

Table:1

WFP's total funding requirements for DRC in US\$

Province	Feb - July 2018 Requirements (US\$)	Available resources (US\$)	% funded	Net funding requirements Feb-July 2018 (unfunded) (US\$)
Kasai	80.7 million	21 million	26%	59.7 million
Tanganyika	68 million	4.5 million	7%	63.5 million
South Kivu (1)	17.1 million	6.6 million	39%	10.5 million
Other interventions	80.1 million	27.5 million	34%	52.6 million
Total	245.9 million	59.6 million	31%	186.3 million

Key messages

1- The world must urgently address the spiralling crisis in DRC, where conflict, hunger and displacement threaten to destabilize the entire Central African region.

2- Food is a tool for peace. It encourages people to return to their villages, start farming, settle their disputes over resources and lay down their arms.

3- Having contributed to averting four famines (Nigeria, Somalia, South Sudan and Yemen,) in 2017, WFP is today urging greater efforts to prevent famine in DRC. With 7.7 million severely hungry people, the needs far outstrip the response to date.

Every effort is being made to prevent the Level 3 Emergency from becoming a protracted crisis. This is especially true in Kasai, which was previously stable and where development was taking hold.

It is imperative to help farmers, who have missed three planting seasons in a row, survive the current crisis and become self-reliant again.

WFP's operations

In 2017, WFP reached 2.1 million beneficiaries with 45,000 metric tons of food and distributed USD 17.7 million in cash. Some 23,000 metric tons of food were locally purchased, adding a significant contribution to the local economy.

In the second half of 2017, WFP undertook a major scale up in Kasai, from zero to almost 400,000 beneficiaries in four months. Where assistance was provided, post-distribution monitoring showed improved food consumption.

The System-Wide Level 3 Emergency also triggered a scale-up plan for WFP's activities in South-Kivu and Tanganyika provinces. Additional resources are required to match the needs.

Outside Kasai, funding shortfalls in the last quarter of 2017 forced WFP to reduce assistance to IDPs. Those who were retained following a re-prioritization exercise, received half rations. This saved lives, but did not have a significant nutritional impact.

WFP resorted to advance financing to scale up its response. In 2017, almost 40 million USD was allocated, thanks to donors contributing to the Immediate Response Account.

Hunger in DRC - at a glance

- ⇒ **7.7 million people** are severely food insecure; an increase of 30 percent in the past year.
- ⇒ **Two million children** suffer Severe Acute Malnutrition (SAM), exceeding the combined figure (1.35 million) in Nigeria, Somalia, South Sudan and Yemen.
- ⇒ **Hunger in DRC is man-made.** Were it not for conflict, DRC could produce all the food it needs and more. Only 10 percent of DRC's 120 million hectares of farming land is used.

Evolution of crisis

Since mid-2016, DRC has seen conflict spread and escalate. Internal displacement⁽²⁾ has doubled. These trends act as triggers of food insecurity, reinforcing pre-existing structural causes, such as chronic poverty; malnutrition; underinvestment in agriculture and infrastructure.

On 20 October 2017, the Inter-Agency Standing Committee (IASC) declared a System-Wide Level 3 Emergency for the deteriorating humanitarian situation in the Kasai region, South-Kivu and Tanganyika provinces.

To extend the development gains of the emergency response, WFP and its partners are actively helping to restart schools, health centres and other basic services

Summary of People in Need and Reached by WFP in system-wide L3

Table:2

L3 areas	Total people in need	Total people WFP aims to reach	Total people reached Oct-Dec 2017
Kasai	3.2 m	1.2 m	400,000
Tanganyika	1.4 m	0.5 m	95,000
South Kivu	1.6 m	0.6 m	154,000

(1)Per Interim Country Strategic Plan. The figure will change in light of recent assessment and scale up plan.

(2)1.7 million people were newly displaced in 2017. As of 31 December 2017, the IDP figure was 4,495,361 (OCHA)

The System Wide L3 Response

Marking a 30 percent increase in conflict-induced-displacement from last year, the Humanitarian Response Plan for 2018 requests US\$1.7 billion. The food security sector represents US\$580 million. WFP is responding to the System-Wide Level 3 Emergency areas through:

- General Food Distribution and Cash-Based Transfer, in conjunction with FAO's farming tools and seeds;
- Treatment and prevention of moderate acute malnutrition, linked with UNICEF's treatment of severe acute malnutrition; provision of productive assets to small-holder farmers;
- Integrated programs supporting farmers, food for assets, school meals, women's empowerment, social cohesion and reconciliation;
- Increased food security and market monitoring. In North Kivu, South Kivu, Ituri and Tanganyika, WFP reaches 4,000 households monthly.

Operational challenges

- Inadequate resources: A pledging conference is planned for April, but WFP cannot wait until the second quarter to resume, sustain and scale up food and nutrition assistance.
- Access: Insecurity hampers WFP's access to people in need, while MONUSCO's troop reduction has diminished its capacity to support humanitarian operations.
- Infrastructure: Rugged terrain, seasonal rains, poor road and rail network, all have negative impact on the movement and delivery of food assistance.

Forging ahead

Humanitarian – development nexus

Beyond relief operations, FAO, IFAD and WFP have launched a joint programme to strengthen the resilience of vulnerable households. Their joint resilience portfolio represents more than US\$60 million in contributions from Canada, France, Germany and Sweden. With this funding, the three agencies support vulnerable smallholder farmers affected by displacement and intercommunal conflict.

Multi-Year Funding

WFP has seen a notable increase in multiyear contributions in the past five years with more than USD 67 million received since 2015. Germany, Sweden and Canada have chosen a multiyear approach. Multiyear contributions allowed FAO and WFP to significantly expand Purchase for Progress (P4P) programming in North and South Kivu, with a view to reaching 150,000 beneficiaries in April 2018.

Joint needs assessments

WFP works with stakeholders to make available real-time food security, nutrition and market-related information. WFP is among the main information sources for the Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC) analysis by regularly providing data captured through its Emergency Food Security Assessments (EFSA); Food Security Monitoring System (FSMS); and market assessment. At the national level, WFP and FAO support the Ministry of Agriculture to improve agricultural statistics. In 2017, WFP helped the Ministry conduct the first joint crops assessment. Price monitoring bulletins are produced monthly with WFP's support.

Accountability to affected populations

As part of WFP's continued commitment to ensuring accountability to affected populations across DRC, in 2017 the country office set up a free telephone hotline - the "Green Line" - for complaints and suggestions. It complements the feedback mechanisms established at the distribution sites where beneficiaries can immediately raise any issue while receiving WFP's assistance. WFP contracted an independent call-center in Kinshasa to handle the calls in local languages and French, based on WFP's Standard Operating Procedures to safeguard beneficiaries' data, and ensure confidentiality. The beneficiaries have been sensitized on the availability of the tools. WFP received over 23,000 calls between April and November 2017.

Cash-based assistance

Since 2015, all WFP's refugees assistance has been cash-based. WFP continues to scale up cash. In October 2017, WFP carried out a market assessment to inform cash-based transfer activities in the Kasai region. The findings showed that markets are operating in a very challenging environment resulting from a significant influx of IDPs - substantially increasing demand.

As of mid-February, WFP is assisting 38,000 people in Kasai Central province through a three-month unconditional cash transfers intervention. At the same time, FAO is distributing seeds and tools in the same areas to prepare the next planting season. WFP plans to gradually move to other areas. Cash-based assistance is also being scaled up in Tanganyika province.

Partnership

In support of a multi-sector approach, WFP has strengthened its working relations with UN entities including FAO, UNICEF, UNHCR, UNAIDS, UNFPA and the MONUSCO Mission.