



World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES
CHANGING LIVES

WFP Republic of Congo Country Brief April 2019

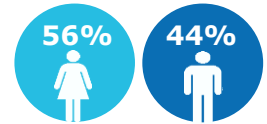


In Numbers

470 mt of food assistance distributed

US\$ 631,400 cash-based transfers made

96,830 people assisted
in April 2019



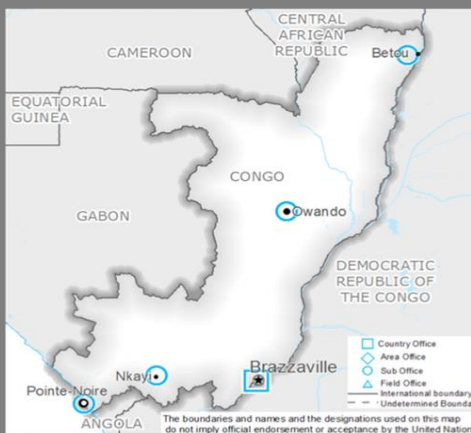
Operational Context

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 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).



Operational Updates

- Since the beginning of the inflow of asylum seekers from DRC in mid-December 2018, WFP, in collaboration with its partners, has been providing assistance for treatment of moderate acute malnutrition (MAM) and general food distribution. In April WFP reached more than 10,000 beneficiaries (5,500 women and 4,500 men) in Mapotipoko and Bouemba districts in the Plateaux department. The authorities and humanitarian actors are relocating displaced populations in Makotopoko district with limited infrastructure and geographical access to Bouemba district.
- The ["Share the Meal"](#) campaign for Congo was launched in April. This application allows people globally to make a donation to the school feeding activities in Congo from USD 0.5 per meal. The funds will be used for providing school meals with locally produced foods.
- WFP increased the number of schools for the school feeding programme by 44 in the Pool and Bouenza departments and reached 362 schools. In April, a daily hot meal was served to about 72,200 children (34,500 girls and 37,700 boys) at primary schools including those for indigenous children, ORA schools.
- The 1st distribution of dignity kits under the Danish funded WFP – UNFPA joint project on Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights (SRHR) and Gender Based Violence (GBV) in the Pool department was carried out in April. WFP contributes its expertise in Cash Based Transfer (CBT) for the distribution, and in April, about 12,000 reproductive aged women received the dignity kits.
- WFP keeps scaling up Food Assistance for Assets (FFA) in the Pool. WFP's cooperating partner, APDRA is working on rehabilitation of 40 fish ponds in Mindouli, Kindamba and Vindza districts, and started to identify additional sites for the scale up. Rehabilitation of total of 94km feeder road was started in collaboration with ACTED.
- US\$ 400,000 contribution to resilience building activities has been announced by the German government (BMZ).
- WFP reopened Kindamba sub-office covering Kindamba, Kimba, Vindza, Mindouli and Mayama districts in the Pool department. This allows to enhance the close activity monitoring in the field.

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

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Main Photo Credit: WFP/ Alice RAHMOUN
Caption: Distribution of dignity kit in the Pool department

Country Strategic Plan (2019-2023)

Total Requirement (in USD)	Allocated Contributions (in USD)	Six Month Net Funding Requirements (in USD)
97,86 m	30,60 m	9,66 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

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).
- 15.8 percent of children from 6 to 59 months in non-beneficiary households and 9.6 percent of those of beneficiaries suffer from Global Acute Malnutrition (GAM), and nearly 20 percent of children in general are found to be chronically malnourished. More than 25 percent of PLW are malnourished.
- The preparation of establishment of the Kindamba sub-office in the Pool district is on-going. The office is planned to be opened in April.

- According to UNHCR – WFP Joint Assessment Mission (JAM) conducted in collaboration with AARREC (cooperating partner) and CNAR (National Committee for Assistance to Refugees) in January, the food security and nutrition situation remain precarious. 46.79 percent of surveyed households were found to be moderately food insecure and 23.49 percent severely food insecure. Nutrition status of refugee children from 6 to 59 months is worse than that of host populations. For the refugee children, the rate of GAM is 10.4 percent in which 9.2 percent of Moderate Acute Malnutrition and 1.2 percent of Severe Acute Malnutrition compared to 6.1 percent, 4.1 percent and 2 percent, respectively.

- This unfavourable situation was partially due to the pipeline break for the assistance to CAR refugees. CAR refugees' access to land also hindered the launch of FFA activities in the Likouala department. WFP, with its partners, is currently negotiating with the authorities to give certain land rights to these refugees.

Displaced populations from DRC in the Plateaux Department

- The results from the Post Distribution Monitoring (PDM) carried out in Makotipoko and Bouenba districts in March showed that one out of four displaced households are food insecure. Amongst children aged 6 to 59 months of the displaced households, 9.4 percent suffer from acute malnutrition (6.5 percent of moderate, and 2.9 percent of severe). 3 out of 4 displaced households declared that they adapt coping strategy. Proportion of single women-headed households is 10 times higher amongst the displaced populations compared to the host populations. Displaced populations have worse food consumption score (10 percent versus 1 percent), especially amongst women-headed households: 39.4 percent of women-headed households with limited or poor food consumption and 22.3 percent for those of men.
- The situation remains stable since the humanitarian actors are able to provide assistance to respond their emergency needs.
- In order to ease the congestion of displaced populations in Makotipoko, where social infrastructure is already limited and geographical access is difficult, the authorities and humanitarian actors are trying to relocate displaced populations to Bouemba district. WFP set up a Wiikhal, mobile warehouse tent, in Bouemba district.

Donors

Government of Republic of Congo, USA, Japan, China, Denmark, Germany, European Union.