



WFP

Democratic Republic of Congo

Emergency Situation Report #13

2 July 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 **2.1 million** people reached in the first quarter

People assisted Emergency Response

May: 1,170,000



People assisted Ebola Response

398,000 by end-June

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. Humanitarian operations are hampered by inter-ethnic conflict, armed clashes and a volatile security situation. Conflict between armed groups in Ituri province led to large scale displacement in May and June, bringing the number of internally displaced people (IDPs) in the province to approximately 360,000 people. Ethnic clashes late last year led to the death of over 575 people in Yumbi, Mai-Ndombe province, and the displacement of thousands. Since October 2018, over 700,000 Congolese nationals have been forcibly removed from Angola, arriving in DRC with minimal resources and in dire need of support. Furthermore, the ongoing spontaneous surrender of armed groups in Kasai and Kasai Central provinces, coupled with rising crime rates, has led to heightened tension and increased insecurity. The situation jeopardises the hard-won peace and stability in these areas, following intense conflict in 2017.
- **Political developments:** On 20 May, DRC President, Felix Tshisekedi appointed Sylvestre Ilunga Ilunkamba, a career politician, as the next Prime Minister of the country, four months after the presidential inauguration. Discussions

Highlights

- In 2019, WFP continues its corporate emergency response interventions, with the aim of assisting 5.1 million people with food assistance and nutrition programmes and has already reached 2.1 million people during the first quarter.
- Now eleven months since the beginning of the Ebola outbreak, the epidemic continues, with over 2,300 cases and 1,500 deaths reported. WFP continues to provide critical operational support to the medical response teams and provides food and nutrition assistance to Ebola affected people.

regarding the formation of the new government are ongoing.

- **Ebola:** DRC's tenth Ebola outbreak is the worst in the country's history, and the second largest and deadliest outbreak globally. Ongoing insecurity repeatedly interrupts the medical response and led to a sharp increase in Ebola cases and contacts in recent months. Over 2,300 cases and just over 1,500 deaths have been reported so far, with new cases reported each day. New cases have been confirmed in Uganda, with increased risk of the virus spreading across other neighbouring borders due to the fluid movement of people. This calls for increased coordination and collaboration and greater efforts to combat the outbreak. Preparedness measures are in place within DRC and in neighbouring countries to ensure that WFP has the capacity to respond effectively and timely. WFP provides food assistance, critical logistical services and operational support to the medical response teams, enabling a swift response in affected remote areas.
- **Insecurity:** A general rise in crime and armed clashes in recent months has increased the level of insecurity in Level 3 emergency provinces including Ituri, South Kivu and Kasai Central. This rising insecurity has a negative impact on WFP staff security and operations. A recent prison escape in Kasai Central, and the demobilisation of rebels who are yet to be reintegrated into society, has led to increased crime, affecting WFP field staff directly. In Ituri, South Kivu and North Kivu provinces, armed clashes between government forces and rebels continue to lead to the displacement of hundreds of thousands of vulnerable people.

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 in 2019, having reached 2.1 million people in the first quarter.



Food, Cash based and Nutrition Assistance

Food assistance:

- In the first quarter of 2019, WFP distributed 11,568 metric tons (mt) of in-kind food to 855,625 people through its Level 3 emergency interventions. In addition, WFP continues to respond rapidly and effectively to emergency humanitarian crises. Since April, several attacks between government forces and armed rebels were reported in Kamango, North Kivu. These clashes led to the displacement of over 60,000 people to Nobili, near the border with Uganda. WFP first distributed 10 mt of high energy biscuits as emergency assistance. Despite logistical challenges, WFP then distributed food to almost 60,000 people. Similarly, following ethnic clashes in Yumbi territory, WFP is providing in-kind food assistance to some 69,800 returnees and IDPs. Logistical challenges remain, with WFP experiencing difficulties transporting food to distribution sites due to the poor road conditions.
- **Ebola:** Containing the geographical spread of the Ebola virus through minimizing population movements is paramount to the success of the response. Thus, WFP assists registered Ebola contacts and their households with weekly food parcels. In addition, WFP assists confirmed and suspected Ebola cases in Ebola treatment centres and provides assistance to discharged patients to facilitate their recovery and reintegration into communities. On average, WFP reaches approximately 67,000 Ebola affected people each month. To date, 398,000 people have benefitted from WFP food assistance. To counter the ongoing community resistance towards the Ebola response, WFP also provides nutritious school meals in Ebola hot spots. As of early June, 28,500 children in 50 schools in Beni and Oicha receive school meals. WFP plans to also introduce complimentary activities, including school feeding and food for assets programmes.

Cash-based assistance:

- In the first quarter of 2019, WFP distributed USD 19.9 million to 953,000 people through cash and value voucher assistance. WFP distributed USD 1,085,196 to some 32,100 people in Kwango province specifically, from February to April. Findings from WFP's post-distribution monitoring indicate that 99 percent of those receiving assistance are satisfied with the cash they received and used it to improve their dietary intake by buying better quality and more varied food. WFP's cash assistance also enabled them to

purchase non-food items such as clothing, and cover expenses including healthcare and education. To ensure quality design and adequate internal controls for implementation, cash distributions in Tanganyika, Haut Katanga, Kasai Central and Gbadolite provinces are being implemented using SCOPE, WFP's digital beneficiary registration platform. All cash recipients will be enrolled in SCOPE by the end of 2019. Nutrition sensitive activities, including beneficiary screening, have also been integrated into cash distributions in Tanganyika province and will begin soon in cash distributions in Kasai Central province.

Nutrition assistance:

- WFP provides treatment for moderate acute malnutrition and seeks to prevent acute malnutrition in children and pregnant and nursing women. In 2019, WFP continues to scale up its nutrition interventions with a view of reaching 1.5 million people by the end of the year and has already reached some 570,000 women and children as of the end of May. WFP works closely with UNICEF, promoting synergy through the treatment of acute malnutrition. In 86 percent of the health structures where WFP provides treatment for moderate acute malnutrition, UNICEF in turn provides treatment for severe acute malnutrition. WFP, FAO and UNICEF also have a joint multi-year project combatting chronic malnutrition in South Kivu province. This project uses multisectoral coordination to provide nutrition assistance, water, hygiene and sanitation support, and improved agricultural production, for children and pregnant and nursing women.

Pipeline situation:

- WFP is facing a shortfall of the products Super Cereal and vegetable oil for malnutrition treatment. Whilst vegetable oil shortfalls are expected in Kasai and Kasai Central provinces in September, Super Cereal for South Kivu, Tanganyika and the Kasais is required between June and December. Delivering food in these provinces in a timely manner is challenging due to poor road infrastructure. Resources are therefore needed as soon as possible.

Resilience and safety nets:

- In partnership with FAO, UNICEF, UNFPA and others, WFP is linking its immediate life-saving assistance to early recovery and resilience interventions, through fostering agriculture, women's empowerment and reconciliation. WFP operates nutrition sensitive resilience projects in North Kivu, South Kivu, Tanganyika, North Ubangi and South Ubangi provinces, where 74,000 households are targeted with a combination of asset creation, literacy classes, agriculture value chain development, post-harvest losses reduction, and commercialization activities, benefitting 480,000 people.



Supply Chain

- A general increase in abductions and armed clashes is impacting the transportation of WFP food. In May, a WFP transport contractor was kidnapped in South Kivu and held for ransom. Ransom was paid by the company which encourages more abductions. Four ambushes have been reported in Tanganyika in the past two months. This disrupts the delivery of vital food assistance to those in need. Ongoing armed conflict in Djugu, Ituri province, has also led to the suspension of food deliveries in June, further impacting the food insecurity of IDPs and refugees. The ongoing rainy season is also slowing down food deliveries in eastern DRC. WFP continues to support WHO in the Ebola response, through the delivery and distribution of items, including personal protective equipment.

Clusters and Common Services



Food Security Cluster

- WFP conducted several Emergency Food Security Assessments (EFSA) in April and May this year. Preliminary results 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. The 17th Integrated Phase Classification is currently ongoing, and the results are expected by the end of July. This will enable WFP and the humanitarian community at large to determine the severity of the food insecurity crisis in DRC to better plan and coordinate interventions.



Logistics Cluster

- The Logistics Cluster promotes better humanitarian access to isolated and hard-to-reach communities. Significant funds have been allocated to road rehabilitation projects in North Kivu, South Kivu, Tanganyika and Kasai provinces. The Cluster provides critical coordination and information management services to the humanitarian community, enhancing and optimising the logistical operations of over 50 organizations in Kinshasa, the Kivus and Tanganyika provinces.



UN Humanitarian Air Service (UNHAS)

- From January to end of May, UNHAS transported 24,974 passengers and 397.9 mt of cargo throughout DRC, serving 138 humanitarian organisations. UNHAS continues to scale up its operations to meet increased needs throughout the country. It also plays a critical role supporting the Ebola response. With four aircraft, it travels to 17 destinations, facilitating the safe movement of health personnel and biological samples for the World Health Organization and the Ministry of Health. As of mid-June, UNHAS has transported a total of 18,330 passengers and 239.9 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 in the Corporate Level 3 provinces in 2019. USD 154.5 million is urgently needed to cover the requirements for the next six months (July to December 2019). The shortfalls will be felt as early as September in the Kasais, a situation that will extend to all provinces in the last quarter of 2019.
- Available funding for cash-based transfers for refugees from the Central African Republic, Burundi and South Sudan will last until the end of June. Funds are urgently needed for July to December. Resources currently available for emergency food assistance last until the end of October 2019, and for nutrition assistance until September 2019, depending on the arrival of specialized nutritious food. Given the long lead time required for food to arrive in-country, funding is immediately required to cover the upcoming shortfalls. Lack of funding may force WFP to limit the number of people it can assist or reduce the ration size for food distributions.
- The Ebola Strategic Response Plan for July to December is still being developed and funding requirements are still to be finalised. WFP currently requires an estimated USD 18 million for food assistance, USD 7.8 million for UNHAS and USD 7.6 million for logistics services.

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