



World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES
CHANGING LIVES

WFP Democratic Republic of Congo Country Brief

October 2024



Operational Context

The DRC has one of the highest estimated numbers of food-insecure people worldwide, with **25.6 million** people estimated to be food insecure as per the [latest IPC analysis](#). This includes **6.2 million** people facing acute food insecurity in three eastern provinces. Overall, the situation seems to be unchanging as the humanitarian situation has continued to deteriorate.

Protracted crises aggravated by increased conflict have deteriorated the situation in recent months, particularly in the east. Approximately **6.9 million** people are internally displaced, including 13 percent displaced by climate disaster. Heavy rainfall induced by El Nino weather phenomenon in eastern Africa triggered flooding in several provinces in DRC affecting thousands of people, exacerbating an already critical humanitarian 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.



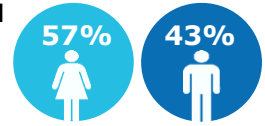
In Numbers

12,000 mt of food distributed in September

US\$ 10 million distributed in cash-based transfers in September

US\$ 350.2 million required for the next six months (November 2024 to April 2025)

1.7 million people assisted in September 2024



Situation Update

- In October, incidences of insecurity and fighting continued in several areas, particularly in the four eastern provinces. The M23 rebel group resumed its offensive by advancing into Kalembe territory in North Kivu, after adhering to the ceasefire and truce over the last two months. The advancement prompted the Congolese armed forces to launch a counter-attack in the same territory, resulting in a resumption of fighting between the two groups.
- The [latest IPC analysis](#) for acute food insecurity shows that 25.6 million people (25 percent of the population) are facing acute food insecurity with people in internally displaced camps facing emergency levels (IPC level 4) of food insecurity.

Operational Updates

- General food assistance:** In September, WFP distributed in-kind and cash assistance to 1.3 million people including internally displaced persons (IDPs), host communities and refugees from Burundi, Central African Republic (CAR) and South Sudan living in DRC. While this marked the highest monthly reach for WFP's this year, the rapidly evolving humanitarian needs surpass available resources resulting in WFP not reaching everyone in need.
- Nutrition:** WFP provided commodities for the treatment and prevention of acute malnutrition to **360,000 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.

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

Caption: Jacqueline, a mother of 8 who fled Sake in February, receives vital cash food assistance from WFP alongside 98,000 other displaced people in Mugunga camp in North Kivu. Photot: WFP/ Benjamin Anguandia

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Supply Chain and Logistics

Country Strategic Plan (2021-2025)

Total Requirement (in USD)	Allocated Contributions (in USD)	Six Month Net Funding Requirements (in USD)
1,152 m	882.4 m	350.2 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 96,000 mt at various stages of procurement and delivery for operations in the DRC.
- WFP is providing critical transport and logistics support for vaccine delivery in response to the mpox outbreak in DRC. WFP supported land, water and air transport for the delivery of 47,000 vaccines and 66,000 ancillaries to affected provinces (Sankuru, South Kivu and South Ubangi) for the Mpox response.

Challenges

- **Increasing Needs:** Despite WFP's ongoing monthly food and cash assistance, results of the most recent food security analysis show that the number of people facing acute food insecurity remains unchanged, highlighting the need for renewed targeting and response planning especially considering the current resource constraints. The situation is particularly severe in places hosting internally displaced populations, including in sites where WFP and other humanitarian partners respond.
- **Insecurity:** Without sustained efforts to reduce hostilities, the security situation will deteriorate and severely limit WFP's operations. While accessibility had eased in part thanks to the humanitarian truce and ceasefire, sporadic clashes continued in pocket areas in the conflict-affected eastern provinces. In September and October, WFP already had to temporarily suspend distributions as security incidences in and close to IDP camps threatened the safety of beneficiaries, cooperating partners, and staff.
- **Health Crisis:** DRC remains the epicentre of the global Mpox outbreak, with over 40,000 suspected cases representing 90 percent of cases worldwide. The vaccination campaign has been rolled out and so far, 45,000 people have been vaccinated. Additionally, cases of the Marburg virus disease continue to be reported in neighbouring Rwanda, threatening a potential spread to DRC given the proximity and porosity of the borders between the countries.

Story from the Field



Florida fled the conflict in the Central African Republic to DRC. She is receiving cash assistance from WFP which is supporting her and her family to meet their food needs. Photo Credit: WFP/Michael Castofas.

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

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