



World Food Programme

SAVING
LIVES
CHANGING
LIVES

WFP Democratic Republic of Congo Country Brief

September 2018



Operational Context

DRC has great agricultural potential with 80 million hectares of arable land, diverse climatic conditions and abundant water resources. But this potential has barely been tapped and DRC is unable to feed large sections of its population who suffer from a severe food crisis.

In 2018, WFP aims to reach 5 million people with critical food assistance. A scale-up plan for July 2018 to June 2019 is in place at a monthly cost of US\$46 million. The nutrition scale-up will continue until the end of 2019.

So far this year, WFP has reached 3.5 million beneficiaries compared to 2 million in 2017. In September, three of WFP's priority provinces (Tanganyika, South Kivu and Kasai) targeted for assistance under the scale-up plan were increasingly affected by security related access constraints. Overall, poor road infrastructure means that a considerable amount of time is required for food to get to the distribution locations, from the ports and from suppliers.

WFP has been present in the DRC since 1973.



Population: **74 million**

2017 Human Development Index:
176 out of 189

Income Level: **Low**

Chronic malnutrition: **43% of children between 6-59 months**

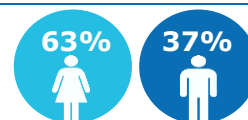
In Numbers

6,030 mt of food assistance distributed

US\$1.4 m cash based transfers made

US\$113.5 m six months (Oct 2018 to Mar 2019) net funding requirements, representing 39% of total

951,344 people assisted in September 2018



Operational Updates

Ebola Virus Disease (EVD):

- On 01 August, the Ministry of Health declared an Ebola outbreak in North Kivu, the tenth such outbreak in DRC. The virus subsequently spread to Ituri. As of 30 September, 159 cases had been identified including 104 deaths. Vaccinations continue, having reached more than 13,000 people by end-September.
- Since the beginning of the outbreak until end-September, WFP provided food assistance to 21,000 Ebola affected people and supported the overall response with critical logistics, aviation and information and communications technology. In anticipation of a possible cross-border spread of the virus, a regional preparedness plan was developed.

WFP interventions in the Kasais:

- Kasai Central province:** 60,000 people intended to receive in-kind food were reached during the month of September. Meanwhile, limited financial resources and a shortage of nutrition commodities meant that cash transfers and nutrition support were severely restricted. Out of 105,000 people planned to receive cash assistance, 14,248 were reached. Out of the 88,620 children aged 6-23 months and pregnant and nursing mothers targeted to receive assistance to prevent moderate acute malnutrition (MAM), only 5,532 were reached while 4,165 children 6-59 months were treated for MAM out of a target of 27,835.
- Kasai province:** Out of 180,000 people intended to receive in-kind food, 132,416 were reached. A total of 22,500 people received cash assistance. Some areas are hard to reach and commercial transporters often decline to move food to these destinations.

Tanganyika:

- WFP reached 133,386 people with food assistance out of the targeted 150,000. A shortage of nutrition commodities hindered full coverage for nutrition activities. The goal of 61,250 people receiving assistance to prevent MAM was not met, only reaching 13,262 during the month, and treatment of MAM also fell short with 8,244 out of 20,300 people reached.
- The provincial government has decided to close all camps in Kalemie accommodating internally displaced people (IDPs) before the December 2018 elections. Three out of 15 IDP camps have been demolished, rendering over 25,000 people homeless. WFP has been providing food, cash and nutrition assistance in IDP camps and plans to include expelled IDPs in food distributions wherever possible.

Photo: WFP/Elodie Jego. The Russian Ambassador visits a WFP distribution site in Tshikapa, Kasai province.

Contact info: Mireille Kabasubabo – mireille.kabasubabo@wfp.org

Country Director: Claude Jibidar

Further information: www.wfp.org/countries/congo-democratic-republic

Interim-Country Strategy Plan (2018-2020)

Total Requirement (in USD)	Allocated Contributions (in USD)	Six Month Net Funding Requirements (in USD)
720.5 m	257.7 m	113.5 m

Strategic Result 1: Everyone has access to food

Strategic Outcome 1: Targeted food-insecure populations affected by shocks are able to meet their basic food requirements in times of crisis

Focus area: Crisis Response

Activities:

- Provide food assistance to conflict affected populations.
- Provide food assistance to populations affected by non-conflict shocks.

Strategic Result 2: End Malnutrition

Strategic Outcome # 2: Food-insecure and vulnerable populations in conflict and shock-affected areas have improved nutritional status in line with national protocols by 2020

Focus area: Crisis Response

Activities:

- Treat moderate acute malnutrition among vulnerable people including children 6-59 months, PLW/G and ART/TB- DOTS clients.
- Prevent acute malnutrition among vulnerable groups including children 6-23 months and PLW/G.
- Prevent chronic malnutrition among vulnerable groups including children 6-23 months and PLW/G.

Strategic Result 3: Smallholder Productivity and Incomes

Strategic Outcome # 3: Smallholder farmers and vulnerable communities in targeted and crisis-prone areas, especially in eastern parts of the country, enhance their productive livelihoods and improve their food security and resilience by 2020

Focus area: Resilience Building

Activities:

- Provide capacity strengthening to smallholder farmers.
- Provide productive assets to smallholder farmers and food-insecure communities.

Strategic Result 5: Countries strengthened capacities

Strategic Outcome # 4: National institutions have strengthened capacity to reduce food insecurity and malnutrition and respond to shocks by 2020

Focus area: Resilience Building

Activities:

- Provide capacity strengthening to the Government of the DRC on social protection, nutrition, food security and emergency preparedness/DRR.
- Provide evidence-based analysis to relevant national institutions.

Strategic Result 8: Enhance Global Partnership

Strategic Outcome # 5: The humanitarian community has the capacity to respond to shocks through strategic partnerships by 2020

Focus area: Crisis Response

Activities:

- Provide Humanitarian Platform(s) to the humanitarian community in DRC.
- Provide Humanitarian Air Services (UNHAS) to the humanitarian community in DRC.
- Provide Humanitarian platforms (Supply Chain services) to the humanitarian community in DRC.
- Provide Humanitarian platforms (Emergency Telecommunications Cluster Services) to the humanitarian community.

Eastern provinces

- **Ituri:** Out of 130,000 people intended to receive food assistance, 120,100 were reached in September. Due to the late arrival of food commodities, 2,580 children under the age of 5 and pregnant and nursing mothers were treated for MAM out of a planned number of 6,960. Security related challenges meant that some distributions to refugees were delayed and a total of 11,290 people out of an intended number of 12,520 refugees received food on time.
- **North Kivu:** Due to the Ebola outbreak and the related humanitarian needs, WFP expanded its operations to assist those affected by the epidemic. Apart from the implementation of WFP's scale-up plan that was already in place, WFP was called to respond to the Ebola outbreak with food and nutrition, as well as logistics, aviation and information and communications technology. WFP reached 121,000 people in September, higher than the target of 106,000 due to the additional Ebola related demands. A total of 12,173 children (aged 6-59 months) and 7,956 pregnant and nursing mothers were treated for MAM.
- **South Kivu:** WFP food assistance targeted 180,000 people in September but only reached 80,000 due to security related constraints. Cash was distributed to refugees in Lusenda camp, reaching the intended 34,460. Due to insecurity in South Fizi and Kabambare territories, treatment of MAM reached 9,687 children under the age of 5 and pregnant and nursing mothers. WFP has started to identify people that will receive assistance to prevent MAM in October.

Monitoring

- WFP has published the results of the latest crop assessment conducted in partnership with FAO, the Ministry of Agriculture and the DRC Cellule d'Analyses des Indicateurs de Développement (CAID). These show that DRC has a 22 percent deficit in food production. The deficit places more than 20 million people at risk of hunger. To reduce it, support for smallholder farmers is required to increase output, including of maize and beans. Increased regional trade would improve access to food.

Challenges

- There is a need to have food positioned, especially in the Kasais, by October/ November before the peak of the rains which will make access difficult over the coming months. Additional food is due to arrive in DRC by mid-November for onward transfer to Kasai.
- WFP has received much needed funding for nutrition activities. However, lead-times of up to four months to receive specialized nutritional products continue to be challenging.
- WFP needs an additional USD 113.5 million to meet the needs of the most vulnerable IDPs, returnees and refugees for the next six months (October 2018 to March 2019).

Donors

Belgium, Canada, DFID, European Commission, Finland, France, Germany, Ireland, Japan, Norway, UN CERF, UN Pooled Funds, USAID, Sweden, Switzerland, South Korea, Russia.