

Key Messages

- 13 million Congolese people are acutely food insecure, according to the 2018 Integrated Phase Classification (IPC) assessment. This represents 23% of the rural population. These findings are pending official release at country level.**
 - In May 2018, WFP declared a corporate L3 response covering the six most populous and conflict-affected provinces. Within the L3, WFP has accelerate efforts to reverse the deepening hunger crisis. Thanks to robust donor response, WFP's operational scale-up is yielding significant results.**
 - Multiple other crises compound DRC's humanitarian emergency. A tenth Ebola Virus Disease outbreak was declared in August, killing more people than any previous outbreak in DRC. WFP contributes to the medical response and virus containment effort through food assistance and logistical support.**
- People living in food crisis or emergency (IPC phase 3 and 4) has almost doubled from 7.7 million in 2017 to 13 million in 2018.** This dramatic increase is due to conflict, displacement, high food prices, lack of earning opportunities, pest infestations and health epidemics.
 - DRC's net food deficit is 6.9 million tons, representing 22% of national food requirements.** The gap places 21 million people at risk of hunger. Meanwhile, livestock production is declining due to looting and repetitive animal diseases.
 - WFP needs additional resources to sustain its ambitious scale-up plan to reverse hunger; respond to Ebola; and prepare for other emergencies.** As the Ebola epidemic receives increasing attention, the protracted hunger crisis in DRC also merits additional resources.
 - Although DRC represents 7 percent of global humanitarian needs, the response receives just 3 percent of global humanitarian funding.** In 2018, the DRC Humanitarian Response Plan has received only 43 percent of necessary funding requirements.

Operations

- WFP has radically scaled up cash-based responses,** covering all six provinces in the L3 (Ituri, North Kivu, South Kivu, Tanganyika, Kasai Central and Kasai). In 2018, WFP introduced multipurpose cash, with positive outcomes for all targeted sectors, including food, health and education.
- Given the logistical hurdles and costs associated with transporting food in DRC, **cash programmes enable WFP to extend geographical coverage and respond rapidly.**
- WFP's food stock has improved, enabling it to restore full, as opposed to half, food rations.** 50 percent of the sub-offices are currently delivering full food rations. With a full food ration of 2,100 calories per day, beneficiaries' nutritional status is improved, whereas half rations barely save their lives.
- In Kasai, **WFP has reached 2.5 million out of the 3.2 million people living in hunger a year ago,** this represents 78% of those in need. Food assistance at large scale to returning IDPs has stimulated the resumption of livelihoods, recovery and stabilisation.
- From **January to September 2018, WFP reached 3.8 million Congolese people, accounting for 70 percent of the 5.4 million people** targeted in 2018. In October, 960,000 beneficiaries continued receiving food assistance from WFP.
- Since the end of August 2018, **WFP has assisted more than 60,000 Ebola-affected people with food.** WFP has also supported WHO and other Ebola responders logistically. For the next three months, WFP will reach another 80,000 Ebola-affected people with food and nutrition, whilst also augmenting logistics and infrastructure support.
- In response to the **mass return of Congolese refugees** from Angola in the Kasai province, WFP is providing life-saving assistance to the most vulnerable (pregnant and nursing women and children under 5 years) among the returnees at entry points and in areas of return.
- The government started implementing its **IDPs camps closure process.** In Tanganyika, WFP is working with partners pursuing an interagency response to forcibly returned IDPs. WFP already provides food assistance to IDPs in some return areas such as Nyunzu.

Summary of People in Need and Reached by WFP in the Corporate L3 Areas

L3 Areas	Total people in need	Beneficiaries planned 2018	Reached (Jan-Sep 2018)
Ituri	1.1 M	0.5 M	0.53 M
South Kivu	1.6 M	0.92 M	0.40 M
North Kivu	1.5 M	0.59 M	0.2 M
Tanganyika	1.4 M	0.95 M	0.69 M
Kasai Central	1.9 M	1.3 M	1 M
Kasai	1.3 M	1.1 M	1 M
TOTAL	8.8 M	5.4 M	3.8 M

Funding Requirements for Corporate L3 Areas in USD (Nov 2018-Apr 2019)

Sub Office	Nov 2018 - Apr 2019 Requirement (USD)	Available resources (USD)	% funded	Net funding requirements Nov 2018 - Apr 2019 (USD)
Kasai	30 million	13 million	43%	17 million
Kasai Central	67 million	31 million	46%	36 million
Ituri	38 million	29 million	76%	9 million
North Kivu	37 million	23 million	62%	14 million
South Kivu	42 million	24 million	57%	18 million
Tanganyika	43 million	38 million	88%	5 million
Total	257 million	158 million	61%	99 million

Partnerships

- WFP is investing in partnerships with FAO and UNICEF, in order to offer an integrated, multisectoral response to food insecurity and malnutrition in DRC.
- Working together, the three agencies bridge the humanitarian-development nexus, addressing not only emergency food needs but also prevention of malnutrition and support to sustainable livelihoods.
- WFP implements joint programmes with FAO wherever possible, and shares a joint resilience unit with FAO in Kinshasa.
- WFP and UNICEF partner to identify priority areas for joint nutrition interventions. Wherever possible, the two agencies deliver nutrition interventions together.
- WFP partners with UNHCR to assist 140,000 refugees from Central African Republic, South Sudan and Burundi. The two agencies are working towards a joint strategy and advocacy to address needs of refugees outside camps and host communities.
- WFP partners with the national response mechanism set up by the Ministry of Health, technical commissions, WHO, UNICEF, CARITAS and multiple other actors in responding to Ebola.
- WFP works with international and national influencers to raise awareness of the hunger and nutrition situation in DRC, and to amplify the potential for vulnerable Congolese people to become self-reliant. This initiative is pursued through the #ILoveCongo communications campaign, launched in September 2018.

Resources

- For the entire DRC operations, WFP has received USD 339 million against its 2018 annual funding requirement of USD 542 million. The operation (L 3 plus other interventions) is 63 percent funded.
- The net funding requirements for the period November 2018 to April 2019 amounts to **USD 120 million**. Significant pipeline shortfalls are expected from March for general food distribution.
- WFP requires USD 46 million per month to resource its scale up plan. The duration of the scale up plan will augment food assistance operations until June 2019, with nutrition scale up continuing until the end of 2019.
- Resources available for emergency food assistance will last until March 2019. From April, significant food commodity shortfalls are expected. This may force WFP to scale down lifesaving food assistance to IDPs, as happened in the first quarter of 2018 in eastern DRC.
- Funds to address such gaps need to be confirmed latest by mid-December 2018. For acute malnutrition treatment and prevention, significant gaps will emerge in May 2019.
- In order to support the Ministry of Health and WHO in responding to the Ebola virus, WFP requires USD 9 million for the next three months.
- WFP resilience building activities are valued at USD 55.8 million in 2018. So far, WFP has received USD 16.8 million, equivalent to 30% of funding requirement in this focus area.
- UNHAS 2018 funding requirement was estimated at USD 30.6 million. Currently, this service is fully funded.
- The Food Security Cluster funding requirement is estimated at USD 1.5 million from now until the next 12 months.
- WFP is grateful for the generous contributions from its donors in DRC*: Belgium, Canada, European Commission, Finland, France, Germany, Japan, Norway, Republic of Korea, Russia, Sweden, Switzerland, United Kingdom, United States of America.

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