



World Food Programme

# WFP Republic of Congo Country Brief August 2018

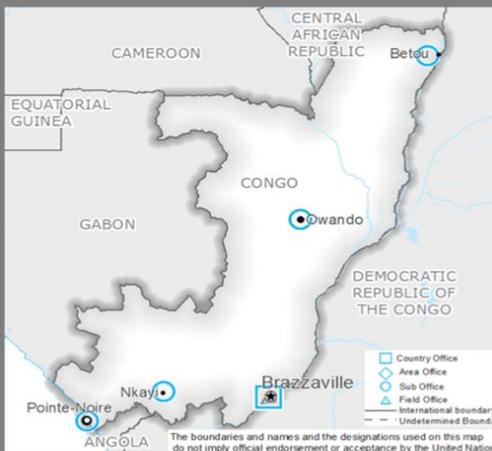


## Operational Context

RoC ranks poorly on the Human Development Index. Its food production is below national requirements with only 2 per cent of arable land currently under cultivation, covering 30 per cent of the country's food needs. Forty-eight per cent of Congolese live on USD 1.25 per day.

In April 2016, the conflict between the Congolese Government and rebel group of Pastor Ntumi's in the Pool region resulted in displacement of thousands of people. Consequently, food production has been damaged in this region, one of a few productive agricultural zones, where 90 per cent of households depend on agriculture. The ceasefire between the Congolese Government and the rebels was signed in December 2017, and the Disarmament Demobilisation and Reintegration (DDR) process started in August 2018.

WFP's operations in RoC include the assistance to these population groups affected by conflict and other vulnerable people in the country, thereby contributing 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: **137 out of 189**

Income Level: **Low**

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

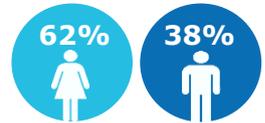
## In Numbers

**518 mt** of food assistance distributed

**US\$ 16,000** cash based transfers made

**US\$ 14.8 m** six months net funding requirements, representing 18 % of total

**44,523 people assisted** in August 2018



## Operational Updates

- Under the ongoing Disarmament Demobilisation and Reintegration (DDR) process, the collection of arms started in August 2018.
- As the security situation remains stable in the Pool Department, a significant number of displaced people have returned 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.
- In August, approximately 3,200 malnourished children under the age of five and about 1,500 malnourished pregnant and breastfeeding women received specialised nutritious food to treat moderate acute malnutrition. Some 5,900 children between 6 and 24 months and 6,700 pregnant and breastfeeding women were assisted to prevent malnutrition.
- WFP received a USD 3 million contribution from USAID/ Food For Peace for the Food Assistance for Assets activity for the returnee populations supporting them to re-establish and restore their livelihoods and resilience capacities in their place of origin.
- The Zero Hunger Strategic Review has been finalised. WFP's Country Strategic Plan (CSP) for RoC is being elaborated in consultation with government counterparts and other partners. The CSP is planned to be launched in January 2019.

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**Main Photo** Credit: WFP/Sey Koussackana  
Caption: WFP assists IDPs in the Pool Department, Lonkanga

## WFP Operations

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

## Monitoring

- According to the joint multi-sectorial evaluation carried out by UNDP and ACTED in May in the 6 districts in Pool, 42 percent of the surveyed households' food consumption is inadequate (poor or limited) and 3 percent are in the severe category. Thirty percent of the surveyed households eat only one meal per day compared to 3 percent before the start of the crisis.
- The same evaluation found that there is a significant proportion of households (80 – 90 percent of surveyed households) adopting at least one negative coping strategy such as reducing the quality of food or the number of meals per day.
- The evaluation also identified emerging needs for the recovery and resilience building of the affected populations.
- The preparations for the next Post Distribution Monitoring (PDM) are ongoing and the activities will start in September.

## Challenges

- WFP Congo urgently requires funding for the EMOP to continue assisting conflict-affected populations in the Pool Department and 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 USD 70.7m, of which USD 22.9m for urgent humanitarian needs and USD 47.8m for early recovery. The food security intervention requires a budget of USD 9m.

- 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.
- As the security situation has stabilised, 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 larger urban centres of Mindouli and Kinkala in the Pool Department towards the most-affected areas. According to the field mission carried out in August in Kindamba and Vindza, 70 to 75 percent of the population have already returned. In August, General Food Distribution took place in Kindamba, Kikala, Mbandzoundounga and Ngoma Tsé-tsé.
- For the year of 2018, nutrition assistance is reaching 40 health centres in the Pool Department.
- In view of programmatic transition from the general distribution to Food Assistance for Assets (FFA), a mission was carried out in August to identify the assets to be rehabilitated. The productive assets destroyed or damaged by the conflict and needed to be rehabilitated include fish ponds, access roads and small bridges to transport agricultural products to markets. The FFA activities coupled with capacity strengthening and assistance for nutrition are planned to be carried out in the coming months, taking into account the identified needs. 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.