

Brigitte, a mother of five children, runs her own palm oil business. She attended WFP's literacy programme to learn essential reading, writing and small calculations to help her little business. The training enabled her to track her income and expenditure and monitor her profit margins. At the end of the programme, Brigitte received \$100 cash which she invested in her business. WFP/Benjamin Anguandia







# WFP Democratic Republic of the Congo

Situation Report #53 – 30 November 2023

## Highlights

- **Resurgence of fighting:** Following the break of the fragile ceasefire between the March 23 Movement (M23) non-state armed groups (NSAG) and Congolese Armed Forces (FARDC), fighting has resumed in different locations in the provinces of Ituri, North Kivu and South Kivu.
- 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 progress of operations.
- Since the scale-up in June, WFP has assisted 2.2 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 insecurity 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 472 million to sustain its operations in the scale-up provinces (North Kivu, Ituri and South Kivu) from December 2023 to May 2024.** Without additional funding, more people are at risk of not receiving the life-saving assistance they urgently need. WFP planned to scale up its operations to reach more people this year, but funding has only allowed it to meet the needs of the 1.5 million people currently reached 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>4.6 m people reached January to Oct 2023</b>

## Situation Update

- **Eastern Crisis:** From October, fighting in the eastern provinces escalated breaking the precarious ceasefire between the M23, NSAG and FARDC. The renewed escalations of violence are leading to further mass displacement and an anticipated worsening of the conflict—threatening the gains made with the assistance provided so far. On 8 November, the UN peacekeepers mission and FARDC announced a [joint operation](#) to defend both Sake and Goma from a potential M23 advance since the end of the ceasefire. This is following the M23 recapturing several locations previously handed to the East African Community Regional Force (EAC-RF) in March 2023 along the Kitchanga – Sake road, advancing towards Sake.
- 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.
- On 19 November, the official campaign period began ahead of the 2023 presidential election. A total of 25 candidates, including the outgoing president, are in the running for the presidential election scheduled for 20 December.

<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](#)

- Meanwhile in the western provinces, there is report of an Mpox (formerly known as Monkeypox) outbreak in Bolomba of the Equateur province. It is worth mentioning that the country has also experienced a wide spread of diseases including measles and cholera across the country, putting a strain on health systems to respond.

## 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 (October 2023)

- **Overview:** As of October, WFP had assisted **1.7 million unique beneficiaries, of which 58 percent are women and girls, across all activities.** WFP reached 574,000 people with cash-based transfers (CBT), 1.3 million people with in-kind food assistance, and 218,000 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 affecting access for humanitarian actors including WFP.
- **North Kivu:** WFP reached **800,000 people** with in-kind food assistance, cash and malnutrition treatment and prevention supplies. In and around Beni, attacks by (ADF) and retaliatory protests by the host communities halted WFP's operations in the area after two WFP-contracted trucks and a container carrying food for distributions were burned down.
- **Ituri:** WFP assisted **352,000 people** with food assistance, cash, and malnutrition treatment. In October, 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 **237,000 people** with food assistance, cash, and malnutrition treatment commodities. An attack at an IDP camp in South Kivu forced WFP to suspend its general food distributions for three days. The eight WFP trucks present at the site were unaffected, and WFP resumed distributions once the situation was deemed safe. Insecurity continues to hamper the delivery of humanitarian assistance and access and WFP continues to assess the safety of the situation prior to distributions.
- **Other provinces (Kasai, Kasai Central and Oriental, and Tanganyika):** WFP reached nearly 290,000 people with emergency food, cash, and nutrition activities. Of these, 100,000 were programmes in North Ubangi which included refugees from Central African Republic as well as resilience interventions for host communities, 56,000 were in Tanganyika, and 121,000 were in the Kasais.
- **Protection:** In November, 356 people (34 women) comprising of WFP, cooperating partner staff and service providers (transporters, security guards and handlers) from Uvira, Bukavu, N'sele, Kananga, Tshikapa, Bunia and Beni were

trained on sexual exploitation and abuse, to ensure full understanding of their role in addressing it.

- Additionally, 83 staff from cooperating partners UNHCR, UNICEF, IOM, the Prevention Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (PSEA) Coordination Network and WFP received training on PSEA jointly coordinated by WFP in Kinshasa and Bunia. This is part of interagency synergy aimed to reinforce partners capacity as part of the self-assessment done on the United Nations Partner Portal.



### Supply Chain

- **Procurement:** WFP continued to procure commodities locally for its operations across the country. Due to capacity issues in country, WFP also engaged regional markets to procure and preposition commodities for its operations to facilitate efficient and timely delivery of its commodities.
- **Bilateral service provision:** WFP deployed three new agents (staff and contractor) to support bilateral service provision in the new Saving Lives and Livelihoods Project provinces (Kasai Oriental, Maniema and Sud-Ubangi) to cover all aspects of in-country logistics in preparation of the project's inception in January 2024.
- **Challenges:** After a long negotiation process with the Congolese Control Office (OCC) since January on 900 mt of rice that was detained due to missing best before dates on the packaging, WFP and the OCC have reached an agreement and the commodities have been released to WFP and distributions have commenced.



### 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](#).
- The latest integrated food security phase classification (IPC) analysis notes that around 25.4 million people (23 percent of the population) are facing crisis and emergency levels of food insecurity (IPC3+). The scale-up provinces remain among the provinces with the highest populations 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.

- The latest FAO-WFP Hunger Hotspots report on acute food insecurity notes that DRC is among hotspots of very high concern. Specifically, hotspots are expected to have a high number of people facing or projected to face critical levels of acute food insecurity, coupled with worsening drivers that are expected to further intensify life-threatening conditions in coming months.

## UN Humanitarian Air Service (UNHAS)

- **Operational Overview:** In November, UNHAS regular and special flights transported **4,038 passengers** and **60.39 mt** of essential light cargo.
- **Medical Evacuations:** UNHAS facilitated 12 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 IOM, *Medecins sans frontieres*, UNHCR, UNICEF, the United States Embassy and WHO.
- Under the special flights, UNHAS conducted two more rotations for the voluntary repatriation of Congolese refugees from Angola (Dundo) to the DRC (Kinshasa), transporting a total of 134 refugees.
- **Flight disruptions:** The rainy season continues to disrupt flights particularly on routes within North Kivu and Ituri. A total of 33 percent of the bookings not served were due to bad weather (118 out of a total of 363). To minimise the impact of these cancellations on operations, UNHAS continues to prioritize recovery flights to ensure continued support to humanitarian operations.
- **Capacity building:** UNHAS organized additional training sessions for the user organizations on the use of the Humanitarian Booking Hub platform in Beni, Bunia, Kinshasa and Mbandaka. The platform, which is already operational, will soon replace TakeFlite and will be the only online booking option starting next year.

## Communications, Advocacy and Marketing

- **International Days:** To mark the start of 16 Days of Activism against Gender-based violence, WFP published multimedia content to support spreading awareness and

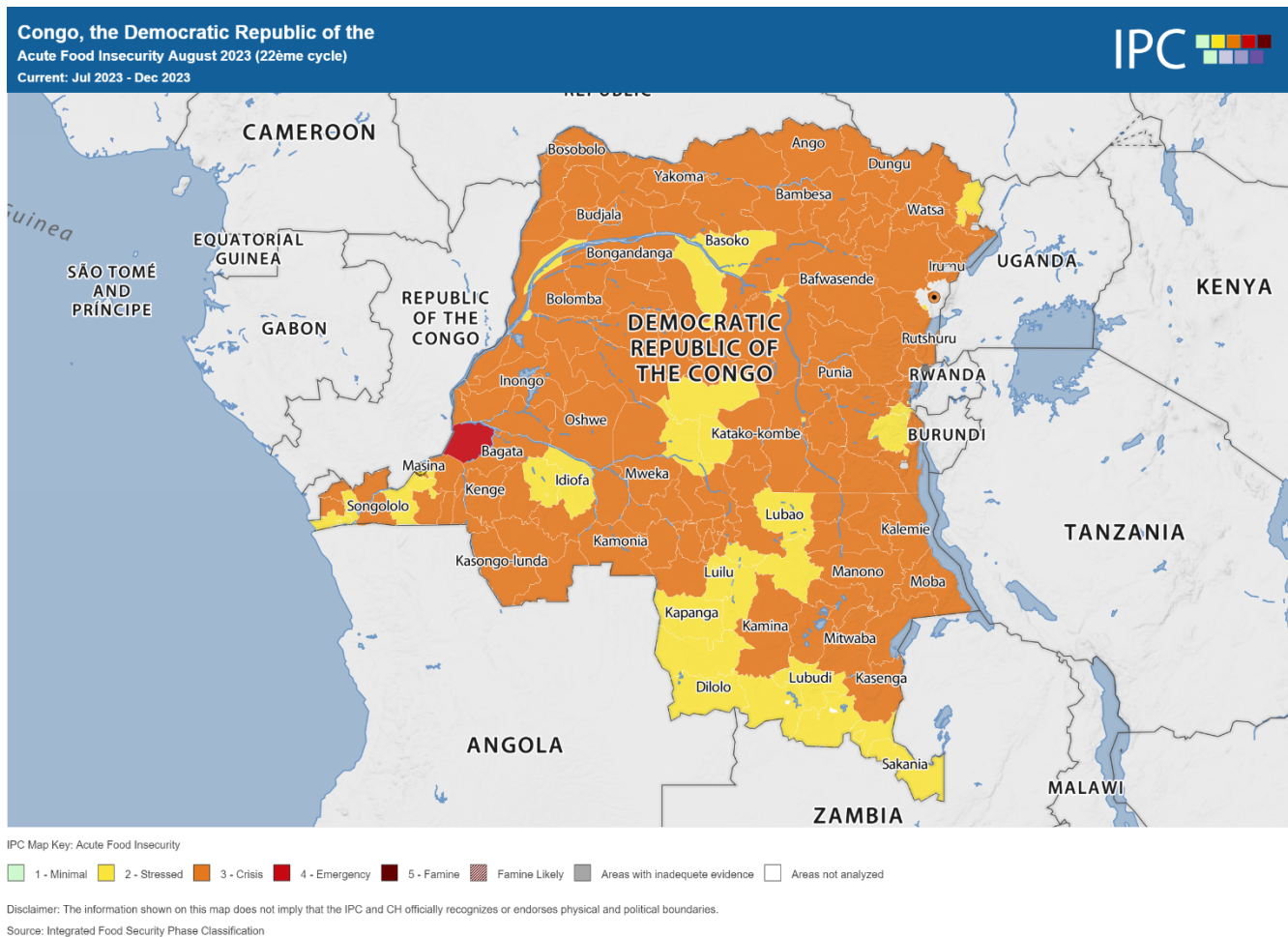
messaging on preventing and ending gender-based violence.

- **Local engagement:** To facilitate local engagement and perception in local media, WFP facilitated sessions with communities and members of the local press in Ituri and North Kivu to understand the gaps and build understanding of WFP's operations in the scale-up.
- **High-Level Missions:** WFP also supported mission with Her Royal Highness Princess Sarah Zeid Ra'ad to the DRC focusing on gender equality and parity in WFP and partners' programme implementation.

### Thanks to our Donors:



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



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