



WFP

Democratic Republic of Congo Emergency Situation Report #14

04 August 2019

In numbers

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

5.2 million people assisted in 2018

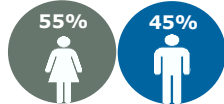
5.1 million people targeted in 2019 and **4.4 million** people reached in the first six months

Highlights

- In 2019, WFP continues its corporate emergency response interventions, with the aim of assisting 5.1 million people with food and nutrition assistance and has already reached 4.4 million people in the first half of the year.
- One year since the declaration of the Ebola outbreak in 2018, the outbreak has now been declared a public health emergency of international concern, signaling the urgent need for increased preparedness and response measures. WFP is scaling up its response, continuing to provide vital food and nutrition assistance and operational support.

People assisted Emergency Response

June: 1,290,000



People assisted Ebola Response

447,231 by end-July

Situation Update

- DRC is the world's second largest hunger crisis, with 13 million people living in acute food insecurity and 4.9 million children suffering from acute malnutrition. DRC faces multiple crises which WFP and its partners are tackling simultaneously. Alongside a Level 3 Emergency intervention covering the six most food insecure provinces, WFP plays a key role in supporting the DRC Government in fighting against the Ebola epidemic that has so far claimed over 1,700 lives.
- Armed conflict and insecurity are some of the main drivers of hunger, as those displaced during conflict lack sustainable access to agricultural land and become dependent on humanitarian assistance for survival. Such mass displacements have occurred in Ituri province, where there are now approximately 360,000 internally displaced people (IDPs). Armed clashes in the hauts and moyens plateaux of South Kivu province led to the displacement of 147,000 vulnerable people. Attacks in Kamango, North Kivu, have also led to the displacement of over 60,000 people to Nobili, near the border with Uganda.
- **Political developments:** Discussions regarding the formation of the new coalition government are still ongoing, seven months following

President Felix Tshisekedi's victory in the presidential elections. The formation of the new government is critical for WFP to continue its policy making engagements with government officials.

- **Ebola:** One year into the outbreak, Ebola has infected more than 2,700 people and claimed over 1,700 lives. The virus continues to grow, not just in numbers but also geographically. New cases were confirmed in Uganda on 12 June, and in July three cases of Ebola were confirmed in Goma, a city with one million people, bordering Rwanda. Failure to contain and ultimately put an end to the outbreak will lead to the loss of thousands of additional lives and further spread across borders.
- The World Health Organization (WHO) has declared the Ebola epidemic a public health emergency of international concern, calling for greater efforts to combat the outbreak. Preparedness is key in neighbouring health zones, provinces and countries, and WFP fully supports efforts to boost the international community's Ebola preparedness and response capacity. WFP provides food assistance, critical logistical services and operational support to the medical response teams, enabling a swift response in affected remote areas.
- **Insecurity:** Insecurity in eastern DRC continues to hinder humanitarian assistance. WFP staff members were relocated from Rutshuru in North Kivu province, due to the presence of armed groups. The situation also remains worrisome in Masisi, North Kivu province, where conflict between armed groups has led to heightened insecurity and rendered certain areas inaccessible. This insecurity has a devastating

effect on the food security of vulnerable populations. Results from a WFP survey conducted in June, indicate that 72 percent of the 9,000 households surveyed in Mweso health zone are extremely food insecure. To address this, WFP is providing food assistance to 45,700 people living in accessible parts of Masisi.

WFP Response

- Despite significant access challenges and an increasingly complex operational context, WFP aims to provide food and nutrition assistance to 5.1 million people across DRC this year. In the first half of 2019, WFP has already reached 4.4 million people and is well on track to exceeding its yearly target.



Food, Cash based and Nutrition Assistance

Food assistance:

- WFP provides immediate lifesaving food and nutrition assistance to victims of recent conflict and displacement. In the first half of 2019, WFP distributed 32,600 metric tons (mt) of in-kind food to 2.2 million people through interventions in Ituri, South Kivu, North Kivu, Tanganyika, Kasai and Kasai Central provinces. Following mass displacements caused by ethnic clashes in Yumbi, WFP provided food assistance to 66,305 people in May and June. A second round of distributions is currently underway.
- Logistical challenges remain, with WFP experiencing difficulties transporting food to distribution sites due to the poor road conditions. In light of the dire nutrition situation in Yumbi, WFP also supports the prevention of acute malnutrition, targeting 10,000 children each month. WFP continues to provide food assistance to some 80,000 IDPs in Nobili, bordering Uganda, following clashes in April in Kamango. Furthermore, WFP is also supporting thousands of people displaced by the mass conflict in Djugu, Mahagi and Irumu. In July, WFP provided in-kind food assistance to 208,000 people.
- **Ebola:** WFP provides food and nutrition assistance to break the Ebola transmission chain and contain the spread of the virus. Since the beginning of the response in August 2018, WFP has provided food and nutrition assistance to 447,000 people. Between July and December 2019, WFP is scaling up its assistance and is targeting 440,000 people, up from 300,000 people targeted from February to July. WFP will further scale up its nutrition assistance programmes in six of the most Ebola affected areas. To address the humanitarian needs of the affected population, and increase collaboration with the response, WFP also provides daily nutritious school meals to children in Ebola

hotspots. From September, the school feeding programme will be scaled up, targeting 146,700 children in Ituri and North Kivu during the next academic year.

Cash-based assistance:

- In the first half of 2019, WFP distributed cash and value vouchers to the value of USD 28.9 million to 1.6 million people. Given the logistical hurdles associated with transporting food in DRC, cash assistance enables WFP to assist vulnerable people even in remote, hard-to-reach locations. WFP initially distributed value vouchers to Burundian refugees in Lusenda and Mulongwe refugee camps in South Kivu province. WFP has now transitioned to providing cash assistance instead. This will empower the refugees to choose the goods they need the most, providing greater access to healthcare, education and other services.

Nutrition assistance:

- In 2019, WFP plans to reach 1.5 million children and pregnant and nursing women (PLWs) through its malnutrition treatment and prevention interventions. From January to May this year, WFP successfully reached almost 632,000 children and PLWs for both interventions, already exceeding the number of people reached throughout 2018.
- WFP continues to find innovative ways of combatting malnutrition in DRC. Earlier this year, a Cost of Diet Study was conducted in Tanganyika, Haut Katanga and Kasai Central provinces. This study was aimed at assessing the availability of nutritious foods locally, and determining the minimum cost of a nutritious diet for nutritionally vulnerable people. Results show that household access to a nutritious diet is not guaranteed. Only 16 percent of households have economic access to an affordable nutritious diet in Kasai Central and 4 percent in Tanganyika and Upper Katanga. This lack of access to nutritious food is the bedrock of household food insecurity and malnutrition. Based on these results, WFP will adapt its nutrition and infant and young child feeding optimal practices considering the local availability and affordability of nutritious diet.

Pipeline situation:

- Pipeline gaps for in-kind food are expected in September and October for most of eastern DRC, where WFP will experience 74 percent food shortfalls in the provinces of Ituri, North Kivu, South Kivu and Tanganyika. Shortfalls can also be expected in September in Kasai and Kasai Central provinces. Funding is required urgently, as buying food in August will optimize the amount that can be procured, due to low prices following the harvest season.



Supply Chain

- WFP continues to provide critical logistical services in support of the Ebola response. This includes managing three warehouses for WHO in Beni, Butembo, and Goma, as well as storing, delivering and distributing cargo for WHO, including personal protective equipment. WFP also provides mobile storage units and sets up and rehabilitates office premises in response locations. To ensure safe and secure accommodation for humanitarian responders, WFP also constructed camps in Tchomia, Komanda and Mangina.

Clusters and Common Services



Food Security Cluster

- Initial results from the Emergency Food Security Assessment (EFSA) show a marginal improvement in food security across the country. While an improvement has been witnessed in some areas, the situation has deteriorated in others. Sustained relief and recovery interventions are therefore needed to preserve these fragile gains and further improve the situation. Groups mostly affected by food insecurity include IDPs, returnees, refugees and Congolese nationals expelled from Angola, while high levels of food insecurity were also witnessed among female-headed households. In addition to this, the 17th Integrated Phase Analysis (IPC) has been concluded and the results are expected by the end of August.



Logistics Cluster

- Intense conflict in the Fizi Highlands of South Kivu province, led to the displacement of 147,000 people within the hauts and moyens plateaux of Fizi. To date, no humanitarian assistance has been possible in the hauts plateaux due to physical access constraints. The Logistics Cluster is providing vital support in creating much needed access to this area. Road rehabilitation is ongoing along the Abala – Point Zero road (approximately 19 km) and the Cluster expects to complete its operations in the coming weeks. This will enable humanitarian assistance in August.



UN Humanitarian Air Service (UNHAS)

- From January to end of June, UNHAS transported 30,664 passengers and 459.6 mt of cargo throughout DRC. UNHAS continues to scale up its operations to meet increased needs throughout DRC. It also plays a critical role supporting the Ebola response. With four aircraft, it travels to 18 destinations, facilitating the safe movement of health personnel and biological samples for the

World Health Organization and the Ministry of Health. As of mid-July, UNHAS has transported a total of 21,854 passengers and 279.2 mt of cargo in Ebola zones since the beginning of the epidemic in August 2018.

Resourcing Update

- WFP in DRC requires USD 453 million to provide lifesaving food and nutrition assistance for five million people across DRC. Currently, USD 167.3 million is urgently needed to cover resourcing gaps from August 2019 to January 2020. However, a budget revision is forthcoming which will increase the 2019 funding needs by at least another USD 100 million to incorporate the increased funding required for the Ebola response, as well as the humanitarian scale-up that will continue until the end of the year. Resources are urgently needed, as shortfalls will have adverse effects on the food security of people reliant on WFP food assistance.
- Funds available for cash-based transfers for refugees were only sufficient to cover needs until the end of July. Approximately USD 2 million is required each month to provide cash-based transfers to some 100,000 refugees from South Sudan, Burundi and the Central African Republic. Significant shortfalls for cash-based transfers are expected from October 2019 in all provinces.
- WFP needs USD 30 million to procure specialised nutritious food for its malnutrition prevention intervention. For malnutrition treatment, a sum of USD 1.5 million is needed to address gaps in the products, Super Cereal and vegetable oil, in South Kivu, Tanganyika and the Kasais between July and December. Failing to sustain the treatment and prevention of malnutrition will likely result in increased mortality and morbidity rates, particularly amongst children.
- To implement Ebola response activities at full scale between July – December, WFP DRC urgently requires a total of USD 39 million. WFP needs USD 16.9 million to provide assistance to 440,000 people, USD 7.8 million is needed for UNHAS, USD 1.3 million for logistics services, USD 9 million for school feeding and USD 4 million for nutrition activities.

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