



World Food Programme

WFP Ebola Response in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC)

February 2019

Key Messages

1. The tenth Ebola outbreak in DRC has killed more than 530 people and 830 cases have been reported since the outbreak was declared in August 2018.

It is the first time that Ebola has struck a densely populated conflict zone. The high mobility of people, traditional health practices and fierce community resistance are complicating the response. Despite these challenges, the government-led response has managed to contain the virus in only two provinces (Ituri and North Kivu), and it has not spread to Goma, other major cities or across borders.

2. Doing its part to fight Ebola, as part of the Strategic Response Plan 3, WFP provides critical support to the Ministry of Health and the World Health Organization through UNHAS, supply chain and other logistical services. WFP also distributes food to Ebola contacts and others directly affected.

This targeted food assistance helps break the transmission chain by limiting movements of people who may be carrying the virus. Furthermore, it provides an incentive for the communities to accept the response and facilitates the follow-up of contacts by surveillance teams

3. Almost 175,000 Ebola affected people have received food assistance from WFP since the virus was discovered in eastern DRC in August 2018, through the distribution of some 2,118 metric tons of food across 18 health zones. WFP is facing challenges in providing food assistance to all known Ebola contacts, due to insecurity and some absenteeism at food distributions. Thus, 22 percent of the known contacts targeted for food assistance remain to be reached.

WFP Key Figures

People Reached with Food Assistance: 175,000 people

Food distributed: 2,118 metric tons

Staff deployed: 160, including 76 international staff

UNHAS flights conducted: 412

Additional aircrafts added to fleet: 3, two helicopters and one Beechcraft

New UNHAS routes established: 10

Humanitarian workers moved: 8,629

Accommodation camps constructed: 2, with extra capacity for 200 humanitarian workers

Medical Equipment Transported per week: 14 metric tons on behalf of WHO

Donors: European Commission, United States of America

WFP Food Assistance to Ebola Affected People

WFP food assistance is delivered in all health zones subject to medical Ebola response, currently at 89 food distribution points across 18 health zones in Ituri and North Kivu. WFP's food assistance has three pillars:

1. Care: Assisting confirmed and suspected Ebola cases in Ebola treatment centers receiving medical care in order to sustain their nutritional status and complementing therapeutic protocols.

2. Contain: Assisting registered Ebola contacts (and contacts of contacts), thereby mitigating the risk of Ebola spreading further. Family food rations are provided on a weekly basis during the 21-day period of medical observation. Food rations are also provided as an incentive to health workers and other front-line personnel for their endeavours in combating the epidemic. Some 95 percent of the Ebola-related food assistance provided falls under this pillar.

3. Protect: Ensuring that discharged suspected patients, Ebola survivors and their families, as well as families of individuals deceased from Ebola receive assistance towards their recovery and reintegration into communities.

Wider Assistance to Build Community Acceptance

Breaking the Ebola transmission chain relies not only on medical response capacity to trace, vaccinate and treat new cases, but also on the active collaboration of affected communities.

Weak collaboration is characterized by a low number of community alerts of new Ebola cases; and attempts to hide bodies of the deceased rather than handing them over to safe and dignified burial teams.

Given the challenges faced hitherto in obtaining community acceptance, supplementary humanitarian and development activities are fielded by WFP and partners. These activities aim to build trust and positive engagement in the affected areas, by addressing people's needs more holistically. In support of this approach, a school feeding programme in Mangina and Oicha has been launched, while WFP is also exploring food for asset activities.

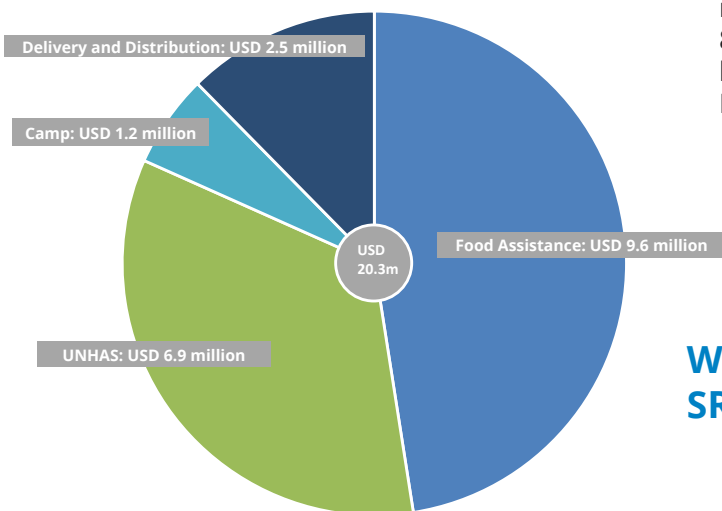
Regional Preparedness

With a very high risk of Ebola spreading to neighbouring countries, WFP is providing logistical support for emergency preparedness in four priority countries: Uganda, Rwanda, South Sudan and Burundi. This includes support for border screening and isolation, Ebola Treatment Unit (ETU) design and construction, logistics coordination and transport and storage for partners.

In **Uganda**, WFP provides tents and containers for screening and isolation and is setting up a Common Logistics Services Regional Staging Area at Entebbe.

In **Rwanda** and **Burundi**, WFP supplies ambulances as well as tents and containers for border screening and isolation, and is also providing engineering support for ETU design and construction.

In **South Sudan**, WFP is also supplying ambulances and has finalized construction of three isolation units and is coordinating Ebola-related logistics.



WFP Operational Support

Delivery and distribution services: Including customs clearance, transport, handling and repackaging services. WFP also manages three warehouses for WHO in Beni, Goma and Butembo, and manages the set up and rehabilitation of storage and office premises in the response locations.

Camp settlement: WFP has built two accommodation camps in Komanda and Tchomia with a capacity to host 200 humanitarian workers. Together with WHO, a third accommodation camp was built in Mangina with an additional capacity for 150 people. WFP also provides mobile storage units (two in Beni, two in Katwa and two in Butembo), land clearing, securing, illumination and electric set up for the medical and non-medical staff involved in the response.

UN Humanitarian Air Services (UNHAS): WFP enables access to Ebola-affected areas for the entire response community through the WFP-managed UNHAS. Three additional aircrafts have been added to the fleet, enabling a timely support for medical responders to deploy quickly to newly Ebola affected areas. Ten new routes have also been established, more than 8,600 humanitarian workers and 130 metric tons of humanitarian cargo has been moved as part of the Ebola response by UNHAS.

WFP Funding Requirements under SRP 3: USD 20.3 million

Ebola Strategic Response Plan 3

The Strategic Response Plan 3 for Ebola (SRP3) is in place for six months (February – July 2019) in the two Ebola affected provinces of Itiru and North Kivu with a budget of USD 147.9 million. The Ministry of Health remains in charge of the response, with support from WHO and humanitarian actors.

As part of SRP 3, WFP requires USD 20.3 million in order to provide the following services:

- 1. Food assistance for 300,000 people**, but ability to scale up if need be. In order to better track Ebola lost and unseen contacts, WFP will set up information sharing procedures between Caritas, the Surveillance Commission and WHO, using food distributions.
- 2. UNHAS will provide two dedicated helicopters and two fixed wing aircrafts** to the Ebola response. Helicopters will enable humanitarian workers to reach remote areas quickly, while fixed wing aircrafts enable UNHAS to conduct daily flights between Kinshasa – Goma – Beni
- 3. An additional mobile accommodation camp** for humanitarian workers will be constructed, bringing the total to four.
- 4. Delivery and distribution services** on behalf of the wider humanitarian community will continue.