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Contact Info

Claude Kalinga

claude.kalinga@wfp.org

Country Director

Claude Jibidar

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SPR Reading Guidance



Strengthening Food Security Cluster Coordination in the Democratic Republic of Congo

Standard Project Report 2016

World Food Programme in Congo, Democratic Republic of the (CD)



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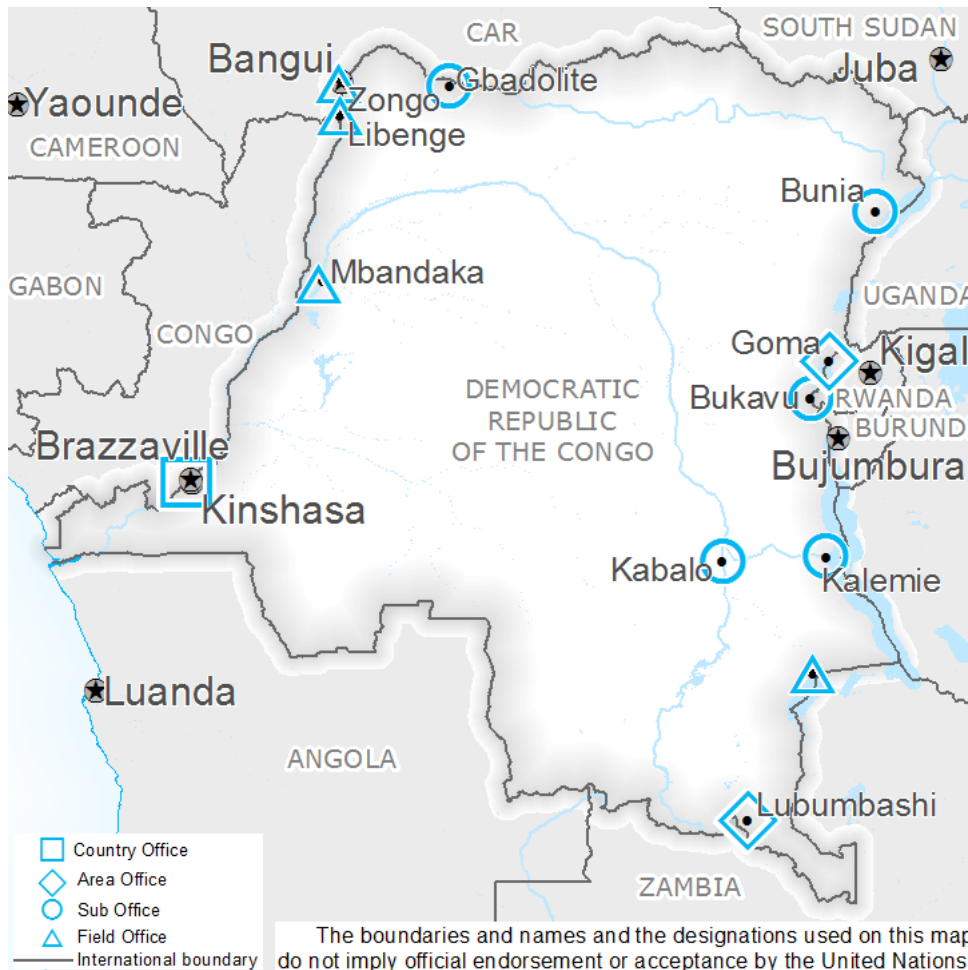
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Country Context and WFP Objectives



Country Context

The Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) is the second largest country in Africa, covering an area of 2.34 million km² with an estimated population of 71 million people. Although rich in natural resources, including minerals and the world's second largest rainforest, DRC ranks 149th and 176th out of 188 countries on the 2015 UNDP Gender Inequality Index and Human Development Index respectively. The average per capita income is estimated at USD 488 in 2016, categorizing DRC as a Low Income Country. The economic growth rate has declined in the last three years and 46 percent of the workforce is unemployed.

The country is endowed with rich, fertile and diverse soil which presents tremendous opportunities for agricultural production and rural development. The DRC's current food production deficit is estimated to be between 30 to 40 percent. Seventy percent of the population lives below the poverty line and lacks access to adequate food.

Successive waves of violence and armed conflict during the last two decades have resulted in a state of protracted humanitarian crisis, with mass displacement, infrastructure deterioration and limited livelihood options for a majority of DRC's population. The Fragile States Index 2015, placed DRC in the category of "greatest concern and urgency," with widespread conflict and insecurity caused by the struggle for the control of natural resources, ethnic tension and activity of armed groups. OCHA records 2.1 million internally displaced people and the country hosts 449,764 refugees, according to UNHCR.

Poor infrastructures contribute to weak supply chains and agricultural markets. Less than 10 percent of the Congolese population have access to electricity. Production areas are isolated from the consumer markets as transport costs are extremely high. Only 2 percent of the national road network is paved, while 11 percent of

agricultural roads are in a good condition. Meanwhile, lack of storage facilities combined with inadequate processing methods lead to high post-harvest losses.

With more than half of food purchased, markets remain the main food source in DRC. Historically, food markets have been fragile and 2016 was no exception with the price of staple food commodities (mainly maize) almost doubling between May and December. Market prices are expected to continue to be unstable as the inflation rate remains high and the local currency depreciates in value.

The June 2016 Integrated Phase Classification (IPC) of acute food insecurity indicated that 5.9 million people were food insecure in 2016. Acute food insecurity mostly occurs in the eastern parts of the country, where armed conflict is prevalent. In non-conflict areas, limited access to social services (health, education, water and sanitation) and high poverty levels are the main contributing factors to food insecurity. Seventy-five percent of households have poor food diversity and the average daily food consumption is estimated at less than 1,500 kilocalories per person, well below the minimum to maintain a healthy life.

The prevalence of malnutrition in children under the age of five is high, with wasting at eight percent, stunting at 52 percent and anemia at 47 percent. Women are severely affected by malnutrition and 14.4 percent experience chronic energy deficiency, while 38 percent are anemic.

HIV prevalence in DRC stands at 1.2 percent, with women more affected (1.6 percent) compared to men (0.6 percent). Some 52 percent of people living with HIV suffer from acute malnutrition.

With WFP technical and financial support, the Government undertook a Cost of Hunger study in 2016. Preliminary findings indicate that in 2014, the country lost 4.56 percent of gross domestic product (GDP), equivalent to USD 1.7 billion due to hunger. Hunger increases household expenditure for health and education while productivity decreases.

The overall political situation remains volatile and the security situation tense, especially in the eastern provinces. Insecurity has now spread to the provinces of Kasai, Kasai Central and Kasai Oriental in the central region of DRC.

In this context WFP, the government and others humanitarian stakeholders work together in responding to the immediate humanitarian needs while ensuring longer term coordinated strategic approaches.

Response of the Government and Strategic Coordination

In 2016, the government finalised its National Strategic Plan of Development (PNSD), which outlines the Government's vision of making DRC an emerging country by 2030 and a developed country by 2050. The PNSD provides an overarching framework for implementing the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the African Union's Agenda 2063. WFP and other UN agencies participated in the process of developing the PNSD, and advocated successfully for the inclusion of Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) 2 and 17 into the final document.

In line with SDG 2, as part of the PNSD, the Government's Five-Year Plan (2017-2021) aims to significantly reduce hunger through: the sustainable increase in agricultural sector productivity; mobilisation of public and private sector investments; and improved accessibility, to quality food through social safety nets, especially for vulnerable populations. Furthermore, the five-year plan aims to establish a national early warning system as well as improve the resilience of rural and urban populations. The plan also targets investment in nutrition to ensure productive human resources for sustainable social and economic development in the country.

WFP also supported the Ministry of Planning's Observatory for Sustainable Development Goals (OCDD) in building national capacity to review the existing planning framework and prioritise national SDGs, including setting targets.

Two targets have been prioritised for SDG 2. Target 2.1 "by 2030, eliminate hunger and ensure that everyone, especially the poor and vulnerable, including infants, have access throughout the year to a healthy, nutritious and adequate diet;" and target 2.2 "by 2030, eliminate all forms of malnutrition, including the achievement of internationally agreed targets for stunting and wasting among children under five by 2025 and meet the nutritional needs of adolescent girls and pregnant and nursing women and the elderly."

The formulation of the new United Nations Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF), which was planned for 2018-2022, was postponed to the period 2019-2023 in to align the process with the PNSD. The current Common Country Assessment (CCA) will facilitate the planning of the activities of the UN group under the next UNDAF.

At the sectoral coordination level, WFP leads the logistics cluster and co-leads the food security cluster (with FAO).

The food security cluster is particularly important to ensure efficiency and effectiveness of the food assistance response to displaced populations in conflict zones. WFP also participates in the process of the Humanitarian Action Plan, ensuring the prominence of food security. Other coordination fora include the inter-cluster meeting chaired by OCHA.

The Scaling up Nutrition (SUN) movement has been active in DRC since 2013. Currently, four SUN platforms are active (civil society, academia, donors and UN agencies). At the request of the Government, two Renewed Efforts Against Child Hunger and Undernutrition (REACH) missions were carried out in 2016. These missions consolidated the UN-SUN team and adapted the 2016-2017 UN-SUN roadmap.

All these coordination mechanisms contribute to the achievement of WFP operational objectives.

Summary of WFP Operational Objectives

While maintaining its humanitarian assistance capacity in response to the complex country context, WFP continues developing partnerships and increasing its role in supporting long-term recovery and resilience interventions as well as supporting the Government in addressing hunger and malnutrition. WFP's portfolio in 2016 included the following operations:

1. PRRO 200832 - The Protracted Relief and Recovery Operation (PRRO) is the main WFP vehicle of delivering food assistance in the DRC and aims to assist 3.2 million people by: providing life-saving food assistance to Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) and refugees in crisis-affected areas; contributing to reducing the prevalence of acute malnutrition; increasing the resilience of severely food insecure communities to shocks; and enhancing national capacity to respond to disasters. The project started in January 2016 and ends at the end of 2017.

2. EMOP 200799 - Under this Emergency Operation (EMOP), WFP provides food assistance to approximately 58,000 refugees from the Central African Republic (CAR), settled in four camps in North and South Ubangi provinces. WFP, together with FAO, targets refugees and vulnerable host communities in the periphery of the camps through seasonal asset creation activities to improve self-reliance of refugees and peaceful co-existence with host communities. WFP also provides treatment for moderate acute malnutrition (MAM) to children aged 6–59 months and pregnant and lactating women (PLW) in refugee populations and vulnerable host communities, as well as food by prescription for malnourished Antiretroviral Therapy (ART) clients. This project runs until the end of 2017.

3. Trust Fund 200888 - The Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC) provided USD 2.1 million for a joint UN (UNICEF, FAO and WFP) pilot project aimed to improve the nutritional status of the population in Bunyakiri, South Kivu Province. WFP received USD 1.5 million for prevention of chronic malnutrition under this Trust Fund. The project ends in May 2017.

4. Trust Fund 201038 - This multi-donor Trust Fund for smallholder farmer value chain and livelihoods development (Purchase for Progress, P4P) was approved in January 2017 and runs until December 2021. The activities are implemented in North Kivu, South Kivu, Tanganyika, Equateur and South Ubangi province. An estimated 62,500 households of smallholder farmers (410,000 individuals) will be supported through this project. The Trust Fund contributes to the restoration of commodity markets in the country.

5. SO 200789 - The UN Humanitarian Air Service (UNHAS) Special Operation (SO), provides reliable links between the capital and the eastern provinces, as well as access to deep-field locations, including the former Equateur Province. UNHAS facilitates safe, reliable and predictable air transport services to enable humanitarian actors and donors to undertake projects, supervise and monitor activities.

6. SO 200661 - This Special Operation aims to strengthen food security cluster coordination in DRC. WFP and FAO co-leads, with Action Against Hunger (ACF) as the facilitator, to coordinate relief through: strengthening existing national and local humanitarian management and coordination systems, building on local capacities through the active participation of women and men from the affected population; and ensuring the coordination of rapid food security response to displaced populations and through the development of strategic action plans that include multi sector assessments, response analysis and Integrated Phase Classification (IPC).

7. SO 200747 – The Logistics Cluster Special Operation (SO) runs until the end of March 2017. The Cluster aims to strengthen coordination and increase the humanitarian community's responsiveness to repeated emergencies by: facilitating a coordinated humanitarian logistics response, including advocacy with donors to obtain funding for logistics projects aimed at facilitating access to beneficiaries in remote areas; promoting and facilitating sharing of logistics information among all humanitarian organizations; and identify logistics bottlenecks and gaps and providing logistics support and services to enable the humanitarian community to respond effectively.

8. SO 200864: This Special Operation aims to repair 110 km of roads to improve humanitarian access to vulnerable populations and allow smallholder farmers to transport their produce to nearby markets.

In summary WFP programmes provided food assistance in the framework of Protracted Relief and Recovery Operation (PRRO) which focuses on live saving interventions and the reduction of acute malnutrition in conflict affected areas in the East. In the areas where there is a relative return of peace, internally displaced persons (IDPs)

are returning to restart their lives. In these areas, WFP implemented recovery activities to rehabilitate social and productive assets. In Ex-Equateur Province, WFP also implemented an Emergency operation to provide food assistance to refugees from Central African Republic. Additionally, WFP worked with partners including Rome based agencies to implement P4P with the aim of supporting smallholder farmers to rehabilitate their livelihoods. All these projects were implemented under stringent resource constraints.

Country Resources and Results

Resources for Results

In 2016, WFP resourced 60 percent of the overall requirement, thereby restricting capacity to meet objectives. Adapting to this level of resourcing, WFP prioritised life-saving interventions, particularly for refugees and newly displaced populations. Some of the planned asset creation activities had to be scaled down. A robust resource mobilisation strategy has been developed.

Due to the funding situation, WFP had challenges maintaining the levels of cash based transfers from the previous year, especially under PRRO 200832. Furthermore, some contributions were earmarked for specific activities, restricting flexibility to allocate resources between in-kind food and cash based transfers as needed.

Following the large in-migration of refugees from South Sudan, as well as increased levels of conflict and consequent displacement in the eastern parts of the country, the UN system successfully mobilised funds from the Central Emergency Relief Fund (CERF) and other UN Pooled Funds. WFP also made use of WFP's Immediate Response Account (IRA) which ensured that food assistance to IDPs and refugees could continue uninterrupted.

The United States Agency for International Development / Food-for-Peace (USAID/FFP), remains the biggest donor for WFP's operations in DRC, while Canada, Japan, UN Pooled Funds, the Central Emergency Relief Fund (CERF), Belgium, the United Kingdom (UK), the European Commission (EC) and Switzerland provided much needed resources. WFP continues to engage with donors to sustain and increase funding levels.

Achievements at Country Level

The EMOP and the PRRO aim to save lives and protect livelihoods in emergencies, support or restore food security and nutrition, and establish or rebuild livelihoods in fragile settings. In the context of limited resources, WFP and partners had to follow a rigorous planning and implementation process under these two projects, prioritising lifesaving and livelihood activities.

In 2016, WFP provided food assistance to over 1.3 million people, considerably improving their food security and nutritional status. More than 40,000 mt of food commodities and cash transfers valued at over USD 15 million were distributed. The PRRO accounts for 97 percent of the in-kind food distributed in the country.

The Purchase for Progress (P4P) Project contributed to building the capacity of 19,000 households of smallholder farmers and their organisations in agricultural production and processing, while strengthening social cohesion and gender equality. Training was provided to more than 4,000 farmers, of whom 59 percent were women. Female leadership training and sensitisation sessions were organised to improve project management. Furthermore, the P4P project improved rural infrastructure, with seven warehouses and ten dryers being built. Market access was also improved and 116 metric tons of maize was purchased from P4P participants in 2016.

The WFP, FAO and UNICEF joint pilot project, preventing chronic malnutrition, aimed to improve the nutritional status of children aged 6-23 months and pregnant and lactating women in the Bunyakiri health zone in South Kivu Province. This project provided an opportunity for UN agencies to develop an integrated approach to prevent stunting. The joint effort focused on improving infant and young child feeding practices, dietary intake of children and pregnant and lactating women (PLW), improving household food security and strengthen multi sectoral coordination. The project targets 9,500 children aged 6-23 months, 10,000 pregnant and lactating women and 2,700 households.

UNHAS provided humanitarian air support to improve access to vulnerable remote areas, serving 40 destinations and transporting an average of 2,200 passengers per month. About 200 humanitarian organisations benefited from UNHAS services and 43 mt of light cargo was transported and 52 medical evacuations were carried out.

The Special Operation "Food Security Cluster", implemented jointly with FAO, aimed to strengthen the coordination and information management system. The cluster ensured the coordination of rapid food security response to displaced populations and the development of strategic action plans including multi sector assessments, response analysis and Integrated Phase Classification (IPC). Food prices were also monitored on a regular basis. In 2016, nine bulletins were produced and shared with stakeholders across the country. The Food Security Cluster also enabled greater collaboration and partnerships with UN agencies, NGOs, the Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement, donors and other stakeholders to ensure a holistic response with existing mechanisms such as the Rapid Response to Population Movement (RRMP).

With WFP support, the Government, through the Ministry of Agriculture, established a system to collect data on food production (CCSAP/SIG - Cellule technique de Coordination de la Sécurité Alimentaire et Alerte Précoce avec un Système d'Information Géographique). The Government also carried out the Cost of Hunger study with technical support from WFP.

The Special Operation "Logistics Cluster Coordination" contributed to build local capacity and support Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) and Emergency Preparedness efforts to strengthen the Government's overall disaster response skills. The project strengthened coordination and increased humanitarian community responsiveness to the recurrent emergencies. The Logistics Cluster served 148 partners and 94 bulletins and maps were produced and shared with cluster members. Four hundred and fifty people, of whom 54 were women, were trained on geographic information systems (GIS) and information management.

In 2016, WFP scaled up Mobile Vulnerability Analysis Mapping (mVAM) by using mobile phones to collect food price data in support of the national market information system. WFP also provided technical support to the national disaster management system to implement an early warning system. In addition, support was provided to strengthen the national food security coordination cell.

WFP rolled out a new system for Beneficiary Information Management (BIM) using the digital platform SCOPE. SCOPE is WFP's corporate digital platform for beneficiary registration and data management. In 2016, one million beneficiaries were enrolled in this system. This exercise, led by a Change Manager and supported by a surge team, showed that standardising beneficiary information and improving data quality will need to be further streamlined in WFP's processes. WFP is also engaged in building partnership with UNHCR, World Vision and IOM to collaborate and share beneficiary data.

WFP has been selected to pilot gender age marker and training was provided to 144 staff members, including 44 women. Eighty-eight partner staff from NGOs and government bodies were also trained.

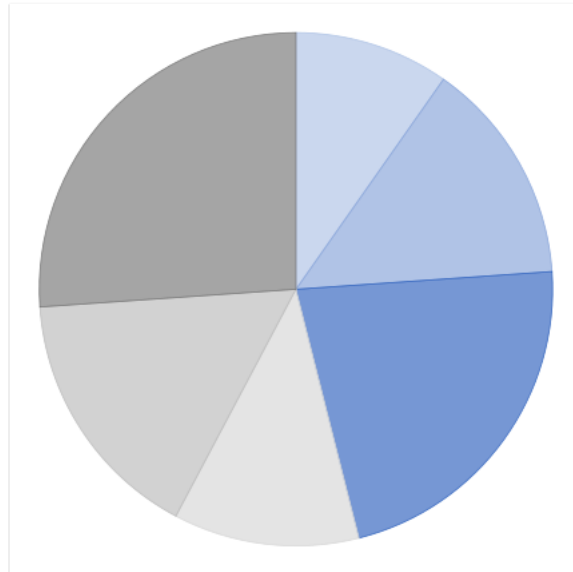


Annual Country Beneficiaries

| Beneficiaries | Male | Female | Total |
|--|----------------|----------------|------------------|
| Children (under 5 years) | 125,267 | 150,320 | 275,587 |
| Children (5-18 years) | 181,842 | 207,543 | 389,385 |
| Adults (18 years plus) | 284,643 | 335,397 | 620,040 |
| Total number of beneficiaries in 2016 | 591,752 | 693,260 | 1,285,012 |

Country Beneficiaries by Gender and Age

- Children (under 5 years)
- Children (5-18 years)
- Adults (18 years plus)
- Children (under 5 years)
- Children (5-18 years)
- Adults (18 years plus)



Annual Food Distribution in Country (mt)

| Project Type | Cereals | Oil | Pulses | Mix | Other | Total |
|---------------------------------------|---------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|------------|---------------|
| Regional EMOP | 934 | 72 | 260 | 66 | 12 | 1,345 |
| Single Country PRRO | 25,752 | 1,983 | 7,361 | 3,302 | 420 | 38,818 |
| Total Food Distributed in 2016 | 26,686 | 2,055 | 7,621 | 3,369 | 432 | 40,163 |



Cash Based Transfer and Commodity Voucher Distribution (USD)

| Project Type | Cash | Value Voucher | Commodity Voucher |
|----------------------------------|------------------|------------------|-------------------|
| Regional EMOP | 4,906,237 | - | 3,057,708 |
| Single Country PRRO | 2,816,641 | 3,159,930 | 1,016,995 |
| Total Distributed in 2016 | 7,722,878 | 3,159,930 | 4,074,704 |

Supply Chain

In 2016, most food commodities were purchased locally in line with the strategy to boost local markets, cut costs and reduce lead times. Regional purchases (from Kenya, Tanzania and Zambia) through WFP's Global Commodity Management Facility (GCMF) covered the gaps that local purchases were not able to fill.

WFP continues to explore the possibility of increasing local purchases as well as expanding the food basket to other locally available commodities, such as palm oil. This would continue to motivate medium and small-scale farmers and develop local agriculture.

The combination of commercial transporters and WFP trucks allowed timely deliveries to beneficiaries. Transport costs remain high as a result of extremely poor road and bridge conditions. In addition, insecurity limited access to some locations. WFP contracted 75 commercial transporters (road, air, river and railway) to supplement 47 WFP trucks to deliver food assistance to beneficiaries.

WFP significantly reduced the level of losses in 2016 to 0.12 percent overall. Losses mainly occurred during transportation and distributions conducted by cooperating partners and in WFP warehouses. The value of transport losses were recovered from transporters' invoices. WFP conducted training on food quality control and focus continues to be put on improving and strengthening warehouse management.

Ensuring food quality is paramount to WFP. Blue boxes, tools for assessing grain quality, were positioned in the field to enhance food quality control.

Food quality training, mostly targeting women, was conducted for smallholder farmers under the purchase for progress (P4P) programme.

Market assessments were a prerequisite prior to cash based transfer interventions to ensure that markets were functioning. The capacity of retailers was also assessed before starting the voucher operation.



Annual Food Purchases for the Country (mt)

| Commodity | Local | Regional/International | Total |
|---------------------------------|--------|------------------------|--------|
| Beans | 3,237 | - | 3,237 |
| Corn Soya Blend | - | 383 | 383 |
| Iodised Salt | - | 286 | 286 |
| Maize | 116 | - | 116 |
| Maize Meal | 16,359 | 378 | 16,737 |
| Ready To Use Supplementary Food | - | 665 | 665 |
| Rice | 337 | 900 | 1,237 |

| Commodity | Local | Regional/International | Total |
|-------------------|---------------|------------------------|---------------|
| Vegetable Oil | - | 18 | 18 |
| Total | 20,049 | 2,630 | 22,679 |
| Percentage | 88.4% | 11.6% | |

Annual Global Commodity Management Facility Purchases Received in Country (mt)

| Commodity | Total |
|---------------------------------|--------------|
| Beans | 100 |
| Corn Soya Blend | 628 |
| High Energy Biscuits | 20 |
| Ready To Use Supplementary Food | 326 |
| Split Peas | 672 |
| Vegetable Oil | 403 |
| Total | 2,149 |

Implementation of Evaluation Recommendations and Lessons Learned

Implementation of Evaluation Recommendations

WFP followed up on evaluation recommendations from the Country Portfolio Evaluation (CPE, 2009-2013), especially regarding recommendation 4: “transition to a country programme to help WFP move away from a purely humanitarian approach towards one that is more development-oriented, adopting a development-oriented approach in nutrition interventions”.

In 2016, WFP started implementing a joint project for stunting reduction and prevention together with UNICEF and FAO. The project aims to improve the nutritional status of children and mothers through a direct nutrition intervention to prevent stunting and this is the first time that WFP engaged in stunting prevention in DRC. Lessons learned from the initial phase of project implementation demonstrated that a multi-sectoral approach is effective in improving the quality of nutrition services in the health sector. The project is an example of strong collaboration between the various ministries including health and agriculture. Active community involvement, coupled with Social Behaviour Change Communication (SBCC) has contributed towards promoting increased use of health services. A cash based transfer (CBT) review mission highlighted some good practices and provided recommendations on Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs). The review determined that cash-based operations are well received by beneficiaries and partners, indicating no major bottlenecks in the delivery of assistance.

Operational Lessons Learned

Due to intensified conflict in some areas, new strategic partnerships with other food security actors enabled rapid large-scale responses. For example, WFP and its partner World Vision teamed up with international NGOs Solidarite Internationale and the Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC) to conduct a door-to-door household registration exercise in less than a week. This was followed by a joint WFP- International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) food intervention. Furthermore, WFP established a system for monitoring population movements following conflict or natural disasters in eastern DRC.

Early in 2016, the Logistics Cluster carried out a Lessons learned exercise and implemented a series of actions to address key recommendations, including recruiting a Regional Officer to strengthen inter-linkages between the capital and the field and revitalize the regional and provincial partners network and pro-actively coordinating bilateral liaison with partners to facilitate the identification and realization of the Logistics Cluster activities.

In December 2016, a cross-functional mission from WFP Headquarters and the Regional Bureau, FITTEST (Fast IT and Telecommunications Emergency Support Team based in Dubai) and the Nairobi Competency Center, helped the country office prepare for a potential rapid cash based transfer (CBT) intervention in urban areas.

Smallholder farmers support in the DRC through the Purchase for Progress (P4P) initiative

Despite the fragile situation in DRC, agriculture remains the main sector of the country's economy, contributing to over 40 percent of the GDP and employing over 70 percent of its population.

In rural areas, nearly 94 percent of the population depend on agriculture and farming activities for their livelihoods. Yet, the sector is predominantly characterised by subsistence, smallholder farming on fragmented parcels of land.

Since 2010, WFP and FAO have worked in collaboration with the Government to support smallholder value chains in DRC through the “Joint smallholder Value Chains Initiative” or “Purchase for Progress (P4P)” programme. The programme aims to improve food security and smallholder farmers' livelihoods by reviving agricultural production and commodity markets.

Through P4P, WFP and FAO have worked with the Ministry of Agriculture technical departments, Cooperative Unions and partners to strengthen smallholder farmers' capacity to produce, store, aggregate, and market commodities. In addition to Tanganyika and Equateur provinces, P4P was extended to include North Kivu in 2016. Around 19,000 households of smallholder farmers (123,000 individuals) were supported in 2016. Nearly 40 percent of whom were women.

Gender oriented activities were implemented, including income diversification supports and functional literacy trainings for women groups, with the aim of enabling women to actively participate in the development of their communities. Strong synergies with the PRRO activities were developed, especially the combination of Food Assistance for Assets (FFA) and Food Assistance for Training (FFT) with P4P activities to develop resilient livelihoods for vulnerable households.

Asset development and rehabilitation was undertaken using the Food Assistance for Asset (FFA) modality (cash/food for work). Less technical work such as basic rehabilitation of feeder roads was generally conducted in partnership with community-based organisations such as farmers' organisations and Local Committees for Road Repair (CLER). Works were undertaken with the supervision of government specialised services, mainly the Inspectorate for Rural Development (IDR).

P4P was instrumental in strengthening the partnership between Rome-Based Agencies (RBA) in the DRC in 2016. Joint activity planning and implementation, field visits and the development of common positions on issues pertaining to food security, the achievement of zero hunger and the SDGs were realised in 2016. In October 2016, WFP and the Government (through the Ministry of Agriculture) signed a Memorandum of Understanding to collaborate on smallholder farmer capacity development.

Project Objectives and Results

Project Objectives

The complexity of the operational context in DRC, including the vastness of the country, poor infrastructure and limited access, required strong coordination among stakeholders to ensure an efficient, appropriate and rapid response to meet the needs of the most vulnerable. The 2015 Humanitarian Response Plan (HRP) estimated that 7.5 million people would be in need of humanitarian assistance in 2016.

The Food Security Cluster (FSC), established by the Inter-Agency Committee in 2005, served as a coordination tool operating at national and provincial levels, with teams in Kinshasa, North Kivu, South Kivu, Orientale, Katanga and Maniema. Co-led by WFP and FAO, the FSC is one of the main platforms in the country for the support of effective humanitarian assistance. The specific objectives of this Special Operation were to:

- Improve the effectiveness of the humanitarian food security interventions;
- Strengthen the capacity of the Government and humanitarian community in the areas of food security; and
- Strengthen operational coordination of the relief and recovery response.

The objectives of this Special Operation are aligned with WFP's Strategic Objective 1: "Save Lives and Protect Livelihoods in Emergencies".

Due to continued needs, WFP extended this Special Operation for 12 months, from July 2016 to July 2017.



Approved Budget for Project Duration (USD)

| Cost Category | |
|---------------------------------|------------------|
| Capacity Dev.t and Augmentation | 3,208,770 |
| Direct Support Costs | 1,548,732 |
| Indirect Support Costs | 333,025 |
| Total | 5,090,527 |

Project Activities

The process of revitalising and improving the coordination of food security interventions continued in 2016. In particular, high participation of food security actors in coordination meetings and dissemination of relevant food security related information allowed for efficient coordination.

In 2016, Memorandums of Understanding (MOU) were signed between the FSC and Government ministries, in particular with the Ministry of Agriculture (June 2016) and the Cell for the Analysis of Development Indicators (CAID, February 2016), a technical service in the Prime Minister's office. The MOUs strengthened collaboration and built government capacity in the areas of food security data collection and analysis. Several food security workshops were held with different stakeholders, including government, focusing on needs assessments, project design, food security analysis and information management.

A workshop in Goma enabled the Ministry of Agriculture to initiate the first national system to monitor food and nutrition security and early warning. Furthermore, trainings provided to CAID staff led to the establishment of a national market monitoring system (mKengela) which produced monthly food price monitoring bulletins.

A successful Integrated Phase Classification (IPC) workshop held in Bukavu was followed by DRC's first chronic (IPC) analysis in March 2016. The analysis found that chronic food insecurity was widespread, affecting all 26 provinces. The analysis estimated that 4.5 million people faced an acute food and livelihood crisis (IPC levels 3 and 4). In 2017, the FSC will continue to strengthen capacity in this area by providing training and strengthen analytical capacity.

The FSC continued to collaborate with the non-food items cluster, led by UNICEF, using the Rapid Response to Population Movement (RRMP) approach, which focuses on rapid assistance to newly-displaced people, regular monitoring of alerts and mapping of food security actors. This collaboration has improved the effectiveness of food security interventions.

Operational Partnerships

WFP and FAO, as co-leads of the FSC, continued to work closely throughout the year. Provincial FSC coordinators were appointed in Goma and Lubumbashi. In Kinshasa, two international NGOs, Caritas Belgique and Première Urgence, co-facilitated the FSC activities, including advocacy and convening inter-cluster meetings. In Goma, the Norwegian Refugee Committee (NRC) appointed a co-facilitator.

The FSC also appointed focal points in Ituri, Maniema, North Ubangi, South Ubangi, Tanganyika and the Kasais provinces. The expanded network allowed the FSC to strengthen monitoring efforts.

The FSC held regular meetings which gathered 65 national and international NGOs. Partners presented their activities and shared lessons learned on food interventions and food security. The FSC furthermore established a strong partnership with 637 farmer associations at provincial and national levels (Equateur, North Kivu and Kabalo).

The FSC was active in planning the national crop assessment. The FSC also collaborated with the National Nutrition Programme (PRONANUT) to initiate discussions on the national food security and nutrition policy.

Furthermore, the FSC worked closely with other clusters, notably the nutrition cluster led by UNICEF. The two clusters harmonised intervention strategies through a revision of their respective guidelines. In addition, with the UNICEF led-RRMP, the FSC developed a joint response to meet the needs of vulnerable people; for instance, the two sectors intervened jointly in North Kivu following a CERF allocation.

Performance Monitoring

Regular teleconferences (every two weeks) were organised with the provincial cluster coordinators to follow up on the implementation of the FSC work plan, which was developed at the beginning of the year. To calculate the national capacity index, the main outcome indicator, the FSC organised a workshop with government and other key actors in December 2016.

The FSC phase-out strategy aimed to build a national food security related-information management system. The system will use mobile technology to improve data collection and dissemination. CAID or the food security coordination cell will serve as institutional anchors for the new national system. Once completed by the end of 2017, the information management system will be used to create a variety of maps and other products.

Results/Outcomes

The FSC achieved a satisfactory performance level according to a survey conducted by the global Food Security Cluster in June 2016. Results showed that the FSC provided a platform which ensured service delivery according to agreed strategic priorities, needs assessments and gap analysis.

In addition, survey results indicated that the FSC had eliminated duplication of service delivery and prioritised according to response analysis. Moreover, the development of sectoral plans, objectives and indicators directly supported the achievement of the Humanitarian Country Team (HCT) strategic priorities. Survey results also showed that guidelines and standards were adhered to, and that advocacy was carried out effectively.

Furthermore, the National Capacity Index (NCI) increased from a score of 1, defined as latent capacity to a score of 2, emerging capacity. The increase indicates that the Government's technical services (including the National Institute of Statistics (INS), the National Nutrition Program (PRONANUT) and CAID) have improved their capacity to address food insecurity and market monitoring needs. The increase of the NCI is a result of improved collaboration between the Government and the FSC.

The FSC worked with national and provincial institutions to strengthen technical and institutional capacity. As a result, CAID and the Ministry of Agriculture were appointed to co-chair FSC meetings and the Ministry of Agriculture to chair the IPC technical committee. Throughout the year, several joint assessments were carried out and joint bulletins disseminated.

The trainings carried out by the FSC were well received and the rate of over-subscription points to an immense capacity gap within government and other institutions.

Figures and Indicators

Data Notes

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Women in Kiwanja, North Kivu, ploughing up the land in a joint effort to fight hunger

Project Indicators

Outcome Indicators

| Outcome | Project End Target | Base Value | Previous Follow-up | Latest Follow-up |
|--|--------------------|------------|--------------------|------------------|
| SO1 Save lives and protect livelihoods in emergencies | | | | |
| National institutions, regional bodies and the humanitarian community are able to prepare for, assess and respond to emergencies | | | | |
| User satisfaction rate | | | | |
| <i>DRC, Project End Target: 2016.12, Capacity analysis/User satisfaction survey, Base value: 2016.06, WFP survey, User satisfaction survey</i> | =100.00 | 75.00 | - | - |
| SO2 Support or restore food security and nutrition and establish or rebuild livelihoods in fragile settings and following emergencies | | | | |
| Project-specific | | | | |
| Number of WFP-supported national food security and other policies, plans, and mechanisms that improve disaster risk management and climate change adaptation | | | | |
| <i>DRC, Project End Target: 2016.07, Secondary data, Base value: 2016.01, Joint survey, Secondary data, Latest Follow-up: 2016.12, Joint survey</i> | =5.00 | 1.00 | - | 2.00 |
| SO3 Reduce risk and enable people, communities and countries to meet their own food and nutrition needs | | | | |
| Risk reduction capacity of countries, communities and institutions strengthened | | | | |
| Percentage increase in government's funding for hunger solution tools in national plans of action (based on local currency) | | | | |
| <i>DRC, Project End Target: 2017.07, Country budget expenditure monitoring, Base value: 2016.01, Secondary data, Latest Follow-up: 2016.12, Secondary data, National budget report</i> | =2.00 | 0.00 | - | 1.00 |

Output Indicators

| Output | Unit | Planned | Actual | % Actual vs. Planned |
|--|--------|---------|--------|----------------------|
| SO1: Special Operation (Cluster) | | | | |
| Number of people trained in data collection | person | 50 | 57 | 114.0% |
| SO2: Special Operation (Cluster) | | | | |
| Number of food security and nutrition monitoring reports produced with WFP support | report | 5 | 4 | 80.0% |

| Output | Unit | Planned | Actual | % Actual vs. Planned |
|---|----------|---------|--------|----------------------|
| Number of technical support activities provided on food security monitoring and food assistance, by type (technical workshops, meetings at national and sub-national level) | activity | 15 | 14 | 93.3% |

Partnership Indicators

| Cross-cutting Indicators | Project End Target | Latest Follow-up |
|--|--------------------|------------------|
| Number of partner organizations that provide complementary inputs and services | | |
| <i>CONGO, DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF, Special Operation (Cluster), Project End Target: 2016.12</i> | =65.00 | - |