



Standard Project Report 2015

World Food Programme in Congo, Democratic Republic of the (CD)

Emergency Road Infrastructure Repairs in Support of the WFP operations in the Democratic Republic of Congo

Reporting period: 1 January - 31 December 2015

Project Information	
Project Number	200864
Project Category	Single Country Special Operation
Overall Planned Beneficiaries	N/A
Planned Beneficiaries in 2015	N/A
Total Beneficiaries in 2015	N/A

Key Project Dates	
Project Approval Date	August 05, 2015
Planned Start Date	July 01, 2015
Actual Start Date	August 01, 2015
Project End Date	July 31, 2017
Financial Closure Date	N/A

Approved budget in USD	
Food and Related Costs	N/A
Capacity Dev.t and Augmentation	20,325,403
Direct Support Costs	948,164
Cash-Based Transfers and Related Costs	N/A
Indirect Support Costs	1,489,150
Total	22,762,717

Commodities	Metric Tonnes
Planned Commodities in 2015	0
Actual Commodities 2015	0
Total Approved Commodities	N/A

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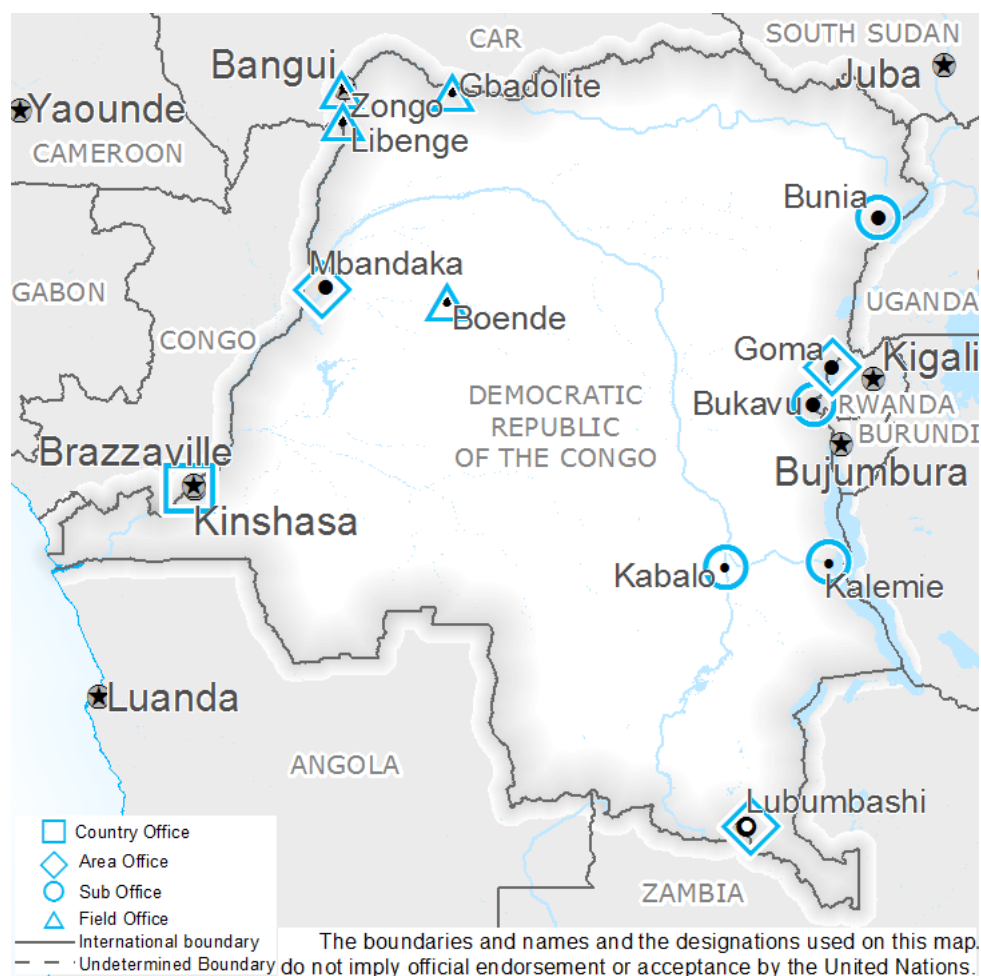
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COUNTRY OVERVIEW



Country Background

The Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) is Africa's second largest country and has a population of nearly 70 million people. Due to its rich and fertile soil, agriculture is the primary rural economic activity. However, the nation has a food production deficit estimated at 30-40 percent. Seventy percent of the population lives below the poverty line and lacks access to adequate food. Although rich in natural resources, including minerals and the world's second largest rainforest, DRC ranks 176th out of 188 countries on the 2015 UNDP Human Development Index and 173rd out of 177 countries on the 2015 Fund for Peace Failed States Index. WFP designated DRC a Level 2 response emergency in December 2013.

In the context of a steady deterioration of the political, economic, social and security situation in the country over the past 25 years, the government has been unable to maintain roads, most of which have fallen into a state of serious disrepair. In the entire province of Tanganyika for example, only 10km of road is paved. The extremely poor conditions of road, bridge, and airstrip infrastructure is identified by the humanitarian community as one of the main obstacles to the effective delivery of relief to vulnerable populations in the country.

Health and nutrition indicators highlight other areas of concern. The national global acute malnutrition (GAM) rate is on average 10.7 percent, with some territories having GAM rates above the emergency threshold of 15 percent. About 43 percent of children under the age of 5 are chronically malnourished (stunted). Life expectancy is 50 years. Some 4.5 million people in DRC are currently in a situation of acute and livelihood crisis in conflict affected Eastern provinces.

A country plagued by decades of conflict, DRC continues to see conflict between the DRC armed forces, supported by the MONUSCO's Force Intervention Brigade (FIB), and between 40 and 70 armed groups who also routinely fight each other. The conflicts are fueling repeated and large scale displacements as well as widespread human rights abuse and exactions. There are currently 1.6 million displaced people in the DRC, including 744,000 IDPs in the province of North Kivu alone, and more than 900,000 former IDPs who are returning to their areas of origins. In addition, close to 496,000 people live outside the country as refugees.

DRC also hosts refugees from neighboring countries. Following an upsurge of violence in the Central African Republic (CAR) in late 2012, DRC saw an influx of refugees in February 2013 and later, mainly to Equateur and Orientale provinces. Currently, DRC is hosting more than 105,000 refugees from CAR alone and around 18,000 refugees from Burundi, following the political unrest in the country in 2015.

The ongoing instability caused by Ugandan Allied Democratic Forces (ADF) in North Kivu, the resurgence of the Lord Resistance Army (LRA) in Ituri, Bas Uele and Haut Uele provinces, and the reluctance of Rwandan Democratic Forces for the Liberation of Rwanda (FDLR) in North and South Kivu provinces to disarm and adhere to the Disarmament, Demobilization, Repatriation, Reintegration and Resettlement process – all continue to have a destabilizing impact, threatening peace and security in the Great Lakes region and beyond.

In all projects, WFP incorporated strategies to support gender equality. Particular attention was placed on mitigation factors to reduce the risk of sexual and gender-based violence, a continuing problem in the country. WFP's operations in DRC contribute to the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) 1 (eradicate extreme poverty and hunger), 2 (achieve universal primary education), 4 (reduce child mortality) and 6 (combat HIV/AIDS, malaria and other diseases). WFP's programmes supporting these MDGs yielded positive results with considerable progress registered particularly on MDGs 2 and 6. DRC is on the track with the other two MDGs (1 and 4), even though much effort still needs to be made to counter the disastrous impact of poverty and lasting conflict on the population.

Summary Of WFP Assistance

WFP's portfolio in DRC in 2015 included a protracted relief and recovery operation (PRRO) 200540, an emergency operation (EMOP) 200799, four special operations (SO) 200661, 200747, 200789 and 200864 and two immediate response operations (IR) 200854 and 200856. Following the closure of PRRO 200167 and EMOP 200480 in June 2013, WFP launched a 30-month (July 2013 to December 2015) PRRO 200540 to continue relief and recovery activities. This PRRO provided life-saving food assistance for internally displaced people, refugees and food insecure vulnerable people in conflict affected areas. This was done through general food distribution, treatment and prevention of acute malnutrition, emergency school feeding and nutritional support to people living with HIV. Recovery activities supported the return of displaced people to their areas of origin essentially through food assistance for assets and school feeding.

Strategically, given the huge humanitarian needs in the DRC and limited resources available, the country office, with HQ and Regional Bureau support, conducted a prioritization exercise in early 2014 which led to a reduced geographical scope for the PRRO in line with WFP's revised priorities in DRC. Informed by consultations with donors, partners and stakeholders, the prioritization focused on addressing the acute needs of conflict affected populations in the eastern part of DRC (including former Katanga, North and South Kivu, and former Orientale Provinces) and of the refugees from Central African Republic (CAR) in former Equateur Province in the West. In addition to the geographical re-focusing, WFP also prioritized its activities to achieve its objectives: relief assistance to IDPs and refugees using the most efficient and effective combination of transfer modalities (cash or vouchers and food distributions); refocused school feeding in emergency and transitional contexts, treatment of moderate acute malnutrition (MAM) in priority areas, prevention of acute malnutrition in areas where Global Acute Malnutrition (GAM) exceeds 15 percent and support to people returning to areas of origin through food assistance for assets intervention.

To address logistical challenges in the provision of humanitarian assistance in DRC, mainly caused by poor infrastructure and lack of access, WFP implemented SOs 200747, 200864 and 200789. Through these operations, WFP provided support to logistics services and also managed the UNHAS aviation service for the humanitarian community. Through the SO 200661, WFP supported the Food Security Cluster in the coordination of food security responses to displaced people and the optimization of collaboration with UN agencies, NGOs, donors and other stakeholders. In 2015, the Purchase for Progress (P4P) project post-pilot phase 2015 - 2017 continued in Bikoro (Equateur) and Kabalo (Tanganyika) territories to consolidate interventions in those two provinces. The project also explored the possibilities to expand to the Eastern provinces of North Kivu and South Kivu. The project's aim is to revive the agricultural sector in the country, and enhance the ability of small scale farmers to connect to these markets.

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Beneficiaries	Male	Female	Total
Children (under 5 years)	128,569	148,836	277,405
Children (5-18 years)	285,729	323,629	609,358
Adults (18 years plus)	168,508	316,796	485,304
Total number of beneficiaries in 2015	582,806	789,261	1,372,067

Distribution (mt)						
Project Type	Cereals	Oil	Pulses	Mix	Other	Total
Single Country IR-EMOP	243	16	74	4	3	340
Single Country PRRO	31,125	2,680	8,980	5,024	504	48,312
Total Food Distributed in 2015	31,368	2,695	9,054	5,028	507	48,652

OPERATIONAL SPR

Operational Objectives and Relevance

Humanitarian needs in the DRC are considerable. The most vulnerable areas in the country are characterized by rugged terrain, limited or non-existent infrastructure, and very poor roads that often become impassable during the rainy season. The presence of armed militias, the Congolese Police, and the Armed Forces of the Democratic Republic of Congo (FARDC) routinely demanding money along routes around the country further complicates the implementation of humanitarian activities. It is rare that access is completely impossible; however adverse conditions can significantly delay assistance and drive up operational costs. The 2015 Humanitarian Action Plan (HAP) describes the lack of humanitarian access in the country as a key obstacle to the implementation of humanitarian efforts.

The repair and maintenance of roads to allow timely humanitarian access to vulnerable populations is a key element of WFP's strategy in DRC in its efforts to address food insecurity. Special Operation 200864, which commenced on 01 August 2015 for a period of two years, seeks to undertake emergency infrastructure repairs to promote the timely, efficient, reliable and cost-effective delivery of much-needed WFP food and other humanitarian assistance across DRC. The Operation's primary objectives are: to facilitate the timely and efficient delivery of humanitarian assistance in DRC; to reduce transportation costs and delivery lead times; and to improve food security and accessibility by repairing and rehabilitating roads. In doing so, the operation aims to concurrently improve access to and from agricultural production areas, further linking farmers to markets.

The priority areas targeted by this Special Operation complement and support WFP's ongoing food assistance activities in DRC, as well as the work of partner humanitarian organizations in the country. Through ongoing operations, WFP already targets some 700,000 beneficiaries with food and cash-based transfer (CBT) assistance in locations that will directly or indirectly benefit from improved access as a result of infrastructural repairs. The Operation is implemented in collaboration with the Access Working Group of the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA), DRC provincial road authorities, and partners of the Logistics Cluster, of which WFP is the lead agency.

The objectives of this Special Operation are aligned with WFP Strategic Objective 1 to "Save Lives and Protect Livelihoods in Emergencies."

Results

Outputs

The key identified milestones for this Operation were to firstly, secure funding; secondly, prioritise roads and bridges for rehabilitation, and finally to establish works contracts through competitive bidding. No road rehabilitation has yet been carried out under this Operation - once funding is secured private companies, using a local labour force, with expertise in the area using heavy road construction equipment will carry out the works.

Since the project start date in August 2015, WFP has secured enough funding to set up a project coordination team with the recruitment of two additional staff. Additionally, the Logistics Cluster, in agreement with the government's agency for road infrastructure, identified 110km of roads to be prioritised for urgent rehabilitation. These sections of road are located in the provinces of Equateur, Orientale, North Kivu, South Kivu, and Katanga, in remote and isolated areas, and repairs are needed in order to allow for the delivery of humanitarian supplies. Also in the reporting period, the funding secured allowed the procurement and deployment of three modular bridges through the Swedish Civil Contingencies Agency (MSB). In 2016, if further funding is secured, the bridges will be set up and the targeted road sections rehabilitated.

Additionally, WFP will engage local communities through awareness campaigns on local maintenance systems, and road safety briefings will be provided to ensure they are aware of traffic hazards resulting from road repairs and increased road use.

Output	Unit	Planned	Actual	% Actual vs. Planned
SO1: Special Operation (Feeder Roads)				
Kilometres of roads maintained	Km	110	0	0
Number of bridges built/rehabilitated	bridge	20	0	0
Number of training sessions / workshops organized	training session	10	0	0

Outcomes

The implementation of activities under this Special Operation will ultimately benefit WFP, the humanitarian community active in DRC, commercial actors, and local communities. Specifically, the rehabilitation of roads and other infrastructure will result in improved physical access across several provinces in the country; reduced transportation costs; reduced travel and delivery times, and lower prices and an increased range of goods in local markets. Infrastructure repairs will also service to increase access to markets and agricultural production areas for smallholder farmers.

For the successful implementation of the Operation, several general key performance indicators will be monitored: (i) the cost benefit of emergency infrastructure repair/rehabilitation, such as the improved improved efficiency of deliveries to beneficiaries; (ii) kilometres of damaged road partially rehabilitated; (iii) number of metallic and/or wooden bridges rehabilitated; (iv) erection of retaining walls following landslides on strategic roads; (v) travel time between production areas and major towns; and (vi) number of community trainings conducted.

The general development of DRC is expected to benefit over time from the construction of rural roads and the installation of bridges. Increased access will facilitate and ease the implementation of a range of development projects, across agriculture, health, education and other essential basic service sectors.

Management

Partnerships

Local communities will be important partners in the implementation of this Special Operation, and as such WFP will encourage engagement through campaigns to raise awareness of local maintenance, and briefings on road safety. WFP will also engage the technical support of engineers and government agencies, such as the Office des Routes (OR) and Direction Voie de Desserte Agricole (DVDA), under the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development.

The Special Operation will be implemented in collaboration with the Access Working Group of the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA), DRC provincial road authorities, and other Logistics Cluster partners as relevant. In DRC, the Logistics Cluster is made up of local and international NGOs, and humanitarian, including UN, agencies committed to addressing logistics needs in humanitarian situations.

WFP has also partnered with the United Nations Organization Stabilization Mission in DRC (MONUSCO) to discuss the coordination of road rehabilitation activities in order to avoid duplication. WFP attends monthly meetings convened by MONUSCO which provide a platform for the discussion of all road-related activities.

MONUSCO may also play an important role in the provision of security escorts. Successful implementation of this Operation will be greatly dependent upon overall security conditions in the country, as some of the most vulnerable and isolated areas where infrastructure needs to be repaired are suffering from ongoing conflict and instability. WFP will work in close consultation with the United Nations Department of Safety and Security (UNDSS), WFP Security and the government, in order to inform decision-making and minimise disruption to the works undertaken.

Partnership	NGO		Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement	UN/IO
	National	International		
Total				2

Lessons Learned

The Logistics Cluster in DRC, under the leadership of WFP, has been technically overseeing road repairs since 2011. Over this period, approximately 1,000km of provincial and agricultural feeder roads have been repaired using high intensity labour methods (HIMO). This labour-based method provides additional income to some families, including farmers; however, these methods are only suitable for short-term repairs to enable seasonal access and are not sustainable for long-term road rehabilitation. Based on this knowledge, with this Special Operation WFP will employ heavy machinery to ensure more sustainable results.

Additionally, WFP will rely on a “spot improvement” approach to rehabilitate the 110km of roads identified as being in need of urgent repair, bridges and retaining walls. This approach is more prudent than the HIMO method as it prioritises the most strategically important areas key for the delivery of humanitarian assistance, and therefore has the potential to improve both the quality and durability of the rehabilitated roads.