



World Food Programme

WFP

Democratic Republic of Congo

Emergency Situation Report #12

2 May 2019

In numbers

13.1 million food insecure people and **5 million** children acutely malnourished

5.2 million people assisted in 2018

5.1 million people targeted in 2019 and **1.5 million** people reached in the first quarter

Highlights

- In 2019, WFP continues its corporate emergency response interventions, with the aim of assisting 5.1 million people with general food assistance and nutrition programmes and has already reached 1.5 million people during the first quarter.
- DRC's tenth Ebola outbreak continues unabated, with over 1,300 cases and 800 deaths reported. Doing its part to fight Ebola, WFP provides critical operational support to the medical response teams and distributes food to Ebola contacts and others directly affected.

People assisted Emergency Response

March: 1,086,045



People assisted Ebola Response

291,334 by end-April

provides critical operational support to the medical response teams and distributes food to Ebola contacts and others directly affected. WFP's critical logistical services enable a swift response in affected remote areas. Since the beginning of the outbreak, WFP has reached over 291,000 affected people through weekly food distributions.

Situation Update

- DRC is the world's second largest hunger crisis, after Yemen, with 13 million people living in acute food insecurity and five million children acutely malnourished. Armed conflict and ongoing displacement are major concerns particularly in eastern DRC, where such instability continues to fuel food insecurity. DRC faces internal displacement on a massive scale and this is a primary trigger for hunger. 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:** Following the inauguration of President Felix Tshisekedi in January, fears of political turmoil have largely subsided. Tshisekedi is, however, yet to select his government and talks are ongoing with political parties and coalitions.
- **Ebola:** DRC's tenth Ebola outbreak continues unabated with over 1,400 cases and 900 deaths reported. Doing its part to fight Ebola, WFP

- The outbreak continues to evolve in a particularly complex and challenging environment. Ongoing insecurity remains a major concern with Ebola Treatment Centres and other key response structures coming under attack in Katwa and Butembo. To help overcome community resistance and promote longer term recovery, WFP has launched a school feeding programme in Beni and Oicha, assisting some 34,000 school children in 54 schools.
- **Insecurity:** Conflict and insecurity continue to be major challenges for humanitarian access and assistance, particularly in eastern DRC. In North Kivu, clashes between armed groups and the Congolese armed forces have led to the displacement of over 40,000 people this year in Masisi. WFP operations in the area are currently suspended due to the ongoing insecurity. In South Kivu, armed clashes have also led to the displacement of some 50,000 people this year in Uvira and Fizi territories.

WFP Response

- In 2018, WFP significantly expanded its operations, reaching a record 5.2 million people, a twofold increase from 2017. In 2019, WFP

Photo: WFP/ Jacques David

WFP Assistant Executive Director, Valerie Guarnieri, attending school feeding activities in North Kivu, Democratic Republic of Congo.

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) and has already reached 1.5 million people during the first quarter. From March to August, WFP plans to provide some USD 50.6 million in cash transfers, while over 80,000 mt of food commodities will be distributed.



Food, Cash based and Nutrition Assistance

Food assistance:

- In the first quarter of 2019, WFP provided in-kind food through its emergency operations in Ituri, Tanganyika, Kasai, Kasai Central and North and South Kivu provinces. WFP's food assistance is critical to improving the food security of millions of displaced people, who, due to instability, are unable to produce their own food. WFP aims to provide assistance to the most vulnerable, even in areas that are most difficult to reach. Transporting food throughout DRC is challenging due to poor road conditions, the rainy seasons and insecurity, primarily in eastern DRC.

Cash-based assistance:

- In 2018, WFP increased its cash-based interventions significantly, with a transfer value of over USD 44 million to approximately 890,000 people. In 2019, WFP aims to provide cash and vouchers to some 1.2 million people, distributing a total of USD 69 million. To ensure quality design and adequate internal controls, WFP introduced the digital and biometric registration of beneficiaries via SCOPE - WFP's biometric beneficiary registration and information platform that tracks data and the operational information of WFP beneficiaries. In 2019, beneficiary registration using SCOPE is underway in Tanganyika, Ituri, the Kasais and the Kivus, and cash distributions using SCOPE end to end implementation started in Tanganyika and Equateur provinces. 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 2019, WFP continues to scale up its nutrition interventions with a view to reaching 1.5 million people by the end of the year and has already reached some 294,000 people. WFP has adopted a nutrition-sensitive approach to cash assistance in Tanganyika province, to enhance the scale and effectiveness of nutrition-specific interventions and contribute to optimal maternal and child nutrition. In the coming months, WFP is also introducing beneficiary biometric registration at health structure level to optimise malnutrition treatment activities through the digitalisation of

data management and tracking of nutrition assistance.

Pipeline situation:

- Whilst there are currently no significant shortfalls in the pipeline for in-kind food, some shortfalls persist in implementation in some regions due to delays in the arrival of expected food commodities. However, for cash-based transfers, significant shortfalls are already being experienced, especially for the North Kivu, South Kivu, Haut Katanga, Equateur provinces.
- For malnutrition treatment activities, as the food continues to arrive in a staggered fashion, WFP continues to adjust its implementation, reducing the number of recipients, to align with available food. For these provinces, super cereal shortfalls are expected from August 2019 until the end of the year. To be able to meet the super cereal gaps in these prioritised provinces WFP needs approximately 1,600 metric tons in stock. 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, resources are urgently required to procure the product, Plumpy Doz, for WFP to be able to provide acute malnutrition prevention interventions, to children, in the country, especially in the Kasai provinces. Additionally, significant super cereal and vegetable oil shortfalls are expected from July 2019.

Resilience and safety nets:

- WFP is expanding multisector resilience activities in partnership with United Nations agencies and other humanitarian partners. WFP operates resilience projects in North Kivu, South Kivu and Tanganyika provinces, where 200,000 people benefit from a combination of asset creation, literacy classes, agriculture value chain development, post-harvest losses reduction, and commercialization activities. WFP has started resilience activities in South and North Ubangi and will soon commence such activities in the Kasai region. WFP targets 455,000 people with resilience interventions in 2019 and 30 percent of these people will receive conditional cash assistance.

WFP's response to Congolese returnees from Angola

- Since early October 2018, close to half a million Congolese nationals have crossed from Angola mostly into Kasai, Kasai Central, Kwango, Kongo Central and Lualaba provinces, following an expulsion order from the Government of Angola targeting irregular migrants. WFP continues to provide food, cash and nutrition assistance to the most vulnerable returnees to prepare the ground for long-term recovery and resilience-building. In Kasai, WFP has so far reached more than 30,300

returnees with in-kind food and more than 122,500 with cash assistance. Nutrition activities were initially interrupted due to insecurity. These activities have now resumed.



Supply Chain

- WFP is currently well stocked with 27,389 metric tons of stocks in-country, 4,314 metric tons in transit and 4,097 metric tons outside DRC. Access through rough roads and insecurity in North Kivu, South Kivu and Tanganyika remain major challenges in the delivery of timely and appropriate food assistance. WFP is actively reviewing its supply chain process to identify bottlenecks and improve overall operational efficiency. In doing so, WFP is maximizing the use of three all-terrain transport vehicles, Sherps, based in Kasai, for complicated river crossing distributions, reaching women and children previously isolated due to insecurity. To ensure the continuous supply of food to people, WFP also supports the rehabilitation of infrastructure, including bridges.

Clusters and Common Services



Food Security Cluster

- Clashes between Banunu and Batende ethnic groups in Yumbi territory, Mai-Ndombe province in December led to the deaths of at least 535 people and the looting and destruction of at least 976 buildings. WFP and other humanitarian agencies, through the Food Security Cluster, embarked on three inter-agency assessments to determine the most pressing needs of those affected by the clashes. WFP is distributing some 630 mt of food to almost 19,000 internally displaced people and host families in Yumbi and surrounding areas. WFP is also providing logistical support in transporting food and non-food items for the humanitarian community from Kinshasa to Yumbi. Several Emergency Food Security Assessments are also being conducted in WFP's six emergency response provinces. The results of these assessments will inform the required levels of food assistance beyond June 2019.



Logistics Cluster

- The Logistics Cluster continues to advocate for better humanitarian access to isolated and hard-to-reach communities. Significant funds have been allocated to road rehabilitation projects in North Kivu, South Kivu, Tanganyika and Kasai provinces. The Cluster continues to provide critical coordination and information management services to the humanitarian community, enhancing and optimising the logistical operations of over 70 organizations in Kinshasa, the Kivus and Tanganyika provinces.

- The Cluster also produced and shared over 21 access constraint and logistical planning maps optimizing logistical planning for key humanitarian operations. A dedicated section for these maps has been created on the DRC Logistics Cluster website, available [here](#).



UN Humanitarian Air Service (UNHAS)

- In February and March, UNHAS transported 10,566 passengers and 169.63 metric tons of cargo, serving 146 humanitarian organisations. UNHAS has three aircraft (two helicopters and one airplane) positioned in Goma and Beni to facilitate the humanitarian community's response to the Ebola crisis. As of mid-April, UNHAS has transported a total of 12,609 passengers and 184.3 mt of cargo in Ebola zones. UNHAS has also increased the frequency of flights from Kinshasa to Goma to assist the safe movement of health personnel and biological samples to the eastern regions of DRC.

Resourcing Update

- WFP in DRC requires USD 453 million in order to provide lifesaving food and nutrition assistance for five million people in the Corporate L3 provinces in 2019. An additional USD 99.7 million is urgently needed to cover the requirements for the next six months (until October 2019). Resources currently available for emergency food assistance last until July 2019, and for nutrition assistance until June 2019, depending on the arrival of specialized nutritious food. Lack of funding may force WFP to limit the number of people it can assist or reduce the ration size for food distributions.
- In terms of the Ebola Strategic Response Plan, WFP requires USD 20.5 million through end-July to provide food assistance and logistical support. So far, WFP has received 30 percent of the funding required.

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