



World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES
CHANGING LIVES

WFP Republic of Congo Country Brief January 2019



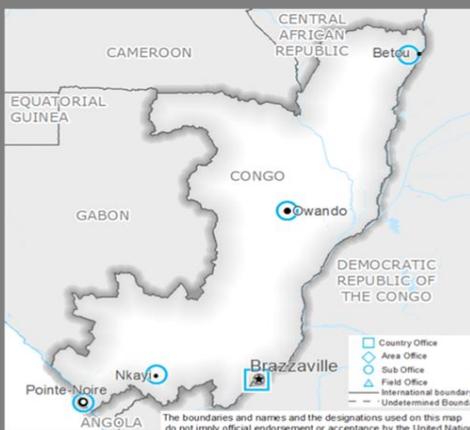
Operational Context

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.

The internally displaced persons (IDPs) resulted from the armed conflict in the Pool department started to return their place of origin following the ceasefire signed in December 2017. Humanitarian populations are focusing on early recovery assistance including. WFP started to implement Food Assistance For Assets (FFA) activities to rehabilitate their livelihood and infrastructure.

In December 2018, more than 11,000 people fled from Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) to the department of Plateaux in RoC following the intercommunal conflict.

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**

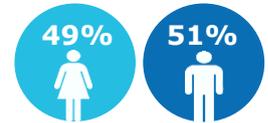
Chronic malnutrition: **21.2% of children between 6-59 months**

In Numbers

371 mt of food assistance distributed

US\$ 9.82 m six-month (February to July 2019) net funding requirements, representing 79% of the total

62,300 people assisted in January 2019



Operational Updates

- Following intercommunal conflicts in DRC in December, a significant number of displaced people have been observed in the Department of Plateau in the Republic of Congo. According to a UNHCR-WFP joint assessment carried out at the end of December, persons having fled to RoC are highly vulnerable and need immediate food assistance. The prevalence of malnutrition is also concerning as the rate of Global Acute Malnutrition (GAM) is higher than 15%. On 28 December, the Government requested for the UN to assist 16,000 displaced people.
- To respond to the urgent need and the Government's request, WFP started food assistance for displaced people at the beginning of January. The food basket consists of rice, pulses, oil, and salt. In January, WFP reached about 9,150 people (5,075 women and 4,075 men) in Mapotipoko and Bouemba districts in the Plateaux department. WFP also distributed Plumpy Doz - a ready-to-use soy-based nutrient supplement - to approximately 1,300 children aged 6 to 59 months for the prevention of malnutrition.
- A daily hot meal was served to about 51,000 children (24,400 girls and 26,700 boys) at 250 schools including those for indigenous children.
- Following the first Food Assistance for Assets (FFA) activities in the Mindouli district in 2018, WFP is scaling up in other districts in the Pool department as part of early recovery in the conflict affected zones. WFP has signed an agreement with its cooperating partner APDRA for the rehabilitation of fish ponds.
- The Zero Hunger Strategic Review has been finalised, and the RoC Country Strategic Plan (CSP) for 2019-2023 was launched in January.

Country Strategic Plan (2019-2023)

Total Requirement (in USD)	Allocated Contributions (in USD)	Six Month Net Funding Requirements (in USD)
97.86 m	36.41 m	9.82 m

Strategic Result 1: Everyone has access to food

Strategic Outcome 1: Food insecure people affected by shocks have access to adequate food all year round

Focus area: Nutrition, distribution of cash/ food to the affected households, and Food Assistance For Assets

Activities:

- Provide unconditional and/or conditional food and nutrition assistance to people affected by shocks

Strategic Outcome 2: Equitable national social protection interventions effectively target vulnerable populations, including school-aged children with sustained access to safe and nutritious food

Focus area: School feeding and technical assistance to the Government

Activities:

- Provide safe, adequate and nutritious school meals to targeted school children.
- Provide technical support to Government for improved implementation of shock-responsive social protection interventions

Strategic Result 3: Smallholder productivity and incomes

Strategic Outcome 3: Targeted smallholder farmers and communities benefit from productive and sustainable livelihoods which support nutrition value chains

Focus area: Technical supports to smallholders and local purchase

Activities:

- Provide analytical, technical and equipment support for smallholder farmers aimed at encouraging market-oriented and climate-resilience production and livelihoods

Strategic Result 8: Enhance global partnership

Strategic Outcome 4: Humanitarian and development actors and national systems have access to WFP expertise and services

Focus area: Provision of logistic support

Activities:

- Provide on-demand supply chain services for partners

Monitoring

IDPs and Returnees in the Pool Department

- According to the Post Distribution Monitoring (PDM) carried out in October 2018, nearly two in five households 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).
- Malnutrition remains significant amongst children aged 6 to 23 months and pregnant or lactating women (PLW): 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. The number of malnourished PLW is double among the non-beneficiaries compared to those receiving WFP food (Global Acute Malnutrition – GAM - at 14.3 percent against 7.9 percent).

CAR refugees in the Likouala Department

- In January, a UNHCR-WFP joint assessment mission (JAM) was conducted in collaboration with AARREC (Agence d'Assistance aux Rapatriés et aux Réfugiés aux Congo) and CNAR (National Committee for Assistance to Refugees). The results will be available in February.

Displaced populations from DRC

- During the UNHCR-WFP joint assessment mission, urgent food assistance needs were identified by local authorities and displaced populations. People fled without means and cannot buy basic food items. Children were found to share meals with siblings. A screening of 126 children showed that over 15% of them were acutely malnourished.
- Vulnerable children do not have access to age-appropriate food. There is no source of clean water in Makotipoko, and there are reports that diarrhoea cases are increasing.
- The price of cassava flour has increased sharply because of the crisis' effect on trade and markets. The traders from DRC are currently staying away from RoC which is suppressing trade flows and food availability. WFP is keeping track of developments using mobile Vulnerability Analysis and Mapping (mVAM) key informant phone calls.

Challenges

- Since the beginning of January, WFP is facing a complete cash-based transfer (CBT) pipeline break for assisting refugees from the Central African Republic (CAR) in the Likouala department and newly arrived displaced populations from DRC. WFP is mobilizing additional funds which are needed urgently.

RDC displaced populations in RoC Update

Following intercommunal violence in DRC in December 2018, a significant number of people have fled to Makotipoko, Bouemba and Mpouya in the Department of Plateau in RoC. The RoC Government has requested for the UN to support 16,000 refugees.

Recognising this humanitarian situation, the Ministry of Social Affairs and Humanitarian Actions (MSAH) officially requested UN multi-sectoral humanitarian assistance for these displaced populations. UN agencies developed a Response Plan in January and seek funds for its implementation.

Limited access to the concerned zones is a critical challenge to humanitarian action. Makotipoko is only accessible by boat. WFP plays an important role in the coordination of logistics, and reinforces its logistical capacity to support and provide services to the Government and other humanitarian actors.

Donors

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