



World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES
CHANGING LIVES

WFP Democratic Republic of Congo Country Brief

February 2025



Operational Context

The DRC has one of the highest estimated numbers of food-insecure people worldwide, with **25.5 million** people estimated to be food insecure as per the [latest IPC analysis](#). This includes **6.1 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 since the start of the year, particularly in the east. In January alone, nearly 1 million people were displaced in the city of Goma following the advancement of the March 23 movement rebel group into the city. OCHA noted that there were already **7.8 million people internally displaced** across DRC. The advancement also caused a disruption in access, supply chains and essential amenities. Together, these factors impede communities' ability to earn sustainable 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.



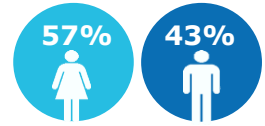
In Numbers

2,800 mt of food distributed

US\$ 2 million distributed in cash-based transfers

US\$ 397 million required for the next six months (February to July 2025)

500,000 people assisted in January 2025



Situation Update

- In February, the security situation continued to worsen in eastern DRC as the M23 rebel group advanced its offensive and seized control of Bukavu, the provincial capital of South Kivu. The advance worsened the already disrupted access and supply chain with the closure of Kavumu airport in South Kivu. Attacks and looting were prevalent during the month, increasing protection risks and violations to civilians and humanitarian workers alike.
- Safety for WFP staff and dependents remains highly volatile. Non-critical staff and dependents in Kalemie were relocated as the United Nations Designated official declared relocation for personnel in Tanganyika province. WF has maintained skeleton teams of staff in the affected provinces to facilitate WFP operations whenever the security situation allows.

Operational Updates

- General food assistance:** In January, WFP distributed in-kind and cash assistance to 312,000 people including internally displaced persons (IDPs), host communities and refugees living in DRC. Despite concerning security situation around DRC, WFP was able to provide lifesaving support to people who need it. However, insecurity limited WFP's reach as the number of people reached in January is much less than the monthly average (1 million) WFP recorded in the latter half of 2024.
- Nutrition:** WFP provided commodities for the treatment and prevention of acute malnutrition to almost **150,000 children and pregnant and breastfeeding women and girls**. WFP provided nutrition and in treatment centres in Goma.
- School feeding:** WFP-supported school feeding programs across six provinces (Kasai Oriental, Kasai Central, Lomami, North Kivu, South Kivu and Tanganyika) reached some 110,000 schoolchildren in January.
- Asset creation and livelihoods building:** Overall, implementation continued for livelihoods-building activities including literacy skills training, agroforestry, distributions of cash-based transfers to participants and training and distributions of materials for income-generating kits in the Kasais, Kinshasa and Ubangis. In Tanganyika and Ubangi, WFP conducted planning workshops to initiate implementation while monitoring the security situation in South Kivu and Tanganyika and adjusting implementation plans accordingly.

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Country Strategic Plan (2021-2025)

Total Requirement (in USD)	Allocated Contributions (in USD)	Six Month Net Funding Requirements (in USD)
1,152 m	398 m	397 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 and Logistics

- **Supply Chain:** WFP has an in-country stock of 15,000 mt of various food commodities, with an additional 94,000 mt at various stages of procurement and delivery for operations in the DRC.
- Following the takeover of Bukavu by the M23 rebels, the security situation deteriorated rapidly, and WFP warehouses were attacked. Over 6,000 mt of food commodities (about 100 percent of the stocks in the warehouse) were lost. Coupled with the commodities that were lost in Goma, over 17,000 mt of WFP commodities have been lost this year.
- WFP is providing critical transport and logistics support for the humanitarian community including through the United Nations Humanitarian Air Service. In February, UNHAS transported nearly 1,800 humanitarian workers and 12 mt of essential cargo across the DRC. These included humanitarians that were relocated from Beni, Bukavu, Bujumbura and Kalemie to Kinshasa and Lubumbashi due to insecurity.

Challenges:

- **Increased Humanitarian Needs:** People are fleeing camps due to the increase in insecurity and humanitarian workers are unable to maintain humanitarian support to those that need it the most. **Food security assessments indicate that nearly three-quarters of people forced out of camps sheltering internally displaced people have inadequate diet.** Over 90 percent of these people have poor to borderline food consumption due to lack of access to food and livelihood options.
- **Limited Access:** The M23's advance and increased activity by other non-state armed groups is hindering operations in affected territories by limiting safe space for humanitarian work. The insecurity has prompted UNHAS to extend its no-fly zone and flight schedule with the closure of Goma and Bukavu airports thereby limiting areas in which it can transport humanitarians for response.

Views from the Field



After a temporary pause due to insecurity, WFP is back on the ground to assist the populations of Goma. WFP is distributing food to internally-displace people who have return to their villages in Bweremana, Kirotshe and Shasha. With banks closed, WFP is providing in-kind commodities in Goma and surrounding areas for emergency food assistance. Photo Credit: WFP/Jerry Ally.

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