Global Overview

Presentation on the 2014 First Quarterly Operational Briefing 29 January 2014

David Kaatrud

Director of Emergencies

Table of Contents:

Yemen	2
Democratic Republic of Congo	

Situation Analysis

Security/Political Situation

Conflict-related displacement and compromised humanitarian space – from a broad range of sources of violence is the key contextual risk for Yemen. In the northern province of Dammaj, Houthis have been waging low-intensity conflict against Government forces; in the south, separatists have attacked Government forces and institutions to demonstrate their desire for autonomy; tribalists in the centre and east have long employed kidnapping/ransom, and the terrorist activities of Al Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula (AQAP) all contribute to a complex and challenging operating environment. Yemen is on the cusp of either a renewed phase of relative calm or a period of extreme competition and conflict as the National Dialogue Conference comes to an end – political assassinations on the eve of the closure of the conference and generally low expectations suggest that the later is considerably more likely. The operating environment is likely to remain physically dangerous for the short to medium term.

Food Security

Yemen is facing a major challenge in term of food security and nutrition. Food availability and access are the same of last year but there is a substantial deterioration of purchasing power, especially in rural areas.

Currently, 4.5 million people are severely food insecure and over 6 million are moderately food insecure. Food insecurity is still more widespread in rural areas (49 percent) than in urban areas (36 percent), which is an increase from 37 percent in rural and 17.7 percent in urban in 2003-2006. Overall, 10 million people are food insecure. About 40 percent of the 500 million of the Humanitarian Appeal is dedicated to food assistance.

Programming Situation

EMOP 200451: Through this operation WFP has targeted 5 million food insecure people throughout the country in 2013, including 3.8 million beneficiaries through emergency safety net programs, 600,000 IDPs/returnees with emergency assistance and 682,000 children and pregnant and nursing women with nutrition support. The operation has been extended into the first 6 months of 2014 and will be followed by the new PRRO that is to be submitted for the Executive Board approval in February 2014. The new PRRO, due to start in mid-2014, aims to assist 6 million beneficiaries over two years at a cost of USD 491 million. The PRRO will focus on recovery and resilience activities.

PRRO 200305: The PRRO provides Food Assistance to Refugees in Yemen. WFP is targeting 131,000 beneficiaries until December 2014.

DEV 200432: Aimed at providing food assistance to promote girls' education, the project will run until mid-2015, reaching 100,000 school girls with take-home rations.

SO 200130: The SO is fully operational, providing 4 flights per month between Sana'a, Hudaydah and Sa'ada for humanitarian personnel and light cargo. It continues to distribute an average of 7,000 litres of fuel per month.

Access

Yemen CO has 215 staff member in 6 locations. Access to the northern provinces of Hajjah and Amran is limited due to security reasons. International staff movements are limited, hampering WFP's ability to conduct monitoring. Preposition of food and monitoring arrangements through locally hired monitors are in place to deal with the difficult access situation. Consistent investments in security management ensure the implementation of monitoring and distribution activites. No third party monitoring is in place.

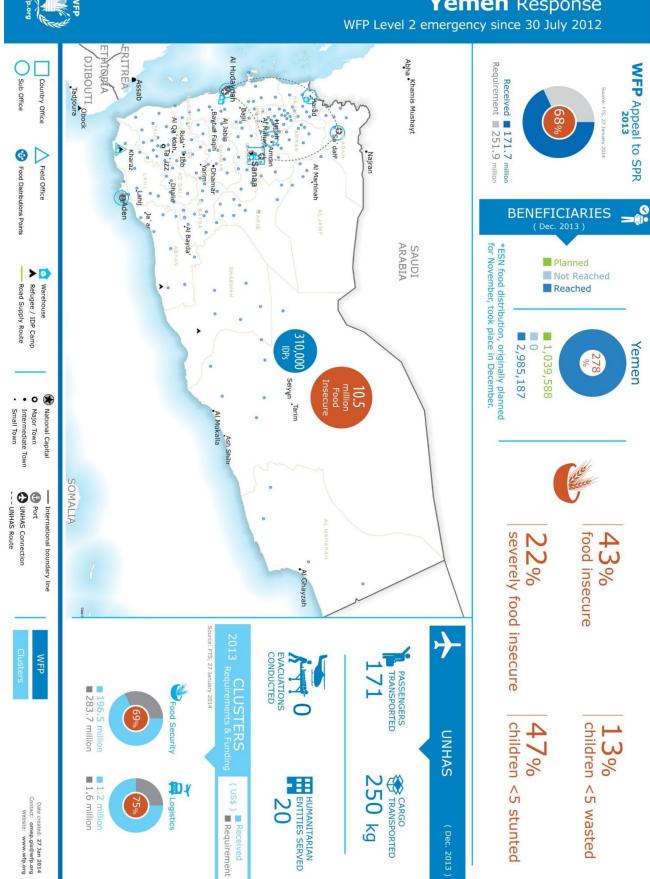
Resourcing

Unless resources are secured for the PRRO, shortfalls in rice and pulses are expected in March 2014, aggravated by a pipeline break in other commodities during the rest of the spring/summer months.

Capacity

Despite the challenges and restrictions on movement, WFP's ability to deliver and distribute food to needy populations has been maintained.

Yemen Response



Democratic Republic of Congo

Situation Analysis

Security/Political Situation

Due to the highly dynamic environment and increase of humanitarian needs, Democratic Republic of Congo was declared a WFP Level 2 Emergency in December 2013.

The security situation remains volatile in North Kivu as fighting between MONUSCO's Force Intervention Brigade (FIB), FARDC and various armed groups continue. Since the defeat of the M23 by the Government forces in November 2013, the Government forces aided by the FIB, have launched a series of military operations against the Allied Democratic Forces-National Army for the Liberation of Uganda (ADF-Nalu) and other local armed groups in North Kivu.

The security progress resulting from the M23 rebel group's defeat have led to more demands for humanitairan asssitance, including for new displacements, returnees and improved access to some areas in Eastern DRC. Following the withdrawal of the M23, about 35,000 people have started to return to Rutshuru territory in North Kivu.

Clashes between Government forces and an unidentified armed group in Kinshasa, in Lubumbashi (Katanga) and Kindu (Maniema) on 30 December illustrated how precarious the security situation remains. Government sources have put the number of deaths at 100 including some military personnel of the Congolese armed forces.

The crisis in DRC also affects a number of neighbouring countries, notably Uganda, Rwanda, Burundi and Central African Republic, adding a regional dimension to WFP's emergency response. An increasing number of refugees arrived from CAR according to HCR, with over 5,000 new arrival since the beginning of December 2013. The most affected province is Equateur.

As of December, more than 2.9 million people are displaced in the provinces of North Kivu, South Kivu, Orientale, Katanga, Maniema and Equateur, 1.6 million of whom in North and South Kivu alone. Of those, close to 600,000 are estimated to rely totally on food assistance for their food needs.

Food Security

The June 2013 Integrated Phase Classification (IPC) results show that the food security situation is deteriorating in the conflict affected areas. Of the 5 subdistricts classified as being in an emergency phase, 4 are in North Kivu province and one in Katanga province, indicating a clear correlation between conflict, displacement and food insecurity.

Some 6.4 million people in DRC are food-insecure and half of the children under 5 years are chronically malnourished (WFP/FAO).

Programming Situation

WFP is currently providing assistance – via food but also cash and vouchers - to some 1.9 million people across DRC. These include IDPs, refugees, children in school, and mothers and children who are either malnourished or at risk of malnourishment.

PRRO 200540 aims to assist 4.2 million beneficiaries from July 2013 to December 2015, providing life-saving food assistance for IDPs, refugees, children in school, and mothers and children who are either malnourished or at risk of malnourishment. In October, WFP reached 806,274 beneficiaries, which represents the 52 percent of the initial target.

Innovation: Implementation of the barcoding system of spares management has been completed in Goma. Preparations to roll out the system in Kalemie (Katanga) and Dungu (Orientale) are underway and exercise will begin in February.

Access

Physical access to areas in need of humanitarian assistance has been critical due to the ongoing rany season. Road repairs have been addressed though the appeal of new funding possibilities for development, in order to improve access.

Resourcing

The PRRO 200540 is only 25 percent funded against a total requirement of USD 478 million. WFP requires USD 83 million just to implement its programmes until June 2014.

Based on the December pipeline, the PRRO six-month operational shortfall is USD 83 million, of which USD 9.4 million is for Cash and Voucher. Although the overall level of resources received in July show some USD 104.6 million in contribution, nearly half of these funds (USD 52.4 million) represent in-kind contributions transferred from previous operations.

Capacity

Due to a lack of funding, WFP is being forced to start a significant down-scale of activities in the provinces of North Kivu, South Kivu, Equateur, Kasai and Orientale. This will mean an unfortunate reduction of support to refugees, returnees and to beneficiaries of crucial early recovery and resilience activities such as Food-for-Work.

Due to funding constraints, WFP nutritional supplements have been reduced by half rations, particularly to beneficiaries, including malnourished children, pregnant women and nursing mothers, as well as HIV-positive people receiving anti-retroviral treatment, in the North and South Kivus.

Given the extremely dire funding situation and to reduce operational costs, the CO plans to close some 5 offices between March and June 2014; there are currently 14 sub-offices in DRC.

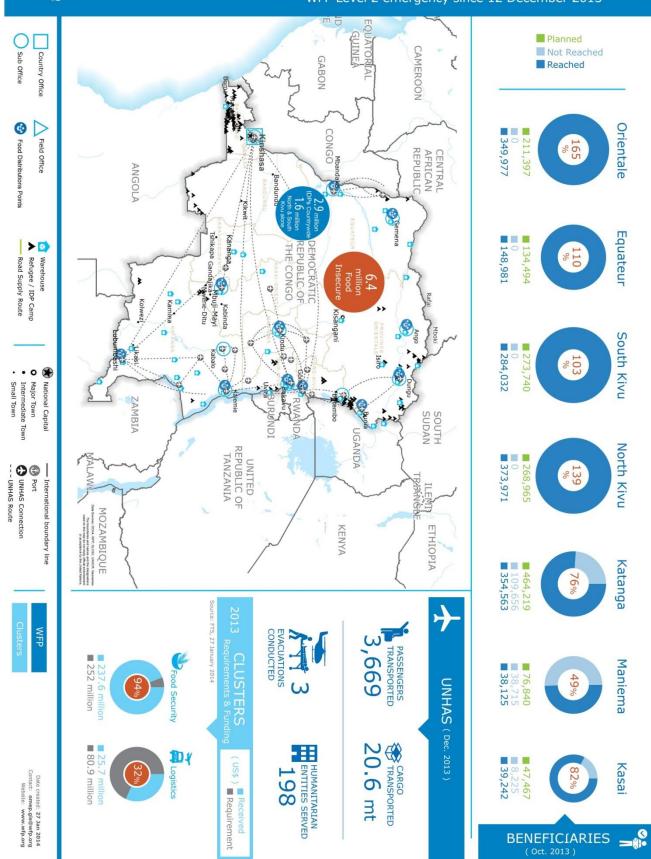
Other

As a result of an earthquake of 3.5 magnitude felt in Goma, volcano activities have been observed on Nyamulagira near Goma. UN is closely monitoring possible effects streaming from this volcanic activity. In case the volcano erupts, depending of eruption size, Saki could possibly be affected and roads might become impassable; population displacement could also occur. According to ongoing assessments, implications to Goma are unlikely.



Democratic Republic of Congo Response

WFP Level 2 emergency since 12 December 2013



Situation Analysis

Political

Following the announced end of the ceasefire by the Movement for the Liberation of the Azawad (MNLA) on 29 November, the peace progress has been stagnant. The common position between the MNLA and two other Azawad groups established in early November appears to be weak as re-surfaced mediation talks in Algeria are talking place without the MNLA. MNLA leaders raised concerns about the current bilateral talks between Mali and Algeria which are perceived as replacing and threatening international mediation attempts. On 15 January, representatives of the High Council for the Unity of Azawad (HCUA) and MNLA reiterated that no disarmament would be possible until a final agreement with the Government of Mali is reached.

Security

The security situation in Northern Mali remains tense and unstable. Instability is primarily linked to the activities of extremist groups such as al-Qaeda in the Islamic Maghreb (AQIM) and Movement for Oneness and Jihad in West Africa (MUJAO), frequently targeting MINUSMA, French and Malian Forces.

Shortly before the one-year mark of the French 'Serval' operation in Mali was reached on 11 January, French President François Holland announced a significant reduction of troop levels. French forces will gradually be reduced from 2,500 to 1,600 troops in February and later on to 1,000. To avoid a detrimental impact on the volatile security situation in the North, Special Representative for Mali Bert Koenders appealed to UN member states for a quicker deployment of pledged MINUSMA forces to the envisaged full-capacity of 12,600 troops.

Food Security

The food security situation is of concern in Mali. According to the November 2013 Cadre Harmonisé, some 737,000 people are living in 'acute food and livelihood crisis' (phase 3) and 75,000 people 'in a state of emergency' (phase 4). Phase 3 and 4 represent only 5 percent of the population, however the additional 2.3 million people classified as 'borderline food insecure' (phase 2) are likely to slide into phase 3 as a consequence of the poor 2013-2014 agricultural campaign. The situation is particularly alarming in Gao, Timbuktu and Kidal where 70 percent of the population is at least borderline food insecure.

Programming Situation

EMOP 200525 (Jan 13 - Dec 14): The EMOP aims to assist 1,304,000 food-insecure people, including 900,000 conflict-affected people in Northern Mali through general distributions (food and cash), nutrition interventions and emergency school feeding. The project was scaled up significantly through Budget Revision 4 in December 2013, increasing the budget from USD 136 million to USD 351 million as well as 63 percent increase in targeted beneficiaries.

REG EMOP 200438 (Jun 12 – Dec 14): Covering the countries Mauritania, Burkina Faso and Niger, the regional EMOP aims to assist Malian refugees displaced by the conflict in Northern Mali. Over the duration of the project, WFP hopes to assist 184,000 beneficiaries. Activities include general food distributions, nutrition interventions and blanket feeding.

DEV 105830 (Jan 08 – Dec 14): The CP covers the needs of more than 425,000 targeted beneficiaries in southern Mali. Nutrition activities are ongoing at 1,032 health centres and school feeding occurs at 566 schools throughout the five southern regions. Food-for-Work and Food-for-Assets activities are also taking place in these regions.

SO 200521 & SO 200534 (both Jan 13 – Dec 13): The two SOs aim to provide Humanitarian Air Services and support for the Logistics Cluster & Emergency Telecommunication Cluster respectively.

Access

WFP Mali is facing severe access constraints in the north of the country due to the volatile security situation. In Kidal WFP only operates through partners while in Gao and Timbuktu no field missions are possible without military escorts.

Resourcing

EMOP 200525: 6-month (net) shortfalls for the period January – June 2014 are estimated at USD 78.6 million (75 percent of total requirements). The EMOP faces shortfalls in cash/vouchers, cereals and Super Cereal Plus in January 2014. Critical food shortfalls are expected in cereals, pulses, oil and Super Cereal by February. WFP has responded to shortfalls by reducing rations for beneficiaries. Without resources, vulnerable populations in Northern Mali will continue to face reduced rations or a complete suspension in food assistance.

REG EMOP 200438: 6-month (net) shortfalls for the period January – June 2014 stand at USD 11 million (66 percent of requirements). In Burkina Faso and Niger, significant cash and voucher shortfall are expected immediately which will impact distributions to 85,000 refugees. In Mauritania, there are immediate shortfalls in rice, salt and Super Cereal Plus, affecting general food distributions and nutrition activities for the 60,000 refugees.

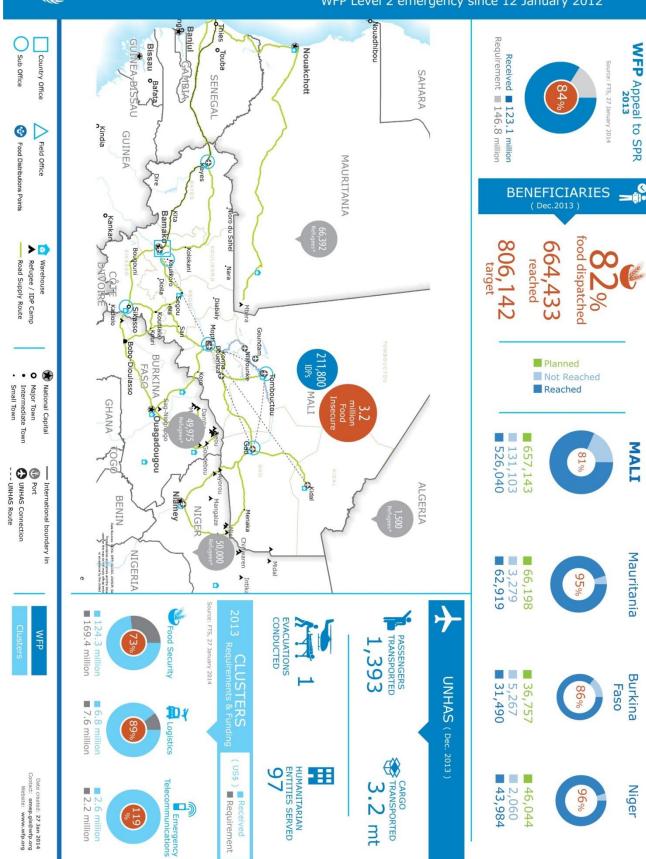
DEV 105830: The Country Programme running through December 2014 is facing 6-month (net) shortfalls amounting to USD 4.5 million or 22 percent of requirements for the period January – June 2014. The school feeding component is facing an immediate pipeline break in oil while breaks in cereals and pulses begin in February.

Capacity

Despite the challenges and restrictions in the North, WFP has been able to provide assistance to food-insecure populations. In December, WFP reached 526,040 out of 657,143 targeted beneficiaries under EMOP 200525. The Regional EMOP 200438 reached 146,529 out of 148,999 targeted beneficiaries in December. However, as UNDSS no longer allows humanitarian agencies to undertake field missions without military escorts, several missions had to be cancelled.



Mali Response
WFP Level 2 emergency since 12 January 2012



Situation Analysis

Security/Political Situation

The continued armed conflict of the Somali Federal Government (SFG) together with Kenya Defence Forces (KDF) and AMISOM troops against armed groups, mainly Al Shabaab, is the main security risk for Somalia. Despite KDF/AMISOM's recent successes in fighting Al Shabaab, the militants continue to pose a serious threat through their ongoing looting, kidnapping and killing of humanitarian workers. This is especially so in rural areas which are largely under Al Shabaab control.

The risk of attacks against government facilities and the Mogadishu International Airport, where UN and WFP staff are currently based, remains high. UNDSS in Mogadishu has initiated a complete review of UN security measures and guidelines to ensure the continued safety and security of staff members.

Food Security

Based on the Food Security and Nutrition Analysis Unit's (FSNAU) preliminary forecast, an overall deterioration of the food security situation is expected in rural parts of southern and north-eastern Somalia. In these areas, based on the Integrated Phase Classification (IPC) food insecurity severity scale, the current number of people in Crisis (IPC Phase 3) and Emergency (IPC Phase 4) is likely to increase in the first half of 2014. WFP's internal analysis of rainfall and vegetation indicate that southern Somalia is poor on both accounts. While there has been a general improvement in the nutritional situation since the famine of July 2011, the nutrition situation in the south remains critical with a GAM prevalence ranging from 15 to 20 percent. The worst-affected areas are South Gedo, Bay region, Hiran and north Bakool, as well as the IDP settlements in south central Somalia.

WFP declared the Horn of Africa drought a Level 3 emergency on 20 July 2011. It was deactivated to a WFP Level 2 emergency on 02 August 2012.

Programming Situation

PRRO 200443: This operation targets up to 2.9 million beneficiaries for 3 years (January 2013 – December 2015) with the goal of enhancing resilience of vulnerable households while also providing protective safety nets and saving lives. The USD 917.5 million operation seeks to distribute 498,000 mt of food. In 2013, WFP targeted 1.56 million vulnerable Somalis under the project. In November 2013, the latest figures available, WFP targetted 911,464 beneficiaries and reached 759,611 (80 percent). WFP operations will be scaled up during the extended lean season (January – March 2014) to address forecast increased needs.

SO 200440 enhances the Food Security Cluster's capabilities to better coordinate and enables members to move beyond seasonal-based response plans to address acute needs, as well as invest in resilience to reduce vulnerability of poor Somali households and communities.

SO 200507 facilitates the delivery of life-saving humanitarian assistance and movement of humanitarian workers in Somalia and Kenya, including medical and security evacuations,

through air services to and within Somalia and Kenya. This project has an overall cost of USD 71 million for a period of 24 months, from January 2013 to December 2014.

SO 200475 was meant to continue to improve logistics efficiency to provide timely supply of relief cargo to populations in need of humanitarian assistance in Somalia but has not received funding to date. The project was scheduled to run from April 2013 to March 2015 at a cost of USD 16 million.

SO 200546 was intended to support the humanitarian community with coordination mechanisms to deliver relief aid to beneficiaries through the Logistics Cluster, but has not received funding to date and has now been closed. This operation had an operational requirement of USD 1.3 million and was expected to run from April 2013 to December 2013.

Access

Humanitarian access remains critical, especially in south central Somalia where high levels of malnutrition persist and urgent humanitarian needs are concentrated. OCHA's latest Humanitarian Access Map of Somalia, published in September 2013, ranks south central Somalia as "Access extremely restricted/denied". This represents a dramatic decrease in access in recent years to the extent that some agencies have seen their access reduced to an almost insignificant scale.

The prevailing security situation in Mogadishu continues to restrict movement of both national and international staff, allowing only missions for the continuation of programmes classified under Criticality 1 (UNHAS, Port, targeted supplementary feeding programmes and wet feeding). UNDSS in Mogadishu and Puntland are undergoing a complete review of the current security measures to ensure continued safety and security of UN staff members during operations.

Resourcing

As per the current pipeline, the PRRO will face critical shortfalls of most commodities commencing in April 2014, at the onset of the lean season, during which it is expected that our interventions should be at full scale. Between April and December 2014, the Country Office will face a shortage of 63,566 mt. The total value of the shortfall is D 139 million for 2014. Pipeline shortfalls include commodities used in nutrition and livelihoods interventions throughout the country. It is of the utmost importance that WFP maintains the current level assistance to vulnerable households to ensure gains made to date are not reversed due to a lack of resourcing.

While there is an increased demand for information and analysis, the Food Security Cluster (SO 200440) faces a lack of funding. USD 1.2 million is required to cover 2014 needs.

Capacity

WFP Somalia has 463 staff (89 are international & 374 are national). They are operating through a country office based in both Nairobi and Mogadishu, 5 area offices in Mogadishu, Galkayo, Hargeisa, Bossaso and Dolow and sub-offices in Berbera and Garowe.

