WORLD FOOD PROGRAMME 2010 ANNUAL REPORT

DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO

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PREFACE

Message from the Representative

The World Food Programme marked 2009 by adapting its activities to a humanitarian situation in constant flux across the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC). The return of many internally displaced people (IDPs) in eastern Congo led to a sharp rise in the numbers of people receiving WFP food assistance from 2.6 million in 2008 to more than 4.2 million last year.

Despite major logistical challenges, WFP continued its emergency operation (EMOP) in the Haut-Uele district of northeastern Orientale province, launched in May 2009 to help people displaced by the brutalities of the Lord's Resistance Army Ugandan rebel group.

In December, WFP also increased food distribution in the Dongo region of Equateur province to help people displaced by inter-ethnic violence.

Leading Cluster Logistics for the humanitarian community, WFP managed the Inter-Agency Logistics Services (ILS), allowing non-governmental organizations (NGOs), United Nations agencies and the World Bank to transport food and non-food items across the country.

Moreover, since resuming operations in May 2009, the WFP-run UN Humanitarian Air Service (UNHAS) has flown humanitarian workers and donors to some of the country's most critically affected regions.

Finally, 2009 marked the official launch of DRC's first-ever Purchase for Progress (P4P) project. Introduced in Kabolo, in Katanga province, with the collaboration of the UN Food and Agricultural Organization and the Belgian government, P4P aims to help small farmers more easily access markets to sell their produce. Already launched in a number of other countries, P4P improves the lives of the most vulnerable while also developing the local economy. In 2010, WFP aims to expand this programme to other parts of the country.

Abdou Dieng WFP Representative in DRC

WFP PRESENCE IN DR-CONGO – MAP

WFP OPERATIONS IN EASTERN DRC

SAVING LIVES AND HELPING RETURNEES RESETTLE

While military operations against rebel movements have eliminated some pockets of resistance in DRC's North Kivu province -- notably targeting the Rwandan Hutu Democratic Forces for the Liberation of Rwanda (FDLR) rebel group and Mai-Mai militia -- they have also sparked massive displacements of people in the zones of Walikali, Lubero and Masisi to areas considered more stable.

The UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) estimates a peak of more than 1.1 million people (July, 20019) were internally displaced in North Kivu province last year.

Meanwhile, a joint offensive by the DRC's armed forces (FARDC) and Rwandan troops drove FDLR rebels deep into the forests of South Kivu province. Faced with a fresh outbreak of FDLR attacks on the population, the DRC army -- with logistical support from the UN's MONUC peacekeeping force -- launched a second military operation code-named KIMIA II. As with the previous operation in North Kivu, this joint operation sparked massive population displacement.

Altogether, more than 595,200 people were internally displaced in South Kivu province during 2009, OCHA reported.

Going home

South Kivu

By October and November, however, displaced people began returning to their homes in the South Kivu region around Uvira and in central Mwenga territory. More than half of those displaced by the unrest have since returned to their home areas.

North Kivu

But the most significant movements of returnees in 2009 were registered in North Kivu. Following the January arrest of Laurent Nkunda, leader of the Rwandan Tutsi National Congress for the Defence of the People (CNDP) rebel group, and the official integration of the CNDP into the regular army, a certain stability returned to the once rebel-occupied zones. By March, IDPs living with families began going home, followed by those living in IDP camps around North Kivu's provincial capital Goma.

From July until the end of September a flood of IDPs headed home from the Goma area camps – with support from WFP, the UN Food and Agricultural Organization (FAO) and the UN refugee agency (UNHCR). Altogether, some 60,000 people left those camps. They were given return packages of food, non-food items, farming tools and seeds. Those IDPs who did not want to return were relocated to the only remaining camp in the Goma area, Mugunga 3.

WFP in the east: the story in numbers

Altogether, WFP distributed 39,200 metric tons of food to 783,900 IDPs in North Kivu and 10,300 tons to 378,900 IDPs in South Kivu. Another 19,300 tons were distributed to 335,900 returnees in North Kivu.

In a drive to improve the nutritional status of children under five, along with pregnant and nursing women, WFP also delivered food assistance to nearly 230 nutrition centres in the two Kivus and Maniema provinces, the majority located in North Kivu.

Altogether, WFP reached nearly 230 nutrition centres in the area (142 in North Kivu, 54 in South Kivu and 33 in Maniema). More than 101,000 children and nearly 5,700 women in the three provinces benefitted from this special food assistance, which amounted to more than 3,300 tons.

Food for Work

Armed conflict not only displaces local people but also destroys community assets. And poor families hosting displaced people often share already scarce food supplies to feed their guests. WFP's Food for Work programme aims to help families hosting displaced people through activities such as rehabilitating roads or building community granaries.

More than 24,000 people participated in a Food for Work programme in North Kivu last year, rehabilitating 62 kilometres of roads and preparing 13 hectares of land for agricultural use. They received 545 tons of WFP food assistance.

Demobilization and ex-child soldiers

The protracted conflict in eastern DRC has produced one particularly bitter consequence: child soldiers, forcibly recruited by the various armed groups operating in the region. With demobilization operations, these children have been sent to transit centres to help them better deal with their trauma before returning to their families. During their time in these centres, WFP offers demobilized children a daily ration to help improve their diet and school performance.

HIV/AIDS

WFP also delivered nearly 2,300 tons of food in 2009 to more than 72,500 people living with HIV/AIDS in North and South Kivu and Maniema provinces, where prevalence rates are more than five percent, four percent and 4.2 percent respectively.

WFP's assistance programme targets people infected or affected by HIV/AIDS, including those receiving antiretroviral (AVR) treatment in an appropriate medical facility, nursing mothers (under the Prevention of Mother-to-Child Transmission (PTME) programme) and those who are hospitalized.

Logistics

WFP remains the agency leader for the logistics cluster. In eastern DRC, WFP coordinates and manages the Inter-Agency Logistics Services (ILS) for the humanitarian community, seeking the most appropriate and least costly transportation options possible.

Thanks to the ILS, some 13,000 tons of non-food items were transported in 2009 on behalf of 50 organizations, including non-governmental groups and UN agencies. More than a dozen users also benefitted from WFP's warehousing services via the ILS.

Partnerships

WFP works in partnership with 47 national and international NGOs to carry out its programmes in DRC. WFP's work is also complemented by activities of other UN agencies, such as the FAO, UNHCR, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF).

FOOD TRANSPORTATION

WFP'S LOGISTICAL MACHINE

Beyond traditional activities of moving food to where it is needed, WFP's logistical unit has also offered critical support to the humanitarian community as it responds to various crises in the country. Our work in the Haut-Uele district of DRC's northeastern Orientale province is one example.

Starting in early 2009, we organized four convoys to transport WFP food, along with non-food items from other humanitarian organizations, between Beni, in North Kivu, and Dungu, the main town in Haut-Uele. These convoys played a key role when it came to responding the crisis in Haut Uele, where attacks by the Ugandan Lord's Resistance Army (LRA) rebel group displaced tens of thousands of people.

After torrential rains rendered roads impassable, WFP was forced to air drop food, principally in Dungu (see next section) using Ugandan-based Antonov aircraft. WFP also organized airlifts to transport equipment from various UN agencies and NGOs to Dungu through the ILS.

WFP also transported humanitarian aid to Haut-Uele via road. Following negotiations between WFP and the government of South Sudan, a new, 1,000-kilometre corridor was opened in 2009 stretching between Kampala and Dungu via South Sudan. To boost delivery capacity, the Swedish Civil Contingencies Agency (MSB) in October also put at WFP's disposal 20 trucks based in the Congolese town of Aru near the Ugandan border.

Elsewhere in the country, WFP's logistical service taps various forms of transportation – from commercial trucking companies to pontoons or boats -- to ensure food and non-food items are delivered.

Overall, WFP via the ILS delivered a total of 13,000 tons of food and non-food items on behalf of the humanitarian community in 2009. Items transported included some 4,000 books for a World Bank project, 4,500 insecticide-treated mosquito nets and non-military equipment for MONUC (the UN mission in DRC, now called MONUSCO).

WFP is also partnering with the NGO Caritas in establishing a river service to deliver items to remote areas along the Congo River which are inaccessible by road. A first barge is up and running and two more are being built.

UNITED NATIONS HUMANITARIAN AIR SERVICE (UNHAS)

Covering more than 30 destinations in DRC, the WFP-managed UNHAS flew some 7,600 national and international humanitarian workers across the country, offering them access to the country's most vulnerable people. A third aircraft was added to the fleet in 2009.

FOOD DROPS IN HAUT-UELE

Following intensified attacks against the civilian population by LRA rebels in DRC's northeastern Haut-Uele district, WFP began air dropping food in 2009 to reach vulnerable, displaced people located in areas impossible to access by road or river.

Between May and December 2009, WFP delivered some 3,000 tons of food assistance to 88,000 vulnerable people via air. The deliveries took two forms: airlifts, in which planes land to deliver the food, and air drops, in which food is dropped from the airborne craft to a specific, secured location.

MONUC soldiers patrolled the site to ensure nobody entered the zone during the drops. WFP trucks delivered the bags to warehouses for storage and eventual delivery to vulnerable populations.

As the rainy season transformed cratered roads into muddy rivers, an "air bridge" was established to transfer WFP food supplies based in Uganda to Dungu. WFP also airdropped food in Niangara, also in Haut-Uele, along with Dingila, a village in the neighbouring Bas-Uele district that has also faced LRA attacks.

Overall, WFP overcame formidable obstacles – including threats of LRA attacks, lack of fuel, pipeline breaks and security problems -- to help the neediest in some of the country's most difficult-to-reach areas.

WFP used every means to reach vulnerable people in Haut-Uele and meet the main goals of any emergency operation – to save lives and to protect the means of subsistence of displaced people and their host families.

HOW WFP TARGETS ITS INTERVENTIONS

THE IMPORTANCE OF VULNERABILITY ASSESSMENTS

To best target food assistance, a special WFP team (the Vulnerability Analysis and Mapping unit, or VAM) regularly goes to areas where displaced people are found. In 2009, the unit conducted analyses in the DRC's Haut-Uele district, the North Kivu territories of Rutshuru, Masisi and Walikale, as well as Kalehe, Uvira/Ruzizi plain and Walungu/Untukulu, in South Kivu province.

These evaluations have found that the majority of IDPs scrape by on subsistence farming and raising a few livestock. The studies also show that most displaced have no food stocks or other goods to sell to acquire food. Many seek work in the fields of the host population as one way to survive.

Moreover, the diets of IDPs are limited both in quantity and variety. Poverty forces many to limit their consumption to one meal a day and eat foods that are not part of their regular diet, or not favoured under regular circumstances.

Food looms large in the lives of many of these displaced – more than half devote their meagre resources to buying it, the analyses showed. Such indications often signal fairly high vulnerability to food insecurity and require emergency food assistance to shore up nutrition levels among IDPs and to save lives.

Monitoring food security

The stability that returned to certain regions of eastern DRC in 2009 allowed the VAM unit to conduct Emergency Food Security Assessments (EFSA) in the two Kivus as well as Orientale provinces. These assessments allowed WFP to better understand the socioeconomic conditions of the displaced and host families – and thus adapt the most appropriate responses to the evolving circumstances.

Results from the studies indicated that IDPs are generally at their most destitute during the first three months of their displacement. After six months, many develop certain coping strategies, allowing them to satisfy some of their food needs.

WFP also established a Food Security Monitoring System (FSMS) along with a Community Household Surveillance program (CHS) in DRC's southern Katanga province, in collaboration with the National Statistical Institute (INS). Conducted twice yearly (during harvest and planting seasons), the FSMS-CHS studies offer a way to track household food security and the impact of WFP's food assistance. They showed that despite seasonal changes, the food situation of target populations had generally improved.

The Coping Strategies Index (CSI) – which measures the frequency and severity of actions taken by households in response to the presence or threat of food supply shortfalls – generally diminished during the last FSMS, compared to previous ones. Nonetheless, a number of households continued to register inadequate levels of food consumption and thus needed continued surveillance.

Meanwhile, another study to assess the feasibility of a "cash-and-voucher" programme was realized through market analysis in the urban areas of North Kivu, in eastern DRC. The conclusions indicated that despite ongoing insecurity, the conditions existed to establish such a programme.

In addition, VAM established a system to track food prices in urban areas – collecting price information twice monthly on staple foods in the capital Kinshasa, along with Mbandaka in the west, and the eastern cities of Bunia, Goma, Bukavu, Uvira, Kalemi and Lumbubashi.

In addition, VAM's monitoring unit collaborates with other organizations that collect/analyze food prices including FAO, the Ministry of Agriculture, the INS, and the US and British embassies.

Worrying malnutrition levels

With financial and technical support from WFP and UNICEF, the Ministry of Health's National Nutrition Programme, or PRONANUT, conducted territory-wide nutrition surveys in the provinces of Equateur (in the west) along with Kasai-Occidental, Kasai Oriental (centre) and Katanga (southeast – *see next section*). Those surveys found high rates for global acute malnutrition and retrospective mortality (past mortality rates) in several provincial territories.

Results from WFP-supported nutritional surveys by the Italian NGO COOPI also found high rates for global malnutrition and retrospective mortality in several territories of east-central Maniema province.

VAM, in collaboration with UNICEF, plans to put in place a nutritional surveillance system and an FSMS in these provinces to track the evolution of the nutritional and food security situation.

To reinforce the government's capacity in collecting and analyzing food security data, VAM held a training workshop on how to analyze baseline and statistical data attended by two INS employees. VAM also organized training on how to use a Personal Digital Assistant or PDA – a handheld computer with software developed by WFP to collect data in food security assessments. Employees from DRC's ministries of agriculture, health and planning participated in the training.

The VAM unit also produces administrative and thematic maps so WFP staff and other partners can best target their interventions.

HIGHLIGHTING NUTRITION

Infant-juvenile and maternal mortality levels in DRC are among the world's highest. One in five children will never reach the age of five. Out of every 1,000 women giving birth, 13 die. And the situation has only worsened in recent years.

DRC's ranking on Global Hunger Index of the International Food Policy Research Institute declined 50 percent between 1990-2009, with rates of child malnutrition and mortality characterized as "extremely alarming." Nationally, the prevalence of acute malnutrition is 13.1 percent – and reaches over 15 percent in some parts of the Kasais, Katanga, Maniema and Equateur provinces.

Strikingly, the prevalence of acute malnutrition is higher in more stable regions of the country than in conflict zones. The deterioration of the nutritional status and health of the population living in these regions is one visible sign of the international financial crisis and the decline of the country's formal and informal mining sector.

Nationally, retarded growth and underweight prevalence rates go beyond 40 percent and 30 percent, respectively, according to DRC's 2007 Demographic and Health Survey (EDS). A separate UNICEF survey, partly financed by WFP, is being finalized and will shed greater light on the degree of malnutrition in the country.

One thing is clear: malnutrition thwarts the physical and cognitive growth of children under five years of age – and therefore casts a shadow on the country's next generation.

Micronutrient deficiency

According to WFP's 2008 food security and nutritional study, food consumption among 40 percent of the households studied was insufficient both in quality and quantity and lacked diversity. These dietary habits lead to micronutrient deficiency among children under five and women of child-bearing age. Indeed, 80 percent of children under five years of age and women suffer from anaemia.

WFP and UNICEF are working closely with the DRC government to improve food assistance to help reduce malnutrition levels among the country's most vulnerable. WFP and its partners are also developing an innovative maternal and child nutrition programme, based on findings from REACH (a global partnership aimed at meeting nutritional needs of children and women) and the Lancet medical journal.

WFP is also exploring the possibility of introducing new, fortified items to its food basket to better reinforce the efficacy of these programmes in preventing malnutrition.

More broadly, WFP strongly supports the DRC's health ministry's PRONANUT programme in producing strategic documents on ways to tackle acute malnutrition, along with fortifying diets and helping improve the nutritional status of people living with HIV/AIDs.

Rediscovering agricultural traditions and improving diets in Katanga province

LIKASI, DRC – Dozens of women farm the hills around this mining hub in southeastern Katanga province, where a bold experiment is underway to reintroduce traditional agricultural practices and improve the diets of local residents.

Nelly Bapile is among the participants. Like many others, she has felt the fallout – even thousands of kilometres away – of the world economic downturn that began on Wall Street and other financial capitals.

"My husband was a miner and he earned US\$100 a week," Bapile said. "But the mine closed last year and we became unemployed. My parents were farmers, but we have never had the opportunity to learn."

A jump in malnutrition

The world financial crisis has hard hit DRC's mineral-rich Katanga province. A number of copper mining companies have shut and laid off their employees -- contributing to a sharp jump in malnutrition levels.

Because mining has powered the local economy for decades, many residents like Bapile have lost their links to agriculture and their diet lacks diversity. The effects can be seen at the health centre in the industrial hub of Likasi, to which hundreds of women flock for treatment each year bringing their malnourished children, says nutritionist Hyppolite Logi.

"Often these women return after a few months, because of inadequate diets and deficiencies in protein and vitamins," Logi says.

With WFP's support, local NGO Vipatu has crafted an innovative solution to this problem, targeting families with malnourished children who receive treatment from Likasi health centre.

Back to basics

"We essentially teach them agricultural practices," says Vitapu coordinator Fidel Mwayile.

Once their children have recovered, the families are enrolled in the agricultural programme – which, besides teaching basic farming techniques, emphasizes the

importance of diversifying agricultural production to improve nutrition. The programme also helps families boost their incomes by selling their produce.

For farmer Nelly Bapile, the programme has bolstered the family's income and diet. Thanks to the sales of vegetables she now grows, she can buy fish. And according to Vapitu, children of families enrolled in the project rarely suffer from malnutrition again.

WFP AT SCHOOL

WFP's School Meals programme aims to improve children's chances of completing their primary school studies, while also reducing chronic hunger and possibly improving education levels, nutrition and basic health. In 2009, some 396,000 students from more than 1,100 schools across DRC ate nutritious WFP-provided meals at school.

Offering school meals is among the best ways of targeting food assistance to the vulnerable, including children who are emerging from crises. The programme is also critical in boosting school learning and attendance and cutting dropout rates. WFP's School Meals programmes cover the provinces of North and South Kivu, Maniema, Katanga and Equateur, along with the Ituri district of Orientale province.

WFP has targeted these regions because of their high levels of food insecurity and/or because they are areas where people displaced by the country's various conflicts are returning.

Building community participation

While WFP's school meals primarily target students and their teachers, a reduced family ration is given to the cooks as well to ensure school meals become a community project. WFP builds community participation in other ways as well – by helping schools buy the condiments for the meals, for example, or by installing environmentally-friendly stoves and planting school gardens.

PURCHASE FOR PROGRESS (P4P) IN KATANGA

In 2009, WFP launched its first Purchase for Progress (P4P) programme in DRC, in Kabalo territory of southern Katanga province. Run jointly with the FAO, the programme aims to improve crop production and commercial capabilities of some 4,000 small farmers in the area.

FAO has distributed seeds and offered training to the farmers, which it grouped into 170 farmers' organizations. For its part, WFP offered tents and storage facilities for the harvested maize as well as trucks to transport the crops – amounting to 3,000 tons this season.

WFP's partner organization in the project – Dan Church Aid – supports small merchants in Kabalo with training and micro-credit. WFP is also working to encourage larger scale commercial groups based in nearby towns, notably Lubumbashi, Kalemie and Mbuji-Mayi, to purchase maize produced through the P4P project. WFP will only purchase the crops as a last recourse -- that is if any of the harvest remains unsold at the end of the buying season.

GLOSSARY OF ACRONYMS

AVR - Antiretroviral

CHS - Community Household Surveillance programme

CNDP - National Congress for the Defence of the People (Rwandan Tutsi rebel group)

CSI - Coping Strategies Index

EDS - Demographic and Health Survey

EFSA - Emergency Food Security Assessment

EMOP - Emergency Operation

FARDC - DRC government armed forces

FDLR - Democratic Forces for the Liberation of Rwanda (Rwandan Hutu rebel group)

FSMS - Food Security Monitoring System

IDPs - Internally displaced people

ILS - Inter-Agency Logistics Services

INS - National Statistical Institute (Congolese government)

LRA - Lord's Resistance Army (Ugandan rebel group)

MSB - Swedish Civil Contingencies Agency

OCHA - United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs

P4P - Purchase for Progress

PRONANUT - DRC Ministry of Health's National Nutrition Department

PTME - Prevention of Mother-to-Child Transmission

UNHAS - UN Humanitarian Air Service

VAM - Vulnerability Analysis and Mapping

WFP IN NUMBERS

KEY DRC STATISTICS FOR 2009

I. SUPPORT FROM DONORS

IPSR Project 106080

Donors	USD
Belgium	6,394,558
Brazil	35,000
Canada	9,765,399
European Commission	11,857,708
Finland	1,453,488
France	1,414,267
Germany	2,113,557
Greece	383,631
Ireland	26,927
Japan	4,000,000
Luxembourg	138,251
Norway	58,094
Private	27,744
Republic of Korea	500,000
Sweden	35,457
Switzerland	1,868,295
Turkey	75,000
United Nations	727,295
United States	69,716,545
Total	110,591,216

EMOP PROJECT 108240

USD	
2,435,630	
1,088,435	
134,021	
954,635	
58,782	

Sweden	79,696
United Nations	7,820,146
United States	10,797,000
Total	23,367,001

SO Project 105560

Donors	USD	
Belgium	680,272	
Ireland	65,751	
Sweden	563,412	
Switzerland	155,436	
United Nations	7,959,285	
Total	9,424,156	

SO Project 107440

Donors	USD	
United Nations	5,567,826	
United States Total	784,083 6,351,909	

II. BENEFICIARIES

a) EMOP

Categories	Planned	Realized
Internally displaced people (IDPs)	162,020	95,656
Total	162,020	95,656

b) PRRO

Categories	Planned	Realized
IDPs	1,025,000	2,455,482
Repatriated (people)	25,000	22,664
Malnourished	1,001,230	1,059,596
Vulnerable	22,400	38,505

School Meals	621,550	396,366
Food for Assets	305,200	156,948
HIV/AIDS	53,722	120,080
Demobilization (EAFGA)	1,500	6,216
Total	3,055,602	4,277,373

III. FOOD

a) PRRO

Foodstuffs	Planned (in metric tons)	Realized (in metric tons)
Cereals	119,860	90,790
Pulses	37,372	27,523
Vegetable oil	9,749	7,868
Corn-soya blend	3,281	2,719
Fortified biscuits	152	6
Sugar	448	366
Iodized salt	2,041	1,333
Total	172,903	130,605

*Note - Cereals: maize grain, maize flour - Pulses: beans, peas, split peas

b) EMOP

Foodstuffs	Planned	Realized
	(in metric ton	s) (in metric tons)
Cereals	8,746	2,801
Pulses	2,624	780
Vegetable oil	693	180
Iodized salt	109	32
Corn-soya blend	366	0
Total	12,538	3,793

IV. COMMUNITY ASSETS

Indicator Rehabilitated bridges	Unit measure Number	Planned 53	Realized 77
Roads rehabilitated (for farming needs)	Kilometre	117	90

Areas cultivated for	Hectare	10	13
seed multiplication			

V. LOGISTICS

Indicator	Unit measure F.F.L.o.A.T component (ILS)	Planned	Realized
Food and non-food items transported monthly	Tons	2,360	2,808
Boats constructed	Number	4	2
Agencies and Organizations using transportation services	Number	35	45
	UNHAS		
Passengers transported monthly	y Number	938	942
Agencies/organizations using UNHAS	Number	100	117
Cargo transported	Tons	75	82