



World Food Programme

# WFP Republic of Congo Country Brief

## September 2018

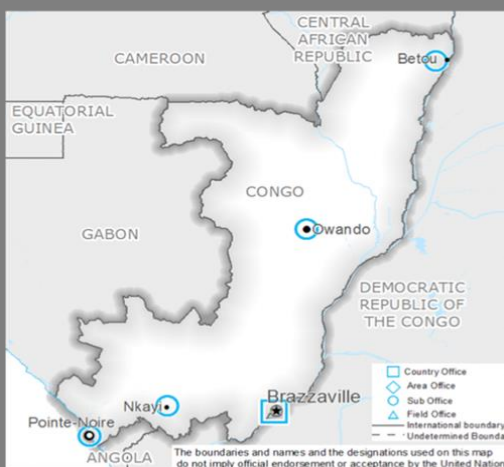


### Operational Context

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 percent 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 percent 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) and 17 (Partnerships for the goals).



The boundaries and names and the designations used on this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by the United Nations

Population: **4.2 million**

2017 Human Development Index: **137 out of 189**

Income Level: **Lower middle**

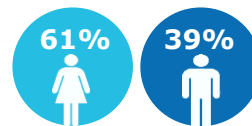
Chronic malnutrition: **21.2% of children between 6-59 months**

## In Numbers

**410 mt** of food assistance distributed

**US\$ 14.5 m** net funding requirements (October - December 2018)

**39,898 people** assisted in September 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 September, approximately 3,200 malnourished children under the age of five and about 2,300 malnourished pregnant and breastfeeding women received specialised nutritious food to treat moderate acute malnutrition. Some 6,300 children between 6 and 24 months and 7,300 pregnant and breastfeeding women were assisted to prevent malnutrition.
- In September, under the project for supporting small bean producers in Bouenza department (PAPPH), WFP purchased 33mt of beans from the smallholders assisted by the project.
- A donation of 190 tonnes of canned mackerel (equivalent to US\$1.8 million) from the Government of Japan for the school meals programme was confirmed in September. About 60,000 children at 318 schools will benefit from this contribution.
- Food commodities and non-food items such as cooking pots and other kitchen utensils have been delivered to the schools targeted for the school meal programme starting in October.
- The Zero Hunger Strategic Review has been finalised. WFP's Country Strategic Plan (CSP) for RoC is being formulated in consultation with government counterparts and other partners. The CSP is planned to be launched in January 2019.

**Main Credit:** WFP/Rina UCHIDA

**Photo Caption:** Arrival of beans from smallholders

**Contact info:** Rina Uchida (rina.uchida@wfp.org)

**Country Director:** Jean-Martin Bauer

Further information: [www.wfp.org/countries/congo](http://www.wfp.org/countries/congo)

## 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 EMOP (2018)	22.2 m	14.7 m (66.2%)	7.5 m (33.8%)

Gender Marker 

## 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 Post Distribution Monitoring (PDM) exercise started at the end of September and the results are expected to be ready in October.

## 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 September, General Food Distribution took place in Mbandzoundounga, and Mindouli.
- 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.
- The first phase of the FFA activities, road rehabilitation, started in collaboration with the Congolese government and the implementing partner, ACTED, at the end of September.

## Donors

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