



World Food Programme

WFP Republic of Congo Country Brief

November 2018

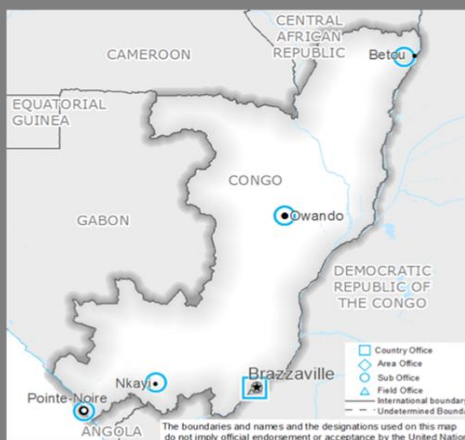


Operational Context

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 less than USD 1.25 per day.

In April 2016, the conflict between the Congolese government and rebels led by Pastor Ntumi in Pool escalated leading to thousands of Internally Displaced People (IDPs). Food production has been damaged as the region is one of few productive agricultural zones, with 90 per cent of households dependent on agriculture. A ceasefire was signed between the government and the rebel group in December 2017. The Disarmament Demobilisation and Reintegration (DDR) process started in August 2018

WFP's operations in RoC include assistance to this displaced population 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**

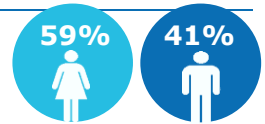
In Numbers

686.73 mt of food assistance distributed

US\$ 167,389 cash based transfers made

US\$ 4.6 m six-month (December 2018 to May 2019) net funding requirements, representing 37 % of the total

98,483 people assisted in November 2018



Operational Updates

- According to the Post Distribution Monitoring (PDM) carried out in the Pool Department in October, food insecurity among the households and the nutrition status of children under five and Pregnant or Lactating Women (PLW) remains significant.
- In November, approximately 2,600 malnourished children under the age of five and about 1,000 malnourished PLW received specialised nutritious food to treat moderate acute malnutrition. Some 9,200 children between 6 and 23 months and 11,400 PLW were assisted to prevent malnutrition.
- In November, about 58,400 children were served meals at 318 schools including those for indigenous children.
- The handing-over ceremony of tinned fish for the school meal programme donated by the Japanese Government was held in the presence of the ministry of primary and secondary education and the ambassador of Japan.
- The *Chemin de Fer Congo-Océan* (CFCO) train line was reopened on 23 November, with a ceremony held in Mindouli. This train line runs from Brazzaville to Pointe-Noire but had been suspended due to the conflict in the Pool. This enables the return of those displaced, may strengthen security conditions and facilitates the transport of agricultural and other commercial products contributing to the local economy.
- Under the smallholder bean producer support project (*Projet d'Appui aux Petits Producteurs de Haricots*, PAPPH), WFP purchased 29.75 mt in November. In total, 103.85 mt of beans have been procured from smallholder farmers in 2018.
- To date, 25,823 households (104,355 individuals) have been registered in SCOPE, WFP's beneficiary and transfer management system.
- Distribution using SCOPE started in the Department of Likouala for about 9,000 refugees from CAR.
- The Zero Hunger Strategic Review has been finalised, and the RoC Country Strategic Plan (CSP) is planned to be launched in January 2019.

WFP Operations

	Total Requirements (in USD)	Allocated Contributions (in USD)	6 Month Net Funding Requirements (in USD)
Country Programme (2015 – 2018), Support to populations affected by the crisis in Pool Department (RoC) and in CAR (2018), and Country Strategic Plan (2019 – 2023)	12.4 m	7.8 m (63%)	4.6 m (37%)

*Period of 6 months from December 2018 to May 2019



Monitoring

- WFP, in coordination with a third-party monitor, conducted a Post Distribution Monitoring (PDM) exercise in October, surveying over 770 households in seven districts in the Pool department.
- According to the preliminary results, nearly one in four households is still living in temporary shelter such as Internally Displaced People (IDP) camps or with host families.
- Nearly two in five households (37 percent) were classified as either moderately or severely food insecure, and women-headed households were found to be more vulnerable to food insecurity (53 percent have poor or limited food consumption and 44 percent are moderately or severely food insecure).
- The proportion of households' budgets spent on food remains high with 27 percent of households (and 32 percent of women-headed households) spending more than 65 percent of their monthly budget on food.
- Malnutrition remains significant among children under five and pregnant or lactating women: 15.8 percent of non-beneficiary children and 9.6 percent of beneficiary children suffer from Global Acute Malnutrition, and nearly 20 percent of children in general are found to be chronically malnourished. More than 25 percent of PLW are malnourished (3 percent Severe Acute Malnutrition, 6 percent Moderate Acute Malnutrition and 17 percent at risk). The number of malnourished PLW is double among the non-beneficiaries compared to the WFP beneficiaries (rate of GAM 14.3 percent against 7.9 percent).

Challenges

- WFP Congo urgently requires funding 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). In November, no malnutrition treatment assistance was carried out due to the financial shortfall.
- The EMOP will come to the end at the end of 2018 with the activities continuing under the Country Strategic Plan 2019 – 2023. The Net Funding Requirement for the IDP and refugee operations for the next six months stands at US\$3 million.

Pool Crisis Update

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

The humanitarian actors agreed on not expanding the Humanitarian Response Plan (HRP) for 2019 since a significant portion of the needs are related to early recovery and development rather than immediate emergency needs. However, the activities related to development are crucial and rapid and sustainable assistance is important to ensure stability and reconstruction of livelihoods.

Considering the insufficient funds received for the Humanitarian Response Plan for 2018, the Secretariat of the Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF) has agreed on the allocation of US\$ 3,067,000 for assistance in Pool through WFP, UNICEF, WHO, UNDP and FAO. WFP received US\$ 700,000 for its early recovery operation and nutrition assistance in the Pool Department; however, additional funds are required.

WFP's nutrition assistance has been provided in 40 health centres in the Pool department since January 2018.

Productive assets have been destroyed or damaged by the conflict and need to be rehabilitated. To support the reconstruction of livelihoods for an increased number of returnees, WFP is shifting its assistance from General Food Distribution to Food Assistance For Assets (FFA) to rehabilitate 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. Considering the continuous needs, nutrition related activities will continue.

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

Identification and validation of other potential assets has been carried out with government technical counterparts and implementing partners. In November, Community Based Participatory Planning consultations were held at potential FFA sites in the Mindouli district. This exercise allows for better understanding of community specific needs and to help mobilise partners. The activities are planned to be scaled up after the rainy season with emphasis on technical capacity strengthening for creating and rehabilitating assets.

Donors

[Government of Republic of Congo](#), [USA](#), [Japan](#), [Brazil](#), [European Union](#), [France](#), [Italy](#), [China](#).