



World Food Programme

WFP Republic of Congo

Country Brief

October 2018

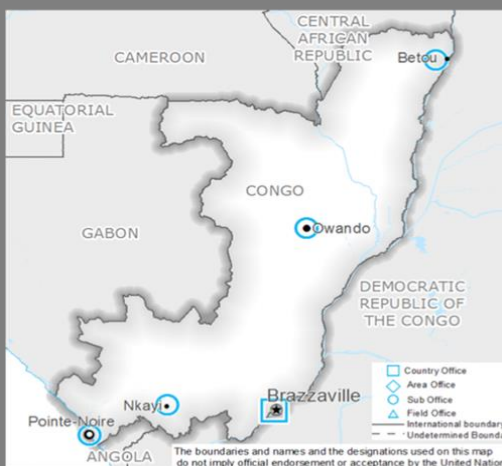


Operational Context

RoC ranks poorly on the Human Development Index, and 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, conflict erupted between the Congolese government and the rebels of Pastor Ntumi in the Pool region leading to thousands of Internally Displaced People (IDPs). The conflict damaged food production in the region further, one of few productive agricultural zones, where 90% of households depend on agriculture. A ceasefire was signed in December 2017, and the Disarmament Demobilisation and Reintegration (DDR) process started in August 2018.

WFP's operations in RoC include assistance to those displaced and other vulnerable people in the country 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), 5 (Gender Equality) and 17 (Partnerships for the goals).



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**

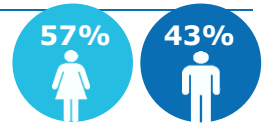
In Numbers

222 mt of food assistance distributed

US\$ 12,594 cash based transfers made

US\$ 13.8 m two month (November – December 2018) net funding requirements, representing 18 % of total

41,524 people assisted in October 2018



Operational Updates

- As security conditions remain stable in the Pool Department, a significant number of displaced people have returned to their place of origin.
- Post Distribution Monitoring (PDM) was carried out in the Pool Department. Results show that almost 40 percent of households are classified as food insecure, and households need to spend at least 40 percent of their income on food.
- In October, approximately 2,100 malnourished children under the age of five and about 700 malnourished pregnant and breastfeeding women received specialised nutritious food to treat moderate acute malnutrition. Some 8,000 children between 6 and 23 months and 3,900 pregnant and breastfeeding women were assisted to prevent malnutrition.
- The school meal programme restarted in October. This year the programme plans to provide a hot meal to about 60,000 children at 318 schools. In addition to in-kind contributions from the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) (rice, yellow peas, oil) and the Japanese government (canned fish), this school year the Congolese government contributes salt for the programme. In October, about 20,000 children received school meals.
- To date, 25,712 households (104,148 individuals) have been registered in WFP's beneficiary and transfer management system, SCOPE.
- A field visit for the school meals programme was carried out with a delegation from USDA in Bouenza and Sangha departments.
- 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 Credit: WFP/Rina UCHIDA

Photo Caption: School meal in Ouesso.

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

Country Director: Jean-Martin Bauer

Further information: www.wfp.org/countries/congo

WFP Operations

	Total Requirements (in USD)	Allocated Contributions (in USD)	Net Requirements (in USD) *	Funding
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	15.4 m (69.4%)	6.8 m (30.6%)	

* November – December 2018

Gender Marker 

Monitoring

- WFP, in coordination with a third-party monitor, conducted a Post Distribution Monitoring (PDM) exercise in October, surveying over 770 households in 7 districts in the Pool department.
- According to the preliminary results, nearly 1 in 4 households is still living in temporary shelter such as IDP camps or with host families.
- Thirty-nine percent of surveyed households were classified as either moderately or severely food insecure (2.8 percent of surveyed households were severely food insecure).
- Approximately 18 percent of households have a poor food consumption score. This weighted dietary diversity score is calculated using the frequency of consumption of different food groups consumed by a household during the 7 days before the survey.
- Households were asked about their spending patterns on food and non-food items during the last 30 days. With very low income, purchasing food remains the number one priority for most households. On average, households in Goma Tsetse, Kimba, Kindamba and Kinkala spent at least 50 percent of their monthly expenditure on procuring food; the average was 40 percent in the districts of Mbandza Ndounga, Mindouli and Vindza.

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).

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.

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.

Nutrition assistance is reaching 40 health centres in the Pool department since January 2018.

Productive assets, such as feeder roads and small bridges (access to markets) and fish ponds, have been destroyed or damaged by the conflict and needed to be rehabilitated. In order to support the reconstruction of life of increased number of returnees, WFP is shifting its assistance from General Distribution to Food Assistance for Assets (FFA) to rehabilitate these productive assets. Livelihood rehabilitation is also expected to encourage people in the affected areas to return to their place of origin and eventually become self-reliant. Taking into account the continuous needs, nutrition related activities will be continued.

In October, in collaboration with implementing partner ACTED, the first FFA activities started in Mindouli district where participants from 65 households (approximately 325 people) work on the rehabilitation of a feeder road. This road facilitates access to the main road and markets and improves economic activities.

The activities are planned to be scaled up after the rainy season with emphasis on technical capacity strengthening for creating and rehabilitating asset.

Donors

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