



World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES
CHANGING LIVES

WFP Republic of Congo Country Brief July 2020



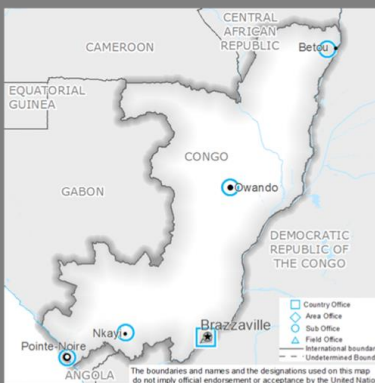
Operational Context

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 supports 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**

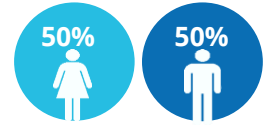
Chronic malnutrition: **21.2% of children aged 6-59 months**

In Numbers

1,180 mt of food assistance distributed

USD 100,000 cash-based transfers made

55,577 people assisted
In July 2020



Operational Updates

- WFP has defined the phase 2 of its operational plan for the COVID-19 response. WFP will assist 110,000 very vulnerable people in Brazzaville and Pointe Noire's outlying districts with cash transfers and nutrition assistance. The cost of this plan is USD 8 million and will be implemented through the end of the year.
- The urban cash-based transfers programme continues in the outlying arrondissements of Brazzaville. In July, 5,310 vulnerable people received an assistance to meet their basic food needs.
- The number of COVID-19 positive cases is increasing rapidly. Ninety-six percent of detected cases are in the urban areas of Brazzaville and Pointe-Noire. The COVID-19 Government Task Force has decided to re-establish the curfew at 8pm for both cities. A potential second phase of lockdown in Brazzaville is in discussion.
- On 28 July, 29 storage warehouses through a BMZ-supported project were inaugurated in Kidamba (Pool department) in the presence of the German representation. Local producers also received equipment for processing cassava into gari.
- At the WFP Nkayi sub-office, a workshop on the processing of cassava into derived products (doughnuts, cakes, bread, etc.) brought together cooks, bakers, processors and producers of cassava, and the National Agricultural Research Institute. The workshop, resulted in a significant transfer of skills, received positive feedback from the participants.
- Food commodities for school canteens are dispatched all over the country, and final adjustments to the Home-Grown School Feeding are made in preparation for the incoming school year. WFP secured USD 800,000 from the Global Partnerships for Education as part of the COVID-19 response for school reopening.

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. In July, 5,310 vulnerable people in outlying arrondissements of Brazzaville received a USD 18 per person through mobile money. This allowed them to buy food from an identified shopkeepers network.
- Following the assessment of the impact of COVID-19 on food security and nutrition (of which 35.3 percent of households or 700,000 people were identified to be food insecure in Brazzaville), WFP RoC reevaluated the needs and the related response.
- The second phase of the response, from August to December

2020, will consist of monthly cash-based transfers to targeted 35,000 severely food-insecure people in the outlying districts of Brazzaville.

- Results from the assessment show an increase in the number of malnourished children. The government nutrition partners and UNICEF also reported alarming figures (increase in the Global Acute Malnutrition rate and low attendance rates at health centers) in Pointe-Noire. Therefore, the second phase of the response includes a nutrition assistance to 75,000 children under 5 and pregnant and lactating women in Brazzaville and Pointe-Noire. Further support of USD 8 million is needed to fill the gap and to extend the assistance 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 food assistance, either 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 July 2020, 49,590 people received in-kind and nutrition assistance in Likouala, Cuvette and Plateaux. In Makotipoko and Mossaka, people received the equivalent of two months of assistance.
- In Loukoléla (Cuvette department), the field partner TSF in charge of nutrition activities reported a worrying nutrition situation, with acutely malnourished children and cases of kwashiorkor.
- At the end of July, early and abundant rainfall for the season was reported. Local communities and humanitarian actors are concerned about a similar flooding scenario as last year.
- WFP is providing on demand-logistic services on behalf of the UN Central Emergency Response Fund until 14 August 2020.
- A USD 1 million contribution from USAID BHA has been secured for the flood response.
- For the flood response, WFP received contribution from USAID, China, ECHO, Canada, Germany and through the Immediate Response Account, WFP's life-saving funding facility.

Donors

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

Photo: WFP/Alice Rahmoun

Beneficiary of urban cash-transfers programme in Brazzaville