

WFP Republic of Congo Country Brief January 2020



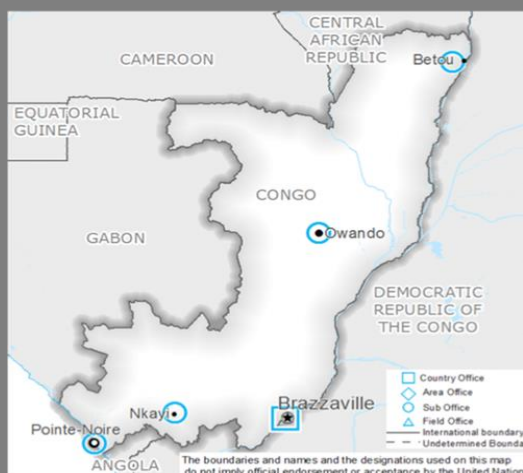
Operational Context

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).



Population: **4.2 million**

2018 Human Development Index: **138 out of 189**

Income Level: **Lower middle**

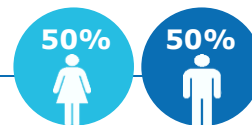
Chronic malnutrition: **21.2% of children between 6-59 months**

In Numbers

1,030 mt of food assistance distributed

USD 319,000 cash-based transfers made

126,745 people assisted
In January 2020



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. More than 170,000 people are affected and in urgent need of multi-sectoral assistance. At the end of the month, almost 100,000 people received food assistance from WFP in Likouala, Plateaux and Cuvette departments.
- In January 2020, 50,316 children benefited from the school feeding programme across the country. In total, more than 168 mt of food were distributed.
- Food Assistance for Assets activities started in 2019 in the Pool department. One year on, WFP invited all actors and partners for an experience-sharing workshop. Each implementing partner NGO (ACTED, APDRA, ACODECO, etc.) for the rehabilitation of roads, fishponds and gardening presented annual results and challenges. The lessons learned will be used to continue and improve activities in 2020.
- On 14 January, Mrs. Karina Gould, Canadian Minister of International Development, was in the Republic of Congo for her first international visit. She visited a flooded district of Brazzaville to speak with disaster victims. She also visited a municipality in the district of Talangai, where the Minister announced a contribution to WFP and Caritas to respond to the flooding. A demonstration of SCOPE – WFP's beneficiary information and transfer management platform – outlined how Canadian flood assistance will be provided to beneficiaries through the system. The Minister expressed concern about the situation and stressed that climate change is a major global challenge that is a priority for Canada.

Country Strategic Plan (2019-2023)

| Total Requirement (in USD) | Allocated Contributions (in USD) | Six Month Net Funding Requirements (in USD) |
|----------------------------|----------------------------------|---|
| 98 m | 41 m | 5 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

- Some 170,000 people in the departments of Likouala, Cuvette and Plateaux are affected by the floods that started in October 2019.
- Water is reseding in the north in Likouala, but areas further south along the Congo River are still under water as they are at the crossroads where the tributaries meet the main river. There are worries about the return of the rains in March with the second rainy season, as people have not recovered from the first shock and therefore haven't be able to prepare for the second one.
- Food prices in markets are very high and in limited quantities, almost double the price for a bag of cassava in Mossaka (+73%) compared to previous months. The products in markets are from DRC. Markets and traders have lost profit.

- In January, almost 100,000 people received emergency food assistance via in-kind food or cash transfers. Some 2,200 mt of food have been dispatched to various distribution points, of which 1,000 mt have already been distributed to beneficiaries. On behalf of the common logistics system, WFP convoyed 4 barges in the north with food and items (dignity kits, tents, aquatabs) from other United Nations agencies.
- With an ECHO contribution of EUR 300,000, 11,000 vulnerable people received cash transfers to meet their immediate food needs. These cash transfers will be continued thanks to a Canadian contribution of CA\$250,000.
- Cash-based transfers to CAR refugees in Likouala, (some also affected by floods) continued to 6,622 people.
- In order to refine the targeting of the most vulnerable people, two surveys were launched in the affected areas: one on food insecurity and food consumption score (EFSA) and the other on Household Economy Analysis (HEA).
- WFP has received contributions from ECHO, USAID, China and Canada.

Returnees in the Pool Department

- As part of the Food for Asset (FFA) project in the Pool Department, 389 fishponds 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. Part of the rehabilitated ponds supplied with juvenile fish have entered their first production cycle.
- 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 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: WFP/ Recipients viewing food prices for cash transfers in Bétou.