



World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES
CHANGING LIVES

WFP Republic of Congo Country Brief

August 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**

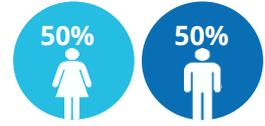
Chronic malnutrition: **21.2% of children aged 6-59 months**

In Numbers

353 mt of food assistance distributed

USD 315,860 cash-based transfers made

22,923 people assisted
In August 2020



Operational Updates

- Following the USD 3 million Chinese contribution, purchased specialised nutrition products for the treatment of moderate acute malnutrition (MAM) arrived in the country. For the occasion, a field visit with WFP, the Chinese local ambassador and the Minister of Social Affairs and Humanitarian Affairs was organized in the health centre of Djoumouna (Pool department). Thanks to this contribution, 11,000 pregnant and lactating women, and children aged 6-59 months will receive MAM treatment.
- The urban cash-based transfer programme continues in the outlying arrondissements of Brazzaville. WFP adapts the assistance for the second phase of the response, focusing on people considered as severely food insecure (i.e. 35,000) based on the June 2020 Vulnerability Analysis and Mapping (VAM) assessment. A USD 2 million contribution from the USAID Bureau for Humanitarian Assistance has been secured to enable the urban response in Brazzaville and nutrition response in health centres of Brazzaville and Pointe-Noire.
- As part of South-South Triangular Cooperation project with IFAD and FAO, which is funded through China, WFP received industrial cassava flour samples from Nigeria. WFP then organized a food tasting in order to gain the opinion of the Congolese public. A total of 60 people participated in the tasting and assessed the product based on colour, smell, taste, elasticity and consistency after cooking. Results are positive and show great possibilities in the consumption of new cassava products in Congo.
- In Loudima and Madingou districts (Bouenza department), 160 women cassava processors took part in the Mbala Pinda project and completed trainings on group management and food safety. This will pave the way for the launch of the cassava snack production, which will benefit 3,900 very vulnerable people in health centres and 3,000 students who will be starting school in October 2020.
- In Likouala and Plateaux departments, where refugee communities from the Central African Republic (CAR) and the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) are located respectively, in-kind and cash-based transfer assistance are on hold due to a lack of funding. WFP urgently needs USD 2 million to continue the food and nutrition response until the end of 2020.

Contact info: [Ophélie Lobjois \(ophelie.lobjois@wfp.org\)](mailto:ophelie.lobjois@wfp.org)
Country Director: [Jean-Martin Bauer \(jean-martin.bauer@wfp.org\)](mailto:jean-martin.bauer@wfp.org)
Further information: www.wfp.org/countries/congo

Country Strategic Plan (2019-2023)

Total Requirement (in USD)	Allocated Contributions (in USD)	Six Month Net Funding Requirements (in USD)
97.9 m	59.5 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

Flood-affected people and the refugee situation in the Likouala, Cuvette and Plateaux departments

- The assistance continues by respecting the limited number of beneficiaries during distributions, and social distancing measures, as well as by raising the population's awareness of hygiene.
- In August 2020, 2,950 flood-affected people received cash-based transfers in Likouala. In July 2020, flood-affected people in Plateaux department received the equivalent of two months of assistance.
- Floods, COVID-19, and the resurgence of the Ebola virus in neighbouring DRC district have disrupted local markets and increased the vulnerability of the population. Alarming rates of malnutrition are reported by field partners, particularly in Loukoléla district, as well as low attendance rate at health centers, which can be attributed to COVID-19 and movement restrictions.
- For the flood response, WFP received contributions from USA, China, the Directorate-General for European Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid Operations (ECHO), Canada, Germany, and WFP's Immediate Response Account (IRA).
- For both Likouala and Plateaux departments, funds dedicated to refugee food and nutrition assistance have been depleted. Refugee communities rely heavily on humanitarian assistance due to land access difficulties and lack of employment opportunities. To avoid assistance gap and deterioration of food security indicators, urgent financial support is needed.

Food-for-Assistance-for-Assets activities in the Pool department

- In the Pool department, the rehabilitation of roads and the creation of market gardening areas are ongoing. In August 2020, 17,440 participants received in-kind assistance for their work, while 2,175 participants received cash-based transfers.
- A total of 90 people engaged in the rehabilitation of fishponds and now in fish production received training on local fish feed production.

Monitoring

Response to the COVID-19 in urban areas

- WFP continues to implement the urban cash-based transfer programme. In August, 362 households received a cash transfer (USD 17 per person). This enabled them to buy food from an identified shopkeepers' network.
- Staff from UNFPA remain present at WFP-contracted shops to identify and assist gender-based violence victims (GBV), providing medical and psychological support. In addition, wider communities are sensitized on GBV, and sexual and reproductive health.
- An additional USD 7.6 million is needed to fill the gap and to extend the assistance to food-insecure people in Brazzaville and Pointe-Noire.

Donors

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

Photo: Mothers and young children at the Djoumouna health centre during the official field visit. WFP/Alice Rahmoun