

Food price monitoring bulletin

In October 2016, compared to September 2016, prices are stable with an upward trend. Palm oil has recorded the most important increase (28%). This upward trend is driven by endogenous and exogenous factors. At the national level, the beginning of sowing in most territories coincides with the gradual depletion of farmers and traders stocks. Delays in some areas, notably the “Haut Katanga”, also favors price surges in the South East of the country.

The phasing out of sowing also marks a decline in the demand for agricultural labor. Daily labor costs have known a decrease of 7% compared to September 2016. On the other hand, the costs of maize and cassava-based food baskets have increased by 12% and 2%, respectively. The rise of food basket costs concomitantly with the decrease of daily labor costs limit the purchasing power of poor households.



m-Kengela (mVAM)

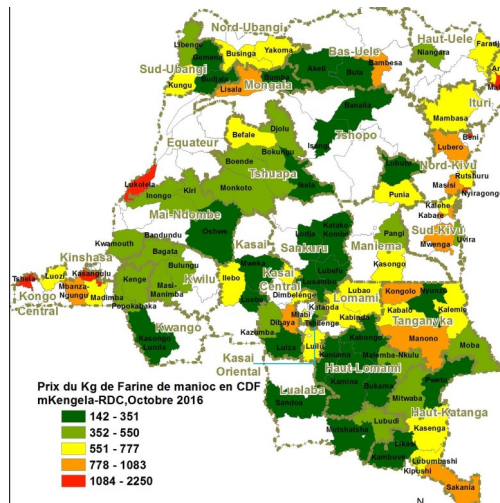
The data were collected by the mVAM methodology as developed by the World Food Program, adopted and adapted by the Unit of Analysis of Development Indicators (CAID / Prime Minister’s Office). The data of the seventh round were collected by telephone from 20 to 29 October 2016 on 245 markets spread across 93 territories, against 145 in the country. CAID and WFP are raising awareness among traders to ensure a high response rate in the next rounds. Telephone surveys always present a certain bias. The results below present more trends than the absolute values of prices in the markets surveyed.

Maize flour and cassava flour

On October 31, the average price per kilo of maize flour is 947 CDF. It is 13% higher than in September 2016. The territories of Aru (2,951 CDF), Mahagi (2,941 CDF) and Kasangulu (2,353 CDF) have the highest prices. While the lowest prices are recorded in Isangi (250 CDF), Lusambo (353 C) and Moba (355 CDF). Also in the center of the country (Sankuru provinces, Central Kasai and Lomami) prices are relatively low, oscillating between 250 and 740 CDF.

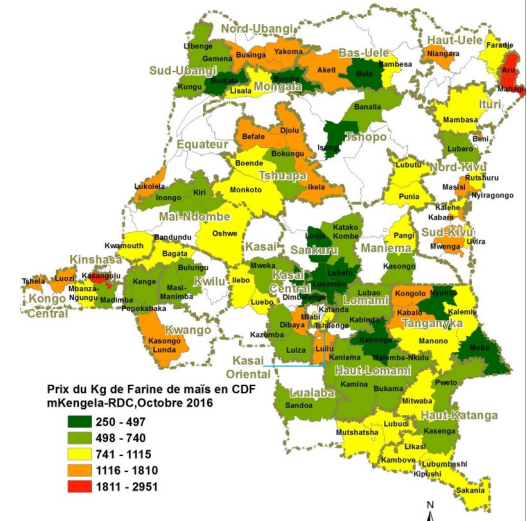
The average price per kilo of cassava flour is 567 CDF, that is, a decrease of 7% compared to September 2016. The territories of Lubefu (142 CDF), Lusambo (150 FC) and Sandoa (192 CDF) have recorded the lowest prices. Whereas the highest prices are observed in Mahagi (2250 CDF), Beni (1.500 CDF) and Nyirangongo (1.301CDF). In most territories of the center, the south and the west of the country the prices of cassava flour vary between 142 and 550 CDF. Mahagi is the territory that has recorded the highest prices per kilo of maize and cassava flour. While Lusambo is the territory where the prices of cassava and maize flour are the lowest.

Figure 1: average price of cassava flour (Congolesse Franc)



Source: m-Kengela, CAID/PAM

Figure 2: Average price of maize flour (Congolesse Franc)



Source: m-Kengela, CAID/PAM

Local rice and imported rice

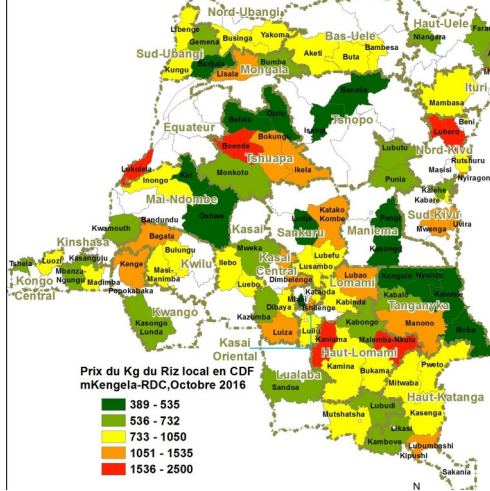
The average price per kilo of local rice is 896 CDF, a decrease of 13% compared to September. The highest prices have been noted in Kaniama (2,500 CDF), Boende (2,140 CDF) and Lukolela (1,946 CDF). While the territories of Oshwe, Moba, Pangi, Kasongo and Kalemie (389 CDF) have the lowest prices.

At the end of October 2016, the average price per kilo of imported rice is 1,490 CDF, i.e., an increase of 6% compared to September 2016. The highest prices are observed in Luiza (4.195 CDF), Mahagi (4,000 CDF) and Lukolela (3,600 CDF). The territories of Mutshatsha (125 CDF), Kalemie and Dibemlenge (600 CDF) have recorded the lowest prices.

In general, the majority of the territories of the south-east of the country have recorded the lowest prices of imported rice, prices which vary between 125 and 1,500 CDF.

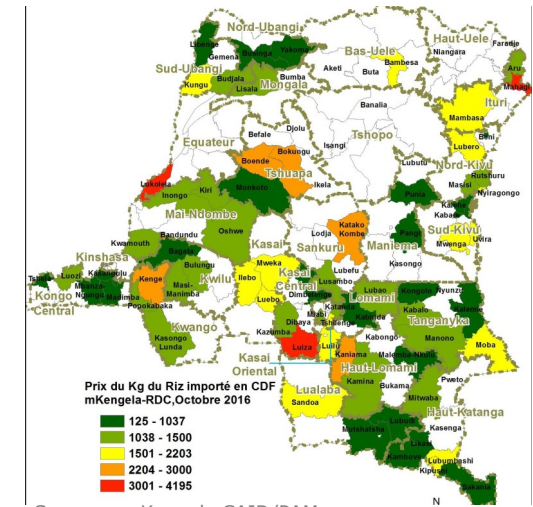
Lukolela is the area where the prices of local rice and imported rice are the highest.

Figure 3: Local rice price (Congolesse Franc)



Source: m-Kengela, CAID/PAM

Figure 4: Imported rice price (Congolesse Franc)



Source: m-Kengela, CAID/PAM

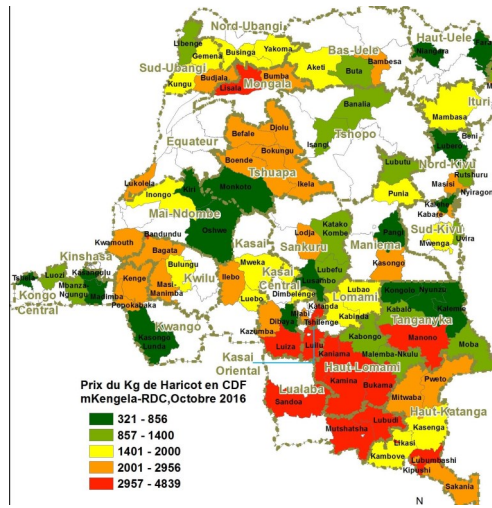
Beans

The average price of beans on 31 October is 1,973 CDF, that is, an increase of 2% compared to September 2016.

As in September 2016, significant increases continue to be recorded in the territories of the center (Tshilenge) and of the South-East (Manono and Sandoa) of the country.

The highest prices are observed in Beni (6,452 CDF), Manono (4,839 CDF), Tshilenge (4,301 CDF), Sandoa (4,117 CDF) and Lisala (4,032 CDF). On the contrary, the territories of Kalemie, Pangi and Lubero have recorded the lowest prices (321 CDF). Since September prices have remained low in the territories of Pangi, Lubero and Kalehe.

Figure 5: Beans price (Congoles Franc)



Source: m-Kengela,CAID/PAM



Source: m-Kengela, CAID/PAM

Palm oil and refined oil

On October 31, the average price per liter of palm oil is 1,315 CDF, a significant increase of 28% compared to September. The highest prices persist in the South East part of the country while the lowest prices are observed in the North. Thus the territories of Mahagi (2,500 CDF), Luebo (2,278 CDF), Mutshatsha and Sakania (2,083 CDF) have the highest prices. On the other hand, the lowest prices have been recorded in Likasi (303 CDF), Isangi (606 CDF), Gemena, Bulungu and Befale (758 CDF).

The average price per liter of refined oil is 2,433 CDF, i.e., an increase of 3% compared to September 2016. The South-Eastern territories have fairly low prices, varying between 1,806 and 2,291 CDF. On the contrary, prices are higher in the landlocked territories of the Center. The highest prices have been recorded in Ikela and Katakombé (5,000 CDF) and in Kiri and Mweka (4,500 CDF). The territories of Lubutu (1,200 CDF), Lubero (1,429 CDF), Gemena and Kasangulu (1,500 CDF) have the lowest prices. In South-ubangui, the territory of Gemena has recorded the lowest prices both for the liter of palm oil and of refined vegetable oil.

Figure 6: Palm oil price (Congoles Franc)

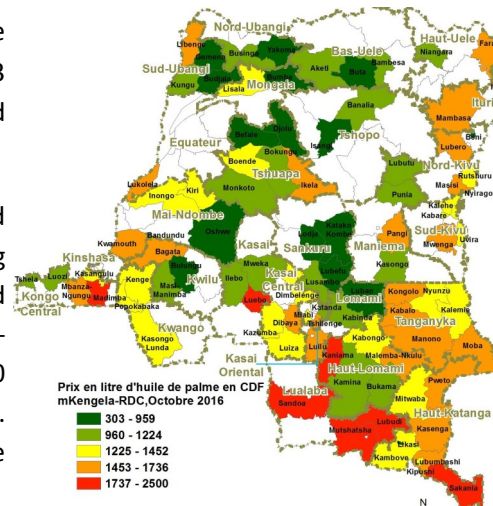
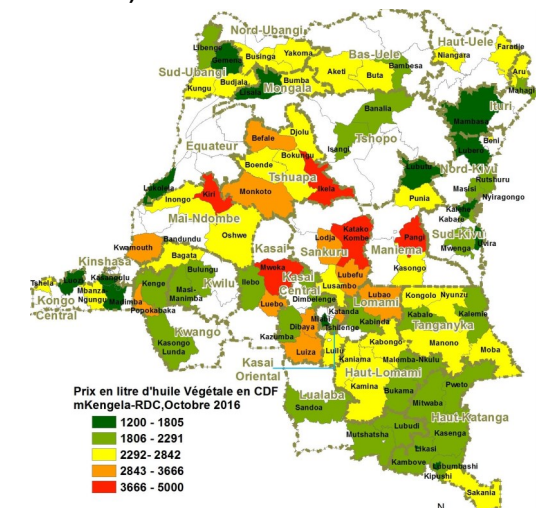


Figure 7 : Refined oil price (Congoles Franc)



Source: m-Kengela,CAID/PAM

Salt and sugar

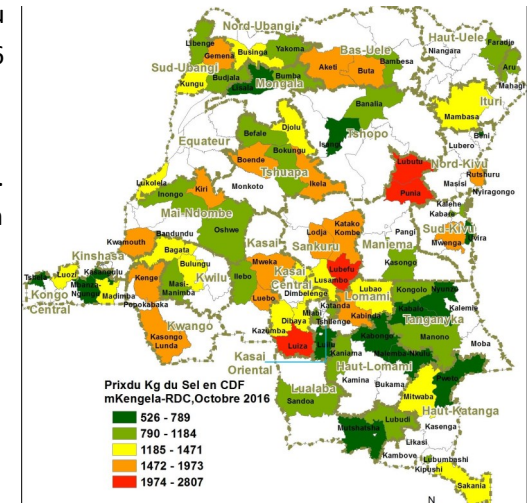
In October 2016, the average price per kilo of salt is 1,252 CDF, that is, an increase of 6% compared to September. The Southern and South-Eastern territories have recorded the lowest prices ranging from 526 to 1,184 CDF. The highest prices are observed in Lubefu (2,807 CDF), Luiza, Punia and Lubutu (2,632 CDF). While the lowest prices are observed in Pweto, Mutshatsha, Kabalo and Beni (526 CDF). Since September, the price of salt has remained high in the territory of Lubefu and it has remained low in Kabalo.

The average price per kilo of sugar rose slightly by 1% from 1,456 CDF in September to 1,466 CDF in October 2016; It is almost stable. The highest prices are observed in Ikela (3,200 CDF), Mambassa (2,800 CDF) and Bumba (2,495 CDF). The lowest prices have been noted in Béni and Uvira (800 CDF), Mutshatsha (917 CDF), Tshela and Mbanza-ngungu (933 CDF).



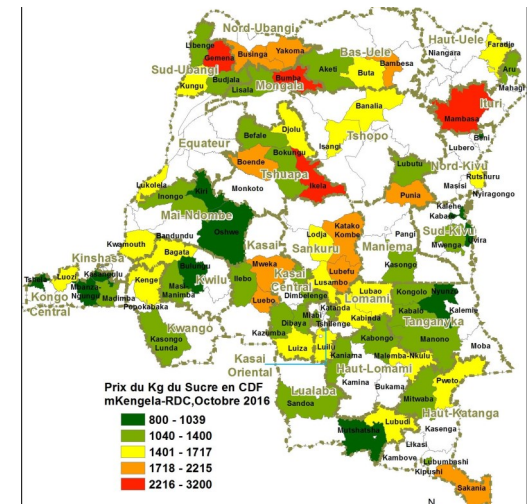
Source: m-Kengela. CAID/PAM

Figure 8: Salt price (Congolesse Franc)



Source: m-Kengela, CAID/PAM

Figure 9: Sugar price (Congolesse Franc)



Source: m-Kengela, CAID/PAM

The cost of the food basket

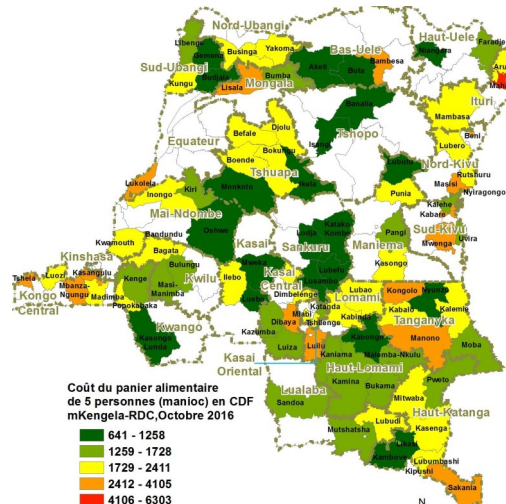
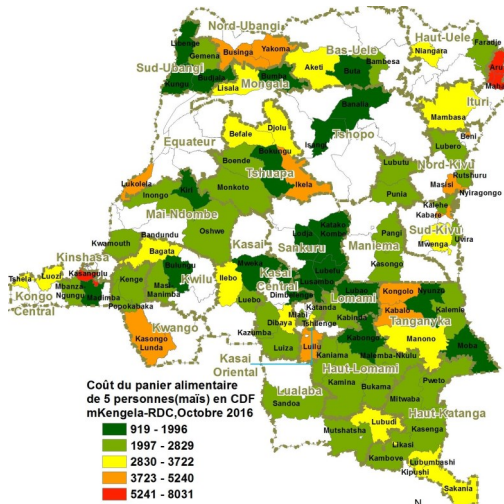
In October 2016, the average cost of the maize-based food basket was 2,859 CDF, that is, an increase of 12% compared to September. The cost of this basket is particularly high in Mahagi (8,031 CDF), Aru (7,718 CDF), Kasangulu (6,150 CDF) and CDF (5,793 CDF). However, it

is low in Isangi (920 CDF), Lusambo (1,148 CDF) and Nyunzu (1,164 CDF). The costs are very low (between 919 and 1,996 CDF) and low (between 1,997 and 2,829 CDF) respectively in the Center and the South of the country.

The average cost of the cassava based basket is 1,951 CDF, that is, an increase of 2% compared to September 2016. The average cost of the cassava basket is very high in Mahagi (6,303 CDF), Beni (5,131 CDF) and Nyirangongo (3,844 CDF). And it is very low in Lusambo (641 CDF) and Lubefu (651 CDF)

Figure 10: Five persons food basket (maize –based) (Congolesse Franc)

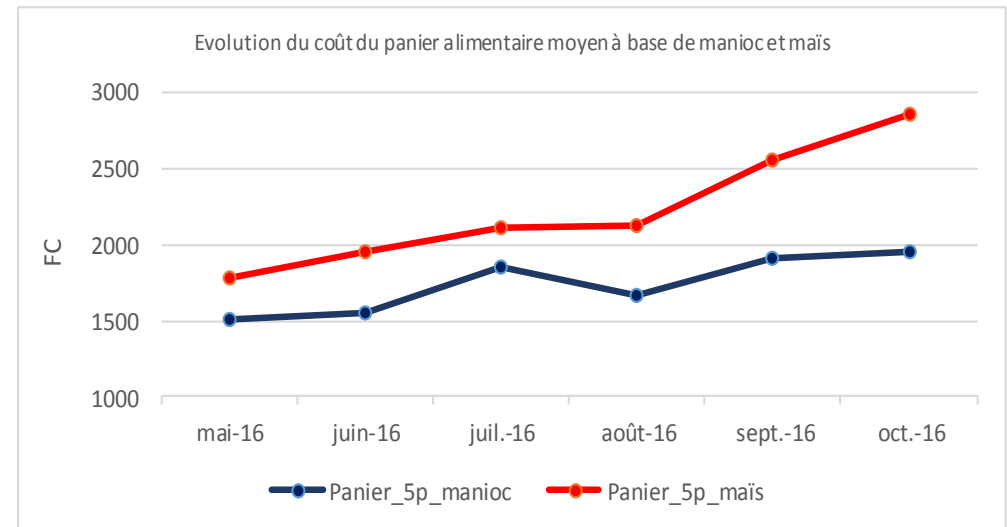
Figure 11: Five persons food basket (cassava –based) (Congolesse Franc)



Source: m-Kengela,CAID/PAM

Source: m-Kengela,CAID/PAM

Graph: National average trend of maize-based and cassava-based food basket



Source: m-Kengela,CAID/PAM

Wage of casual labor

The average wage of casual labor has decreased by 7% going from 2,508 CDF in September to 2,330 CDF in October 2016. The work day is better paid in Kasangulu (5,500 CDF), Beni and Gemena

(5,000 CDF). On the other hand it is very low in Pangi, Katanda and Yakoma (1,000 CDF). Despite this, in 71% of the territories (i.e., 66 out of 93 territories) where the work day is paid over CDF

1,951, agricultural workers can purchase a cassava based food basket.

The purchasing power

Figure 12: Purchasing power for maize-based food basket

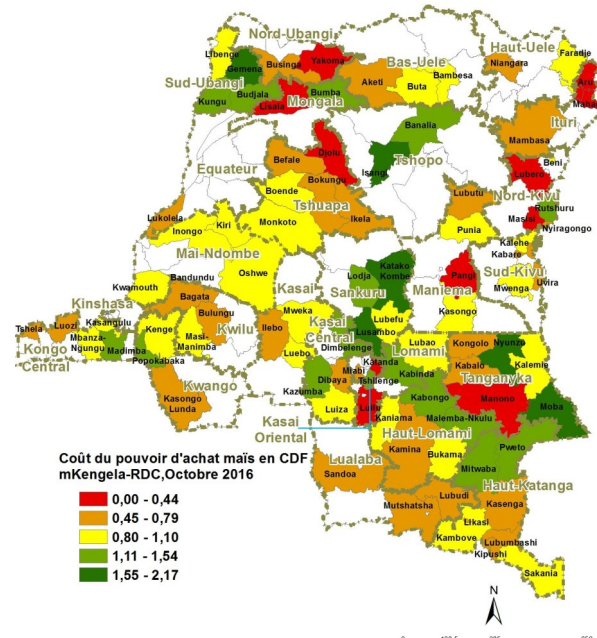
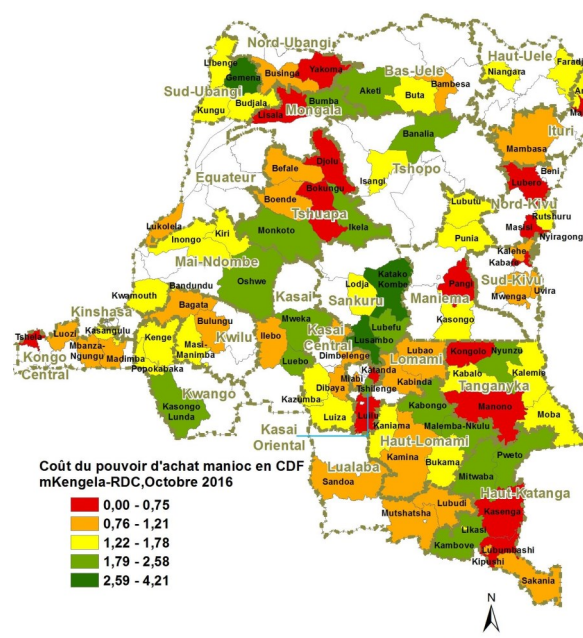


Figure 13: Purchasing power for cassava-based food basket



In October a work day allows to purchase of 0.9 maize-based food basket and 1.4 cassava-based food basket against 1.26 and 1.48 food basket based on maize and cassava in September. The purchasing power of households has declined.

The purchasing power of the maize-based food basket is very high in Lusambo, Isangi, Gemena and Nyunzu. Access to this basket is very difficult in Lubero, Manono, Yakoma, Luilu, Aru, Djolu, Mahagi and Masisi.

The purchasing power of the cassava based food basket is very high in Gemena and Lusambo and very low in Lubero, Manono, Lisala, Yakoma and Mahagi.

In the territories of Lubero, Manono, Yakoma and Mahagi, access to the two food baskets is particularly limited for agricultural workers

The exchange rate

At the national level, the average exchange rate on the territories' markets was 1.074 CDF for dollar against 1,035 CDF in September 2016. The trend of the depreciation of the Congolese franc against the dollar observed in previous months persists. One dollar was exchanged at 1,000 CDF at least in all 93 territories monitored against 77 territories in September 2016.

Table 1: Coût journalier du travail, coût du panier alimentaire à base de maïs, cassava et termes de l'échange

Territory	Cost of a work day	basket_5p_maize	basket_5p_cassava	Tot_Maize	ToT_cassava	Territory	Cost of a work day	basket_5p_maize	basket_5p_cassava	Tot_Maize	ToT_cassava
TSHELA	2125	3632	3335	0,59	0,64	IKELA	2500	4592	1190	0,54	2,10
MBANZA-NGUNGU	3000	2709	2711	1,11	1,11	BOKUNGU	1333	1964	1888	0,68	0,71
LUOZI	1750	3499	1966	0,50	0,89	MONKOTO	2167	2185	1177	0,99	1,84
MADIMBA	2500	1962	2212	1,27	1,13	BANALIA	2500	1944	1111	1,29	2,25
KASANGULU	5500	6150	3392	0,89	1,62	ISANGI	2000	920	1128	2,18	1,77
BANDUNDU	2667	3364	2114	0,79	1,26	BUTA	1625	1597	1127	1,02	1,44
INONGO	2420	2246	1821	1,08	1,33	AKETI	2750	3528	1063	0,78	2,59
KIRI	1750	1814	1321	0,96	1,32	BAMBESA	2900	2726	2948	1,06	0,98
OSHWE	1833	2156	988	0,85	1,85	NIANGARA	2000	3455	1258	0,58	1,59
BULUNGU	1500	1896	1646	0,79	0,91	FARADJE	2500	2746	1700	0,91	1,47
MASI-MANIMBA	2333	2361	1532	0,99	1,52	MAMBASA	2000	3233	2249	0,62	0,89
BAGATA	1667	3037	1890	0,55	0,88	MAHAGI	3000	8031	6303	0,37	0,48
KENGE	2167	2210	1607	0,98	1,35	ARU	2833	7718	2101	0,37	1,35
KASONGO-LUNDA	3000	4818	1171	0,62	2,56	NYIRAGONGO	2500	5119	3844	0,49	0,65
POPOKABAKA	3000	2091	1841	1,44	1,63	LUBERO		2089	2321	0,00	0,00
KWAMOUTH	2500	2830	1830	0,88	1,37	RUTSHURU	3867	2665	2295	1,45	1,68
LUKOLELA	3167	5192	3727	0,61	0,85	MASISI	1500	3973	2807	0,38	0,53
GEMENA	5000	2328	1186	2,15	4,22	BENI	5000	4767	4105	1,05	1,22
BUDJALA	2125	1657	1193	1,28	1,78	UVIRA	1750	2515	1487	0,70	1,18
KUNGU	2833	1871	2026	1,51	1,40	MWENGA	3500	3722	2993	0,94	1,17
LIBENGE	2000	1974	1296	1,01	1,54	KALEHE	2000	2371	1718	0,84	1,16
YAKOMA	1000	3985	2335	0,25	0,43	KABARE	2167	3948	3059	0,55	0,71
BUSINGA	1875	3921	1846	0,48	1,02	LUBUTU	1500	2522	971	0,59	1,54
LISALA	1500	3372	3654	0,44	0,41	PANGI	1000	2466	1466	0,41	0,68
BUMBA	2667	1773	1320	1,50	2,02	KASONGO	2500	2401	1970	1,04	1,27
BOENDE	2250	2768	2019	0,81	1,11	PUNIA	2833	2578	1919	1,10	1,48
BEFALE	2000	3590	1924	0,56	1,04	LUBUMBASHI	2000	2533	1934	0,79	1,03
DJOLU	1367	3702	1799	0,37	0,76	LIKASI	2000	2881	1386	0,69	1,44
						MUTSHATSHA	1500	2765	1728	0,54	0,87
						LUBUDI	1917	2898	1965	0,66	0,98
						SANDOA	1625	2479	1488	0,66	1,09
						KAMINA	1500	2421	1334	0,62	1,12
						KANIAMA	2000	2258	1560	0,89	1,28
						KABONGO	2167	1418	950	1,53	2,28

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