



World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES
CHANGING LIVES

WFP Republic of Congo Country Brief

September 2020



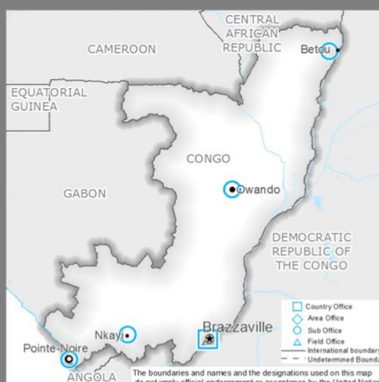
Operational Context

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 activities 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**

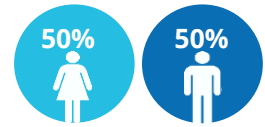
Chronic malnutrition: **21.2% of children aged 6-59 months**

In Numbers

463.7 mt of food assistance distributed

USD 345,200 cash-based transfers made

44,900 people assisted
In September 2020



Operational Updates

- In September 2020, for the first time, WFP bought 36 mt of cassava flour locally for the school feeding programme. This innovative purchase has been done with Van Doorn Agri, a South African company located in the Pool department. A field visit to the farm was organized with the Minister of Agriculture and the UN Resident Coordinator. Additional 100 mt will be bought as part of the Chinese contribution to the COVID-19 response in Brazzaville.
- The urban cash-based transfer programme continues in the outlying arrondissements of Brazzaville for people targeted as severely food insecure. In September 2020, 18,470 people received cash-based transfers to enable them to meet their basic food needs.
- In Loudima and Madingou districts, the production of Mbala Pinda (cassava and peanut snack) has been launched successfully. In September, 70,000 snack bars were produced and distributed to 3,330 very vulnerable people. The women groups producing the snacks are now getting ready to provide the surrounding schools (3,400 students) for the new school year which starts on 12 October.
- Since July 2020, the humanitarian system in the Republic of Congo has been closely monitoring the situation in the Likouala department, fearing a similar flood scenario as last year. In July, rainfall was twice the seasonal average, and the level of the Ubangui river reached a record height over the 2009-2020 period. Despite reduced rainfall in September, monitoring has continued, and the humanitarian actors are working on preparedness measures.
- WFP is working on the introduction of the Integrated Phase Classification (IPC) in the Republic of Congo. A presentation to the humanitarian sector and relevant government stakeholders took place with the support of the IPC Global Support Unit for East and Central Africa. A working group will soon be constituted.
- As part of the Global Partnership for Education funding for the COVID-19 response, from October 2020, 22,000 students will benefit from local canteens in urban and peri-urban areas. A field mission to the identified cities was undertaken to sensitize school and market committees on the Home-Grown School Feeding programme.

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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	61.6 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 pandemic in urban areas

- WFP continues to implement the urban cash-based transfer programme. In September, 18,470 beneficiaries received cash-based transfers (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.
- A confirmed contribution of USD 2 million from the USAID Bureau for Humanitarian Assistance (BHA) will enable the continuity of the urban response.

- An additional in-kind support from China is about to be confirmed. As part of this contribution, 100 mt of cassava flour will be bought and used for a quick response.

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 September 2020, 14,190 flood-affected people received in-kind assistance in Likouala.
 - The 2019/20 flood response post-distribution monitoring was conducted in September. Improvements were noted across all the indicators compared with the results from the Emergency Food Security Assessment (EFSA) in February 2020. Specifically:
 - 39.5 percent of households are food insecure (51 percent EFSA)
 - 14 Reduced Coping Strategy Index score (20 EFSA)
 - 5.5 percent of Global Acute Malnutrition among children under 5 years (7.3 percent EFSA)
- Among the CAR refugee population, the food security and nutrition are more fragile, but remain better than during the Joint Assessment Mission (JAM) of March 2019:
- 48.2 percent of refugee households are food insecure (36.6 percent EFSA; 70.2 percent JAM 2019)
 - 6.6 percent of Global Acute Malnutrition among refugee children under 5 years (3.9 percent EFSA; 9.2 percent JAM 2019)
- In the Likouala department, nearly 70 villages are already flooded or partially flooded. The populations have moved to the forest and are at high risk of disease. Atypically early cassava harvests have begun. During the floods of 2019/20, nearly 80 percent of the crops were destroyed in Likouala.
 - In the local market, the scarcity of certain local products is noted, and this is due to supply difficulties in neighboring DRC, following the closure of the border to limit the spread of COVID-19 and the resurgence of the Ebola virus. The scarcity of products affects prices, which fluctuate above the seasonal average. The price of cassava is low because of the early harvest, which increases the supply on the market, but this will lead to a shortage in the coming weeks.
 - WFP regularly monitors the evolution of the floods through remote sensing (with WFP Headquarters and Cloud to Street) and carries out weekly price monitoring.

Donors

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