



World Food Programme

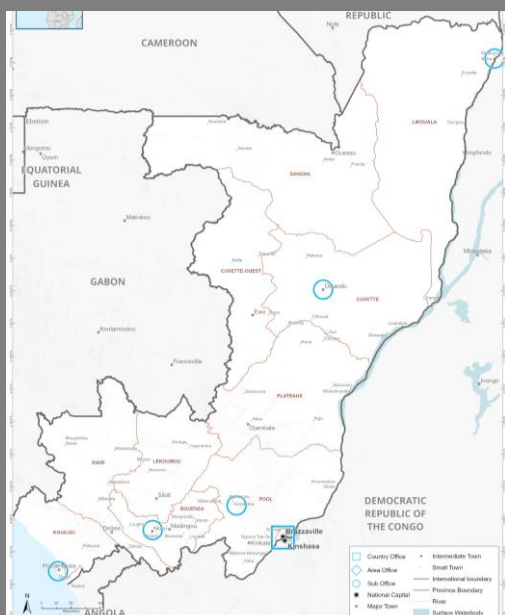
SAVING
LIVES
CHANGING
LIVES

WFP Republic of Congo Country Brief April 2023



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**

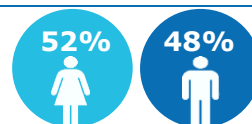
In Numbers

746 mt of food distributed

143,936 USD cash-based transfers

4 USD million six-month (May 2023 - October 2023) net funding requirements

141,055 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 19,421 refugees from the Central African Republic in the districts of Bétou, Dongou, Enyellé and Impfondo (Likouala Department).
- WFP provided in-kind food assistance to 4,816 asylum-seekers from the Democratic Republic of Congo in Bouemba (Plateaux Department).
- As part of the treatment and prevention of moderate acute malnutrition (MAM), WFP assisted 17,025 children aged from 6 to 59 months and 8,991 pregnant and lactating women (PLW) in urban areas, Likouala, Plateaux and Lékoumou Departments. The distributions were implemented through health centres with the non-governmental organisation *Terre Sans Frontières* and with 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

- In collaboration with the Centre of Excellence against Hunger in Brazil, WFP organised a week-long study visit to the Brazilian school feeding programme in the Federal District. The delegation, led by the Congolese Minister of Social Affairs, Solidarity and Humanitarian Action included high level officials from the Ministries of Education, Agriculture, Social Affairs and Planning. They visited rural and urban schools, a local smallholder farmers' cooperative and engaged in technical discussions with Brazilian officials.
- WFP delivered 313 metric tons of food to schools located in the Bouenza, Cuvette, Lékoumou, Likouala, Plateaux, Pool and Sangha Departments for the second term of the school year.
- WFP provided food assistance to an estimated 91,690 schoolchildren in seven Departments through the McGovern-Dole supported School Feeding Programme.
- WFP trained 120 members of school canteen management committees in Madingou, Sibiti, Boko and Louingui (Bouenza, Lékoumou and Pool Department) on data filling and reporting on food reception and management documents as part of annual trainings to improve the implementation of school canteens in the country.

Contact info: Cécile Mercier (cecile.mercier@wfp.org)
Country Director a.i.: Mamadou Mbaye (mamadou.mbaye@wfp.org)
 Further information: www.wfp.org/countries/congo

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	139 m	4 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.

- WFP organised a workshop on the ‘ProManioc’ project – which supports producers/processors by promoting the cassava value chain – attended by Government representatives, the European Union Delegation in the Republic of Congo, beneficiaries and other stakeholders. Project participants from the Departments of Brazzaville, Pool, Bouenza, and Niari shared results and lessons learnt, with a view to improve the quality and effectiveness of future activities.

- In collaboration with the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Fisheries, WFP organised local experience-sharing sessions in six districts of the Pool and Bouenza Departments as part of the ‘ProManioc’ project. Sixty producers/processors had the opportunity to strengthen their capacity through peer-to-peer learning.
- WFP organised the second meeting of the steering committee of the Adaptation Fund project – which aims to build adaptative capacity to climate change of vulnerable communities living in the Congo River Basin – implemented by the Ministry of Environment, Sustainable Development, and the Congo Basin. Co-chaired by the Minister of Environment, Sustainable Development and the Congo Basin, the committee meeting gathered participants from relevant ministries, United Nations Agencies, non-governmental organisations and civil society to share implementation progress and present the second year workplan. A consultative meeting with technical partners had been organised at WFP’s office a week prior to discuss and pre-validate strategic documents.

Donors

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

Photo: Opening ceremony of the study visit of the Congo Delegation in Palácio do Itamaraty, Brasília. WFP/Ana Mascarenhas