



World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES
CHANGING LIVES

WFP Democratic Republic of Congo Country Brief

November 2019



Operational Context

DRC is the world's second largest hunger crisis, after Yemen, with 15.6 million people living in acute food insecurity and five million children acutely malnourished. Armed conflict and ongoing displacement are major concerns, particularly in eastern DRC, where such instability continues to fuel food insecurity. Recent flooding in north-western DRC has affected 600,000 people, primarily in North and South Ubangi. Furthermore, since mid-August, over 16,000 Congolese nationals have left Angola and returned to Kasai and Kasai Central provinces, following the restoration of peace in the region.

In 2019, WFP rapidly scaled-up its food and nutrition assistance, reaching an average of 1.17 million people each month throughout the year. WFP's ongoing Level 3 emergency response covering the seven most food insecure provinces in eastern DRC, Tanganyika and the Greater Kasai region, has been extended until April 2020. The response has expanded to include Kasai Orientale province, where the food security situation has deteriorated drastically this year and severe measles and cholera outbreaks have been reported. In addition to its emergency response, WFP continues to respond to other acute crises, including the DRC's tenth Ebola outbreak. WFP continues to play a key role in the fight against Ebola, by providing vital food and nutrition assistance and critical logistics support to help contain the spread of the virus.

WFP has been present in the DRC since 1973.



Population: **81 million**

2018 Human Development Index: **179 out of 189**

Income Level: **Low**

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

In Numbers October

5,541 mt of food assistance distributed

USD 2,474,616 million cash-based transfers made

USD166 million net funding requirement for January - June 2020

999,450 people assisted in October 2019



Operational Updates

Ebola Virus Disease (Ebola): More than 3,300 cases of Ebola have been reported since the beginning of the outbreak in August 2018. Although the number of cases reported in recent weeks has declined considerably, recent civil unrest and attacks against Ebola response teams in Beni, Butembo and Oicha interrupted response efforts, threatening to reverse progress made towards the containment of the virus. Due to the heightened insecurity, WFP's Ebola response activities, including food distributions, were temporarily interrupted, pending the stabilisation of the situation. Normal operations resumed in early December and WFP continues to monitor the situation.

L3 Emergency distributions: WFP's corporate L3 Emergency, covering seven provinces (Ituri, North Kivu, South Kivu, Tanganyika, Kasai, Kasai Central and Kasai Oriental), has been extended until April 2020, considering the heightened food security situation across the country. In tandem, WFP continues to provide food and nutrition assistance to Ebola-affected people in North Kivu, Ituri and South Kivu provinces.

North and South Ubangi: Heavy rains since mid-October have led to flooding in the north-west of the country, particularly in North and South Ubangi, Mongala and Equateur provinces. Affected communities are generally food insecure and serve as host communities to refugees from the Central African Republic. WFP plans to provide emergency relief assistance through unrestricted cash transfers, targeting 50,000 people in North and South Ubangi. A rapid market and food security needs assessment is underway. This will help inform the response design, including the targeting and duration of assistance.

Kasai and Kasai Central: Since mid-August, thousands of Congolese returnees from Angola have recently returned to Kasai and Kasai Central provinces. WFP has provided returnees with a combination of cash and in-kind food assistance. Some 15,500 returnees have received cash assistance, with 25,000 returnees receiving in-kind food assistance, including high-energy biscuits. In response to the alarming nutrition situation, WFP has also distributed specialized nutritious food to almost 1,600 returnees for the treatment of moderate acute malnutrition.

South Kivu: Following the onset of inter-ethnic clashes in the highlands and middle plateaus of Fizi territory in May, WFP has been providing in-kind food assistance in Mwenga and Itombwe, reaching an average of 50,000 people each month. In October, operations were scaled up to double the

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	259 m	166 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.

Operational updates (cont.)

caseload. Food has also been provided in Minembwe and Mikenge, but distributions have been limited by access constraints caused by poor road conditions. A partial rehabilitation of roads enabled distributions to some 8,500 people in September and October, however, distributions were subsequently interrupted following a resumption of armed conflict. In November, WFP resumed in-kind food assistance in Mikenge. Poor road conditions, however, continue to delay the delivery of food to distribution sites.

North Kivu: The Congolese armed forces have launched a military offensive against armed groups. This has led to subsequent retaliation by armed groups, who have killed at least 100 people in Beni and Oicha since the launch of the offensive. Mass protests and violent attacks by civilians against MONUSCO and UN agencies hindered humanitarian operations in late November and early December. WFP nonetheless continues to provide food assistance to internally displaced people in Masisi and Rutshuru, subject to security and access constraints. New displacements have been reported in these areas and WFP is conducting multisectoral assessments to determine the current needs.

School feeding: WFP continues to support school feeding to facilitate access to schools and promote school attendance. From January to August, WFP provided school meals to 68,000 pupils in North Kivu. This intervention has expanded to Tanganyika and Kasai Central provinces, with 120,000 students to be assisted between September 2019 and June 2020.

Challenges

Infrastructure: DRC has a very limited road and rail network, making it at times difficult for WFP to reach all people in need. The sheer size of the country and the state of the infrastructure make reaching people in deep field locations costly and extremely challenging. With the ongoing rainy season, access issues are even more pronounced. Road rehabilitation to increase accessibility is coordinated by the Logistics Cluster. WFP also continues to use all-terrain vehicles (SHERPS) to ensure the delivery of specialized nutritious food within Kasai province.

Funding shortfalls: The net funding requirement for the next six months (January to June 2020) is USD 166 million. Funds for cash assistance for refugees will run out in December. Funding is also needed for general food distributions (for the Kasais in particular) as well as nutrition, where interventions are currently focused only on priority areas due to shortfalls.

Donors

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