



World Food Programme

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## WFP

### Democratic Republic of Congo

### Emergency Situation Report #18

30 April 2020

#### In numbers

**15.6 million** food insecure people and **3.4 million** children acutely malnourished

**6.9 million** reached in 2019

**7.6 million** people targeted in 2020

**1.3 million** people reached in the first quarter of 2020

#### Highlights

- In 2020, WFP continues its corporate Level 3 emergency response, planning to reach 7.6 million people with food and nutrition assistance. An estimated 1.3 million people have been reached in the first quarter of 2020.
- With 15.6 million food insecure people in 109 territories in DRC, WFP's emergency response has been extended for another six months until October 2020, to stem a further deterioration of the humanitarian situation.

#### People assisted Emergency Response

March: 948,000



#### People assisted Ebola Response

Since August 2018: 920,000

#### Situation Update

- In 2020, DRC remains the world's second largest food crisis for a second year. Successive waves of violence, mass displacements and poor harvests have resulted in a protracted humanitarian crisis within DRC. With 15.6 million people experiencing acute food insecurity in 109 territories, WFP and its partners significantly expanded operations in 2019, reaching a record 6.9 million people. In 2020, WFP is targeting 7.6 million people and has reached an estimated 1.3 million people in the first quarter of the year.
- Conflict and internal displacement remain a primary trigger for food insecurity. In North Kivu, an ongoing offensive by the Congolese Armed Forces against armed groups has led to the displacement of over 52,000 people in Beni and Masisi. In Tanganyika province, conflict between the Twa and Bantu ethnic groups has led to the suspension of WFP activities in Nyunzu. Similarly, in Ituri, violent attacks by armed groups continues to lead to the displacement of people in Djugu, Mahagi and Mambasa. WFP is providing food assistance for the newly displaced and is prepositioning food to meet increased needs

- Within this context, WFP continues its corporate Level 3 emergency response covering the most populous and conflict-affected provinces in eastern DRC, Tanganyika, Haut Katanga and the Greater Kasai region.

**Ebola:** The DRC Government was due to declare the end of the epidemic on 12 April. However, after more than seven weeks without a new case, at least seven new cases of Ebola have been reported in Beni since 10 April. Contact tracing is underway, however, community resistance and persistent threats against response teams in some areas, are preventing full access to all contacts. Since the beginning of the outbreak in August 2018, the outbreak has infected over 3,400 people and claimed over 2,200 lives in North Kivu, South Kivu and Ituri provinces. This makes it the worst outbreak in DRC's history and the second largest and deadliest outbreak globally.

#### Population movement

- **Closure of IDP sites:** In pursuit of its zero internally displaced persons (IDP) policy, the government resumed its closure of IDP sites in Tanganyika province in March. Three IDPs sites (Kambomba TSF, Kamkomba Office and Kaseke) hosting almost 5,400 households will be closed. WFP is providing IDPs in transit with a one-week ration of high energy biscuits. Additional food assistance will be provided to IDPs once they return to their villages of origin. WFP will also develop joint assistance programmes with other UN agencies, including FAO, UNICEF and UNFPA.

Photo: WFP/Benjamin Anguandia

A woman in North Kivu washing her hands in preparation to receive WFP food assistance.

- **Congolese refugees from Angola:** Since mid-August 2019, an estimated 15,000 Congolese refugees residing in Angola have returned to DRC, following an improvement in the security situation in the Kasai regions. Repatriations have been interrupted intermittently since early this year due to poor road conditions exacerbated by the rainy season. WFP in collaboration with UNHCR is providing returnees with cash assistance in Kasai Central and Kasai provinces.

## WFP Response

- Despite significant access and logistical challenges, WFP provided food and nutrition assistance to a record 6.9 million people in 2019. In 2020, WFP has further scaled up its activities and aims to reach 7.6 million people by the end of the year. Sustained financial support is needed to ensure that WFP can effectively respond to the most urgent humanitarian needs.

### WFP's strategic shift towards resilience

- Resilience building activities have been scaled up in 2020, targeting 630,000 people. WFP, FAO and UNICEF launched their new resilience building programme in newly targeted areas in North and South Kivu provinces. The four-year programme (2020 – 2023) aims to strengthen the livelihoods of over 180,000 people living in rural areas.
- To make refugees more self-reliant, WFP, FAO and UNHCR are gradually shifting towards livelihood and agricultural support activities outside the refugee camps, as part of a corporate joint UNHCR-WFP strategy to enhance the self-reliance of refugees in protracted situations. Small-scale livelihood activities that promote community stabilization and refugee self-reliance are already implemented for refugees from the Central African Republic and host communities in North and South Ubangi provinces. Plans are underway to introduce similar activities for South Sudanese refugees in Haut Uele province, however, delays are expected due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic.



### Food, Cash and Nutrition Assistance

#### Food assistance:

- In 2019, WFP provided 84,100 mt of lifesaving in-kind food assistance to 4.9 million people affected by conflict and non-conflict related shocks, such as flooding and the ongoing Ebola epidemic. In 2019, WFP provided general food assistance for a duration of three months. In 2020, WFP aims to strengthen its food

assistance programme and may extend its distribution cycles to up to six months, depending on needs and seasonal calendars, ensuring that food assistance is available to beneficiaries when they need it the most.

- **Ebola:** Since the beginning of the Ebola outbreak in August 2018, WFP has provided 13,600 mt of food and nutrition assistance to 920,000 Ebola-affected people. Some 78 percent of those assisted were Ebola contacts, 21 percent were patients discharged after testing negative for the virus, and less than one percent were survivors. Although response operations have reduced, WFP continues to give food assistance to these Ebola-affected people. WFP is planning a change in modality from in-kind food to cash assistance for survivors after the first three months of in-kind specialized nutrition support. Assessments have been conducted and preparations are underway.

#### Cash-based assistance:

- In 2019, WFP conducted a major scale-up of cash assistance. Two million people received cash-based transfers worth USD 55 million, more than doubling the number of people reached in 2018. In 2020, preparations are underway to shift from status-based to vulnerability-based targeting for all refugees. This will be complemented by early recovery and resilience-building interventions. Data collection and consultation with refugees is ongoing. Preparations are also ongoing for the introduction of mobile money transfers using WFP's beneficiary management system, SCOPE. This will be piloted in Mulongwe refugee camp in South Kivu province in May.

#### Nutrition assistance:

- In 2019, WFP scaled up nutrition interventions, reaching just over one million people in 1,344 health centres in 13 provinces. This was a 68 percent increase in the number of people reached in 2018. In 2020, WFP is further scaling up its nutrition interventions for the treatment of moderate acute malnutrition and the prevention of acute and chronic malnutrition.
- Following the Cost of Diet studies undertaken in Tanganyika, Kasai and Kasai Central in 2019, WFP plans to conduct the same study in eleven provinces in 2020, including: Ituri, Kongo Central, Kwango, Haut Uele, and North and South Ubangi. Data collection for refugees in North and South Ubangi will be conducted remotely using WFP's mobile Vulnerability Analysis and Mapping tool (mVAM). Results are expected from July and these will be used to help inform the Fill the Nutrient Gap (FNG) study for DRC. The FNG study will

contribute to the government's new national nutrition strategy for 2021-2025.

- **School feeding:** WFP continues to support school feeding to facilitate access to schools and promote school attendance. In 2019, WFP provided school meals to 121,400 pupils in 227 schools in North Kivu, Tanganyika and Kasai Central provinces. This includes 25,360 children targeted in Ebola affected areas. Some 1,200 mt of food was procured from smallholder farmers for school meals in North Kivu. Since September 2019, WFP has provided school meals to 140,500 school children for the 2019/2020 academic school year.

### **Supply Chain**

- To maximise its operational capacity, WFP has conducted road classification and mapping exercises to determine accessibility within intervention areas throughout the country. In areas with extremely poor road conditions, alternative routes and transport mechanisms are being sought where possible, to promote uninterrupted food distributions. Stocks are also being prepositioned in remote locations to prevent delays in food deliveries.

## Clusters and Common Services

### **Food Security Cluster**

- The Food Security Cluster is engaging with the Cash Working Group and external actors, including government stakeholders such as CAID and FEWSNET, in reviewing coverage of market monitoring activities across the country. Gaps in market monitoring and new areas to be prioritized will be identified. This will contribute to rigorous, joint market monitoring, which will assist in assessing the economic impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on DRC. Additional details regarding the Cluster operations in DRC are available [here](#).

### **Logistics Cluster**

In response to the humanitarian crisis in DRC, the Logistics Cluster is working closely with its partners to support logistics and operational needs of humanitarian actors involved in the emergency response. The Logistics Cluster is collaborating with local authorities for the rehabilitation of hotspots on the road between Swima and Baraka in Fizi territory. The Cluster is monitoring the rehabilitation works along the hot spots on the Ndjokupunda-Luebo and Kamonia-Kamako roads in Kasai province. Several maps on access constraints produced by the Logistics Cluster are available [here](#).

### **UN Humanitarian Air Service (UNHAS)**

- UNHAS provides safe, reliable and predictable air services for the humanitarian community. From January to March 2020, UNHAS transported 17,037 passengers and 197 mt of cargo. It provided services to 158 humanitarian organizations with scheduled flights to 45 regular and 14 ad hoc destinations. UNHAS served 93 percent of bookings made during this period. It also provided 100 percent of medical and security evacuations requested, with a total of 13 medical evacuations and 27 security evacuations conducted.

## Resourcing Update

- WFP in DRC requires USD 569 million in order to provide lifesaving food and nutrition assistance for 7.6 million people in 2020. The net funding gap for the next six months (May to October 2020), amounts to USD 131.3 million.
- **Food and nutrition support:** Significant shortfalls for general in-kind food assistance in the Kasai provinces are ongoing, with a shortfall of USD 35 million expected from May to October 2020.
- **Cash:** Shortfalls continue for cash assistance for refugees in South Kivu, Ituri and the Ubangi provinces and USD 2 million is required on a monthly basis. WFP also requires USD 25 million to provide cash assistance for IDPs in Kananga province.
- **Nutrition:** Shortfalls continue to be significant for the prevention of acute malnutrition, as WFP requires USD 19.1 million for the next six months. WFP also needs USD 3.4 million for the treatment of moderate acute malnutrition (MAM) for the next six months.
- **Ebola response:** If the current trend continues, WFP estimates that available resources will be adequate until June 2020.

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