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

Contact info: Rina Uchida (rina.uchida@wfp.org)
Country Director: Jean-Martin Bauer
Further information: www.wfp.org/countries/congo

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 Bouenma 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 Bouenma 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.
CAR refugees in the Likouala Department

- 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 Bouenba district. WFP set up a Wikhail, mobile warehouse tent, in Bouenba district.

Donors

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