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World Food Programme

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Photo: WFP/Charlie Kasereka

WFP Flash Appeal for the United Nations Humanitarian Air Service (UNHAS) in the DRC

UNHAS DRC REQUIRES US\$21.4 MILLION FOR 2024 to support operations until the end of the year.

About UNHAS DRC

Since its inception in the DRC in 2009, UNHAS has provided safe and efficient air transport services to many humanitarian and development organisations operating in the region. UNHAS has been at the forefront of facilitating humanitarian operations in some of the most vulnerable locations in the country, often inaccessible by road and not served by commercial airlines.



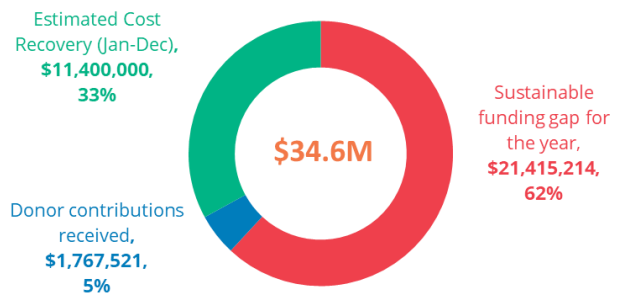
Photo: WFP/Benoit Lognone

Why is UNHAS critical in DRC?

As the humanitarian crisis in the DRC persists, the need for effective and efficient delivery of aid has become more critical than ever. Despite the immense challenges, UNHAS has consistently provided a lifeline to remote and hard-to-reach areas, enabling the delivery of essential supplies, equipment, and personnel. The impact of UNHAS operations cannot be overstated – without UNHAS, humanitarian efforts in the DRC would be severely compromised.

Funding gap

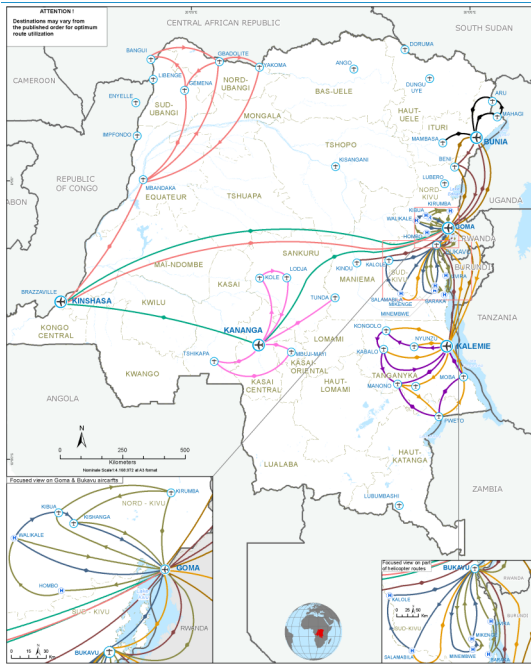
To maintain its operational capacity, UNHAS requires an annual budget for 2024 of US\$34.6 million. However, since the beginning of 2024 new contributions only amount to US\$ 1 million in bilateral contributions for the entire operation and US\$ 750k in multilateral funding dedicated solely to operations in South Kivu. Annual cost recovery is estimated to cover US\$ 11.4 million leaving a shortfall of an estimated **US\$ 21.4 million** to support operations to the end of the year. UNHAS has maintain operations until this date by using the carryover from the previous year (US\$ 11.2 million) and cost recovery from January to April (US\$ 3.6 million).



Unlike WFP operations, which can be scaled-up and down according to resource availability, any resourcing breaks for UNHAS services lead to a complete suspension of air operations, resulting in limited or no options for the humanitarian community to reach remote locations.

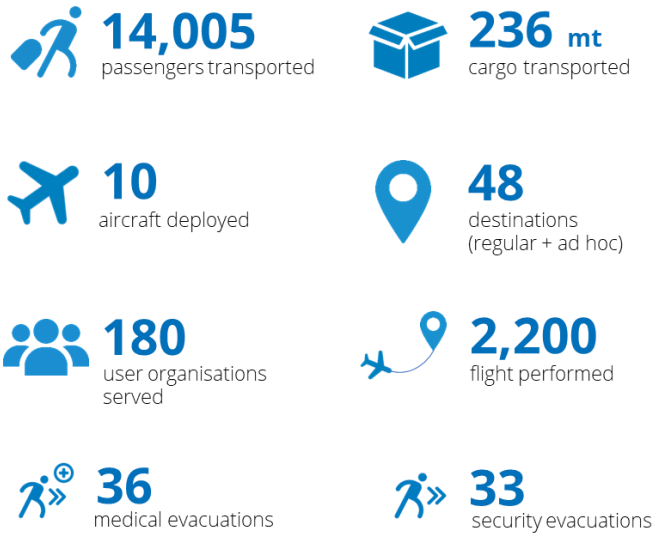
WFP calls for urgent support to maintain this vital service in DRC. By providing reliable and safe air transport, UNHAS is able to bring assistance to some of the most remote and inaccessible parts of the country, where the need is greatest.

Map of routes

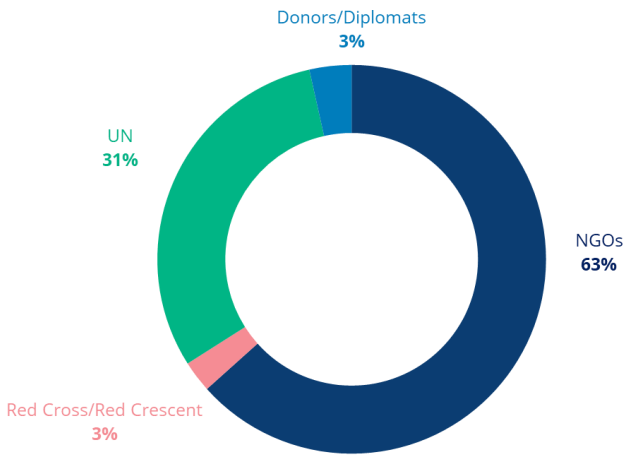


UNHAS in numbers

January – May 10th, 2024



UNHAS users



Challenges

Logistical and operational challenges, such as infrastructure limitations, adverse weather conditions, security issues, and fuel supply shortages, pose significant obstacles to the efficiency of aid delivery. Despite the various challenges, UNHAS has achieved significant success in fulfilling its objectives and maintains its operational capacity with a fleet of ten aircraft, including two funded by the European Union (EU) and fully managed by WFP/UNHAS since May 2020.

The withdrawal of MONUSCO from South Kivu by 30 June will result in additional costs for UNHAS to maintain the provision of essential air services to critical locations in the province. UNHAS is not intended to replace MONUSCO, but to ensure continued access to areas where humanitarian needs are greatest.

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