



SAVING LIVES
CHANGING LIVES

WFP Democratic Republic of the Congo

March Situation Report #46 – 2 May 2023

Highlights





- **Increased insecurity:** Catastrophic conditions for displaced populations, cut off from fields and crops and restricted in their movement, are reported by organizations such as *Médecins Sans Frontières* (MSF). Food, medicines and nutritional inputs are lacking and malnutrition is increasing, including among adults which is very worrying. Measles and sexual violence cases are rising rapidly.
- **Rising prices:** According to WFP’s market assessment, the prices of a food basket increased by 77 percent in Goma, and 100 percent in Bukavu, since the year prior (2022), due to severed supply lines. This is a big concern to WFP because it will further drive food insecurity and threaten the protection of affected people as hungry and food-insecure people are vulnerable to recruitment by non-state armed actors.
- **New Executive Director in WFP:** On 2 March, the Executive Board confirmed a new Executive Director for WFP, Cindy McCain, replacing David Beasley. Prior to joining WFP, McCain was Permanent Representative of the United States to the United Nations agencies in Rome.

Situation Update

- **Eastern DRC:** There is renewed insecurity and displacement with dramatically worsening conditions in eastern DRC. The humanitarian situation in North Kivu severely deteriorated in March 2023 due to an upsurge in conflict leading to massive waves of displacement (330,000 people in March alone). It is estimated that some 1.3 million people have been displaced

¹ According to projections in the integrated food security phase classification (IPC) [analysis](#)

² As per [UNHCR data](#)

	24.5 m¹ highly food-insecure people (51% female/49% male) (50% children/50% adults)
	26 provinces affected
	6.2 m people displaced ²
	6.1 m people reached in 2022 (58% female/ 42%male) (63% children/ 37% adults)

because of the March 23 Movement (M23) conflict, including 330,000 people in March 2023 (34 percent increase from the previous month). WFP is scaling up its operations to reach a greater caseload of people in need of food assistance in the east as the conflict intensifies. WFP is targeting up to 623,000 people starting in May in North Kivu alone with both food and cash assistance.

- In the last year, in Ituri, particularly in Drodoro, the number of people displaced in five territories is estimated to be 1.5 million. 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 March, WFP assisted **1.2 million unique beneficiaries across all activities (including School Feeding and Resilience)**. WFP reached 406,000 people with cash-based transfers (CBT), 440,000 with in-kind assistance, and 185,000 with malnutrition treatment and prevention supplies. The level of achievement in March was higher than the level of achievement in February as WFP scaled up its operations due to the escalated conflict in the East. In the face of delays caused by insecurity, inaccessibility and food shortages, WFP stretched limited resources and conducted double distributions where necessary to ensure a continued supply of life-saving assistance to those in need.
- **Kasai:** WFP reached **133,000 people** with in-kind assistance cash and malnutrition treatment supplies. Due to challenges in supply chains, distributions were limited with some components of the food basket missing such as pulses and oil. To address this issue, WFP worked with partners to facilitate deliveries through the eastern corridor to ensure continued distribution while also adjusting the food basket to cover missing commodities with available alternatives to provide the standard kilocalorie requirements.
- **Kasai Central and Kasai Oriental:** WFP assisted **106,000 people** with cash assistance and malnutrition treatment supplies. In-kind assistance was limited during the reporting period owing to very long transit times. Some transporters took over two weeks to arrive at sites because the main supply route was severed by bad road conditions and a lengthy alternative was being used.
- **Tanganyika:** WFP supported **80,000 people** with in-kind, cash, and malnutrition treatment and prevention supplies. Considering the limited stock of food supplies available, WFP rationed food stocks in some areas to stretch the food across all targeted areas under the sub-office.
- **North Kivu:** WFP reached **307,000 people** with in-kind assistance, cash and malnutrition treatment and prevention supplies. The security situation remained unpredictable, particularly in the *Petit Nord* as clashes between the Congolese armed forces and M23 continued in Masisi and Rutshuru. Attacks caused panic amongst internally-displaced populations and local food prices soared. There were concerning levels of food insecurity with reduced availability of food products on markets due to major supply routes severed by insecurity.
- **Ituri:** WFP assisted **105,000 people** with food assistance, cash and malnutrition treatment. WFP also completed a high-energy biscuit distribution in Rho and its surrounding area to meet urgent and immediate food needs. Many armed groups were active in the province and the conflict between the Cooperative for the Development of the Congo (CODECO) and Zaire militias impacted the humanitarian situation in Djugu, Mahagi and Irumu territories, where there were sporadic clashes and attacks. However, following security advice, WFP worked with cooperating partners to ensure distributions were carried out.
- **South Kivu:** The office reached **147,000 people** with food assistance, cash and malnutrition treatment and prevention

commodities. Since the outbreak of hostilities with the M23, over 60,000 displaced people reportedly arrived in Minova, requiring an emergency humanitarian response. WFP operations were delayed in the Fizi territory where there were increased threats on staff security and trucks were stuck on blocked roads following torrential rains and landslides. In coordination with WFP's cooperating partner, two additional teams were deployed to speed up food distributions and ensure completion.

- **School Feeding:** In March, WFP served nutritious meals to 88,000 primary school children in South Kivu, Tanganyika, Kasai Oriental and Kasai Central despite challenges caused by delayed deliveries owed to poor road conditions and insecurity. In Nyiragongo, WFP continued distributing take-home rations to school children whose schools were closed due to insecurity. Furthermore, as the food supply chains improved in March, WFP supported the roll-out of a deworming exercise for children in Kalemie.
- **Resilience:** In March, the focus was on the implementation of food assistance for assets (FFA) activities for 18,000 participants in the provinces of the Ubangis, South Kivu, Kinshasa, Tanganyika and North Kivu. Distributions for March were postponed to early April due to the unavailability of the financial service provider. Meanwhile, on monitoring, WFP began to conduct baseline surveys to establish benchmarks for outcome monitoring of resilience interventions, these will be completed in April. Biometric registrations of FFA beneficiaries are planned for April in Tanganyika and Kasai Central provinces.
- **Protection:** To enhance its programming, WFP conducted risk analyses on protection principles, accountability to affected populations and prevention of sexual exploitation and abuse in areas of its operations. Specifically, WFP conducted focus group discussions with affected populations to identify areas of improvement related to protection and gender, while cooperating partners were trained to raise awareness on humanitarian principles, accountability to affected populations, fraud and sexual exploitation and abuse.

Supply Chain

- **Procurement:** WFP continued to receive food commodities purchased locally and regionally during the reporting period.
- WFP imported 8,000 mt of rice and maize from Kenya and Uganda for South Kivu operations. A new entry point was identified for South Kivu, so food can be supplied directly to Uvira and southern areas of the province, reducing the volume of food transiting via Bukavu.
- WFP is exercising caution in local procurement due to limited food availability on local markets and the high price tags. WFP avoids negatively impacting food prices.



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)

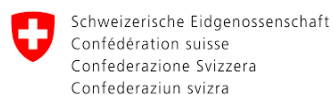
- **Operational Overview:** UNHAS regular and special flights transported **2,905 passengers** and **34 mt** of essential light cargo. European Union Humanitarian Aid Flight (EUHAF) transported **276 passengers** and **8 mt** of essential light cargo.
- **Insecurity:** Following the recent increase in threats to security and the expansion of the avoidance area, UNHAS flights were repositioned to Bukavu to continue accessing destinations in North Kivu and to serve Walikale and South Kivu. UNHAS continues monitoring the security situation of the different destinations on a daily basis before releasing flights.
- **Medical Evacuations:** UNHAS accomplished 14 medical evacuations out of various locations such as Kalemie, Kalole, Mikenge, and Walikale.
- **Special Flights:** In addition to regular flights, UNHAS conducted three special flights to serve *Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit* (GIZ), the United Kingdom Foreign Commonwealth and Development Office, and HeliSky (UNHAS operator).
- **Fuel:** Due to fuel shortages, flights were disrupted or suspended in the Kasais and Kinshasa to Goma via Kananga. UNHAS mitigated this by chartering the UN Organization Stabilization Mission in the DRC (MONUSCO) aircraft to fly the Kinshasa-Kananga trip during the period.



Communications, Advocacy and Marketing

- WFP organised sensitisation, advocacy and communication sessions with local, customary, territorial, and provincial authorities and community radios. The aim was to encourage the stakeholders involved to support the implementation of WFP activities.
- On 8 March, WFP [joined](#) the global community in celebrating **International Women's Day** under the theme 'DigitALL: Innovation and technology for gender equality'. The office held a round table discussion with female representatives from Vodacom and Trust Merchant Bank on ways to accelerate digitalization and financial inclusion of women in its operations.
- **African Day of School Feeding:** On 2 March WFP [commemorated](#) Africa School Feeding Day in Kinshasa which was attended by WFP senior management and the Vice Minister of Education. WFP has provided school feeding in DRC for over twenty years, helping to bring and retain children in schools, while contributing to improving their nutritional status, growing the local economy and reducing poverty when food is locally purchased. WFP is building a sustainable school feeding model to be taken over and run by the government. The government and partners drafted a national school feeding strategy with a USD 10 million budget.
- **World Engineering Day:** WFP celebrated engineers at the centre of building warehouses for food storage to linking roads to markets in South Kivu and repairing the Moba runway for UNHAS flights.
- To mark Ramadan, WFP developed a campaign to advocate for more funding through the Share The Meal platform for individual donations ([video here](#)).

WFP thanks the following donors who contributed resources in 2023:



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- For further information, visit the Democratic Republic of Congo page [here](#).