WFP Democratic Republic of Congo
Situation Report #30 - 8 November 2021

Headline

WFP DRC's distributions in October reached 1,347,000 beneficiaries with either cash-based transfers (CBT), in-kind, or nutrition assistance to prevent and treat Moderate Acute Malnutrition (MAM).

The Food Security Cluster-led Integrated Phase Classification (IPC) 20 Report revealed that 27 million people are in IPC 3 and 4 in DRC. 26% of the population analysed (96% of DRC's population) are food insecure. DRC continues to have the highest estimated number of food-insecure people worldwide.

Situation Update

- **Visit of Princess Sarah Zeid of Jordan:** From 16 to 23 October, WFP DRC hosted Her Royal Highness Princess Sarah Zeid of Jordan. The Princess, a fierce advocate for women's and girls' rights, visited Panzi Hospital and Foundation, in South Kivu, saw WFP nutrition activities in Minova, and met with the provincial vice-governor. In Kinshasa, HRH discussed education and livelihoods activities which empower women and reduce their vulnerability to gender-based violence with the First Lady, Mrs. Denise Tshisekedi. In the closing ceremony of the First Lady's Round Table on Reparations for Gender-Based Violence, the Princess thanked the government for taking this important step and reminded delegates that this meeting marked a red line from which they could not retreat as women and girls expect a holistic change. HRH participated in a roundtable establishing a national reparation fund for survivors of conflict-related sexual violence and other serious crimes in DRC and in a dinner with the Congolese Federation of Commerce to call on the private sector to engage in activities that reduce food insecurity. After meeting with various senior government representatives in Kinshasa, the Princess attended a farewell cocktail with WFP donors, government ministers, ambassadors, and other diplomatic representatives on 22 October.

- **Regional Director’s visit:** From 10 to 16 October, the Regional Director for Southern Africa Menghestab Haile visited WFP DRC. He met with DRC's Minister of Planning Christian Mwando Nsimba Kabulo and with other UN agencies and diplomatic representatives from African countries in the DRC, such as Egypt and South Africa. He travelled to Kananga with the Swedish Ambassador to the DRC to officially inaugurate the Dag Hammarskjold guesthouse. He also spoke at WFP's multi-donor briefing on 15 October.

- **CD Country Directors retreat in Namibia:** From 23 to 30 October, WFP DRC Country Director, Peter Musoko, participated in a Leadership Retreat with WFP counterparts from the Southern African region and senior management from WFP’s Regional Bureau in Johannesburg. Discussions took place over the course of four days, ranging from food systems and the role of evidence generation, to financing operations and enhancing government partnerships. The DRC Country Director took part in two panel discussions:

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Photo legend: a group of school children assisted by WFP in Beni (North Kivu). Credit: Bartson Lemba / WFP
‘Leadership in emergencies setting the scene for longer-term development’ and ‘Supporting governments to achieve sustainable food systems’.

**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.

**Food and Nutrition Assistance**

- **Overview:** WFP DRC’s distributions in October reached 1,347,000 beneficiaries with either cash-based transfers (CBT), in-kind, or nutrition assistance to prevent and treat Moderate Acute Malnutrition (MAM). The start of the rainy season and insecurity (particularly in Ituri and North Kivu) have imposed challenges to in-kind food deliveries, with assistance postponed to November in some territories.
  - In-kind assistance advanced well, having reached 661,000 individuals in October.
  - By the end of October, WFP reached 326,000 people with CBT.
  - WFP provided 179,000 children and pregnant and lactating women and girls (PLW/G) with nutrition assistance in September.

- **Tanganyika:** In October, WFP’s Kalemie office reached 333,000 beneficiaries across all transfer modalities. This included 120,000 in-kind and 120,000 CBT distributions. October cash distributions in Pweto continued through the first few days of November. 15,000 beneficiaries were reached with nutrition activities.

- **Kasai central and Kasai oriental:** The WFP office in Kananga reached 175,000 beneficiaries in October with either in-kind, CBT, or Nutrition assistance. This included cash assistance to 28,000. In-kind double distributions planned for October and November reached 73,000 so far in Kasai Central and Kasai Oriental. WFP reached 40,000 beneficiaries with malnutrition treatment and 32,000 with malnutrition prevention activities.

- **Kasai:** In October, WFP’s Tshikapa office assisted 94,000 people overall. This includes 54,000 conflict-affected people with in-kind contributions in the Banga Lubaka health zone. CBT distributions are planned for November and December. MAM treatment activities picked up in October, reaching 37,000 people.

- **Ituri:** WFP distributed in-kind food commodities to 128,000 vulnerable people and cash to 67,000 people in October. 9,000 children and PLW/G received MAM treatment assistance, while MAM prevention reached 20,000 beneficiaries.

- **North Kivu:** The WFP Goma Office reached an estimated 300,000 people through in-kind food distributions, CBT, or nutrition activities for MAM treatment and prevention in October. In-kind distributions assisted 151,000 beneficiaries in Beni, Masisi and Rutshuru territories. Cash transfers for 16,000 people in Kitshanga (Masisi) are ongoing. 22,000 children and PLW/G have received nutritious supplies for the treatment of MAM, whilst another 51,000 were reached with MAM prevention products.

- **South Kivu:** In October, the Bukavu office reached 132,000 people with in-kind food distributions and 30,000 with cash. 32,000 children and PLW/G received MAM treatment assistance, while MAM prevention reached 16,000 beneficiaries.

- **N’sele project:** October marked the end of phase two of the innovative urban social safety net N’sele project. Created in October 2020 on the outskirts of Kinshasa, the project has assisted nearly 100,000 vulnerable people affected by the economic impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic. WFP has already transferred over USD 8.4 million through direct cash or mobile money transfer to beneficiaries. Phase two, targeting over 80,000 people, was implemented in partnership with UNICEF and FAO. It provided an integrated package of USD40 in unconditional cash assistance per participant over six months and additional basic services through UNICEF and productive activities through FAO. WFP and partners are seeking additional funds to implement phase three from November onwards, expanding current assistance and replicating this successful model to other parts of the country.

**Supply Chain**

- **Procurement:** 2,500 MT of fortified Maize-Meal was produced in Tanzania, of which 2,000 MT have been dispatched for distributions in Ituri throughout November and December. Additionally, local food procurement mitigated the impact of limited supplies via the Dar Es Salaam and Mombasa corridors.

- **Access:** In Ituri, the degraded security situation resulted in very unreliable supply of food to Bunia and further. WFP Supply Chain is exploring opening new corridors over the Lake Albert.

- **Food Quality Tests:** WFP is exploring the use of a Bukavu lab for its food quality tests. The local lab has returned comparable results to Italian lab results certified by WFP Headquarters. All fortified Maize-Meal procured locally is...
systematically tested by both labs, to ensure strict compliance with quality requirements, particularly on aflatoxin.

**Clusters and Common Services**

**Food Security Cluster (FSC)**

- **Food Security**: The latest food security data from the Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC) 20 Report revealed that 27 million people are in IPC 3 and 4 in DRC. 26% of the population analysed (96% of DRC’s population) are food insecure. DRC continues to have the highest estimated number of food-insecure people worldwide.
  - Conflict and endemic poverty remain top drivers for hunger. Key hunger hotspots, in north-eastern North Kivu, Ituri and the central Kasai provinces, are weathering or emerging from longstanding unrest.
  - Other factors include climate shocks, an increase of crop-destroying pests, the ravages of Ebola and the economic impact of COVID-19, which have contributed to shrinking food production, deepening hunger and poverty.

- **Humanitarian Planning Cycle process**: The Food Security Cluster (FSC) is participating in the Humanitarian Needs Overview and Humanitarian Response Plan (HRP) process. The FSC used the prioritization criteria set by the Humanitarian Coordinator and propose a target of 8.8 million people for 2022 HRP. A greater funding share and more activities will focus on transitional activities to help communities graduate from humanitarian assistance. This includes a bolder safety net approach involving the Government. The estimated budget is US$ 765 Million to reach 8.8 million people.

- **Restructuration of the humanitarian coordination**: A recent peer-to-peer mission in DRC agreed that humanitarian coordination requires restructuring. This directly impacts the FSC Cluster. WFP/FAO management are looking at options.

- **Advocacy working group**: Through ECHO funding, a working group composed of seven international NGOs, three well-known national NGOs, FAO, WFP, and the DRC INGO coalition has been created. The group will develop an advocacy and visibility strategy for the unprecedentedly high number of food insecure people in DRC. They will mobilise resources and build coalitions for an impactful response. The strategy will cover several years, adopting a long-term change to the visibility, funding, and technical commitments for food security investment in DRC.

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**Bilateral Services Provision (BSP)**

- **Temperature Sensitive Logistics (TSL)**: Six WFP DRC staff attended the third phase of the TSL training in Mombasa, Kenya, from 4 to 15 October. This has built staff capacity in delivering TSL.

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**UN Humanitarian Air Service**

- **In October**, UNHAS DRC and ECHO Flight project, managed by WFP/UNHAS, transported 5,383 passengers and 78.9 MT of essential light cargo.

- **Tshikapa Airport runway**: The WFP-UNHAS funded project rehabilitating the Tshikapa runway is ongoing with flights operating on Wednesdays.

- **Bad weather**: Flight cancellations have occurred more frequently during this season. UNHAS recovers cancelled flights as soon as possible.

- **High Level Delegations**: UNHAS facilitated the visit of the WFP Regional Director and the Swedish Ambassador to Kasai Province on 11 to 12 October; Her Royal Highness Princess Sarah Zeid of Jordan’s visit to Kinshasa, Bukavu and Goma between 18 to 20 October; the Groupe de Coordination des Partenaires UE composed of the EU, UK, Spanish, German and Swedish ambassadors to the DRC and the Resident Coordinator/Humanitarian Coordinator in DRC to Kananga and Tshikapa on 27 and 28 October.

- **Evacuations**: UNHAS conducted four medical evacuations and three security evacuations. UNHAS also transported cold chain vaccines for Meningitis to Kisangani for MSF on 7 October. A team of specialists evaluating the reported epidemic in Tshopo province were also transported.

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**Communications**

- **HRH Princess Sarah Zeid visit**: Radio Okapi followed the Princess’ full trip in the East here. Okapi produced a ‘dossier du jour’ and an interview on the joint resilience project around the Minova visit which was also covered by several local radios.

- A WFP insight story on north-eastern DRC was published in English and French.
Special thanks to our donors in 2020 - 2021 (listed alphabetically)

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