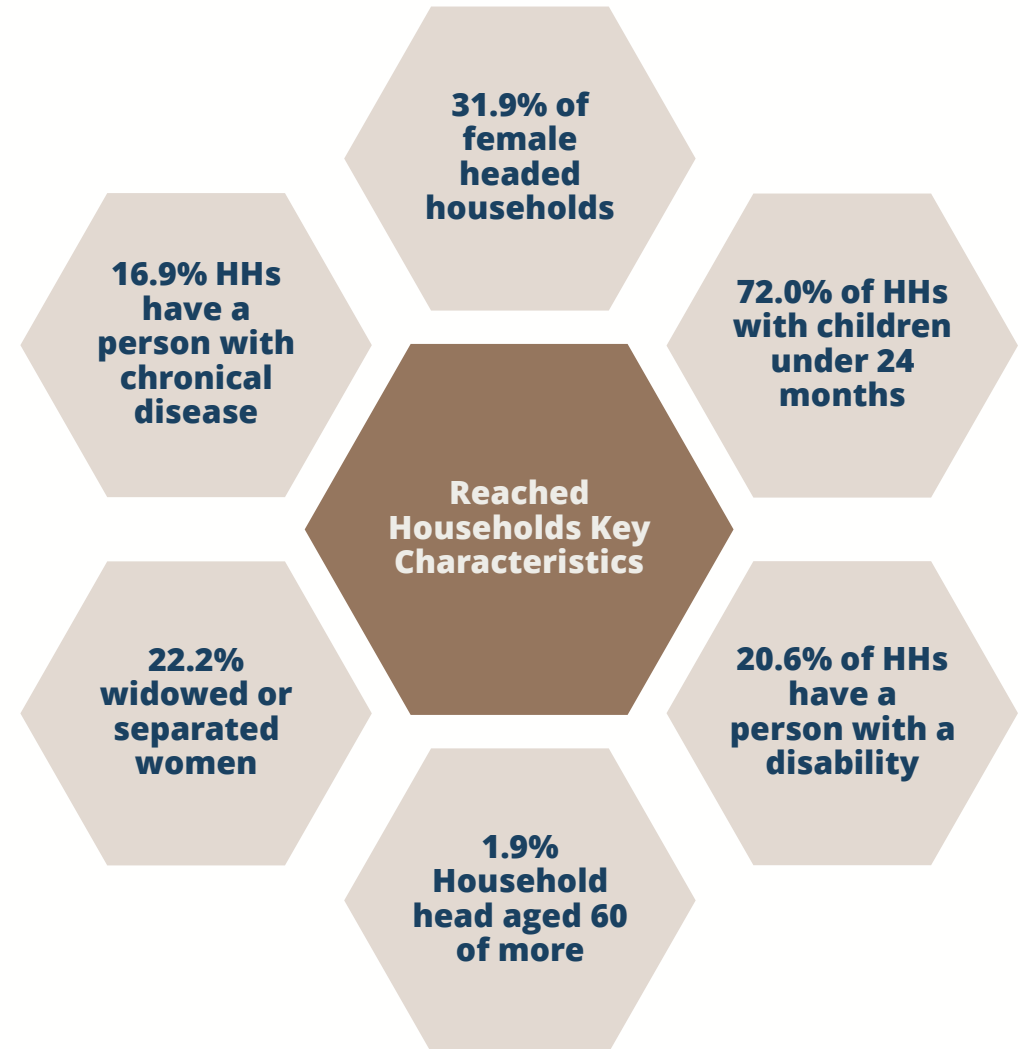


- The survey have been conducted on phone by leveraging WFP Goma’s phone numbers database of IDPs households
- **A total of 593 IDPs Households reached** across various IDP camps in and around Goma. Data have been collected to be representative of IDPs on both Goma – Ruthuru and Goma – Sake axis.

Total IDPs Household reached on each axis



About mVAM : The mobile Vulnerability Analysis and Mapping (mVAM) project uses mobile phones and voice recognition technologies to collect food security data in some of the country’s most vulnerable communities. The mVAM project allows WFP to monitoring food security at affordable costs in hard to reach and remote areas . It provides timely, regular, and frequent data.

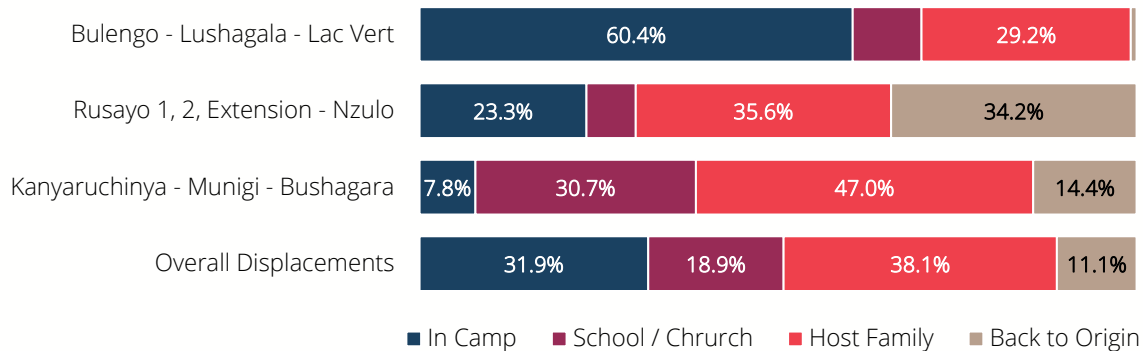


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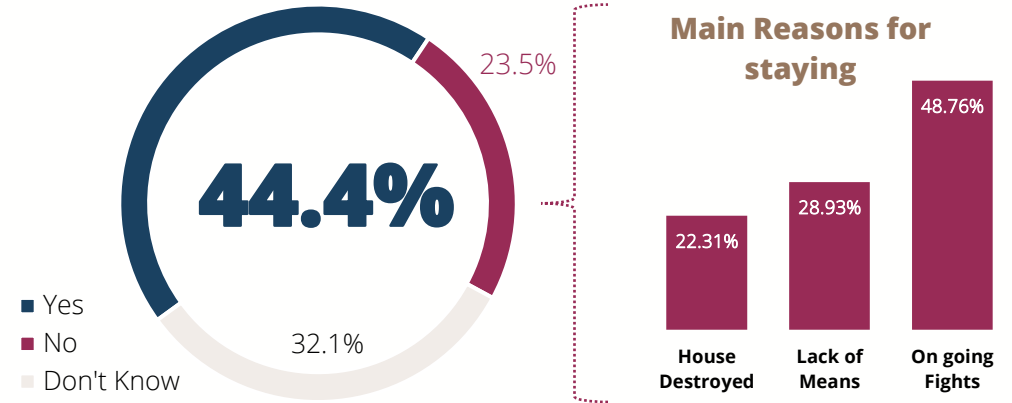
Key Displacements Trends

- The analysis shows that of the 593 households contacted, **32% are still in the camps while 11% have returned to their areas of origin.** The rest took refuge with host families in Goma (38%) and in collective centers such as schools or churches (19%).
- It should be noted that **displacements outside the camps are more marked on the Goma – Rutshuru axis where the camps of Kanyaruchinya, Munigi, Bushagara etc. are almost emptied.** Most of the inhabitants of these camps are in the city of Goma in collective centers (31%) and host families (38%).
- 60% of the IDPs in Bulengo, Lushagala and round Lac Vert are still in the camps** while Rusayo (1 & 2) and Nzulo, more exposed to the fights have only 23% of IPDs remaining.

IDPs movements from camps due to the crisis



Willingness to return

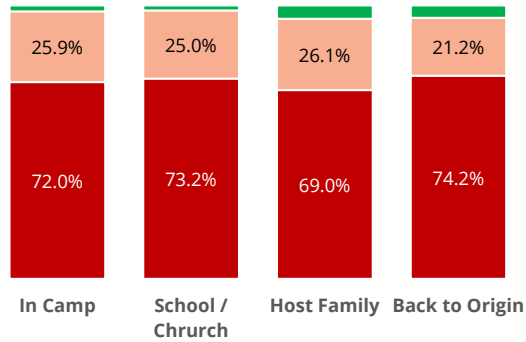


- Overall, **44.4% of the IDPs who are still in the camps or host families and collective centers are willing** to return to their places of origin
- Most of those who have decided to return to their villages have mentioned the **difficult living conditions, the insecurity and the camps destruction as main drivers** to go back. Some of them are planning to resume their formal activities as security is back to their villages.
- While 32% of them have not take any decision yet, **23% are not willing to go back to their villages.** The main reasons are the conflict which are still going on in their villages (49%), the lack of money to go back (29%) and 22% of them have nowhere to go as their houses has been destroyed during the fighting.

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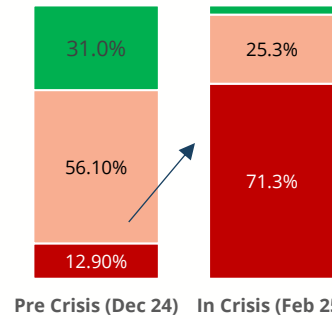
Food Security Situation

Food Consumption Score



■ Poor ■ Borderline ■ Acceptable

FCS Pre / Post Crisis



■ Poor ■ Borderline ■ Acceptable

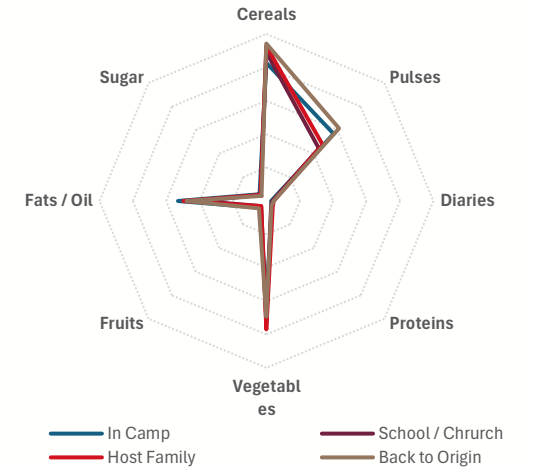
- The analysis shows that **nearly three-quarters of IDPs have a poor food consumption score**, indicating an inadequate diet during the seven days prior to data collection.
- Its important to highlight that **the proportion of households with poor food consumption increased from 13% in December 2024 (pre-crisis) to 71% in February 2025 (post-crisis)** after the takeover of Goma by M23.
- There is no significant difference in the proportion of poor food consumption score rates between the IDPs that have returned to their villages of origin (74%) and those who have remained in camps (72%) collective centers (73%) and host families (69%) in Goma.



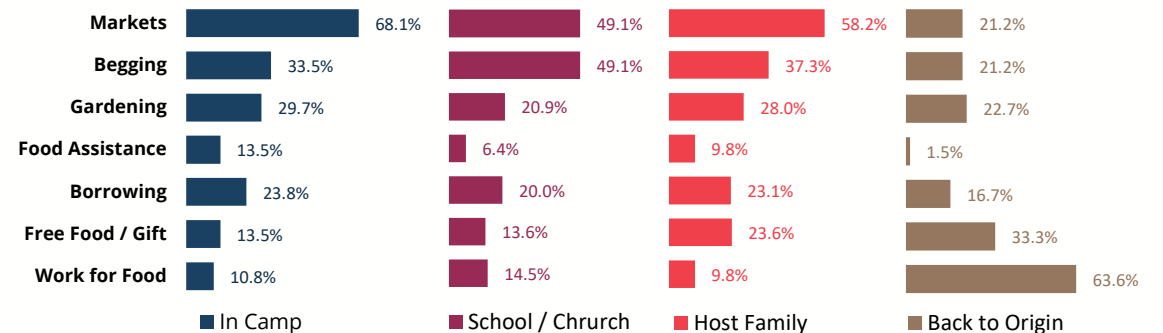
Food Diversity and sources



- The diet is mostly constituted in cereals, vegetables and some pulses for most of the IDPs. **Diaries, fruits and protein-rich food are almost non-existent.**
- Food are mostly sourced from markets, begging and gifts. Some of the IDPs can get food from gardening while **most of those who went back to their villages are working for food.**



Main Food Sources - By IDP categories

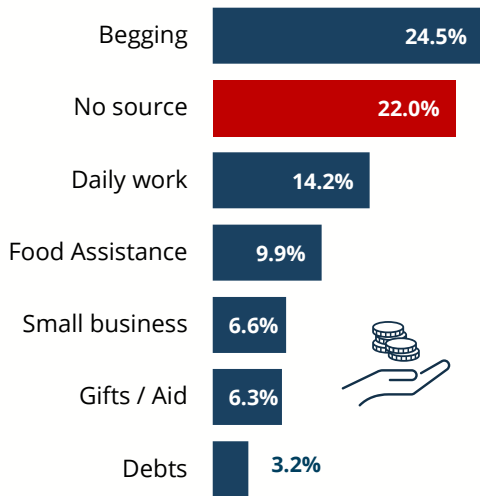


3 Livelihoods and Coping Strategies



In Camps and Hosted IDPs

Main Income Sources



- With no substantial livelihoods, most of the remaining IDPs rely on begging and have no other source of income. This might augment protection risks as most of the children may go out for begging and not come back for days.
- Some of the IDPs (14.2%) have managed to get a daily job. However, the income from these activities are insufficient to meet their families' basic needs while 6.6% of them are able to continue some income generating activities.
- More than 80% of the interviewed IDPs declared to have lost their food stocks and main productive assets.

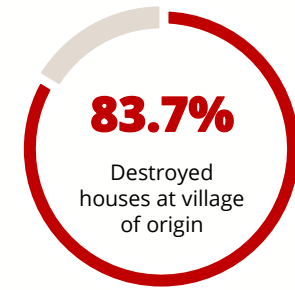
“Children are no more coming back to the camp because of the famine, they prefer to stay begging in the city.”

“We can find a small daily job, where we are paid 1kg of beans, but it is not enough for my family”

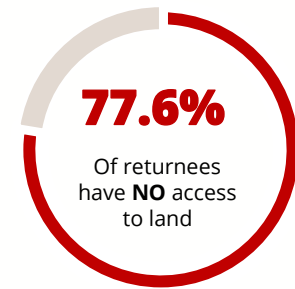
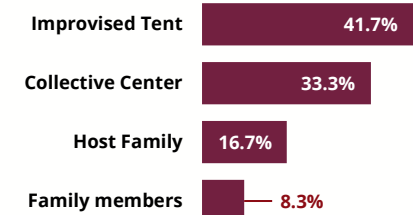


Returnees

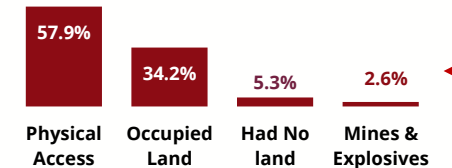
- Upon return to their villages of origin, 83.7% of IDPs have found their homes destroyed and are living now in improvised tents (41.7%) and collectives centers (33.3%) like schools and churches. Quarter of them have found shelter in their families and other host families.
- More than three quarter of the returnees (77.6%) have declared not having access to land for agriculture in their original places. Lack of physical access – due to ongoing conflicts in certain areas – is the main reason for lack of access to land (57.9%).
- One-third of the returned households reported that their land was occupied by others while they were away.
- Despite these constraints, agriculture remains the main income and food generating activity planned by the returnees at their place of origin while 10% of them are willing to start a business.



Dwelling Places at Origin



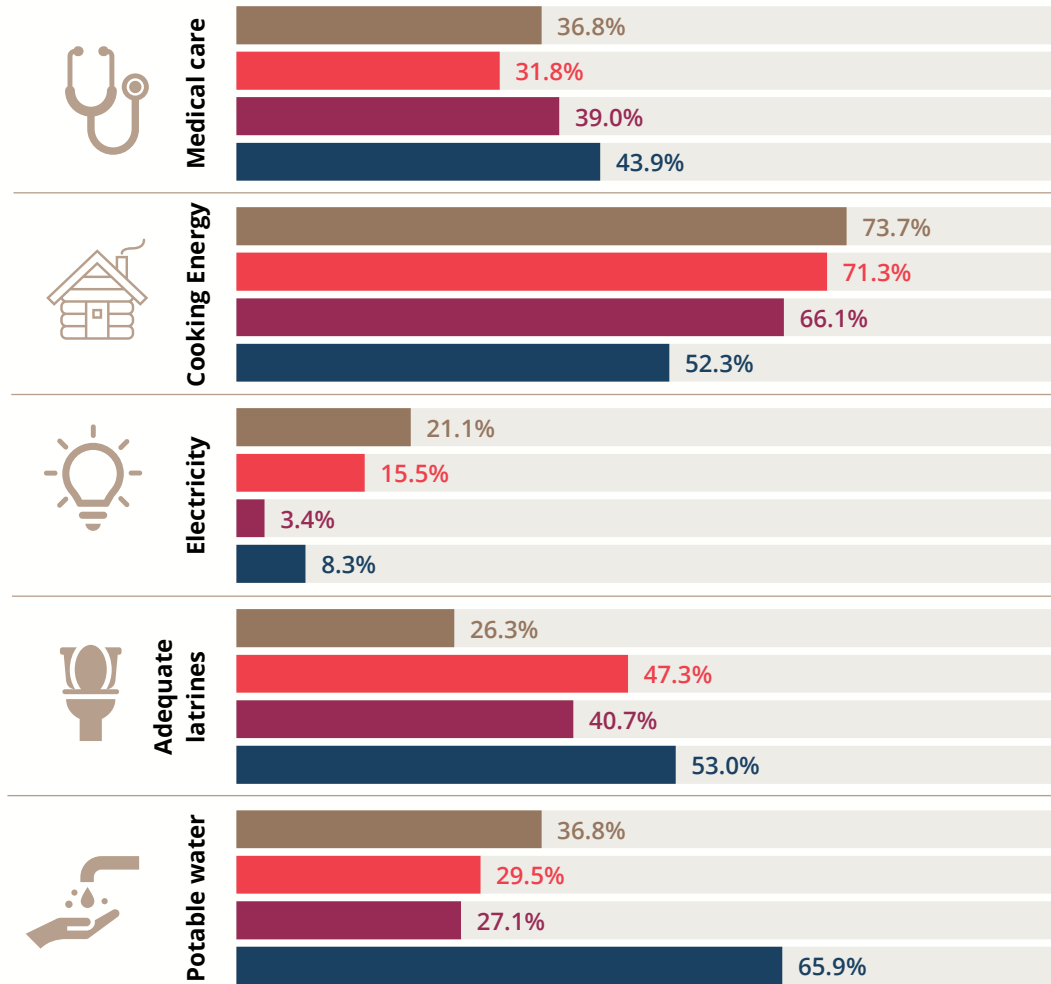
Land access restrictions



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Access to basic needs

Access rates to basics needs - By IDPs location



■ Back to Origin ■ Host Family ■ School / Church ■ In Camp

- Access to basic services is quite precarious for the households interviewed. **In general, less than half of them have access to medical care, clean water or electricity.**
- The analysis shows that IDPs in camps generally have better access to clean water, health care and adequate sanitation facilities compared to returnees and hosted IDPs.
- **In general, hosted IDPs are don't live at the expenses of the host family and must provide to their own needs.**
- Most of the returnees (73.7%) have declared having access to cooking energy (essentially firewood) **but lack proper sanitary installations (26.3%) and electricity (21.1%).**



It should also be noted that this situation has significantly hindered access to essential WASH services for the IDPs who remain in the camps and has exacerbated pre-existing cases of cholera and Mpox within the camps.



We don't have access to clean water. We woke up at 3am to find the water around 9am... One of my children is currently in the hospital because of diarrhea

5 Markets Situation

- The dynamics of the markets have been severely disrupted by the current crisis. **A rapid observation of the city's main markets (Birere, KI30, Alanine, Entrée Président, Virunga, Kituku, etc.) indicates a slow recovery of commercial activities, with nearly half of the shops remaining closed.**
- Main commodities **prices have experienced significant increases compared to pre-crisis levels**: salt has risen by about **43%**, palm oil by **45%**, peanut oil by **21%**, and maize flour by nearly **67%**. Rice, which was priced at 30,000 FC before the crisis, is now at 35,000 FC—an increase of nearly **17%**, a rise that, while less dramatic than others, remains significant given the context.
- However, vegetables remain abundant, with prices having dropped by approximately 20%, which could indicate an oversupply of these highly perishable products.
- It's important to note that the **primary supply routes (from Masisi, Rutshuru, Minova) to Goma which were closed during the battles are now all open.** This may trigger a downward trend in these prices as supplies to the town of Goma resume.



Commodity	Price Before crisis (CDF)	Current Price (CDF)	Variation rate (%)
Salt (per sachet)	700	1,000	+42.9%
Palm Oil (1.5 L)	5,000	7,250	+45.0%
Peanut Oil (1.5 L)	7,000	8,500	+21.4%
Maize Flour (1 kg)	1,500	2,500	+66.7%
Cassava Flour (1Kg)	1,000	1,500	+50.0%
Beans (Local Measure)	3,000	4,000	+33.3%
Meat (1 Kg)	15,000	20,000	+33.3%
Rice (1 kg)	30,000	35,000	+16.7%
Vegetables (per measure)	5,000	4,000	-20.0%

Recommendations



Population Movements Tracking and information sharing: As the displacements are ongoing, it's important to have an up-to-date population movement tracking system in place and accessible to all humanitarian actors. This is key in a proper coordination for any emergency response.



Advocacy of an emergency and coordinated food and non food response : as food insecurity rates spike amid the crisis with most of the IDPs having lost their remaining livelihoods, it's important for humanitarian actors to provide a multisectoral response to prevent higher malnutrition rates and alleviate the living conditions of these affected populations. This can also support the returning movements for those who are willing but lack the necessary means to go back.



In-depth needs assessments including markets in the return areas for a better understanding of living conditions and a proper vulnerability-based targeting. This can also allow a better shaping of early recovery and smallholders support activities. Markets assessments is key to support the decision making in terms of transfer modalities.



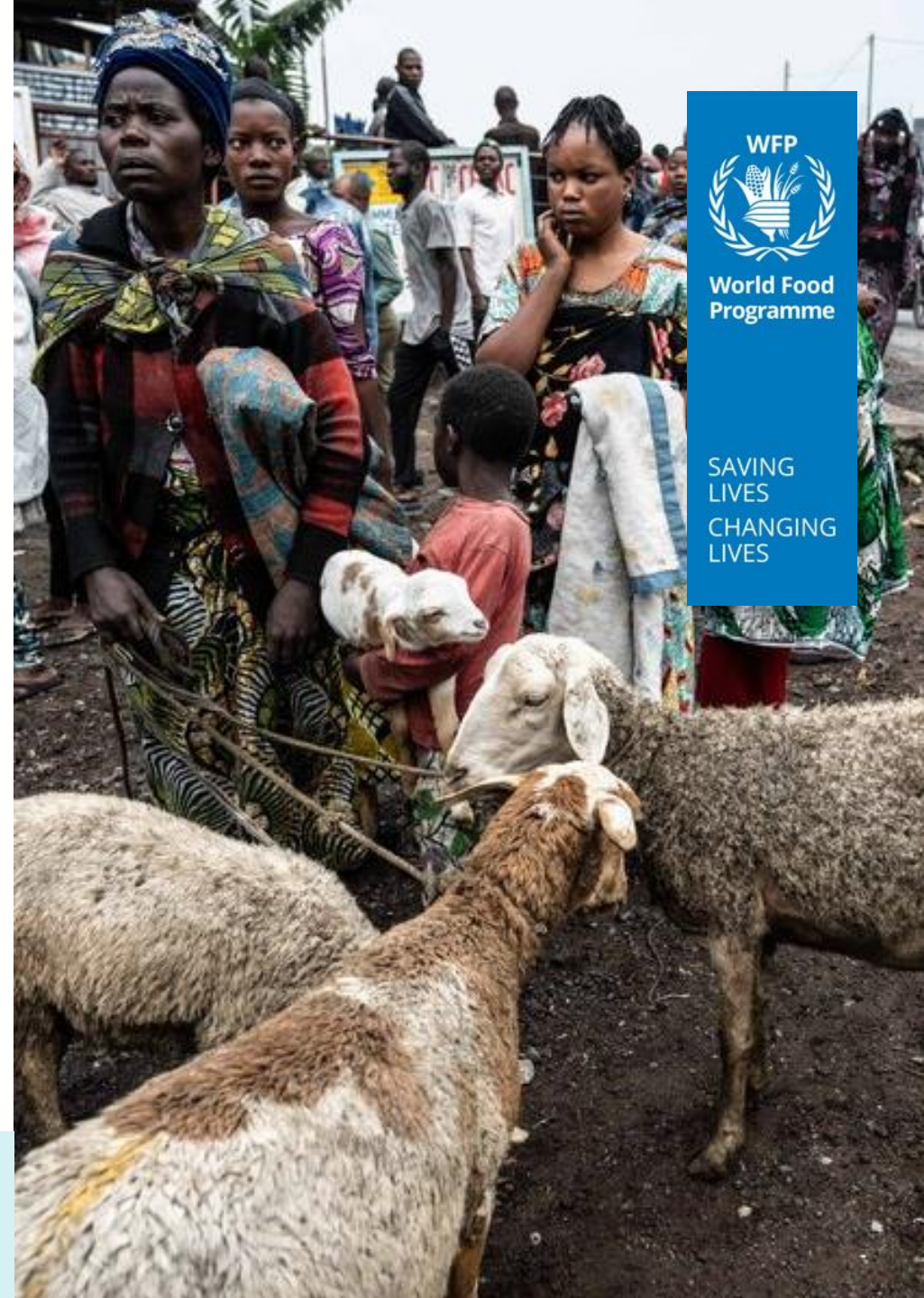
Early recovery activities in the return areas : To facilitate sustainable reintegration and rebuild economic stability, it's key to implement comprehensive early recovery programs for returnees that provide targeted agricultural support, vocational training, access to microfinance etc. to restore livelihoods and enhance community resilience in the aftermath of conflict.



Supply Chain and Logistics: To complement the markets assessment, it's also important to understand the logistics capacities, accessible roads to the relocation areas and engage with the different shareholders where it is needed. This should also include a risk analysis and all the mitigation strategies and alternative routes that can be adopted.

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