WFP Republic of Congo
Country Brief
January 2022

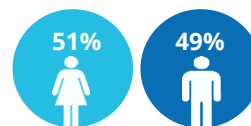SAVING LIVES
CHANGING LIVES

In Numbers

328.6 mt of food distributed

268,488 USD cash-based transfers

11.6 USD million six-month (February 2022 – July 2022) net funding requirements

109,549 people assisted
in January 2022

51% ♀   **49%** ♂

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, 34,000 people affected by the economic consequences of the COVID-19 in Brazzaville and Pointe Noire. Vulnerability assessments show that 15.2 percent of the population living in the urban areas of these cities, is moderately or severely food insecure. Sustained food assistance is needed to avoid an increase in food insecurity in the country.

WFP also supports refugees 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**

Operational Updates

- The Government of the Republic of Congo (RoC) adopted a new National Development Plan (2022 to 2026). The UN country team participated in the drafting of this strategic document to ensure the alignment with the SDGs.

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 beginning of 2021, are present in the Likouala department in the north of the Republic of Congo. In January 2022, 25,787 refugees from CAR and asylum seekers from DRC received nutritional, in-kind and value voucher assistance from WFP.
- WFP provided treatment and prevention of Moderate Acute Malnutrition (MAM) to 3,819 vulnerable children and 12,527 Pregnant and Lactating Women (PLW) in the departments of Brazzaville, Likouala and Pool. The beneficiaries included refugees and people affected by the economic consequences of COVID-19.
- Under the flood response, and in addition to the humanitarian assistance provided by the Congolese government and its partners, WFP delivered food assistance to 29,610 vulnerable people in Likouala, in the districts of Bétou, Epena, Impfondo, Dongou and Enyelle.

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 activities continued in January 2022. Supply chain challenges have been encountered given the poor quality of roads worsened by the rains that affect the country during this time of the year. Nevertheless, WFP was able to reach 78,287 primary schoolchildren who received school meals this month.

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**	**11.6 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

- WFP is implementing a Home-Grown School Feeding (HGSF) programme. Through this activity, 14,916 schoolchildren are benefiting from local food.
- Through the HGSF programme in Loudima and Madingou 4,670 children are receiving a local snack called Mbala Pinda. Schools directly purchase this snack, a nutritional supplement based on local products, to 160 women producers who are supported by WFP. This activity is carried out thanks to the Sodexo's Stop Hunger Foundation.

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

- The SDG fund is financing a joint programme implemented from January 2020 to June 2022. In January, WFP elaborated a strategy for the management of Moderate Acute Malnourished using mobile techniques at the community level in the health district of Zanaga.
- From July to December 2021, WFP reinforced the managerial and marketing capacities of 16 groups of women producers of Mbala Pinda through the financing of the Innovation Accelerator. Thanks to this project, the managerial capacities, knowledge on hygiene and food safety of 160 producers were reinforced. A second phase is planned for 2022.
- From November 2021 to December 2022, the departmental consultation workshops were done for the project financed by the Adaptation Fund. The objective was to raise awareness on the project objectives, jointly finalize the drafting of the first year of project implementation and include new partners in the implementation of the project activities.

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.

Floods monitoring in Likouala, Sangha, Cuvette and Plateaux

- From August to January of each year, floods are expected in the north of the country. WFP and its partner Cloud to Street closely monitor the situation in the departments prone to risk.
- In December 2021 and January 2022, the floods significantly evolved in the Likouala, Plateaux and Cuvette departments. As of January 2022, according to the local authorities and the partner Cloud to Street, more than 100,000 people living the Likouala districts of Liranga, Dongou, Impfondo, Bétou Bouanila and Epena; the Plateaux's districts of Loukolela, Mpouya, and Makotimpo; and in the Cuvette's district of Mossakka were affected.

Influx of Central African Republic refugees

- Following the post-election violence that disrupted the Central African Republic (CAR) in late 2020, an influx of more than 7,400 people from that country has been recorded in Likouala. As of 31 December 2021, according to UNHCR, the number of refugees from CAR is estimated at over 54,000.

Donors

The Adaptation Fund, Canada, the European Union, France, the Global Partnership for Education, Germany, IBSA fund, People's Republic of China, Japan, Mastercard, Republic of Congo, the SDG fund, Share the Meal, the United States of America and the WFP Innovator Accelerator.

Photo: Food Distribution for flood affected population. WFP/Gildas Mouhouelo (January 2022)