

WFP Democratic Republic of the Congo

Situation Report #55 – 30 April 2024

Highlights

WFP Executive Director visit: Ms Cindy McCain, WFP Executive Director, visited DRC in early March amidst a severe displacement crisis in the eastern regions where fighting intensified recently. The ED's visit put the spotlight on the extreme needs and dire food insecurity that people in DRC are facing, while highlighting the potential of the country to achieve food security. The ED met with key partners in Kinshasa and Goma, including the President of DRC, Felix Tshekedi, to reaffirm WFP's commitment to reducing hunger and to assure the continuation of cooperation on providing safe and secure humanitarian assistance.

- Cumulatively, WFP assisted 1.8 million people across the country, under its emergency response in-kind food, cash, and nutrition programmes between January and March 2024. The Corporate Scale-Up level of emergency for (DRC) was deactivated on 28 February. Notwithstanding the deactivation, as fighting in the east continues to force displacement, the need for increased emergency food assistance remains.
- WFP urgently needs USD 483.1 million in the next six months to sustain its operations across the country from May to October 2024.** Without additional funding, more people are at risk of not receiving the life-saving assistance they urgently need especially for the people newly and or re-displaced by the recent escalation in fighting.

	23.4 m¹ highly food-insecure people
	26 provinces affected by food insecurity
	7.2 m people displaced²
	1.5 m people reached in March 2024

Situation Update

- Increased fighting and displacement:** Recent intensified fighting between the Congolese armed forces (FARDC) and the March 23 Movement (M23) non-state armed group is causing a deterioration of the security situation. Latest displacement figures show that the number of people that have been newly displaced since January stands at 738,000 people. Overall, the number of displaced people in the country has risen to 7.2 million people of which 6.8 million are in the East of the county.
- Climate Crisis:** FEWSNET has reported on increasing moderate to heavy rainfall in eastern DRC. In March, heavy rainfall in North Kivu caused flooding in Bulengo internally displaced peoples camp on the outskirts of Goma, causing casualties and destruction to shelters. By April, increased rainfall triggered by the El Niño weather phenomenon in the eastern region of Africa has caused the water levels in Lake Tanganyika to rise to record levels and cause flooding in Tanganyika, Haut Lomami and South Kivu. Preliminary assessments shows that at least 471,000 people have been affected.
- Epidemics:** The World Health Organization has highlighted the worsening health crisis in the DRC exacerbated by

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

² As per OCHA's displacement site assessment, [March 2024](#)

violence, climate shocks, poverty, and malnutrition. Specifically, WHO has flagged that the DRC is facing the worst outbreaks of cholera (since 2017), measles (since 2019) and an emerging outbreak of mpox (formerly known as Monkeypox). More than two-thirds of the cases of the latter are being reported in children.

WFP Response

- Under the revised Country Strategic Plan 2021-2024, WFP is targeting **7.1 million people** with food, nutrition, and resilience support in 2024, though targets will be revised in line with the fast-changing situation.

Food and Nutrition Assistance (March 2024)

- **Overview:** In March, WFP had assisted **1.5 million unique beneficiaries across the country, of whom 58 percent are women and girls, across all activities.** WFP provided 1.3 million people with cash-based transfers (CBT) and in-kind transfers for general food assistance, and 57,000 with malnutrition treatment and prevention supplies. Furthermore, another 155,000 people were supported through resilience building interventions specifically school feeding and asset creation. Due to operational challenges, WFP did not fully roll-out of activities to address malnutrition treatment and prevention. Additionally, WFP faced major security challenges in operations due to active fighting and clashes between the M23 and FARDC in the three eastern provinces affecting access for humanitarian actors including WFP.
- **North Kivu:** WFP reached **778,000 people** with in-kind assistance, cash and malnutrition treatment and prevention supplies. In and around Goma, M23 continued to gain control of key positions forcing people to flee to other IDP camps for safety. SCOPE registration of new IDPs was completed at the Bulengo and Lushagala sites. The 8,789 households registered benefited from distributions of high-energy biscuits (HEBs).
- **Ituri:** WFP assisted **237,000 people** with food assistance, cash, and malnutrition treatment. The persistent activities of CODECO in Ituri pose an ongoing threat to operations, with negative implications for the delivery of assistance. The attack on a truck carrying WFP commodities affected distributions in the month.
- **South Kivu:** WFP reached **187,000 people** with food assistance, cash, and malnutrition treatment commodities. The collapse of the Kabamba bridge in the Kalehe territory affected the progress of distributions. Deliveries in Kalehe were disrupted for five days, resulting in food stock-outs at distribution points, prompting WFP to lake transport as an alternative. Meanwhile, another bridge (Bukavu - Uvira) collapsed over the weekend. As no diversion was possible, progress of distributions was slow.
- **Other provinces (Kasai, Kasai Central and Oriental, and Tanganyika):** WFP reached nearly 349,000 people with emergency food, cash, and nutrition activities. Of these, 52,000 were beneficiaries of programmes in North Ubangi

which included refugees from the Central African Republic. Meanwhile, some 113,000 people in Tanganyika, and 179,000 people in the Kasais were reached by WFP operations including emergency food assistance, commodities for treatment and prevention of malnutrition, school feeding and livelihoods building interventions.

Supply Chain

- **Procurement:** WFP continued to procure commodities locally (as the situation allowed) 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. Over the reporting period, WFP received the final batch of milled wheat flour from Kenya and Tanzania as part of the grain allocation (54,000 mt) from the United States.
- **Challenges:** A collapsed bridge in South Kivu hampered road access for operations between Bukavu and Uvira and WFP was prompted to use lake transport to deliver assistance. The bridge has since been repaired and operations along this route have been resumed.

Clusters and Common Services Logistics Cluster

- **Information Management and Geographical Information Systems:** The Logistics Cluster shared updates of documents and operational maps on the dedicated [portal](#). The Logistics Cluster monitors and shares physical access alerts via: drc-logs@logcluster.org.
- The logistics cluster is also working on the process of launching the Log:ie platform aiming to provide information on logistics services in country to facilitate decision-making and implementation in an emergency with support and management by the Global Logistics Cluster.

Food Security Cluster (FSC)

- The [Global Report on Food Crises 2023](#) highlights DRC among the major protracted food crises having been classified as a major food crisis in all eight editions of the analysis.
- The report highlights that conflict will likely continue to limit income-earning opportunities and agricultural production despite the favourable rainfall in eastern DRC. It is also expected that the renewed fighting will continue to drive displacement with negative ramifications on food security.
- Forcibly displaced populations face specific vulnerabilities relating to food insecurity including limited access to employment, livelihoods, food and shelter, and reliance on dwindling humanitarian assistance. The current Humanitarian Response Plan 2024 is only 29 percent funded and has reached only 2.6 million people. Food assistance remains critical for conflict-affected and displaced populations to avoid catastrophic levels of food insecurity.

UN Humanitarian Air Service (UNHAS)

- **Operational Overview:** In April, UNHAS regular and special flights transported **3,773 passengers** and **71.95 mt** of essential light cargo.
- **Medical Evacuations:** UNHAS facilitated 16 medical evacuations out of Bunia, Djangi, Gbadolite, Kalole, Kalemie, Kindu, Nyunzu and Walikale. Another ten special flights were conducted on full cost recovery basis to serve specific needs from different organizations.
- **Flight disruptions:** A total of 153 bookings were not served due to the lack of fuel availability in the Kasais region, and another 113 bookings due to bad weather. After more than four months of fuel shortages in Kananga that affected UNHAS flights, a new stock of JET A-1 fuel arrived in Kananga by train on 3 April. However, it was not until 16 April that UNHAS was able to resume flights in the Kasais due to administrative delays on the part of the fuel supplier.
- As of 1 April, UNHAS resumed helicopter flights to Bukavu (Kavumu airport) and South Kivu after a disruption due to insecurity. Despite ongoing security risks, UNHAS has implemented effective mitigation measures to ensure and enhance flight safety in South Kivu, in close collaboration with aviation partners.
- In light of the fuel availability and other changes, UNHAS has updated its weekly flight schedule accordingly to better serve its clients operating in DRC. All UNHAS bookings can be made on the [Humanitarian booking hub embedded in the link](#).
- UNHAS is running low on resources and urgently requires USD 21.4 million to continue providing services to the humanitarian community in DRC.

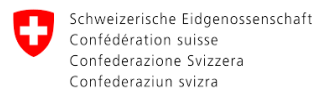
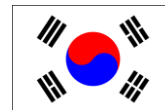
Communications, Advocacy and Marketing

- **Press Release:** WFP published a [statement](#) on the escalating conflict and its implications on displacement and food insecurity in the eastern provinces of DRC.
- WFP announced Congolese artist **InnossB** as its high-level supporter in DRC in a [statement](#).
- WFP published a [statement](#) to announce support from the Government of Japan towards emergency food and nutrition assistance to internally displaced people in eastern DRC.
- **Media Coverage:** During her visit to the country, Executive Director Ms Cindy McCain had an [interview](#) with NPR to shed light on the increasing crisis in the DRC.
- **Social Media:** WFP hosted the Ministers of Rural Development and Fisheries on a visit to the rapid rural transformation to

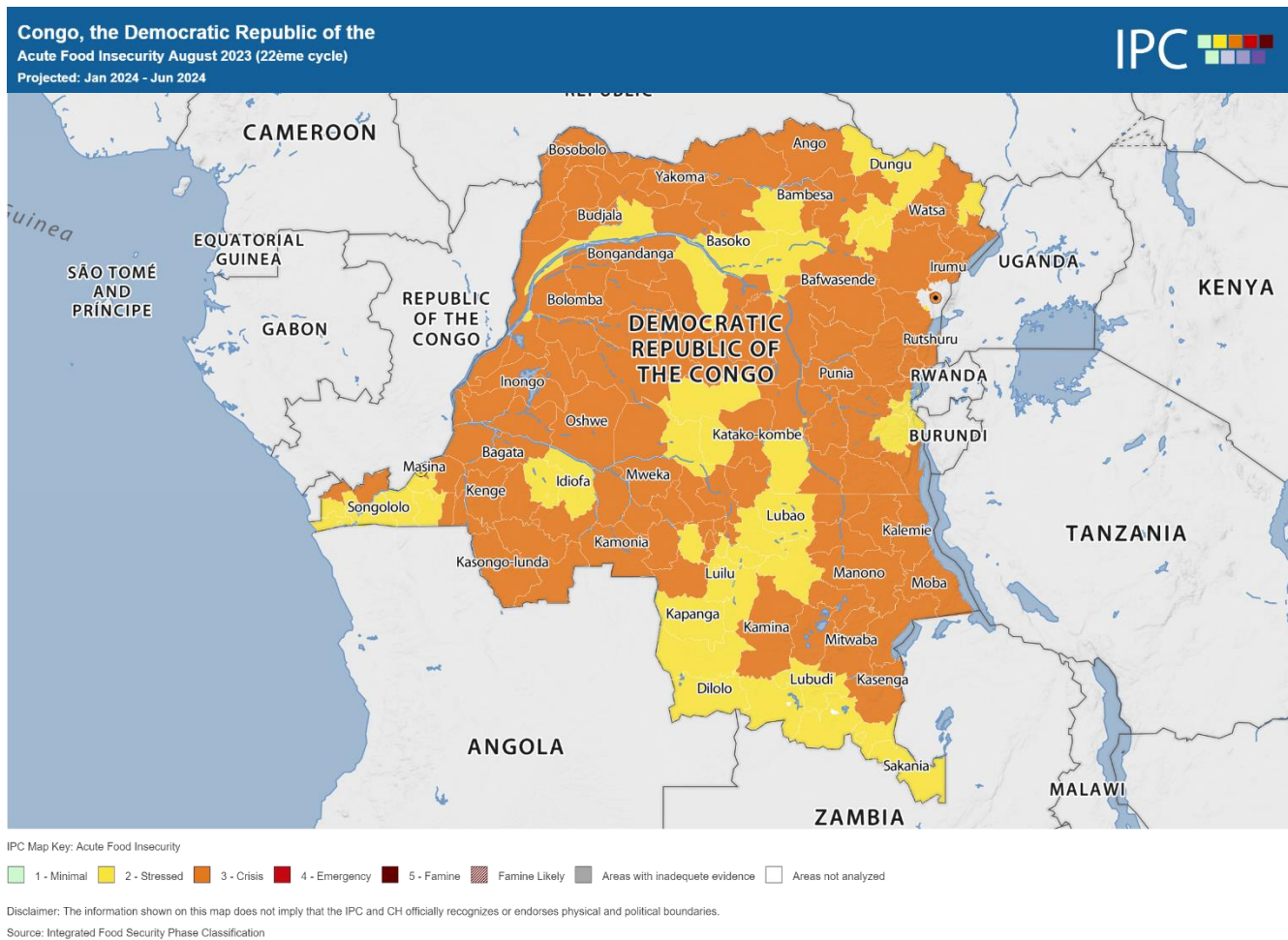
witness how WFP is working to support local farmers in DRC to build sustainable livelihoods.

- WFP published social media assets on DRC operations in line with global observances including World Innovation Day and Earth Day.
- **Publications:** For Women’s Day, WFP published an Op-Ed with the Minister of Gender and Her Royal Highness Sarah Zeid’s visit to the Democratic Republic of Congo. Read the article at the [embedded link](#).

Thanks to our Donors:



Integrated Food Security Phase Classification Map of DRC: Projection for January to June 2024



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