



World Food Programme

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WFP Democratic Republic of Congo Country Brief

May 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, over 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.



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

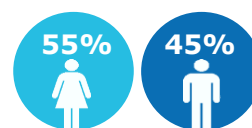
In Numbers

6,800 MT of food distributed

USD 6.5 million distributed in cash-based transfers

USD 478.5 million required for the next six months (June to November 2025)

800,000 people assisted in April 2025



Situation Update

- In May, significant political progress was made to address the security situation in eastern DRC. A draft peace agreement was shared by the US with the governments of Rwanda and DRC. The AU-appointed mediator led discussions to harmonize ongoing peace efforts by bodies (Nairobi, Luanda, EAC, SADC, US and Qatar).
- Following the lifting of security measures for Kalemie on 14 May, all staff with dependents previously relocated from Kalemie to Kinshasa have now returned to their duty station. However, about 60 staff are relocated due to insecurity in their duty stations.
- WFP Executive Director Cindy McCain and Regional Director for East and Southern Africa regional office Eric Perdison visited DRC in May and met with partners including community protection champions, NGO partners, donors and development partners including the UN Country team. The mission also met with communities in Ituri Province and Beni in northern North Kivu, both of which have equally serious security challenges and vulnerabilities and host people displaced by the M23's occupation in North and South Kivu and others affected by attacks from other non-state armed groups active in the respective territories.

Operational Updates

- General food assistance:** In May WFP distributed in-kind and cash assistance to 600,000 people including internally displaced persons (IDPs), returnees, host communities and refugees living in DRC. However, WFP's reach remains well below WFP's monthly reach in 2024 due to reduced resources and limited access.
- Nutrition:** Treatment and prevention of acute malnutrition interventions reached 34,000 children and pregnant and breastfeeding women and girls. Another 94,000 children and pregnant and breastfeeding women benefitted from stunting prevention.
- School feeding:** Some 69,000 schoolchildren in four provinces benefitted from WFP-supported school feeding programs.
- Asset creation and livelihoods building:** Smallholder farmer support and asset creation activities involved around 2,800 people in three provinces with the aim to strengthen community resilience and improve market access for smallholders.

Country Strategic Plan (2021-2025)

Total Requirement (in USD)	Allocated Contributions (in USD)	Six Month Net Funding Requirements (in USD)
1,107.6 m	419.8 m	478.5 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:** In May, WFP had in-country stock of nearly 31,000 MT of various food commodities, with an additional 94,000 MT at various stages of procurement and delivery for operations in the DRC.
- In order to cater for the needs in Uvira amid the unfeasible use of cash transfers as a modality in the area, WFP plans to open a new corridor for in Baraka /Fizi Lusenda in South Kivu to support operations for 40,000 beneficiaries in that territory. An assessment is ongoing to explore the option of using the lake from Kalemie in Tanganyika for delivery of food commodities to the territory.
- The United Nations Humanitarian Air Service (UNHAS), operated by WFP, transported 1,383 passengers and 19.2 MT of essential light cargo in May. The overall number of passengers transported remained low as the UNHAS fleet has six fixed-wing aircraft due to reduced available resources. Moreover, destinations such as Goma and Bukavu are not included as the respective airports remain closed.

Challenges:

- **Resourcing:** WFP plans to gradually increase its operations in the eastern Provinces to meet the needs of the most vulnerable. However, adequate resources, unimpeded humanitarian access and operational independence are required to support these efforts. Without any additional resources, WFP is facing critical resourcing shortages which threaten WFP's support beyond coming months (July for malnutrition prevention and cash-based transfers and November for in-kind commodities for emergency response).
- **Modalities:** The continued **closure of banks** has affected WFP's emergency response in North and South Kivu. Cash transfers have swiftly been replaced by in-kind food assistance, while WFP is discussing with financial service providers on the use of e-vouchers as an alternative.

Views from the Field



ED Cindy McCain at a distribution site in Bunia, Ituri during her visit to DRC in May 2025. Photo Credit: WFP/Shelley Thakral.

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