**WFP Republic of Congo**  
**Country Brief**  
**June 2022**

**Operational Context**

The Republic of Congo has been facing economic stagnation since 2015, aggravated by the COVID-19 pandemic and recently by rising food and transport prices due to the Ukraine - Russia conflict. According to the World Bank, the Republic of Congo’s economy contracted by an estimated 3.5 percent in 2021. The poverty rate - the proportion of the population living below the international extreme poverty line of USD 1.90 per day - increased from 39.1 percent in 2015 to an estimated 53.9 percent in 2021. Active in 11 of the 12 departments, WFP has been present in RoC since 1968.

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**In Numbers**

- **234.54 mt** of food distributed
- **520,578 USD** cash-based transfers
- **7 USD million** six-month (July-December 2022) net funding requirements
- **140,070 people assisted**

**Operational Updates**

**Strategic Result 1: Food-insecure people affected by shocks have access to adequate food all year round.**

- In June, 12,547 refugees from the Central African Republic in the Likouala department and 4,728 asylum seekers from the Democratic Republic of Congo in the Plateaux department received food assistance through Cash Based Transfer (CBT) distributions.

**Strategic Result 2: Equitable national social protection interventions effectively target vulnerable populations, including school-aged children with sustained access to safe and nutritious food.**

- The school year finalized in June 2022 and schools will remain closed until October 2022. For the 2021/2022 school year, WFP supported an estimated 145,000 school children in 547 schools through the School Feeding Programme and the Home-Grown School Feeding Programme.

- The WFP representative met the Minister of Education to reflect on the achievements of the school year and jointly discuss the preparation for the next school year. The Minister recognized the importance of school feeding programmes in contributing towards improved education outcomes for children as well as a contribution opportunity towards the local economy and the empowerment of women agricultural groups via the “Mbala Pinda” project.

- The Joint Programme implemented by WFP, UNICEF and WHO finalized on 30 June 2022. This programme, supported by the Joint SDG Fund, aimed to support the Government on the inclusion of the indigenous population in the national social protection programmes. In June, as part of the closure, WFP sensitised the departmental authorities in the Ministry of Justice on the inclusion of indigenous people’s needs; distributed small materials (pots, tricycles, scales) to selected smallholder groups, and continued with the treatment and prevention of moderate acute malnutrition.

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WFP Country Strategy

Country Strategic Plan (2019-2024)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Strategic Result</th>
<th>Total Requirement (in USD)</th>
<th>Allocated Contributions (in USD)</th>
<th>Six Month Net Funding Requirements (in USD)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Strategic Result 01: Everyone has access to food</td>
<td>184 m</td>
<td>63.5 m</td>
<td>7 m</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Strategic Result 02: Smallholder productivity and incomes</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Strategic Result 03: Enhance global partnership</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

**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 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 smallholders farmers aimed at encouraging market-oriented and climate-resilient production and livelihoods.

**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 to humanitarian 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 the Mbala Pinda project which aims to reinforce the capacities of 160 women from 16 smallholders’ groups and distribute Mbala Pinda, a nutritious bar made from cassava and peanuts to vulnerable people and school children. In June, 14 schools from Loudima and Madingou received Mbala Pinda.

- Ten technicians from the National Institute for Research in Engineering Sciences were provided with rapid quality control test kits, as part of a capacity building exercise to reinforce the Governmental capacities to perform microbiological test on food products. This training, organized in partnership with the Natural Resources Institute of Greenwich University, will enable the development of the local research laboratory. The monitoring of production and adherence to safety measures will ensure quality in the products intended for school canteens, vulnerable households and the local market.

- A training course on cassava processing in collaboration with the Demonstration Center of Agricultural Technology took place in the Plateaux department. 50 producers from Ngo and Gamboma learned how to produce sweet cassava flour for pastries. These new products should enable them to increase their income and thus ensure food security for their households.

**Monitoring**

- WFP conducted a post-distribution survey in Brazzaville among 1,663 households who benefited from food distributions during the first semester of 2022 as part of the COVID-19 response. Key findings will be available in August 2022.

- As part of the finalisation of the Joint SDG Fund project which aims to upgrade resilience of indigenous communities - a technical evaluation mission took place in the Lékounou department in June 2022. This mission was conducted by independent consultants in collaboration with World Food Programme, United Nations Children's Fund, World Health Organization and United Nations Fund for Population Activities. Preliminary findings are expected in July/August.

- Since February 2022, the Republic of Congo has experienced a rise in food prices. In June, refugees assisted by WFP through electronic value voucher distributions in the Bouembà district, complained about rising prices which limited the quantity of food for the month.

- In coordination with WFP, price monitoring is conducted by the National Institute of Statistics in Brazzaville and Béoumi on four food items: oil, beans, rice and cassava flour.

**Donors**

Adaptation Fund, Canada, European Union, Global Partnership for Education, Germany, China, Japan, Mastercard, Republic of Congo, Innovation Accelerator, Joint SDG fund, Share the Meal, United States of America.

**Photo:** "Notre Avenir" cooperative in Yamba, Bouenza Department. Photo credit: © WFP/ Digits