



World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES  
CHANGING LIVES

# WFP Republic of Congo Country Brief July 2019



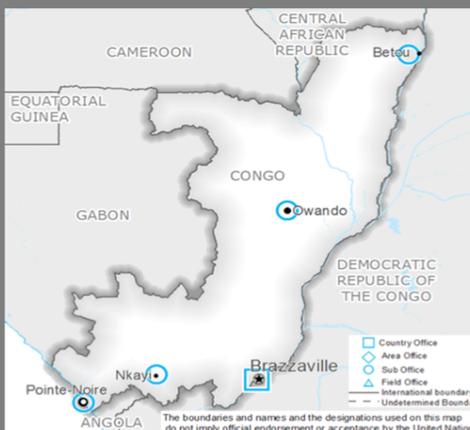
## Operational Context

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 to their place of origin following the ceasefire signed in December 2017. Humanitarian populations are focusing on early recovery assistance. WFP started to implement Food Assistance for Assets (FFA) activities to rehabilitate their livelihood and reinforce their resilience.

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).



Population: **4.2 million**

2017 Human Development Index: **137 out of 189**

Income Level: **Lower middle**

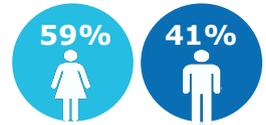
Chronic malnutrition: **21.2% of children between 6-59 months**

## In Numbers

**77 mt** of food assistance distributed

**US\$ 283,740** cash-based transfers made

**24,379 people assisted**  
in July 2019



## Operational Updates

- WFP keeps scaling up Food Assistance for Assets (FFA) activities in the Pool. WFP's cooperating partner, APDRA is working on rehabilitation of 542 fish ponds and a gardening activity in Mindouli, Kindamba, Mayama and Vindza districts. Rehabilitation of total of 94 km feeder road is on-going in collaboration with ACTED. WFP has further identified new cooperating partners to initiate additional FFA activities.
- Since the beginning of the influx of asylum seekers from the 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. The authorities and humanitarian actors are relocating displaced populations in Makotipoko district with limited infrastructure and geographical access to Bouemba district.
- On 6<sup>th</sup> July, a handing-over ceremony of foods from the Chinese government contribution for the FFA activities in the Pool department taken place in the Mayama district in the Pool department with presence of the Minister of Social Affairs and Humanitarian Action, Chinese Ambassador in the Republic of Congo, and the local authorities. The Chinese government contributed for USD 2 million to WFP for the early recovery assistances for the returnees in the Pool department.
- WFP is currently developing resilience and humanitarian – development – peace nexus activities supporting smallholder producers' capacity development, especially in the reinforcement of cassava value chain.

## Country Strategic Plan (2019-2023)

Total Requirement (in USD)	Allocated Contributions (in USD)	Six Month Net Funding Requirements (in USD)
<b>97,86 m</b>	<b>30.60 m</b>	<b>11,84 m</b>

### 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 FFA baseline survey carried out in May in Kimba, Kindamba, Mayama, Mindouli, and Vindza districts in the Pool department, food insecurity in these areas remains high.
- 1 out of 2 households is found insecure according to the Consolidated Approach to Reporting Indicators of Food Security (CARI) classification. The prevalence is higher among women-headed households (57.61% versus 53.87%). The proportion of food insecure households is higher in the districts of Kimba (63.81%) and Kindamba (59.51%). The majority of households in all the five districts have either limited or poor food consumption scores.

- 4 out of 5 households adopted livelihood-based coping strategies, primarily stress and crisis coping strategies. The rate is higher in the districts of Kimba and Kindamba, 92.86% and 87.32% respectively.
- Livelihood and resource-generating opportunities remain limited. 4 out of 5 households rely on small-scale agriculture, primarily cassava production, and many are unable to access local markets to sell their products.
- 1 household out of 5 spent more than 65% of its monthly budget on food. Households also prioritised expenditure on medical expenses and education costs.

### CAR refugees in the Likouala Department

- According to the UNHCR – WFP Joint Assessment Mission (JAM) conducted in January, the situation of food security and nutrition remain precautionary. 46.79 percent of surveyed households were found to be moderate food insecure and 23.49 percent are 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 GAM rate is 10.4 percent in which 9.2 percent of Moderate Acute Malnutrition and 1.2 percent of Severe Acute Malnutrition compared to a GAM rate of 6.1 percent, with 4.1 percent and 2 percent, respectively for moderate and severe malnutrition.
- This situation was partially due to the pipeline break in the assistance to CAR refugees. CAR refugees' access to land also hindered to launch FFA activities in the Likouala department. WFP, with its partners, is currently negotiating with the authorities to give certain land access to these refugees.

### Displaced populations from DRC in the Plateaux Department

- According to the Post Distribution Monitoring (PDM) carried out in March, 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 very limited, and geographical access is difficult, the authorities and humanitarian actors are trying to relocate displaced populations to Bouemba district. WFP set up a Wikhall, mobile warehouse tent, in Bouemba district. WFP is planning to shift from in-kind distribution to Cash Based Transfer.
- WFP is closely monitoring the on-going discussions between the two governments (RoC and DRC) on the repatriation of the displaced populations.

## Donors

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