



World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES  
CHANGING LIVES

# WFP Republic of Congo Country Brief February 2020

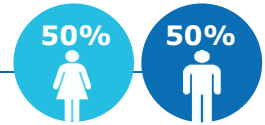


## In Numbers

1,015 mt of food assistance distributed

USD 87,000 cash-based transfers made

120,650 people assisted  
In February 2020



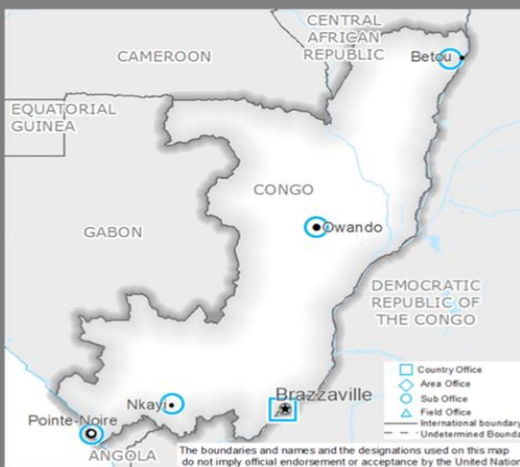
## Operational Context

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 per cent 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

## 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. Over 213,000 people are affected and in urgent need of multi-sectoral assistance. At the end of the month, almost 115,000 people had received food assistance from WFP in Likouala, Plateaux and Cuvette departments.
- In February 2020, 53,513 children benefited from the school feeding programme across the country.
- In 2019, the Share the Meal campaign to finance the Home-Grown School Feeding project in Congo had reached the target of 300,000 euros and the project started in October 2019 in 5 pilot schools in the Pool department. Members of the Share the Meal team and financial partner Share, based in Germany, visited the schools and met the beneficiaries of the project. They had the opportunity to learn about other WFP projects in the region such as asset rehabilitation and capacity building activities for small bean and cassava producers.
- On 25 February, WFP participated in the GrowCongo! Invest in Agriculture forum held in Amsterdam with the aim of increasing investment in the agricultural sector of the Republic of Congo. WFP was invited to participate by the Ministry of Agriculture to present its projects in the cassava sector and demonstrate its strong development and investment potential.
- The official launch of the SDG Fund project with UNICEF and WHO took place on 24 February in Sibiti in the Lékoumou department. This two-year project aims to increase access to social protection services for indigenous people.
- From 26 to 28 February, the entire staff of WFP Congo gathered for the Annual Performance Plan 2020. It was an opportunity to look back on the performance of 2019, to share experiences, in order to determine the direction for the coming year.

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## Country Strategic Plan (2019-2023)

Total Requirement (in USD)	Allocated Contributions (in USD)	Six Month Net Funding Requirements (in USD)
<b>98 m</b>	<b>41 m</b>	<b>5 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

### Flooding in the Likouala, Cuvette and Plateaux Departments

- Some 213,000 people in the departments of Likouala, Cuvette and Plateaux are affected by the floods that started in October 2019.
- In February, an Emergency Food Security Assessment (EFSA) was carried out in the areas affected by the floods. The results are alarming and show that a serious food crisis is underway. Some 130,000 people are moderately or severely food insecure. The worst affected districts are Mossaka and Epena, with 79% and 60% of food insecure households respectively. Districts that have received early and regular food assistance have lower rates of food insecurity.

- A Household Economy Analysis (HEA) has also been carried out in the affected areas. It shows that 70% of the harvests have been lost but that almost 60% of the destroyed agricultural plots can be seeded, a positive finding for the implementation of recovery activities such as the rehabilitation of these plots.
- Prices on the markets are still 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 February, almost 115,000 people received emergency food assistance through General Food Distribution or Cash Transfers. Some 2,200 tons of food were dispatched to various distribution points. In some districts of Likouala, people were able to receive a third round of food assistance.
- On behalf of the common logistic, WFP convoyed 5 barges in the north with food and items from the other United Nations agencies (dignity kits, tents, aquatabs). As road conditions improved, trucks from the WFP fleet left for Bouemba and Ouessou with goods from UN agencies on board.
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- 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 construction of 29 warehouses to store small bean producer groups' crops has been completed. Each group now has its own warehouse.

## Donors

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

*Photo: WFP. School visit in Mouyondzi with Share and Share the Meal teams.*