







# WFP Democratic Republic of the Congo

Situation Report #52 – 31 October 2023

## Highlights

- **Resurgence of fighting:** After holding since March this year, the fragile ceasefire between the March 23 Movement (M23) non-state armed groups (NSAG) and Congolese Armed Forces (FARDC) broke down. Fighting has now been reported in 20 different locations along three fronts in Masisi and Rutshuru territories specifically in M23-held territories.
- Increased insecurity due to the renewed fighting as well as the retaliatory protests by host communities forced WFP to halt its assistance in some parts of North Kivu, thereby affecting WFP's level of reach.
- Between January and September, WFP has assisted 2.9 million people in Ituri, North Kivu and South Kivu, under its emergency response in-kind food, cash, and nutrition programmes. For cash distributions, resources are fast depleting and WFP is gradually reducing its use of the cash modality, limiting the number of food insecure people it can assist, including women and young children. The lack of funding prevents any further programme expansion to those with extreme needs.
- **WFP urgently needs USD 546 million in the next six months to sustain its operations in the scale-up provinces (North Kivu, Ituri and South Kivu) from November 2023 to April 2024.** Without additional funding, more people are at risk of not receiving the life-saving assistance they urgently need. WFP planned to reach 3.6 million people in the scale-up, but funding has only allowed it to meet the needs of the 1.5 million people currently targeted in this cycle.

	<b>25.4 m<sup>1</sup> highly food-insecure people</b> (51% female/49% male) (50% children/50% adults)
	<b>26 provinces affected</b>
	<b>6.9 m people displaced<sup>2</sup></b>
	<b>4.4 m people reached Jan to Sept 2023</b>

## Situation Update

- **Eastern Crisis:** In October, fighting in the eastern provinces escalated and the precarious ceasefire between the M23, NSAG and FARDC broke down. The recent renewed escalations of violence are leading to further mass displacement and an anticipated worsening of the conflict—threatening the gains made so far with the assistance provided so far.
- The International Organisation for Migration reports that DRC has reported a **record 6.9 million people displaced** across the country. This makes DRC one of the largest displacement crises in the world.
- Additionally, the World Health Organization has named the cholera outbreak in DRC as one of largest globally. According to WHO, DRC has reported over 41,000 cases and over 300 deaths with a large concentration of these cases being in the eastern region. The outbreak has seen consistent reports of higher numbers of the cases from April. The high number of cases and the duration of the outbreak mean that there is a strain on health workers and systems in the area who are

<sup>1</sup> According to the integrated food security phase classification (IPC) analysis [for July to December 2023](#)

<sup>2</sup> As per [IOM Displacement Tracking Matrix](#)

already struggling to respond to other health-related challenges in the area.

- **Gender Based Violence (GBV) crisis:** In the east of DRC, the food security and protection crises are deeply interlinked. Between January and September 2023, out of 150,000 recorded protection cases across the three provinces in the east, more than 53,000 were GBV, which may only be the tip of the iceberg. This data does not reflect incidence of GBV in other locations in DRC including the Kasai. The provision of regular and predictable levels of basic assistance including livelihood and income generating activities support mitigating protection risks by reducing negative coping strategies.

## WFP Response

- Under the revised Country Strategic Plan 2021-2024, WFP is targeting **8.5 million people** with food, nutrition, and resilience support in 2023 though targets will be revised in line with the fast-changing situation.



### Food and Nutrition Assistance (September 2023)

- **Overview:** As of September, WFP had assisted **1.5 million unique beneficiaries, of which 58 percent are women and girls, across all activities.** WFP reached 500,000 people with cash-based transfers (CBT), 800,000 with in-kind assistance, and 178,000 with malnutrition treatment and prevention supplies. WFP faced major security challenges in October as the ceasefire between the March 23 Movement, non-state armed groups and the Congolese armed forces fell apart in North Kivu.
- **North Kivu:** WFP reached **600,000 people** with in-kind assistance, cash and malnutrition treatment and prevention supplies. With the escalation of fighting, displacement was on the rise especially in the territories of Masisi and Rutshuru. Internally displaced persons (IDPs) fled to camps around Goma most of which were already densely populated. In response, WFP provided high-energy biscuits to IDPs in the camps.
- **Ituri:** WFP assisted **300,000 people** with food assistance, cash, and malnutrition treatment. In September, non-state armed group activity and insecurity disrupted humanitarian movement and access along key routes. This delayed the start of in-kind food distributions at two sites in Djugu, though WFP resumed its activities later in the month.
- **South Kivu:** WFP reached **200,000 people** with food assistance, cash, and malnutrition treatment commodities. WFP is responding to the increasing number of people displaced to South Kivu due to intensifying conflict. Due to stock shortages, commodities for prevention of malnutrition were not planned for the month.
- **Other provinces (Kasai, Kasai Central and Oriental, and Tanganyika):** WFP reached 360,000 people with emergency food, cash, and nutrition activities. Of these, 96,000 were programmes in North Ubangi which included refugees from Central African Republic as well as resilience interventions for host communities, 73,000 were in Tanganyika, and 122,000

were in the Kasais.



### Supply Chain

- **Local procurement:** WFP continued to procure locally as prices and availability allowed. In October, 500 mt of maize meal for November distributions in the Kasai were procured. While food prices have remained stable between August and September, WFP continues to exercise caution in local procurement due to limited food availability on local markets to avoid negatively impacting food prices.
- **Commodity accounting:** To strengthen commodity tracking after goods have left the warehouse and mitigate the risk of fraud diversion and the sale of WFP distributed food on the market, WFP has rolled out a bag tagging trial for commodity accounting. It aims to improve backward traceability, and reinforces WFP's corporate tools, which allow for real time reception of commodities at the final distribution point.
- As part of bilateral service provision operations, WFP DRC handed over cold chain equipment valued at USD 1 million to the Ministry of Health to augment transport needs for the Ministry.
- **Challenges:** Considering the renewed fighting in North Kivu, the Goma-based humanitarian community plans to advocate for the establishment of a humanitarian corridor to Kitchanga, which is one of the main hotspots, as rival groups are seeking to gain control of this important economic hub between Goma, Masisi, and Walikale. The Logistics Cluster and WFP have been requested to support the planning and facilitation of humanitarian convoys.



### 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](mailto:drc-logs@logcluster.org).



#### Food Security Cluster (FSC)

- The updated 2023 geographical tool for targeting health zones is available [here](#).
- The FSC's achievements in 2023 can be found at this [dashboard](#).
- According to the latest integrated food security phase classification analysis, around 25.4 million people (23 percent of the population) are facing crisis and emergency levels of food insecurity (IPC3+). In the scale-up provinces of Ituri, North Kivu, and South Kivu, there have been slight improvements in food insecurity levels since early 2023, with 5.5 million people now categorized as IPC3+, down from 6.7 million. Nonetheless, these provinces remain among those with the highest population numbers in IPC phase 3 and above. The persistence of the socio-political conflict continues to disrupt the agricultural activities of households

thereby affecting their livelihoods.

- Food insecurity assessment results are sensitive to change due to the fragile context, conflict conditions and seasonal and climate changes. WFP and food security cluster partners aim to meet increasing demands for food assistance. Should the security situation degenerate further, and people are forced to flee their homes in search of safety, food assistance will be critical to prevent populations suffering from conflict and displacement from slipping further into catastrophic levels of food insecurity.

## UN Humanitarian Air Service (UNHAS)

- **Operational Overview:** In October, UNHAS regular and special flights transported **4,526 passengers** and **60.96 mt** of essential light cargo.
- **Medical Evacuations:** UNHAS facilitated seven medical evacuations out of Beni, Gbadolite, Kalole, Mambasa and Walikale. Another two security evacuations were conducted on behalf of UNCHR from Beni.
- **Special Flights:** In addition to regular flights, UNHAS conducted 19 special flights to serve specific needs of partners including the Mitchell Group, UNHCR, UNICEF, the United States Embassy and WFP.
- UNHAS supported UNHCR with voluntary repatriation airlift of Congolese refugees from Angola (Dundo) to DRC (Kinshasa and Kananga). A total of six rotations were carried out by the Kinshasa-based Q-400 aircraft, transporting a total of 391 refugees.
- **Fuel supply:** A new fuel supplier in Kananga was recruited and UNHAS fuel stocks were replenished allowing for the immediate resumption of flight operations in the Greater Kasai region.
- **Flight disruptions:** The rainy season continues to disrupt flights particularly on routes within North Kivu and Ituri. To minimise the impact of these cancellations on operations, UNHAS continues to prioritize recovery flights to ensure continued support to humanitarian operations.
- **Capacity building:** WFP provided support to the Aviation Fundamental Training in Kinshasa from 2 to 6 October aimed to provide a basic understanding of various aviation-related issues and the knowledge necessary to carry out tasks and missions in accordance with international aviation standards and procedures with civil aviation authorities including representatives from the Compagnie Africaine d'Aviation (CAA), Congo Airways, MONUSCO, the Civil Aviation Authorities, among others.

## Communications, Advocacy and Marketing

- **Event:** WFP and FAO jointly commemorated World Food Day in the field with participation from government officials and participant communities to reflect on the achievements of joint efforts to achieve food security in DRC.
- WFP also joined the rest of the UN team in DRC to commemorate [United Nations Day](#). It was an opportunity to

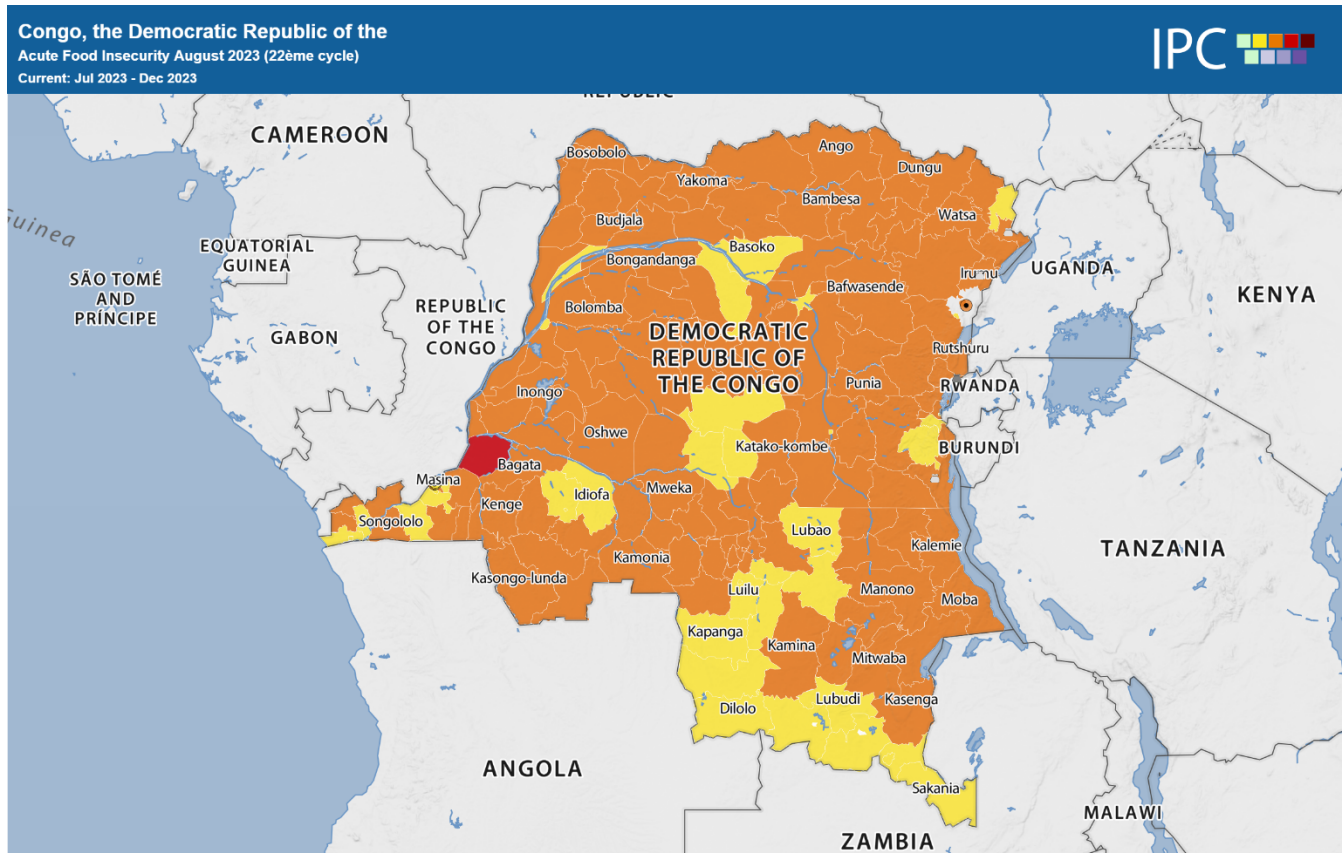
engage with youth, academia, and media to showcase WFP work and drive more engagement around food security.

- **Social Media:** WFP amplified [events](#) and its operations on social media for the commemoration of international days including [World Food Day](#), International [Day Of Rural Women](#) and International Day of [Disaster Risk Reduction](#).
- **High-Level Missions:** Congolese footballer, Distel Zola, along with French parliamentarians visited the Bulengo Displacement Camp near Goma to raise awareness on the humanitarian situation and advocate for more support to WFP's operations amid scale-up process.

## Thanks to our Donors:



## Integrated Food Security Phase Classification Map of DRC: July to December 2023



IPC Map Key: Acute Food Insecurity  
 1 - Minimal 2 - Stressed 3 - Crisis 4 - Emergency 5 - Famine Famine Likely Areas with inadequate evidence Areas not analyzed

Disclaimer: The information shown on this map does not imply that the IPC and CH officially recognizes or endorses physical and political boundaries.  
 Source: Integrated Food Security Phase Classification

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