



# WFP D. R. Congo

## External Situation Report #20

18 December 2020

### In Numbers

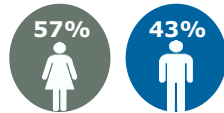
**21.8 million** people in need of food assistance and **3.4 million** children acutely malnourished

**9 million** people targeted in 2020, including those affected by COVID-19

**5.8 million** people reached from January to October 2020

### People assisted

November 2020:  
963,550 beneficiaries



**Overall Humanitarian Funding** Overall: **USD 958 million**  
WFP share: **USD 282 million**

### WFP 6-month Net Funding Requirements (Dec 2020 – May 2021)

Emergency Food Assistance	<b>USD 99 million</b>
Nutrition	<b>USD 27 million</b>
Assistance to Refugees	<b>USD 45 million</b>
COVID-19	<b>USD 59 million</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>USD 230 million</b>

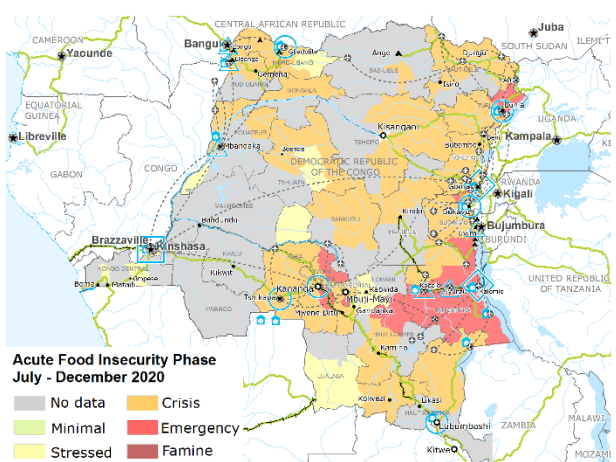


Photo: Literacy activities for women and girls are ongoing in multiple areas across the country. WFP/Marco Frattini

### Highlights

- The number of people in need in DRC has increased, making it the largest food crisis in the world. Food insecurity worsened in 2020, as a direct result of COVID-19 impact and conflicts.
- Due to rising needs, WFP’s Level 3 emergency response has been extended until April 2021.
- On 18 November, DRC’s 11<sup>th</sup> Ebola epidemic was declared over, nearly six months after the first cases were reported in the Equateur Province.

### Situation Update

- The number of people in need of humanitarian assistance in DRC has increased as a result of conflicts, COVID-19, flooding and economic decline. Some **21.8 million people** are highly food insecure (up from 15.6 million in 2019), including 5.7 million classified in phase 4 (Emergency) on the Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC) scale. For the projected period January – June 2021, 19.6 million people are likely to be in Crisis (IPC Phase 3) or worse, including more than 4.8 million people in Emergency (IPC Phase 4).
- Conflicts and consequent internal displacement remain the main trigger for food insecurity. Violence in the east, from Ituri to South Kivu, continues to present challenges to humanitarian actors, limiting the geographical scope of the operations.
- DRC’s 11<sup>th</sup> Ebola epidemic in the Equateur province was **officially declared over on 18 November**, following weeks with no new confirmed cases. Overall, 130 cases, including 55 deaths and 75 survivors, were reported in 13 health zones. In response, WFP provided UNHAS flights as well as logistical support through the establishment of warehouses, accommodation camps and storage services. WFP will be present in the area for the surveillance period until the end of February 2021.
- Within this context, WFP has decided to extend the **Level 3 emergency response** until April 2021. WFP prioritizes assistance to internally displaced people (IDPs) and host communities, covering the most populous and conflict-affected provinces in eastern DRC: Tanganyika, Haut Katanga and the Greater Kasai region.

## WFP Response

- WFP and its partners have significantly expanded its operations in 2020 to meet increasing needs, targeting **9 million people** (including an additional 1.4 million people in need of assistance due to the impact of COVID-19).
- In light of the COVID-19 pandemic, WFP has adapted its programmes to provide food assistance in compliance with preventive measures, including physical distancing, mandatory handwashing and temperature checks. WFP has planned to reach not only people in rural areas but also 500,000 people in urban areas. As part of the response to the pandemic, WFP and UNICEF launched a **social safety net programme in N'Sele commune** in Kinshasa through the provision of mobile money. Nutrition and resilience programmes are also planned at a later stage. This is the first-ever operation of such kind for WFP in the capital city, and close to 100,000 people have initially been targeted for the pilot phase.
- In order to promptly assist displaced populations affected by an ongoing inter-ethnic conflict in the hard-to-reach area of Hauts Plateaux (South Kivu), WFP organized an emergency distribution of 32 mt of High Energy Biscuits (HEB) targeting 8,431 households starting on 5 December.



### Food, Cash and Nutrition Assistance

#### Food and cash assistance:

- In November 2020, WFP provided lifesaving in-kind and cash assistance to over 687,700 people affected by conflict and non-conflict related shocks, through general food distributions. Despite ongoing security challenges, WFP has scaled up its food assistance to meet increased needs.
- Between March and October, WFP had suspended its biometric authentication of people in SCOPE – WFP's beneficiary information and transfer management platform – as this could expose beneficiaries to increased risk of COVID-19 transmission during the registration process. Biometric registrations have been resumed starting November 2020 in several provinces such as North Kivu, South Kivu and Ituri, as well as in the urban area of Kinshasa.
- Through its resilience activities, WFP supports smallholder farmers and food insecure communities with the Food for Assets programme that strengthens livelihood development, while covering immediate food and nutrition needs through the provision of food and cash assistance. In 2020, asset creation included rehabilitation of 11 kilometres of feeder road in Tanganyika. In North and South Kivu provinces 80 granaries have been constructed by the communities through the Cash for Asset

modality. Seven markets and 14 warehouses were also constructed.

#### Nutrition assistance:

- In November, WFP provided specialized nutritious food to 117,200 children and pregnant and nursing women and girls (PLWG) for the treatment of moderate acute malnutrition, and to 158,500 children and PLWG for the prevention of acute malnutrition.
- Nutrition-sensitive activities targeting 4,883 men and women were implemented through the promotion of nutrition-rich foods and education. Over 160 awareness-raising campaigns to improve nutrition practices, dietary diversity, hygiene and family planning were organized. In South Kivu, 100 vegetable gardens were set up and 50 culinary demonstrations given to female headed households, with 2,400 focal point trained on nutrition sensitive practices.

#### P4P

#### WFP's strategic shift towards resilience

- In addition to the L3 operation, WFP implements multi-agency multi-year resilience programmes in eastern (North Kivu, South Kivu and Tanganyika) and northwestern DRC (North Ubangi and South Ubangi) that benefit 517,500 people. Activities focus on economic, social, technical and financial interventions to revitalize local economies and livelihoods. Capacity strengthening provided to smallholder farmers helped stimulate economic recovery, through improved agriculture productivity, enhanced literacy and livelihood diversification to strengthen food security and nutrition. Resilience activities also help ease tensions between communities and strengthen social cohesion, thereby contributing to the prevention of new outbreaks of conflict and to the overall peacebuilding efforts.



#### Supply Chain

- Despite the rainy season and the poor road conditions, food deliveries in November were completed without major gaps.
- After the collapse of the Kele bridge in October 2020, WFP has transported 233 mt of food on the other side of the Kasai river using canoes, where eight trucks were available to transport commodities to the distribution sites.
- WFP continues to provide COVID-19 services supporting the humanitarian community, including the storage and transport of medical supplies and personal protective equipment (PPE). WFP has expanded its storage capacity in Kinshasa, through an additional warehouse for the storage of food and non-food items.

## Clusters and Common Services



### Food Security Cluster

- The Food Security Cluster has supported in the roll-out of the 2020 second round of the Emergency Food Security Assessments (EFSA) in all L3 provinces (South Kivu, North Kivu, Kasai, Kasai Central and Kasai Oriental, Ituri and Tanganyika). Findings of this exercise will inform the next IPC analysis planned for the beginning of 2021, which is expected to focus on the impact of COVID-19 on levels of food insecurity.
- The Food Security Cluster published the latest national bulletin [here](#).



### Logistics Cluster

- In collaboration with WHO, the Logistics Cluster is coordinating the management of the [Logistics Portal for COVID-19](#), designed to help with the ordering and importing of COVID-19 response items, including medical kits, from abroad. This platform helps to facilitate warehousing and transportation for all COVID-19 related items.
- The cluster supported the dismantling of the Kalamba life base in the Equateur province, which was built in August 2020 to respond to the Ebola epidemic in the area. The cluster has also supported the Ebola response in the Equateur province through the [preparation of maps](#) showcasing UNHAS flight routes and access constraints in Ebola-affected territories.



### UN Humanitarian Air Service

- UNHAS has been actively involved in DRC's 11<sup>th</sup> Ebola outbreak response from the onset of the crisis, by enabling immediate deployment of the first humanitarian actors who arrived to set up their bases. From the beginning of the outbreak up to 18 November, when the outbreak was declared officially ended, UNHAS transported 2,864 passengers and 510 mt of cargo, serving 39 organizations and performing 5 MEDEVAC and 1 BODEVAC flights.
- UNHAS is supporting the government's COVID-19 response strategy by transporting medical samples between collection points and testing labs and by enabling the movement of cargo and staff dedicated to the response, including medical evacuations for staff that have been tested positive. Strict COVID-19 preventive measures are in place, including social distancing on board aircraft, the daily disinfection of aircraft and requiring passengers and crew members to wear masks.

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