



Standard Project Report 2015

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

Logistics Cluster Coordination and Information Management in Support of WFP and the Humanitarian Community in the Democratic Republic of Congo

Reporting period: 1 January - 31 December 2015

Project Information	
Project Number	200747
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	December 22, 2014
Planned Start Date	December 01, 2014
Actual Start Date	December 01, 2014
Project End Date	November 30, 2016
Financial Closure Date	N/A

Approved budget in USD	
Food and Related Costs	N/A
Capacity Dev.t and Augmentation	1,094,967
Direct Support Costs	1,078,240
Cash-Based Transfers and Related Costs	N/A
Indirect Support Costs	152,125
Total	2,325,332

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

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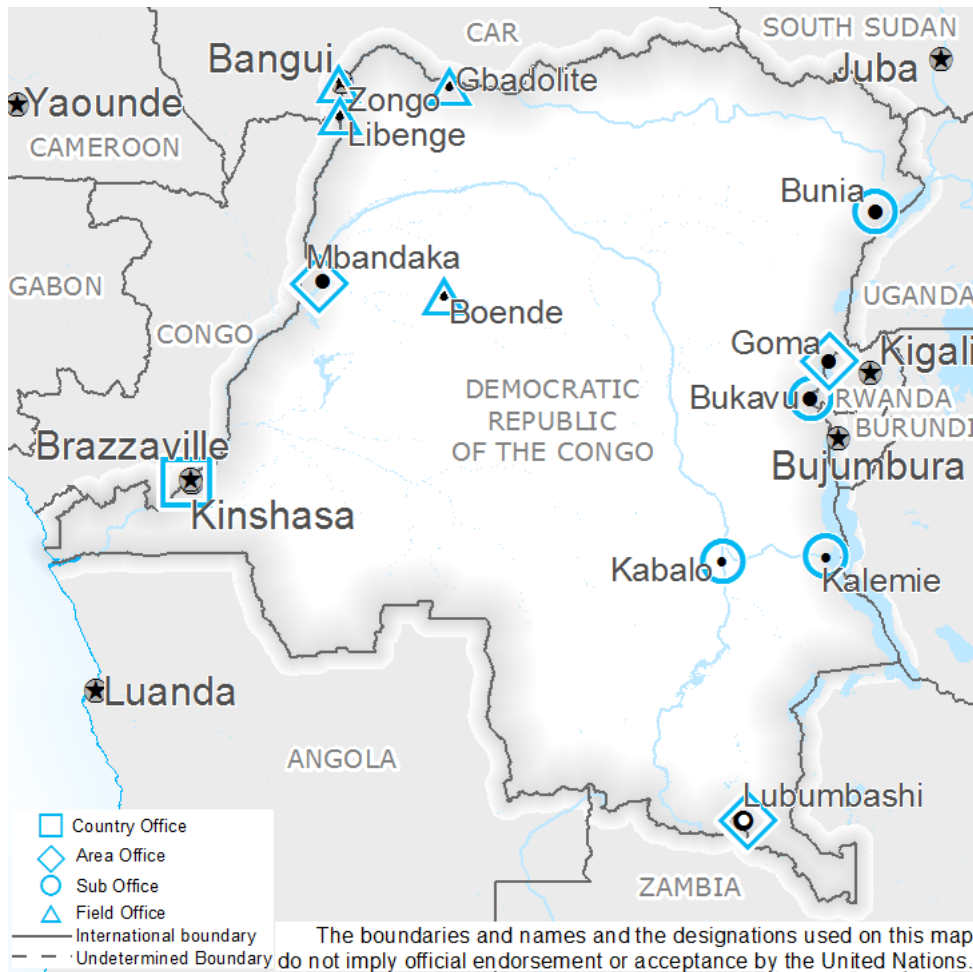
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COUNTRY OVERVIEW



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 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 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	15	74	4	3	339
Single Country PRRO	31,092	2,679	8,972	5,020	503	48,266
Total Food Distributed in 2015	31,335	2,694	9,047	5,024	506	48,605

OPERATIONAL SPR

Operational Objectives and Relevance

Conflict and violence in the eastern and southern parts of DRC, combined with persistent high food insecurity, have resulted in increased humanitarian needs within the country. The situation is compounded by extremely poor or non-existent infrastructure, which hinders both communications and transport.

The 2015 Humanitarian Action Plan (HAP) defines the lack of humanitarian access in the country as a key obstacle to the implementation of humanitarian efforts. In this context, the Logistics Cluster, of which WFP is the lead agency, is an essential forum for the provision of logistics services support and services to the humanitarian community, and a facilitator for humanitarian access to beneficiaries, particularly in remote and hard-to-reach locations.

Special Operation 200747 was launched on 1 December 2014 to support humanitarian operations in DRC through the Logistics Cluster. This operation succeeds Special Operation 200456.

In its capacity as the lead agency of the Logistics Cluster, WFP regularly identifies and addresses logistics bottlenecks through information management and coordination of the overall humanitarian logistics responses, with a focus on the eastern and southern conflict-affected provinces.

The main objectives of this Special Operation are:

- Ensure a coordinated logistics response among humanitarian actors working in the country, enabling the delivery of food and non-food items to vulnerable populations, through its Logistics Cluster Coordination component; and
- Provide relevant logistics information to the humanitarian community to enable the timely and effective identification and resolution of logistics bottlenecks, through its Information Management component.

This operation contributes to WFP Strategic Objective 1, to “Save lives and protect livelihoods in emergencies.”

Results

Outputs

In 2015, WFP, through the Logistics Cluster, continued to support the humanitarian community in DRC through ensuring a coordinated logistics response, and in the timely sharing and management of key logistical information products.

The Logistics Cluster is co-lead of an Information Management working group together with Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA). Geographic Information System (GIS) services were provided to the Logistics Cluster's members and a total of 74 maps were produced. The majority of these were posted on the Logistics Cluster website for public consultation and use. Additionally, eight information management products were disseminated through the website (www.logcluster.org/ops/drc), including three monthly updates, one blog post and four flash information bulletins. These products detail key logistics information including responses to logistical needs identified by the humanitarian community. In 2015, such products provided key updates in light of a worsening security situation, mainly in the eastern provinces of North Kivu, South Kivu, Maniema, former Katanga and former Orientale provinces. Information management products are also used to provide essential information to the humanitarian community on customs regulations around the clearance of humanitarian items, transportation, and storage. The Logistics Cluster has also developed an Information Management / Knowledge Management working group with the Direction de la Protection Civile (National civilian protection department, or DPC), through which initiatives are taken for data collection and software implementation to enhance GIS capabilities.

In the reporting period, with the support of the Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC), one logistics expert was recruited for the Cluster, tasked with updating the Logistics Capacity Assessment (LCA). This is a WFP Logistics tool that presents organized information on logistics infrastructure and services in a country, for sharing both within WFP and the wider humanitarian community. In 2015, the LCA was updated and shared online for public use (dlca.logcluster.org).

In partnership with the Congolese Red Cross, the Logistics Cluster carried out four first aid workshops for humanitarian partners, and 1 GIS training. The remaining workshops and staff trainings are planned for 2016.

In 2015 a total of 52 coordination meetings were held at national and provincial levels, including monthly humanitarian coordination meetings, humanitarian air transport meetings, and Logistics Cluster-specific coordination meetings.

Two surveys were conducted in 2015. The first, in March 2015, was a GIS questionnaire to assess the overall geographic expertise of humanitarian organizations, with a view to pool capacities in the country. The second, in December 2015, was a satisfaction survey to assess the services provided by the Logistics Cluster in 2015.

Additionally, the Logistics Cluster signed a memorandum of understanding with the DPC within the Ministry of Interior and Security to improve national capacity in disaster risk reduction, with a focus on data collection and emergency preparedness/early warning. In early January 2016, the Logistics Cluster will continue this activity through the donation of equipment and trainings on data collection and establishment of an early warning system.

The planned outputs for this operation have been designed over a two year period; hence the actuals reflected in the outputs table are from the midterm reporting period.

The Logistics Cluster facilitates the transport and storage requirements of humanitarian partners and is a last resort provider of transport as mandated by the Inter-Agency Standing Committee (IASC). As such, this Operation maintains an indicator in the case of transport needs. There were no requests from the humanitarian community for this service in 2015.

Output	Unit	Planned	Actual	% Actual vs. Planned
SO1: Special Operation (Cluster)				
Metric tons of cargo transported	metric ton	3,000	0	0
Number of Logistics Capacity Assessments developed or updated	assessment	1	1	100.0
Number of agencies and organizations using coordination and logistics services	agency/organization	25	25	100.0
Number of bulletins, maps and other logistics information produced and shared	item	100	82	82.0
Number of national and field cluster coordination meetings conducted	instance	144	52	36.1
Number of staff trained	individual	58	0	0
Number of training sessions / workshops organized	training session	28	5	17.9

Outcomes

Throughout 2015, activities carried out under this Operation focused on strengthening the coordination of the overall humanitarian logistics response in eastern DRC, in light of a worsening security situation in this area in particular. These efforts will continue in 2016.

The visibility of the Logistics Cluster was improved by its information management activities and resulting products. Specific and customized maps were produced upon request from NGOs operating in the country, and GIS services were adequately provided on demand and based on partners' needs.

The cooperation with the national civilian protection department of the Ministry of Interior and Security is being strengthened and now includes capacity building on the use of GPS.

The results of the two surveys that were conducted in 2015 on GIS geographic mapping and customer satisfaction show that 81 percent of members are globally satisfied with the quality of services provided by the Logistics Cluster. The surveys confirmed that the Logistics Cluster is proactive in sharing information, as well as in advocacy generally and that users found the GIS services provided of particular use and relevance.

Sustainability, Capacity Development and Handover

In 2016, the Logistics Cluster will train DPC staff in data collection techniques and GPS use, as well as in the establishment and use of an early warning system. After successful completion of the training, the Logistics Cluster will hand over the early warning platform through the GeoSDI system (a GIS web portal).

In addition, through this Operation the Logistics Cluster will train over 200 staff from partner organizations on GPS and data collection, through a “train the trainers” approach. This training was planned to be organized in 2015, but was delayed due to a lack of resources.

Management

Partnerships

Through the Logistics Cluster, WFP embarked on a partnership with the DPC, within the Ministry of Interior and Security, in order to strengthen national capacity for emergency preparedness and early warning. The foundations for these activities was laid in 2015 for implementation in 2016.

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. Several organizations, including UN agencies (UNHCR, UNICEF, UNOPS, UNDP, OCHA, WHO) and national institutions / governmental organizations, participated in Logistics Cluster activities and meetings throughout the year. The meetings were held monthly at both national and provincial levels and were a key platform for information sharing, addressing logistics gaps, and coordinating appropriate responses.

Also in 2015, the Logistics Cluster received support from the Congolese Red Cross, and the Norwegian Refugee Council through a seconded Logistics Officer who completed the update of the Logistics Capacity Assessment.

Partnership	NGO		Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement	UN/IO
	National	International		
Total		1	1	

Lessons Learned

In 2015, increased advocacy by the Logistics Cluster for the simplification of customs and clearance procedures for humanitarian goods being brought in to the country by Logistics Cluster members and donors showed in improved results. While this action will need to continue in 2016 for the efficient import of humanitarian items, 2015 saw better coordinated efforts.

Additionally, investing in preparedness activities and involving strategic actors such as the DPC in preparedness planning led to a better and more coordinated emergency response among Cluster members. The information management advisory groups also inform Logistics Cluster decisions on necessary logistical support, as an efficient flow of information enables a proper inventory of needs.

Following the 2014 Ebola outbreak, in which the Logistics Cluster played a key role in the coordination of the logistics response, the lessons learned continued to inform 2015 activities, namely, that the government capacity to coordinate a logistical response to emergencies is limited; that in emergencies such as this early action is key; communication and information flow between all actors involved in such a response facilitates quick action and also is vital in clearly mapping out the roles and responsibilities of all parties involved to avoid confusion or duplication of duties.

Though transport and storage options are no longer included in this Operation due to the deactivation of this operational component by the humanitarian community in 2013, the 2014 Ebola outbreak taught the importance of early response to emergencies. The Logistics Cluster therefore has ensured that transport and storage services for the humanitarian community can be quickly activated should the need arise.

The results of the survey on the service quality of the Logistics Cluster highlighted the main areas for improvement. These included further training of Cluster members; the broadening of Logistics Cluster meeting agenda to include wider logistical issues such as customs, fuel access and usage, and procurement; the need to engage more with government bodies and institutions; and the need to secure funding for a dedicated Cluster co-lead. Members also

highlighted the need for free of charge transport facilities - at the moment, as transport and storage were removed from this Operation to a bilateral service provision, any such services carried out are done on a cost-recovery basis.