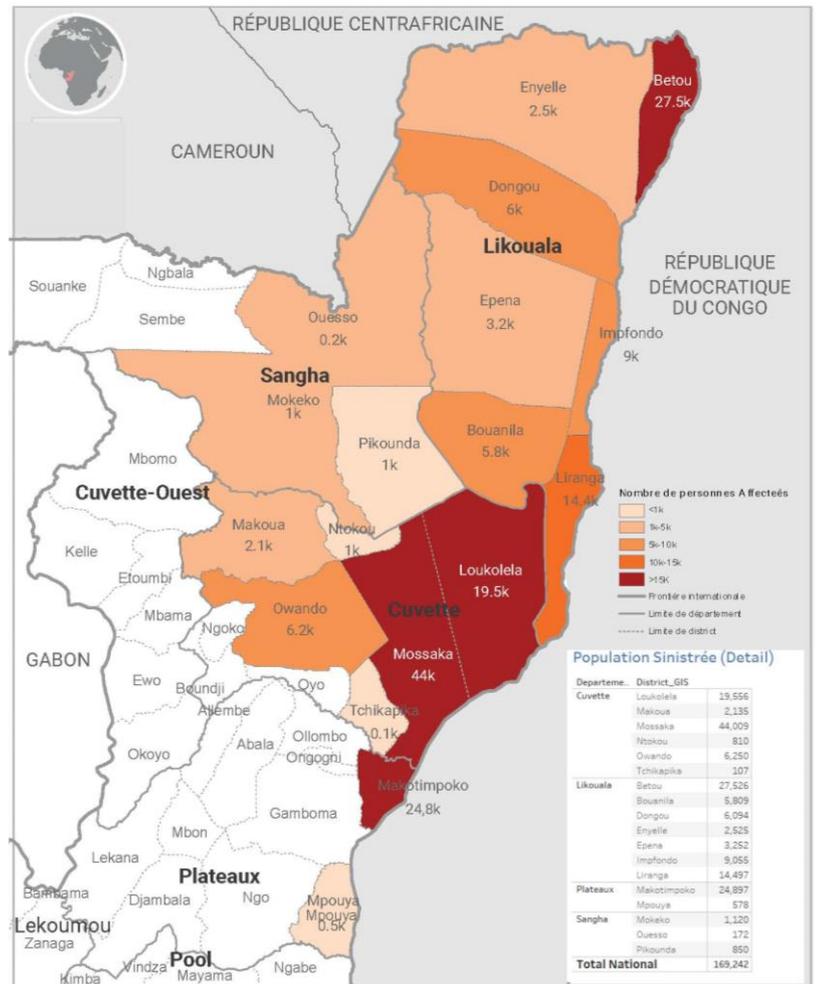


HIGHLIGHTS

- Since October 2019, heavy rains have affected about 170,000 people across the country, including 30,000 Central African and Congolese refugees.
- 6,302 hectares of agricultural fields have been destroyed.
- Approximately \$30 million is required to respond to the situation.
- Response efforts have started in the northern departments and have already reached more than 80,000 people through food distribution.
- A gradual decrease in water levels in some areas of Likouala has been observed in January 2020.
- The rains continue to fall in the departments below the Equator, leading to fears of an increase in flooded areas (Cuvette, Plateaux) over time, leading to population displacements and a risk of the development of waterborne diseases.
- The Ministry of Social Affairs and Humanitarian Action (MASAH) is mandated to coordinate support activities for those affected.



SITUATION OVERVIEW

The torrential rains that fell over a large part of the territory of the Republic of Congo between October and December 2019 resulted in a complex and persistent flooding situation over a large part of the country, particularly in the northern departments (Likouala, Cuvette, Plateaux and Sangha).

While the rains have become scarcer in the north of the country, suggesting a gradual decline in Likouala, they continue in the southern part of the Equator. Added to this is the influx of river water from the northern departments flowing along the banks of the Congo and Oubangui rivers.

ACCESS

Access to the affected areas is very difficult, as these regions are particularly isolated in normal times. Humanitarian access is mainly by river, with food being delivered by barges and speedboats.

FUNDING

The initial response plan will target around 170,000 affected people for a total of \$30 million. As of 23 January, \$11 million has already been received. At the end of December 2019, the CERF, the UN's emergency funding mechanism, released \$7 million for flood response in the Republic of Congo. To enable the affected population to access markets and ensure food security, ECHO and Canada have allocated €300,000 and CAD 250,000 respectively to fund cash transfer programmes in the Likouala department. The World Food Programme (WFP) and UNICEF received \$1.5 million and \$100,000 respectively from USAID.

WHO mobilized \$50,000 in emergency funds to support the response. UNFPA also received \$156,000 in emergency funds from headquarters. Chinese cooperation has released \$3 million for WFP to be used primarily for floods. The Government of Congo has also mobilized 400 million CFA francs to assist the affected population. With the support of the IFRC, the Congolese Red Cross is currently developing an Emergency Flood Appeal for Congo and a Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF) application relating to the risk of an epidemic. The World Bank has finalized an assessment in the affected areas in December 2019 in order to trigger the Contingent Emergency Response Component (CERC).

RESPONSE

The Water, Hygiene and Sanitation Technical Committee has been reactivated to coordinate response efforts in this sector under the lead of the Ministry of Hydraulics and with technical support from UNICEF. WFP has ensured the dispatch of three humanitarian aid barges (two on the Likouala and one on Mossaka). WFP started emergency food distribution activities in the departments of Likouala and Cuvette, where respectively 63,000 and 20,000 affected people benefited from emergency food distributions, i.e. 1,000 tons of food support. The hard-to-reach localities in the sub-prefecture of Liranga were recently reached with food aid (high-energy biscuits).

Regarding shelter, UNHCR has made 250 tents available to the Government to start temporary re-housing activities for the affected people. UNFPA is providing 1,100 dignity kits, which are being distributed in the Likouala and Cuvette departments. UNFPA has also provided four midwives and two psychologists in Likouala (Betou and Boyele).

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