







WFP Democratic Republic of the Congo

February Situation Report #45 – 24 March 2023

Highlights

- Deputy Executive Director (DED) Visit & Donor Briefing:** From 14 to 18 February DED Manoj Juneja visited WFP DRC operations and met with key humanitarian actors, donors and senior government officials. Additionally, the DED attended the quarterly Donors' Briefing held in Kinshasa on 16 February which brought together key partners supporting WFP programmes. During the briefing, several calls were made for WFP to adapt its response to the different food security needs of DRC, including through a scale-up of its resilience interventions in areas where food insecurity is more chronic (Kasais, Ubungui).
- The DED emphasized the need to engage with partners and donors on their risk tolerance vs improved humanitarian outreach. He also visited WFP's Field Office in Kananga (Kasai)
- Annual Performance Plan (APP) Retreat:** From 20-24 February, WFP held its APP retreat in Brazzaville. The retreat brought together senior management, the Heads of Units and Heads of Field Offices. The key objectives were to address internal and external challenges and to identify key priorities for 2023. The retreat enabled staff to share ideas openly, strengthen team spirit and collaboration and produce a common understanding of the vision for 2023.
- Attack on an UNHAS Operated Helicopter:** On 24 February, unidentified militants fired at a European Union Humanitarian Aid Flight (EUHAF) helicopter flying from Walikale to Goma in North Kivu. The aircraft managed to land safely in Goma without any injuries to the passengers and crew.

	26.4 m highly food-insecure people (51% female/49% male) (50% children/50% adults)
	26 provinces affected.
	5.7 m people displaced (52% female/48% male) (58% children/42% adults)
	6.1 m people reached in 2022 (% 42 female/% 58% male) (61% children/ 39% adults)

Situation Update

- Eastern DRC:** In North Kivu, WFP is recording increased needs for food and cash-assistance in Masisi which is now a hotspot for insecurity and continued displacement. Access in large parts of North Kivu remains difficult, and humanitarian partners are continuing to negotiate. Local sentiments expressed against the UN Peacekeeping mission and the East African Community Regional Force (EACRF) are turning violent in Nyiragongo territory, including attacks on UN workers. Moreover, in Beni, the Alliance Democratic Forces (ADF) is active and violent, causing civilian casualties and insecurity on the roads.
- In Ituri, and particularly in Drodoro, recent attacks led to a total number of 1.5 million people displaced in five territories. WFP is aiming to assist 162,000 people with humanitarian assistance given its sparse resources. WFP conducted a rapid distribution of emergency high energy biscuits to 15,000 new arrivals in Rho camp to meet immediate food needs.

WFP Response

- Under the revised Country Strategic Plan 2021-2024, WFP continues its large-scale operation targeting **7.1 million** people with food, nutrition, and resilience support in 2023.



Food and Nutrition Assistance

- **Overview:** In February, WFP assisted **668,000 unique beneficiaries across all crisis-response activities (including General Food distributions, and Nutrition)**. WFP reached 179,000 people with cash-based transfer (CBT), 381,000 with in-kind food assistance, and 108,000 with malnutrition treatment supplies. In North Kivu, assistance remains difficult as only three out of ten health zones are accessible due to security constraints (Walikale, Nyiragongo and Kayna). In addition to that, WFP is facing logistical challenges due to poor road conditions, forcing WFP's trucks to take a long alternative route to supply several health zones.
- **Kasai:** WFP reached **113,000 people** with in-kind assistance, cash and malnutrition treatment supplies. There is ongoing preparation for a baseline survey for the Resilience Project in Kamuesha. The office conducted a protection training for all protection focal points with support from the Country Office. This led to the development of a draft protection Plan of Action and establishment of protection committees within the field offices.
- **Kasai Central and Kasai Oriental:** WFP assisted **108,000 people** with in-kind assistance, malnutrition prevention and treatment supplies and cash-based assistance. The office distributed half rations of oil due to shortages resulting from delayed supplies. CBT activities resumed after the lifting of distribution ban by the provincial authorities thanks to WFP's communications and advocacy efforts. The office is preparing for the targeting of 27,000 new beneficiaries under the World Bank fund in Kasai Province.
- **Tanganyika:** WFP supported **103,000 people** with in-kind and cash-based support, malnutrition treatment and prevention supplies. Additionally, WFP is awaiting the extension of the financial service provider (FSP) contract to prepare for CBT distributions in Pweto. The office continues to monitor the return movement of people from the Lukuga axis who resided in Nyunzu.
- **North Kivu:** WFP reached **169,000 people** with in-kind assistance, CBT and malnutrition treatment to children, pregnant and breastfeeding women and girls (PLW/Gs). OCHA notes that 10,000 new families reportedly settled in Bulengo and Lushagara camps around Goma and over 85 percent of people receiving assistance in North Kivu are IDP's. From 21 to 24 February, the office trained 119 enumerators on targeting techniques in Beni. The enumerators are now enrolled in the targeting exercise currently being conducted in Kayna area. An additional registration was launched in Bulengo site targeting around 8,500 households and the new site in Lushagara targeting 4,500 households.
- **Ituri:** WFP assisted **106,000 people** with food assistance and malnutrition treatment. WFP is now able to distribute High

Energy Biscuits (HEB) to children and pregnant and breastfeeding women at Rho camp due to an improved security environment in Drodro health zone. The Cooperative for the Development of the Congo (CODECO) and the Allied Democratic Forces (ADF) armed groups are capitalising on the FARDC's focus on the crisis in North Kivu. CODECO attacks in Drodro have caused huge displacements to Rho camp which now houses 70,000 people.

- **South Kivu:** The office reached **69,000 people** with in-kind food assistance and malnutrition treatment supplies. Preparation to assist Burundian refugees in Lusenda and Mulongwe and IDPs in Fizi with cash assistance is now complete. WFP also finalised the targeting of beneficiaries in the Fizi health zone through one of its cooperating partners. Three sites are expected to receive 100,000 more displaced people by the end of March. WFP is targeting 182,300 people.



Supply Chain

- **Pipeline:** In February, WFP had an in-country stock of approximately **22,300 mt** of various commodities, with **1,000 mt** in the transit countries, South Africa, Mozambique, Tanzania, and **5,000 mt** expected from Kenya alone.
- **Procurement:** Various contracts for procurement of maize meal, oil and beans from Lubumbashi, Kinshasa, Kalemie and North Kivu have been launched and now awaiting expression of interest from suppliers.

Clusters and Common Services



Logistics Cluster

- **Information Management/Geographical Information Systems:** The Logistics Cluster shared updates of documents and operational maps on the dedicated [portal](#). The Logistics Cluster monitored and shared physical access alerts via: drc-logs@logcluster.org



Food Security Cluster (FSC)

- The updated 2023 geographical tool for targeting health zones is now available [here](#).



UN Humanitarian Air Service (UNHAS)

- **Operational Overview:** UNHAS regular and special flights transported **2,787 passengers** and **44.mt** of essential light cargo. European Union Humanitarian Aid Flight (EUHAF) transported **549** passengers and **18 mt** of essential light cargo.
- **Insecurity:** The tense and unstable security situation in various destinations, has also led to flight cancellations in locations such as Goma due to persistent demonstrations. UNHAS continues monitoring the security situation of the different destinations on a daily basis before releasing flights.
- **Medical Evaluation:** UNHAS accomplished 14 medical evacuations, out of various locations such as Walikale, Kalole,

Rwinda, Bunia, Salamabila and Gbadolite.

- **Security Evaluation:** UNHAS evacuated 16 people for *Médecins Sans Frontières – Suisse* (MSF-Switzerland), from Rho, Bunia and Goma
- **Special Flights:** UNHAS conducted nine flights for *Médecins Sans Frontières –France* (MSF-France), World Bank, UNHCR, The Mitchell Group and ACTED.
- **Fuel:** Shortages continue to disrupt flights from Kinshasa to Goma via Kananga.

Communications, Advocacy and Marketing

- In Kananga, WFP organized an information sharing session with provincial authorities to lift the ban on WFP food and cash distribution activities. The ban had been effected due to misleading information availed to government authorities.
- From 6 to 9 February, WFP received the USAID Bureau Humanitarian Assistance (BHA) Deputy Assistant Administrator, Michael Nims. He had an opportunity to exchange virtually with the team based in the east to learn more about the work that WFP is doing on the ground and the impact that BHA support is making.
- WFP organized community meetings alongside provincial government authorities to raise awareness about WFP activities, dismiss rumours (for example WFP was accused of causing maize price hikes) and regain trust of communities to guarantee access and smooth programme implementation.
- WFP Deputy Executive Director, Manoj Juneja, was interviewed by local media. The interview is accessible [here](#).
- WFP together with its implementing partners in Uvira territory hosted two radio programmes to teach farmers' skills to control rodents and cereal storage. The aim of these broadcasts is to build the capacities of smallholder farmers in the Ruzizi area with regard to post-harvest management so they can better feed their families and sell the surplus to better their livelihoods.

- From 31 January to 5 February, the Pope visited DRC and South Sudan. The Communications, Advocacy and Marketing unit in conjunction with WFP South Sudan prepared the article below:

[DRC and South Sudan: Pope Francis to cast spotlight on conflict, hunger](#)



Dorati Ndagisa is grateful for WFP's food assistance, but feels helpless about eastern DRC's ongoing conflict. Photo: WFP/Michael Castofas



The sprawling Kanyaruchinya camp in eastern DRC hosts people displaced by conflict. In recent months, clashes have forced half a million people from their homes. © WFP/Michael Cast



A child is checked for malnutrition at Kanyaruchinya health centre, in DRC's conflict-hit Nord Kivu province. Pope Francis is expected to address conflict and hunger during his visit to the country. Photo: WFP/Michael Castofa

WFP thanks the following donors who contributed resources in 2023:



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