



World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES
CHANGING LIVES

WFP Republic of Congo Country Brief November 2019

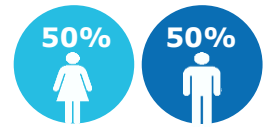


In Numbers

550 mt of food assistance distributed

USD 152,500 cash-based transfers made

98,244 people assisted
In November 2019



Operational Context

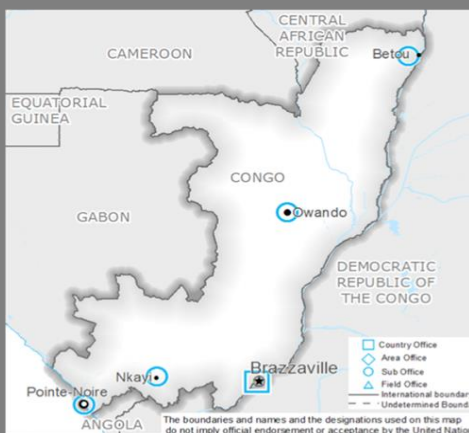
RoC ranks poorly on the Human Development Index, and its food production is below national requirements, with only 2 per cent of arable land currently under cultivation covering 30 per cent of the country's food needs. Forty-eight percent of Congolese live on less than USD 1.25 per day.

People internally displaced due to the armed conflict in the Pool department started to return to their place of origin following the ceasefire signed in December 2017.

Humanitarian actors are focusing on early recovery assistance. WFP started to implement Food Assistance for Assets (FFA) activities to rehabilitate their livelihood and reinforce resilience.

In December 2018, more than 11,000 people fled from the 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

- The floods affecting the north of the country since the end of September have worsened and extended to four departments. This is the largest natural disaster in more than 20 years in Congo. About 115,000 people are affected and the number of victims is increasing every day. WFP works closely with partners and to organize to respond promptly as affected populations are subjected to precarious and unhealthy conditions. In Likouala, 16,210 people received a food assistance from WFP.
- In November 2019, 67,252 children benefited from the school feeding program across the country. In total, more than 215 mt of food (rice, peas, oil) were distributed.
- An international expert on cassava processing and nutritional fortification from the American company *Just Food* spent 15 days, with the help of WFP staff, analysing the cassava value chain across the Congo. The aim of this mission was to understand the food preferences of the Congolese population, and ultimately to propose a formula to nutritionally enrich cassava, a product consumed daily but of inadequate nutritional value.
- For its first mission, the Regional Centre Against Hunger and Malnutrition (CERFAM), with the support of Ministries of Agriculture from Benin, Cote d'Ivoire and Congo, sent a team of experts from Côte d'Ivoire and Benin to train Congolese small producers on cassava processing techniques. For three weeks, they will work together to build innovative equipment, transfer expertise to improve cassava processing and guarantee food security when a crisis strikes. This project is part of WFP's support to small producers and the effort to strengthen South-South cooperation.

Population: 4.2 million

2018 Human Development Index: 138 out of 189

Income Level: Lower middle

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

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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	41 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

Flooding in the Likouala, Cuvette and Plateaux Departments

- The floods in northern Congo have spread and affect the departments of Likouala, Cuvette, Plateaux and partially Sangha. Heavy and recurrent rainfall since the end of September has caused the rise of waters of the Oubangui river, Congo river and their tributaries.
- Following rapid assessments conducted by local authorities, with the support of partners including WFP and UNHCR, which highlighted an alarming situation and an urgent need for assistance to the victims, the Government of Congo (Minister of Social Affairs and Humanitarian Action) sent a letter to the United Nations system requesting a joint and multisectoral humanitarian response.

- On 20 November, the Prime Minister declared a state of humanitarian emergency and natural disaster in the departments of Likouala, Cuvette and Plateaux.
- The impact on food security is significant, crop areas are flooded, unharvested production has been destroyed. Losses are also major in livestock and fish production. Facing this, populations have adopted negative coping strategies. Prices on local markets are impacted by the scarcity of food items and roads having been damaged.
- At the end of the month, the Congolese authorities and humanitarian partners estimated that nearly 115,000 people were affected in the 4 departments.
- The United Nations coordination system and partner agencies decided to submit a request for funding from the Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF) and to develop a joint response plan.
- WFP's emergency response, through the Bétou sub-office, provided assistance to 16,210 people in Likouala; a total of 204,9 mt of food was distributed.
- As part of its mandate, WFP provides logistic services to partners. A first barge loaded with food, medication and dignity kits left Brazzaville for Impfondo and Bétou.
- Cash-based transfers to refugees from the Central African Republic in Likouala, also affected by floods, continued, reaching 7,704 people.

Returnees in the Pool Department

- As part of the Food for Assets (FFA) project in the Pool Department, 389 fish ponds (out of 524 planned) have been rehabilitated and the rehabilitation of a total of 263 km of feeder road is on-going. Additionally, rehabilitation of 6 hectares of vegetable garden (out of 20 hectares planned) has been completed. Identification of additional sites is on-going with the cooperating partners and national counterparts.
- The distribution of dignity kits and awareness raising sessions continues in the Mindouli district under a WFP-UNFPA joint project for Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights (SRHR) and against Gender Based Violence in the Pool department, funded by the Danish Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

Donors

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

Photo: Food distribution in Bétou. WFP/Gildas Mouhouelo