



WFP Democratic Republic of Congo Situation Report #6

15 May 2018

Highlights

- WFP supports the government and the wider humanitarian community as Ebola outbreak is declared.
- The shift to cash-based assistance continued in the Kasais. One out of four beneficiaries received cash instead of food in April.
- A 13 April conference in Geneva saw donors pledge USD 528 million for humanitarian assistance in DRC.
- Seasonal rainfall continued until the end of April, causing severe road deterioration and delayed food transportation.

In Numbers

7.7 million people in need of food assistance

4.6 million mothers and children in need of nutrition assistance

2.2 million children suffering from severe acute malnutrition

People assisted:



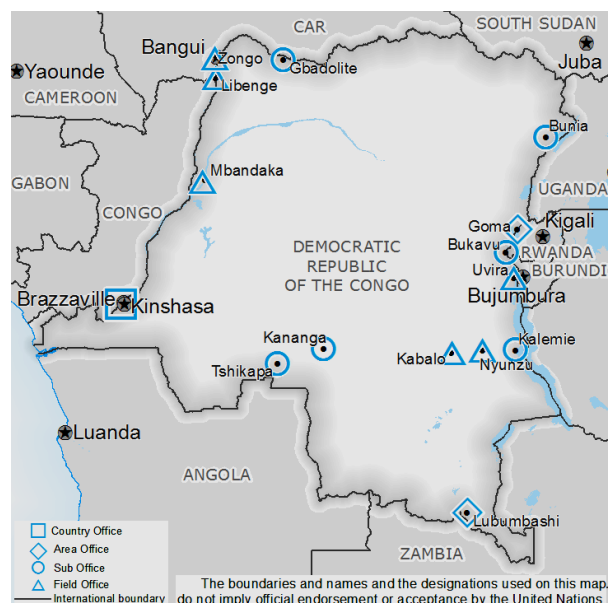
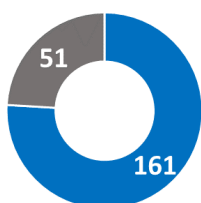
March: 1.02 million

April: 0.88 million

WFP 6-Month Net Funding

Requirements (May–Oct) in million USD

■ Funding required ■ Funding available



Situation Update

- On 08 May, the government declared an Ebola outbreak in the Équateur Province, after two patients with haemorrhagic fever from the town of Bikoro tested positive for the Ebola virus. The risk of it spreading is higher than during previous outbreaks due to the area's proximity of the Congo river and to Mbandaka, a city with one million inhabitants.
- Some progress towards holding national elections and fewer marches organised by CLC, a Catholic protest movement, contributed to somewhat reduced political tensions. A major opposition party succeeded in campaigning peacefully in the capital in April.
- The rainy season was more severe and lasted longer than usual in the south of the country. The dry season started in May which should improve access and food transportation to remote areas in the coming weeks.
- **Ituri:** After a relatively peaceful decade, an old conflict between the Hema and Lendu ethnic groups flared up again this year and, by March, had forced several hundred thousand people to leave their homes. Some 61,000 Congolese crossed Lake Albert to reach Ugandan refugee camps. With increased MONUSCO and national army presence in Djugu, a conflict hotspot, the security situation started improving.
- **Kasais:** Relative stability, albeit fragile, allowed for the reopening of the Angolan border. Nonetheless, inter-ethnic tension and violence raise protection concerns, especially in Kamonia and Mweka territories. Food assistance will be required for months to come due to missed harvests and destroyed food stocks. The prevalence of children suffering from acute malnutrition is particularly alarming.
- **Tanganyika:** The intercommunal conflict between Twa and Luba in Nyunzu, Manono and Kabalo territories has displaced more than half a million people. During the last few weeks, new waves of displaced people were registered in Kalemie, the provincial capital.

WFP Response

- Country-wide, WFP reached some 1 million people in March and close to 880,000 in April via a range of activities, including food and cash distributions, malnutrition treatment and prevention, and school feeding activities. This included assistance to more than 100,000 refugees in the country.
- In response to the Ebola outbreak, WFP is assisting the government and international actors through the provision of logistics services.



Food and Nutrition Assistance

- **Eastern provinces:** In the east of DRC, food or cash was distributed to more than 300,000 people.
- In Ituri, WFP distributed food and cash to 140,000 newly internally displaced people and South Sudanese refugees. The monthly cash ration was reduced from USD 16 to USD 13 per person due to resource constraints.
- In North Kivu's Masisi territory, WFP coordinated distributions with UNICEF. UNICEF's provision of non-food items to recently displaced people was complemented by a first round of WFP food assistance to the same beneficiaries.
- In South Kivu, monthly food markets, using electronic vouchers, reach over 30,000 Burundian refugees in the Lusenda and Mulongwe camps. Due to resource constraints, the ration was reduced from USD 15 to USD 12 per person as of March.
- In Tanganyika, food, nutrition and cash-based assistance was provided in Kalemie and in more remote areas. Some 63,000 IDPs were reached with cash in March, this form of assistance will be scaled up in territories where markets can be accessed and where the security situation allows, such as Manono and Kongolo.
- **Kasais:** More than half a million beneficiaries per month are assisted in the greater Kasai region. General food distributions are being progressively replaced by cash-based assistance, most recently in Mwetshi in northern Kasai-Central. An expansion into Kasai's Mweka territory, planned for April, had to be postponed due to protection concerns.
- Thus far, WFP has reached 97,000 beneficiaries with nutrition assistance in the region. Of these, more than 30,000 children aged 6-59 months have been treated for moderate acute malnutrition. However, there is a need to further strengthen nutrition activities. It is estimated that over 490,000 children and pregnant and breastfeeding women are in need of treatment for moderate acute malnutrition in the greater Kasai region.



Supply Chain

- The rainy season worsened road conditions considerably, causing significant delays in food deliveries to regional warehouses. In addition to general slow movement, in some areas trucks had to deviate to longer, alternative routes.
- Since January, WFP has sourced close to 18,000 tons of food in local markets. Items include maize flour originating from the provinces surrounding Kinshasa and beans cultivated around Goma.



Resourcing Update

- On 13 April in Geneva, a high-level pledging conference for DRC, hosted by OCHA, the EU and the Netherlands, resulted in 22 donors pledging USD 528 million for humanitarian assistance.
- The following donors have supported WFP operations: Belgium, Canada, EU, Finland, France, Germany, Ireland, Japan, Norway, Republic of Korea, Russian Federation, Sweden, Switzerland, UK, USA.

Clusters and Common Services



Food Security Cluster

- A food security and market assessment, focussing on the Kasais, South Kivu and Tanganyika, was launched jointly with FAO, FEWSNET and CAID.



Logistics Cluster

- The cluster coordinator was deployed to Mbandaka to support the Ebola response by the government and international actors.
- Trainings in geospatial data collection and processing were provided to more than a dozen NGOs in Kalemie, the provincial capital of Tanganyika.



UN Humanitarian Air Service

- The helicopter based in Goma was deployed to Mbandaka to respond to the Ebola outbreak. Several rotations to Bikoro were undertaken, including passenger and cargo flights.
- The helicopter based in Kananga, used to access remote areas in the Kasais, had to be discharged mid-March due to a lack of funding.

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