

## Revision of the Congo country strategic plan (2019–2023) and corresponding budget increase — For approval by vote by correspondence

	Current	Change	Revised
<b>Duration</b>	<b>January 2019– December 2023</b>	<b>One-year extension</b>	<b>January 2019– December 2024</b>
Beneficiaries	315 200	304 915	620 115
<i>(USD)</i>			
<b>Total cost</b>	<b>97 921 641</b>	<b>57 219 418</b>	<b>155 141 059</b>
Transfers	69 825 187	42 260 458	112 085 646
Implementation	13 128 617	10 044 639	23 173 256
Adjusted direct support costs	8 991 398	1 712 343	10 703 742
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>91 945 203</b>	<b>54 017 441</b>	<b>145 962 644</b>
Indirect support costs (6.5 percent)	5 976 438	3 201 977	9 178 415

Gender and age marker:\* 3

\* <http://gender.manuals.wfp.org/en/gender-toolkit/gender-in-programming/gender-and-age-marker/>.

### Draft decision

The Board approves by vote by correspondence the revision of the Congo country strategic plan (2019–2023) and the corresponding budget increase of USD 57,219,418 outlined in the present document.

### Rationale

1. Although activities for the treatment of moderate acute malnutrition in the Congo have been implemented since 2018, the rate of global acute malnutrition, while relatively low at 7.7 percent,<sup>1</sup> has not dropped below 5 percent in Pool Department. This is cause for concern given the high rate of stunting in the department – 23.6 percent compared with 21 percent at the national level – and other aggravating factors including food insecurity. According to post-distribution monitoring surveys carried out since January 2020, the inadequacy of health facilities is a crucial constraint to the achievement of desired nutrition outcomes. In addition, frequent movement of people in and out of the department results in poor follow-up of enrolled beneficiaries, who eventually drop out of the treatment programme.
2. WFP has introduced activities for the prevention of malnutrition that complement the ongoing treatment of moderate acute malnutrition provided at health centres. Health centre staff receive training and financial support based on a memorandum of understanding between WFP and the Ministry of Health and Population.

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<sup>1</sup> WFP. 2015. Comprehensive food security and vulnerability analysis, 2014–2015.  
<https://docs.wfp.org/api/documents/WFP-0000122455/download/>.

3. Catastrophic floods in October 2019 affected approximately 170,000 people, including those in vulnerable groups such as indigenous people and refugees. The Government requested a joint response with the United Nations, and a state of humanitarian emergency and calamity was declared. In November 2019, WFP launched an emergency response for Likouala Department, which included life-saving food and nutrition assistance and the provision of logistics services to the humanitarian community.
4. The COVID-19 pandemic has exacerbated the food insecurity and malnutrition of vulnerable people, particularly in Brazzaville and Pointe-Noire. At the Government's request, WFP has been providing cash-based transfers to 112,500 vulnerable people in these urban areas since August 2020.
5. The country strategic plan (CSP) revision also covers pilot initiatives aimed at improving smallholder farmers' productivity and access to markets.
6. In addition, the revision will align the duration of the CSP with that of the United Nations sustainable development cooperation framework (UNSDCF) for 2020–2024 through a one-year extension to 2024. CSP outcomes and activities are already consistent with the UNSDCF and reinforce planning priorities under outcomes 2 (education) and 3 (health and social protection) of the UNSDCF, as well as contributing to outcome 4 (economy diversification and climate change).

## Changes

### Strategic orientation

7. This first revision of the Congo CSP introduces strategic outcome 5 under WFP's new Strategic Result 8. The associated activity 6 allows the provision of on-demand logistics services to humanitarian partners.
8. WFP also proposes to expand the scope of strategic outcome 1 and activity 1 through the introduction of the prevention of acute malnutrition. The activity 1 caseload will also increase to include flood-affected people and urban people made food-insecure as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic.
9. Overall, the revision involves the addition of one activity and two outputs and the expansion of one strategic outcome, all of which are included in the revised line of sight.

### Strategic outcomes

10. Non-food items have been transported from Brazzaville to flooded areas by barges and whaling ships. WFP provided logistics support to the humanitarian community by coordinating the management and monitoring of loading with other agencies and provided temporary structures in Bouemba (Plateaux Department) and Bétou (Likouala Department) so that agencies could store their goods safely. Warehouse security was ensured by guards contracted to WFP through a specialized agency; the WFP fleet and contracted local transporters provided road transport; and air transport was used for the transportation of non-food items. These on-demand services were delivered through trilateral arrangements involving WFP, service providers and other agencies, and were made possible through the use of resources from the Central Emergency Response Fund administered by WFP.
11. Under the revised CSP, activities for the prevention of acute malnutrition will target children age 6–23 months and pregnant and lactating women and girls through the provision of specialized nutritious foods: lipid-based nutrient supplements, medium quantity for children and Super Cereal and oil for pregnant and lactating women and girls. Malnutrition prevention activities will target returnees to Pool Department and people affected by emergencies such as floods, in both host and refugee populations. They will be implemented during the lean season for approximately four months each year. People

affected by COVID-19 will also be targeted, including children age 6–23 months and pregnant and lactating women and girls. If the supply chain for specialized nutritious foods is disrupted, WFP will seek alternative solutions such as the provision of fresh food or the use of micronutrient powders or locally fortified cassava flour (cassava is a widely consumed staple food in the Congo).

12. Together with the Ministry of Health and Population, WFP will conduct community outreach and promotion activities including nutrition screening and education as part of a malnutrition prevention package. WFP will leverage existing food assistance for assets platforms as entry points for contributing to nutrition outcomes and complementing the work of partners such as the United Nations Children’s Fund, the United Nations Population Fund and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations on water, sanitation and hygiene, child protection, the provision of “dignity kits”,<sup>2</sup> reproductive health and home gardens in the geographic areas where WFP has food assistance for assets programmes.

### **Beneficiary analysis**

13. The activities for the prevention of acute malnutrition introduced in this CSP revision will target an additional 147,015 beneficiaries. The intervention will potentially result in fewer children becoming malnourished, so the caseload for the treatment of moderate acute malnutrition revised downwards from 79,000 to 63,500 beneficiaries.
14. An additional 50,000 flood-affected people received a mix of in-kind food assistance and cash-based transfers, and 112,500 people in urban areas, who have been rendered food-insecure as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic received cash-based transfers.
15. The proposed extension of the duration of the CSP will increase the number of beneficiaries of activity 2 with the addition of 13,000 schoolchildren.
16. In accordance with corporate guidelines on beneficiary counting, the beneficiaries of capacity strengthening interventions (tier 3) are not considered direct WFP beneficiaries. The caseload originally counted under activity 4 is therefore removed in this revision.

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<sup>2</sup> Packages comprising basic necessities such as bath soap, sanitary napkins and buckets.

**TABLE 1: DIRECT BENEFICIARIES BY STRATEGIC OUTCOME AND ACTIVITY**

<b>Strategic outcome</b>	<b>Activity</b>	<b>Period</b>	<b>Women (18+ years)</b>	<b>Men (18+ years)</b>	<b>Girls (0-18 years)</b>	<b>Boys (0-18 years)</b>	<b>Total</b>
1: Food insecure people affected by shocks have access to adequate food all year round	1: Provide unconditional and/or conditional food and nutrition assistance to people affected by shocks	Current	67 045	63 012	25 486	25 557	<b>181 100</b>
		Increase	89 077	48 808	89 736	81 894	<b>309 515</b>
		Decrease	(5 248)		(6 346)	(3 906)	<b>(15 500)</b>
		Revised	150 874	111 820	108 876	103 545	<b>475 115</b>
2: Equitable national social protection interventions effectively target vulnerable populations, including school-age children, with sustained access to safe, nutritious local food	2: Provide safe, adequate and nutritious school meals to targeted schoolchildren	Current			66 000	66 000	<b>132 000</b>
		Increase			6 500	6 500	<b>13 000</b>
		Revised			72 500	72 500	<b>145 000</b>
	3: Provide technical support to the Government for improved implementation of shock-responsive social protection interventions	Current					
		Increase					
		Revised					
3: Targeted smallholder farmers and communities benefit from productive and sustainable livelihoods that support nutrition value chains	4: Provide analytical, technical and equipment support for smallholder farmers aimed at encouraging market-oriented and climate-resilient production and livelihoods	Current	1 400	700			<b>2 100</b>
		Decrease	(1 400)	(700)			<b>(2 100)</b>
		Revised	0	0			<b>0</b>
<b>Total (without overlap)</b>	<b>Current</b>	<b>68 445</b>	<b>63 712</b>	<b>91 486</b>	<b>91 557</b>	<b>315 200</b>	
	<b>Increase</b>	<b>89 077</b>	<b>48 808</b>	<b>96 236</b>	<b>88 394</b>	<b>322 515</b>	
	<b>Decrease</b>	<b>(6 648)</b>	<b>(700)</b>	<b>(6 346)</b>	<b>(3 906)</b>	<b>(17 600)</b>	
	<b>Revised</b>	<b>150 874</b>	<b>111 820</b>	<b>181 376</b>	<b>176 045</b>	<b>620 115</b>	

### Transfers

17. For food assistance for assets activities, the cash-based transfer amount per person per day has been revised upwards from USD 0.60 to USD 0.80 in line with the daily agricultural salary rate and updated food basket cost. The number of feeding days is also revised upwards from 45 to 48 days per year.

**TABLE 2: FOOD RATION (g/person/day) AND CASH-BASED TRANSFER VALUE (USD/person/day) BY STRATEGIC OUTCOME AND ACTIVITY**

	Strategic outcome 1						Strategic outcome 2
	Activity 1						Activity 2
Beneficiary type	General food distribution	MAM treatment - PLW/Gs	MAM prevention -PLW/Gs	Food assistance for assets	MAM treatment - children	MAM prevention - children	School feeding
Modality	Food and cash-based transfers	Food	Food	Food and cash-based transfers	Food	Food	Food and cash-based transfers
Cereals	400			400			
Pulses	120			120			
Oil	30	25	25	30			
Salt	5			5			
Sugar							
Super Cereal		250	200				
LNS-MQ (Plumpy'Doz)						50	
RUSF (Plumpy'Sup)					100		
Total kcal/day	2 100	1 175	940	2 100	510	255	901
% kcal from protein	10.8	13.8	13.2	10.8	10	10	
Cash-based transfers (USD/person/day)	0.60			0.80			0.30
Number of feeding days per year	360	90	120	48	90	120	180

LNS-MQ = lipid-based nutrient supplement, medium quantity; MAM = moderate acute malnutrition; PLW/Gs = pregnant and lactating women and girls; RUSF = ready-to-use supplementary food.

Food type/cash-based transfers	Current budget		Increase		Revised budget	
	Total (mt)	Total (USD)	Total (mt)	Total (USD)	Total (mt)	Total (USD)
Cereals	14 194	6 528 634	5 686	2 140 585	19 880	8 669 219
Pulses	3 950	2 904 783	1 650	1 703 386	5 599	4 608 169
Oil and fats	1 367	1 510 521	622	652 860	1 989	2 163 381
Mixed and blended foods	1 118	1 615 320	1 681	1 587 645	2 799	3 202 965
Other	2 220	4 641 746	444	1 300 427	2 663	5 942 172
<b>Total (food)</b>	<b>22 848</b>	<b>17 201 004</b>	<b>10 082</b>	<b>7 384 902</b>	<b>32 930</b>	<b>24 585 906</b>
Cash-based transfers		16 097 400		18 069 000		34 166 400
<b>Total (food and cash-based transfer value)</b>	<b>22 848</b>	<b>33 298 404</b>	<b>10 082</b>	<b>25 453 902</b>	<b>32 930</b>	<b>58 752 306</b>

### Cost breakdown

18. The main changes in cost are related to the introduction of acute malnutrition prevention activities and emergency assistance for people affected by floods and COVID-19 in activity 1. For activity 4, the budget increase allows for the extension of support to smallholder farmers in several regions of the country.

	Strategic Result 1/ SDG Target 2.1	Strategic Result 1/ SDG Target 2.1	Strategic Result 3/ SDG Target 2.3	Strategic Result 5/ SDG Target 17.9	Strategic Result 8/ SDG Target 17.16	Total
	Strategic outcome 1	Strategic outcome 2	Strategic outcome 3	Strategic outcome 4	Strategic outcome 5	
<b>Focus area</b>	<b>Crisis response</b>	<b>Root causes</b>	<b>Resilience building</b>	<b>Crisis response</b>	<b>Crisis response</b>	
Transfers	27 729 263	6 094 381	6 466 814	(265 000)	2 235 000	<b>42 260 458</b>
Implementation	5 088 618	3 908 719	912 780	(98 448)	232 970	<b>10 044 639</b>
Adjusted direct support costs						<b>1 712 343</b>
<b>Subtotal</b>						<b>54 017 441</b>
Indirect support costs (6.5 percent)						<b>3 201 977</b>
<b>Total</b>						<b>57 219 418</b>

**TABLE 5: OVERALL CSP COST BREAKDOWN FOLLOWING THE REVISION (USD)**

	Strategic Result 1/ SDG Target 2.1	Strategic Result 1/ SDG Target 2.1	Strategic Result 3/ SDG Target 2.3	Strategic Result 5/ SDG Target 17.9	Strategic Result 8/ SDG Target 17.16	Total
	Strategic outcome 1	Strategic outcome 2	Strategic outcome 3	Strategic outcome 4	Strategic outcome 5	
Focus area	Crisis response	Root causes	Resilience building	Crisis response	Crisis response	
Transfers	53 422 466	37 014 398	17 526 205	1 887 576	2 235 000	<b>112 085 646</b>
Implementation	10 464 255	9 941 011	2 473 795	61 225	232 970	<b>23 173 256</b>
Adjusted direct support costs	4 617 403	4 038 753	1 708 104	126 702	212 780	<b>10 703 742</b>
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>68 504 125</b>	<b>50 994 162</b>	<b>21 708 105</b>	<b>2 075 503</b>	<b>2 680 750</b>	<b>145 962 644</b>
Indirect support costs (6.5 percent)	4 452 768	3 314 621	1 411 027			<b>9 178 415</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>72 956 893</b>	<b>54 308 782</b>	<b>23 119 131</b>	<b>2 075 503</b>	<b>2 680 750</b>	<b>155 141 059</b>