



World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES
CHANGING LIVES



Feza fled from Masisi with her family of three children to escape conflict around her home. She now lives in a tarpaulin shelter in Bulengo camp along with 97,000 other people displaced from North Kivu. Credit: WFP/Ben Anguandia.

Emergency Appeal: Rainy season hits camps in North Kivu, South Kivu and Ituri, Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC)

Flash Report



USD 629.7 million¹

is urgently needed to sustain and scale up life-saving assistance in North Kivu, South Kivu and Ituri.

The conditions for those housed in camps who have fled conflict in Ituri, North Kivu and South Kivu, have become dire with the advent of the rainy season. Families are sheltering under layers of tarpaulin held up by thin wooden branches as the rains hit and create unlivable conditions.

Alongside deepening food insecurity, poor sanitation standards are worsening the health crisis. UNICEF reports that cholera is sweeping through the camps, as DRC faces the worst cholera crisis since 2017.²

As the conflict does not let up, people are forced from their homes and the only shelter they can find is in these camps.

WFP is on the ground and has scaled up its capacity. Since the activation of the scale-up on 1 June, WFP has gradually increased its reach from half a million per month on average in the first half of the year, to 1.2 million in July across in-kind food, cash and nutrition programmes.

However, a lack of funding prevents any further programme expansion to those with extreme needs. **WFP's assistance is required by 3.6 million people across these scale-up provinces, though resources are not available.** WFP is forced to undertake extreme prioritisation measures, such as focusing resources on internally displaced people in camps, leaving many, including host communities, vulnerable to severe food insecurity.

WFP is urgently appealing for **USD 629.7 million** to meet the most pressing needs in the three scale-up provinces for the next six months - September 2023 to February 2024 - to cover the needs of 3.6 million people.

Predictable and flexible resources are urgently required as they provide WFP with the ability not only to increase the number of people it assists, but also to ensure the agility and speed of WFP's response in view of the fragile security and humanitarian situation.

1. The six-month (August 2023-January 2024) funding needs are regularly revised based on available resources and needs.

2. [UNICEF Press Release, August 2023.](#)

15 SEPTEMBER 2023

EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE

In the first half of 2023, WFP provided emergency food, cash and nutrition assistance to 500,000 people per month in North Kivu, South Kivu and Ituri. With the extra capacity put in place through its scale-up, WFP assisted 748,000 people in June and 1.2 million people in July with cash, in-kind and nutrition assistance. In August, WFP targeted 1 million people with cash and 500,000 with in-kind food assistance.

WFP DRC delivered a strong cash-in-hand scale-up, assisting 800,000 people, in July alone across 36 distribution sites in the three conflict-affected provinces. This is an eightfold increase in the number of people assisted with cash in the three provinces in just one month, making DRC one of the largest WFP cash-in-hand operations globally.

WFP could have assisted more people in need if more resources had been available.

From October, cash resources are desperately low and WFP will be forced to drastically phase down cash-based distributions impacting the number of food insecurity people it can assist, including

women and young children.

To compensate for the lack of funding for cash distributions, WFP is increasing its in-kind food activities in the three conflict-affected provinces, however, resources are urgently required to purchase pulses and vegetable oil to complete the food basket, which currently risks to be reduced to a half ration.

WFP is struggling to meet the needs of the 1.5 million people it is targeting, which is already only 42% of the 3.6 million people targeted by WFP under the Food Security Clusters' assessment, and 22% of the 6.7 million people in emergency and crisis levels of food insecurity (IPC 3+).

The risk of losing WFP's operational flexibility between modalities is a concern. WFP aims to maintain programmatic flexibility to shift its assistance modality between cash and in-kind food depending on the stocks available and what is appropriate according to feasibility assessments and preferences.

WFP EMERGENCY FUNDING NEEDS IN NORTH KIVU, SOUTH KIVU AND ITURI (SEPTEMBER 2023-FEBRUARY 2024)

TOTAL EMERGENCY SCALE-UP FUNDING REQUIREMENTS	EMERGENCY FOOD AND CASH	EMERGENCY MALNUTRITION TREATMENT AND PREVENTION
USD 629.7 million	USD 607.6 million	USD 22.1 million



WFP is assisting around 102,000 people in the two sites in Rusayo, on the outskirts of Goma, North Kivu. Living conditions are dire and worsening with the arrival of the rainy season. Credit: WFP/Michael Castofas



Credit: WFP/Ben Anguandia

FEZA'S STORY

Feza and her children fled Masisi, where conflict had forced them from their homes, in search of shelter and safety.

She has three children; she gave birth to her youngest one month ago. She fears for their health particularly during the rainy season.

"We suffer a lot living here and we do not find food regularly. Children get sick from not eating. We suffer a lot because during the rain, it rains on us."

WFP's support offers Feza a glimmer of hope that she and her children will be fed in these stark conditions.

WFP OPERATIONAL RESPONSE TO THE CRISIS IN NORTH KIVU, SOUTH KIVU AND ITURI

WFP OPERATIONAL RESPONSE EMERGENCY RESPONSE ACTIVITIES: FOOD, CASH AND NUTRITION	PEOPLE REACHED JAN-AUGUST 2023	PEOPLE REQUIRING WFP ASSISTANCE	SYSTEM-WIDE SCALE-UP EXTENSION
	2.8 million	3.6 million	December 2023

OPERATIONAL CHALLENGES

The advent of the rainy season presents challenges to WFP's operations, addressed through adaptation and flexibility.

Poor road infrastructure means that heavy rainfall hampers food deliveries. Transport to main warehouses on key routes are affected which is slowing cereal deliveries and may cause pipeline breaks in coming months.

Insecurity from non-state armed groups affects access to major supply routes while also creating greater needs amongst local populations. Rutshuru and Masisi, in North Kivu, and large parts of Ituri province are particularly affected. These areas house some of the populations most vulnerable to food insecurity in DRC.

WFP conducted a large biometric registration initiative, covering 1 million people. Biometric data helps to ensure the right people are receiving the in-kind food and cash assistance to which they are entitled. These registrations reduce the risk of diversion by lowering duplicate records and improving WFP's accountability.

WFP seeks to overcome the major operational challenges it faces in DRC, while optimising its use of donor resources as much as possible. Alongside strong supply chain and access management, predictable and flexible funds are instrumental in achieving the widest reaching results.