

## Key Messages

- 1. Food insecurity is on the rise, with almost 13 million Congolese people facing hunger this year (according to the draft Humanitarian Response Plan for 2019. The figure is not yet endorsed by government of DRC). WFP responds by increasing its assistance to reach up to 5.4 million people in 2018.**
- 2. There are more children at risk of dying from malnutrition in DRC than in four other countries on the brink of famine: 2,2 million in DRC compared to the 1,3 million across North East Nigeria, Somalia, South Sudan and Yemen.**
- 3. DRC has a serious food deficit caused by conflict, displacement, agricultural pests and other causes: There is a deficit of almost 7 million tons of food, equivalent to 22% of food requirements for the country. The food deficit places more than 20 million people at risk of hunger.**

- **Conflict and displacement have direct impact on hunger:** It results in lost livestock, looted and burned villages and people abandoning their subsistence farming livelihoods.
- **Timeliness of funding is essential to help IDPs return and regain their self-reliance:** Farmers have the opportunity to plant in October, harvest in December and become self sufficient by the end of the year. If they miss it, WFP and partners will have to assist them in April, so they can harvest in June.
- **Adding to conflict and hunger, DRC faces multiple other crises.** This year has seen two Ebola outbreaks. The current outbreak in Ituri and North Kivu, Eastern DRC, has killed more than 100 people. Armed conflict in the area hampers medical access to some people carrying the virus. A key priority is to contain the virus from spreading to other parts of DRC and to neighbouring countries.

## Operations

- Over the past year, WFP has reached 2.3 million people with food, nutrition and cash assistance in Kasai—or 72 percent of those living in hunger. This assistance helped avert famine in Kasai but needs remain high, especially in nutrition.
- Working in hard to reach villages of Kasai, WFP has assisted 420,000 people with multi-purpose cash in 2018. In other parts of the country 130,000 refugees receive cash from WFP, and multipurpose cash is increasingly used to meet IDP needs.
- In May 2018, WFP expanded its corporate L3 to Eastern DRC, covering Ituri, North Kivu, South Kivu and Tanganyika. These provinces, alongside Kasai, are the most populous and volatile areas of the country, with conflict and displacement fuelling hunger.
- From January to August 2018, WFP reached 3,6 million people, 67 percent of the 5,4 million targeted for food and nutrition assistance in 2018. WFP needs to reach an additional 1.8 million people by the end of the year.
- The successful scale up of operations depends on the availability of funds, the availability and timeliness of commodities, and WFP's access to people in need. Due to insufficient resources, WFP beneficiaries of in-kind food assistance receive only half-rations, which is just enough to stay alive.
- Three of WFP's priority areas are facing access constraints: Tanganyika, South Kivu and Kasai. This hampers complete delivery according to the scale-up plan.
- However, in three other provinces targeted - Ituri, North Kivu and Kasai Central - WFP is delivering 100 percent against its scale-up target.
- Since August 2018, WFP responded to the tenth Ebola outbreak through food and nutrition assistance to more than 21,000 people, as well as logistical support to partners through UNHAS, accommodation and other services. In anticipation of a possible cross border spread of the virus, a WFP regional preparedness plan has been developed.

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

Zone L3	Total people in need	Beneficiaries planned 2018	Reached (Jan-Aug 2018)
Ituri	1.1 M	0.5 M	0.47 M
Sud-Kivu	1.6 M	0.92 M	0.35 M
Nord-Kivu	1.5 M	0.59 M	0.2 M
Tanganyika	1.4 M	0.95 M	0.6 M
Kasai Central	1.9 M	1.3 M	1.0 M
Kasai	1.3 M	1.1 M	1.0 M
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>8.8 M</b>	<b>5.4 M</b>	<b>3.6 M</b>

## Funding Requirements for Corporate L3 Areas in US\$ (Oct 2018-Mar 2019)

Sub Office	Requirement (US\$)	Available resources	% funded	Net funding requirements (US\$) (unfunded)
Kasai	29 million	7 million	23%	22 million
Kasai Central	67 million	11 million	17%	55 million
Ituri	37 million	16 million	45%	20 million
North Kivu	35 million	15 million	43%	19 million
South Kivu	44 million	8 million	18%	36 million
Tanganyika	44 million	24 million	54%	20 million

### Partnerships

- WFP supports the Congolese government to reach zero hunger by 2030. An independent, Congolese led Strategic Zero Hunger review is ongoing. Once completed, WFP and other agencies will make a joint proposition to the government on how the UN can help attain Sustainable Development Goal 2, ending hunger.
- WFP partners with 18 UN agencies, 27 international NGOs and 33 Congolese NGOs.
- WFP implements joint programmes with FAO wherever possible, both in emergency response and in longer-term recovery interventions. WFP and FAO share a joint resilience unit in Kinshasa.
- WFP and UNICEF partner to identify priority areas for joint nutrition interventions. Wherever possible, the two agencies deliver nutrition interventions together – whether addressing chronic malnutrition in South Kivu or acute malnutrition in Kasai.
- WFP works in partnership with UNHCR to assist approximately 130,000 refugees from Central African Republic, South Sudan and Burundi. This is 24% of the refugee caseload in the country (536,000).
- WFP works with the private sector, especially financial institutions (banks) in the implementation of cash transfer schemes and call centres for beneficiary feedback. A private sector partnership strategy is in progress.
- 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

- WFP requires US\$ 46 million per month to resource its scale up plan. The duration of the scale up plan is one year, from June 2018 to June 2019, with nutrition interventions going on until the end of 2019.
- WFP has received US\$ 325 million against its 2018 annual funding requirement of US\$ 542 million. Overall, the 2018 operation is 60 % funded.
- 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 will need to be confirmed latest by mid-December 2018. For acute malnutrition treatment and prevention, significant gaps will start in June 2019.
- WFP resilience building activities are valued at US\$ 55.8 million in 2018. So far, WFP has received US\$ 16.8 million, equivalent to 30% of funding requirement in this focus area.
- UNHAS 2018 funding requirement was estimated at US\$ 30.6 million. Currently, this service is fully funded.
- The Food Security Cluster funding requirement is estimated at US\$ 1.5 million from now until the next 12 months.
- WFP is grateful for the generous contributions from its donors in DRC: Belgium, Canada, UKAID/DFID, European Commission, Finland, France, Germany, Ireland, Japan, Norway, UN CERF, UN Pooled Funds, USAID, Sweden, Switzerland, South Korea, Russia.