



World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES
CHANGING LIVES

WFP Republic of Congo Country Brief

December 2020



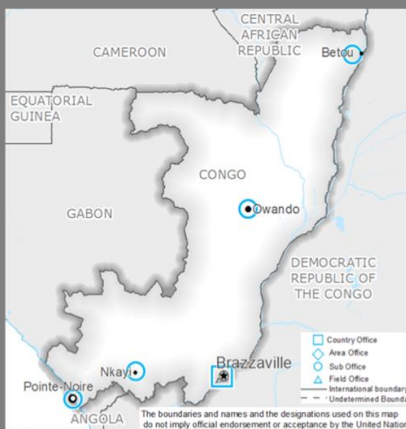
Operational Context

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 two years in a row, with high negative impacts on food security and livelihoods. Vulnerability assessments show that between 36 and 79 percent of the population is moderately or severely food insecure. Sustained food assistance is needed in order to avoid a full-blown food crisis in affected areas.

WFP also supports refugees from the Central African Republic in Likouala and asylum-seekers 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**

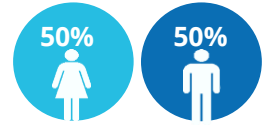
Chronic malnutrition: **21.2% of children aged 6-59 months**

In Numbers

92 mt of food distributed

USD 434,620 cash transferred

72,450 people assisted
In December 2020



Operational Updates

- WFP HQ validated the Country Strategic Plan (CSP) Budget Revision in December 2020. This enabled the extension of the CSP duration by an additional year (until 2024), aligning the CSP with the United Nations Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF) in Republic of Congo and increasing the financial global needs to USD 155 million.
- On 16 and 17 December, WFP RoC organized a joint webinar on trade and improving the value chain (especially cassava) to support sustainable food systems and Home-Grown School Feeding national programmes. This webinar was organized in close collaboration with the Regional Excellence Centre Against Hunger and Malnutrition (CERFAM) in Abidjan and WFP China, and brought virtually together experts and partners from WFP African country offices, Brazil, China and HQ.
- On 21-23 December, a workshop on the capitalization of production and processing of cassava trainings has been organized in Loudima and Madingou (Bouenza region).
- During the COVID-19 lockdown period, the number of gender-based violence cases alarmingly increased. More than 5,000 related calls have been registered on the hotline set up by the Ministry for Women Development and UNFPA. Since May 2020, WFP, in collaboration with UNFPA, has been providing a referral system to victims in hospital, and a medical and psychological support. WFP's Programme-Humanitarian and Development Division in HQ provided USD 30,000 for the implementation of this activity and provision of dignity kits to girls and women.
- At the end of December, the number of flood-affected people was up to 168,000 in the four northern departments (Likouala, Sangha, Cuvette, Plateaux). During the month, WFP assisted 21,730 people identified to be most vulnerable through in-kind and cash-based transfers.
- In December 2020, 48,750 children received a daily school meal across the country.

Country Strategic Plan (2019-2024)		
Total Requirement (in USD)	Allocated Contributions (in USD)	Six-Month Net Funding Requirements (in USD)
155 m	63.5 m	15 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: 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 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: 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 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

- The presidential elections held on December 27, 2020 in the Central African Republic caused tensions in the southern part of the country, particularly near the border with the department of Likouala. Humanitarian actors and the Government fears it will trigger a new influx of CAR refugees into RoC. Currently, 12,000 CAR refugees in Likouala are receiving WFP assistance. The UNHCR and WFP sub-offices in Bétou (Likouala) are closely monitoring the situation.
- Since mid-2020, WFP RoC is facing a funding shortfall for the refugee response. The current tense situation in CAR increases the financial needs, but also raises awareness and draws donors' attention to the situation. WFP RoC works closely with the USAID BHA representation in Kinshasa to provide the dedicated support to the refugee communities.

Response to the COVID-19 in urban areas

- WFP continues to implement the urban cash-based transfer programme. A nutrition component for children and pregnant and lactating women is also part of this response, covering Brazzaville and Pointe Noire. In both activities, support to GBV victims and sensitization sessions on sexual and reproductive health, and protection and gender rights are provided by cooperating partners and health workers.
- WFP is facilitating the procurement of medical equipment for the Ministry of Health from the USD 75,000 contribution by the Brazilian Embassy.

Donors

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

Monitoring

Floods and refugee's response in the northern departments

- As of December, 168,000 people are affected by the flood situation in the departments of Likouala and Cuvette, Sangha, and Plateaux.
- Through WFP's internal funding facility, the Immediate Response Account (IRA), USD 1 million was immediately deployed, enabling WFP to quickly start the response. Since November 2020, 25,000 beneficiaries received assistance through cash-based transfers, while people in remote areas with non-functional markets received in-kind assistance.
- Advocacy is ongoing to fund the WFP flood response plan and the joint United Nations response. Support from USAID and France are in negotiation and should be provided for the beginning of 2021.

Photo: Children involved in the Home-Grown School Feeding Programme.
WFP/Alice Rahmoun