



World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES
CHANGING LIVES

WFP Republic of Congo Country Brief September 2019



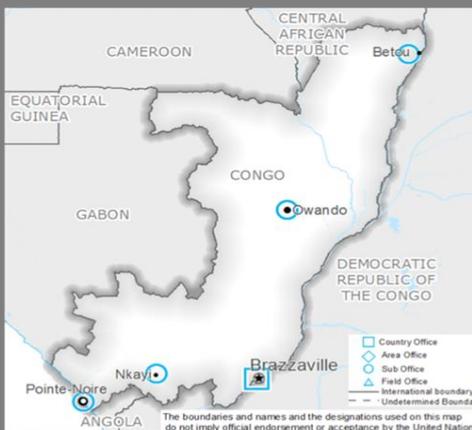
Operational Context

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**

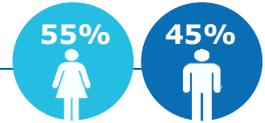
Chronic malnutrition: **21.2% of children between 6-59 months**

In Numbers

463 mt of food assistance distributed

USD 410,000 cash-based transfers made

44,600 people assisted
in September 2019



Operational Updates

- WFP is scaling up its Food Assistance For Assets (FFA) activities in the Pool department in collaboration with its cooperating partners, namely ACTED, ACODECO, APDRA, AsuDH, and CIAD. Today, 389 fish ponds out of 524 planned have been rehabilitated and a total of 263 km of feeder road rehabilitation is on-going. Additionally, rehabilitation of 6 hectares of vegetable garden sites out of 20 hectares planned has been completed. Identification of further sites is on-going with the cooperating partners and national counterparts.
- Since the beginning of the influx of asylum seekers from DRC in the end of 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. Around 5,000 asylum seekers in Makotipoko have agreed to relocate by December 2019. Today, there are about 7,000 asylum seekers in Makotipoko and 3,500 in Bouemba, in which 1,500 live in a camp.
- The fifth Investing in Africa Forum took place in Brazzaville from 10 to 12 September. WFP with FAO set up a stand to present the joint cassava value chain programme, aiming to build an industrial value chain of cassava flour, from agriculture production to processing and marketing. The programme is built upon Public-Private-Partnership and South-South Triangular Cooperation, with Congolese and Chinese public and private sector as well as Rome-Based Agencies, namely FAO, IFAD and WFP. Under this programme, WFP will contribute its expertise and experience in smallholder support and local purchase. The acting regional director of WFP based in Johannesburg, Ms. Margaret Malu, participated in this forum. The forum allowed to build contacts with potential investors to the programme.
- The delivery of food commodities for the school feeding programme for the next academic year (October 2019 to June 2020) has started.
- An unstable supply of fuel across the country continued in Congo in September.

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Country Strategic Plan (2019-2023)		
Total Requirement (in USD)	Allocated Contributions (in USD)	Six Month Net Funding Requirements (in USD)
98 m	31 m	3 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 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.
- One out of two households are found to be food insecure according to the Consolidated Approach to Reporting Indicators of Food Security (CARI) classification. The prevalence is higher among women-headed households (58 percent versus 54 percent). The proportion of food insecure households is higher in the districts of Kimba (64 percent) and Kindamba (60 percent). The majority of households in all five districts have either limited or poor food consumption scores.
- Four out of five households adopted livelihood-based coping strategies, primarily stress and crisis coping strategies. The rate is higher in the districts of Kimba and Kindamba, 93 percent and 87 percent respectively.

- Livelihood and resource-generating opportunities remain limited. Four out of five households rely on small-scale agriculture, primarily cassava production, and many are unable to access local markets to sell their products.
- One of five households spent more than 65 percent of their monthly budget on food. Households also prioritized 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 precarious. Nearly 47 percent of surveyed households were found to be moderate food insecure and 24 percent are severely food insecure. The 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 percent in which 9 percent of MAM and 1 percent of Severe Acute Malnutrition (SAM), compared to a GAM rate of 6 percent, with 4 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. The first CBT is planned in mid-October.
- WFP is closely monitoring the on-going discussions between the two governments (RoC and RDC) on the repatriation of the displaced populations.

Donors

Government of Republic of Congo, China, Denmark, European Union, Germany, Japan, United States of America

Photo: Smallholder farmers in front of the warehouse in Loudima constructed under PAPPH. WFP/ Alice Rahmoun