



Key Messages

1. WFP has stepped up efforts to reverse food insecurity and malnutrition in DRC, and reached more than 5 million people last year. However, there are 13.1 million Congolese people living in food insecurity – a 100 percent increase compared to 2017 – placing DRC among the hunger hotspots worldwide.

2. WFP's corporate Level 3 reinforced its emergency intervention in Eastern DRC and the Kasai region in the second half of 2018. This year, the level of assistance remains elevated: WFP targets 5.1 million people, including nutrition assistance for 1.7 million people.

3. Leveraging the return of IDPs to their places of origin, WFP is making a strategic shift by aligning lifesaving assistance with resilience interventions. This approach is critical to making IDP return sustainable and rendering the returnees self-reliant.

4. WFP will work in partnership with the new government of DRC towards achieving Sustainable Development Goal 2 - Zero Hunger. WFP's support includes the facilitation of a Strategic Hunger Review, as well as partnering with the government on its national school feeding policy and programme.

5. There is opportunity not only to save lives, but also to change lives in DRC. Recent elections give hope for national unity and reconciliation. Such stabilisation would reduce the root causes of humanitarian crisis and hunger in the country. Doing its part, WFP builds resilience and sustainable livelihoods, thereby reducing drivers of conflict.

Thematic Priorities in 2019

Corporate Level 3 Emergency

WFP continues its scaled-up interventions in Kasai Central, Tanganyika, South Kivu, North Kivu and Ituri provinces. In the course of the year, WFP targets 5.1 million people with lifesaving food and nutrition assistance in the form of in-kind food, cash transfers and/or specialized nutritious foods. From March to August, WFP plans to provide some USD 50.6 million in cash transfers to beneficiaries' while over 80,000 MT of food commodities (full ration) will be distributed.

Other Acute Crises

Responding to other acute crises, WFP delivers critical operational support and food assistance to the Ebola-affected populations in eastern DRC. Since the beginning of the current Ebola outbreak last August, WFP reached 174,000 affected people through weekly, door-to-door distributions, with more than 2,118 metric tons of food. WFP also assists Congolese people repatriated from Angola into Kasai and Kwango provinces, and is commencing food distributions to victims of recent inter-ethnic conflict in the Yumbi area (Mai-Ndombe province).

Shifting Gradually to Resilience

WFP is expanding resilience activities targeting smallholder farmers through collaboration with FAO, UNICEF and other partners. As of February 2019, WFP has resilience projects in three provinces: North Kivu, South Kivu and Tanganyika. In the coming period, resilience activities will be expanded geographically to South and North Ubangi and the Kasai region. WFP targets 250,000 people with resilience interventions in 2019, of which almost 30 percent will receive conditional cash assistance.

Key WFP Beneficiary Figures in L3 Provinces

L3 Province	Food Insecure People (IPC 3 and 4)	Beneficiaries Reached 2018	Beneficiaries Planned 2019
Ituri	2.9 million	685,000	638,000
North Kivu	1.6 million	574,000	827,000
South Kivu	746,000	621,000	795,000
Tanganyika	2.0 million	585,000	944,000
Kasai Central	961,000	1,2 million	1,2 million
Kasai	2.2 million	1,3 million	662,000
Total	10,4 million*	5,2 million**	5,1 million

Table 1: WFP Beneficiary Figures in L3 Provinces

* Other provinces not covered by WFP's L3 host the remaining 2.7 million people in IPC 3 and 4, bringing the total to 13.1 million people

** Includes Lubumbashi and North and South Ubangi

Table 2: WFP Funding Requirements in USD

	Requirements 2019	Resources Available	Percentage Funded	Net Funding Requirements March - August
Total	453 million	181 million	40 percent	128 million

Expansion of Cash-Based Assistance

Thanks to generous support from donors, WFP's cash-based assistance grew exponentially in 2018: WFP transferred more than USD 44 million to some 926,000 beneficiaries, compared to the original plan of USD 18 million. For the first time in DRC, WFP also introduced the use of multi-purpose cash assistance, enabling 200,000 people in the Kasai province to buy both food and non-food items of their choice. Going forward, WFP continues with cash-based assistance across its operations in DRC, and close to half a million people received multi-purpose cash assistance in January 2019 alone. Given the logistical hurdles and costs associated with transporting food in DRC, cash programmes enable WFP to assist people quickly, even in remote, hard to reach locations, stimulating local economies, and empowering people to choose the goods they need the most.

Mitigation Measures to CBT Fraud

1. WFP's crisis response - which represents 90 percent of the DRC programme - consists of short term assistance (3 months). This reduces the opportunity to put in place sophisticated, systemic fraud.

2. **Targeting:** WFP's decision to distribute food or cash is based on assessed needs of IDP's through emergency food security assessments whereby IDP's are physically identified and classified by vulnerability. This process helps prevent the registration of fake (non-entitled) or ghost (non-existent) beneficiaries.

3. **Registration:** WFP conducts digital and biometric registration of beneficiaries in SCOPE, which reduces the risk of identity duplication and ghost beneficiaries. All beneficiaries receiving CBT assistance will be enrolled in SCOPE by the end of 2019.

4. **Delivery:** WFP ensures segregation of duties, whereby partners who register beneficiaries are separate from partners managing distribution sites or delivering cash.

Funding Requirements

WFP requires USD 453 million to provide food and nutrition assistance for five million people in the Corporate L3 areas in 2019.

Resources currently available for emergency food assistance last until mid-year 2019, and for nutrition assistance until April 2019, pending the arrival of in-kind nutritious foods.

An additional USD 128 million is urgently needed in order to cover the requirements for the next six months (March - August 2019). Given the 3-6 months lead time to have commodities in-country ready for distribution, funding is immediately required to cover the upcoming shortfalls. If no additional funding is received, WFP will be forced to take measures such as limiting the amount of people assisted or reducing the ration size.

Resilience building activities require USD 48 million, of which 52 percent has been received.

UNHAS requires USD 32.6 million, of which 35 percent has been received.

Food Security Cluster requires USD 1.5 million.

WFP's requirements for the Ebola Strategic Response (SRP 3) amount to USD 20.3 million, including USD 9.6 million for food assistance.

WFP is grateful for the generous contributions from its donors in DRC: Belgium, Canada, China, UKAID/DFID, European Commission, Finland, France, Germany, Ireland, Japan, Norway, Republic of Korea, Russian Federation, Sweden, Switzerland, United Kingdom and United States of America. Contributions also come from the UN CERF, UN Pooled Funds and Multilateral Funds.

Triple Nexus

Through a multi-sectoral and multidimensional approach, WFP and FAO work on the humanitarian-development-peace nexus in DRC, linking interventions that address immediate food and nutrition needs with longer-term sustainable solutions, integrating community dialogue, women's empowerment and local peace-building initiatives in different types of contexts.

In Tanganyika, the programme supports conflict-affected communities with local peace-building initiatives to prevent and mitigate ethnic conflict between the autochthone Pygmy communities and the Bantu groups. In addition to the international NGO "Search for Common Ground", who provided expertise on conflict prevention and community dialogue, WFP and FAO engaged over 1,000 Pygmy and 14,000 Bantu households in the creation of assets in 2018. This was a collaborative process bringing together warring communities in the identification, planning and creation of common infrastructure projects, thereby promoting dialogue, social cohesion and social and economic integration.

In 2019, the programme is expanding to North and South Ubangi to support local communities affected by the presence of Central African Republic refugees, in order to support social cohesion and peaceful cohabitation between the two groups.