



World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES
CHANGING LIVES

Juslenne Furaha Mapenzi, received 180,000 CFA (approximately 73 dollars) in much-needed cash assistance at the Bweremana camp, in North Kivu. Understanding the urgency of their situation, she plans to allocate the funds towards purchasing essential food and medicine for her children. Credit: WFP/Barbara Mendes

Emergency Appeal: Funding Urgently Needed in North Kivu, South Kivu and Ituri, Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC)

Flash Report



USD 567 million¹

is urgently needed to sustain and scale up life-saving assistance in North Kivu, South Kivu and Ituri.

In the eastern provinces of North Kivu, South Kivu and Ituri, 6.7 million people face acute food insecurity. This is an area consumed by conflict and insecurity and the situation is particularly dire, affecting not only people displaced by the conflict, but a large part of the local population. To address this multi-layered humanitarian crisis, a UN System-Wide Scale-Up was declared in these three eastern provinces. Still, resources remain desperately low to meet the extremely high humanitarian needs faced.

WFP is on the ground and scaling up its support to progressively increase the number of people reached with food and cash assistance, but the sky-rocketing needs are stretching an already severely underfunded and ignored operation.

WFP's assistance is required by 3.6 million people across these scale-up provinces. However, the resources are not available to meet all the needs of this population.

With current resource shortages, while prioritising more rapidly cash assistance, WFP is already struggling to meet the needs of the 1.5 million people it already registered. If additional funding is not received, WFP will be forced to drastically reduce the number of vulnerable and food insecure people it can assist from October onwards, including women and young children.

WFP is urgently appealing for **USD 567 million** to meet the most pressing needs in the three scale-up provinces for the next six months - August 2023 to January 2024.

Predictable and flexible resources are urgently required as they provide WFP with the ability to not only increase the number of people in need it assists, but also to ensure agility and timeliness of WFP's response in view of the fragile security and humanitarian situation.

1. The six-month (August 2023-January 2024) funding needs are regularly revised based on available resources and needs.

24 AUGUST 2023

EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE

In the first half of 2023, WFP provided emergency food, cash and nutrition assistance to on average half a million people per month in North Kivu, South Kivu and Ituri. With the extra capacity put in place through its scale-up, WFP assisted 748,000 people in June and 1,230,000 people in July with cash, in-kind and nutrition assistance. These figures could have been higher if more resources had been available.

In August, WFP continues to focus on scaling up cash assistance, given its stocks of food commodities are low, aiming to reach 1 million people with cash-in-hand assistance distributions in August, while an additional 500,000 people are receiving in-kind food. To ensure the right people receive the assistance they are entitled to, WFP started a large biometrical registration exercise; close to 1 million people have thus far been biometrically registered since the beginning of the scale-up.

Severe funding shortfalls limit WFP's reach while according to WFP's plans under its corporate scale-up an estimated 3.6 million people are in need of food assistance every month at least until the end of the year.

From October onwards, WFP wants to increase its in-kind food activities in the three conflict-affected provinces following the scheduled arrival of more food resources. These commodities will gradually be delivered matching with the distribution rounds. Unfortunately, this arrival of new food stocks coincides with a drastic reduction in funding available for cash distributions, so that the overall number of people assisted would not be able to increase unless more funding is secured.

WFP aims to maintain programmatic flexibility to shift its assistance modality between cash and in-kind food depending on the resources available

WFP EMERGENCY FUNDING NEEDS IN NORTH KIVU, SOUTH KIVU AND ITURI (AUGUST 2023-JANUARY 2024)

TOTAL EMERGENCY SCALE-UP FUNDING REQUIREMENTS (INCLUDING EMERGENCY FOOD, CASH, NUTRITION INTERVENTIONS)	EMERGENCY FOOD AND CASH	EMERGENCY MALNUTRITION TREATMENT AND PREVENTION
USD 567 million	USD 538 million	USD 29 million

NUTRITION ASSISTANCE

WFP's malnutrition treatment and prevention programmes are critical in areas of conflict and displacement, where families struggle to find healthy food for their children. However, WFP is facing critical funding shortfalls impacting its nutrition activities.

WFP aims to assist 144,000 women and children with the moderate acute malnutrition (MAM) treatment programme while 215,000 women and children are targeted through its malnutrition prevention programme in the provinces of South Kivu, North Kivu and Ituri for the duration of the scale-up until December 2023. Between January and June, WFP reached 66,000 children and women on average per month through emergency malnutrition treatment and prevention programmes across the three provinces in DRC. Thanks to the scaled up capacity, in July this figure increased to 100,000 women and children reached.

In early 2024, nutrition support needs are expected to continue to be high. This is why WFP requires **USD 11 million** for the next six months,

through January 2024, to treat women and children with acute malnutrition in 47 health zones across the three provinces. In addition, given the constantly changing dynamics of the conflict and displacement in eastern DRC, WFP is working with the Nutrition Cluster and partners using nutrition surveys and other data sources to continuously update the understanding of the needs and adjust action plans and prioritisation plans accordingly.

While the resources for malnutrition treatment are already insufficient to address the existing needs, the accompanying malnutrition prevention programme is even more severely underfunded, requiring **USD 18 million** from August to January 2024. Investing in preventing malnutrition is not only important for the health of mothers and children, but also has long term benefits to avoid mothers and, or, children returning for acute malnutrition treatment. Also, prevention is more cost efficient than treatment.



Credit: WFP/Michael Castofas

CHANTAL'S STORY

Chantal Umuhoza, a 28-year-old mother, had to flee her hometown of Karuba in Masisi territory, North Kivu, to escape the conflict's relentless grip. She now has been living in the Rusayo camp, at the outskirts of Goma, the capital of North Kivu, for five months with her six children.

Thanks to WFP's cash assistance programme in the scale-up provinces, Chantal can access crucial support for her family. Through the registration process facilitated by WFP's SCOPE system, Chantal's family has received essential financial assistance, which offers a glimmer of hope in their pursuit of stability amidst trauma and displacement.

WFP OPERATIONAL RESPONSE TO THE CRISIS IN NORTH KIVU, SOUTH KIVU AND ITURI

WFP OPERATIONAL RESPONSE	PEOPLE REACHED WITH CASH, IN-KIND AND NUTRITION ASSISTANCE JULY 2023	PEOPLE REQUIRING WFP ASSISTANCE	SCALE-UP DURATION
	1.2 million	3.6 million	6 months

OPERATIONAL CHALLENGES

WFP is operating in an extremely challenging environment and adapts and amends its operations as needed, provided timely and flexible resources are available.

Security risks from non-state armed groups create access constraints on major supply routes. WFP's ability to reach some communities that are most in need is limited. This is particularly true for WFP's emergency and nutrition programmes in Rutshuru and Masisi, in North Kivu, and in large parts of Ituri.

Movement restrictions, including illegal roadblocks, also impact food and transportation costs, particularly on routes leading to farmland or markets, disrupting food availability in the affected areas. As a result, families are sometimes forced to resort to perilous coping mechanisms to find money and food, frequently resulting in protection risks. Gender-based violence, amongst other protection risks, are additional challenges WFP has to consider in the response efforts. For example, safeguarding women and girls as they collect firewood for cooking, remains a significant concern.

WFP faces multiple arduous customs clearance processes while moving food across international borders, delaying its humanitarian response as the presence of non-state armed group in North Kivu and Ituri, forces WFP to cross through several neighbouring countries to reach distribution sites.

WFP deliveries are also heavily impacted by other transport challenges. These include poor road infrastructure, extreme weather conditions and limited resources to bolster transport options.



Christine Sebiheri, a farmer by trade, and her 2 sons, Lucien and Ezekiel, received nutrition assistance in the Rusayo health centre in North Kivu, DRC. Credit: WFP/Michael Castofas