



# WFP D. R. Congo

## External Situation Report #21

29 January 2021

### In Numbers

**19.6 million** people are in need of humanitarian assistance, 4 million more than in 2019

With **5.2 million** IDPs, the DRC is the African country most impacted by internal displacement

In 2020, WFP assisted **6.9 million** people, of whom **1.4 million** in December

### People assisted

December 2020:  
1,415,340 beneficiaries



**Total funding requirements in 2021** **USD 662.5 million**

### WFP 6-month Net Funding Requirements (Feb – July 2021)

Emergency Food Assistance	<b>USD 177.8 million</b>
Nutrition	<b>USD 26 million</b>
Assistance to Refugees	<b>USD 1.7 million</b>
Resilience	<b>USD 2.6 million</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>USD 208.1 million</b>

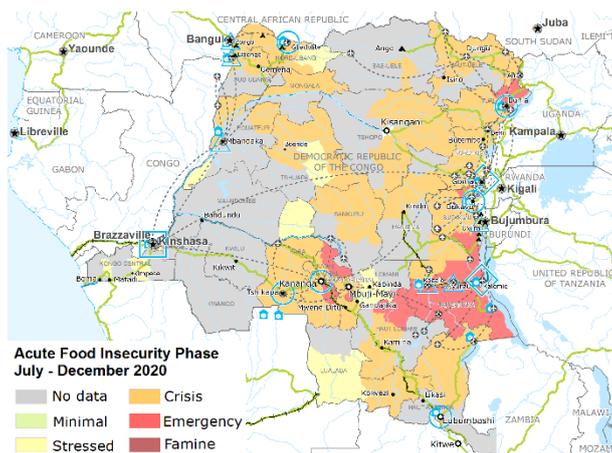


Photo: WFP assists vulnerable children and pregnant and lactating women and girls with nutritious food.  
WFP/Jacques David

### Highlights

- The new Country Strategy Plan 2021-2024, with a focus on resilience building, started on 1 January 2021.
- WFP continues its scaled-up response, prioritizing assistance to IDPs and meeting urgent nutritional needs.
- To provide assistance at scale, WFP requires a total of USD 662.5 million for 2021.

### Situation Update

- According to the latest [Humanitarian Response Plan](#), **19.6 million people** are in need of humanitarian assistance in the DRC, 4 million more than in the previous year. Moreover, 4.4 million people are affected by global acute malnutrition, including 3.4 million malnourished children under the age of five.
- The COVID-19 pandemic, affecting the country since March 2020, has deeply impacted DRC's economic growth, disrupting the livelihoods of the most vulnerable households and increasing food insecurity in urban areas. However, conflict-induced displacement remains the main trigger of food insecurity. With **5.2 million internally displaced persons**, the DRC remains the African country most impacted by this phenomenon.
- The country is also home to **525,000 refugees**, mostly coming from Burundi, Central African Republic (CAR), Rwanda, and South Sudan. A wave of violence against civilians following the political elections in CAR at the end of the year forced thousands of people to cross the Ubangi river seeking shelter in the DRC provinces of Bas-Uélé and North Ubangi, further increasing the economic and demographic pressure on the host communities in the area.
- A surge in the daily number of **COVID-19** cases has been reported in the country since the end of the year, especially in Kinshasa. As a result, the Government introduced more preventive measures, including an overnight curfew and movement restrictions. As of 29 January, some 22,000 cases of COVID-19 have been reported in 22 provinces, including 670 deaths.

- Instability in the country is also due to the worsening **political tensions** between the two parties constituting the parliamentary majority, President Tshisekedi's Cap for Change (CACH) and former president Joseph Kabila's Common Front for Congo (FCC). After an intense round of consultations in November, Tshisekedi announced that a new majority would be determined within the National Assembly, formally ending the coalition between his party and the one of his predecessor.

## WFP Response

- The new **Country Strategic Plan (CSP) 2021-2024** started on 1 January 2021. Under it, WFP will ensure stronger programmatic links between crisis response, peacebuilding and resilience activities. The transfer of resources from the previous interim CSP and the new CSP is underway. The activities have slowly resumed in January, expected to increase in the coming weeks.
- WFP and its partners have sustained and scaled up its operations in 2020 to meet increasing needs, augmenting the number of people targeted with food and nutrition assistance across the country. In 2020, WFP assisted some **6.9 million people**, including 1.4 million in December only, which is the best performance of the year.
- WFP continues to prioritize assistance to **internally displaced people and host communities**, covering the most populous and conflict-affected provinces in eastern DRC: Ituri, North and South Kivu, Tanganyika and the Greater Kasai region.
- In this context, in December, WFP reached people in need in South Kivu's **Hauts Plateaux** area delivering and distributing High Energy Biscuits to 42,155 displaced persons, affected by an ongoing inter-ethnic conflict, through a complex air operation. In a longer-term perspective, WFP is working on the rehabilitation of the road that connects the Hauts Plateaux to Fizi to enable the transport of food by road.
- In 2020, WFP continued to scale up its role as a development actor, promoting resilience-building, social protection and inter-agency cooperation. As part of its response to the COVID-19 pandemic, WFP developed a **social protection project in N'Sele commune** in Kinshasa in partnership with UNICEF. The project addresses the socio-economic impact of the pandemic in one of the poorest communities in the capital as well as supports the development of a national shock-responsive social protection platform.
- To provide assistance at scale, WFP requires a total of **USD 662.5 million** for the year 2021, with a six-month funding requirement of USD

208.1 million (February – July 2021). The most urgent needs are linked to the provision of emergency food and nutrition assistance: USD 177.8 million is needed to provide both emergency in-kind and cash-based assistance, while another 26 million is needed to implement nutrition activities for the prevention and treatment of malnutrition. WFP requires USD 1.7 million to sustain refugee operations.



### Food, Cash and Nutrition Assistance

- In December 2020, WFP provided lifesaving in-kind and cash assistance to **1.1 million people** affected by conflict and non-conflict related shocks. Despite numerous challenges causing delays in the distribution of food, WFP was able to quickly adjust its planning and keep delivering needed assistance without interruptions.
- Some **148,000 refugees** were assisted on a monthly basis in 2020, mainly through cash-based transfers in the North and South Ubangi, Ituri and South Kivu provinces; in Haut-Uélé, refugees receive food rations. Due to funding shortages, WFP has been forced to cut rations for refugees since May 2020. This reduced assistance comes at a precarious time due to the impact of COVID-19. WFP strongly advocates for additional funds to properly assist refugees across the country.
- WFP supports human capital development through education and school feeding. In 2020, WFP assisted more than **150,000 vulnerable schoolchildren**, by providing hot nutritious school meals before schools were closed due to COVID-19 in March. AWFP continued its assistance by providing take-home rations to children and their families.
- In December, WFP provided specialized nutritious food to almost 138,000 children and pregnant and nursing women and girls (PLW/Gs) for the treatment of moderate acute malnutrition, and to over 179,000 children and PLW/Gs for the prevention of acute malnutrition. In total, WFP assisted **1.5 million children and PLW/Gs** with nutrition activities in 2020.

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### WFP's strategic shift towards resilience

- Throughout 2020 WFP, in partnership with FAO and UNICEF, continued the implementation of joint resilience programmes in South and North Kivu, Tanganyika and North and South Ubangi, benefitting around **517,000 people** with a wide range of activities.
- In 2020, emphasis was placed on addressing the **drivers of conflict** and inequality in the different contexts where the resilience programmes are implemented, in order to strengthen social cohesion, thereby contributing to the prevention of new outbreaks of conflict and to the overall peacebuilding efforts.

- **Nutrition-sensitive activities** targeting more than 4,800 men and women were also implemented through the promotion of nutrition-rich foods and nutrition education, with over 160 awareness-raising campaigns to improve nutrition practices, dietary diversity, hygiene and family planning organized.



### Supply Chain

- Despite the many challenges encountered in the dispatch and delivery of food, such as the poor condition of the infrastructure, the late arrival of cargo at the ports and pending customs clearances, distributions in December were successfully completed.
- WFP continues to provide COVID-19 services supporting the humanitarian community, including the storage and transport of medical supplies and personal protective equipment (PPE) on behalf of the Ministry of Health, WHO and UNHCR. Thanks to its good performance during the last two Ebola operations, WFP has been called by the World Bank to participate in the COVAX working group, planning the distributions of COVID-19 vaccines across DRC in 2021.

## Clusters and Common Services



### Food Security Cluster

- The Food Security Cluster has supported in the roll-out of the 2020 second round of the Emergency Food Security Assessments (EFSA) in all L3 provinces (South Kivu, North Kivu, Kasai, Kasai Central and Kasai Oriental, Ituri and Tanganyika). Findings of this exercise will inform the next IPC analysis planned for February 2021, which is expected to focus on the impact of COVID-19 on levels of food insecurity.
- The Food Security Cluster published the latest national bulletin [here](#).



### Logistics Cluster

- The Logistics Cluster continues to coordinate the management of the [Logistics Portal for COVID-19](#), designed to help with the ordering and importing of COVID-19 response items, including medical kits.
- The Logistics Cluster produces regular information management products, aiming to provide the humanitarian community with timely and accurate information to support operational decision-making. The latest products, including maps on physical access constraints and air routes, can be viewed and downloaded [here](#).



### UN Humanitarian Air Service

- UNHAS continues to assist the broader humanitarian community by providing access to hard-to-reach areas. In December 2020, UNHAS served 130 organizations, transported over 3,900 passengers and transported 73 mt of light cargo.
- Since the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic, UNHAS has been supporting the Government's COVID-19 response strategy by transporting samples between collection points and testing labs and by enabling the movement of cargo and staff dedicated to the response.
- An UNHAS helicopter is still present in the Equateur province, where the DRC's 11<sup>th</sup> Ebola outbreak was declared over on 18 November 2020, to provide air support during the surveillance period until the end of February.

## Contacts

- Peter MUSOKO, Country Director: [peter.musoko@wfp.org](mailto:peter.musoko@wfp.org).
- Veronique SAINTE-LUCE, Head of Communication and Partnership Unit: [veronique.sainte-luce@wfp.org](mailto:veronique.sainte-luce@wfp.org)
- Giorgia WIZEMANN, Operational Information Management and Reporting Officer: [giorgia.wizemann@wfp.org](mailto:giorgia.wizemann@wfp.org).
- For further information, visit the Country Name page [here](#).