



# WFP D. R. Congo

## External Situation Report #24

07 May 2021

### In Numbers

**27.3 mi** highly food-insecure people

**26** provinces affected

**5.2 mi** people displaced

**2.9 mi** beneficiaries reached since the beginning of 2021

### Highlights in April 2021

- The new 57-member government of the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) led by Prime Minister Sama Lukonde Kyenge was approved by the National Assembly and was sworn in on Monday 26 April.
- President Tshisekedi on 30 April declared a state of siege in North Kivu and Ituri, reaffirming his determination to put an end to the massacres of civilians in the two provinces.

#### Total funding requirements in 2021

**USD 662.5 mi**

#### WFP 6-months Net Funding Requirements (May – Oct 2021)

In-kind Food Assistance **USD 50.7 mi**

Cash Food Assistance **USD 59.0 mi**

Nutrition **USD 10.3 mi**

Other activities **USD 10.0 mi**

**Total USD 130.0 mi**

### Situation Update

• **DRC's new government sworn in:** the new 57-member government of the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) led by Prime Minister Sama Lukonde Kyenge was approved by the National Assembly and was sworn in on Monday 26 April. A total of 410 MPs voted in favor of the new government's programme, which was presented to the 500-member National Assembly earlier. In February, Kyenge succeeded Sylvestre Ilunga Ilunkamba, then-Prime Minister deposed by parliament in late January following a crisis within the coalition formed and shared by the Congolese president Felix Tshisekedi and his predecessor Joseph Kabila. With handover ceremonies at the prime minister's office and at the various

ministerial cabinets have been completed, the new government is now able to start work.

- **New government programme presented:** the Government's programme, valued at USD36 billion for the period 2021-2023 is articulated around 15 pillars grouped into 4 major sectors including politics, justice, and public administration; economy and finance; reconstruction of the country; and social affairs. Some of the Government's priorities include the need to improve the living conditions of the population, particularly in the areas of housing, health, education and employment; the organization of elections in 2023; the implementation of universal health coverage; the strengthening of the state authority countrywide; the fight against all the armed groups and militias; the promotion and consolidation of democracy and the rule of law, etc. It has been announced that it is unlikely that the government will be able to finance the complete programme.
- **New government's impact on WFP operations:** with the new Government in place, WFP can resume efforts to obtain the Letter of Understanding necessary for the implementation of its Country Strategic Plan.
- **State of siege declared in North Kivu and Ituri for 30 days:** President Tshisekedi on 30 April declared a state of siege in North Kivu and Ituri, reaffirming his determination to put an end to the massacres of civilians in the two provinces. On 3 May Tshisekedi said the state of siege would take effect Thursday 6 May. Civilian provincial authorities will be replaced by military authorities. The latter half of April saw a continuation of protests and anti-UN activity throughout North Kivu (Beni, Butembo, Goma). There was also a shutdown of operations in Bunia during the second half of April due to a Ville Morte protest against the endemic insecurity throughout the

region. The region is averaging about 100 civilian deaths per week with no clear solution in sight. The Republic of Kenya has proposed troop contributions to the SADC-supported Force Intervention Brigade (FIB). On a positive note, routes that had been restricted in Ituri due to security concerns have reopened and a stressed supply chain was partially relieved.

- **Impact of the state of siege on WFP operations:** an anticipated increase in military activity risks causing delays in distributions in the two provinces of North Kivu and Ituri.
- **Ebola:** on 3 May, the 12<sup>th</sup> Ebola outbreak in DR Congo's North Kivu province was declared over, almost three months after the first case was reported in the province. Overall, eleven confirmed cases and one probable case resulted in six deaths and six recoveries were recorded in four health zones of North Kivu since 07 February, when the Ministry of Health announced the resurgence of Ebola in Butembo. DRC's Ministry of Public Health, with the support of concerned UN agencies and other partners, will compile a strategic response plan that aims to mobilize resources and guide the operational framework for the implementation of post-epidemic activities. This post-Ebola plan will also make it possible to preserve the achievements of the interventions already carried out. WFP continues to closely monitor how the situation evolves on the ground and will continue to provide support to post-Ebola affected communities.
- **COVID-19:** as of 3 May, the total number of confirmed COVID-19 cases in the Democratic Republic of Congo was 30,071, and 770 deaths. The main province affected is Kinshasa with a total of 20,923 cases. On 19 April, the Government started the COVID-19 vaccination campaign with 1.7 million vaccines already in the country. As of 2 May, 4,331 people had received the first dose of the vaccine. On 1 May, the UNCT started to register staff interested in the parallel UN vaccination campaign. The organization has received 25,000 vaccines and plans to roll it out in five main vaccination sites: Kinshasa, Bunia, Beni, Goma, and Bukavu. DRC continues to sustain a curfew period from 10 pm to 4 am for selected provinces with prevailing high number of positive cases (including Kinshasa), while it was lifted in Mid-April in the rest of the less affected provinces. Movements are only allowed on exceptional basis (health and travels).
- **WFP's support to the UN Integrated Transition plan:** the UN Security Council in its resolution 2502 (2019) requested the Secretary-General to engage with the government to enable a progressive transfer of MONUSCO's tasks to the Congolese authorities, United Nations Country Team (UNCT) and other stakeholders. The joint strategy was presented and ratified in October 2020; WFP is part of the Integrated Transition Team ever since and is constantly supporting its

efforts. In April, MONUSCO announced its departure from the Kasai region in June 2021 and from the Tanganyika region in 2022. Consequently, WFP and other stakeholders formulated a series of strategic interventions to address this new reality; for example, from 26 to 28 April, a NEXUS operationalization workshop was held in Kananga for the regions of Kasai and Kasai Central to articulate the role and activities of the different actors in the region. This workshop had the participation of various UN agencies, members of the Kasai and Kasai Central provincial governments, donors, civil society organizations, and national and international NGOs. The discussions focused on: prioritization of the intervention areas; mapping of actors and activities in the priority areas; gaps' identification, and the main axis of intervention and coordination of NEXUS activities.

- **New FNG results:** during the month of April, the Fill the Nutrient Gap (FNG) results and recommendations were formulated, validated, and disseminated through two separate meetings in Kinshasa targeting the technical staff of institutions and organisations and high-level political audience. Some of the major findings of the FNG are:
  - Despite the vast size and immense potential for sustainable food supply, the DRC does not produce enough food and relies heavily on expensive imports to meet the needs of its population.
  - Secondly, agricultural productivity in DRC is low. Improved agricultural techniques could increase yields, thus growing the availability of nutritious foods and strengthening livelihoods.
  - It was also indicated that a nutritious diet is unaffordable for half the population due to the high cost of nutritious foods and low food availability in certain provinces.
  - Additionally, the rural environment presents heightened nutrition challenges, with 65% of households estimated to be unable to afford a nutritious diet. This requires a localised, opportunity-based and coordinated rural approach.

## WFP Response

- Under the 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 **2.9 mi** people with either in-kind, cash, or Nutrition food assistance. Throughout April alone, WFP assisted some **815,000** beneficiaries.
- **General Food Distribution in-kind and cash-based transfers:** in April, in-kind distributions reached **319,000** beneficiaries. For cash-based

transfers, WFP reached **213,000** beneficiaries in the DRC. April distributions were severely disrupted by the protests, dire security situation in some provinces, road accessibility challenges, and commodities' congestion across the country (see Supply Chain below); this altered the implementation plans as well for May. For example, planned cash assistance in Beni and Lubero territories targeting **120,000** beneficiaries in North Kivu remain on hold until further notice due to the poor security situation. In the same region, protests refrained WFP from providing in-kind assistance to **44,000** displaced people and vulnerable host families living in the localities of Kyondo, Vayana, Kirindera, Burusi and Kasindi. The temporary block of several roads due to the protests and the declared state of siege has also led to delays in the arrival and movement of commodities, altering the plans for May.

- **Nutrition activities:** in April, some **169,000** beneficiaries were reached by malnutrition treatment activities. The South Kivu region had the highest number of beneficiaries: **74,000**. Another **114,500** people were reached by malnutrition prevention activities. Most of the beneficiaries were in the Kasai Central region: **33,500** in total. Combined, the emergency nutrition activities of Moderate and Acute Malnutrition Treatment and Acute Malnutrition prevention reached the highest achievement since the beginning of the year. However, food supplies flow for the eastern corridor has continued to improve while some areas remain increasingly difficult to reach, especially Ankoro in Tanganyika and the Fizi and Nundu axis in South Kivu. The Kasais continue to be heavily affected by extended delays in customs clearance of food commodities at the Matadi port, with many CSB+ stocks stuck in containers. Bunia continues to experience increased insecurity, which hinders the implementation and monitoring of activities.



### Food and Nutrition Assistance

- **N'sele project:** the project, in the outskirts of Kinshasa, continues implementation at full speed. It is implemented jointly by WFP and UNICEF and 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. WFP Kinshasa office is working on a solution for the 1,600 households who encountered a temporary obstacle during the first registration for cash assistance. In the first days of May, WFP will start cash distributions for months 2 and 3 of targeted beneficiaries. Additionally, the office has been organising several donor visits to take place during the month of May.
- **Assistance for CAR refugees:** the Gbadolite office worked throughout April in the delivery and

distribution of HEB from Yakoma (1.1 MT already done) and Gbadolite (4.9 MT) to be distributed in Limasa and Gomba in favor of 1,900 households (7,000 individuals). Concomitantly, WFP concluded the preparation of direct cash distributions to new Central African refugees in Limasa and Gomba that shall happen imminently.

- In **North Kivu**, throughout April, WFP was unable to implement its plan of a seasonal CBT assistance for about 120,000 targeted beneficiaries in the health zones previously affected by the 10<sup>th</sup> Ebola outbreak. During the entire month, WFP was unable to provide cash assistance due to the dire security situation and as a pre-emptive measure to deal with the anti-UN sentiment present in some of the regions. On the other hand, through partner World Vision, WFP provided in-kind food assistance to 69,200 displaced people and vulnerable host families with 577 MT of food in Masisi, Rutshuru and Walikale territories. The Goma office reached some 94,900 beneficiaries with in-kind food assistance in April.
- In **South Kivu**, WFP, in partnership with the cooperating partner World Vision distributed 146 MT of food to 8,700 beneficiaries displaced, returnees and host families Kalonge (Kalehe territory) in South Kivu to cover food needs. WFP's Head of the Bukavu office had a working session with the South Kivu Governor; during the meeting, discussions revolved around the emergencies recorded in South Kivu and particularly the current situation in the *moyens et hauts plateaux* of Uvira (Kidoti, Kigoma, Bijojo, Lemera, Bwegera, etc.). The latter regions are experiencing an interethnic armed conflict, which is a key reason for the movement and displacement of the population. In April, the Bukavu office reached 49,000 with in-kind food assistance. No cash assistance was provided throughout the month of April due to the disruption of roads and security situation that prevented the preparatory activities to be conducted effectively. The May target has been reviewed.
- In **Kasai**, in the last week of April, 237 MT of in-kind food distributions reached 14,200 vulnerable people in the Nyanga health zone via the partner AIDES. Throughout the entire month of April, 41,700 affected people were reached with in-kind food assistance. For cash assistance, the Tshikapa office carried out a beneficiary registration for 35,900 people for the CERF joint FAO/WFP project in 6 health areas of the Kamonia health zone. These people shall receive in the coming weeks a double assistance covering the months of April and May. The Tshikapa office reached 55,600 beneficiaries through cash assistance.
- In **Kasai Central and Oriental**, during the last week of April and first week of May, food deliveries and distribution continued in the Dibaya health zone in Kasai Central, where 7,500

beneficiaries received 57MT of food, and in Cilundu in Kasai Oriental, where 13,300 beneficiaries received 160 MT of food. Meanwhile, for cash assistance, 66,000 beneficiaries received their transfers throughout the last month.

- In **Tanganyika**, April in-kind distributions were challenging due to rains, which have blocked most of the roads, delaying deliveries on the Kalemie-Nyemba-Nyunzu axis. Despite that, the Kalemie office reached some 105,000 beneficiaries with in-kind food assistance. April cash distributions reached some 41,800 beneficiaries; at the end of the reporting period, direct cash distributions were ongoing in Pweto and the office was distributing SCOPE cards in Kabalo for imminent cash assistance in May.
- In **Ituri**, April 2021 food distributions were affected by the insecurity in the territory of Djugu, where the traffic of vehicles was not allowed on the RN 27 for most of the month – but issue was solved in the last week of April. This change allows the office to conduct the food delivery for IDPs in Mahagi territory and a small group of South Sudanese Refugees in Faradje territory. Recent displacements around Bunia led WFP to target new beneficiaries, an exercise which might have an impact on the May targets. The dire security situation (exemplified by the Government declaring state of siege in the province) prevents WFP from reaching various territories for both in-kind and CBT assistance, such as parts of Mahagi and Faradje. In April, the Bunia office reached 6,700 beneficiaries with in-kind assistance and some 50,000 with cash assistance.



### Supply Chain

- **Access disruptions:** access to final delivery sites for many WFP transporters across the country was predominantly complicated in April. In the Bunia area, the high level of insecurity affected transport heavily. For example, supplies from the Mahagi border to Bunia were blocked for many days and trucks from Tanzania/Kenya were stuck at the border. An ongoing Supply Chain mission from the Bunia office will advocate locally to restart the supply. On the road between Tshikapa and Kananga, advance funds were given to WFP transporters to enable them to pay the local handlers (who rebuilt the road) to allow WFP trucks to continue their journey and deliver food to the Kananga area.
- **Matadi port congestion / new arrivals via the Republic of Congo (ROC):** congestion at the port of Matadi is still affecting operations with over 5,000 MT of WFP food still awaiting transfer to Kinshasa. Operations in the port are severely affected by constraints resulting from COVID-19 restrictions. As a pre-emptive measure for future arrivals, WFP has been negotiating with BHA next planned arrivals via Pointe Noire port in

Brazzaville, ROC. An emergency contract for the new Western Corridor Pointe Noire / Kinshasa and Kasai supply is about to be signed. As soon as it is ratified, WFP's service provider will start loading the containers containing 1,300 MT of Title II food already arrived out of 6,300 MT expected in Pointe Noire (maize meal, pulses, oil, CSB+). The food will be transported by rail from the port to Brazzaville, then by barge across the Congo River, and by truck to the WFP warehouse in Kinshasa.

## 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.



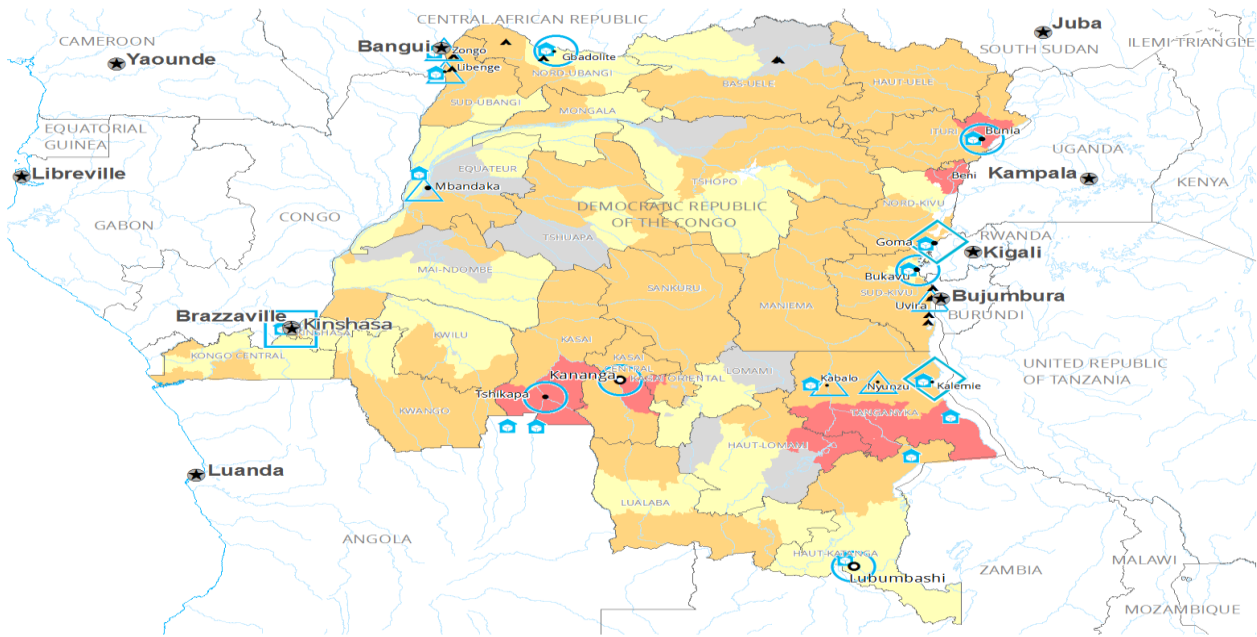
### Logistics Cluster

- The Logistics Cluster 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

- **Regular and special flights:** throughout the reporting period 1,592 passengers and 53.3 tons of essential light cargo were transported through UNHAS' regular and special flights in DRC. UNHAS also organized special flights for MSF-OCBA on 21 and 24 April and 1 May, from Bukavu to Tshunguti in South Kivu, in support to the redeployment operations the organization is conducting, and from Goma to Nyunzu in the Tanganyika province, on 23 and 26 April, for WFP and in support to Resilience Unit activities. The special flights also transported 13.1 MT of cargo.
- **Temperature Sensitive Logistics (TSL) capacity building:** with the ongoing COVID-19 outbreak and potential engagement of WFP into COVID-19 vaccine transport, WFP Aviation developed a specific document containing standard procedures and various measures to address safety, security, quality and reliability requirements to carry Temperature Controlled Cargo, such as vaccines, aiming to ensure integrity through the implementation of cold chain processes. A group of UNHAS staff will undertake the TSL training to raise staff awareness on temperature sensitive logistics systems and processes in relation to their work and the context of public health emergencies.



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



European Union  
Civil Protection and  
Humanitarian Aid



## Contacts

- Peter MUSOKO, Country Director: [peter.musoko@wfp.org](mailto:peter.musoko@wfp.org)
- Veronique SAINTE-LUCE, Head of Partnership & Reporting Unit: [Veronique.sainte-luce@wfp.org](mailto:Veronique.sainte-luce@wfp.org)
- Sabiha ZEHRAOUI, Reporting and Project Management: [sabiha.zehraoui@wfp.org](mailto:sabiha.zehraoui@wfp.org)
- For further information, visit the D.R. Congo page [here](#).