



World Food Programme

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## WFP

### Democratic Republic of Congo

### Emergency Situation Report #16

30 December 2019

#### In numbers

**15.6 million** food insecure people and **5 million** children acutely malnourished

**5.2 million** people assisted in 2018

**5.1 million** people targeted in 2019

**1.17 million** people reached per month on average

#### Highlights

- In 2019, WFP continues its corporate Level 3 emergency response, planning to reach 5.1 million people with food and nutrition assistance.
- Hunger remains a major concern, as 15.6 million people are food insecure based on the results of the 17th Integrated Phase Classification (IPC). WFP's corporate emergency response has been extended for another six months until April 2020, in order to stem a further deterioration of the humanitarian situation.

#### People assisted Emergency Response

October: 999,450



#### People assisted Ebola Response

Since August 2018: 770,000

#### Situation Update

- Inter-communal violence, disease outbreaks, restricted humanitarian access, poor infrastructure, and reduced access to agricultural lands and markets, all contribute to an extremely complex humanitarian situation in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC). Heavy rains in late October led to flooding in at least ten provinces, affecting some 600,000 people and destroying 35,000 homes, mainly in the north-western provinces of North Ubangi, South Ubangi, Mongala and Equateur.
- Conflict and internal displacement remain a primary trigger for food insecurity. In South Kivu, new conflict-induced displacements are reported in the Kalehe and Minembwe highlands. In North Kivu, an ongoing offensive by the Congolese Armed Forces against armed groups in Beni has led to the displacement of over 32,000 people and the death of over 100 people in Beni and Masisi. This conflict led to mass civilian protests and violent attacks targeted against UN personnel and operations in Goma, Beni and Butembo. Humanitarian operations were directly impacted, with some 554 aid workers temporarily relocated to Goma in mid-November for their safety.

Within this context, WFP continues its corporate Level 3 emergency response covering the seven most populous and conflict-affected provinces in Eastern DRC, Tanganyika and the Greater Kasai region. This emergency response has been extended until April 2020, due to high levels of food insecurity which are expected to continue in the first half of 2020.

**Ebola:** DRC's ongoing Ebola outbreak, is the worst in the country's history, and the second largest and deadliest outbreak globally. The outbreak has infected over 3,300 people and claimed over 2,100 lives in North Kivu, South Kivu and Ituri provinces. Although the number of cases has declined in recent months, the situation remains volatile due to heightened insecurity in North Kivu and Ituri provinces, where the majority of cases are reported.

On 28 November, militia fighters in Biakato and Mangina killed three aid workers and injured several others in attacks targeted against Ebola response centres. Such insecurity disrupts response efforts, limiting contact tracing, surveillance and vaccination efforts, often resulting in increased transmission rates. Due to the heightened insecurity, Ebola response activities, including food distributions, were temporarily interrupted in late November and early December.

Photo: John Wessels

WFP trucks in Kananga, Kasai Central province

## Population movement

### • **Voluntary repatriation of refugees to CAR:**

With the gradual return of peace to certain parts of the Central African Republic (CAR), some refugees are choosing to return to their home country. A Tripartite Agreement was signed in July between UNHCR and the governments of DRC and CAR, to lay the groundwork for the first voluntary repatriation of CAR refugees since 2013. In late November, the first convoy of Central African refugees left Mole camp, in South Ubangi province, for Bangui. An estimated 4,000 refugees from Mole and Boyabu camps in South Ubangi are expected to return to CAR. WFP is supporting returnees with food rations for two months.

• **Closure of IDP sites:** In pursuit of its zero internally displaced persons (IDP) policy, the government has resumed its closure of IDP sites in Tanganyika province. Some 17,000 IDPs living in and around Kalemie will return to their areas of origin, in a process overseen by a committee comprised of government authorities and humanitarian actors. WFP is providing returnees with a ration of high-energy biscuits.

• **Congolese returnees from Angola:** Since mid-August, over 16,000 Congolese refugees residing in Angola have returned to DRC, following an improvement in the security situation in the Kasai regions. In close collaboration with UNHCR, WFP has provided returnees with a combination of cash assistance, high energy biscuits and in-kind food in transit sites in Kasai and Kasai Central provinces. WFP is also providing specialized nutritious food for the treatment of moderate acute malnutrition for children in Kasai Central.

## WFP Response

• Despite significant access and logistical challenges, WFP aims to provide life-saving food and nutrition assistance to 5.1 million people across DRC this year. Throughout 2019, WFP has reached an average of 1.17 million people each month and is well on track to reaching its yearly target. Considering the heightened deterioration of the food security situation across the country, WFP will continue to provide scaled-up food and nutrition assistance during the first half of 2020. Sustained financial support is needed to ensure that WFP can effectively respond to the most urgent humanitarian needs.

### WFP's strategic shift towards resilience

• WFP is linking its crisis response interventions with early recovery and nutrition-sensitive resilience and livelihood activities targeting 450,000 people in North Kivu, South Kivu,

Tanganyika, North Ubangi and South Ubangi provinces. Resilience building activities will be scaled up in 2020, targeting 630,000 people throughout the year. This includes the targeting of an additional 180,000 people, in partnership with FAO and UNICEF, in new territories in North and South Kivu. Subject to funding, in early 2020 WFP plans to develop resilience programmes and peacebuilding interventions in Kasai and Kasai Central, to help facilitate the reintegration of the returnees from Angola. Plans are also underway to jointly develop a resilience model for refugees, alongside FAO and UNHCR.



## Food, Cash and Nutrition Assistance

### Food assistance:

• WFP provides immediate lifesaving food and nutrition assistance to victims of recent conflict and displacement in eastern DRC, Tanganyika and the Greater Kasai region. In Yumbi, Mai-Ndombe province, WFP provided food assistance to 69,000 people between April and September. WFP also distributed specialized nutritious products to 10,000 children to prevent acute malnutrition. Post-distribution monitoring results indicate that fewer than one in five households now have a poor food consumption score, whilst 62 percent of households have an acceptable food consumption score.

• **Ebola:** WFP continues to support the DRC Government in tackling the ongoing Ebola epidemic that has lasted more than 16 months. WFP provides food and nutrition assistance to help break the Ebola transmission chain. Since the beginning of the response in August 2018, WFP has provided food and nutrition assistance to over 770,000 people and distributed 346,000 food kits. Some 83 percent of the recipients are Ebola contacts, with the balance comprised of survivors and patients discharged after testing negative for the virus. The provision of food helps minimize the movement of Ebola contacts, thereby helping contain the spread of the virus.

### Cash-based assistance:

• From January to early December, WFP distributed cash and value vouchers worth an estimated USD 38 million. In response to the flooding in North and South Ubangi provinces, WFP plans to provide emergency relief assistance through unrestricted cash transfers, targeting 50,000 people. WFP will work with partners, including FAO, to help affected households re-establish their livelihoods. These activities will complement the ongoing resilience building activities that WFP is already implementing in these provinces.

## Nutrition assistance:

- In 2019, WFP plans to reach 1.5 million children and pregnant and nursing women (PLWs) through the treatment of moderate acute malnutrition and the prevention of acute malnutrition. From January to September this year, WFP successfully reached over 648,000 children and PLWs for both interventions, already exceeding the total number of people reached in 2018.
- WFP is piloting the use of SCOPE CODA (Conditional On Demand Assistance) in Kasai province to improve beneficiary tracking, quality case management and follow-up through a continuum-of-care monitoring. The platform SCOPE CODA builds upon WFP's existing beneficiary and transfer management platform (SCOPE), to meet the digitization needs of nutrition treatment programmes, in providing a unified platform for registering individuals and monitoring performance.



## Supply Chain

- November in-kind food distributions in Tanganyika province were hindered by a shortfall of cereals. Additional stock is arriving, in preparation for distributions early next year. The timely delivery of food to distribution sites remains a challenge in Kasai, South Kivu and North Kivu provinces due to extremely poor road conditions. To increase its delivery capacity, WFP used two all-terrain vehicles (SHERPS) to deliver specialized nutritious food in Kasai province.

## Clusters and Common Services



### Food Security Cluster

- The 17th IPC results indicate that 15.6 million people are experiencing "crisis" and "emergency" levels of food insecurity (IPC Phases 3 and 4). This represents 26 percent of the population analyzed. Projections for January to May 2020 show an increase in the proportion of the population in Phase 3 and 4, from 26 percent to 28 percent. The number of food insecure people in DRC is still potentially underestimated, as not all provinces and territories in the country have been covered by the latest IPC analysis. Reasons for the current food security situation include the resurgence of armed and inter-ethnic conflicts, displacement, and extreme poverty.



### Logistics Cluster

In response to the humanitarian crisis in DRC, the Logistics Cluster is working closely with its partners to support logistics and operational needs of humanitarian actors involved in the

emergency response. Humanitarian access remains a key challenge for the provision of food assistance in Mikenge and Minembwe in the Fizi highlands of South Kivu province. Recently rehabilitated roads are fast deteriorating once more due to the ongoing heavy rains. Works are ongoing. Several maps on access constraints are available [here](#).



### UN Humanitarian Air Service (UNHAS)

- UNHAS is scaling up its operations to meet increased needs in DRC. From January to the end of November, UNHAS transported 61,250 passengers and 898 mt of cargo throughout DRC. Considering the poor road infrastructure limiting food transportation in the Fizi highlands, UNHAS plans to begin helicopter flights to these areas in January. These flights will be used to transport passengers, light cargo and food. Following the recent insecurity in North Kivu, UNHAS played a critical role in relocating some 554 people from Beni, Butembo, Biakato and Mabalako to Goma.

## Resourcing Update

- WFP urgently needs an additional USD 166 million to implement its activities at planned scale for the next six months. A budget revision is ongoing, which will see funding requirements for WFP's Interim Country Strategic Plan increase by at least USD 100 million.
- **Food and nutrition support:** Significant shortfalls of more than 73 percent continue in the Kasai provinces. The funding requirement for the next six months is USD 70 million. Shortfalls continue to be significant for the prevention of acute malnutrition. With no contributions forecast, complete pipeline breaks are expected from January 2020.
- **Cash:** Funds for cash assistance for refugees will run out in December. New contributions are therefore needed urgently, with USD 6 million needed to cover the requirements during the first quarter of 2020.
- **Ebola response:** WFP is assessing the food assistance requirements for the Ebola response for 2020. Available resources should be sufficient until June 2020, should current trends continue.

## Contacts

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- For further information, visit the WFP [DRC page](#)