



World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES
CHANGING LIVES

WFP Democratic Republic of Congo Country Brief

September 2024



Operational Context

The DRC has one of the highest estimated percentages of food-insecure people worldwide, with **23.4 million** people estimated to be food insecure according to the Integrated Food Security Phase Classification 2023. This includes **5.4 million** people facing acute food insecurity in three eastern provinces. However, the needs are expected to have further increased as the context has deteriorated significantly since the analysis in late 2023.

Protracted crises aggravated by increased conflict have deteriorated the situation in recent months, particularly in the east. Approximately **7.3 million** people are internally displaced (highest figure recorded). Flooding induced by El Nino weather phenomenon in eastern Africa has triggered flooding in several provinces in DRC affecting thousands of people, exacerbating an already critical situation.

Together, these factors impede communities' ability to earn livelihoods and access food. WFP's emergency response assists internally displaced people, refugees and host communities in affected provinces.

WFP also supports transport for passengers as well as essential cargo for the humanitarian community through the UN Humanitarian Air Service to reach inaccessible areas across the country.



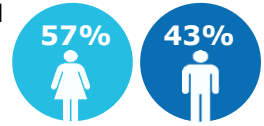
In Numbers

6,500 mt of food distributed in August

US\$ 7 million distributed in cash-based transfers in August

US\$ 357.6 million required for the next six months (October 2024 to March 2025)

1.3 million people assisted in August 2024



Situation Update

- As of August, WFP had expanded its reach and delivered food assistance in previously inaccessible areas due to active frontlines. The temporary ceasefire and humanitarian truce between July and August allowed safer access for WFP and other humanitarian actors.
- In September, attacks by armed groups in DRC continued despite the ceasefire declared in August following the Luanda peace process between the Governments of DRC and Rwanda. This agreement aimed to reduce hostilities and protect civilians in the eastern provinces.

Operational Updates

- General food assistance:** In August, WFP distributed in-kind and cash assistance to 1 million people including internally displaced persons (IDPs), host communities and refugees from Burundi, Central African Republic (CAR) and South Sudan living in DRC. However, the rapidly evolving humanitarian needs surpass available resources causing WFP to adjust its reach based on resource availability. From October, WFP plans to roll out emergency food assistance for the first time to crisis-affected people in Mai Ndombe province (western DRC) which registered high numbers of people facing acute food insecurity.
- Nutrition:** WFP provided commodities for the treatment and prevention of acute malnutrition to **327,000 children and pregnant and breastfeeding women and girls**. The number of people registered for treatment and prevention of acute malnutrition has increased with new arrivals in the WFP-supported centres.
- School feeding:** WFP-supported school feeding programs across six provinces (Kasai Oriental, Kasai Central, Lomami, North Kivu, South Kivu and Tanganyika) targeted 185,000 schoolchildren.
- Asset creation and livelihoods building:** Approximately 156,000 smallholder farmers participating in asset creation and livelihoods-building activities, including land resource management, afforestation, capacity building for increased agricultural production through post-harvest management, literacy skills and alternative income generation activities.

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Caption: Adrian smiles after finishing the porridge his mother, Asifiwe is feeding him. Asifiwe has been participating in awareness campaigns to support behavior change for prevention of acute malnutrition. Photo: WFP/ Michael Castofas

Country Strategic Plan (2021-2025)

Total Requirement (in USD)	Allocated Contributions (in USD)	Six Month Net Funding Requirements (in USD)
1,152 m	537.1 m	357.6 m

Strategic Result 1: Everyone has access to food

Strategic Outcome 1: Conflict- and crisis-affected men, women, boys, and girls from all ethnic groups are able to meet their basic food and nutrition requirements throughout the year. **Focus area:** Crisis Response

Activities:

- Act. 1: Provide gender-equitable and nutrition-sensitive essential needs assistance to conflict- and crisis-affected populations through direct assistance and enhanced inter-agency coordination.
- Act. 2: Treat moderate acute malnutrition among conflict- and crisis-affected populations.
- Act. 3: Prevent acute malnutrition among conflict- and crisis-affected populations.

Strategic Result 2: Access to food (SDG Target 2.1)

Strategic Outcome 2: The human capital of conflict affected and/or at-risk populations is equitably and inclusively protected and strengthened by 2024. **Focus area:** Resilience Building

Activities:

- Act. 4: Provide nutritious school meals to targeted school children and support the implementation of the home-grown school feeding programme.
- Act. 5: Support interventions to prevent chronic malnutrition, especially for at risk people.

Strategic Result 3: Smallholders productivity and incomes (SDG Target 2.3)

Strategic Outcome 3: Smallholder farmers and food value chain actors have improved livelihood opportunities, resilience, social cohesion, protection and make progress towards gender equality by 2024. **Focus area:** Resilience Building

Activities:

- Act. 6: Smallholder farmers' and value chain actors' equitable access to climate and nutrition-smart livelihood opportunities, services and markets.

Strategic Result 8: Enhance Global Partnership (SDG Target 17.16)

Strategic Outcome 4: Humanitarian and development partners have access to reliable air services, improved supply chain and other services during and in the aftermath of conflicts and crises. **Focus area:** Crisis Response

Activities:

- Act. 7: Provide humanitarian air services to the humanitarian community.
- Act. 8: Provide humanitarian platforms (logistics cluster coordination and information services) to the humanitarian community.
- Act. 9: Provide on-demand services to humanitarian and development partners.

- Supply Chain:** WFP has an in-country stock of nearly 38,000 mt of various food commodities, with an additional 128,000 mt at various stages of procurement and delivery for operations in the DRC. WFP is expecting the delivery of more commodities in coming months from across the region. The commodities in transit are expected to be delivered to the eastern provinces instead of Kinshasa and this is expected to facilitate swift delivery to distribution sites (mostly located in the east) while reducing the costs of transport and handling.

- WFP is providing critical transport and logistics support for vaccine delivery in response to the mpox outbreak in DRC. Additionally, three technical experts from the WFP-Africa CDC Partnership have been deployed to assist with the response efforts.

- Food safety and quality:** A Memorandum of understanding was signed with the International Institute For Tropical Agriculture as part of the resilience and food and safety quality project to strengthen value chains, with WFP aiming to support food quality assurance..

Challenges

- Mpox:** The DRC remains at the epicentre of the mpox outbreak that was recently classified as a public health emergency of high concern by the World Health Organization and the Africa Centres of Disease Control. Cases have also been recorded in internally displaced camps where WFP and other partners are addressing humanitarian needs of internally displaced populations. The spread of mpox cases to these camps poses a risk to humanitarian operations as the safety of people assisted, cooperating partners and WFP staff is in jeopardy. As a result, humanitarian partners are now required to make provision for prevention of the spread during operations.

Story from the Field



At the Lac Vert distribution site, Kahindo is receiving essential food rations provided by WFP which are a vital support for households displaced by insecurity in eastern DRC. Photo Credit: WFP/Michael Castofas.

Follow updates on WFP's operations in DRC by following the X account (@WFPDRC).

Donors

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Note: This brief covers September, but references August data as official September figures are not yet available.