



WFP Democratic Republic of Congo Country Brief

March 2019

SAVING LIVES
CHANGING LIVES



Operational Context

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. Hunger and conflict fuel one another in DRC, with armed conflict and widespread displacement prevailing in Eastern DRC for the past 25 years. Multiple crises compound DRC's humanitarian challenges. A tenth outbreak of the Ebola Virus Disease was declared in August, so far claiming more than 700 lives in North Kivu and Ituri. The expulsion of more than 402,000 Congolese from northern Angola is exacerbating an already precarious food security situation and the clashes between ethnic groups in Yumbi territory led to the killing of over 500 people and the displacement of thousands.

After reaching 5.2 million beneficiaries through scaled-up emergency interventions last year, in 2019 WFP continues its emergency operations in North and South Kivu, Kasai, Kasai Central, Ituri and Tanganyika provinces, targeting 5.1 million people with lifesaving food and nutrition assistance.

WFP has been present in the DRC since 1973.



Population: **74 million**

2018 Human Development Index: **176 out of 189**

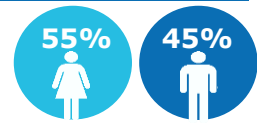
Income Level: **Low**

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

In Numbers¹

USD113 m six months (May 2019 to Oct 2019) net funding requirements, representing 46% of total

1,086,045 people assisted in March 2019



Operational Updates

Ebola Virus Disease (Ebola): With more than 1,200 cases of Ebola reported since the beginning of the outbreak, WFP activities within the Ebola response have been implemented in 23 health zones and as of mid-April, WFP has provided food and nutrition assistance to more than 264,300 Ebola-affected people. Following the attacks on Ebola Treatment Centres in Katwa and Butembo in February, community outreach efforts are gradually yielding tangible results. However, an announced resumption of army and MONUSCO attacks against suspected armed groups may soon lead to an increase in attacks on the Ebola responders. WFP is monitoring the situation closely.

L3 Emergency distributions: After reaching 5.2 million beneficiaries through scaled-up emergency distributions last year, in 2019 WFP continues its emergency operations in North and South Kivu, Kasai, Kasai Central, Ituri and Tanganyika provinces. WFP is targeting 5.1 million people with lifesaving food and nutrition assistance in the form of in-kind food, cash transfers and specialized nutritious foods and has already reached 1.5 million beneficiaries during the first quarter. WFP operates resilience projects in North Kivu, South Kivu, Tanganyika, and North and South Ubangi provinces, where people benefit from a combination of activities including asset creation and literacy classes. WFP will soon commence these activities in the Kasai region.

Ituri: WFP provided distributions in-kind to some 119,700 South Sudanese refugees and internally displaced people. For cash distributions, WFP reached some 125,000 beneficiaries. In April, WFP aims to reach more cash beneficiaries through the increased capacity of its financial service provider. Despite insecurity in the area of Jiba, WFP provided treatment for malnutrition to some 5,300 pregnant and nursing women and girls (PLW/Gs) and children.

Kasai: WFP continues to provide assistance in response to the repatriation of over 402,000 Congolese nationals from Angola. Despite a shortfall of cereals, WFP provided in-kind assistance to some 56,400 people and cash assistance to 42,600 people. Nutrition activities increased significantly in March, with WFP reaching some 28,900 and 19,500 beneficiaries for malnutrition treatment and prevention, respectively.

Tanganyika: In March, WFP provided in-kind food to some 90,000 beneficiaries. Food deliveries were, however, delayed due to custom formalities. Cash distributions were conducted using beneficiary biometric registration, reaching some 192,400 beneficiaries. These were carried out together with nutrition

¹ The figures provided in this Country Brief are estimates.

Interim-Country Strategy Plan (2018-2020)

Total Requirement (in USD)	Allocated Resources from donors directly to DRC (in USD)	Six Month Net Funding Requirements (in USD)
1.189 b	346.3 m	110.3 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.

sensitive activities. Moderate acute malnutrition treatment was provided to some 19,400 PLW/Gs and children, and some people received assistance to prevent acute and chronic malnutrition.

Kasai Central: In March, WFP reached 28,500 beneficiaries with in-kind food. The delivery of in-kind assistance was hampered by toll fees imposed by a Chinese road construction company. WFP provided cash assistance to 28,100 beneficiaries. Despite the late arrival of specialized nutritious food caused by logistical hurdles, WFP provided malnutrition treatment assistance to 5,700 children and PLW/Gs and malnutrition prevention assistance to 6,700 children and PLW/Gs.

North Kivu: In March, WFP obtained its monthly target for distributions in-kind, reaching some 152,000 beneficiaries. For the treatment of malnutrition, WFP reached some 8,900 PLW/Gs and children under five, once again exceeding the number of beneficiaries planned, due to the recent arrival of newly displaced people in Mweso territory. Operations in Masisi are suspended due to ongoing insecurity.

South Kivu: Despite poor roads and access constraints exacerbated by the rainy season, WFP provided in-kind assistance to some 62,100 beneficiaries. Malnutrition treatment and prevention assistance was provided to some 38,100 and 2,400 PLW/Gs and children, respectively. The lack of specialised nutritious food in stock remains a constraint. Some 35,000 Burundian refugees were assisted with e-vouchers.

Home-grown school feeding: WFP continues to provide home-grown meals to school children in Beni, Oicha and Rutshuru in North Kivu province. In 2019 so far, WFP has provided some 67,600 school children with nutritious meals to promote school attendance and encourage community acceptance of the Ebola response. In the coming months, WFP plans to extend its school feeding programme to Tanganyika, Kasai Central and Kasai Oriental provinces, targeting some 57,700 school children.

Challenges

WFP in DRC requires USD 453 million to provide lifesaving food and nutrition assistance for five million people in 2019. An additional USD 99.7 million is urgently needed to cover the requirements for the next six months. Although 53 percent of WFP's needs in 2019 are currently covered, almost all resources are earmarked for emergency food assistance, leaving major funding gaps for cash-based transfers for refugees and WFP's nutrition programmes. WFP's funding requirement in terms of the Ebola Strategic Response Plan is USD 20.5 million, of which 30% has been received.

Donors

Belgium, Canada, China, European Commission, Germany, Ireland, Japan, Norway, Republic of Korea, Russian Federation, Sweden Switzerland, United Kingdom and United States of America.