



World Food Programme

WFP Republic of Congo Country Brief July 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 per cent of arable land currently under cultivation. RoC produces 30 per cent of the country's food needs and thus imports most of its food, leading to high food prices. Forty-eight per cent 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. 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).



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**

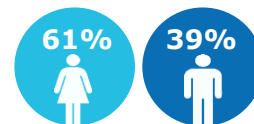
In Numbers

129.37 mt of food assistance distributed

US\$ 3,845 cash based transfers made

US\$ 14.5 m six months (July – December 2018) net funding requirements, representing 18 % of total

24,736 people assisted in July 2018



Operational Updates

- The preparations for the disarmament, demobilization and reintegration (DDR) process in Pool was finalized in July with validation planned for August. The start of the collection of arms is under preparation.
- As the security condition remains stable in the Pool Department, a significant number of displaced people have been returning to their place of origin.
- In response to the Pool crisis, the Government and the UN Country Team launched the Humanitarian Response Plan (HRP) earlier in the year in support of humanitarian and early recovery assistance. However, a different type of support will be needed for those who have now started to return and the humanitarian community has received limited contributions.
- In July, approximately 2,400 malnourished children under the age of five and about 1,000 malnourished pregnant and breastfeeding women received specialised nutritious food to treat moderate acute malnutrition. Some 5,500 children between 6 and 24 months and 5,000 pregnant and breastfeeding women were assisted to prevent malnutrition.
- The academic year 2017 – 2018 ended in June and no school meals were provided in July.
- The Zero Hunger Strategic Review has been finalised. The RoC Country Strategic Plan (CSP) is being elaborated in consultation with government counterparts and other partners. The CSP is planned to be launched in January 2019.

Main
Photo

Credit: WFP/Benoît Lognoné
Caption: Day on WFP activities with CAR Refugees in the Likouala

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WFP Operations

	Total Requirements (in USD)	Allocated Contributions (in USD)	6 Month Net Funding Requirements (in USD) *
Country Programme			
CP 200648 (January 2015 - December 2018)	56.8 m	15.1 m (26.6%)	7 m (12.3%)
Support to populations affected by the ongoing crisis in Pool Department, RoC, and in CAR			
EMOP 201066 EMOP (2018)	22.2 m	14.7 m (66.2%)	7.5 m (33.8%)

Gender Marker 

Monitoring

- According to the multisectorial evaluation that was carried out in May in the districts of Kimba, Kindamba and Mindoul, 30 to 40% of the surveyed households' food consumption and diversification are still limited. The average number of meals per day stands at 1.6 to 1.8 compared to 2.1 to 2.4 before the start of the crisis in the Pool region. The same evaluation found that there is significant proportion of households (80 – 90% of surveyed households) adopting at least one negative coping strategy such as reducing the quality of food items or the number of meals per day.

Challenges

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

Pool Crisis Update

Some 114,000 conflict-affected people are estimated to need assistance due to the Pool crisis.

The Humanitarian Response Plan launched by the Government and the UN Country Team in March requires overall funding of US\$ 70.7m, of which US\$ 22.9m for urgent humanitarian needs and US\$ 47.8m for early recovery. The food security intervention requires a budget of US\$ 9m.

As the security situation has stabilized, a significant number of displaced people are returning to their place of origin. Population movements are being observed from the bordering Bouenza

Department and from the bigger urban centres of Mindouli and Kinkala in the Pool Department towards the most-affected areas. These populations need resources to resettle and re-establish their livelihoods in their villages.

However, to date, humanitarian actors have received limited contributions and are facing a significant shortfall of the resources required to support those in need. Consequently, assistance has been scaled down while the needs have increased and diversified.

In July, due to the programmatic transition from unconditional food assistance to asset creating food support (Food Assistance for Assets), no cash based transfers were carried out by WFP in the Bouenza and Pool Departments. In addition to the Food Assistance for Assets, which will see beneficiaries receive cash as compensation for asset creation, capacity will be strengthened and nutrition support will be provided (prevention and treatment of malnutrition). Livelihood rehabilitation is expected to encourage people in the affected areas to return to their place of origin and eventually become self-reliant.

Donors

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