



WFP D. R. Congo External Situation Report #25

8 June 2021

In Numbers

27.3 m highly food-insecure people

26 provinces affected

5.2 m people displaced

3.9 m beneficiaries reached since the beginning of 2021

Highlights in May 2021

- On 22 May, volcano Nyiragongo erupted north of the city of Goma, resulting in **32** deaths and hundreds of thousands of displacements. WFP reacted quickly to support over **140,000** beneficiaries in two weeks.
- On 31 May, an estimated **57** people were massacred in Boga and Tchabi, in Irumu territory, Ituri province. Many of the victims were people already displaced by violence and living in a camp.

Total funding requirements in 2021

USD 662.5 m

WFP 6-months Net Funding Requirements (June – November 2021)

In-kind Food Assistance **USD 45.2 m**

Cash Food Assistance **USD 62.5 m**

Nutrition **USD 10.5 m**

Other activities **USD 9.7 m**

Total USD 127.9 m

Situation Update

- **Volcano Nyiragongo's eruption:** on 22 May, Volcano Nyiragongo, situated in the north of the city of Goma, erupted, causing 32 deaths. Given the possibility of new catastrophes, authorities ordered Goma's partial evacuation, resulting in over **400,000** people leaving their homes.
- The humanitarian community had to act quickly to respond to the event. WFP refined its contingency plan around a projected worst-case scenario. Following two joint WFP-UNICEF assessments, WFP's current response (the first phase of which started on 30 May) assists affected populations in three identified axes. WFP and partners targeted assistance at the end of the reported period to **40,000** people in Sake, **65,000** people in Minova, **40,000** people in

Rutshuru and **400** unaccompanied children and their host families (totaling **145,400** people for 10 days).

- After the initial food assistance, WFP is planning a second phase in coordination with the SAFer consortium of NGOs, in particular with Mercy Corps, to assess the food assistance needs and the impact of the crisis on the host families covering the zones from Kalehe to Rutshuru.
- Since 29 May to the end of the reporting period, there has been a decrease in seismic activity, and the Governor has requested the gradual return of the displaced populations to Goma.
- WFP quickly evacuated over **400** staff and their dependents, from Goma to Bukavu and other cities. Several WFP staff were also deployed to support the regions affected, including WFP's Country Director Peter Musoko and two staff counsellors to provide comfort to the affected individuals. UNHAS adjusted its flight plans and schedule to accommodate the temporary closure of airports in the region.
- **Civilian massacre in Ituri:** on 31 May, an estimated **57** people were massacred in Boga and Tchabi, in Irumu territory, Ituri province. Many of the victims were people already displaced by violence and living in a camp. Attacks on IDP camps are commonplace in Ituri. The authorities blamed the attack on the Allied Defence Forces (ADF), a mysterious and brutal group that originated across the border in Uganda; an official report will be produced on the attack. The massacre occurs after Ituri and North Kivu, two of the provinces hardest hit by violence, were placed under military rule effective 6 May. Nevertheless, a stronger military presence in the region was not enough to deter the assailants.
- On 28 May, also in Ituri, militia attacked the base camp of an international NGO in Drodoro, a village that has been target of multiple massacres and

attacks over the past two decades. Staff are safe but the health project has been suspended.

- **COVID-19 third wave in the DRC:** on 3 June, the Ministry of Health announced DRC is facing a third wave of COVID-19. The announcement came after over four weeks of increasing cases, deaths, and saturation of existing health facilities. The Ministry also confirmed that there is also an increase of Indian, Brazilian, South African, and British variants recorded on Congolese soil. The government concluded by requesting citizens to abide to the COVID-19 preventive measures, such as social distancing and wearing masks correctly. Both the national and UN vaccination campaigns are ongoing. At the end of May, the total number of confirmed COVID-19 cases in the Democratic Republic of Congo was over **30,000**, with some **800** deaths. The main province affected was Kinshasa with over **20,000** cases.
- **COVID-19 vaccination campaigns:** as of 3 June, **26,658** people had been vaccinated in the DRC with the first dose of the Vaxzevria vaccine (i.e., Astra Zeneca). The vaccination campaign started on 19 April. The UN vaccination campaign, running in parallel, had already vaccinated another **5,620** staff as of 3 June.
- **EFSA implementation:** the March 2021 IPC estimated that **27.3 m** people in DRC are acutely food insecure, thus making the DRC the country with the highest rate of food insecurity in the world. To prepare for the next IPC workshop scheduled for mid-July, WFP has launched the data collection process through the implementation of the emergency food security assessments (EFSAs) throughout the country. The data collected through EFSAs will feed the IPC analysis to update the food insecurity mapping and figures by July/August 2021.

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:** in 2021, WFP has already reached **3.9 m** people with either in-kind, cash, or Nutrition food assistance. Throughout May alone, WFP has reached **over 1 m** beneficiaries in the DRC; it represents the highest monthly achievement of 2021 so far. It is impressive given the challenging context faced in May that impacted distributions, such as: poor road accessibility; rainy weather; partners' shortage of cash in some provinces; insecurity, and the recent volcano eruption.
- **General food distribution:** WFP reached some **510,000** beneficiaries in May. In South Kivu, during the second half of May, WFP and partner World Vision distributed **272 MT** of food to some **16,500** displaced beneficiaries, returnees, and

host families in Mboko and Kaboke (Fizi territory). Meanwhile, in the Kasai region, WFP assisted **30,300** beneficiaries with **142 MT** of food.

- **Cash assistance:** WFP reached **258,000** beneficiaries in May. In Ituri, unconditional cash distribution started on 22 May targeting **36,000** beneficiaries in Aumba and Djalasinga (Mahagi territory) and was completed during the first week of June. Additionally, the month registered the highest absolute figure achieved in one single month thus far in 2021, primarily due to the implementation of a CBT programme in North Kivu's Butembo area.
- **N'sele project:** a mobile money double distribution through partner VODACOM was completed for **12,500** households. Direct cash distributions through partner TMB have also taken place. WFP together with UNICEF will start project phase two in June, where the most vulnerable beneficiary households targeted from phase one will receive additional assistance for six months. A multi donor field visit is being organized in late June to secure funding for a scale up.
- **Assistance to CAR refugees:** during the second half of May, the WFP office in Gbadolite distributed cash assistance to some **6,500** refugees (approximately 2,000 households) in Yakoma and another **6,700** refugees (app. 1,900 households) benefitted from High Energy Biscuits and cash assistance in Limassa and Gomba villages.
- Cumulatively, in 2021, WFP has supported **148,000** camp-based refugees from CAR, South Sudan, and Burundi with cash assistance. Since December 2020, it is estimated **92,000** people arrived in the northern DRC provinces according to Government data.
- **Nutrition:** during May, WFP reached some **176,000** beneficiaries with malnutrition treatment activities and another **90,000** with prevention activities. Food availability remains a challenge in the Kasais especially commodities for the treatment of Moderate Acute Malnutrition.

Supply Chain

- **Nyiragongo volcano response:** WFP diverted **1,339 MT** of various food commodities supplied from Dar es Salaam (Tanzania) to Bukavu. The intention is to build a contingency stock in the event Goma's warehouses become inaccessible, which happened temporarily in late May.
- **Pointe Noire corridor in the Republic of Congo activated:** WFP inaugurated a new corridor via Brazzaville, which is now operational. The first containers of oil and Maize Meal have reached Kinshasa dry port in May.
- **Food Safety and Quality mission completed:** A WFP Headquarters led food safety and quality mission concluded its work in DRC late May. The recommendations will guide WFP's efforts to identify new capable suppliers and build the capacity of existing suppliers in accordance with WFP's global food safety and quality standards.

Communications

- Communication teams from DRC, WFP's Southern Africa Regional Bureau in Johannesburg, and WFP's Headquarters in Rome have published several tweets and videos covering the Nyiragongo volcano eruption:

<https://twitter.com/WFPDRC/status/1400827086768594946?s=20>

<https://twitter.com/WFPDRC/status/1401100706665451522?s=20>

<https://twitter.com/WFPDRC/status/1400807958263521285?s=20>

- Please click below to see some media coverage of WFP operation response to Goma volcano eruption crisis:

[Zawya.com](#)

[Socialnews.xyz](#)

[Nnn.ng](#)

[Archyde.com](#)

[Voanews.com](#)

[Xinhuanet.com](#)

[Ewn.co.za](#)

- Video footage by Al Jazeera in Sake:

<https://youtu.be/o-Ec1fnxPA4>

- Radio interview with South African Channel Africa:

<https://iono.fm/e/1050330>

Clusters and Common Services



Food Security Cluster (FSC)

- From the onset of the volcano Nyiragongo crisis, the Food Security Cluster has been working with the national coordination structures to ensure there is a common approach to needs assessments and to a coordinated response strategy. Activities are focused on, amongst others, market price monitoring and surveillance systems to profile the displaced and support food security actors to avoid a duplication of assistance.



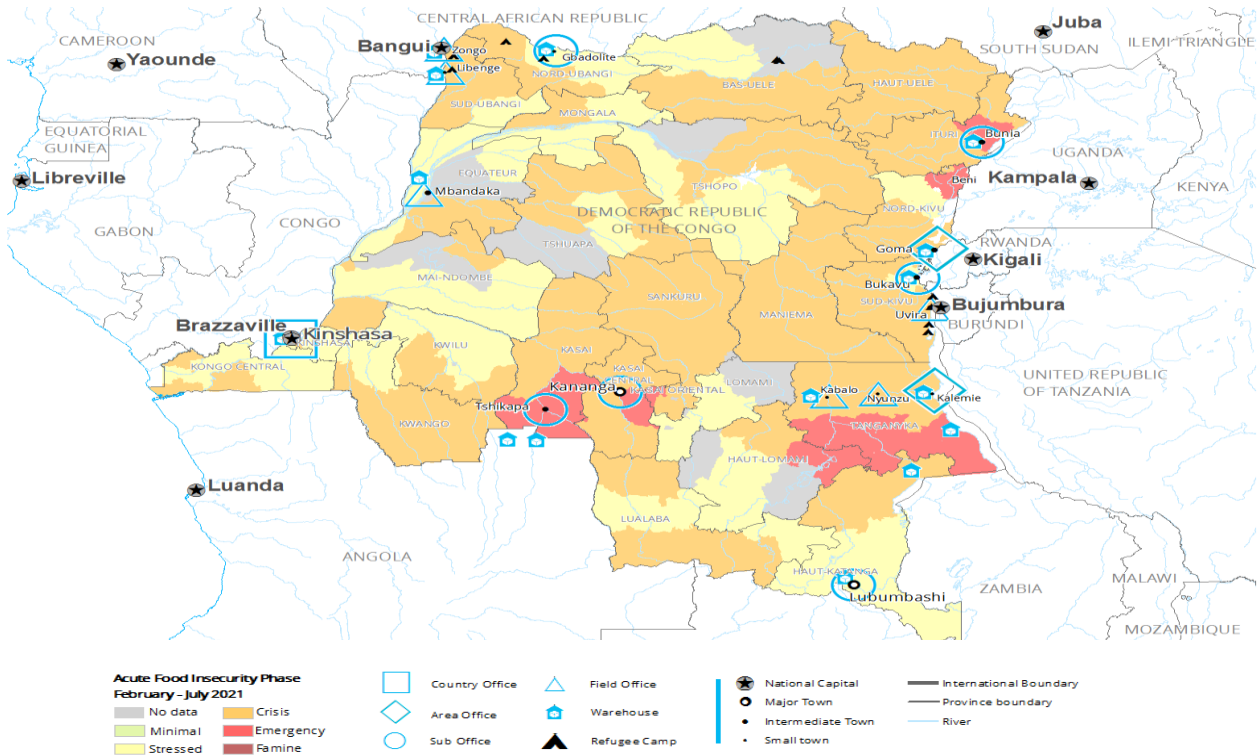
Logistics Cluster

- The Logistics Cluster produces regular information management products, aiming to provide the humanitarian community with timely and accurate information to support operational decision-making. The latest products, including maps, advocacies and alerts on physical access constraints and air routes can be viewed and downloaded [here](#).
- The Logistics Cluster has been constantly updating maps to support the coordination, preparedness, and response operation to the volcano Nyiragongo crisis using the dedicated [DRC LogCluster website](#). It ensures partners get daily updates on logistics constraints, road access, etc.
- The Logistics Cluster requires **USD 1.2 million** in the next 12 months to provide logistics services to the wider humanitarian community, including the scaled-up response in support of the current volcano response.



UN Humanitarian Air Service

- **Regular and special flights:** A total of **3,435** passengers and **78.15** tons of essential light cargo were transported through UNHAS' regular and special flights in DRC during the month of May. Another **503** passengers and **15.84 MT** of cargo were transported through the ECHO Flight project, managed by UNHAS.
- **Aviation Safety event:** the first Aviation Safety Campaign in DRC was held on 25 May, organized by WFP and with the support from the DRC Civil Aviation Authorities. The event is part of the efforts done by WFP aviation in sharing learning and knowledge exchange with downstream partners, increase partnerships' effectiveness and build long-term trust between WFP Aviation and its partners.



Special thanks to our donors in 2020 - 2021 (listed alphabetically)



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