



World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES
CHANGING LIVES

WFP Democratic Republic of Congo Country Brief

April 2020



Operational Context

DRC is the world's second largest hunger crisis, after Yemen, with 15.6 million people living in acute food insecurity. Some 4.3 million children and pregnant and nursing women are also acutely malnourished.

Conflict and insecurity, weather extremes and economic shocks are the primary drivers of acute food insecurity in DRC. Violent inter-ethnic conflict between armed groups primarily in Eastern DRC has led to mass displacements and the abandonment of livelihoods. The COVID-19 pandemic has resulted in border closures and trade and lockdown restrictions. These are likely to lead to increased unemployment and loss of incomes and livelihoods for the Congolese people, increasing the risk of greater food insecurity. Plant diseases and pests also continue to lower agricultural productivity.

In 2020, WFP has scaled-up its food and nutrition assistance, targeting 7.6 million people. WFP's ongoing Level 3 emergency response covering the most food insecure provinces in eastern DRC, Tanganyika and the Greater Kasai region, has been extended until October 2020. WFP continues to play a key role in the fight against DRC's tenth Ebola outbreak, 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: **100 million**

2019 Human Development Index: **179 out of 189**

Income Level: **Low**

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

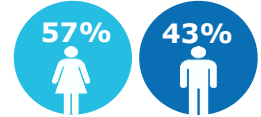
In Numbers March

4,916 mt of food assistance distributed

USD 2.2 million cash-based transfers made

USD131 million net funding requirement for May - October 2020

948,000 assisted in March 2020



Operational Updates

COVID-19 pandemic: WFP's Level 3 emergency general food distributions and nutrition interventions are being conducted in collaboration with local authorities and in accordance with SOPs establishing preventive measures including physical distancing, mandatory handwashing and temperature checks. Resources permitting, food assistance covering April and May is being provided for general food distributions and nutrition interventions in all provinces.

Ituri: Despite the ongoing military offensive against armed groups, population displacements continue to be reported in Djugu, Mahagi and Mambasa territories following attacks by armed groups. In March, WFP reached 88,900 people with in-kind food assistance and 41,500 IDPs and South Sudanese refugees with cash assistance. Insecurity in Djugu remains a primary concern and as a result, cash distributions and SCOPE registration were suspended in some villages.

Kasai: In March, WFP distributed food to 41,700 people. Due to a shortfall in stock, only cereals and pulses have been distributed since February. Additional stocks are expected to arrive in May. Cash assistance was also provided to 27,100 IDPs in Ndjokopunda and Luebo health zones. Specialized nutritious food for the treatment for moderate acute malnutrition (MAM) was provided to 13,000 pregnant and nursing women (PLW) and children, whilst food for the prevention of acute malnutrition was provided to 70,200 PLW and children. The ferry connecting Kamonia to Kamako is out of service, hampering the delivery of specialized nutritious food to Mutena health zone. WFP has deployed two all-terrain vehicles, SHERPS, to facilitate food delivery.

Kasai Central: WFP distributed in-kind food assistance to 40,800 people in March. Specialized nutritious food was also distributed to 26,600 children and PLW for the treatment of MAM and 31,300 children and PLW for the prevention of acute malnutrition. A shortage of Super Cereal is limiting distributions for PLW for both interventions. Additional stocks are only expected to arrive in late May. Accessing some health centres for nutrition interventions also remains challenging due to logistical constraints.

North Kivu: Due to government's ongoing offensive against armed groups, from February to March, over 19,000 people were displaced in Mangina (Beni) and surrounding areas. WFP distributed in-kind food to 158,700 people in Lubero,

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	303 m	131 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.

Rutshuru and Beni. Distributions in Lubero were interrupted after attacks by alleged Mai-Mai militia. Distributions were suspended and food was diverted to Beni. Specialized nutritious food for the treatment of MAM and the prevention of acute malnutrition was distributed to 2,400 and 17,700 children and PLW, respectively.

South Kivu: Government led inter-community talks were conducted in Uvira, Fizi and Mwenga to improve peaceful cohabitation between warring communities. WFP distributed food to 33,000 IDPs, host families and returnees in Fizi and Mwenga. Cash assistance was provided to 38,000 Burundian refugees in Lusenda and Mulongwe refugee camps. Preparations are underway for the launch of mobile money distributions for refugees. Distributions for MAM treatment started mid-month with 26,600 beneficiaries receiving food assistance by month-end and 7,600 beneficiaries receiving food for the prevention of acute malnutrition.

Tanganyika: In-kind food was distributed in Kalemie and Pweto, with almost 55,200 people reached in March. Poor road conditions delayed food deliveries to Pweto. To mitigate against these delays, cooperating partners have identified warehouses for prepositioning of food. Cash assistance was provided to 61,100 people throughout the month. The distribution of specialized nutritious food for the treatment of MAM and prevention of acute malnutrition ended with 32,800 people reached. With the ongoing insecurity in Nyunzu territory, food deliveries to Nyunzu, Kabalo and Manono health centres are suspended. Distributions for PLWs were hindered by insufficient stocks of Super Cereal and vegetable oil.

Challenges

Funding shortfalls: The net funding gap for the next six months (May to October 2020), amounts to USD 131 million. Significant shortfalls for general in-kind food assistance are ongoing in the Kasai provinces, with a shortfall of USD 35 million expected from May to October.

Logistics constraints: DRC has a very limited road and rail network, making it difficult for WFP to reach all people in need. To maximise its operational capacity, WFP conducted a road classification and mapping exercise to determine accessibility within intervention areas. In areas with extremely poor road conditions, alternative routes and transport mechanisms will be sought where possible, to promote uninterrupted food distributions. Stocks are being prepositioned in remote locations to prevent delays in food deliveries. Forward logistics bases and mobile storage units are also being established in key locations to enable faster delivery to distribution points.

Donors

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