



WFP Republic of Congo Country Brief

May 2018

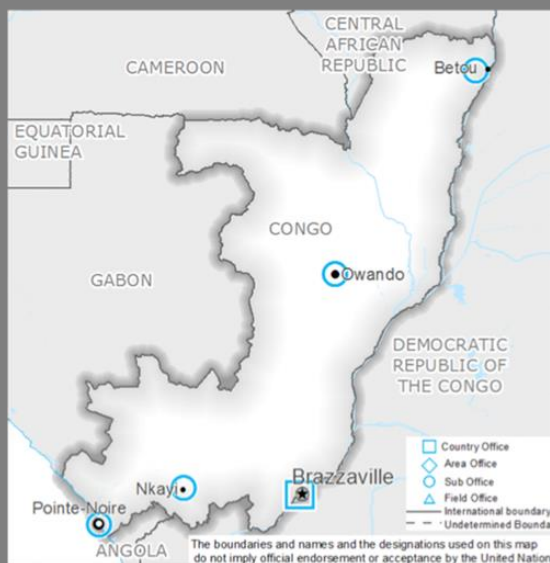
Operational Context

Despite its status as a lower middle-income country, 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. Forty-eight percent of Congolese live on less than 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.

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:
135 out of 188

Income Level: **Lower middle**

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

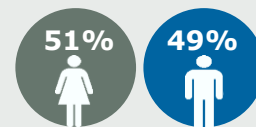
In Numbers

587 mt of food assistance distributed

US\$ 226,853 cash based transfers made

US\$ 8.4 m six months net funding requirements, representing 14% of total

73,832 people assisted
in May 2018



Operational Updates

- The "cease-fire and cessation of hostilities" agreement signed in December between the Congolese Government and the rebels of Pastor Ntumi in the Pool Department is holding. A joint commission is working to define the peace process as preparations for disarmament, demobilization and reintegration (DDR) activities are being conducted.
- Hard-to-reach areas in the Pool Department are becoming accessible and most displaced households are resettling in their places of origin. Significant rehabilitation needs have been identified to reduce food assistance dependency of returning populations and help them build resilience.
- In response to the Pool crisis, the Government and the UN Country Team have launched the 2018 Humanitarian Response Plan in support of both humanitarian and early recovery assistance.
- In May 2018, some 7,500 children under the age of five and about 6,500 pregnant and breastfeeding women received specialized nutritious foods to treat and prevent chronic malnutrition.
- WFP bought 10mt of beans for its school feeding programme from a smallholder farmers project funded by the European Union.
- In the fourth quarter of 2017, WFP received funding from the Government of Japan and from the McGovern-Dole International Food for Education and Child Nutrition Program for its School Feeding programme. Most procured commodities have arrived in the country.
- The Zero Hunger Strategic Review has been finalized. WFP's Country Strategic Plan for RoC is under development and will be launched in January 2019.

Main Photo

Credit: WFP/Benoît Lognoné
Caption: WFP activities supporting refugees from the Central African Republic Refugees in Likouala

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	Total Requirements (in USD)	Confirmed Contributions (in USD)	6 Month Net Funding Requirements (in USD)*
Country Programme			
CP 200648 (Jan 2015 - Dec 2018)	56.8 m	15.1 m (27%)	4.1 m (10%)
Support to populations affected by the ongoing crisis in Pool Department, RoC, and in CAR			
EMOP 201066 (2018)	22.2 m	5.7 m (26%)	4.3 m (26%)

Monitoring

- The results of the latest post distribution monitoring (PDM) exercise in the Pool Department show that the food security situation of displaced households has significantly improved since the beginning of WFP assistance: the prevalence of food insecure households dropped from 51 percent to approximately 13 percent, and more than 75 percent of the assisted population is estimated to have acceptable food consumption (compared to 47 percent in May 2017).
- The latest nutritional assessment conducted in the Pool Department highlights the difficulty of displaced children and women to access health centres.

Challenges

- WFP Congo urgently requires funding for the Emergency Operation (EMOP) to continue assisting conflict-affected populations in the Pool Department and refugees from the Central Africa Republic in the north of country (Likouala Department).
- WFP Congo is facing a critical resource shortfall for its Country Programme: the Social Safety Nets and Nutrition programmes have been suspended since 2016 for lack of resources. Funding is also required to support the Government in building disaster and risk management capacity.

Pool Crisis Update

- Some 114,000 conflict-affected people are estimated to be in need of assistance due to the Pool crisis.
- The 2018 Humanitarian Response Plan launched by the Government and the UN Country Team in March requires overall funding of \$70.7m, of which \$22.9m for urgent humanitarian needs and \$47.8m for early recovery. The food security intervention requires a budget of \$9m.
- As people continue to return, and the needs of conflict-affected populations evolve, WFP is preparing to start Food-for-Assets activities in the Pool Department to rehabilitate food production chains disrupted by the conflict and support resilience-building.
- During the second mission to Kindamba, WFP was able to reach the districts of Kimba and Vindza for the first time since the beginning of the conflict. 127mt of food were distributed to some 12,000 people in need. Both UNDP and a team from the Ministry of Social Affairs and Humanitarian Action participated in the mission.
- In May 2018, WFP provided assistance to 68,000 vulnerable people in the Bouenza and Pool departments. WFP assistance included 558mt of food in-kind distributions and about USD 183,500 of Cash Based Transfers.
- All WFP assistance in the Pool and Bouenza departments is now being delivered through SCOPE (WFP's beneficiary and transfer management system).

Donors

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