



World Food
Programme



Evaluation of the Democratic Republic of the Congo WFP Interim Country Strategic Plan 2018- 2020

WFP Office of Evaluation

October 2020

SAVING
LIVES
CHANGING
LIVES

Context

- **High fragility:** recurring conflict and epidemics, political uncertainty, weak public services and infrastructure, climate change, high population growth etc.
- More than five million people displaced in 2018-2019
- National strategic development plan relies heavily on agriculture, but sector is highly constrained
- **High poverty and food insecurity:**
 - 77% of the population under national poverty line
 - 15.6 million people in IPC phase 3 or 4 (2019)



WFP in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (1/2)

FIVE STRATEGIC OUTCOMES (% of budget)



Food-insecure populations affected by crisis are able to meet their basic food needs

59%



Food-insecure and vulnerable populations in crisis-affected areas have improved nutrition

22%



Smallholder farmers and vulnerable communities enhance their resilience

8%



National institutions have strengthened capacity to reduce food insecurity and malnutrition and respond to shocks

1%

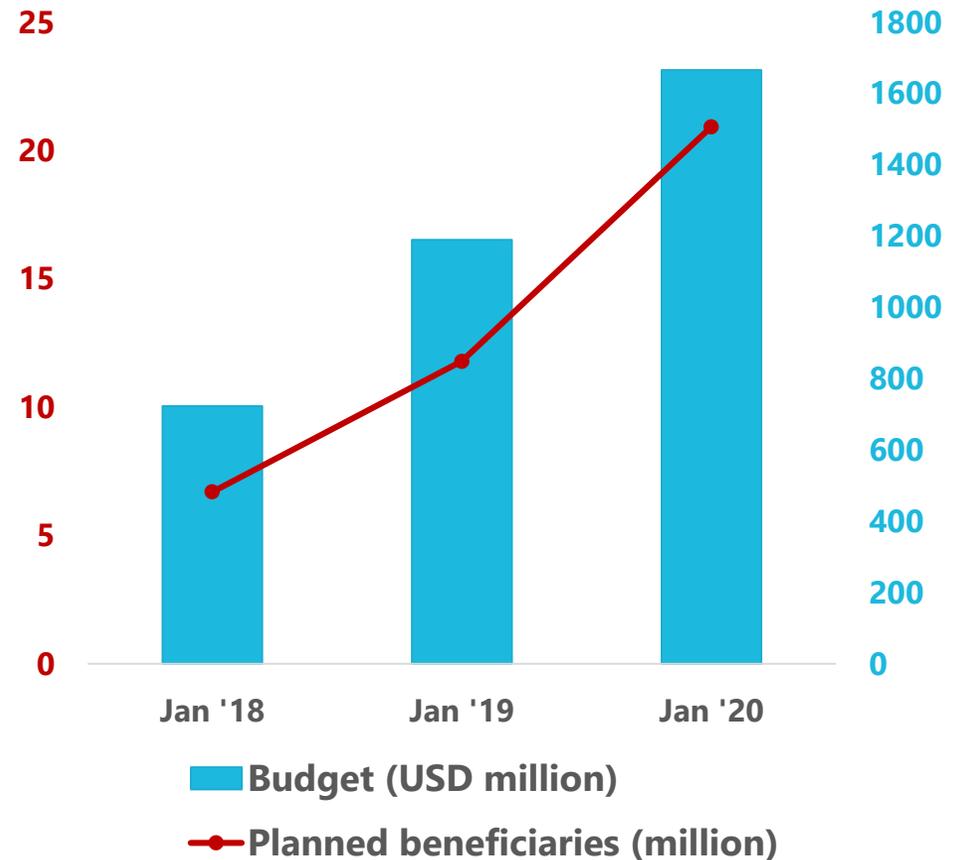


Humanitarian community has the capacity to respond to shocks

10%

WFP in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (2/2)

- **Sharp increase in needs** over 2018-2019
- WFP interventions cover **10 out of 26 provinces**
- Corporate **L3 emergency** in the worst-affected provinces (East and the Kasai provinces)



Evaluation methodology



- **Utilization-focused** and **consultative** approach
- **Extended main evaluation mission**
- **Community mini-survey** on targeting and accountability to affected populations
- **Gender sensitive** evaluation
- **Main limitations:**
 - Changes and inconsistencies in outcome-level data and reporting
 - Restricted access to some field locations and activities

Findings

Q1 To what extent are WFP's strategic position, role and specific contribution based on country priorities and people's needs, as well as WFP's strengths?



Good **alignment** with national policies



Food assistance **well-targeted** to areas affected by conflict or other serious shocks



Adequate **flexibility** to respond to new crises



Good **coherence** with United Nations system in-country

Q2 What is the extent and quality of WFP's specific contribution to ICSP strategic outcomes?



Successful expansion of **emergency assistance** in response to growing number of crises



Selective reduction of rations to meet increasing beneficiary targets



Focus on moderate acute **malnutrition treatment**



Expansion of resilience interventions and some **peacebuilding** initiatives



Effective support to **humanitarian logistics and telecommunications**

Cross-cutting issues



Gender equality and women's empowerment well integrated in resilience activities



People suffering from **illness or disabilities** sometimes left behind



Lack of risk analysis, monitoring and budget to fully ensure **protection** of affected populations



Mechanisms to ensure **accountability to affected populations** have limitations

Q3 To what extent did WFP use its resources efficiently in contributing to ICSP outputs and strategic outcomes?



Food and cash distribution costs comparable with countries with similar, challenging contexts



Significant delays on the ground due to:

- logistical challenges
- late arrival of food and funding from key donors



Considerable underspending of available resources



Q4 What are the factors that explain WFP's performance and the extent to which it has made the strategic shift expected by the ICSP?



ICSP provided **single frame of reference** for dialogue with donors → increased funding in line with needs but earmarking remained high



Weak political links with national government



Measures being taken to better manage the **considerable fraud and security risks** to operations



Disconnected information systems inadequate to support decision-making and adaptive management

Conclusions



WFP was able to respond to consecutive and increasing emergencies in DRC



Growing food assistance needs only partially met, and not always on time



WFP's operations sometimes stretched to the limit



Stronger strategic partnerships required to help address structural food security and nutrition vulnerabilities



Recommendations

- 1 Upgrade WFP's emergency response capacity**, including through greater coverage of food security assessments, increased timeliness of response and better adaptation of food assistance modalities to beneficiary needs
- Use WFP's comparative advantages beyond humanitarian assistance to **support partners engaged in the development and peacebuilding components of the Triple Nexus**
- 3 Engage more strategically** with donors, the Government and cooperating partners
- Strengthen monitoring and evaluation, internal management and control systems for **reducing risks to operations**
- Group protection, exclusion risks, environmental protection, conflict sensitivity and accountability to affected populations into a single '**risk to populations**' framework better balanced with risks to operations
- 6 Increase the focus on gender** through greater attention to the concerns of women, men, boys and girls in the more vulnerable population groups, and better use of opportunities presented by programming