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# WFP Democratic Republic of Congo Country Brief

## March 2025



### Operational Context

The DRC has one of the highest estimated numbers of food-insecure people worldwide, with **28 million** people estimated to be food insecure as per the latest IPC analysis. This includes **10.3 million** people facing acute food insecurity in the four eastern provinces. Protracted crises aggravated by increased conflict have deteriorated the situation since the start of the year. 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.

Population: **109.6 million**

Income level: **Low**



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Further information: <https://www.wfp.org/countries/democratic-republic-congo>

## In Numbers

**6,629 mt** of food distributed

**USD 1.2 million** distributed in cash-based transfers

**USD 366.8 million** required for the next six months (April to September 2025)

**598,000 people assisted** in February 2025



### Situation Update

- In March, the situation in eastern DRC remained highly volatile, as the M23 rebel group consolidated its control over occupied territories in North and South Kivu and advanced west- and southwards.
- Ongoing conflict, displacement and high food prices have led to a steep increase in acute food insecurity in the Eastern Provinces of Ituri, North Kivu, South Kivu and Tanganyika. According to the latest Integrated Phase Classification (IPC) Update, the number of acutely food insecure people in DRC increased from 25.5 million in September 2024 to 28 million in March 2025-the highest number ever recorded in DRC. Out of the total 28 million, 10.3 million reside in the Eastern Provinces. 2.3 million among them face emergency-level food insecurity (IPC4). North Kivu and Tanganyika host the highest share of acutely food insecure people (45% each), while South Kivu and North Kivu saw the strongest deterioration due to ongoing fighting.

### Operational Updates

- General food assistance:** In February, WFP distributed in-kind and cash assistance to 330,000 people including internally displaced persons (IDPs), returnees, host communities and refugees living in DRC. Emergency response remained at limited scale due to access constraints in the Eastern Provinces amid ongoing conflict.
- Nutrition:** Treatment and prevention of acute malnutrition interventions reached 100,000 children and pregnant and breastfeeding women and girls. Another 51,000 children benefitted from stunting prevention.
- School feeding:** Some 108,000 schoolchildren in four provinces benefitted from WFP-supported school feeding programs. To support the Government with developing a national school feeding strategy, WFP held provincial-level consultations.
- Asset creation and livelihoods building:** Smallholder farmer support and asset creation activities involved some 9,000 people in three provinces with the aim to strengthen community resilience and improve market access for smallholders. In March, FAO, UNHCR and WFP launched their Joint Strategy for Strengthening Refugees and Host Communities Livelihoods and Resilience in the DRC.

## Country Strategic Plan (2021-2025)

Total Requirement (in USD)	Allocated Contributions (in USD)	Six Month Net Funding Requirements (in USD)
1,152 m	423 m	371 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 nearly 12,000 mt of various food commodities, with an additional 92,000 mt at various stages of procurement and delivery for operations in the DRC.
- In support of the Government's Mpox response WFP transported vaccines, drugs, and sensitization materials to affected provinces.
- The United Nations Humanitarian Air Service (UNHAS), operated by WFP, transported 1,582 passengers and 15.7 mt of essential light cargo in March. These included some 299 people that were relocated from Kalemie, Kisangani (Walikale) and Bujumbura to Kinshasa and Lubumbashi due to insecurity. The overall number of passengers transported remained low as humanitarian operations have still been hampered by the insecurity in the east. Ongoing fighting resulted in a further expansion of the no-fly zone, spanning over 40,000 km<sup>2</sup>. The UNHAS flight is now down to six fixed-wing aircraft due to reduced available resources.

## Challenges:

- **Increased Humanitarian Needs:** The needs demonstrated in the latest IPC update are a stark reminder of the interlinkages between conflict and hunger. Following a drop in assistance in January and February due to ongoing fighting, WFP is increasing its operation in the eastern Provinces to meet the needs of the most vulnerable. To do so, unimpeded humanitarian access, operational independence and respect of international humanitarian law by all actors are imperative.
- The continued **closure of banks** has affected WFP's cash-based assistance in North and South Kivu. Cash transfers have swiftly been replaced by in-kind food assistance, while WFP is discussing with financial service providers alternative transfer modalities.

## Views from the Field



After nearly three months in Goma, Wivine and her family returned to Minova, only to find their house had been looted and everything was gone. Despite this, Wivine is doing her best to start over with help from WFP. "You explain to the children to eat until they are satisfied," she said. "You also make sure they understand it's hard to find food." At a WFP food distribution, she joined a cooking class where she learned how to make healthy meals using local ingredients. "I'm happy to learn new ways of preparing food," she said. Life is still hard, but Wivine is determined to give her children a better future. Photo Credit: WFP/Benjamin Anguadia.

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