





# WFP Democratic Republic of the Congo

Situation Report #56 – 31 July 2024

## Highlights

**Political Situation:** The new Government for the DRC was sworn into office at the beginning of the month. The newly appointed Government is led by the country's first female Prime Minister Judith Suminwa Tuluka. WFP is working to engage with key ministers to establish partnerships on areas of collaboration for strategic support and advocacy.

- **MONUSCO withdrawal in South Kivu:** On 30 June, the UN peacekeeping mission in DRC (MONUSCO) finalized its military withdrawal from South Kivu as the first phase of its gradual drawdown from DRC as per request of the DRC Government. While a residual team of about 45 remains, the level of services provided by MONUSCO has decreased significantly. On the other hand, the drawdown has been paused for the provinces of North Kivu and Ituri in light of the recent escalation in fighting.
- **Increased Needs:** The intensification in fighting is increasing displacement and re-displacement as people flee to sites sheltering internally displaced people in and around Goma. This has resulted in an increase in the number of people in need in the camps and sites where WFP is responding. Consequently, WFP continues to prioritize its planning to ensure the assistance is given to the most vulnerable and improve food security outcomes for the most-vulnerable people.

	<b>40.8 m<sup>1</sup> chronically food-insecure people</b>
	<b>26 provinces affected by food insecurity</b>
	<b>7.3 m people displaced<sup>2</sup></b>
	<b>1.5 m people reached in June 2024</b>

## Situation Update

- **Increased fighting and insecurity:** The violence in Eastern Congo remains unrelenting with continued attacks perpetrated by different non-state armed groups including the March 23 Movement (M23), the Allied Democratic Forces (ADF) and the Cooperative for the Development of the Congo Union of Revolutionaries for the Defence of the Congolese People (CODECO-URPDC) among others. The M23 was particularly active in Lubero territory in northern North Kivu as it captured two towns in June. The continued fighting increased insecurity for people in the affected communities as well as humanitarian workers present there. Two humanitarian workers were killed in June as they attempted to flee the insecurity in Lubero and humanitarian operations were suspended in the area. Additionally, the insecurity worsened an already-existing displacement crisis as people were re-displaced multiple times in search of safety. The [2024 Global Report on Internal Displacement](#) has named DRC, next to Sudan as, among the two countries that accounted for nearly half of all internal conflict displacements worldwide.

<sup>1</sup> According to the integrated food security phase classification (IPC) analysis [on chronic food insecurity](#)

<sup>2</sup> As per OCHA's displacement site assessment, [March 2024](#)

- On 4 July, a **humanitarian truce** was declared for eastern DRC, brokered by the United States, amid escalating conflict between the Congolese armed forces (FARDC) and the M23. The truce aimed to ease hostilities, facilitate the return of displaced persons in North Kivu province, and protect civilians. The truce was extended to 3 August while third-party intervention to address the conflict in eastern DRC was discussed. Multiple parties worked closely with the Governments of the DRC, Rwanda, and Angola in support of regional diplomatic efforts under the Luanda and Nairobi processes to reach a durable cessation of hostilities.
- Health Crisis:** The World Health Organization notes that DRC is currently experiencing one of the worst epidemics of mpox. WHO has reported that 24 of 26 provinces in Congo are affected with well over 9,000 cases recorded as of end of June. The highly contagious and dangerous “Clade 1” variant of the disease poses a major threat to the Congolese population particularly in a context of ever-increasing displacement. By the end of June, cases had also been recorded in Goma (North Kivu’s provincial capital) where a spread of the outbreak to people in the IDP camps may exacerbate an already challenging and complex humanitarian response.

## WFP Response

- Under the revised Country Strategic Plan 2021-2024, WFP is targeting **7.1 million people** with food, nutrition, and resilience support in 2024, though targets will be revised in line with the fast-changing situation.

### Food and Nutrition Assistance (June 2024)

- Overview:** In June, WFP had assisted some **900,000 unique beneficiaries across the country**, of whom 58 percent are women and girls, across all activities. WFP provided nearly 500,000 people with cash-based transfers (CBT) and in-kind transfers for general food assistance, and 227,000 with malnutrition treatment and prevention supplies. Furthermore, another 193,000 people were supported through resilience building interventions specifically school feeding and asset creation. The escalation in fighting severely affected operations as WFP was unable to reach some areas due to insecurity specifically in North Kivu and some pocket areas in Ituri. On the other hand, in South Kivu and Tanganyika, access was hindered due to physical inaccessibility as road infrastructure was damaged by the floods in the area.
- North Kivu:** WFP reached **224,000 people** with in-kind assistance, cash and malnutrition treatment and prevention supplies. It is important to note that the deterioration of the security situation in northern North Kivu limited WFP’s ability to reach most of the people in need.
- Ituri:** WFP assisted **195,000 people** with food assistance, cash, and malnutrition treatment. The persistent activities of CODECO and the ADF in Ituri posed an ongoing threat to operations, as WFP and cooperating partners were forced to adjust distribution schedules for security considerations with

negative implications for the delivery of assistance.

- South Kivu & Tanganyika:** WFP reached **286,000 people (134,000 people in South Kivu and 152,000 in Tanganyika)** with food assistance, cash, and malnutrition treatment commodities. The flooding of the Lake Tanganyika and Congo Basin destroyed road networks and disrupted WFP and financial service providers’ ability to reach some affected areas.
- Western provinces:** WFP reached nearly **184,000 people** with emergency food, cash, and nutrition activities. Of these, 51,000 were beneficiaries of programmes in North Ubangi which included refugees from the Central African Republic. Meanwhile, some 133,000 people in the Kasais were reached by WFP operations including commodities for treatment and prevention of malnutrition and school feeding interventions.

## Supply Chain

- Supply Chain:** WFP has an in-country stock of nearly 24,000 mt of various commodities (20,000 mt allocated to operations in eastern DRC and 4,000 mt allocated for operations in western DRC). Meanwhile, nearly 92,000 mt of other commodities are at various stages of procurement and delivery destined for operations in DRC.
- WFP is expecting the delivery of these and more commodities in coming months from across the region. The commodities in transit are expected to be delivered directly to the eastern provinces and this is expected to facilitate swift delivery to distribution sites (a majority of which are located in the east) reducing the costs of transport and handling.
- Challenges:** While inaccessibility remained a challenge in ensuring timely delivery of commodities in some hard-to-reach areas, in other areas such as Rutshuru territory in North Kivu, WFP was finally able to deliver commodities to health centres for the first time this year after months of inaccessibility due to insecurity. WFP utilized the granted access to deliver some 95 mt of nutritional commodities in Rutshuru to reach people in need.

## Clusters and Common Services Logistics Cluster

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

## Food Security Cluster (FSC)

- The [latest IPC analysis](#) for chronic food insecurity has been published. The report shows that 40 percent of the total population (40 million people overall, one of the highest in absolute numbers) is chronically food insecure, necessitating long-term intervention to address the long-term drivers of food insecurity in the country.

## UN Humanitarian Air Service (UNHAS)

- **Operational Overview:** In July, UNHAS regular and special flights transported **3,913 passengers** and **38.5 mt** of essential light cargo.
- **Special Flights:** UNHAS supported the relocation of over 60 humanitarian workers who were blocked by insecurity in Lubero territory in North Kivu after relocation over road was deemed impossible due to insecurity.
- UNHAS has been coordinating with the UN peace-keeping mission in DRC (MONUSCO) in view of their departure from South Kivu. MONUSCO officially handed over their equipment and facilities at Kavumu Airport as part of their exit strategy.
- **Flight disruptions:** Since June, UNHAS aircrafts encountered jamming of global navigation Satellite Systems/Global Positioning Systems (GNSS/ GPS). The GNSS/GPS is an important tool for aircraft navigation to avoid the no-fly zone in eastern DRC. It is worth recalling that in 2023 there were incidents in which humanitarian aircrafts were fired upon in parts of the DRC, threatening the safety and operations of humanitarian actors in the country making it necessary to impose a no-fly zone.
- An UNHAS helicopter was forced to make an emergency landing in South Kivu after the aircraft encountered technical difficulties mid-flight. While none of the crew nor passengers suffered any injuries, the helicopter combusted soon after landing.

## Communications, Advocacy and Marketing

**Community Engagement:** To address misinformation and rumours circulating in Lubero in North Kivu, WFP developed a comprehensive communications plan which includes producing key messages for local radio broadcasts, organizing in-person discussions, and utilizing WhatsApp groups for real-time updates. This multi-channel approach aims to enhance community trust and ensure accurate information dissemination.

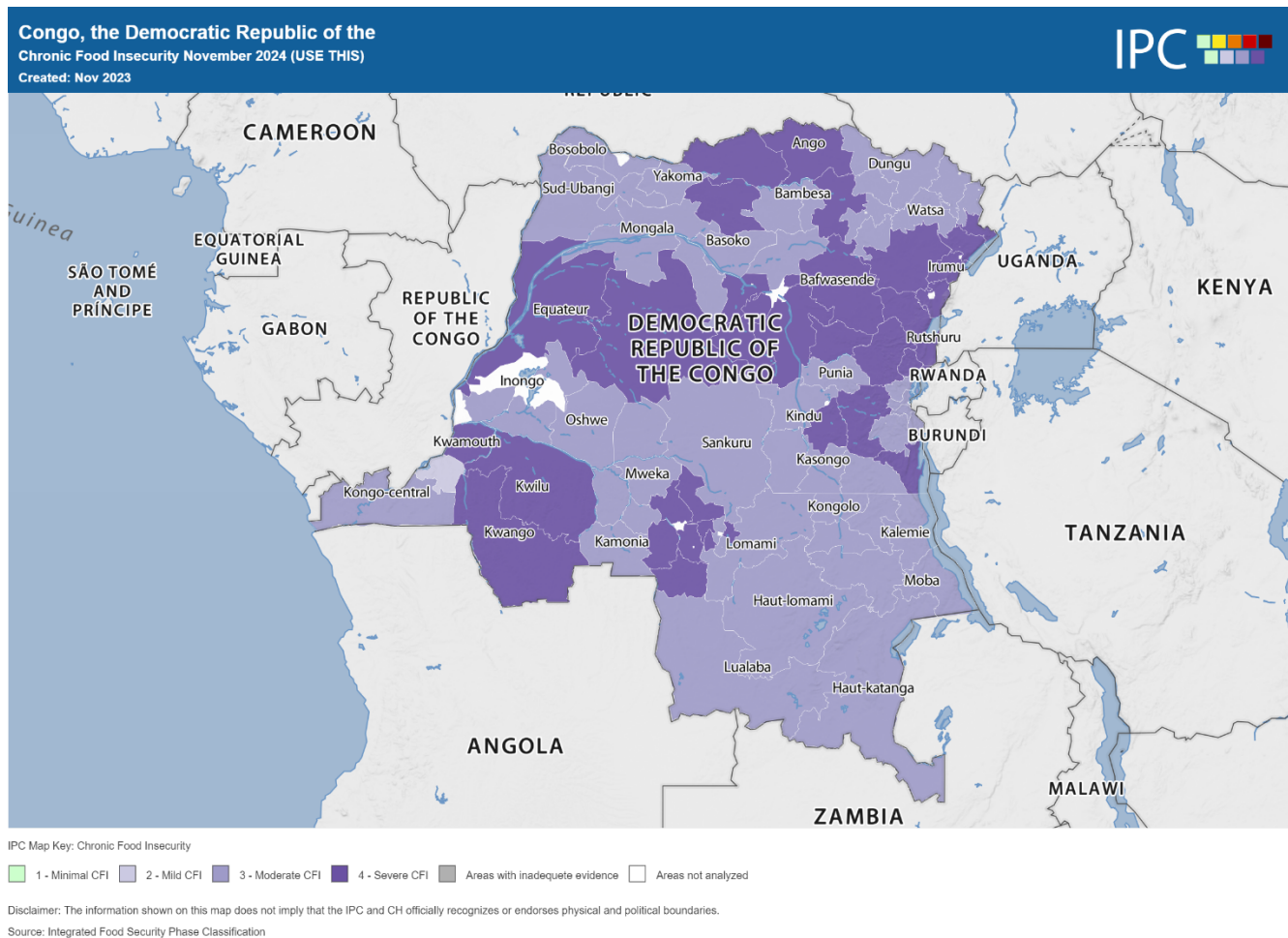
**Content production:** An article on AfroCongo music star Inness'B has been published highlighting his role in promoting school meals and healthy eating habits in the DRC. Read the articles [here](#) and [here](#).

- **International Days:** In commemoration of World Refugee Day, World Food Safety Day, Day of the African Child, WFP collected and published content on WFP's activities for refugees, food safety and quality and African children in DRC. See more on the [WFP DRC X account](#).

### Thanks to our Donors:



## Integrated Food Security Phase Classification Map for chronic Food insecurity in DRC



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