

Crisis response revision of the Congo country strategic plan (2019–2024) and corresponding budget increase

	Current	Change	Revised
Duration	1 January 2019– 31 December 2024	No change	1 January 2019– 31 December 2024
Beneficiaries	620 115	194 100	814 215
<i>(USD)</i>			
Total cost	155 141 059	42 413 197	197 554 256
Transfers	112 085 646	35 566 132	147 651 778
Implementation	23 173 256	3 277 714	26 450 969
Adjusted direct support costs	10 703 742	979 212	11 682 954
Subtotal	145 962 644	39 823 058	185 785 701
Indirect support costs (6.5 percent)	9 178 415	2 590 139	11 768 555

Gender and age marker code*: 3

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

Rationale

1. The changes introduced through this budget revision reflect an augmentation of operations under activities 1 and 2 in response to the economic impacts of the coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) pandemic restrictions, as well as an extension of WFP assistance to refugees and asylum seekers. The revision also reflects receipt of new United States Department of Agriculture funding for the period 2022–2026 for school feeding activities under strategic outcomes 2 and 3.
2. As COVID-19 cases continued to increase during the peak of the pandemic between 2020 and 2021, the Government has been forced to maintain restrictive measures, which have exacerbated the food insecurity and malnutrition of vulnerable people, particularly in Brazzaville and Pointe-Noire. In 2020 and 2021, the measures taken by the Government to prevent the spread of COVID-19 resulted in the suspension and closure of a number of businesses leading to a significant loss of employment. While employment is gradually returning to pre-pandemic levels (10.2 percent unemployment in 2020), World Bank household surveys (April 2021) indicate that 56 percent of households are still experiencing income losses due to the pandemic. As a result, one third of urban households are unable to pay their rent and health costs or meet their food needs. The February 2021 standardized monitoring and assessment of relief and transition (SMART) survey indicated a food insecurity prevalence of 25.5 percent in Brazzaville, with 6.2 percent of the population experiencing global acute malnutrition, 1.9 percent of children experiencing severe acute malnutrition and 4.3 percent of children experiencing moderate acute malnutrition (MAM).



3. Throughout 2021, refugees from the Central African Republic have been arriving in the Likouala department and asylum-seekers from the Democratic Republic of the Congo in the Likouala and Plateaux departments. Recurrent flooding has also affected these areas, leading the Government to declare a "state of humanitarian disaster" on several occasions and to intervene with the support of its partners. According to the August 2021 Joint Assessment Missions report, these beneficiaries have poor access to productive resources (primarily land), and therefore more than half of households spend 75 percent of their total income on food. In addition to this, refugees are highly dependent on food aid and other types of assistance (financial, seeds, fishing kits, etc.) to maintain their livelihoods. The prevalence of food insecurity in this group is high (50.1 percent¹) and means of survival are not sustainable.
4. At the request of the Government, in response to COVID-19 consequences and aligned to the objective of linking schools to local markets, the number of school children planned to benefit from cash-based transfer (CBT) through the home-grown school feeding (HGSF) modality has been extended until the end of the country strategic plan (CSP) (2024). The expanded HGSF activities, including the addition of cassava flour in the school meal food basket through this budget revision, have the potential to enhance food and nutrition security of school-age children and provide sustainable support to local farmers.

Changes

Strategic orientation

5. There is no change in the strategic orientation of the CSP.

Strategic outcomes

6. WFP will extend the COVID-19 response plan in the urban areas until June 2022. People living in the urban areas of Brazzaville and Pointe-Noire will continue to receive in-kind food, value vouchers, and prevention and treatment of MAM.
7. WFP proposes expanding its scope under activity 1 by extending the value voucher and in-kind food assistance to refugees from the Central African Republic and the asylum seekers from the Democratic Republic of the Congo until December 2022.
8. Through the implementation of new multi-year United States Department of Agriculture funding, this budget revision proposes an increase in the number of primary schools supported through the HGSF programme. To provide communities with an integrated social safety net package, WFP links together the school feeding activity with activities under strategic outcome 3, focused on smallholder farmer support.
9. WFP proposes to extend capacity strengthening activities to reinforce the capacities of smallholder farmers, through the new McGovern-Dole programme (United States Department of Agriculture funding) which is approved for the next five years.

Beneficiary analysis

10. By extending assistance to refugees from the Central African Republic and asylum seekers from the Democratic Republic of the Congo, the number of beneficiaries is revised from 19,000 to 30,000 Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees registered refugees/asylum seekers until December 2022. In addition to this, through the COVID-19 response, 84,000 people will receive in-kind food assistance in Brazzaville and Pointe-Noire for two months. Following which, the number of beneficiaries will remain at

¹ Joint Assessment Missions report, August 2021.



30,000 beneficiaries per month until June 2022. The beneficiary selection is done based on the existing national social protection programme "registre social unique" of the Ministry of Social Affairs and Humanitarian Action. WFP applied its own criteria to the Government selection list to ensure the most vulnerable populations (women, children, elderly, disabled) are cared for.

11. The treatment and prevention of MAM programme will be extended to June 2022, continuing to assist 35,000 pregnant and lactating women and girls (PLWG) and children under 5 years of age.
12. From 2022, WFP will increase the number of schoolchildren assisted through CBT modality by 40,000 beneficiaries per year until the end of the CSP (2024), in addition to 17,500 previously planned for in 2022. This is in addition to the 41,500 increase of schoolchildren receiving in-kind assistance.

TABLE 1: DIRECT BENEFICIARIES BY STRATEGIC OUTCOME AND ACTIVITY							
Strategic outcome	Activity	Period	Women (18+ years)	Men (18+ years)	Girls (0-18 years)	Boys (0-18 years)	Total
1	1	Current	130 965	89 911	120 424	133 815	475 115*
		Increase/ (decrease)	33 733	5 965	37 937	32 865	110 500
		Revised	164 698	95 876	158 361	166 680	585 615
2	2	Current	-	-	72 500	72 500	145 000
		Increase/ (decrease)	-	-	40 750	40 750	81 500
		Revised	-	-	113 250	113 250	226 500
	3	Current	-	-	-	-	-
		Increase/ (decrease)	-	-	-	-	-
		Revised	-	-	-	-	-
3	4	Current	-	-	-	-	-
		Increase/ (decrease)	1 400	700	-	-	2 100
		Revised	1 400	700	-	-	2 100
Total (without overlap)		Current	130 965	89 911	192 924	206 315	620 115
		Increase/ (decrease)	35 133	6 665	78 687	73 615	194 100
		Revised	166 098	96 576	271 611	279 930	814 215

* The current total beneficiary figure aligns with budget revision 1. However, the disaggregated figures for budget revision 1 were captured incorrectly and not aligned to the country office tool for managing effectively (COMET). This has now been corrected through this budget revision 2, and these disaggregated beneficiary figures are now aligned to COMET.



Transfers

13. For general food distribution activities, the CBT per person per day has been revised upwards from USD 0.6 to USD 0.94, following the adjustments related to the constant increase in local food prices². According to the National Institute of Statistics December 2021 review³, the national harmonized consumer price index has increased to 1.5 percent from previous months, pushing inflation to over 2 percent. The prices were revised considering the basic food basket (400g of rice, 120g of pulses, 30g of oil and 5g of salt) per day per person.
14. WFP included cassava flour in the school meal ration as part of the local and regional procurement component for the HGSF activities that will be implemented from 2022 until the end of the CSP.
15. The increase of total food/cash-based transfer requirements (table 3) is related to the increase in the number of beneficiaries.

	Strategic outcome 1						Strategic outcome 2		
	Activity 1						Activity 2		
	GFD	MAM treatment-PLWG	MAM prevention-PLWG	FFA	MAM treatment children	MAM prevention children	School meals: ration 1	School meals: ration 2	School meals: ration 3
Modality	Food/CBTs	Food	Food	Food/CBTs	Food	Food	Food/CBTs	Food/CBTs	Food/CBTs
Cereals	400	-	-	400	-	-	150	-	-
Pulses	120	-	-	120	-	-	40	40	-
Oil	30	25	25	30	-	-	15	15	-
Salt	5	-	-	5	-	-	5	5	-
Canned fish	-	-	-	-	-	-	30	30	-
Cassava flour	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	150	-
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	900	-
% kcal from protein	10.8	13.8	13.2	10.8	10	10	-	9	-

² Given the international context affected by the COVID-19 pandemic and, recently, the Ukraine crisis, in Brazzaville the price of vegetable oil increased by 67.8 percent, from USD 1.5 per litre (January 2021) to USD 2.6 (February 2022). Prices of wheat flour, butter, pasta, and frozen products have also significantly increased, prompting the Government to set up an aid programme which aims to finance stocks of staple food and other essential products. The new Government's resilience plan to tackle inflation will also include measures with immediate effect on prices.

³ National Institute of Statistics. 2022. *Indice national harmonisé des prix à la consommation des ménages (INHPC base 100:2018) – Mois de décembre 2021*.

	Strategic outcome 1						Strategic outcome 2		
	Activity 1						Activity 2		
	GFD	MAM treatment-PLWG	MAM prevention-PLWG	FFA	MAM treatment children	MAM prevention children	School meals: ration 1	School meals: ration 2	School meals: ration 3
Modality	Food/CBTs	Food	Food	Food/CBTs	Food	Food	Food/CBTs	Food/CBTs	Food/CBTs
Cash-based transfers (USD/person/day)	0.94	-	-	0.80	-	-	0.30	-	-
Number of feeding days per year	360	90	120	48	90	120	180	-	-

Abbreviations: FFA = food assistance for assets; GFD = general food distribution; LNS-MQ = medium-quantity lipid-based nutrient supplement; RUSF = ready-to-use supplementary food.

	Current budget		Increase		Revised budget	
	Total (mt)	Total (USD)	Total (mt)	Total (USD)	Total (mt)	Total (USD)
Cereals	19 880	8 669 219	2 974	1 401 160	22 854	10 070 379
Pulses	5 599	4 608 169	937	621 160	6 537	5 229 329
Oil and fats	1 989	2 163 381	271	420 913	2 260	2 584 294
Mixed and blended foods	2 799	3 202 965	406	465 804	3 205	3 668 768
Other	2 663	5 942 172	226	197 691	2 889	6 139 863
Total (food)	32 930	24 585 906	4 815	3 106 728	37 745	27 692 634
Cash-based transfers	-	34 166 400	-	25 909 200	-	60 075 600
Total (food and cash-based transfer value)	32 930	58 752 306	4 815	29 015 928	37 745	87 768 234

Cost breakdown

16. For strategic outcome 1, the increase in the budget is related to the extension of the COVID-19 response until June 2022, extension of the refugee and asylum seeker activities until the end of 2022, the increase of cash-based transfer value for general food distribution from USD 0.6 to USD 0.94 per person per day. For strategic outcome 2 the budget has been increased to accommodate the increased number of schools being assisted through CBT in the framework of the HGSF initiatives, as well as the activities contemplated in the approved multi-year programme financed by the United States Department of Agriculture. The strategic outcome 3 budget increase is related to the extension of capacity strengthening under activity 4, in the framework of the next multi-year programme financed by the United States Department of Agriculture.



TABLE 4: COST BREAKDOWN OF THE REVISION ONLY (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	27 258 696	8 057 436	250 000	-	-	35 566 132
Implementation	2 203 349	1 034 865	39 500	-	-	3 277 714
Adjusted direct support costs	-	-	-	-	-	979 212
Subtotal	-	-	-	-	-	39 823 058
Indirect support costs (6.5 percent)	-	-	-	-	-	2 590 139
Total	-	-	-	-	-	42 413 197

Abbreviation: SDG = Sustainable Development Goal.

TABLE 5: OVERALL COUNTRY STRATEGIC PLAN COST BREAKDOWN, AFTER 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	80 681 162	45 071 835	17 776 205	1 887 576	2 235 000	147 651 778
Implementation	12 667 604	10 975 876	2 513 295	61 225	232 970	26 450 969
Adjusted direct support costs	5 489 952	4 353 700	1 525 062	126 702	187 538	11 682 954
Subtotal	98 838 718	60 401 410	21 814 562	2 075 503	2 655 508	185 785 701
Indirect support costs (6.5 percent)	6 424 517	3 926 092	1 417 947	-	-	11 768 555
Total	105 263 235	64 327 502	23 232 508	2 075 503	2 655 508	197 554 256