



World Food Programme

SAVING
LIVES
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LIVES

WFP Republic of Congo Country Brief September 2022



Operational Context

With a population of 5.7 million people, the Republic of Congo is one of the least densely populated countries in Africa, with 14.8 inhabitants per square kilometer. The country has been facing economic stagnation since 2015, aggravated by the COVID-19 pandemic and more recently by rising food and transport prices due to the Ukraine - Russia conflict, exacerbating food insecurity. According to the World Bank, the Republic of Congo's economy contracted by 2.2 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 52 percent in 2021. Active in 11 of the 12 departments, WFP has been present in the Republic of Congo since 1968.



Population: **5.5 million**

2021 Human Development Index: **153 out of 191**

Income Level: **Lower middle**

Chronic malnutrition: **21.2% of children between 6-59 months**

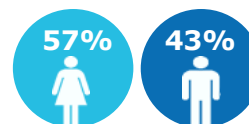
In Numbers

23.85 mt of food distributed

253,840 USD cash-based transfers

11 USD million six-month (October 2022 - March 2023) net funding requirements

18,118 people assisted



Operational Updates

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

- WFP delivered cash-based transfers (CBT) assistance to 4,869 asylum seekers from the Democratic Republic of Congo in Bouemba (Plateaux Department) and to 10,727 refugees from the Central African Republic in Bétou and Ikpelebe (Likouala Department).
- As part of the treatment and prevention of moderate acute malnutrition (MAM), WFP assisted 2,269 children aged from 6 to 59 months and 845 pregnant and lactating women (PLW) in Brazzaville and Kindamba (Pool Department).
- WFP distributed CBT to 395 households in Brazzaville allowing them to buy food products in five affiliated shops, enabling 2,221 vulnerable people affected by the socio-economic consequences of COVID-19 in urban areas to meet their basic food requirements.
- WFP welcomed a mission on nutrition in Brazzaville to conduct a review of its country-wide MAM prevention and treatment intervention, to analyse existing and possible synergies between activities with a view to integrate nutrition-sensitive interventions, to scale up nutrition-specific activities and to inform the 2023 budget revision and elaboration of the Country Strategic Plan.

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

- WFP received USD 1.6 million from the Government of Japan for the School Feeding Programme. This contribution will enable the assistance of 16,444 pupils from 409 primary schools located in 7 Departments (Bouenza, Lékoumou, Pool, Plateaux, Cuvette, Likouala and Sangha) during 2022/2023 school year.
- To prepare for the new school year, 7 heads of department and 8 agents from the Directorate of School Feeding (DAS) received “management capacity reinforcing of the national school canteen programme” three-day training.
- WFP also organized awareness raising missions intended for local communities and schools in the Likouala, Sangha and Pool Departments. Nineteen management committees have been established in Kimba and Vindza, two districts of the Pool Department.

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Country Strategic Plan (2019-2024)		
Total Requirement (in USD)	Allocated Contributions (in USD)	Six Month Net Funding Requirements (in USD)
198 m	129 m	11 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

- Activity:**
- 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

- Activity:**
- 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 05: National Humanitarian and development actors have access to WFP expertise
Focus area: Crisis response

- Activity:**
- Provide on-demand logistics common services to humanitarian partners.

Strategic Outcome 3: Targeted smallholder farmers and communities benefit from productive and sustainable livelihoods which support nutrition value chains.

- Seven WFP-supported smallholder farmers from Brazzaville took part in a three-day agricultural fair organized by the international non-governmental organisation ESSOR in Brazzaville allowing them to strengthen and develop new links with urban markets. These smallholder farmers are supported since 2020 as part of the ‘ProManioc’ project funded by the European Union which aims at strengthening the cassava value chain including through the promotion of processed cassava products.

Monitoring

- WFP updated the school canteens’ dashboard for the 2021/2022 school year based on the presentation and evaluations of the School Feeding Programme. Despite the integration of 30 new schools from Gamboma (Plateaux Department) and Loumo (Pool Department) into the programme for the 2022/2023 school year, the number of enrolled schools has decreased from 547 to 490. This is due to the completion of the Global Partnership for Education’s contribution, which enabled the provision of food assistance to urban schools of Brazzaville and Pointe-Noire in the context of the Covid-19 pandemic from 2020.
- The rainy season – which has caused devastating floods in the north of the country between October and March each year since 2019 – started in September. In support of the Government and to best prepare its rapid response in coordination with the humanitarian community, WFP is closely monitoring rainfall in the Likouala, Cuvette and Plateaux Departments. Cyclic flooding has already started in Makotimpoko, Plateaux Department.
- The UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) reported 809 new asylum seekers in the Ngabé district (Pool Department) and nearby villages in September, bringing the total number to 1,464 new asylum seekers (as of 16 September) fleeing inter-communal conflicts which started in July 2022 in Mai-Ndombé province, in south-western Democratic Republic of Congo.

Donors

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

Photo: Rode, a 41-year-old mother of four and a cash-based food assistance beneficiary, next to a shop with her groceries, 2022. WFP/Gabriella Boukou

Erratum:

The number of beneficiaries reached was over-reported in the July 2022 Country Brief. 22,979 people were assisted by WFP in the Republic of Congo this month.

Figures in the Country Strategic Plan (2019-2024) monitoring table were incorrect in recent Country Briefs. The “Total Requirement” and “Allocated Contributions” figures have been corrected and updated for this Country Brief.