

# WORLD FOOD PROGRAMME DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO (DRC) 2020 Annual Country Report Highlights



PEOPLE ASSISTED  
**6.9 million**



FOOD DISTRIBUTED  
**77,000 mt**



CASH TRANSFERRED  
**USD 46 million**

## IN DRC'S RESTIVE EAST, A MOTHER FIGHTS FOR HER CHILDREN'S HEALTH

DRC is one of the world's most fertile countries, yet severe food insecurity and acute malnutrition are rampant. One major reason: armed conflict, especially in the East, preventing farmers from accessing their fields.

Toddler Kambale cries as his arm is measured at a WFP health centre in Beni, in DRC's restive Nord Kivu province. But his eyes light up when he is offered a sachet of nutritious peanut paste, used as a supplementary food to prevent malnutrition. "My son really loves this stuff," says mom Maguy, who volunteers at the centre as a community outreach worker. "Every month they give us a box of it and he won't let his brothers and sisters anywhere near it."

More than just a treat, the peanut paste is making a difference for Kambale and tens of thousands of other malnourished children in the country receiving WFP nutritional support. "He's doing much better now since we started this programme," Maguy says, "and his weight seems to be on the right track." For many children like Kambale, malnutrition is one fallout of years of conflict and other misfortunes that have displaced millions in the country, including his family.

Things were better when mother Maguy and her husband—both rural development graduates from a technical institute—first married. They invested in an agricultural project, cultivating cassava, rice and beans, and selling their surplus. "We had the technical expertise and a clear vision of what we wanted to achieve," Maguy recalls. Then brutal militia attacks began, most targeting civilians, she says—attacks that continue today. The family did not give up. They moved to an area considered safer, and began farming again. Then came the Ebola virus, restricting their movements. "We still managed to continue farming and harvested some crops," Maguy says. "But for the past eight months we have been unable to get to our fields because that area is also full of armed groups." The family's hopes for the future are now fading. "But at least with the nutrition assistance, I am less worried about my son's development," Maguy says. "I don't know what tomorrow may bring, but for now, I'm glad that my boy is receiving the nutritious food he needs." Malnutrition prevention and treatment projects such as these are essential, offer hope to mother's like Maguy for a healthy future for their children and have been proven to be good value for donor investment.

## CONTRIBUTIONS

**USD 413 million**

[Complete DRC Annual Report](#)

## COVID-19 IMPACT AND ADAPTATION



The spread of COVID-19 has exacerbated the emergency situation the country has been experiencing for decades. Political instability, recurrent armed conflicts, severe food insecurity and malnutrition, coupled with the impact of the pandemic, have contributed to a significant increase in the number of people in need of assistance: 21.8 million people, 6 million more than the previous year. While the pandemic has disproportionately impacted the most economically vulnerable people with rising food prices and disruption to livelihoods, conflict-induced displacement remains the main trigger of food insecurity in the country.



June 2020 saw the end of the world's second worst Ebola epidemic, in eastern DRC, while a new Ebola outbreak was recorded in the west of the country. The 10th Ebola outbreak, which affected North and South Kivu, and Ituri between August 2018 and June 2020, caused 2,299 deaths with 1,162 people surviving the disease. Ebola survivors received WFP in-kind and cash assistance. The 11th Ebola epidemic in the Equateur province was declared over in November 2020, with 55 deaths. With multiple crises and rising needs, WFP scaled up its activities, extending the Level 3 emergency response into 2021.

## CROSS-CUTTING RESULTS



The 2019 Gender Inequality Index ranks DRC 150 out of 189 countries. Although women represent 52 percent of the country's population, only 12 percent hold positions at the highest level of government. Fifty-one percent are survivors of domestic violence. Gender inequality risks worsening in the challenging context triggered by COVID-19.



To ensure accountability to affected populations, complaint management mechanisms were put in place in all interventions including a toll-free hotline, complaint boxes, and community meetings allowing people to share their concerns and receive information. The active participation of people in WFP's complaint and feedback mechanisms was effective through their involvement in the resolution of complaints in collaboration with local partners and community members who are part of complaint management and feedback committees. The recommendations drawn from complaints' responses were conveyed through awareness-raising messages before and after assistance activities. These recommendations allowed WFP to improve the quality of its assistance.

# WORLD FOOD PROGRAMME DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO

## 2020 Annual Country Report Highlights

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



5.3 million people reached through food and cash assistance



150,000 school children received hot, nutritious meals and take-home rations

**Strategic outcome 2: Food insecure and vulnerable populations in conflict and shock-affected areas have improved nutritional status in line with national protocols by 2021**



844,000 pregnant and breastfeeding women were treated under the moderate acute malnutrition treatment programme



WFP contributed to reducing chronic malnutrition in 6,900 children and pregnant and breastfeeding women



651,000 pregnant and breastfeeding women and girls received special nutritious food

**Strategic outcome 3: Smallholder farmers and vulnerable communities in targeted and crisis-prone areas, especially in eastern DRC, enhance their productive livelihoods and improve their food security and resilience by 2021**



517,000 people benefitted from WFP's resilience programmes



320 mt of seeds were distributed to farmers



WFP purchased 451 mt of food from cooperatives for its Home Grown Schoolfeeding Programme

**Strategic outcome 4: National institutions in the DRC have strengthened capacity to reduce food insecurity and malnutrition and respond to shocks by 2021**



12 market bulletins produced with the national cell for Analysis of Development Indicators



15 emergency food security assessments conducted

**Strategic outcome 5: The humanitarian community in the DRC have the capacity to effectively respond to shocks through strategic partnership by 2021**



Logistics Cluster rehabilitated 4,700 kms of road and 15 bridges



4290 m3 of COVID-19 related items were stored for partners



UNHAS transported 45,000 passengers and 746 tons of light cargo

### PARTNERS

Canada, Germany, Italy, Food and Agriculture Organization, DRC Ministry of Health, Norway, Sweden, Switzerland, UNICEF, World Bank