



World Food Programme

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## WFP

### Democratic Republic of Congo

### Emergency Situation Report #11

21 February 2019

## In numbers

**13.1 million** food insecure people

**4.9 million** children acutely malnourished

**5.2 million** people assisted in 2018

**5.1 million** people targeted in 2019

## Highlights

- Between January and December 2018, WFP reached 5.2 million people, over 95 percent of the 5.4 million people targeted for food and nutrition assistance in 2018.
- The Ebola outbreak has so far claimed more than 500 lives in North Kivu and Ituri provinces. WFP is providing food and nutrition assistance and supporting the overall response with logistics, aviation, and information and communications technology.

### People assisted Emergency Response

December: 1,022,741



### People assisted Ebola Response

166,200 by mid-February

## Situation Update

- In 2019, the humanitarian landscape in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) remains challenging, with 13.1 million food insecure people and 4.9 million children under five suffering from moderate and severe acute malnutrition. The Ebola epidemic continues to evolve, with a significant increase in the number of cases reported this year. Congolese nationals expelled from Angola continue to return to DRC, albeit in fewer numbers, and an ethnic conflict in December in Yumbi territory in Mai-Ndombe province led to the killing of hundreds of people and the displacement of thousands.
- **Political developments:** On 20 December 2018, DRC's National Electoral Commission (CENI) announced the postponement of the elections in Beni, Butembo and Yumbi to March 2019. This decision, affecting approximately 1.2 million people, was ostensibly a result of insecurity and the Ebola crisis in these areas. The rest of the country voted on 30 December. Voting was generally peaceful, despite irregularities and delays. On 24 January, Felix Tshisekedi was inaugurated as the fifth president of DRC. The situation throughout the country remains calm.

- The post-electoral situation, however, significantly affected WFP's operations in January. As a risk mitigation measure following the elections, activities only resumed on 15 January, with food being delivered late in the month. Operations were further hampered by lack of capacity, as most cooperating partners were not active in the field, due to security concerns.
- **Ebola:** The Ebola virus epidemic in North Kivu and Ituri has entered its seventh month since it was declared on 1 August 2018. As of 15 February, a total of 830 cases have been reported, with more than 500 lives lost. The outbreak continues to evolve in a particularly complex and challenging environment, characterized by insecurity and a highly mobile population. These factors complicate the implementation of key response activities. While contact tracing is ongoing, the high number of new cases unrelated to known Ebola patients or contacts remains a major concern.
- **Insecurity:** In North Kivu, CENI's announcement to postpone the elections in Beni and Butembo led to violent protests, severely hampering Ebola operations in late December and early January.
- **Congolese returnees from Angola:** Following an expulsion order by the Government of Angola, more than 402,000 Congolese nationals returned to DRC between early October 2018 and end January 2019, mostly to Kasai, Kasai Central, Kwango, Kongo Central and Lualaba provinces. Although the flow has diminished since November, an average of 600 people a day continue to cross the border. At least 141,000 people have returned to their areas of origin, mainly in Kasai province, while about 21,500 others are in transit to final destinations.

Photo: WFP/ Claude Kalinga

IDPs enjoying a meal prepared using food assistance in Tanganyika province

## WFP Response

- In 2018 WFP significantly expanded its operations, reaching a record 5.2 million people, a twofold increase from 2017. In 2019, WFP continues its corporate emergency response interventions, with the aim of assisting 5.1 million people with general food assistance (in-kind and cash transfers) and nutrition programmes (treatment and prevention of moderate acute malnutrition). From January to June, WFP plans to provide over USD 49 million in cash transfers and over 80,000 mt in food commodities.



### Food, Cash based and Nutrition Assistance

#### Food assistance:

- In 2018, WFP provided some 3.7 million beneficiaries with in-kind food through its emergency operations in Ituri, Tanganyika, Kasai, Kasai Central and North and South Kivu provinces. In December, as a preparedness measure in light of the upcoming elections, WFP ended food distributions mid-month. Despite this, WFP reached some 460,000 people. Similarly, following the elections, January distributions only fully resumed mid-month and some 188,000 beneficiaries were reached.

#### Cash-based assistance:

- Given the logistical hurdles and costs associated with transporting food in DRC, cash programmes enable WFP to extend geographical coverage and respond rapidly, stimulating trade and local economies. In 2018, WFP increased its cash-based interventions significantly, with a transfer value of over USD 44 million to approximately 890,000 beneficiaries. In December, WFP reached some 380,000 beneficiaries. To ensure quality design and adequate internal controls, WFP introduced the digital and biometric registration of beneficiaries via SCOPE - WFP's beneficiary and transfer management system - during the last quarter of 2018, which reduces the risk of identity duplication and ghost beneficiaries. All DRC beneficiaries receiving cash-based assistance will be enrolled in SCOPE by the end of 2019.

#### Nutrition assistance:

- WFP provides treatment for moderate acute malnutrition and seeks to prevent malnutrition in children and pregnant and nursing women. In 2018, WFP reached some 577,000 pregnant and nursing women and children with malnutrition treatment and prevention assistance. In 2019, WFP continues to scale-up its nutrition interventions with a view to reaching 1.5 million beneficiaries by the end of the year. WFP is strengthening collaboration with key partners, notably UNICEF. It is also adopting a nutrition-sensitive approach to cash assistance in Tanganyika and Kasai Central, to enhance the scale and effectiveness of nutrition-specific

interventions and contribute to optimal maternal and child nutrition.

#### Pipeline situation:

- The in-kind food pipeline situation is relatively well funded until mid-2019. However, shortfalls persist for cash-based transfers, especially for the North Kivu, South Kivu, Haut Katanga and Equateur provinces, as the majority of contributions are earmarked for Ituri, the Kasais and Tanganyika. In a country where the number of people displaced by conflict continues to grow, funding shortfalls, will continue to have adverse effects on the food security situation of millions of displaced individuals.
- For malnutrition treatment activities, although WFP expects to start having significant shortfalls in the second quarter of 2019, due to the staggered arrival of commodities, there will continue to be some shortfalls in the coming months. Failure to provide food assistance for the treatment of moderate acute malnutrition will result in increased rates of morbidity and mortality especially amongst children.
- As for malnutrition prevention activities, following the government's decision to stop the use of Plumpy Sup and resume the use of Plumpy Doz, WFP will not be able to reach the targeted number of children within this activity, as there is no Plumpy Doz in the pipeline. Resources therefore need to be secured to procure Plumpy Doz. WFP's assistance requires approximately 400 mt of Plumpy Doz a month, valued at USD 2 million. Persistent shortfalls will advance morbidity and mortality due to malnutrition.

#### Resilience and safety nets:

- WFP intends to expand resilience activities through collaboration with FAO, UNICEF and other United Nations agencies in support of smallholder farmers (Purchase for Progress) and conditional food and cash transfers (asset creation and income generating activities). WFP currently has resilience projects in North Kivu (Rutshuru), South Kivu (Kalehe) and Tanganyika (Nyunzu and Kabalo). The geographical priority areas for expanding resilience activities are South and North Ubangi and the Kasai region. These resilience activities remain crucial to stabilisation, and WFP continues to seek development and peace dividends from humanitarian investments.

#### WFP's response to Congolese returnees from Angola

- The purpose of WFP's intervention is to provide humanitarian assistance to the most vulnerable among the returnees and prepare the ground for long-term recovery and resilience-building. WFP is therefore using a combination of food and cash-based assistance to respond to needs in Kasai and Kasai Central. In Kasai, WFP has so far reached more than 30,000 returnees with in-kind food and more than 25,000 with cash assistance. In Kasai

Central, WFP has assisted some 47,000 returnees with in-kind food and over 28,000 with cash.



### Supply Chain

- WFP is currently well stocked with 21,000 metric tons of stocks in-country, 8,200 metric tons in transit and 13,900 metric tons outside DRC. These stocks are sufficient to cover WFP's in-kind assistance until May and WFP's malnutrition treatment and malnutrition prevention activities until April and March, respectively.
- WFP continues to provide logistical services to approximately 30 partners. As part of the latest Ebola Strategic Response Plan (SRP 3), WHO has requested WFP to deliver and distribute personal protection equipment and other EVD response items in support of the Ebola response.

## Clusters and Common Services



### Food Security Cluster

- Clashes between Banunu and Batende ethnic groups in Yumbi territory, Mai-Ndombe province, between 16 and 18 December led to the deaths of at least 530 people. Most of the population within Yumbi has been displaced and many houses and buildings burnt or pillaged. WFP and other humanitarian agencies, through the Food Security Cluster, embarked on two inter-agency assessments to determine the most pressing needs of those affected by the clashes. WFP provided nutritional paste, Plumpy Sup and Super Cereal for distribution.



### Logistics Cluster

- The Logistics Cluster continues to advocate for better humanitarian access to isolated and hard-to-reach communities. In December and January, significant funds were allocated to improve access to Congolese nationals returning from Angola, through the rehabilitation of roads and ferries.
- The Cluster also produced and shared access and logistical planning maps that helped humanitarian partners proactively and effectively respond to the Yumbi, crisis as well as to the mass return of Congolese nationals from Angola. A dedicated section for these maps has been created on the DRC Logistics Cluster website, available [here](#).



### UN Humanitarian Air Service (UNHAS)

- In response to the Ebola crisis, UNHAS continues to provide enhanced air transport services for light cargo and passengers. As of February, UNHAS had transported over 8,000 passengers and 128 metric tons of cargo. A dedicated helicopter transports biological samples from suspected Ebola patients and a second helicopter is now based in Butembo to provide additional support to the Ebola response there.
- In 2019, UNHAS aims to continue improving services to the humanitarian community, ensuring a response to emergency-related requests within 24 hours.

## Resourcing Update

- Funding available in 2018 totalled USD 436 million, almost triple the amount received in 2017. The total amount of funding required by WFP for 2019 is 453 million. The unmet need for March to August 2019 stands at USD 128 million, 50 percent of the overall USD 255 million requirement. From March to June, WFP requires an average of USD 47 million per month to resource its emergency operations. From July onwards, WFP requires an average of USD 28 million.
- For the Ebola response, WFP requires USD 20 million through end-July under SRP 3 to provide food assistance, UNHAS services, camp accommodation and delivery and distribution of services to the wider humanitarian community.

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