Situation Update

• The escalation of violence in the Kasai region of the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) in March 2017 caused 35,000 refugees to flee across the border into Lunda Norte Province, Angola.

• Although the rate of new arrivals in Dundo has stabilized, with no new arrivals recorded since August 2017, the security situation in Kasai remains volatile and conditions are not adequate for safe and dignified return.

• WFP will therefore maintain a response planning figure of the 35,000 registered refugees for its Transitional Interim Country Strategic Plan (T-ISCP).

• Findings from a UNHCR/WFP Joint Assessment Mission (JAM) undertaken in June 2018 indicated that above 60 percent of the refugees solely rely on WFP assistance to cover their food requirements.

• The food security situation was also found to have deteriorated slightly in the Lóvua settlement due to minimal access to alternative food sources, however the nutrition situation remains stable with Global Acute Malnutrition (GAM) rates below 1 percent.

• Previous market assessment findings in 2017, recommended the introduction of cash based transfers (CBT) to enhance dietary diversity and address beneficiary preferences for locally available foods. WFP was however unable to implement planned CBT activities due to funding constraints.

Highlights

• WFP is facing an 80 percent funding shortfall for the next six months and will reduce food rations by 50 percent from the month of August.

• Urgent funding is required to avoid a complete pipeline break from November 2018. WFP is bridging pipeline shortfalls for the next 2 months with internal resourcing.

• A UNHCR/WFP Joint Assessment Mission (JAM) was conducted in June 2018 and the report will be available in mid-August.
WFP Response

- In response to the continuing needs of the DRC refugees in Lunda Norte, WFP has developed a Transitional Interim Country Strategic Plan (T-ICSP) for the period August 2018 to December 2019, with the objective to meet the basic food security and nutrition needs of the refugees while working with UNHCR and partners to identify and develop livelihood opportunities to reduce their dependence on food assistance.

Food Assistance

- Due to funding shortfalls, WFP reduced food rations in July to 60 percent for maize meal and 70 percent for pulses while maintaining 100 percent rations for the other food commodities.
- Food rations will be further reduced to 50 percent for all commodities from August onwards and imminent shortfalls will be bridged through internal financing until October 2018.
- In July 2018, WFP reached 21,706 refugees with general food distributions (GFD), 1,558 pregnant and lactating women (PLW) and 1,348 children aged 6-23 months with prevention of acute malnutrition activities.
- Complementary nutrition messaging and sensitisation activities were also targeting beneficiaries receiving specialized nutritious foods.
- Due to the relatively stable nutrition situation, WFP will phase out prevention of acute malnutrition activities from August 2018.
- WFP will continue to work with UNICEF and partners to ensure provision of nutrition screening services, community sensitisation and appropriate referrals and treatment of acute malnutrition.
- WFP is also collaborating with partners through the Food Security and Livelihoods Working Group, to conduct a comprehensive livelihood assessment that will inform a workplan starting October 2018.

Supply Chain

- To mitigate disruptions over the next two months (September-October), WFP has mobilized stocks from its Global Commodity Management Facility (GCMF), financed through internal resourcing, to regionally procure 1,008 mt of maize meal, 110 mt of pulses and 35 mt of vegetable oil for onward delivery to Angola.
- Regional procurement from South Africa and other neighbouring countries continues to be more cost-effective than local procurement.
- A more efficient customs clearance process and good road conditions since the end of the rainy season have facilitated timely onward delivery from Luanda to Dundo.

Resourcing Update

- Urgent funding is needed to prevent a complete pipeline break starting November 2018. WFP has not received any contributions in 2018 and internal financing options have been needed to avert disruptions.
- WFP plans to submit a proposal for the CERF Under-Funded Emergency Window for Angola.
- Inter-Agency donor missions are planned for August 14-16 to raise awareness with the donor community.

Contacts

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