The humanitarian situation in several provinces, particularly the Kasais, Tanganyika, Lualaba, Haut-Katanga, South and North Kivus, continues to deteriorate.

Renewed conflict and instability has resulted in an increase in the number of IDPs in DRC from 1.6 million people in January 2016 to 3.8 million people in July 2017. Of these, 1.4 million people are in the Kasais.

Since May, new refugee arrivals from the Central African Republic (CAR) in Bas-Uele and Nord-Ubangi provinces have been reported.

Food insecurity has risen 30 percent year-on-year since June 2016. This brings the number of people in IPC phases 3 (crisis) and 4 (emergency) to 7.7 million, the highest number seen in recent years. (June-Dec. 2017 IPC report)

On 12 August, WFP, in partnership with WVI began food distributions under the Immediate Response – Emergency Operation (IR-EMOP) 201089. The operation is targeting over 25,000 people in Tshilumba village (Kananga) and 17,000 in Tshikapa. Current resources for the IR-EMOP will only last one month.

As part of the Immediate Response (IR-PREP) 201087 a number of activities are underway such as the prepositioning of mobile storage units (MSU) near the newly identified intervention areas in the Kasai. Emergency food assessments have also begun in Kasai, Kasai central and Kasai Oriental.

Emergency food assistance has been provided to approximately 49,000 IDPs in Kabutonga, Kabubili, Lubuye, Moni and Filtisaf in Tanganyika province.

Emergency Operation (EMOP) 201092, set to begin 1 September, will ensure general food distributions for 251,100 people. Areas with high numbers of IDPs in the Kasai and Kasai Central provinces will be targeted, where almost 90 percent of the population has been displaced.

For more information visit the DRC country page
Food and Nutrition Assistance

- WFP is coordinating with stakeholders to provide life-saving food assistance in Kasai and Kasai Central provinces, through the distribution of High Energy Biscuits to children aged 6-59 months, pregnant and lactating women, as well as through GFD. WFP will provide a standard food basket comprised of 400g of maize meal, 120g of pulses, 30g of vegetable oil and 5g of salt to meet the 2,100 kcal per person per day nutritional requirements.

- A nutrition response, including Moderate Acute Malnutrition (MAM) treatment for children aged 24-59 months and a general blanket preventive intervention for children 6-59 and pregnant and lactating women is also planned.

Supply Chain

- WFP has set up two extended delivery points in Kananga and Tshikapa to act as hubs facilitating food distributions. One WiikHall dedicated to food storage was erected.

- For the first round of distributions, a total of 71 metric tons (maize meal, beans, vegetable oil and salt) was delivered to Kananga.

Clusters and Common Services

Food Security Cluster

- The Global Food Security Cluster temporarily deployed a Coordinator to the Kasais, to begin the mapping of food security actors, as well as ongoing and planned activities. The recruitment process for a permanent Cluster Coordinator and Information Management Officer is underway.

Logistics Cluster

- Two staging areas for the humanitarian community have been set up by the Logistics Cluster in Kananga (960 square meter) and Tshikapa (640 square meter).

- Logistics cluster staff are present in Kananga to manage the supply chain and provide technical assistance to partners.

- A civil-military expert will be deployed to the Logistics Cluster to facilitate civil, military and UNDSS coordination.

- Over 15 organisations in Kananga, Bukavu and Kinshasa were trained by the Cluster on data collection techniques using GPS. Access and general distribution maps available here.

Emergency Telecommunications Cluster

- WFP is launching an assessment mission in coordination with other agencies to identify requirements. The ICT Working Group will look for ways to invest in common activities to optimize resources. The assessment will determine the support needed to provide UNDSS with a reliable and MOSS compliant security communications in the Kasais.

UN Humanitarian Air Service

- United Nations Humanitarian Air Service (UNHAS) has significantly expanded its presence in the Kasai region including permanently positioning a Caravan-type aircraft in Kananga.

- UNHAS now has three-weekly flights to two new destinations, Lusambo and Ilebo, in addition to flights to Kananga, Tshikapa and Mbuji Mayi three times a week.

- The air service facilitates access to IDP camps in several areas within Kasais as well as connecting flights to the west and east of the country. Flight frequency on the Kinshasa-Goma-Kananga-Kinshasa route on the jet aircraft has been revised to three times a week.

- UNHAS also conducted an assessment on Lwiza, Luebo and Mwika airstrips and liaised with local authorities to have the airstrips rehabilitated. Following positive feedback, a re-assessment will be undertaken with the intention to include the new destinations on UNHAS’ schedule.

Innovation

- In July, WFP introduced the use of SCOPE, an innovative electronic beneficiary registration and management system in the Burundian refugee camp in Lusenda, South Kivu province. The cloud-based system monitors and controls distributions of food, cash and voucher transfers.

- Through the use of SCOPE cards, more than 29,000 refugees were able to buy food items of their choice in retail shops.

Contacts

- Country Director: Claude Jibidar, claude.jibidar@wfp.org
- Communication and Reports Officer: Claude Kalinga, claude.kalinga@wfp.org
- External Relations, Reports and Communication Officer: Elodie Jégo, elodie.jego@wfp.org.