



# Mobile Vulnerability Analysis and Mapping (mVAM) in the D.R. Congo

## Summary

The mobile Vulnerability Analysis and Mapping (mVAM) project uses mobile phones and voice recognition technologies to collect food security data in some of the country's most vulnerable communities.

The mVAM project allows WFP to monitor food security at affordable costs in hard to reach and remote areas. It provides timely, regular, and frequent data.

The project was successfully piloted in the Mugunga III camp for internally displaced people (IDP) near Goma, and it will be rolled out on a national scale in March 2016.

## How is data collected?

mVAM uses voice calls, text messages, and interactive voice response technologies to do short surveys with a focus on areas with large numbers of IDPs. The collected data feeds into WFP's information management systems such as its food security monitoring that can identify trends over time.

## Advantages of mVAM

- **Savings:** it costs \$3 to \$9 per surveyed person compared to face-to-face interviews that cost between \$20 to \$40.
- **Timeliness:** it takes 1 or 2 weeks to collect data as opposed to six weeks for face-to-face interviews.
- **Security:** remote data collection helps avoid traveling to distant and volatile areas.

## Results

Every month, the mVAM pilot reaches about 300 IDPs in the DRC. The project demonstrated its usefulness where high rates of vulnerability and illiteracy prevail. Significant savings in time and costs were achieved.

The project also directly empowers beneficiaries, because it increases access to mobile phones; often the people part of the project will use some of the allocated \$0.50 in airtime credit to reach family and friends outside of their camp.

## Main beneficiaries

The people surveyed through mVAM are vulnerable people among displaced populations in the conflict affected parts of the country. They have often lost all their belongings while fleeing conflict due to looting or pillaging by warring parties.

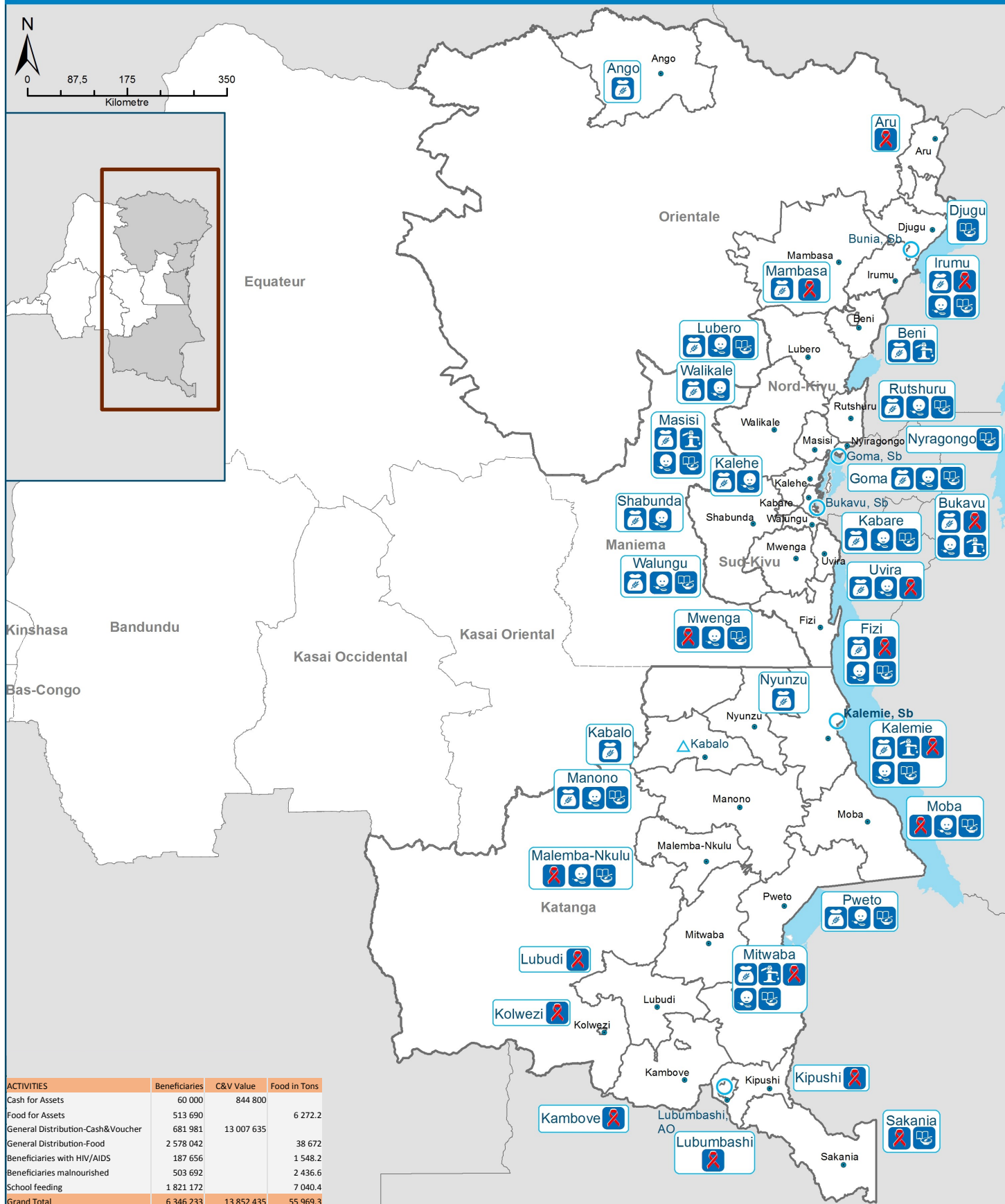
## Sustainability and Scalability

The mVAM approach is flexible and adaptable to almost any environment where there is minimum mobile phone network coverage. It can be launched with very small investments because it does not require a lot of hardware.

The analyses that are made possible with mVAM are regularly shared with the humanitarian community through two main channels: the mVAM page on the WFP website and the mVAM project blog on the Humanitarian Innovation Fund website.

[http://vam.wfp.org/sites/mvam\\_monitoring/](http://vam.wfp.org/sites/mvam_monitoring/)  
<http://www.elrha.org/hif/projects/>





#### Legende

- Territoires ciblés
- Zones d'interventions du PAM
- Activités du PAM
- Sb/Sous-Bureau PAM (AO: Areas Office)
- △ Bureau Terrain
- Lac
- Frontieres

- GD General Distribution (GD)
- N Nutrition
- SF School Feeding
- HIV HIV/TB
- FAA Food-Assistance-for-Asset

Source des données:  
PAM-RDC, Unité Programme (M&E)  
Réf: C:\Dossier\_Travail\MAP  
Format: A3

Les noms et les limites sur cette carte  
Carte n'engagent pas la Responsabilité  
des Nations Unies