



World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES
CHANGING LIVES

WFP Republic of Congo Country Brief

June 2020



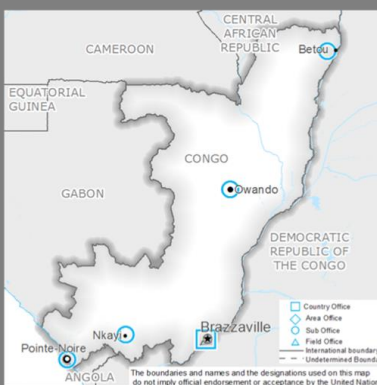
Operational Context

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

WFP is assisting 130,000 people affected by catastrophic flooding which took place in late 2019 and early 2020. Vulnerability assessments show that between 36 and 79 percent of the population is moderately or severely food insecure. Sustained food assistance until the end of 2020 is needed in order to avoid a full-blown food crisis in affected areas. WFP also provides assistance through food for assets to people in Pool region, an area of the country that was affected by a conflict in 2016-2018. WFP support communities in building their resilience through fish ponds and rural roads rehabilitation.

WFP also supports refugees from the Central African Republic in Likouala and from the Democratic Republic of Congo in Plateaux with food and nutrition assistance.

WFP's operations in RoC contribute 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).



Population: **4.2 million**

2018 Human Development Index: **137 out of 189 countries**

Income Level: **Lower middle**

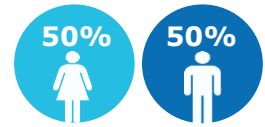
Chronic malnutrition: **21.2% of children aged 6-59 months**

In Numbers

182 mt of food assistance distributed

USD 955,770 cash-based transfers made

72,785 people assisted
In June 2020



Operational Updates

- The urban Cash-Based Transfers programme continues in the outlying arrondissements of Brazzaville. In June, 20,880 vulnerable people received an assistance to meet their basic food needs.
- A rapid assessment on the impact of COVID-19 on food and nutrition security was conducted in Brazzaville. About 35.3 percent of households (nearly 700,000 people are food insecure).
- Following the announcement of a Canadian contribution for the capacity strengthening of women producers groups of cassava snacks in the Bouenza region, the Canadian Ambassador visited the area to attend the presentation of the project and a culinary demonstration by women producers. The production of these cassava and peanut snacks will be purchased for WFP's Home-Grown School Feeding programme already in place in the area.
- The logistic corridor between RoC and CAR has been inaugurated. From now on, WFP CAR can transport food commodities via WFP's logistics services in RoC, by truck from the port of Pointe Noire and then by barge on the Congo River from Brazzaville. By the end of June, 638 mt of food have been delivered. It has been assessed that this corridor is faster and cheaper for CAR than the one used so far via Cameroon.
- The Likouala department is facing an increased situation of vulnerability following the floods, the COVID-19 epidemic and the resurgence of the Ebola virus in the neighbouring Equateur province in DRC. Considering the situation, WFP RoC requested an allocation under the Immediate Response Account (IRA) for preparedness activities to set up a market analysis with the Market Functionality Index (MFI) approach and to support WFP's participation in the joint Ebola mission with the Government and UN partners.
- The distribution of take-home rations continued among the school children beneficiaries of WFP school canteens. In June, 3,315 students received the equivalent of three-month rations to take home, enabling them and their family to maintain good nutrition.

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Country Strategic Plan (2019-2023)

Total Requirement (in USD)	Allocated Contributions (in USD)	Six Month Net Funding Requirements (in USD)
97.9 m	55.0 m	11.6 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

Response to the COVID-19

- WFP RoC continues the urban cash-transfer programme. For the second phase, 20,880 vulnerable people in outlying arrondissements of Brazzaville received a USD 17 cash transfer per person through mobile money. This allowed them to buy food from an identified shopkeepers network.
- In Brazzaville, the overall trend in food prices is very close to the annual and seasonal average. After a sharp increase in May and early June, the price of the basic food basket for a Congolese household is at XAF 2,900 as it was before the confinement, with a composition almost similar.
- In June, 892 households in 5 districts of Brazzaville, of which 42 percent were headed by women, were surveyed in order to

assess the impacts of COVID-19 and related measures on food security. Based on the results:

- 78 percent of households reported that their income has declined in the last three months; for the majority, the only incomes were from the informal sector.
- 30.8 percent of households are moderately food insecure, and 5 percent are severely food insecure.
- Only 48.2 percent of children aged 6 to 23 months have a minimum acceptable diet.
- There are strong disparities between districts surveyed.
- Further support of USD 7.6 million is needed to fill the gap and to extend the assistance to food-insecure people in Brazzaville and Pointe-Noire.

Flooding in the Likouala, Cuvette and Plateaux Departments

- Since November 2019, nearly 150,000 people affected by the floods have received a food assistance, in-kind or through cash transfers in the departments of Likouala, Cuvette and Plateaux.
- The assistance continues by respecting the limited number of beneficiaries during the distributions, social distancing measures, and by raising the population's awareness of hygiene.
- In June 2020, 15,620 beneficiaries received in-kind assistance and 31,315 beneficiaries received cash-transfers assistance.
- Monitoring in the Liranga market shows an exacerbated price increase. The price per kilo of cassava flour is 25 percent higher than the annual average, 40 percent for beans and 54 percent for vegetable oil. This is due to the combined factors of floods, COVID-19 epidemic and the resurgence of Ebola in DRC, where 60 percent of the food products found in the Liranga market come from; however, the closure of the borders prevents border trade dynamics.
- WFP is still providing on demand logistic services for humanitarian partners.
- For the flood response, WFP received contribution from USAID, China, ECHO, Canada, Germany and IRA.

Donors

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

Photo: WFP/Alice Rahmoun

Culinary demonstration by the beneficiaries of the Canadian-funded project in the Bouenza region.