



WFP Democratic Republic of Congo Country Brief

Highlights

- Kasai crisis: 223,800 beneficiaries were assisted in November, exceeding the planned total of 200,000 beneficiaries for the month.
- While WFP plans to feed almost half a million people in December, so depleted are the agency's coffers that only half-rations can be distributed with the cash quickly running out.
- WFP and UNHCR started a joint assessment in the four existing sites in South and North Ubangi to define criteria for a targeted food assistance approach. The approach aims to develop livelihood activities outside the sites (as part of a sustainable solutions for refugees) and free limited resources to assist new refugees in other areas of the ex-Equateur region.

WFP Assistance

| | Total Requirements (in USD) | Total Received (in USD) | 6 Month Net Funding Requirements (in USD)* |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------|-------------------------|--------------------------------------------|
| Targeted Food Assistance to Victims of Armed Conflicts and Other Vulnerable Groups | | | |
| PRRO 200832 (Jan 2016 – Dec 2017) | 243 m | 159 m | 22 m |
| Critical support to populations affected by the ongoing crisis in Central African Republic and its regional impact | | | |
| Regional EMOP 200799 (Jan – Dec 2017) | 17.3 m | 11.5 m | N/A |
| Provision of Humanitarian Air Services in DRC (UNHAS) | | | |
| SO 201016 (Jan – Dec 2017) | 28.6 m | 25.6 m | N/A |
| Logistics Cluster Coordination and Information Management in the Democratic Republic of Congo | | | |
| SO 201075 (Jul – Dec 2017) | N/A | N/A | N/A |
| Food Assistance to Conflict-Affected Populations in the Kasai Region | | | |
| EMOP 201092 (Sep – Dec 2017) | N/A | N/A | 80 m |

*Dec 2017-May 2018

GENDER MARKER 2A  PRRO 200832

200832: This Protracted Relief and Recovery Operation (PRRO) aims to assist 3.2 million people by providing life-saving food assistance to Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) and refugees in crisis-affected areas; contribute to reducing the prevalence of acute malnutrition through nutrition support and treatment for children aged 6-59 months and to pregnant and nursing women; facilitate rehabilitation and reconstruction of destroyed assets, including feeder roads, markets, productive and social infrastructure; increase the resilience of severely food insecure communities to shocks; and enhance national capacity to respond to disasters.

200799: This Emergency Operation (EMOP) assists 70,000 refugees from the Central African Republic (C.A.R.) residing in DRC.

Main Photo Credit: WFP/Jacques David
Caption: Food distribution at the outskirts of Kananga

201016: The UN Humanitarian Air Service (UNHAS) provides reliable links between Kinshasa and the eastern provinces, as well as access to other locations, including the ex-Equateur Province. In response to the enormous needs of displaced populations in the Kasai region, UNHAS has significantly expanded its air services in the region.

201075: This Special Operation (SO) aims to provide logistics support to the humanitarian community through the Logistics Cluster activities and services under WFP's leadership. The Logistics Cluster facilitates road transport for the humanitarian community as well as storage facilities to humanitarian partners responding to the plight of IDPs in the Kasais.

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; 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).

201092: This Emergency Operation will assist 1.2 million conflict-affected people in the Kasai and Kasai Central provinces.

In Numbers

4.1 m people displaced including 1.7 million in 2017

7.7 m people in food insecurity and livelihood crisis (15th IPC); **1.9** million severely malnourished children

526,000 refugees



November 2017

Operational Updates

- **WFP interventions in the Kasais**

WFP has been working against the clock to help ever more people. The number of desperately hungry people reached with food assistance in the conflict-ravaged greater Kasai doubled in both October and November, but insufficient donations is jeopardizing this effort, with a risk to transform an acute emergency into a long-term disaster, hence putting many lives at risk, especially women and children. Hunger not only puts lives at risk; it may force the most vulnerable people into prostitution, increases the risk of sexual violence and leads to extreme coping mechanisms.

A multi-sectoral assessment for cash-based transfers (CBT) was completed on 15th November. While the provision of CBT was initially planned to commence in December 2017, results from the multi-sectoral assessment recommend CBT interventions to begin in January 2018 to ensure local availability of commodities for purchase. In addition, the assessment indicates that market conditions are suitable for the provision of CBT in Kasai Central, while in-kind food is recommended in Kasai province due to insufficient local production and restrictions in market access. WFP will use the results to develop a revised timescale for implementation of CBT. WFP's overall plan is to eventually reach 150,000 beneficiaries with CBT as early as possible in 2018.

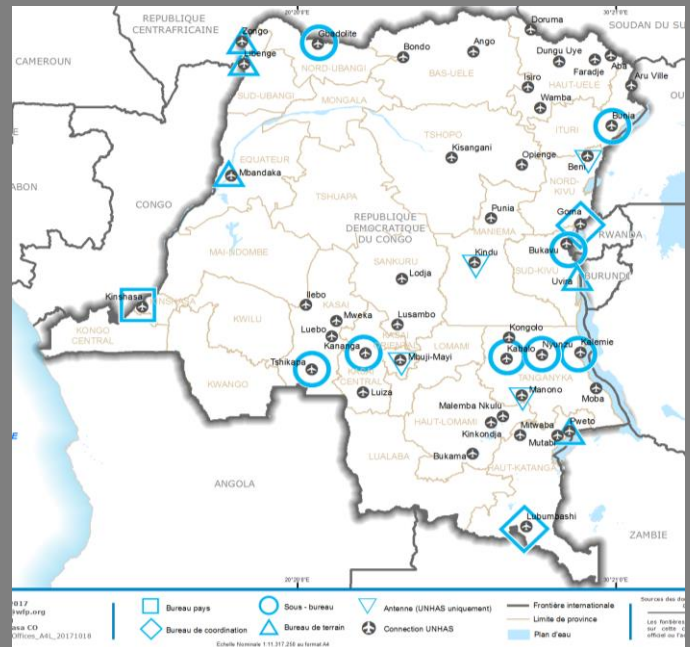
The Country Office, supported by the Regional Bureau, has finalised its nutrition strategy and planning figures. WFP has now signed Field Level Agreements (FLAs) with its selected implementing partners – CARITAS (Kasai Central), ADRA (Kasai) and CONOPRO (Kasai Oriental). Since then, WFP has commenced training sessions for partners; registration for nutrition beneficiaries remains ongoing through active screening at community level, and the distribution of nutritional products has begun.

- **Purchase for Progress (P4P):**

Steven Were Omamo, Deputy Director Programme and Policy Division from HQ visited Goma and the P4P project in Rutshuru Territory on Saturday, 25 November, and met project participants and partners. The mission recommended that (1) agro industrial parks be inclusive and integrate pro-smallholder elements; and (2) smallholder-focused approaches such as P4P/Food for Assets should be scaled up to boost resilience through asset creation and rehabilitation.

- **Challenges:** In the Kasai region, the rainy season and the significant humanitarian transport worsen conditions on already poor roads. In addition, while the overall security situation remains relatively stable, the threat of violence – including at distributions sites – persists. Trucking capacity remains a critical issue, with additional trucking capacity from Kampala and Accra only arriving in the Kasais as of early-mid December. In North and South Kivu, Tanganyika and Ituri provinces, insecurity due to armed and ethnic conflicts, kidnapping and limited humanitarian access to hamper humanitarian operations.

Country Background & Strategy



The Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) is Africa's second largest country. Due to its rich and fertile soil, agriculture is the primary rural economic activity. However, the nation has a food production deficit estimated at 30-40 percent. Seventy percent of the population lives below the poverty line and lacks access to adequate food.

As part of the global WFP Integrated Road Map (IRM) process, WFP DRC will start the implementation of the Interim-Country Strategy Plan (I-CSP) in January 2018. The I-CSP was recently approved at the WFP Executive Board Session in November and will maintain the current portfolio of activities in the country under a results-based framework for a period of three years (2018-2020). During this period, WFP will continue implementing its activities currently under (i) the Protracted Relief and Recovery Operation (PRRO 200832) - focusing on addressing the acute needs of conflict affected populations in eastern DRC (including the Burundian refugees in South Kivu and the South Sudanese refugees in Ituri and Haut-Uele provinces) – (2) the Regional Emergency Operation (EMOP 200799) which addresses the needs of refugees from C.A.R. in ex-Equateur Province in the West.

In 2018, WFP will also continue to scale-up its relief interventions in the Kasai (currently under the EMOP 201092) and in the other system-wide L3 areas, Tanganyika and South Kivu. Overall, WFP's activities aim to achieve the following objectives: relief assistance to IDPs, returnees and refugees using the most efficient and effective combination of means of assistance (cash-based transfers and food distributions); refocused school feeding in emergency and transitional contexts, treatment of moderate acute malnutrition (MAM) in priority areas, prevention of acute malnutrition in areas where Global Acute Malnutrition (GAM) exceeds 15 percent and support to people returning to areas of origin through food assistance for assets interventions.

WFP has been present in the DRC since 1973.

Population: **74 million**

2015 Human Development Index: **176 out of 188**

Income Level: **Low-income country**

Chronic malnutrition: **43% of children between 6-59 months**

Donors

USA, Canada, UN Common Fund, Japan, UN CERF, European Commission, DFID, Switzerland, France, Sweden, Germany.

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