



WFP D. R. Congo

External Situation Report #23

21 April 2021

In Numbers

27.3 mi highly food-insecure people

26 provinces affected

5.2 mi people displaced

2.1 mi beneficiaries reached since the beginning of 2021

Highlights in March 2021

- With 27.3 million highly food-insecure people, DRC is the largest food security crisis in the world in absolute numbers.
- On 18 March, WFP launched a social safety net project in the N'sele commune (Kinshasa outskirts). It aims to assist families who lost their jobs or who were prevented from carrying on with their small-scale trading activities because of COVID-19 and its containment measures.

Total funding requirements in 2021

USD 662.5 mi

WFP 6-months Net Funding Requirements (Apr – Sep 2021)

| | |
|-------------------------|---------------------|
| In-kind Food Assistance | USD 54.7 mi |
| Cash Food Assistance | USD 39.1 mi |
| Nutrition | USD 19.4 mi |
| Other activities | USD 16.2 mi |
| Total | USD 129.4 mi |

Situation Update

- The preliminary results of the latest **IPC analysis** (19th IPC) have been published. The Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) has the highest estimated number of food-insecure people worldwide, with **27.3 million** people who are food insecure between February and July 2021, representing about 28% of analysed population. Of this figure, 20.5 million people are facing "crisis" levels (IPC Phase 3) and 6.7 million people are facing "emergency" levels (IPC Phase 4) of food insecurity. An additional 41 million people are in a "stressed" state with high risk of slipping into food insecurity if not adequately assisted (IPC Phase 2).
- In urban areas, the main key drivers of food

insecurity are the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic for instance on cross-border trade, limited access to employment and household income, and food prices increase. In Kinshasa, currently more than **1.5 million** people are in need of humanitarian assistance and protect their livelihoods. Further, the cities of Kindu, Beni, Kananga, Kalemie, Mbuji Mayi, Uvira and Gemena are also in a crisis situation (IPC Phase 3) with between **20% and 40%** of the populations in IPC Phase 3 and above. In total, **4.6 million** people (21% of the analysed population) residing in urban areas require support to address serious household vulnerability, improve food consumption and dietary diversity, and reduce reliance on negative coping strategies.

- **COVID-19:** as of 31 March, there are **28,000** confirmed COVID-19 cases in the DRC, including **745** deaths. The main province affected is Kinshasa with a total of some **20,000** cases. The Government curfew (9 pm to 5 am) declared since mid-December remains active until further notice. Movements are only allowed on exceptional basis (health and travels). Due to the lack of relevant testing capacity in the country, there is no evidence of the Covid-19 variants or mutations in DRC until today.
- **Ebola:** as of 31 March, WHO has confirmed cumulative **11 Ebola cases** (including 5 deaths) in North Kivu. However, it has not reported any new case for twenty-nine consecutive days. If no new occurrences are recorded in the next 34 days, the epidemic will be declared over. WFP will closely monitor how the situation evolves on the ground and will continue to provide support to post-Ebola affected communities for the time being. UNHAS continues flying to Butembo twice a week to support the organizations working to contain a possible resurgence of the Ebola Virus

Disease in the east of the country.

WFP Response

- Under the new Country Strategic Plan 2021 - 2024, WFP continues with its large-scale assistance, targeting **8.7 million people** with food and nutrition assistance throughout 2021.
- **Overview:** In 2021, WFP has already reached **2.1 mi** people with either in-kind, cash, or Nutrition food assistance. Throughout March alone, WFP assisted some **959,000** beneficiaries.
- **General Food Distribution in-kind and cash-based transfers:** in March, in-kind distributions reached **459,000** beneficiaries. For cash-based transfers, however, problems in the registration of the beneficiaries delayed the March distribution plans – regardless, WFP reached **213,000** beneficiaries in the DRC. The monthly targets for April have been reviewed accordingly to accommodate this new scenario.
- **Nutrition activities:** a total of **191,000** beneficiaries were reached by Malnutrition treatment activities. The Tanganyika region had the highest number of beneficiaries: 64,000. Another **77,400** people were reached by Malnutrition prevention activities. Most of the beneficiaries were in the regions of Kasai and Kasai Central: **45,300** in total. Additionally, baseline surveys for the prevention of acute malnutrition are in progress in all the sub offices with a focus on the new health zones.



Food and Nutrition Assistance

- **N'sele project launch:** the official launch of the social safety net project in N'sele on the outskirts of Kinshasa took place on Thursday 18 March in the presence of a US delegation headed by the Ambassador Mike Hammer, the Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office (FCDO) DRC's Development Director Ms Juliette John, and the DRC's Minister of Social Affairs, Ms Rose Boyata. The project, implemented jointly by WFP and UNICEF, aims to help compensate families who lost their jobs or who were prevented from carrying on with their small-scale trading activities as a result of COVID-19 and the measures put in place to curb its spread. The US Ambassador, the FCDO Development Director, and the DRC Minister of Social Affairs delivered a keynote address, interacted with project beneficiaries, and took a series of questions from journalists. A total of **9,780** Households have already received their first round of cash assistance, while another **10,000** Households are expected to receive assistance in the following weeks.
- **Assistance for CAR refugees:** the 2021 Inter-Agency Refugee Response Plan (RRP) for the Central African refugees (CAR) in the Democratic

Republic of Congo was launched on 17 March 2021 [online](#). WFP and 15 other RPP partners are appealing for USD 69 mi to assist **92,000** new CAR refugees and close to **100,000** host community members in 2021. The food/WFP component in the appeal amounts to **USD 9 million**.

- In **North Kivu**, through its partner World Vision, WFP reached about **22,600** displaced people and vulnerable host families with **61 MT** of food on the Kalembe-Pinga axis (Beni territory). The Goma office reached **78,000** people with in-kind food assistance. In April, plans are underway for a seasonal CBT assistance for about **120,000** targeted beneficiaries in the health zones previously affected by the 10th Ebola outbreak.
- In **South Kivu**, WFP, in partnership with its partners Christian Aid and AIDES, distributed **119 MT** of food to **9,100** beneficiaries displaced, returnees and host families in Abala, Lumanya and Kichula (Fizi territory – “moyens plateaux”) and Kalonge (Kalehe territory) to cover food needs. The Bukavu office achieved **188,000** beneficiaries considering all transfer modalities – in-kind, CBT, and nutrition activities.
- In **Kasai**, in-kind food distributions for the reporting period reached **55,000** conflict-affected persons in Nyanga and Kitangua health zones. The Tshikapa office reached almost **153,000** people across all emergency types of food assistance during March.
- In **Kasai Central and Oriental**, March in-kind food distributions have been completed in both provinces. The Kananga office reached some **59,000** people with in-kind food assistance. Meanwhile, access and security challenges in the beneficiary registration process have postponed the March cash distributions, which will continue through April to reach the revised targets with **67,000** beneficiaries planned for April.
- In **Tanganyika**, March in-kind distributions have finished. In total, the Kalemie office reached **104,000** beneficiaries. Cash distributions have also been completed; **67,000** beneficiaries were assisted. At last, **82,000** beneficiaries have been reached in March for Malnutrition treatment and prevention activities.
- In **Ituri**, CBT distributions have been affected by liquidity issues and mobility concerns due to the security conditions in the area. Alternatives to reach these areas by plane are under evaluation but procedures to enable this solution will likely delay assistance. Despite of the challenges, in March, the Bunia office reached some **34,000** beneficiaries with cash assistance, another **69,500** with in-kind food distributions, and **13,400** beneficiaries receiving malnutrition prevention and treatment activities.
- Treatment and prevention of acute malnutrition reached **268,000** beneficiaries in the month of

March. Additionally, all offices engaged in the planning and undertaking of baseline surveys for the prevention of acute malnutrition. The nutrition unit in collaboration with the M&E unit launched digitized process monitoring for implementing partners to strengthen oversight and follow-up on the implementation of the activities. At last, a few health zones remain difficult to reach due to broken bridges and dilapidated roads, including: Ankoro in Kalemie, and Fizi, Uvira, Nyangezi and Nundu in South Kivu.

Supply Chain

- The Matadi port operations are severely affected by constraints resulting from COVID-19 restrictions. Large congestion has been affecting operations of all operators in the port. For WFP, over **500** containers have been blocked in the port, affecting mainly distributions in the Kasai region. Discussions with several providers have provided re-assurance that all possible means are put in place to quickly dispatch the containers to Kinshasa and additional transporters have been identified / contracted to increase the capacity. However, it is expected that 3-5 months will be needed to entirely clear the backlog; hence, alternatives are under consideration to divert April and May planned arrivals, including to Pointe Noire in the Republic of Congo.

Clusters and Common Services

Food Security Cluster (FSC)

- Some **8.1 million** beneficiaries were reached by the FSC actors with emergency food security assistance in 2020, out of which **2.9 million** received cash assistance and **5.2 million** received in-kind food assistance.

Logistics Cluster

- The Logistics Cluster continues to coordinate the management of the [Logistics Portal for COVID 19](#), designed to help with the ordering and importing of COVID-19 response items, including medical kits and to provide a common logistics service in Goma and Kinshasa (intra-regional warehousing and transportation) to humanitarian actors working in the COVID 19 pandemic response. To benefit from this service, humanitarian actors should complete [this](#) form and send it to: DR Congo.ClusterCargo@wfp.org.
- The Logistics Cluster produces regular information management products, aiming to provide the humanitarian community with timely and accurate information to support operational decision-making. The latest products, including maps, advocacies and alerts on physical access constraints and air routes can be viewed and

downloaded [here](#).

UN Humanitarian Air Service

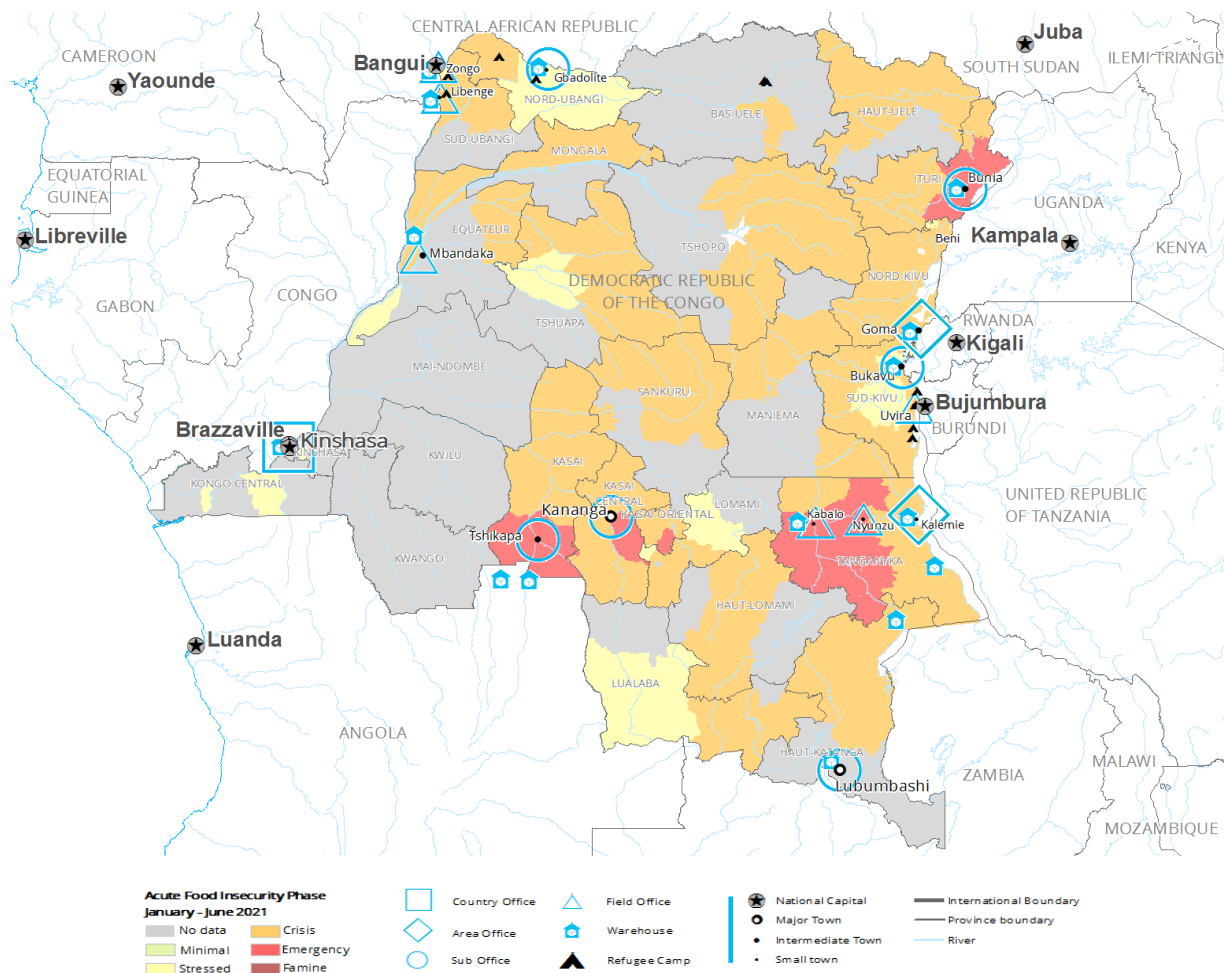
- Throughout March, UNHAS operated **906** flights, moving **74 MT** of cargo, and transporting **4,296** passengers in DRC.
- Several domestic air operators started reusing the Mahagi airstrip in the Ituri province, which was closed for fixed wing aircrafts due to the ongoing runway rehabilitation works. UNHAS is now preparing to resume its regular operations in Mahagi. Until now, only UNHAS's helicopter occasionally landed in Mahagi with advance notice.
- On 17 March, UNHAS DRC had its first general User Group meeting. The participants discussed topics such as finance, flight cancellations, and communication in general.

Bilateral Service Provision (BSP)

- To further extend its services (if requested to do so by partners), WFP aims at also becoming a licensed operator in the handling of pharmaceutical products that are temperature controlled. Therefore, work is ongoing by BSP for the preparedness of the potential implementation of **Temperature Sensitive Logistics** communally used for cold chain. Further feasibility studies are being carried out to ensure BSP readiness to provide this service to partners if requested/demanded.

Resilience activities

- In addition to the L3 operation, WFP is implementing **multi-year resilience programmes** in eastern DRC (North Kivu, South Kivu and Tanganyika) and north west DRC (North Ubangi and South Ubangi) jointly with FAO and UNICEF, with collaboration being explored with UNFPA and UNHCR. Resilience building activities have been scaled up in 2020, benefitting around **517,500 people** in the five provinces. The three agencies plan to further expand resilience activities to the Kasai region in 2021 as part of the Nexus approach.
- The resilience programme in DRC is increasingly following an approach based on the **triple nexus** promoting links between **humanitarian action, development, and peace** – thereby seeking to address immediate needs while simultaneously reducing needs in the longer term. Activities place emphasis on economic, social, technical, and financial interventions to revitalize local economies and livelihoods. Capacity strengthening provided to smallholder farmers helps stimulate economic recovery, through improved agriculture productivity, enhanced literacy, and livelihood diversification to strengthen food security and nutrition.



Special thanks to our donors in 2020 - 2021 (listed alphabetically)



European Union
Civil Protection and
Humanitarian Aid



Multilateral Funds



United Nations
Peacebuilding
Sustaining Peace



from the British people



USAID
FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

Contacts

- Peter MUSOKO, Country Director: peter.musoko@wfp.org
- Veronique SAINTE-LUCE, Head of Partnership & Reporting Unit: Veronique.sainte-luce@wfp.org
- Leonardo DASILVEIRA, Operational Information Management and Reporting Officer: Leonardo.dasilveira@wfp.org
- For further information, visit the D.R. Congo page [here](#).