



World Food Programme

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Democratic Republic of Congo

Emergency Situation Report #4

7 February 2018

In numbers

41.7m food insecure people in DRC

7.7m severely food insecure

3.2m severely food insecure in Kasai region

USD 134.2m WFP DRC unmet funding needs through July

Highlights

- WFP reached 389,000 people in Kasai with General Food Distribution (GFD) half-rations in December, up from 225,000 in November. By contrast, only 130,000 people were reached in January, mainly due to the late arrival of donor contributions as well as insecurity.
- 114 tonnes of Plumpy'Sup were airlifted from France in January to bolster malnutrition treatment and prevention in Kasai.
- The DRC Humanitarian Response Plan for 2018, launched by aid agencies on 18 January, seeks USD 1.68bn to support 13 million people – USD 580 million of it for food security.

Situation Update

- **Kasai Region:** An upsurge in fighting since late December between pro- and anti-government forces in Kasai and Kasai Central provinces limited WFP's access and hampered food distributions.
- **Kivu Region:** Clashes occurred between armed groups and the Forces Armées de la République Démocratique du Congo (FARDC) in Rutshuru and Lubero territories in North Kivu, precipitating further displacement. Population movements also occurred in Fizi territory, South Kivu, where many live in fear of militia attacks.
- **Tanganyika Province:** A December Emergency Food Security Assessment (EFSA) revealed that 1.4 million people (42 percent of the province's population) are severely food insecure.
- Clashes between rebel groups in Tanganyika and Haut Katanga provinces continued to push refugees into Zambia, the total number now exceeding 13,500.

WFP Response

- **Kasai Region:** Having succeeded in doubling the number of people receiving GFD rations each month since September, a combination of inadequate resources, insecurity and poor road conditions caused a significant drop in the reach of WFP and its partners in January. The provision of half rations, initiated in November, continued.
- Airlifts from France in late January of Plumpy'Sup, a ready to use supplementary food (RUSF) has enabled increased treatment of moderate acute malnutrition and prevention of severe acute malnutrition.

- **Eastern DRC:** Needs have risen sharply in North Kivu and Ituri, where insecurity and funding shortfalls are forcing WFP to suspend operations. In South Kivu, food assistance programmes are likewise threatened by limited resources.



Food and Nutrition Assistance

- **Kasai Region:** In December, WFP and its partners (World Vision and VIFEDE in Kasai Central and Christian Aid, OXFAM and ADRA in Kasai) provided food assistance to 389,000 conflict-affected people in the form of GFD rations. In January, 133,261 were reached with half-rations.
- In December, in Kasai and Kasai Central provinces, respectively 7,060 and 9,150 children aged 6-23 months received PlumpyDoz under the prevention of acute malnutrition component. Some 540 children aged 6-59 months were given Plumpy'Sup for treatment of moderate acute malnutrition in Kasai province.
- Under a blanket supplementary feeding programme, 7,840 pregnant and lactating women (PLW) received targeted food rations in December.
- Preparations for the Cash-Based Transfer (CBT) operation in Kasai Central were completed. Additional security precautions were also put in place. Some 28,000 people were registered to receive cash. WFP plans to reach 150,000 people with CBT by April, which will help ease pressure on its food supply chain.

- **Eastern DRC:** In December, WFP assisted 564,200¹ conflict affected people, including IDPs, refugees and returnees.

- **CAR Refugees:** In December, in collaboration with UNHCR, WFP provided food assistance via CBT to more than 20,000 recently-arrived refugees and over 6,000 host families in four villages in North Ubangi province. WFP provided cash assistance to 59,000 existing CAR refugees in four camps in North and South Ubangi provinces.

Supply Chain

- With the already poor road conditions in the Kasai region progressively deteriorating during the ongoing rainy season, the movement of food has slowed further, increasing the need for remedial action. A now impassable bridge near Kananga on the road from Lubumbashi has added 400 km to the 1,225 km journey.
- With the lead-time for the delivery of internationally purchased food now at least 6-8 weeks, commodities have been procured in-country for January distributions: 1,000 mt of rice in Kinshasa, dispatched to Tshikapa, and 2,000 mt of maize flour in Lubumbashi, for Kananga.

Clusters and Common Services

Food Security Cluster

- The Cluster carried out a rapid assessment around Kananga town and identified more than 15,000 IDPs who had not been assisted since the beginning of the crisis.
- The Cluster participated in a multi-sectoral assessment in Dekese, Kasai Central province, which found that more than 2,000 households needed to be assisted with agricultural inputs.

Emergency Telecommunications Cluster

- Assessment missions were conducted in Kananga and Mbuyi Mayi to evaluate local capacities for internet communications and gauge the effectiveness of radio systems put in place prior to the activation of the ETC under the IASC L3 Emergency designation for Kasai, Tanganyika and South Kivu.

Logistics Cluster

- More than 180 persons were trained in 2017 on data collection to improve humanitarian access mapping. A survey carried out in December revealed that 87 percent of the 186 partners were satisfied with the Cluster's services.
- Assessments to identify logistics gaps are planned in Tanganyika and South Kivu provinces.
- The cluster's operation in Kasai is due to end in March, but partners have requested the continuation of storage and transport services.

UN Humanitarian Air Service

- A revision of the UNHAS weekly schedule has provided more capacity to support the Kasai crisis since the beginning of the year.
- UNHAS supported the airlift of PlumpyNut from Kananga to Tshikapa by helicopter.
- The UNHAS helicopter continues to support access to locations where airstrips have not been maintained - Luiza, Mweka, Kamako, Luebo - and other remote destinations.
- Fuel supply in the Kasai region remains a challenge. Close coordination with MONUSCO and commercial fuel suppliers have ensured non-interruption of UNHAS flights.

Resourcing Update

- The scale-up in Kasai, Tanganyika and South Kivu requires additional resources. WFP's operations outside the system-wide Level 3 Emergency are also facing serious funding shortfalls. Overall, WFP DRC has unmet funding needs of USD 134.2m through July.

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¹ Figures may be subject to revision upon final reconciliation.