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 assistance 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).

In Numbers

- 976.3 mt of food distributed
- USD 196,416 cash transferred
- 81,536 people assisted

Operational Updates

- On 03 November, the Government announced a state of humanitarian emergency following weeks of flooding in the Likouala, Sangha, Cuvette and Plateaux departments. More than 123,000 people have been affected so far. The Government called upon the UN for a rapid response for which WFP published a response plan. WFP urgently requires USD 8.6 million for seven months of response.

- The urban cash-based transfer programme continues for severely food-insecure people in the outlying boroughs of Brazzaville. In November 2020, 10,190 beneficiaries received a cash-transfer to help them meet their basic food needs. On 13 November, a representative from the American embassy in Congo, along with the minister of Social Affairs and Humanitarian Action, visited one of WFP’s partner shopkeeper. The USAID’s Bureau for Humanitarian Assistance (BHA) contributed USD 2 million to the COVID-19 response in urban areas.

- On 26 November, the Government donated kitchen utensils to the urban canteens of the school feeding programme in response to COVID-19. They will be distributed in the 19 canteens that were opened in response to the severe food insecurity in urban areas. Thanks to the Global Partnerships for Education, the COVID-19 funding was secured by the national education group.

- A baseline survey is planned on all the current cassava projects, and samples of cassava flour and mbala pinda snacks are being analyzed in a laboratory in Kinshasa and in the WFP Headquarters in Rome.

- In November 2020, 47,418 children received food through the school feeding programme in rural areas.
WFP Country Strategy

Country Strategic Plan (2019-2023)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Total Requirement (in USD)</th>
<th>Allocated Contributions (in USD)</th>
<th>Six-Month Net Funding Requirements (in USD)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>97.9 m</td>
<td>62.4 m</td>
<td>11.6 m</td>
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</tbody>
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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: Emergency Response

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: Addressing the root causes of hunger and food insecurity, and improving national institutions and systems for social protection.

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 Outcome 3: Targeted smallholder farmers and communities benefit from productive and sustainable livelihoods which support nutrition value chains

Focus area: Building the resilience of smallholder agricultural systems

Activities:
- Provide analytical, technical and equipment support for smallholder farmers aimed at encouraging market-oriented and climate-resilience production and livelihoods

Strategic Result 3: Smallholder productivity and incomes

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: Crisis response

Activities:
- Provide on-demand supply chain services for partners

Monitoring

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

- As of November 2020, a total of 123,000 people is affected by the new flood situation in the departments of Likouala and Cuvette, Sangha, and Plateaux.
- WFP received an allocation from WFP's Immediate Response Account (IRA) amounting to USD 1 million to begin assisting the victims of floods through the distribution of food or cash-based transfers in the affected departments.
- The distributions in response to floods in 2019 to identified beneficiaries are entering their last phase. Simultaneously, WFP has started assisting populations affected by the 2020 floods 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 November, 3,797 flood-affected people received in-kind assistance in Likouala.
- A joint assessment mission with MASAHER, RCO, WFP, FAO, UNHCR and UNICEF took place in the Cuvette, Plateaux and Likouala departments to assess the situation in the affected areas. They are particularly alarming in Makotipoko, which is completely flooded and where the populations are particularly vulnerable. Most refugees from the DRC have settled in this area.
- Some of the consequences to deplore by sector are:
  - Food safety and agriculture: Prices are rising, and food is becoming scarce. People are choosing to eat lesser food per meal to save the amount of food they have.
  - Shelter: Many lost their homes in the floods, some have found refuge in the neighboring villages, others moved in the forest.
  - Health: An increase in diseases that are water-related (diarrhea), insects (malaria) and various infections was noted.
  - Education: Many children can no longer go to school.
  - Protection: Women and girls are more at risk of gender-based violence.
- WFP has prepared a humanitarian response plan that will consist of two phases. The first phase of emergency food assistance will target 100,000 beneficiaries during three cycles of distribution from November to February 2021. This phase will include prevention of malnutrition activities that will target 16,000 beneficiaries. It will be followed by a second phase of resilience and recovery activities targeting 5,000 beneficiaries from February to May 2021. The response plan is estimated at USD 8.6 million for seven months.

Response to the COVID-19 in urban areas

- WFP continues to implement the urban cash-based transfer programme. Nutrition component for children and pregnant and lactating women is also part of this response, covering Brazzaville and Pointe Noire. In November, 10,190 beneficiaries received cash-based transfers (USD 18 per person), enabling them to buy food from WFP's identified shopkeepers' network.
- WFP has completed the second phase of the urban cash-based transfers and are getting started for phase 3, which will target 35,000 beneficiaries.
- Discussions with China and USA are ongoing for future contributions to the COVID-19 response as well as nutrition activities.

Donors

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

Photo: Flooded village in the Likouala department/ WFP Alice Rahmoun