

**DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF THE
CONGO
RAPID RESPONSE
CASH AND VOUCHER ASSISTANCE
2021**

21-RR-COD-46697

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PART I – ALLOCATION OVERVIEW

Reporting Process and Consultation Summary

Please indicate when the After-Action Review (AAR) was conducted and who participated.

September 2021

The AAR meeting was no longer conducted in its traditional format given the current context. For these reasons, this meeting was replaced by a request for contributions that each of the UN agencies (FAO and WFP) had provided directly by email. A consultation of the agencies by email was therefore carried out at the end of September 2021, which made it possible to collect the elements of answers to the questions usually discussed during formal AAR meetings, in particular the main results achieved, the targets and people reached, the main challenges encountered, the CERF's Added Value and lessons learned. This is how the UN agencies, stakeholders in this process, had shared their contributions to the relevant sections of this final narrative report.

Please confirm that the report on the use of CERF funds was discussed with the Humanitarian and/or UN Country Team (HCT/UNCT).

Yes No

Please confirm that the final version of this report was shared for review with in-country stakeholders (i.e. the CERF recipient agencies and their implementing partners, cluster/sector coordinators and members and relevant government counterparts)?

Yes No

1. STRATEGIC PRIORITIZATION

Statement by the Resident/Humanitarian Coordinator

This allocation was part of an US\$ 80 million CERF allocation to support cash programming in response to increasing food insecurity in 6 countries over the world including DRC. These CERF funds provided life-saving cash and voucher assistance in favor of 114,447 people including 7,041 people living with disabilities out of a target of 77,320 people in the targeted areas for an overall achievement level of 146%. Over \$5.05m was transferred to beneficiaries.

Thanks to the CERF support, households have rapidly and significantly improved their food security and nutritional status to cope with the effects of COVID-19. Thus, through these CERF funds, vulnerable households were supported to become more self-reliant and mitigate the socio-economic impact resulting from the COVID-19 pandemic.

The emergency assistance was provided during the lean season when most beneficiaries face critical needs. The urgent needs for agricultural inputs (seeds and tools) for the 2020 B season and the preparation of the 2021 A season were covered by the CERF fund through rapid support in unconditional cash provided to the beneficiary households. The injection of cash into the communities provided many indirect beneficiaries through multiplier effects on local markets and local structures. In addition to that, the most vulnerable farmers among the targeted households received technical support and monitoring on best agricultural management practices to increase agricultural production.

CERF's Added Value

Did CERF funds lead to a fast delivery of assistance to people in need?

Yes Partially No

Displaced and returnee populations and their host families who suffered the severity and impact of the humanitarian crisis in the Kasai region as well as the effects of COVID-19 have rapidly improved their food security and nutritional status to cope with the effects of COVID-19 thanks to the support of the CERF fund. These vulnerable people, living mainly from agriculture, have seen their livelihoods strengthened and the socio-economic impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic mitigated. Indeed, the emergency assistance allowed the population to have cash for priority household needs including food, health, and schooling.

Did CERF funds help respond to time-critical needs?

Yes Partially No

The emergency assistance was provided during the lean season when most beneficiaries face critical needs. The urgent needs for agricultural inputs (seeds and tools) for the 2020 B season and the preparation of the 2021 A season were covered by the CERF fund through rapid support in unconditional cash provided to the beneficiary households.

Did CERF improve coordination amongst the humanitarian community?

Yes Partially No

The projects strengthened the rapprochement between the agencies as well as the international, national, and local organizations. The actors worked hand in hand for the success of the activities and the improvement of the living conditions of the beneficiaries, while mitigating to some extent the negative impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic in beneficiary communities. FAO and WFP being the leads of the food security cluster, the CERF fund received has allowed to strengthen the active participation of the sector within the coordination of the humanitarian community by providing information on the evolution of the project, lessons learned, GAP analysis and proposal of complementary actions with other sectors (Wash, Health, Education and Nutrition).

Did CERF funds help improve resource mobilization from other sources?

Yes Partially No

The joint implementation of the projects has aroused the interest of other donors including Italy, Norway and Sweden who have positioned themselves to finance a joint WFP-FAO resilience project in the greater Kasai region (Kasai, Kasai Central and Oriental). Thus, CERF's support has had positive effects in mobilizing other resources. For example, Canada, the Humanitarian Fund and SWEDEN have been approached by FAO and provided financial support through emergency response and resilience projects.

Considerations of the ERC's Underfunded Priority Areas¹:

Not applicable for this Rapid Response allocation

Table 1: Allocation Overview (US\$)

Total amount required for the humanitarian response	2,069,184,820
CERF	6,998,971
Country-Based Pooled Fund (if applicable)	3,799,005

¹ In January 2019, the Emergency Relief Coordinator identified four priority areas as often underfunded and lacking appropriate consideration and visibility when funding is allocated to humanitarian action. The ERC therefore recommended an increased focus on these four areas to ensure that they be given due consideration by RC/HCs and HCTs/UNCTs when prioritizing life-saving needs for inclusion in CERF requests. These areas are: (1) support for women and girls, including tackling gender-based violence, reproductive health and empowerment; (2) programmes targeting disabled people; (3) education in protracted crises; and (4) other aspects of protection. While CERF remains needs based, the ERC will be looking for country teams to prioritize projects and mainstreamed activities that systematically and effectively address to these four historically underfunded areas. Please see the questions and answers on the ERC four priority areas [here](#).

Other (bilateral/multilateral)

0

Total funding received for the humanitarian response (by source above)	10,797,976
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Table 2: CERF Emergency Funding by Project and Sector/Cluster (US\$)

Agency	Project Code	Sector/Cluster	Amount
FAO	21-RR-FAO-001	Multi-Purpose Cash	1,000,000
WFP	21-RR-WFP-001	Multi-Purpose Cash	5,998,971
Total			6,998,971

Table 3: Breakdown of CERF Funds by Type of Implementation Modality (US\$)

Total funds implemented directly by UN agencies including procurement of relief goods	6,467,652
Funds sub-granted to government partners*	6,633
Funds sub-granted to international NGO partners*	78,568
Funds sub-granted to national NGO partners*	446,118
Funds sub-granted to Red Cross/Red Crescent partners*	0
Total funds transferred to implementing partners (IP)*	531,319
Total	6,998,971

* Figures reported in table 3 are based on the project reports (part II, sections 1) and should be consistent with the sub-grants overview in the annex.

2. OPERATIONAL PRIORITIZATION:

Overview of the Humanitarian Situation

In 2020, the DRC continued to face an acute and complex humanitarian crisis. The humanitarian situation deteriorated amid persistent conflicts in the east and increased violence in several parts of the country. The DRC was home to one of the largest populations of internally displaced people in the world and the largest on the African continent. The country had 5.2 million IDPs, some 1.4 million returnees and 527,000 refugees and asylum seekers from neighboring countries.

In 2020, the DRC was the first country in the world in terms of the number of people in acute food insecurity, with 21.8 million people affected in the second half of 2020 – a 40% increase compared to the same period in 2019. People in the IPC phases of crisis and emergency were mainly founded in areas affected by conflicts and population movements and epidemics. Almost 4.4 million people had suffered from acute malnutrition, including 3.4 million children under the age of five. The prevalence rate of global acute malnutrition was 6.5 percent and that of chronic malnutrition at 42 percent.

Five diseases with epidemic potential and under surveillance in the DRC were epidemic in 2020: COVID-19, Ebola virus disease (EVD), measles, cholera, and malaria. The COVID-19 pandemic had further worsened existing vulnerabilities and fragile subsistence mechanisms. According to projections made for 2021, acute needs should remain concentrated in the east of the country (in the Kivus, Ituri and Tanganyika), in the Kasai region and in Ecuador. Based on the assumptions developed during the 18th cycle IPC analysis, 19.6 million should be food insecure in the first half of 2021, of which 4.8 million in emergency phase (IPC phase 4) and 14.8 million in crisis phase (IPC phase 3).

Operational Use of the CERF Allocation and Results

Following nomination of DR Congo among recipient countries of this CERF allocation, the HC/RC led in-country consultations which resulted in the nomination of two agencies (WFP and FAO) to receive the funds. Following this consultative process, the Kasai region (Kasai, Kasai Central and Kasai Oriental provinces), among areas most affected by food insecurity in the country, was selected for implementation of projects. In response to the crisis, CERF allocated US\$7 million from its Rapid Response window for the immediate commencement of life-saving activities. This allocation was part of an US\$80 million CERF allocation to support cash programming in response to increasing food insecurity in 6 countries over the world.

This funding enabled WFP and its partners to provide life-saving cash and voucher assistance to 114,447 people, while it also enabled FAO and its partners to assist 6,000 households of which 3,320 in Kasai Central and 3,280 in Kasai provinces. The selected households received a cash transfer from WFP and FAO, while among those, the most vulnerable farmers among the targeted households received a top-up from FAO as well as technical support and monitoring on best agricultural management practices to increase agricultural production. The MPCA modality (unrestricted and unconditioned) used for this allocation had intended to cover all essential needs.

Summary of achievements by agency

The projects were thus implemented jointly by WFP and FAO in this region, as part of the FAO/WFP partnership in DRC to respond to the immediate needs of the vulnerable populations while paving the way for durable solutions. Through these projects WFP and FAO aimed specifically at ensuring the populations groups targets (IDPs, returnees, host communities) improve their food and nutritional status by safeguarding and consolidating their livelihoods, in addition to fulfilling their other individual needs.

Most of the vulnerable beneficiaries who has been targeted by cash interventions were of rural or peri-urban origin whose main activities were agriculture, livestock, and fishing, and were facing major challenges characterized by the loss of their income and productive capacity due to recurrent crises mainly related to conflicts.

As for the spread of the Covid-19 pandemic, mitigation measures had been taken and prevention messaging to reduce exposure and increase awareness of beneficiaries, partners, and service providers around the disease, would be ensured.

Through FAO project, CERF funds enabled:

- A distribution of US\$ 693,000 (cash transfert) to 6,600 targeted households who each received an amount of \$US 105 for 3 months at a rate of \$ 35 per month, in Kasai and Kasai Central provinces, enabling households in particular to strengthen their agricultural activities by obtaining seeds for the B 2020 and A 2021 cropping seasons; to resume family breeding by acquiring breeding stock; and to create Income generating activities (IGAs) and increase the number of shares purchased from Village Savings and Credit Associations (VSCAs) ;
- 700 beneficiaries to be trained in good agricultural practices to transmit acquired knowledge to members of their community through the Farmer Field School approach ;
- A considerable improvement in the food security and nutritional status of beneficiary households which resulted in an improvement in the household food consumption score (which increased from 6.6% in March 2021 to 36.6% in August 2021, an increase of 81.9%).

Through WFP project, CERF funds enabled:

- A distribution of US\$ 4.36 million in Multipurpose Cash Assistance (MCP) to 114,447 people who each received an amount of \$US 14 per month in Kananga (Kasai central province), in Tshikapa (Kasai province) and in Bunia (Ituri province) to ensure they met their basic food needs.
Thereby, the project contributed:
 - to make vulnerable households become more self-reliant and mitigate the socio-economic impact resulting from the COVID-19 pandemic.
 - to promote gender equality, encourage more responsibility and financial management for women and girls in the household and community. Thus, women were promoted as main recipients of assistance (in Kasai province, 89% of the recipients of the assistance were women, while in Tanganyika province, 70% of head of household were women) and women made joint decisions about cash received from WFP.
 - to have multiplier effects on local markets and local structures.
- Conducting 7 trainings sessions on the centrality of protection and protection from sexual exploitation which benefited a total of 304 individuals, including 206 men and 98 women.
- The entire community population to benefit indirectly from awareness raising and information activities including on COVID-19 protection measures, as well as on sexual and gender-based violence.

With a view to achieving longer term impact, WFP and FAO strengthened and consolidated their actions, targeting the same beneficiaries within the same geographic area through MPC transfers. Thanks to that operational coordination between these two agencies and other national and local organizations, as well as the regular participation of these actors in the various coordination meetings, the response was maximized and allowed a sustainable improvement in the food and nutritional security of the beneficiaries.

People Directly Reached

A total of 114,447 people including 7,041 people living with disabilities out of a target of 77,320 people received direct assistance, for an overall achievement level of 146%. To avoid double counting of beneficiaries, the figures of the highest beneficiaries targeted by the FAO project were considered. In addition to the cash distribution, 700 beneficiaries were trained in good agricultural practices and passed on the knowledge they learned to members of their community through the Farmer Field School approach during feedback sessions, enabling 80% to master good agricultural practices.

People Indirectly Reached

277,200 people had benefited indirectly from project's activities through (i) access to nutritious food (cereals, pulses and vegetables) through the purchase of surplus agricultural production by direct beneficiaries, (ii) the provision of agricultural labor (field preparation, crop care, harvesting and transport of harvested products) to direct beneficiaries (iii) participation in activities to promote good agricultural practices through the Farmer Field School approach, (iv) access to small revolving credits in the Village Savings and Credit Associations, and (v) technical supervision by agronomists from the Provincial Agricultural Inspectorate. Indeed, the injection of cash into the Kasai communities provided many indirect beneficiaries through multiplier effects on local markets. As household incomes increase, parents are able to pay for children's school fees and family health care costs. Correspondingly, structures concerned are able to pay their staff, who will reinvest the money earned into local markets. Money received from the sale of food products is reinvested through traders in local circuits to purchase products from local farmers, who will themselves use the money earned to buy non-food products, vice versa. The circulation of money through the local economy increase the capacity of local businesses, including delivery structures. Beyond the economic impact, the entire community population benefit indirectly from awareness raising and information activities including on COVID-19 protection measures, as well as on sexual and gender-based violence.

Table 4: Number of People Directly Assisted with CERF Funding by Sector/Cluster*

Sector/Cluster	Planned					Reached				
	Women	Men	Girls	Boys	Total	Women	Men	Girls	Boys	Total
Multi-Purpose Cash	20,876	20,103	18,557	17,784	77,320	24,266	19,650	35,510	35,021	114,447

* Figures represent best estimates of people directly supported through CERF funding. Disaggregation by sex and age represents women and men ≥18, girls and boys <18.

Table 5: Total Number of People Directly Assisted with CERF Funding by Category*

Category	Planned	Reached
Refugees	7,732	0
Returnees	4,639	4,303
Internally displaced people	32,474	18,503
Host communities	29,382	91,641
Other affected people	3,092	0
Total	77,319	114,447

Table 6: Total Number of People Directly Assisted with CERF Funding*

Sex & Age	Planned	Reached	Number of people with disabilities (PwD) out of the total	
			Planned	Reached
Women	20,876	24,266	1,284	307
Men	20,103	19,650	1,236	245
Girls	18,557	35,510	1,141	245
Boys	17,784	35,021	1,094	244
Total	77,320	114,447	4,755	1,041

3. LESSONS LEARNED

OBSERVATIONS FOR THE CERF SECRETARIAT

Lessons learned	Suggestion for follow-up/improvement
Joint FAO-WFP actions through a cash program provided beneficiaries with financial resources to access both agricultural inputs and food	Approach to be encouraged
The combination of FAO-WFP actions allowed the support to agricultural production takes on a great value, production increases considerably because the beneficiaries did not eat their seeds and maintained their fields properly.	Approach to be encouraged

OBSERVATIONS FOR COUNTRY TEAMS

Lessons learned	Suggestion for follow-up/ improvement	Responsible entity
The registration of women as recipients of assistance facilitated the use of cash for project objectives	To be encouraged	Agencies
The awareness-raising and continuous mobilization of beneficiaries were the keys to the success of the project	To be encouraged	Agencies
Monitoring and supervision of beneficiaries encourages them to use cash according to the real needs of the household	To be encouraged	Agencies

PART II – PROJECT OVERVIEW

4. PROJECT REPORTS

3.1 Project Report 21-RR-FAO-001

1. Project Information			
Agency:	FAO	Country:	Democratic Republic of the Congo
Sector/cluster:	Multi-Purpose Cash	CERF project code:	21-RR-FAO-001
Project title:	Mitigating the socio-economic impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic on livelihoods through Cash Transfer in the Kasai regions		
Start date:	09/12/2020	End date:	08/06/2021
Project revisions:	No-cost extension <input type="checkbox"/>	Redeployment of funds <input type="checkbox"/>	Reprogramming <input type="checkbox"/>

Funding	Total requirement for agency's sector response to current emergency:	US\$ 75,000,000
	Total funding received for agency's sector response to current emergency:	US\$ 5,100,000
	Amount received from CERF:	US\$ 1,000,000
	Total CERF funds sub-granted to implementing partners:	US\$ 36,486
	Government Partners	US\$ 6,633
	International NGOs	US\$ 0,00
	National NGOs	US\$ 29,853
	Red Cross/Crescent Organization	US\$ 0,00

2. Project Results Summary/Overall Performance

Through this CERF RR grant, FAO and its partners distributed US\$ 693,000 to 6,600 targeted households (2,568 men and 4,032 women), of which 3,320 in Kasai Central province (Kazumba Territory and Kananga Hinterland) and 3,280 in Kasai province (Kamonia Territory). These beneficiaries each received an amount of 105 US\$ for 3 months at a rate of 35 US\$ per month.

With the cash received, the beneficiaries were able to (i) strengthen their agricultural activities by obtaining seeds (food crops and vegetables) for the B 2020 and A 2021 cropping seasons, (ii) pay for agricultural labor (crop maintenance and harvesting for the B season and land preparation for the A season), (iii) resume family breeding by acquiring breeding stock (pigs, goats, poultry, guinea pigs and/or rabbits) and (iv) create IGAs and increase the number of shares purchased from Village Savings and Credit Associations (VSCAs).

In addition to the cash, 700 beneficiaries were trained in good agricultural practices and passed on the knowledge they learned to members of their community through the Farmer Field School approach during feedback sessions, enabling 80% to master good agricultural practices. During the 9 months of project implementation, from December 2020 to September 2021, the food security and nutritional status of beneficiary households has improved significantly with the support of the project. To this effect, the rate of households with an acceptable food consumption score increased from 6.6% in March 2021 to 36.6% in August 2021, an increase of 81.9%.

3. Changes and Amendments

No major changes were recorded during the implementation of the project compared to the initial plan. However, for reporting reasons, a 3-month non-cost extension was requested and obtained from CERF. Thus, the project, which was initially scheduled to end on 8 July 2021, has been extended by 3 months until 8 September 2021.

4. Number of People Directly Assisted with CERF Funding*

Sector/cluster	Multi-Purpose Cash									
Category	Planned					Reached				
	Women	Men	Girls	Boys	Total	Women	Men	Girls	Boys	Total
Refugees	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Returnees	3,502	2,334	1,500	1,000	8,336	3,502	2,334	1,500	1,000	8,336
Internally displaced people	3,502	2,334	1,500	1,000	8,336	3,502	2,334	1,500	1,000	8,336
Host communities	6,000	4,384	2,772	1,848	15,004	6,000	4,384	2,772	1,848	15,004
Other affected people	3,325	2,220	1,425	954	7,924	3,325	2,220	1,425	954	7,924
Total	16,329	11,272	7,197	4,802	39,600	16,329	11,272	7,197	4,802	39,600
People with disabilities (PwD) out of the total										
	2,160	1,440	1,400	1,000	6,000	2,160	1,440	1,400	1,000	6,000

* Figures represent best estimates of people directly supported through CERF funding. Disaggregation by sex and age represents women and men ≥18, girls and boys <18.

5. People Indirectly Targeted by the Project

46,200 farming households, or 277,200 people, benefited indirectly from the project's activities through (i) access to nutritious food (cereals, pulses and vegetables) through the purchase of surplus agricultural production by direct beneficiaries, (ii) the provision of agricultural labor (field preparation, crop care, harvesting and transport of harvested products) to direct beneficiaries (iii) participation in activities to promote good agricultural practices through the Farmer Field School approach, (iv) access to small revolving credits in the Village Savings and Credit Associations, and (v) technical supervision by agronomists from the Provincial Agricultural Inspectorate.

6. CERF Results Framework

Project objective	Mitigating the socio-economic impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic on livelihoods through Cash Transfer in the Kasai regions			
Output 1	Unconditional cash strengthens the livelihoods of 6,600 vulnerable households			
Was the planned output changed through a reprogramming after the application stage? Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>				
Sector/cluster	Multi-Purpose Cash			
Indicators	Description	Target	Achieved	Source of verification
Indicator 1.1	Number of households that received the cash	6600	6,600	Cash distribution sheets Cash distribution reports
Indicator 1.2	% of households aware of the project	≥ 80%	100%	Outreach reports (village assemblies and workshops)
Indicator 1.3	% of households with acceptable Food Consumption Score	≥ 35%	36,93%	End line report
Indicator 1.4	% of households who report being able to meet the basic needs of their households (all/most/some/none), according to their priorities	TBD (To be determined)	100%	PDM report End line report
Explanation of output and indicators variance:		At the end of the project, the results of the endline assessments showed that 36.93% of beneficiaries had an acceptable ACS. The main reasons for this clear increase in relation to the target are linked to the fact that the distributions organized by WFP allowed households to have food during the growing season, and the food production achieved thanks to the inputs purchased from FAO cash allowed households to continue to have food and build up a stock before the A 2021 season. Thus, the composition of the food bowl was enriched by the integration of vegetables (sources of vitamins), meat (sources of animal protein), and the number of meals was doubled, from an average of 1 to 2.		
Activities	Description	Implemented by		
Activity 1.1	Selection of field partners,	FAO, IPAPPEL, Food security cluster		
Activity 1.2	LOA signature	FAO and implementing partners (Kasai Vert, CEP, SGA)		
Activity 1.3	Households Identification	FAO et WFP		
Activity 1.4	Training on cash transfer	FAO et WFP		
Activity 1.5	Organisation of information and awareness-raising workshops	FAO, WFP, partenaires de mise en œuvre (Kasai Vert, CEP, SGA)		
Activity 1.6	Cash distribution to beneficiaries	FAO/ECOBANK		

Output 2 Agricultural production is increased through the mastery of good agricultural practices

Was the planned output changed through a reprogramming after the application stage? Yes No

Sector/cluster	Multi-Purpose Cash			
Indicators	Description	Target	Achieved	Source of verification
Indicator 2.1	Number of trained Households (Training of Trainers) on Good Agricultural Practices	700	700	Training reports Attendance list
Indicator 2.2	% of households using good agricultural practices	≥ 60%	80%	Reports on follow-up and supervision of households
Explanation of output and indicators variance:		The adoption and mastery of good agricultural practices by more than 60% of the beneficiaries is linked, on the one hand, to the in situ training organized through the Farmer Field School approach and, on the other hand, to the monitoring and technical support organized throughout the project. This situation therefore allowed an increase in agricultural production in the project area.		
Activities	Description	Implemented by		
Activity 2.1	Partners selection	FAO, IPAPPEL		
Activity 2.2	LAO Signature	FAO and implementing partners (Kasaï Vert, CEP, SGA)		
Activity 2.3	Organizing training sessions for trainers on good agricultural practices	FAO, IPAPPEL and implementing partners (Kasaï Vert, CEP, SGA)		
Activity 2.4	Organisation of training of trainers sessions on good agricultural practices	FAO, and implementing partners (Kasaï Vert, CEP)		

7. Effective Programming

a. Accountability to Affected People (AAP)²

Households were targeted jointly with WFP in a participatory manner with all stakeholders (partners, communities, authorities, and technical services of the state) and essentially on a community basis. At the start of the project, FAO and WFP sensitized the beneficiary communities about the project to obtain their involvement and ownership of the activities.

Prior to each distribution, beneficiaries were sensitized, and distribution sites were selected by mutual agreement based on well-defined criteria.

In addition, during PDM (Post Distribution Monitoring) activities, beneficiaries were strongly involved in the collection of information and participated in the preparatory meetings through their representatives.

Finally, the existing complaint collection and management mechanisms were strengthened to remain responsive to beneficiaries and provide adequate responses to comments received. Operational partners were sensitized to the responsibility towards the affected populations and those in need of special attention, especially people with special needs, were prioritized.

b. AAP Feedback and Complaint Mechanisms

² AAP and PSEA are part and parcel of IASC commitments, and therefore mandatory for compliance for all UN agencies and partners. Agencies do not necessarily need to establish new AAP and PSEA mechanisms for CERF projects if functioning ones are already in place. For more information please refer to the [IASC AAP commitments](#).

To effectively monitor beneficiary complaints and provide ad hoc responses, the following mechanisms were used:

- Locality-based complaint management committees for the collection and handling of complaints or other abuses during flagship activities such as targeting and distributions. FAO worked directly with beneficiary communities to collect and manage complaints.
- Suggestion boxes installed in different localities to collect beneficiaries' opinions and comments in order to propose strategic adjustments.
- The WFP Green Line for collecting complaints by telephone.

c. Prevention of Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (PSEA)

FAO applied zero tolerance on sexual exploitation and abuse and worked closely with its United Nations networks on PSEA. For this action, all staff of FAO and its partners have completed mandatory training on PSEA and periodic sessions on GBV. Also, for contracts and recruitments: FAO's contracts with staff, suppliers and partners have included SEA bans. Finally, FAO used the WFP hotline to register and process complaints related to the PSEA.

d. Focus on women, girls and sexual and gender minorities, including gender-based violence

In implementing the project, FAO encouraged the strong participation of women and other marginalized people in line with its standards and ensured that the voices of women and girls were considered through focus group discussions. Thus, priority was given to women-headed households during the targeting of beneficiaries and distribution of cash.

Indeed, in food security, women are at the forefront of the fight against food insecurity because of their role as housewives in the household and their place in the distribution of work in the field. The Cluster Charter identified five commitments for an effective and quality response in the sector, considering the specific needs and priorities of women and men. During the implementation of the project, to avoid any frustration among community members, awareness-raising sessions were organized from the start of the project and before each distribution.

Finally, to reduce the risk of gender-based violence, FAO, and WFP organized awareness-raising sessions on this issue in close collaboration with UNFPA.

e. People with disabilities (PwD)

People with disabilities were taken care of by their family members. During the distribution of inputs, this category of beneficiaries was served as a priority and had the same rights as the other beneficiaries of CERF. To facilitate care, each partner assigned a follow-up agent to help people with disabilities. This approach was also applied in the associative approach where members were sensitized for commitment, security, and sustainable protection, especially women and girls.

f. Protection

Protection has been mainstreamed into all activities to ensure the safety and dignity of beneficiaries. The action of the project hinged on 3 guiding principles which guided the implementation, namely : Social inclusion ; gender equality and sustainability. To this end, FAO has reassured itself that people with special needs (the disabled, pregnant women, the elderly, and children) receive assistance without discrimination or barriers.

During distributions, the PwD were served as a priority under the support of staff of implementing partners. Also, during the identification of beneficiaries, special attention was paid to a good representativeness of women (at least 60%) and other special categories of vulnerable people, in particular people with specific needs. In addition, during the implementation of the project, the target populations were placed at the center of the action. To this end, the planned activities were always preceded and accompanied by a vast information and awareness-raising campaign aimed at authorities at all levels (provincial, territorial, state services, etc.), but also and above all at the targeted populations.

This information and awareness-raising covered several aspects, including but not limited to the following:

- The purpose of the assistance to be provided, its origin and duration.
 - The guiding humanitarian principles that govern the project (Impartiality, Neutrality, Humanity, Independence, Do No Harm, etc.).
 - The criteria for targeting both geographically and in terms of the households to be assisted.
-

g. Education

Not applicable

8. Cash and Voucher Assistance (CVA)

Use of Cash and Voucher Assistance (CVA)?

Planned	Achieved	Total number of people receiving cash assistance:
Yes, CVA is the sole intervention in the CERF project	Yes, CVA is the sole intervention in the CERF project	39,600 persons (6,600 households)

If **no**, please describe why CVA was not considered. Where feasible, CVA should be considered as a default response option, and multi-purpose cash (MPC) should be utilized wherever possible.

If **yes**, briefly note how CVA is being used, highlighting the use of MPC, and if any linkages to existing social protection systems have been explored.

To reduce the risk of fraud, beneficiaries were identified jointly with WFP using WFP's biometric registration system, SCOPE.

Finally, FAO strictly applied the COVID-19 pandemic barrier measures (temperature control, disinfection or hand washing, physical distancing, mandatory wearing of facemasks, etc.) throughout the project implementation, thus protecting all stakeholders from this disease.

Parameters of the used CVA modality:

Specified CVA activity (incl. activity # from results framework above)	Number of people receiving CVA	Value of cash (US\$)	Sector/cluster	Restriction
Activity 1.6 Cash distribution	39,600	US\$ 693,000	Multi-Purpose Cash	Unrestricted

9. Visibility of CERF-funded Activities

Title	Weblink
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3.2 Project Report 21-RR-WFP-001

1. Project Information

Agency:	WFP	Country:	Democratic Republic of the Congo
Sector/cluster:	Multi-Purpose Cash	CERF project code:	21-RR-WFP-001
Project title:	MITIGATION OF THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC SOCIO-ECONOMIC IMPACTS THROUGH CASH TRANSFERS		
Start date:	09/12/2020	End date:	08/06/2021
Project revisions:	No-cost extension <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Redeployment of funds <input type="checkbox"/>	Reprogramming <input type="checkbox"/>

Funding

Total requirement for agency's sector response to current emergency:	US\$ 40,820,000
Total funding received for agency's sector response to current emergency:	US\$ 3,600,000
Amount received from CERF:	US\$ 5,998,971
Total CERF funds sub-granted to implementing partners:	US\$ 494,833
Government Partners	US\$ 0
International NGOs	US\$ 78,568
National NGOs	US\$ 416,265
Red Cross/Crescent Organization	US\$ 0

2. Project Results Summary/Overall Performance

Through this CERF RR grant, WFP and its partners provided US\$ 4.36 million in Multipurpose Cash Assistance (MCP) to 114,447 people in Kananga, Tshikapa and Bunia province over a four month period to ensure they met their basic food needs. WFP delivered four rounds of direct cash transfers of an average of US\$ 14 per person/per month through WFP CBT Teams and the Financial Service Provider (VODACOM).

With a view to achieving longer term impact, WFP and FAO strengthened and consolidated their actions, targeting the same beneficiaries within the same geographic area through MPC transfers where possible. From the total people that were assisted by WFP, 15,135 people in Kananga and 19,680 people in Tshikapa also received assistance from FAO. The project strengthened the rapprochement and coordinated intervention between the agencies as well as international, national and local organizations. The regular participation of these actors in various coordination meetings ensured the success of the project activities to achieve sustainable improvement in the food and nutritional security of beneficiaries by strengthening and protecting their livelihoods.

Throughout this project WFP promoted gender equality, encouraging more responsibility and financial management for women and girls in Kasai province, 89% of the recipients of the assistance were women. In Tanganyika province, 70% of head of household were women. In evaluation, on average 62% of households assisted reported that women made joint decisions about cash received from WFP.

Over the reporting period, WFP continued to adopt a participatory approach to targeting, involving community leaders, women's groups, and other community-based structures to raise awareness about the targeting criteria and the entitlements. Particularly vulnerable and marginalized groups, including women, the elderly and people with disabilities were targeted in priority to receive assistance whilst women were promoted as main recipients of assistance. Through the reporting period, WFP was able to reach 2,201 people with disabilities, 24,266 women and 35,510 girls.

Through this intervention, WFP was able to support vulnerable households to become more self-reliant and mitigate the socio-economic impact resulting from the COVID-19 pandemic. The injection of cash into the Kasai communities provided many indirect beneficiaries through multiplier effects on local markets and local structures. Beyond the economic impact, the entire community population benefited indirectly from awareness raising and information activities including on COVID-19 protection measures, as well as on sexual and gender-based violence. Over the reporting period, WFP provided training and awareness-raising activities to more than 110 people, including both WFP

personnel and cooperating partners. In Ituri WFP conducted 7 trainings sessions on the centrality of protection and protection from sexual exploitation which benefited a total of 304 individuals, including 206 men and 98 women.

3. Changes and Amendments

WFP distributed US\$ 4.36 million in cash assistance to 114,447 people in Kananga (Kasai Central province), Tshikapa (Kasai province) and Bunia (Ituri province), more than the 77,319 people targeted by the proposal. All beneficiaries received four rounds of cash assistance; some only through CERF funds (68,727 people in Kananga and Tshikapa – including those that received half rations from WFP and FAO in Tshikapa), while others also received cash assistance through CERF funds supplemented by funds from other donors (45,720 people in Bunia, Tshikapa and Kananga). For the latter, please note that there were not sufficient CERF funds available anymore to provide four rounds of cash assistance in combination with the approaching expiry date of the funding, which was extended by 2 additional months through a no-cost extension due to unexpected delays in the harmonization of beneficiary lists in Central Kasai. WFP therefore distributed the funds for one round to new cohorts of beneficiaries (45,720 in total) – thereby being able to spend all the CERF money on time – which was then supplemented by funds from other donors after the expiry date of the CERF funds to ensure that these beneficiaries still reached another three rounds of assistance, resulting in four rounds of cash assistance. As a result of the aforementioned actions, more people were reached than planned with CERF funds. Please also note that a lack of liquidity from our Financial Service Provider (FSP) caused delays in the distribution to Pweto. However, the issue was quickly resolved by WFP management and distributions were completed.

4. Number of People Directly Assisted with CERF Funding*

Sector/cluster	Multi-Purpose Cash									
Category	Planned					Reached				
	Women	Men	Girls	Boys	Total	Women	Men	Girls	Boys	Total
Refugees	2,088	2,010	1,856	1,778	7,732	0	0	0	0	0
Returnees	1,253	1,206	1,113	1,067	4,639	912	739	1,335	1,317	4,303
Internally displaced people	8,768	8,443	7,794	7,469	32,474	3,923	3,177	5,741	5,662	18,503
Host communities	7,933	7,639	7,052	6,758	29,382	19,431	15,734	28,434	28,042	91,641
Other affected people	835	804	742	711	3,092	0	0	0	0	0
Total	20,877	20,102	18,557	17,783	77,319	24,266	19,650	35,510	35,021	114,447
People with disabilities (PwD) out of the total										
	1,284	1,236	1,141	1,094	4,755	307	245	245	244	1,041

* Figures represent best estimates of people directly supported through CERF funding. Disaggregation by sex and age represents women and men ≥18, girls and boys <18.

5. People Indirectly Targeted by the Project

In Kasai Central province, the entire population of the Kalomba health zone estimated at around 150,000 people were indirect beneficiaries as result from the provision of cash transfers to the 51,732 direct beneficiaries used in local markets and circuits.

The injection of cash into the Kasai communities provided many indirect beneficiaries through multiplier effects on local markets. As household incomes increase, parents were able to pay for children's school fees and family health care costs. Correspondingly, structures concerned were able to pay their staff, who reinvested the money earned into local markets. Money received from the sale of food products was reinvested through traders in local circuits to purchase products from local farmers, who themselves used the money earned to buy non-food products.

The circulation of money through the local economy increased the capacity of local businesses, including delivery structures. For instance, withdrawals of funds by Mobile Money Transfer (MMT) had increased the capacity of Dealers in Kabalo and Kalemie and other economic operators have seen an increase in their activities following the distribution of cash in the community.

Beyond the economic impact, the entire community population has indirectly benefited from awareness raising and information activities including on COVID-19 protection measures, as well as on sexual and gender-based violence. In Tanganyika, the project had indirect effects on the overall population of the territories of our intervention, including Kabalo, Kalemie and Pweto.

6. CERF Results Framework

Project objective	MITIGATION OF THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC SOCIO-ECONOMIC IMPACTS THROUGH CASH TRANSFERS				
Output 1	Crisis-affected acutely food insecure populations targeted by WFP and partners in DRC receive sufficient cash to meet their basic food and nutrient and non-food requirements despite COVID-19 socio-economic impacts				
Was the planned output changed through a reprogramming after the application stage?				Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>
Sector/cluster	Multi-Purpose Cash				
Indicators	Description	Target	Achieved	Source of verification	
Indicator 1.1	Number of people receiving WFP assistance	77,320	114,447	COMET	
Indicator 1.2	Total amount of cash transferred to targeted beneficiaries	\$4,329,917 (average of 56 US\$ per household x 4 months)	\$ 4,361,273	COMET	
Indicator 1.3	Number of people receiving sensitization on COVID-19 prevention measures	100 %	100%	PDMs July-August 2021	
Indicator 1.4	Proportion of assisted people informed about the programme (who is included, what people will receive, duration of assistance)	>= 80 %	Kasai Oriental: 21.6 % Kasai: 49.6 % Tanganyika: 70 % Ituri: 100 %	PDMs July-August 2021	
Indicator 1.5	Proportion of households with acceptable Food Consumption Score	> 35.2 % Target per province Kasai: 33.5 %; Kasai central & Oriental:	Kasai: 13.8 % Kasai Oriental: 23.0 %	PDMs July-August 2021	

		13.7 %; Ituri: 21.2 %Tanga		
Indicator 1.6	Food Expenditure Share (Percentage of total household monthly expenditure dedicated to food)	< 65.0 %Target per province: Kasai: 69.8 %; Kasai central & Oriental: 67.1 %; Ituri: 70.1 %Tanga	Kasai: 62.41 % Kasai Oriental: 68.25%	PDMs July-August 2021
Indicator 1.7	Percentage of households who report being able to meet the basic needs of their households (all/most/some/none), according to their priorities	TBD	Kasai: - All: 0.7 % - Most: 13.0 % - Some: 82.3 % - None: 3.9 % Kasai Oriental: - All: 7.7 % - Most: 24.8 % - Some: 60.8 % - None: 6.7 %	PDMs July-August 2021
Indicator 1.8	Percentage of Women of Reproductive Age (15-49 years) who reached Minimum Dietary Diversity for Women (MDD-W).	>= 31.4 %Target per province: Kasai: 20.7 %; Kasai central & Oriental: 16.5 % ; Ituri : 23.7 %Tan	Kasai: 18.7 % Kasai Oriental: 15.6 %	PDMs July-August 2021

Explanation of output and indicators variance:

WFP distributed US\$ 4.36 million in cash assistance modality to 114,447 people in Kananga, Tshikapa and Bunia province. All beneficiaries received four rounds of cash assistance; some only through CERF funds (68,727 people in Kananga and Tshikapa – including those that received half rations from WFP and FAO in Tshikapa), while others also received cash assistance through CERF funds supplemented by funds from other donors (45,720 people in Bunia, Tshikapa and Kananga).

Before implementation of the project, the population of the health zone of Kalomba in the territory of Kazumba was in an acute food crisis after losing their source of livelihoods following the Kamuina Nsapu events. Through funds received from CERF, the emergency assistance provided strengthened resilience activities undertaken in 2020 through the joint WFP-FAO project. Results from project evaluation show that assistance has significantly improved the nutrition situation of the beneficiary population, whilst providing them the means to meet other critical needs. After the project implementation, survey results showed that 82% of the beneficiaries stated that they could meet their basic needs, allowing the population to use cash for priority households needs including food, health, and schooling.

Through this intervention, WFP was able to support vulnerable households to become more self-reliant and mitigate the socio-economic impact resulting from the COVID-19 pandemic. The injection of cash into the Kasai communities provided many indirect beneficiaries through multiplier effects on local markets and local structures. Beyond the economic impact, the entire community population benefited indirectly from awareness raising and information activities including on COVID-19 protection measures, as well as on sexual

	and gender-based violence. Over the reporting period, WFP provided training and awareness-raising activities to more than 110 people, including both WFP personnel and cooperating partners. In Ituri WFP conducted 7 trainings sessions on the centrality of protection and protection from sexual exploitation which benefited a total of 304 individuals, including 206 men and 98 women.
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Activities	Description	Implemented by
Activity 1.1	Contract implementing partners and train their personnel on cash assistance, data protection, COVID-19 related risks, Gender-Based Violence (GBV), Prevention of Sexual and Exploitation and Abuse (PSEA)...	WFP, AVSI, INTERSOS, ADRA 100% of beneficiaries were sensitized on the program, targeting criteria, and the amount to be received per beneficiary and the number of cycles of the assistance.
Activity 1.2	Finalize beneficiary payment lists and technical preparations by conducting physical reverification, biometric registrations and deduplication via WFP SCOPE technology, which is a web- based application used for beneficiary registrations, intervention setups, distribution planning, transfers and distribution reporting. SCOPE currently supports all WFP transfer modalities: in kind, voucher, and cash for a variety of project activities. This step, ensuring a maximum level of accountability to beneficiaries, donors and other stakeholders, includes: a) the collection of accurate and detailed information on targeted beneficiaries, using variables such as: location, household status (internally displaced people - IDPs, returnees, host population), sex of head of household (male vs. female), economic activity, people with disabilities...; b) distribution of SCOPE cards and phones and/or SIM cards for households that don't have any in order to enable them to access the mobile money they will receive; c) micro IT assessments.	WFP, ADSSE, AVSI, INTERSOS
Activity 1.3	Deliver cash transfers to beneficiaries	WFP, TMB Bank and Vodacash

Output 2 Crisis-affected acutely food insecure populations targeted by WFP are empowered and less exposed to protection issues (including GBV and SEA)

Was the planned output changed through a reprogramming after the application stage? Yes No

Sector/cluster	Multi-Purpose Cash			
Indicators	Description	Target	Achieved	Source of verification
Indicator 2.1	Proportion of households where women and men jointly make decisions about the cash received from WFP	>= 35 %Target per province: Kasai: 22 %; Kasai central & Oriental: 25 %; Ituri : 44 % ; Tanganyika	Kasai: 55.5 % Kasai Oriental: 72.1 % Ituri: 59 %	PDMs July-August 2021 CP Report
Indicator 2.2	Proportion of targeted beneficiaries accessing assistance without protection challenges	100 %	Kasai: 98.5 % Kasai Oriental: 93.7 %	PDMs July-August 2021

Indicator 2.3	Consumption-based Coping Strategy Index (Average) female headed family	< 12.2 %Target per province: Kasai: 10.9; Kasai central & Oriental: 16.2; Ituri : 14.3 ; Tanganyika	Kasai: 18.05 % Kasai Oriental: 17.58%	PDMs July-August 2021
Indicator 2.4	Number of awareness-raising meetings dedicated to gender issues	2	Kasai: 4 Kasai Central: 2 Ituri: 3	Meeting notes
Indicator 2.5	Number of persons with disabilities assisted	4 755	1,041	PDMs July-August 2021
Indicator 2.6	Number of feedback or complaints received from beneficiaries or community members	< 10 324	539	Call centre data
Indicator 2.7	Percentage of GBV feedback or complaints received from beneficiaries or community members	>= 80 %	N/A	N/A

Explanation of output and indicators variance:	<p>Over the reporting period, WFP continued to adopt a participatory approach to targeting, involving community leaders, women's groups, and other community-based structures to raise awareness about the targeting criteria and the entitlements. Particularly vulnerable and marginalized groups, including women, the elderly and people with disabilities were targeted in priority to receive assistance whilst women were promoted as main recipients of assistance. Through the reporting period, WFP was able to reach a total of 24,266 women, 35,510 girls, and 1, 041 people with disabilities.</p> <p>Throughout this project WFP promoted gender equality, encouraging more responsibility and financial management for women and girls in the household and community. In Kasai, 89% of the recipients of the assistance were women. In Tanganyika, 70% of head of household were women. According to WFP monitoring and evaluation, on average 62% of households assisted reported that women made joint decisions about cash received from WFP.</p>
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Activities	Description	Implemented by
Activity 2.1	Organize information sessions to educate targeted beneficiaries on the planned intervention, including the benefits of allocating the assistance to women, COVID-19 and protection risks, feedback mechanisms...Communications efforts will include radio spots in local languages.	WFP and AVSI & INTERSOS (Ituri), ADRA (Kasai Central).
Activity 2.2	Prioritize women as cash recipients during the targeting process	In Kasai, 89% of the recipients of the assistance were women. Women were chosen as the first recipient because they are the main manager of the household. In Tanganyika, 70% of head of household were women.

7. Effective Programming

CERF expects partners to integrate and give due consideration to cross-cutting issues such as Accountability to Affected People (AAP), Protection from Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (PSEA), People with disabilities (PwD), Centrality of Protection as well as Gender and Age. In addition, the Emergency Relief Coordinator (ERC) has identified four underfunded priority areas³ often lacking appropriate consideration and visibility: women and girls, people with disabilities, education and protection. **The following sections demonstrate how cross-cutting issues and the ERC's four underfunded priority areas have been addressed through project activities and should highlight the achieved impact wherever possible.**

a. Accountability to Affected People (AAP)⁴

Accountability to affected populations (AAP) is made up of three components: provision of information, participation in the design and implementation of activities and the establishment of community feedback mechanisms.

Over the reporting period, WFP continued to adopt a participatory approach to targeting, involving community leaders, women's groups, and other community-based structures to raise awareness about the targeting criteria and the entitlements. Particularly vulnerable and marginalized groups, including women, the elderly and people with disabilities were targeted in priority to receive assistance whilst women were promoted as main recipients of assistance.

Throughout the registration process and the implementation of activities, WFP and its partners informed affected populations, including host communities and beneficiaries, through messages translated into local languages. The messages provided information on entitlements, COVID19 mitigation measures, expected conduct from WFP and partner personnel, protection from sexual exploitation and abuse, nutrition and on how to reach the WFP complaints and feedback mechanism. These messages were communicated during community meetings; during distributions through distribution committees, loudspeakers, face to face sessions, posters with pictorials, radio spots and pre-recorded audio messages; during focus-groups discussions conducted by WFP M&E, program and protection teams; and by AAP officers during oversight visits.

In Ituri WFP had conducted regular focus groups discussions with beneficiaries and community leaders to gather and address collective beneficiary concerns and in Kalemie in partnership with Search for Common Ground (SFCG), WFP developed key messages and two songs to accompany WFP activities. The awareness-raising package contains a series of messages on WFP assistance, fraud, SCOPE registration, COVID-19, the involvement of community leaders in WFP activities, nutrition and PSEA.

b. AAP Feedback and Complaint Mechanisms

The WFP community feedback mechanism is made up of a toll-free hotline available across the country (network permitting), partner help desks, suggestion boxes and community complaints committees established at all the distribution sites. The distribution committees set up by WFP support two-way communication between WFP, partners and affected populations. Beneficiary communities were sensitized on complaints and feedback mechanisms, confidentiality and about the various means made available to them, including the complaints table, complaints boxes, accountability committees and the hotline (49 11 11).

³ These areas include: support for women and girls, including tackling gender-based violence, sexual and reproductive health and empowerment; programmes targeting people with disabilities; education in protracted crises; and other aspects of protection. The ERC recommended an increased focus on these four areas to ensure that they be given due consideration by RC/HCs and UNCTs/HCTs when prioritizing life-saving needs for inclusion in CERF requests. While CERF remains needs-based, the ERC will be looking for country teams to prioritize projects and mainstreamed activities that systematically and effectively address to these four historically underfunded areas. Please see the Questions and Answers on the ERC four priority areas [here](#).

⁴ AAP and PSEA are part and parcel of IASC commitments, and therefore mandatory for compliance for all UN agencies and partners. Agencies do not necessarily need to establish new AAP and PSEA mechanisms for CERF projects if functioning ones are already in place. For more information please refer to the [IASC AAP commitments](#).

Over the reporting period, the Kalemie area office, covering the province of Tanganyika, focused on raising community awareness about the hotline and other channels available to affected populations. The complaints made by beneficiaries during distributions were then processed at the level of partner help desks. The office of Ituri started to pilot the use of an electronic feedback mechanism to facilitate the documentation of cases processed at the partner helpdesk and community feedback mechanisms, whilst focusing on training complaints committees. The Kasai office continued to work with partners to improve the response rate of cases at the local level. When cases were received by the hotline they were escalated to the respective protection and accountability officers who were responsible for working with technical teams to identify a solution and provide the individual with feedback. WFP had categorized cases as operations, fraud, and protection.

c. Prevention of Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (PSEA)

Throughout the implementation, WFP communicated messages, combined with humanitarian principles including PSEA, explaining to affected populations what sexual exploitation and abuse is, and how to report it through community consultations, radio spots and audio messages. Protection officers were available to record and handle SEA-related complaints. After handling cases in confidentiality, the person was referred to an appropriate organization. Additionally, WFP nominated PSEA focal points based at country-, area-, sub- and field office level. They played a key role in escalating cases to WFP's senior PSEA focal point, in addition to support capacity building of partners, including provide training to financial service providers and conduct awareness-raising at the community level.

In June 2021, the area office and sub offices of Kasai, Tanganyika and Ituri launched action plans on protection from sexual exploitation and abuse. The plans included key activities to train partners and WFP personnel, raise awareness of affected populations about the reporting channels available and developing new materials for awareness campaigns. The action plans were complemented by a budget that considers the cost of each activity.

When selecting partners, WFP's due diligence process required partners to inform WFP of the mechanisms they have established to protect affected populations from sexual exploitation and abuse. This included establishing institutional policies and codes of conduct if necessary. All WFP employees and partners involved in the implementation received the main SEA course.

d. Focus on women, girls and sexual and gender minorities, including gender-based violence

The project was designed to promote gender equality, encouraging more responsibility and financial management for women and girls in the household and community. In Kasai Central, women have been recorded as the main recipients of cash assistance, resulting in more family consultations and in some cases, an expansion of the role of female household members. Throughout the implementation of the project, women have always been involved through the various sensitizations, focus groups and various activities including distribution committees, accountability committees where they held decision-making positions and recruitment of the local casual labor to support the activities.

WFP regularly consulted women and men separately to better understand their needs, priorities, and capacities. WFP also conducted Post Distribution Monitoring that document any potential barrier faced by affected populations when accessing assistance and explore decision making structures within the household. The information from PDMs was then used to adjust programming, as required, to mitigate protection risks and support community level awareness about joint decision making.

Lastly, WFP is also an active participant of the GBV sub-cluster and regularly supports initiatives led by the GBV sub-cluster at the local level. Furthermore, WFP worked to train WFP personnel, specifically field monitoring teams, M&E colleagues, and partners on how to safely and confidentially refer GBV disclosures that are not related to accessing assistance.

e. People with disabilities (PwD)

WFP continued to strengthen its capacity to represent the needs and views of people with disabilities. This included training WFP personnel and partners on disability inclusion, ensuring information about the assistance and entitlements would be provided through multiple mediums and channels, and when possible, coordinating with local organizations on people with disabilities working at the

community level to ensure that the design of the activity would consider their respective needs and abilities. During the implementation of the project, particular emphasis was placed on targeting people with disabilities.

f. Protection

With a strong “Do No Harm” component and conflict-sensitive implementation, WFP ensured that project activities did not create tension between communities. A special attention was placed on transversal protection considering several humanitarian principles such as humanity, impartiality, neutrality, independence and do no harm, which enabled the targeting partner to collect data relating to the populations of the project area.

WFP has dedicated appropriate human resources, recruiting four Protection experts (based in Kalemie, Kananga, Tshikapa and Ituri) working in collaboration with WFP’s regional humanitarian advisor. Over the reporting period, WFP provided capacity building to its personnel and cooperating partners through training and awareness-raising activities. In Kalemie, WFP trained 110 people among WFP and partner personnel. In Ituri, WFP conducted seven trainings sessions on the centrality of protection and protection from sexual exploitation, which benefited a total of 304 individuals, including 206 men and 98 women. Dedicated protection and AAP officers across all provinces also used dedicated exchanges and distribution meetings as opportunities to provide partners and WFP personnel with key information on protection and accountability to affected populations. Additionally, COVID-19 protection measures were duly implemented during distributions to ensure adequate protection of beneficiaries including social distancing, masks, and sanitation materials.

WFP’s active participation in the Protection, GVB and Child Protection sub-clusters at provincial and local level ensured a continued collaboration between food security and protection actors to guaranteeing that assistance is provided in a safe and dignified manner. To inform program adjustments, WFP conducted five protection oversight missions, one protection risk assessments in Ituri, while also relying on risk assessments conducted by protection actors.

g. Education

While the intervention was not focused on education, targeting in Kasai Central has been oriented on the well-being of children (including former child-soldiers) ensuring synergies with ongoing activities implemented in the same communities. Through appropriate targeting, households with a high number of school-age children and households with ex-combatant children were registered as more vulnerable, benefiting from an integrated assistance package including cash assistance to facilitate access to education and improve food security of these children.

8. Cash and Voucher Assistance (CVA)

Use of Cash and Voucher Assistance (CVA)?

Planned	Achieved	Total number of people receiving cash assistance:
Yes, CVA is the sole intervention in the CERF project	Yes, CVA is the sole intervention in the CERF project	114,447

If **no**, please describe why CVA was not considered. Where feasible, CVA should be considered as a default response option, and multi-purpose cash (MPC) should be utilized wherever possible.

If **yes**, briefly note how CVA is being used, highlighting the use of MPC, and if any linkages to existing social protection systems have been explored.

In response to the COVID-19 socio-economic impacts, through the CERF funds, WFP provided multipurpose cash (MPC) assistance to vulnerable households in deprived L3 localities.

Based on evidence, the transfer value provided of FC 27,000 (US\$ 14) per person per month was calculated through a gap analysis based on WFP's Minimum Expenditure Basket (MEB) and Survival Minimum Expenditure Basket (SMEB) to cover the minimum needs of the population. The analysis of the amount of income the poorest households could provide for themselves (the Gap Analysis) demonstrated that on average, very poor households could cover approximately US\$ 4,82 per person per month. Therefore, the remaining gap, to be filled with assistance, was US\$ 14 per person month.

In order for the multipurpose cash assistance to have longer-term impact on severely food insecure households, WFP provided assistance according to identified needs, including analysis of seasonal factors. In line with the funding proposal, all beneficiaries received four rounds of cash assistance; some only through CERF funds (68,727 people in Kananga and Tshikapa – including those that received half rations from WFP and FAO in Tshikapa), while others also received cash assistance through CERF funds supplemented by funds from other donors (45,720 people in Bunia, Tshikapa and Kananga).

WFP used the direct cash transfer through Financial Service Provider (TMB) mechanism for the distributions.

With a view to achieving longer term impact, WFP and FAO strengthened and consolidated their actions, targeting the same beneficiaries within the same geographic area through MPC transfers where possible. From the total people that were assisted by WFP, 15,135 people in Kananga and 19,680 people in Tshikapa also received assistance from FAO. The purpose of this coordinated intervention being to support displaced and returned households and host communities targeted by the project to achieve sustainable improvement in their food and nutritional security by strengthening and protecting their livelihoods.

Parameters of the used CVA modality:				
Specified CVA activity (incl. activity # from results framework above)	Number of people receiving CVA	Value of cash (US\$)	Sector/cluster	Restriction
Activity 1	114,447	US\$ 4,361,273	Multi-Purpose Cash	Unrestricted

9. Visibility of CERF-funded Activities

Guidance (to be deleted): Please list weblinks to publicly available social media posts (Twitter, Facebook, Instagram, etc.), videos and/or success stories, evaluations or other kind of reports on the agency's websites covering CERF-funded activities under this project.

Title	Weblink
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ANNEX: CERF FUNDS DISBURSED TO IMPLEMENTING PARTNERS

CERF Project Code	CERF Sector	Agency	Implementing Partner Type	Total CERF Funds Transferred to Partner in USD
21-RR-FAO-001	Livelihoods	FAO	NNGO	\$14,905
21-RR-FAO-001	Livelihoods	FAO	NNGO	\$14,948
21-RR-FAO-001	Livelihoods	FAO	GOV	\$6,633
21-RR-WFP-001	Food Assistance	WFP	NNGO	\$249,231
21-RR-WFP-001	Food Assistance	WFP	INGO	\$78,568
21-RR-WFP-001	Food Assistance	WFP	INGO	\$167,034
21-RR-FAO-001	Livelihoods	FAO	NNGO	\$14,905
21-RR-FAO-001	Livelihoods	FAO	NNGO	\$14,948
21-RR-FAO-001	Livelihoods	FAO	GOV	\$6,633
21-RR-WFP-001	Food Assistance	WFP	NNGO	\$249,231
21-RR-WFP-001	Food Assistance	WFP	INGO	\$78,568