



World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES
CHANGING LIVES

Uvira and Kaziba crisis in South Kivu

Assessing the situation of conflict affected populations via mVAM (Round 1)

Data collected on 19th – 21st December 2025



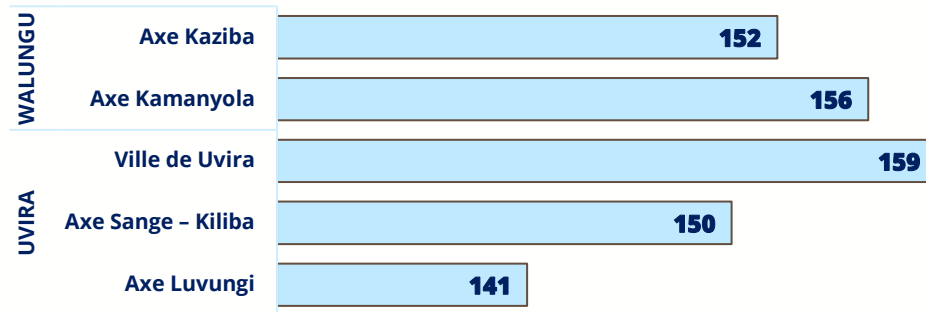
vam
food security analysis

Methodology

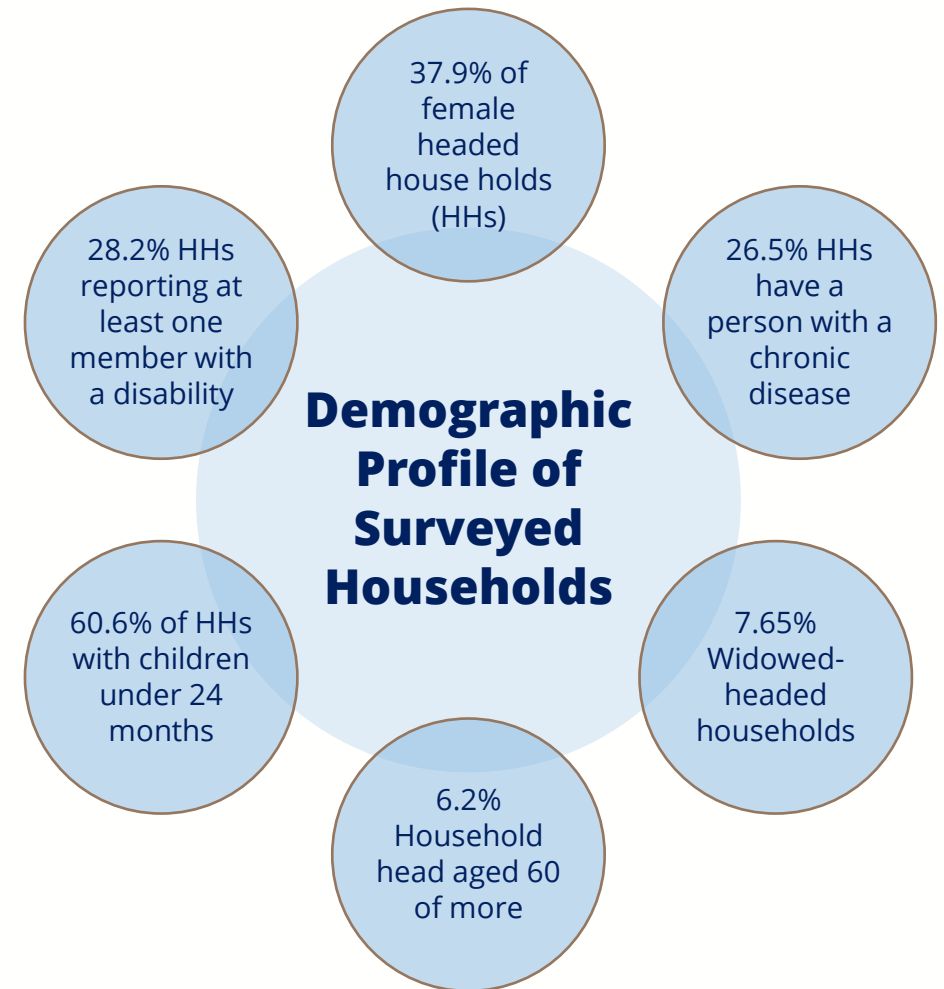


- The assessment was conducted **remotely via phone** using the mVAM approach, based on WFP beneficiary and displacement databases from the Bukavu Sub-Office.
- A total of **758 IDP and returnee households** were surveyed in crisis-affected areas of **Uvira and Walungu** (South Kivu).
- Data collection covered **Uvira, Lemera, the Ruzizi and Kaziba Health Zone**, capturing both displaced and recently returned households in a context of limited physical access.

Total IDPs households reached by area



About mVAM : The mobile Vulnerability Analysis and Mapping (**mVAM**) initiative leverages mobile phone technology to collect food security data in some of the country's most vulnerable and hard-to-reach communities. mVAM enables WFP to monitor food security conditions in remote and access-constrained areas in a cost-effective manner, while providing **timely, regular and high-frequency data** to support evidence-based decision-making.



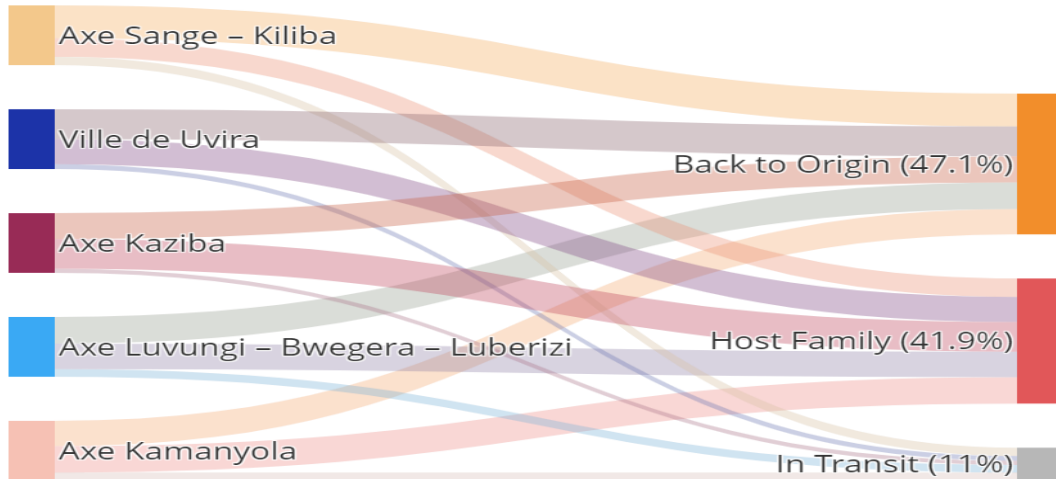
*Average age of HH head: 37.5 years
Average HH size: 7.5 person*

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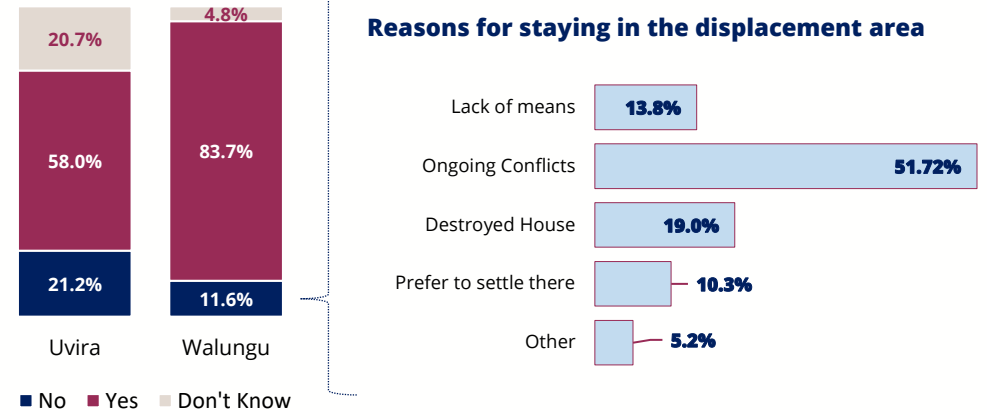
Key Displacements Trends

Population movement trends

- Return movements started following the takeover of Uvira town by M23 and the subsequent cessation of hostilities in the assessed areas.
- Returns to areas of origin now represent the predominant situation, accounting for **44.7% of households** and pointing to a gradual resumption of return movements.
- Nevertheless, **hosting with families remains widespread (40.2%)**, indicating that many households still lack the conditions required for a sustainable return and therefore remain displaced.
- Meanwhile, 10.5% of households remain in transit, reflecting continued population mobility and persistent uncertainties related to security and livelihood opportunities.



Willingness to return

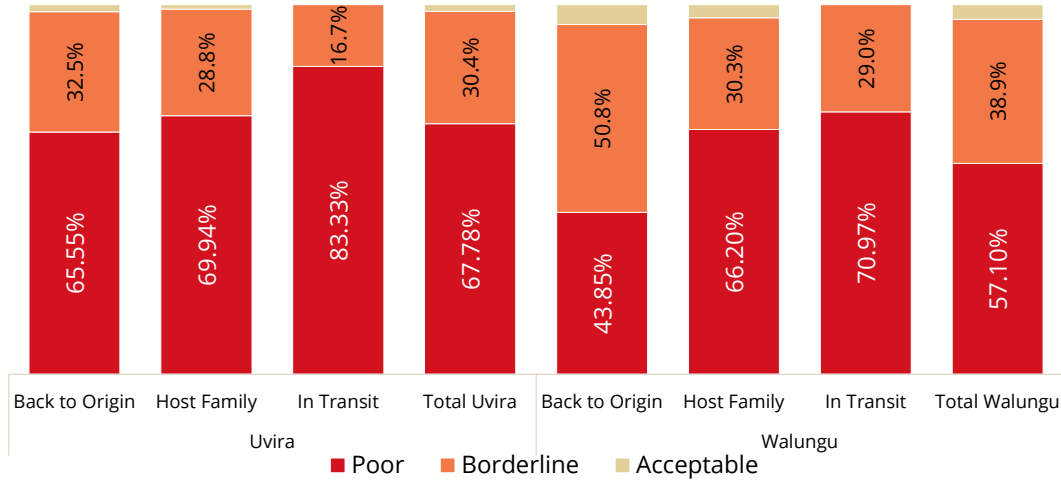


- In **Uvira**, most respondents express willingness to return (58.0%), while 21.2% do not intend to return and 20.7% remain undecided. In contrast, willingness to return is significantly higher in **Walungu**, where 83.7% of households report intention to return, with only 11.6% unwilling and a very small proportion uncertain (4.8%).
- Among households staying in displacement areas, **ongoing conflict is cited as the main reason (51.7%)**, underscoring **persistent protection and safety concerns** that continue to prevent durable solutions.
- As reasons for staying in the displacement areas, housing destruction and lack of mean are **reported respectively by 19.0% and 13.8% of households**. A smaller proportion indicate a preference to settle in the displacement area (10.3%), reflecting a combination of forced and voluntary factors influencing displacement decisions.

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Food Security Situation

Food Consumption Score - By Territory

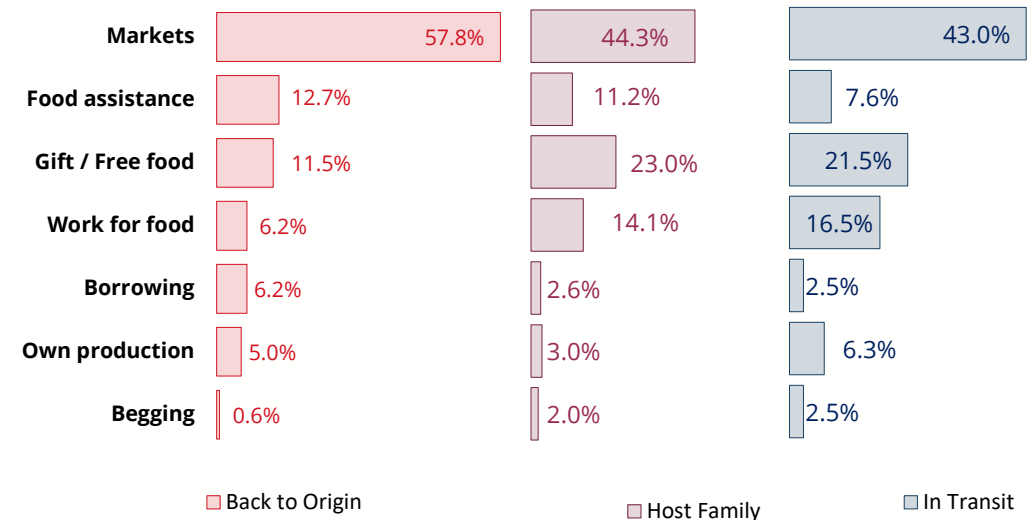


- **Households in transit show the most severe food consumption outcomes, with 70–83% reporting poor consumption and up to 30% borderline.**
- **IDPs hosted by families also face high food consumption stress, with 65–70% classified as poor and 28–33% borderline, while returnees present slightly better but still concerning outcomes, with 57–68% poor and 30–39% borderline.**
- **Dietary diversity remains limited, with 14.0–41.7% of households consuming only 1–2 food groups, 41.7–75.0% consuming 3–4 food groups, and only 7.2–25.2% reaching five or more food groups.**



Food sources

- **Food is predominantly sourced from markets**, representing the main food source, particularly among households back to origin (57.8%) and those hosted by families (44.3%), highlighting a strong dependence on market access.
- **Begging and gifts account for a significant share of food access among hosted households (around 23.0%)** and households back to origin (11.5%), indicating persistent vulnerability and reliance on external support.

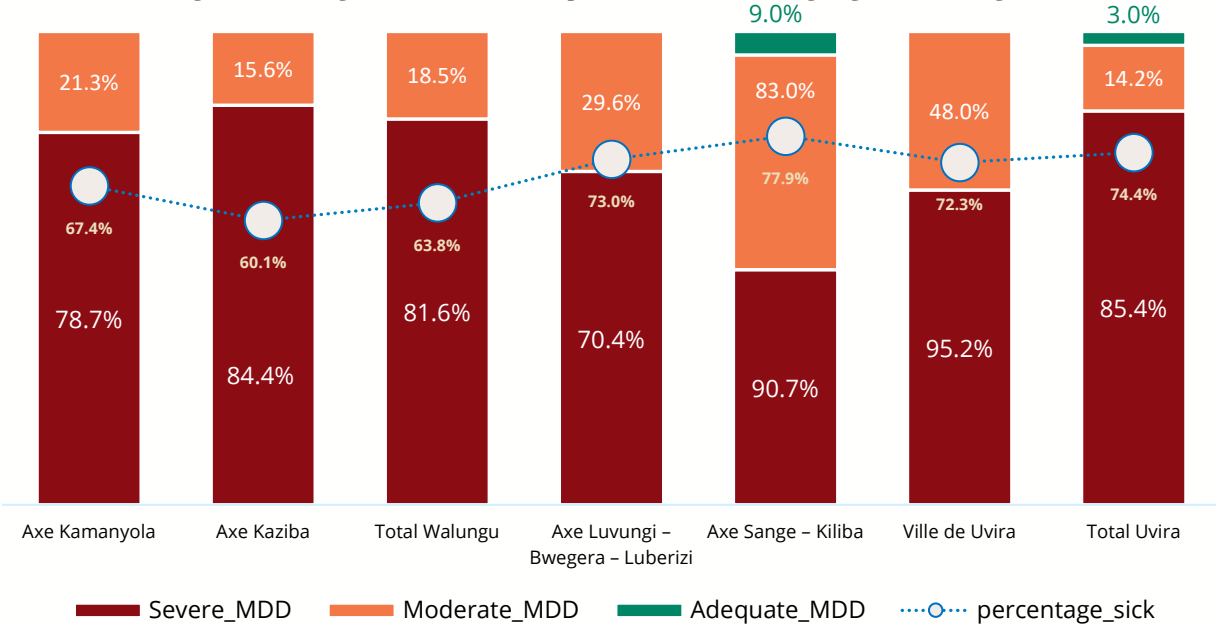


3

Child Dietary Diversity and Morbidity



Dietary Diversity (MDD) and Reported Morbidity by Territory (%)



- Across both territories, **the vast majority of children fall under Severe MDD (82% in Walungu and 85% in Uvira)**, with negligible levels of Adequate MDD, highlighting extremely limited access to diverse and nutritious foods.
- While dietary diversity is severely constrained in both areas, **Uvira shows a consistently worse profile, with a higher prevalence of Severe MDD** compared to Walungu, pointing to deeper food consumption gaps.
- **A substantial proportion of households report recent illness, particularly in Uvira (74%), compared to Walungu (64%)**, which may further compromise food utilization and nutritional outcomes among children.



The combination of severe dietary inadequacy and high morbidity underscores the need for urgent, multisectoral interventions, including food assistance, nutrition-sensitive programming, and coordinated WASH and health responses to mitigate further deterioration.

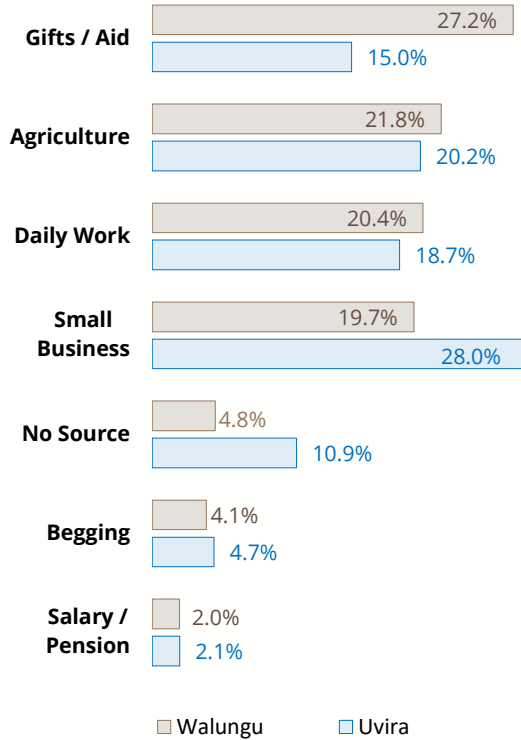
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Income sources and livelihoods



Hosted IDPs

Main Income Sources

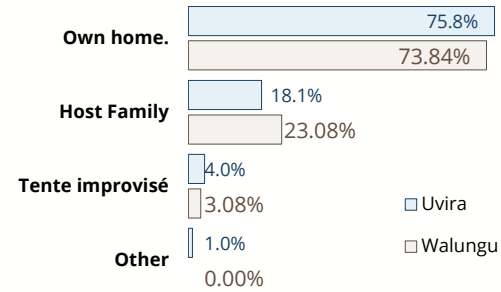


- **Livelihood opportunities for affected HHs remain highly constrained** in Walungu and Uvira, with **continued reliance on assistance, particularly in Walungu (27.2% of households, compared to 15.0% in Uvira).**
- **Daily labor remains a key but precarious income source (20.4% in Walungu; 18.7% in Uvira), while agriculture supports around one fifth of households (21.8% and 20.2%, respectively), reflecting persistent constraints in access to land and productive inputs.**
- **Income diversification is limited, with small business below 30% (19.7% in Walungu; 28.0% in Uvira) and a notable share of households reporting no income source, underscoring acute livelihood vulnerability.**

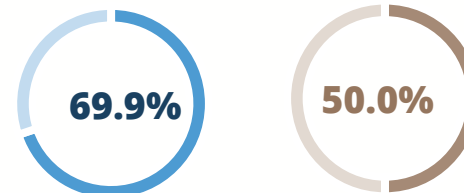


Returnees

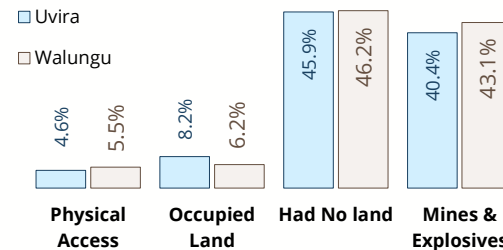
Dwelling Places at Origin



Returnees with NO access to land - Uvira and Walungu

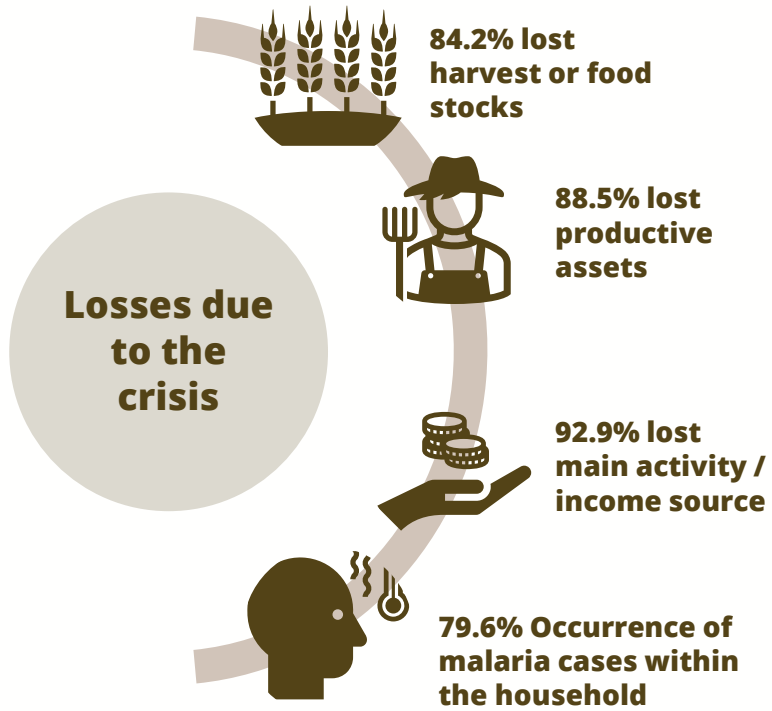


Land access restrictions



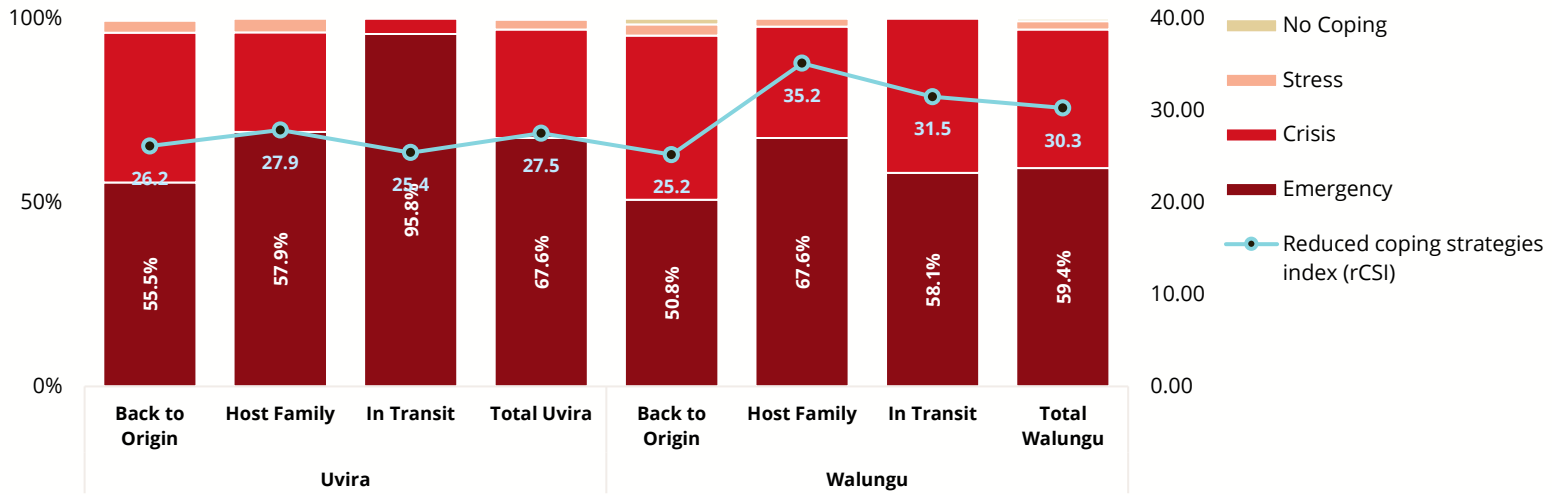
- **Housing conditions among returnees show partial stabilization, with most households living in their own homes (75.8% in Uvira; 73.8% in Walungu), while others still rely on host families (18.1–23.1%) or temporary shelters (3.1–4.0%), indicating incomplete housing recovery.**
- **Access to land remains a major constraint, particularly in Uvira (69.9%) and Walungu (50.0%), driven by pre-existing lack of land access (45.9–46.2%), land contamination by mines/ERW (40.4–43.1%), and land occupation during displacement (6.2–8.2%), limiting livelihood recovery.**

5 Losses and Coping Strategies



“The conflict has resulted in the loss of two agricultural seasons. Despite full investment in the September 2025 season as part of recovery efforts, renewed hostilities have once again erased all progress made.”

Coping Strategies Index - Livelihood based (LCSI) and food consumption based (rCSI)



- Across both territories, the crisis has severely disrupted livelihoods, leading many displaced and returnee households to lose harvests, food stocks, productive assets, and key income sources. As a result, reliance on livelihood-based coping strategies remains widespread, with **emergency coping affecting roughly 50–68 percent of households**.
- At the same time, stress coping strategies remains high, with average **rCSI scores ranging from approximately 25 to over 35, indicating insufficient diets and increased reliance on negative coping behaviors** such as consuming lower-quality foods, borrowing, reducing portion sizes, or skipping meals.
- The concurrence of high emergency livelihood-based coping and elevated rCSI scores highlights a significant depletion of both livelihoods and dietary adequacy, underscoring the urgent need for integrated food assistance and livelihood support.

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Access to basic needs

- Access to basic services remains critically constrained, particularly in **Uvira, where only 28.3 percent of households report access to health care** and 79.0 percent lack electricity; access to safe drinking water and adequate sanitation is also limited, affecting 65.0 percent and 63.6 percent of households, respectively.
- In Walungu, conditions are relatively better but remain inadequate, with 47.2 percent of households lacking access to health care, 55.4 percent without electricity, and nearly half without adequate sanitation.
- Across both territories, **households in transit and hosted by families face the highest levels of deprivation**, exacerbating vulnerability and health risks.

Province / IDPs Location		Potable water	Adequate Latrines	Electricity	Cooking Energy	Medical Care
Uvira	In Transit	66.7%	64.6%	85.4%	70.8%	83.3%
	Host Family	65%	62.6%	73%	54.6%	69.9%
	Back to Origin	64.6%	64.1%	82.3%	50.7%	70.3%
	Total Uvira	65%	63.6%	79%	54.5%	71.7%
Walungu	In Transit	32.3%	35.5%	58.1%	29%	41.9%
	Host Family	38.7%	58.5%	57%	33.8%	47.9%
	Back to Origin	30.8%	40.8%	53.1%	26.9%	47.7%
	Total Walungu	34.7%	48.5%	55.4%	30.4%	47.2%



Cholera cases are reported in Sange (Uvira Territory), where ongoing population movements and limited access to hygiene and sanitation services heighten the risk of exposure and transmission.

7

Markets Situation

Trends in commodity prices across markets

- The escalation of the conflict in eastern DRC has significantly disrupted market functioning in Uvira, triggering **sharp price increases for key staples, notably cassava flour (+140%) and maize flour (+42.9%),** alongside substantial rises in palm oil (+50%) and sugar (+40%).
- While Uvira markets show acute inflationary pressure, **Walungu has experienced comparatively more moderate but persistent price increases, driven by cassava flour (+60%) and maize flour (+42.9%),** with cooking oil prices also rising (+28.6% to +33.3%).
- **Rising food prices are further eroding household purchasing power,** particularly among displaced populations and returnees affected by the conflict, increasing the risk of deteriorating food consumption and reliance on negative coping strategies.

• Uvira

Commodity	Price in Early October	Current Price (CDF)	Variation
Salt (Local Measure)	400	500	+25.00%
Palm Oil (1 L)	5000	7500	+50.00%
Rafined Oil (1L)	7,000	10000	+32.90%
Maize Flour (Local Measure)	700	1000	+42.90%
Cassava Flour (1Kg)	500	1200	+140.00%
Beans (Local Measure)	4000	4500	+12.50%
Sugar (1 Kg)	2000	3500	+40.00%

• Walungu

Commodity	Price in Early October	Current Price (CDF)	Variation
Salt (1kg)	1400	1500	7.10%
Palm Oil (1 L)	3000	4000	33.30%
Rafined Oil (1L)	7,000	9000	28.60%
Maize Flour (Local Measure)	700	1000	42.90%
Cassava Flour (1Kg)	500	800	60.00%
Beans (Local Measure)	4000	4000	0.00%
Sugar (Local Measure)	400	500	25.00%

Recommendations and ways forward



Strengthen displacement tracking and information sharing : Given continued population movements in South Kivu, maintaining a regularly updated and shared displacement tracking system is essential to support timely analysis, coordination, and targeting among humanitarian actors.



Sustain coordinated, multi-sectoral emergency assistance: With high food insecurity and widespread livelihood losses among IDPs, continued coordinated food and non-food assistance remains critical to prevent further deterioration of nutrition outcomes and to support households willing to return but lacking the means to do so.



Expand in-depth needs and market assessments in return areas: Building on ongoing assessments conducted by WFP and partners in key return areas such as Uvira, Walungu, and surrounding territories, further analysis of food security and market functionality will inform appropriate, context-specific programmatic responses.



Early recovery activities in the return areas: To enable sustainable reintegration, early recovery interventions should focus on restoring livelihoods through targeted agricultural support, skills development, and access to income-generating opportunities, strengthening household resilience and local economies..



Supply Chain and Logistics: Complementary analysis of road access, transport capacity, and supply chain constraints is required to ensure effective delivery of assistance, including contingency planning, risk mitigation measures, and identification of alternative routes where access remains volatile.

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