



World Food Programme

SAVING
LIVES
CHANGING
LIVES

WFP Republic of Congo Country Brief December 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. WFP has been present in Republic of Congo since 1968. Operations are currently ongoing in 11 of the 12 Departments.



Population: **5.7 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

889.6 mt of food distributed

1,185,193 USD cash-based transfers

14 USD million six-month (January 2023 - June 2023) net funding requirements

258,865 people assisted



Operational Updates

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

- WFP provided cash-based transfer (CBT) and in-kind food assistance to 21,426 asylum-seekers from the Central African Republic in the districts of Bétou, Dongou, Enyellé and Impfondo (Likouala Department).
- As part of its urban response to food inflation, WFP provided CBT and in-kind food assistance to 19,770 vulnerable people in Brazzaville through 21 affiliate shops. For the first time, WFP extended its urban assistance to Pointe-Noire, providing 12,811 vulnerable people with CBT through 19 affiliated shops. These interventions were implemented with WFP's local partner *CARITAS* to enable households strained by soaring food prices to cover their essential food requirements.
- As part of the treatment and prevention of moderate acute malnutrition, WFP assisted 9,587 children aged from 6 to 59 months and 35,393 pregnant and lactating women in the Likouala, Sangha, Lékoumou and Pool Departments and in urban areas (Pointe-Noire and Brazzaville). The distributions were implemented through health centres with the non-governmental organisation *Terre Sans Frontières* (TSF) and the National Directorate of Hygiene and Health Promotion.

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 299.5 metric tons of food to public schools located in the Likouala, Sangha, Cuvette, Pool, Bouenza and Lékoumou Departments. These ongoing deliveries enable school canteens to fully operate.
- WFP provided food assistance to an estimated 91,000 schoolchildren in seven Departments through the McGovern-Dole supported School Feeding Programme. 36,000 schoolchildren also received Take-Home Rations during the school holidays of December as they were not able to receive food assistance during October and November 2022 due to unavailability of teachers and delivery challenges. These distributions will conclude in January 2023.
- WFP trained 72 teachers and 75 community members in school canteen management in the districts of Kindamba, Kimba and Vindza (Pool Department). They will thus ensure the proper monitoring of school canteens in the Pool Department.

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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	133 m	14 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 December 2022, WFP trained 60 beneficiaries of the European Union-funded “ProManioc” project in equipment use and cassava processing in the districts of Mouyondzi, Loudima, Yamba and Kayes (Bouenza Department). This project strengthens the artisanal cassava value chain and improves market access for a total of 630 producers/processors.
- WFP handed over five sheds to 120 “ProManioc” beneficiaries, providing them with storage space to safely preserve their production and reduce post-harvest loss.

Monitoring

- As part of its technical assistance to the Government, WFP took part in a rapid flood assessment mission in the flood-affected Departments of Plateaux, Cuvette, Likouala and Sangha in early December 2022. Conducted by the Ministry of Social Affairs, Solidarity and Humanitarian Action, it estimated that over 160,000 people were impacted and outlined the necessity of conducting sectoral needs assessments in the affected areas. WFP also provided the Government with an estimated 108 cubic meters of storage space in its Impfondo warehouse (Likouala Department) to support national efforts to meet the needs of people affected by the floods.
- In December 2022, the Ministry of Health and Population published a national nutrition and food security survey using the SMART methodology (data collected in 2021). It was conducted with the support of WFP and the United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund (UNICEF). It found that 33.3 percent of the population is food insecure (29.3 percent moderately and 4 percent severely) and that global acute malnutrition is estimated at 5.2 percent and chronic malnutrition at 19.6 percent among children under 5.
- As of 31 December 2022, the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) registered a total of 4,616 asylum seekers in the 25 host villages located along the northern and southern axes of the Congo River in the Ngabé district. Since July 2022, they have been fleeing clashes in Mai-Ndombé province, in the south-west of the Democratic Republic of Congo. UNHCR is collaborating with the Congolese Government, non-governmental organisations, the United Nations Population Fund and UNICEF to provide them with necessities such as food, tents and jerrycans and help needed for registration with local authorities or enrolment of children in schools.

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: Hortense, a 35-year-old mother of three and a cash-based food assistance beneficiary next to a shop with her groceries, 2022. WFP/Gabriella Boukou