



WFP Republic of Congo Country Brief

WFP Assistance

Country Programme	Total Requirements (in USD)	Total Received (in USD)	12 Month Net Funding Requirements (in USD)*
CP 200648 (Jan 2015 - Dec 2018)	56.8 m	24.3 m (43%)	11.9 m (51%)

* January - December 2018

WFP supports the Government through

School Feeding: WFP aims to promote access to education by ensuring that primary school children have a balanced diet using local products. WFP provides capacity building to the Government for school feeding policy development. The policy aims to define the vision and provide guidance as well as a handover strategy. Since the introduction of the 'Observe, React, Act' (ORA) in 2014, WFP has assisted 4,500 additional indigenous children with school meals. In the fourth quarter of 2017, WFP received funding from the Government of Japan and from McGovern-Dole, the foodstuffs will arrive at the second quarter of 2018.

Social Safety Net: The safety net programme is a conditional electronic voucher transfer to malnourished individuals under treatment for HIV/AIDS and tuberculosis (TB). Vouchers are also provided to malnourished pregnant and breastfeeding mothers who are undertaking scheduled visits to health centers either for consultations or for child vaccination programmes. The program is currently suspended due to lack of resources.

Nutrition: WFP provides specialized food to children under the age of five, pregnant and breastfeeding women to prevent chronic malnutrition and improve nutritional recovery among people living with HIV/AIDS or TB and receiving treatment. The program is currently suspended due to lack of resources.

Disaster and Risk Management: WFP provides technical support to the Government to strengthen disaster and risk management. The program is currently suspended due to lack of resources.

Main Credit: WFP/Benoît Lognoné
Photo Caption: Day on WFP activities with IDPs in Nganga-Lingolo, Pool

Highlights

- The "cease-fire and cessation of hostilities" agreement signed between the Congolese government and the rebels of Pastor Ntumi's Pool in December is holding. A joint commission is working to define the peace process.
- SCOPE registrations of IDPs in the Pool and Bouenza Departments have started in January.
- WFP bought 6mt of beans for the school feeding programme from a smallholder farmers project funded by European Union.
- The Zero Hunger Strategic Review is currently ongoing.

Support to populations affected by the ongoing crisis in Pool Department, RoC, and in CAR	Total Requirements (in USD)	Total Received (in USD)
EMOP 201066 2018	18.8 m	1.9 m (10%)

The EMOP is in line with WFP's Strategic Objective 1: "Save lives and protect livelihoods in emergencies." It aims to stabilize or improve food consumption over assistance period for Congolese targeted households and/or individuals in Pool and Bouenza departments, as well as to improve food consumption, reduce undernutrition and restore access to basic services of populations affected by the December 2013 conflict in the Central African Republic (C.A.R.).

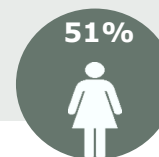
WFP has provided food assistance to internally displaced persons and refugees, and launched a nutrition programme for children under the age of 5 and pregnant and lactating girls and women.

In Numbers

3,759 refugees CAR assisted in **January 2017**

166,000 persons affected by Pool crises

19,473 IDPs assisted in **January 2017**



January 2018

Country Background & Strategy

Operational Updates

- The results of the latest PDM in Likouala Department showed that there is still a high dependence on food assistance for CAR refugees.
- Launch of the Zero Hunger Strategic Review for the creation of a Country Strategic Programme (CSP) from 2019.
- Roll-out of SCOPE started in January 2018 with the registration of 2,300 households.

Challenges

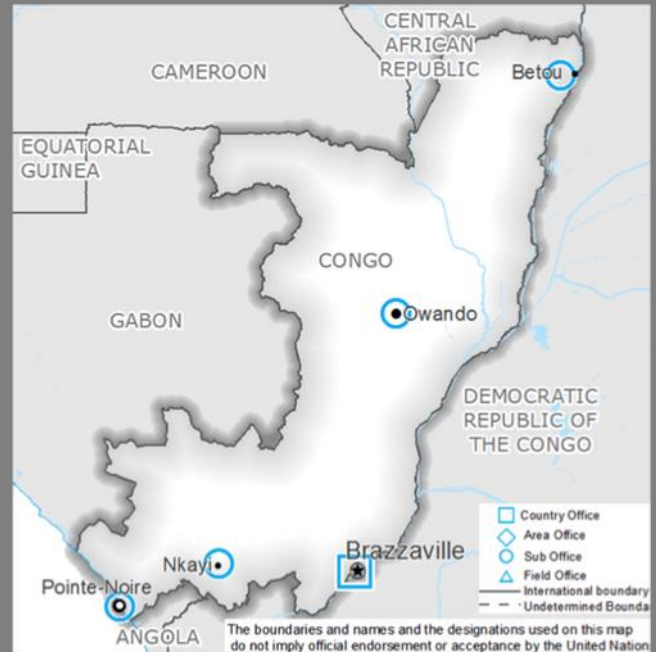
- WFP Congo urgently requires funding for the EMOP, the safety net and for school feeding programmes.

Impact of limited funding

- The Government of the Republic of Congo is the main donor for the WFP's Country Programme. Falling oil prices have resulted in serious budgetary constraints for the Government and have left a critical funding gap for the WFP Country Programme.
- Due to a lack of funds, the safety net programme and nutrition programme for HIV/AIDS and Tuberculosis patients are suspended until resources are available.
- WFP is also seeking additional support to scale up the small farmers' project started in the Bouenza department, to include other commodities and areas to further develop the home-grown school feeding programme.

Pool crisis update

- In January 2017, WFP provided assistance to 512 IDPs in the Bouenza with in-kind distributions and to 18,961 in the Pool and Bouenza department with Cash Based Transfers.
- Caritas and the Ministry of Social Affairs continue to identify and register IDPs in Pool, Bouenza and Brazzaville to update the IDPs figures.
- Access and security constraints remain difficult in the Pool Department but it's expected to improve. A UN security assessment is currently underway the yet inaccessible areas.
- The Government and the United Nations system will launch a new Humanitarian Response Plan in February 2018 focused on early recovery activities.



Despite its status as a lower middle income country with a GDP of USD 14 billion in 2015, RoC ranks poorly on the Human Development Index. Food production is below national requirements, with only 2 percent of arable land currently under cultivation. RoC produces 30 percent of the country's food needs and thus imports almost all of its food, leading to high food prices. Income is very unevenly distributed, reflected by a Gini coefficient of 0.43. Forty-eight percent of Congolese live on USD 1.25 per day.

According to the Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey, there is a dire shortage of nutritious food, resulting in children suffering from acute malnutrition. 67 percent of children under five are anaemic. In children under the age of five, rates of severe acute malnutrition stood at 2.6 percent; global acute malnutrition at 8.2 percent; stunting at 21.2 percent; and underweight at 12.3 percent. The national HIV/AIDS prevalence is 3.2 percent.

WFP's operations in RoC contribute to the global efforts to reach Sustainable Development Goals 1 (End Poverty), 2 (Zero Hunger), 3 (Good Health and Well-Being), 4 (Quality Education) and 5 (Gender Equality).

WFP has been present in RoC since 2000.

Population: **4.2 million**

2015 Human Development Index:
136 out of 188

Income Level: **Lower middle**

Chronic malnutrition: **21.2% of children between 6-59 months**

Donors

Government of Republic of Congo, USA, Japan, Brazil, European Union, France, Italy, China.