



World Food Programme

WFP

Democratic Republic of Congo

Emergency Situation Report #19

24 June 2020

In numbers

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

6.9 million people reached in 2019

7.6 million people targeted in 2020

1.7 million people reached in the first quarter of 2020

People assisted Emergency Response
April: 1,157,000



People assisted Ebola Response
Since August 2018: 935,000

Situation Update

- 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. With 15.6 million people facing crisis and emergency levels of food insecurity, 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 1.7 million people in the first quarter of the year.
- The COVID-19 pandemic has resulted in more than 6,000 cases reported in 12 provinces. Kinshasa is the worst affected province, with 90 percent of the known cases reported. Cases continue to increase rapidly, and this significant transmission rate is expected to continue in the coming weeks. The economic impact of the pandemic is likely to be very severe, resulting in loss of livelihoods and income, further increasing food insecurity. The pandemic has already led to the depreciation of the local currency, price fluctuations and liquidity challenges, hindering cash distributions in Ituri and South Kivu provinces recently. DRC is also battling the world's worst measles outbreak, with more than

Highlights

- 15.6 million people are food insecure in DRC, making it the second largest food crisis in the world, after Yemen. Food insecurity is expected to increase further in 2020, as a direct result of the economic impact of COVID-19, which is threatening the livelihoods of millions of vulnerable Congolese.
- Within this context, WFP is implementing a corporate Level 3 emergency response, providing large-scale food assistance, targeting 7.6 million people.

300,000 cases and 6,000 deaths reported nationally.

- 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 mass displacements. An estimated 1.2 million internally displaced people (IDPs) are currently in Ituri province, following an escalation in armed conflict in recent months. 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:** On 1 June, the DRC Government announced a new Ebola outbreak in Equateur province. This is the 11th Ebola outbreak in DRC and the second in Equateur province. Since the start of the outbreak, 24 Ebola cases and 13 deaths have been reported in five health zones. In support of the response, WFP is conducting an assessment of the logistics capacity and needs. UNHAS is also supporting the inter-agency response by organizing flights to Mbandaka, from Goma and Kinshasa.
- The 10th Ebola outbreak in eastern DRC is still ongoing. Since the re-emergence of the virus on 10 April (after several weeks without any new

cases), seven cases have been reported in Beni, North Kivu province. No confirmed cases have been reported since 27 April and the Government is due to announce the end of the outbreak on 25 June. Since the beginning of the epidemic in August 2018, 3,463 cases have been reported, including 2,230 deaths. This makes it the worst outbreak in DRC's history and the second largest and deadliest outbreak globally.

WFP Response

- In 2020, WFP has scaled up its activities, aiming to reach 7.6 million people by the end of the year. WFP is on track to reaching this target and has reached 1.7 million people in the first quarter of 2020.
- In light of the COVID-19 pandemic, WFP is providing food assistance in compliance with COVID-19 preventive measures, including physical distancing, mandatory handwashing and temperature checks. The Food Security Cluster is targeting an additional one million people this year, and WFP is assessing the number of people it will assist from this additional caseload. WFP is also providing logistics and supply chain services to the Government and humanitarian partners, to facilitate their COVID-19 response. Additionally, WFP in collaboration with UNICEF and FAO, is exploring the possibility of implementing a social safety net programme in Kinshasa.
- Since May, WFP has been providing lifesaving food assistance in Uvira, after flooding destroyed infrastructure including houses and bridges, affecting over 77,000 people. As immediate relief, WFP distributed high energy biscuits to 1,000 of the most vulnerable flood-affected households. This was followed by cash assistance targeting almost 5,300 households. So far, almost 3,500 households have received cash assistance, however, distributions are currently suspended due to liquidity challenges faced by financial service providers, following COVID-19 restrictions.

WFP's strategic shift towards resilience

- Resilience building activities have been scaled up in 2020, targeting 600,000 people. Programme implementation has, however, been delayed due to the COVID-19 pandemic.
- Preparatory activities are ongoing for WFP, FAO and UNICEF's joint resilience building programme in North and South Kivu provinces. This programme targets 180,000 people from 2020 to 2023. The agencies are conducting Community Based Participatory Planning workshops in both provinces to inform the

development of integrated and flexible operational plans for programme implementation.

- In North and South Ubangi provinces, WFP, FAO and UNHCR are expanding their livelihood and agricultural support activities to reach more host communities and refugees living outside of refugee camps. WFP and FAO are broadcasting key messages promoting social cohesion, peaceful coexistence and COVID-19 preventive measures, using community radios. To promote gender equality and functional literacy, 20 literacy centres were also established for literacy classes for women and girls in targeted communities.



Food, Cash and Nutrition Assistance

Food assistance:

- In the first quarter of 2020, WFP provided 13,000 metric tons (mt) of lifesaving in-kind food assistance to 890,200 people affected by conflict and non-conflict related shocks, through general food distributions.
- **Ebola:** Since the beginning of the 10th Ebola outbreak in Eastern DRC in August 2018, WFP has provided over 13,700 mt of food and nutrition assistance to 935,000 Ebola-affected people. Some 80 percent of those assisted are Ebola contacts, 19 percent are patients discharged after testing negative for the virus, and one percent are survivors. WFP is planning to change its assistance modality from in-kind food to mobile money transfers for Ebola survivors.

Cash-based assistance:

- WFP provided unconditional cash assistance valued at USD 8.4 million to 417,000 people in the first quarter of 2020. WFP is preparing to pilot mobile money transfers in South Kivu and Tanganyika provinces. Distributions are scheduled to begin at the end of June.
- WFP has strengthened its nutrition sensitive activities by integrating a minimum response package for infant and young child feeding (IYCF) into cash distributions in Tanganyika, Ituri, Kasai, Kasai central and North Kivu provinces. The activity package includes: simple and rapid assessment of IYCF practices among pregnant and nursing women and girls (PLWG); screening for malnutrition; cooking demonstrations; and counselling for PLWG facing challenges in applying recommended IYCF practices. Since February 2020: (i) 2,500 PLWG have received IYCF counselling; (ii) 2,000 PLWG have been sensitized on IYCF and COVID-19;

and (iii) more than 30,000 household members have received IYCF messages.

Nutrition assistance:

- In the first quarter of 2020, WFP provided specialized nutritious food to 120,700 children and PLWG for the treatment of moderate acute malnutrition and 154,500 children and PLWG for the prevention of acute malnutrition. Limited stocks of super cereal are hindering distributions in several provinces. Access constraints in Tanganyika and South Kivu provinces have also hampered food deliveries to several health centres.
- WFP is completing Cost of Diet surveys for the provinces of Kongo Central, Ituri and Lualaba. These surveys will provide information on the minimum cost of food that meets the nutrient needs of a typical household using locally available foods. Data analysis for the three provinces is ongoing. Results will be used to help inform the Fill the Nutrient Gap (FNG) study for DRC. This FNG study will contribute to the government's new national nutrition strategy for 2021-2025.
- **School feeding:** WFP continues to implement school feeding in Kasai Oriental, Tanganyika and North Kivu provinces to promote school health and nutrition, human capital development and the DRC Government's zero hunger and education strategies. WFP provided school meals to 143,180 people in 227 schools in the first quarter of 2020. Following the onset of the COVID-19 outbreak and the subsequent closure of schools, WFP has adjusted the programme and is providing take home rations in all three provinces, reaching 65,300 people in May.

Supply Chain

- WFP is providing COVID-19 downstream services supporting the humanitarian community. This includes the storage of medical supplies and personal protective equipment. WFP has expanded its storage capacity in Kinshasa, through an additional warehouse for the storage of food and non-food items. Storage facilities will be expanded in other provinces based on increased needs and subject to funding availability.
- Border restrictions due to COVID-19 are slowing down food deliveries into DRC. Trucks carrying food to North and South Kivu are delayed at the border between Tanzania and Rwanda following COVID-19 restrictive measures taken by the Rwandan authorities. Customs clearance processes have also slowed down due to a

reduced number of staff because of COVID-19 restrictions. WFP is monitoring the situation and following-up with authorities to prevent the subsequent disruption of its activities.

Clusters and Common Services



Food Security Cluster

- WFP in partnership with government stakeholders is conducting Emergency Food Security Assessments (EFSAs) in the following provinces: Kasai; Kasai Central; Kasai Oriental; Tanganyika; South Kivu; North Kivu; Ituri; and North and South Ubangi. Data collection is ongoing and should be completed by the end of June. EFSAs results are expected in mid-July. These results will feed into the Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC) analysis for 2020. Preparations for the IPC are already underway, with food security actors gathering data, including market and need assessments, to form the foundation of the IPC analysis. The analysis at provincial level is expected to begin by the end of July.
- Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Food Security Cluster has increased its Humanitarian Response Plan target for 2020 from 8.1 million to 9.1 million people. This includes people facing crisis and emergency food insecurity (IPC 3 and 4) and almost half a million people in Kinshasa, with increased vulnerability due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Additional details regarding the Cluster operations in DRC are available [here](#).



Logistics Cluster

- In response to the COVID-19 pandemic in DRC, the Logistics Cluster is working closely with Cluster partners to ensure timely dissemination of information and coordination. The Cluster produced a [map](#) on DRC cargo entry points and a [map](#) of ECHO flight routes in eastern DRC. These maps take into consideration adjustments made due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Several maps on access constraints produced by the Logistics Cluster are also available [here](#).



UN Humanitarian Air Service (UNHAS)

- From 26 June, WFP's Global Passenger Air Service will be conducting humanitarian flights to Goma and Kinshasa from regional hubs in Accra and Addis Ababa. All passengers must obtain authorisation to enter and leave the country from DRC's immigration authorities. Testing for COVID-19 is compulsory, in addition to compliance with all health protocols.
- Restrictions for UNHAS passengers (i) travelling from outside the country into DRC; and (ii) travelling from Kinshasa to other provinces, are

also still in place. All UNHAS passengers are required to test for COVID-19 and obtain authorisation to travel from DRC's immigration and public health authorities. Incoming passenger flights into Kalemie, Tanganyika province, are still prohibited.

Resourcing Update

- WFP in DRC requires USD 646.3 million in 2020 to provide lifesaving food and nutrition assistance for 7.6 million people. In the next six months, (June to November 2020), WFP requires USD 189.2 million to implement programmes at planned scale. This includes USD 71.3 million needed for WFP's COVID-19 food assistance response.
- **Food and nutrition support:** Significant shortfalls for general in-kind food assistance in the Kasai provinces are ongoing, with a shortfall of USD 27.8 million expected from June to November 2020.

- **Cash:** There is a shortfall of USD 5.2 million for the next six months for cash assistance for refugees in South Kivu, Ituri and the Ubangi provinces. WFP also requires USD 17.2 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 16.4 million for the next six months. WFP also needs USD 3 million for the treatment of moderate acute malnutrition for the next six months.

Contacts

- Country Director: Claude Jibidar
- Senior External Partnerships Officer: Veronique Sainte-Luce
- OIM Reports Officer: Tafadzwa Chiposi, tafadzwa.chiposi@wfp.org
- For further information, visit the WFP [DRC page](#)



COVID-19 preventive measures at a cash distribution site in Kasai. WFP/Patrizia Bonfanti



COVID-19 preventive measures for passengers boarding UNHAS flights. WFP/Alain Furaha