



World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES
CHANGING LIVES

WFP Republic of Congo Country Brief October 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 kilometre. 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**

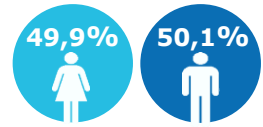
In Numbers

289.39 mt of food distributed

144,110 USD cash-based transfers

2 USD million six-month (November 2022 - April 2023) net funding requirements

86,119 people assisted



Operational Updates

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

- WFP provided in-kind food assistance to 8,855 asylum-seekers in Impfondo area (Dongou, Ibenga, Impfondo centre) and Bétou (Likouala Department).
- WFP provided food assistance to 4,582 asylum-seekers from the Democratic Republic of Congo through Cash-Based transfers (CBT) in Bouemba (Plateaux Department).
- 150 beneficiaries in Impfondo, Enyellé and Bétou (Likouala Department) received in-kind food assistance as part of the Food Assistance for Assets (FFA) agricultural project aimed at empowering populations by growing rice, groundnuts and beans.
- As part of its treatment and prevention of moderate acute malnutrition (MAM), WFP assisted 6,290 children aged 6 to 59 months and 1,467 pregnant and lactating women (PLW) in the Likouala, Plateaux, Pool, Lékoumou and Kouilou Departments. The distributions were implemented with WFP's partner *Terre Sans Frontières* (TSF).
- Germany confirmed a USD 2.5 million contribution to WFP's 2022 emergency operations. This contribution will enable WFP to deliver food assistance in the form of cash-based transfers to refugees and asylum-seekers in the Likouala and Plateaux Departments and vulnerable people in urban areas. Nutritional assistance will also be provided to children aged 6 to 59 months and pregnant and lactating women.

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 delivered 213.2 metric tons of rice, peas, vegetable oil and salt to schools located in the Bouenza, Lékoumou, Pool, Plateaux, Cuvette, Likouala and Sangha Departments. These ongoing deliveries will enable school canteens to operate in the first quarter.
- WFP provided food assistance to 126,155 schoolchildren from 491 schools in seven Departments through the School Feeding Programme. Among them, 37,322 received home-grown school meals.
- WFP and the Ministry of Primary, Secondary and Literacy Education took part in the Global Forum on Child Nutrition co-organised by the Global Child Nutrition Foundation in Cotonou, Benin. It was an opportunity for school visits and experience sharing to identify priorities for the successful implementation of the School Feeding Programme in the Republic of Congo.

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WFP Country Strategy

Country Strategic Plan (2019-2024)

Total Requirement (in USD)	Allocated Contributions (in USD)	Six Month Net Funding Requirements (in USD)
198 m	131 m	2 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.

- In collaboration with the Ministry for the Promotion of Women, WFP organised an eight-day awareness raising and training activity on the transformation of cassava into refined products such as gari, cassava flour and tapioca, benefiting 34 selected women. This activity took place under the framework of International Day of Rural Women celebrations in Dolisie (Niari Department) and contributed to WFP's efforts to strengthen food resilience of vulnerable populations and smallholder farmers/processors in the Republic of Congo by supporting them and promoting the cassava value chain.

- WFP continues to support the "Mbala Pinda" project implemented from 2020 to early 2022 which aimed to improve the food and nutrition security of schoolchildren and vulnerable people in the Bouenza Department while empowering 16 women smallholder groups. WFP provided CBT to 16 schools of Loudima, Madingou and Mfouati (Bouenza Department) allowing them to buy 33,202 Mbala Pinda – a nutritious bar made of peanut butter and cassava paste – produced by 160 former beneficiaries.

Monitoring

- According to the latest information released by the Republic of Congo National Institute of Statistics (INS), the national consumer price index increased by 3.8 percent in August 2022 (year-over-year), higher than the 2.7 percent increase recorded in July 2022 (y-o-y). This inflation, which is affecting the most vulnerable households of the Congolese population, appears to be driven primarily by rising food prices as they increased by 7.0 percent in August 2022 (y-o-y). October price monitoring by INS is pending publication.
- As a result of the start of the rainy season, flooding has occurred in several villages on the Likouala banks (Likouala Department).
- Using data from *Cloud to Street*, WFP's partner since 2018 for near real-time flood monitoring using satellite imagery, and information from WFP Sub-Offices in Bétou (Likouala Department) and Owando (Cuvette Department), WFP closely monitors rainfall in coordination with the Government and the humanitarian community in the northern affected departments (Likouala, Cuvette and Plateaux).
- As of 31 October 2022, the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) registered a total of 3,260 asylum seekers in Ngabé as violent inter-communal clashes, which began in July 2022 in Mai-Ndombé province in south-western Democratic Republic of Congo, forced families to move to 25 host villages located along the northern and southern axes of the Congo River in the Ngabé district.

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: Schoolchildren enjoying their school meal in Yamba Public School, Bouenza Department, 2022. WFP/DIGITS