

Ushindi and his family fled the conflict in Sake, North Kivu. Since fleeing, food has been scarce. The family spend each day hungry hoping for a meal at night. Ushindi's mother brought him to a WFP-supported health centre, as he was losing weight. His measurement shows he is malnourished so now he is receiving treatment for malnutrition from WFP. Credit: WFP/Michael Castofas

Emergency Appeal: Funding Crisis for Ituri, North Kivu and South Kivu

Flash Report



USD 557 million¹

is urgently needed until the end of the year for lifesaving food assistance in Ituri, North Kivu and South Kivu.

6.7 million people in DRC are displaced and 80 percent of them are experiencing a deepening acute hunger and malnutrition crisis. In Eastern DRC, an area engulfed by conflict and insecurity, the situation is particularly dire, affecting not only displaced people, but a large part of the population. Resources are desperately low to meet the extremely high humanitarian needs in this part of the country.

3.6 million people in Eastern DRC require WFP's assistance. However, the resources are not available to meet all the needs of this population.

WFP is on the ground and scaling up its support, but the sky-rocketing needs are stretching an already severely underfunded and ignored operation.

In view of current resources, WFP is prioritising cash assistance in July, August and September. Each month, WFP is targeting 1.6 million people

(1.1 million people with cash assistance).

Under its scale-up plan, WFP aims to progressively increase the number of people reached with food and cash assistance over the next six months.

With current resources, WFP is already struggling to meet the needs of the 1.6 million people it is targeting each month up to September. If additional resources are not received, WFP will be forced to drastically reduce the number of people it can assist from October.

WFP is urgently appealing for **USD 557 million** to meet the most pressing food assistance needs in eastern DRC from August to December 2023.

Predictable and flexible resources are required to meet the fast-changing needs. This will allow WFP to fully implement the scale-up to avoid dire consequences for the millions of people in need.

1. This funding needs figure is regularly revised based on available resources and needs.

EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE

So far this year, WFP has assisted 1.9 million people in Eastern DRC across all of its activities (of which 1.5 million people received emergency food and cash assistance).

In July, WFP focused on scaling-up cash assistance, whilst food commodities are in short supply, aiming to reach 1.1 million people with cash-in-hand assistance each month for the next three months, while 500,000 people will continue to receive food. So far, over 500,000 people have already received their assistance in July, with numbers expected to rise, and 766,000 people have been registered. Of these, 231,000 have been newly registered in July under the new sequential and simultaneous registrations process intended to streamline and speed-up delivery.

Cash liquidity issues with the banking partner hampered the start of the cash distributions

which are now well underway. WFP and partners also increased monitoring and field support efforts in light of the new registration process which required staff to undergo additional training.

From October onwards, WFP will increase its in-kind food activities in the three conflict-affected eastern provinces with the arrival of more food. The commodities will gradually be delivered for several rounds of distributions.

Due to severe funding shortfalls, available resources limit WFP's reach. Furthermore, WFP's needs-based plan under the scale-up estimates that **3.6 million people need WFP's food assistance** every month at least until the end of the year.

WFP aims to maintain programmatic flexibility to shift its assistance modality between cash and in-kind food depending on the resources available and what is appropriate according to feasibility assessments and preferences.

WFP EMERGENCY SCALE-UP FUNDING NEEDS IN ITURI, NORTH KIVU AND SOUTH KIVU

EMERGENCY SCALE-UP FUNDING REQUIREMENTS AUGUST-DECEMBER 2023	EMERGENCY FOOD AND CASH	EMERGENCY MALNUTRITION TREATMENT*
USD 557 million	USD 552 million	USD 5 million

NUTRITION ASSISTANCE

WFP's malnutrition treatment and prevention programmes are particularly instrumental in areas of conflict and displacement, where families struggle to find nutritious food for their children.

So far this year, WFP has reached 249,000 children and women through emergency malnutrition treatment and prevention programmes across the three conflict-affected provinces in DRC (January to June).

WFP is targeting 95,000 children and women across Ituri, North Kivu and South Kivu in July alone with programmes to curb malnutrition. If more resources become available, this planning figure will grow to 134,000 from September, though the current significant resource gap means the reach of WFP's nutrition programmes may remain limited.

Over the next five months (August to December), **USD 5 million** are needed for the acute malnutrition treatment programme for women and children in 47 health zones across the three provinces. In addition, WFP is working with the Nutrition Cluster and other partners on nutrition surveys, and reprioritisation and targeting exercises, to understand the needs on the ground and update the action plan to meet those needs.



Dieme, his two siblings and mother fled their village due to relentless conflict. They are now living in Rusayo camp for internally displaced people in North Kivu, where they are receiving WFP's food and nutrition assistance. Credit: WFP/Michael Castofas

The accompanying malnutrition prevention programme is severely underfunded, requiring **USD 10 million** from August to December 2023. Investing in preventing malnutrition is not only important for the health of the individual mother or child, but also cheaper than when this mother or child need to be brought back to health from acute malnutrition.



Credit: WFP/Martin Lukongo

MARIA'S STORY

Maria Namunganga, 42 years old, was forced to flee her home in Masisi with her husband and six children when the conflict intensified.

They tragically lost two of their children on the journey to Bweremana camp.

"We are now a family of six, living here in Bweremana, but we used to be a family of eight living in Bufende, Masisi. Two of our children didn't survive the journey to get here."

Maria and her family were registered at the camp today (5 July) to receive cash assistance from WFP. They will use the 180,000 CFA (approximately USD73) to procure essential food and other necessities.

WFP OPERATIONAL RESPONSE TO THE CRISIS IN ITURI, NORTH KIVU AND SOUTH KIVU 2023

WFP OPERATIONAL RESPONSE (AS OF 25 JULY)	PEOPLE REACHED ACROSS ALL ACTIVITIES JAN—JUNE 2023	PEOPLE REQUIRING WFP ASSISTANCE JULY—DECEMBER 2023	SCALE-UP DURATION
	1.9 million	3.6 million	6 months

OPERATIONAL CHALLENGES

WFP is operating in an extremely challenging context and adapts and amends its operations when needed provided predictable and flexible resources are available.

Security risks from non-state armed groups create access constraints on major supply routes. WFP's ability to reach some of those communities that are most in need is limited. This is particularly true for WFP's emergency and nutrition programmes in Rutshuru and Masisi, in North Kivu, and in large parts of Ituri.

Movement restrictions, including illegal road blocks, also impact food and transportation costs, particularly on routes leading to farmland or markets, disrupting food availability in the affected areas. As a result, families are sometimes forced to resort to perilous coping mechanisms to find

money and food, frequently resulting in protection risks. Gender-based violence, amongst other protection risks, are additional challenges WFP has to consider in the response efforts. For example, safeguarding women and girls as they collect firewood for cooking, remains a significant concern.

WFP faces multiple arduous customs clearance processes which delay the humanitarian response as non-state armed group presence in North Kivu and Ituri, forces WFP to cross multiple international borders to reach distribution sites.

WFP deliveries are also heavily impacted by other transport challenges. These include deteriorating roads, extreme weather conditions and low levels of resources to bolster transport options.