



World Food Programme

SAVING
LIVES
CHANGING
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WFP Democratic Republic of Congo Country Brief

January 2019



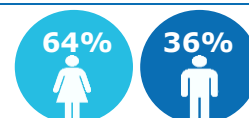
In Numbers

5,616 mt of food assistance distributed in December 2018

USD 4,952,031 cash-based transfers made in December 2018

USD128 m six months (March 2019 to Aug 2019) net funding requirements, representing 50% of total

1,022,741 people assisted in December 2018



Operational Context

In May 2018, WFP activated a corporate L3 Emergency covering the six most populous and conflict affected provinces in Eastern DRC, Tanganyika and the Kasai region. A significant scale-up of WFP operations was required to reverse the deepening hunger crisis in DRC. WFP's strengthened operations yielded substantial results, with WFP reaching 5.2 million people in 2018.

Multiple other crises compound DRC's humanitarian challenges. A tenth outbreak of the Ebola Virus Disease was declared in August, so far claiming more than 500 lives in North Kivu and Ituri. The expulsion of some 402,000 Congolese from northern Angola is exacerbating an already precarious food security situation and the recent clashes between ethnic groups in Yumbi territory have led to the killing of over 500 people and the displacement of thousands.

WFP has been present in the DRC since 1973.



Population: **74 million**

2018 Human Development Index:
176 out of 189

Income Level: **Low**

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

Operational Updates

Ebola Virus Disease (Ebola): The Ebola epidemic continues to be of great concern, with increasing fears that the virus will spread to neighbouring countries. Great insecurity and community resistance against response teams continue to hamper the response in key areas, including Beni and Butembo. Contact tracing and investigations into new cases remain a challenge, with response activities also being severely hampered in late December and early January due to election-related demonstrations. As of end-January, WFP provided food and nutrition assistance to more than 160,000 Ebola-affected people and UNHAS air transport services have been provided to approximately 8,000 people, including the humanitarian community and DRC government officials.

L3 Emergency scale-up: Large-scale displacement, poor harvests and endemic poverty nearly doubled the number of acutely food insecure people in DRC in 2018 to 13.1 million. In response to this, WFP successfully expanded its operations in 2018, reaching a record 5.2 million people, a twofold increase from 2017. In 2019, WFP continues its scaled-up operations in North and South Kivu, Kasai, Kasai Central, Ituri and Tanganyika provinces.

Kasai: The scale-up of in-kind food assistance continued, including assistance in response to the return of approximately 402,000 Congolese nationals from Angola, following an expulsion order by the Angolan authorities. WFP provided in-kind assistance to some 18,000 people and cash assistance to 14,600 recipients in December.

Tanganyika: Despite insecurity and access constraints exacerbated by the rainy season, WFP provided in-kind assistance to some 110,000 people. Poor roads and a reduction in transport capacity hampered in-kind operations. In terms of cash assistance, WFP reached 92,000 recipients, exceeding its monthly target in December by 16 percent. Moderate acute malnutrition treatment was provided to 16,000 people, representing 83 percent of the target and 15,800 intended recipients received assistance aimed at the prevention of acute and chronic malnutrition.

Ituri: Active conflict and insecurity continue to increase the number of internally displaced people (IDPs) within the region. In response, WFP provided 95,600 people with distributions in-kind, representing 80 percent of intended recipients. The constant displacement of people, however, continues to be a challenge in reaching the people targeted. For the nutrition treatment intervention, some 14,900 moderately acute malnourished children and pregnant or nursing women were

Interim-Country Strategy Plan (2018-2020)

Total Requirement (in USD)	Allocated Resource s(in USD)	Six Month Net Funding Requirements (in USD)
1.189 b	406.9 m	128 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.

Kasai Central: In December, the scale-up of in-kind and cash assistance was severely hampered by inaccessible roads, delays in the delivery of food and the capacity constraints of WFP's financial service provider. In total, 46,300 people received distributions in-kind and 48,100 recipients received cash assistance. Despite a shortage of commodities, WFP provided malnutrition treatment assistance to 21,924 children under five and pregnant or nursing women.

North Kivu: Armed groups continued to cause mass displacements across the region, severely impacting Ebola response activities. WFP provided assistance in kind to 115,100 people, exceeding its monthly target. Distributions were, however, slightly delayed due to poor road conditions. Cash-based assistance was provided to some 24,000 people, only 50 percent of those targeted. Insecurity due to armed group activities and the resulting access constraints remain key challenges. Moderate acute malnutrition treatment was also provided to some 12,500 children under five and pregnant or nursing women.

South Kivu: Food was distributed to 45,000 IDPs, returnees and host families, being 90 percent of the monthly target. Distributions were, however, delayed due to bad road conditions, exacerbated by the rainy season. Moderate acute malnutrition treatment was provided to 17,600 children under five and pregnant or nursing women, representing 63 percent of the monthly target. The lack of commodities remains a constraint. A total of 34,400 Burundian refugees were also assisted with e-vouchers, despite delays due to insecurity in the targeted areas.

Crisis in Yumbi: Clashes took place between the Banunu and Batende ethnic groups in Yumbi territory, Mai-Ndombe province, between 16 and 18 December, leading to the death of at least 530 people. WFP and other United Nations agencies embarked on an inter-agency assessment to determine the most pressing needs of those affected by the clashes. WFP provided nutritional paste, Plumpy Sup and Super Cereal to be distributed to the local population.

Resilience and safety nets: WFP intends to expand resilience activities through collaboration with FAO, UNICEF and other United Nations agencies in support of smallholder farmers (Purchase for Progress) and conditional food and cash transfers (asset creation and income generating activities).

Challenges

As a preparedness measure in light of the elections in December, WFP stopped all food distributions mid-month, hampering the number of people reached in December. Operations were further constrained by lack of capacity, as most cooperating partners were not active towards the end of the month due to the holiday and electoral period.

Resourcing efforts invested by WFP in 2018 resulted in a total of USD 436 million, almost tripling WFP's available resources when compared to 2017. In 2019, WFP requires USD 453 million to reach 5 million people. The resource position from March to August 2019 reflects a net funding requirement of USD 128 million, 44 percent of the USD 245 million required for the six-month period. From March to June, WFP requires an average of USD 47 million per month to resource its emergency operations. From July onwards, WFP requires an average of USD 28 million.

Donors

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