



World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES  
CHANGING LIVES

# WFP Republic of Congo In Numbers

## Country Brief

February 2022

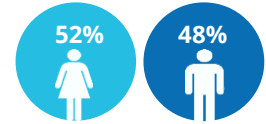


250.7 mt of food distributed

359,767 USD cash-based transfers

12 USD million six-month (March 2022 – August 2022) net funding requirements

102,099 people assisted



### Operational Updates

**Strategic Result 01: Food-insecure people affected by shocks have access to adequate food all year round.**

- Refugees from the Central African Republic (CAR), fleeing the resurgence of violence at the end of 2020, are present in the Likouala department in the north of RoC. In February 2022, 23,463 refugees received cash and in-kind food assistance from WFP.
- During the past years, the COVID-19 pandemic exposed deep-seated inequalities and significant gaps in social protection coverage. In this context, WFP supports the Government by providing prevention and treatment of Moderate Acute Malnutrition (MAM). In February, 5,370 children aged 6 to 59 months received treatment and 8,180 Pregnant and Lactating Women (PLW) received prevention in Brazzaville.
- In February, in the departments affected by floods, the level of water started to decrease to an average level. The affected population will have to cope with the loss of crops. To address this situation and contribute to their resilience, WFP distributed 156.55 mt of food in Betou (Likouala department).

**Strategic Result 02: Equitable national social protection interventions effectively target vulnerable populations, including school-aged children with sustained access to safe and nutritious food**

- The school feeding programme continued in February. WFP continues to face challenges to deliver food given the poor quality of roads and lack of transporters. To address this challenge, 100 managers were trained on the “Last Mile Solution” in the Lekoumou and Bouenza departments. WFP was able to reach 69,415 schoolchildren with school meals this month.
- WFP is reinforcing the capacities of the national and local authorities to support the implementation of the National School Feeding Policy. In the Lekoumou department, 337 school managers received training to reinforce their organizational and managerial capacity.

### Operational Context

The Republic of Congo (RoC) has been facing economic stagnation since 2015, aggravated by the COVID-19 pandemic. In 2021, RoC's economy declined for the seventh consecutive year, with the Gross Domestic Product (GDP) estimated at -1.2 percent and a poverty rate projected to increase from 48.5 percent in 2019 to 53.3 percent in 2021 (World Bank, 2021).

To support the Government and provide a response to the most affected population, WFP continued its COVID-19 response in Brazzaville and Pointe-Noire. This assistance included the distribution of electronic value vouchers reaching 18,703 vulnerable people and distributing a total of USD 1,463,111 to beneficiaries.

WFP also supports 25,787 refugees (January 2021) from the Central African Republic (CAR) in Likouala and asylum-seekers from the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) 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).



Population: 5.5 million

2019 Human Development Index: 149 out of 189 countries

Income Level: Lower Middle

Chronic malnutrition: 21.2% of children aged 6–59 months

# WFP Country Strategy

## Country Strategic Plan (2019–2024)

Total Requirements (in USD)	Allocated Contributions (in USD)	Six-Month Net Funding Requirements (in USD)
155 m	63.5 m	12 m

### Strategic Result 01: Everyone has access to food

#### Strategic Outcome 01: 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 02: 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 03: Smallholder productivity and incomes

#### Strategic Outcome 03: 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-resilient production and livelihoods

### Strategic Result 08: Enhance global partnership

#### Strategic Outcome 04: 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

#### Strategic Outcome 05: National Humanitarian and development actors have access to WFP expertise

**Focus area:** *Crisis response*

**Activities:**

- Provide on-demand logistics common services to humanitarian partners

- WFP is implementing a Home-Grown School Feeding (HGFS) programme. Through this activity in February, 24,573 benefitted from school meals complemented with products sourced from local farmers.
- WFP supports 16 groups of women producing Mbala Pinda, a tasty, local and nutritious snack which production and economic opportunities contribute to the empowerment of women. Until the end of March, as part of the HGFS activities, 4,670 children will benefit from this snack in their schools. WFP is working to mobilise resources to continue assisting smallholder groups and children.

#### Strategic Outcome 03: Targeted smallholder farmers and communities' benefit from productive and sustainable livelihoods which support nutrition value chains

- The Joint SDG fund is financing a UN joint programme from January 2020 to June 2022. During the month of February, 16 smallholder farmers groups were formed around management and harvest planning.
- The Minister of Environment, Sustainable Development and Congo Basin, with the WFP Representative, participated in the inception workshop of the project financed by the Adaptation Fund. As a result of this workshop the workplan for the first year was validated by both authorities, marking the official start of this 5-year project.
- The WFP Representative and the European Union Ambassador in the Republic of Congo visited smallholder groups assisted through the "ProManioc" in the Bouenza department. Furthermore, the Departmental Technical Monitoring Committee met at Madingou to validate the quarterly activity roadmap.

## Monitoring

- From January to March 2022, WFP in the Republic of Congo is working on a new Logistics Capacity Assessment (LCA) for the country. This report will update all logistics information in the country and will serve as a basis for management decision-making for the humanitarian community.
- The country office is working on its Annual Country Report. This report will provide an overview of all activities implemented and a financial report for the year 2021.
- The Ukraine conflict deals a blow to the Central and Southern African region's food availability and accessibility at a time when governments are grappling with limited fiscal space due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The RoC, a country largely dependent on imports (i.e., 80 percent of wheat is coming from Russia), will be potentially impacted by the surging prices that will make food, fuel and fertilizer less affordable, negatively affecting food security in the near term. In coordination with the National Institute of Statistics, WFP is surveying the evolution on prices to anticipate any situation impacting operations locally.

## Donors

Adaptation fund, Canada, European Union, Global Partnership for Education, Germany, IBSA fund, China, Japan, Mastercard, Republic of Congo, Joint SDG fund, Share the Meal, the USA.

**Photo:** Primary school students during a distribution of Mbala Pinda. WFP/DIGITS (January 2022)