



World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES
CHANGING LIVES

WFP Republic of Congo Country Brief January 2021

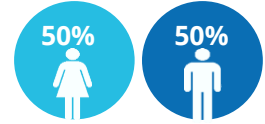


In Numbers

103,7 mt of food distributed

USD 85,510 cash transferred

53,855 people assisted
In January 2021



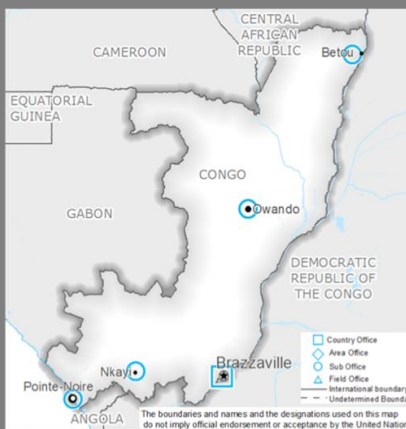
Operational Context

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 35,000 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 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).



Operational Updates

- As a result of the worsening violence following the presidential elections in December 2020 in the Central African Republic (CAR), there has been an influx of new refugees coming through the northern border in the Likouala department. WFP and UNHCR have been monitoring the situation and are providing assistance to the refugees.
- In anticipation of the 2021 UN Food Systems Summit, WFP has taken the lead of the preparatory activities in Congo. At the end of January, Congo was the first French-speaking country to nominate a national coordinator (convenor by the Prime Minister). In January, two meetings were held involving the technical team (FAO, UNICEF, WFP, and the UN Resident Coordinator's Office) lead by WFP. The Food Systems Summit, which will be convened by the UN Secretary-General in September or October 2021, aims to maximise the co-benefits of a food systems approach across the entire 2030 Agenda and to meet the challenges of climate change.
- WFP RoC was selected to take part in the next WFP Innovation Accelerator Bootcamp to be held in March 2021. WFP RoC was selected for its home-grown school feeding project Mbala Pinda. For one week, the team will work with experts, mentors and other selected teams on scaling up the project.
- From 18 to 22 January, two experts from the University of Greenwich Natural Resources Institute (UK) came to the Republic of Congo to perform a consumer acceptance study of industrialized fufu flour among school children. WFP is working with the University of Greenwich on the cassava projects to ensure food safety and help set up national quality standards.
- From 18 to 20 January, the entire Country Office staff reviewed the 2020 Annual Performance Plan (APP) and designed the 2021 work plan and indicators.

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

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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 logistics common services for partners

Monitoring

Floods response in Likouala, Sangha, Cuvette and Plateaux

- As of January 2021, a total of 170,000 people were affected by the floods in the departments of Likouala, Sangha, Plateaux and Cuvette. So far, 39,000 beneficiaries received in-kind and cash-based transfers assistance in Likouala, Cuvette and Plateaux departments.
- The water from many flood-hit localities receded; however, this revealed the catastrophic situation on the crops.
- On 13 January, Cloud To Street, the company that monitors the floods through satellite imagery, organized a workshop with

UN agencies and government partners on flood management and the usefulness of data in flood management through case studies on refugee resettlement and the implementation of agricultural resilience activities. Imagery data are key for the assistance implementation and an asset in advocacy work.

- Although the first phase of the response to the floods was launched, thanks to the funding from the Immediate Response Account (IRA), WFP's flood response plan and the joint United Nations response plan are awaiting funding to continue assisting the flood-affected populations. Advocacy is ongoing to fund the response plan. WFP is waiting for support from USAID's Bureau for Humanitarian Assistance (BHA) for in-kind donation and from France for the cash-based transfer (CBT).

Influx of Central African Republic refugees in Likouala

- With the upsurge of violence in the Central African Republic following the December elections, there has been a notable movement of populations fleeing the violence to neighboring countries (Cameroon, RoC, DRC). UNHCR and WFP's Betou sub-office have been monitoring the refugee situation in the Likouala department. At the end of January, a total of 2,900 new CAR refugees have been registered in the Likouala department by UNHCR and local authorities.
- WFP has been facing a funding shortfall for the refugee response for several months now. The arrival of new refugees has increased the needs. Funding support is urgently needed. The proposals for in-kind donation and for CBT submitted to USAID BHA will allow the assistance to the refugees and asylum-seekers to continue.

Donors

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

Photo: Jules, 10 years old, answering the survey during the fufu flour testing in his school.
WFP/Alice Rahmoun