



Country strategic plan revision

Republic of Congo country strategic plan 2019-2024, revision 3

Gender and age marker code: 3

	Current	Change	Revised
Duration	1 January 2019 – 31 December 2024	No change	1 January 2019 – 31 December 2024
Beneficiaries	814 215	171 003	985 218
Total cost (USD)	197 554 256	21 092 305	218 646 561
Transfer	147 651 778	18 039 841	165 691 619
Implementation	26 450 969	715 112	27 166 081
Direct support costs	11 682 954	1 049 001	12 731 955
Subtotal	185 785 701	19 803 955	205 589 656
Indirect support costs	11 768 555	1 288 350	13 056 905

DELEGATION OF AUTHORITY FOR APPROVAL: RD

1. RATIONALE

1. This third revision to the country strategic plan (2019-2024) seeks to increase crisis response interventions targeting refugees, asylum seekers, urban populations at risk, and those affected by floods in the northern region. Overall, this revision introduces an increase in unique beneficiaries by 171,003 under CSP Outcome 1 and a budget increase of 21 million USD. This revision does not include a change in strategic orientation, changes to activities, or outputs, or an extension in time.
2. *Increased influx of refugees and asylum seekers.* The Republic of Congo has experienced a rising number of refugees and asylum seekers, primarily due to the unstable political and economic conditions in the region since 2013. This has resulted in a periodic influx of around 25,000 refugees from the Central African Republic (CAR) and 10,000 asylum-seekers from the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), in Likouala, Cuvette, and Plateaux Departments.
3. *Increased food insecurity among refugees and asylum seekers.* Food insecurity has risen, notably among asylum seekers, as evidenced by the August 2022 Post Distribution Monitoring (PDM) study, which reported deteriorating food security, especially among asylum seekers from the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), with 68% experiencing food insecurity. Over one-fifth of households face extreme food consumption deficits, reflected in their poor consumption scores.

4. *Increased malnutrition in urban areas.* COVID-19 movement restrictions and subsequent negative impact on the economy have severely affected food and nutrition security across the country, particularly in urban areas of Brazzaville and Pointe-Noire. According to the December 2022 National Nutrition (SMART) Survey, Brazzaville reports 5.2 percent of the population experiencing acute malnutrition, with 3.5 percent of children experiencing severe acute malnutrition and 1.4 percent facing Moderate Acute Malnutrition (MAM). Comparatively, this represents an improvement over the MICS 2015 GAM with 8.1% and stunted growth at 21.3%, respectively. Although the trend is decreasing, the prevalence of acute and severe malnutrition among children under 5 is still above the World Health Assembly target of reducing and maintaining prevalence at under 5% by 2025.
5. *Shocks and stressors.* Recurrent catastrophic floods since October 2019 have affected approximately 170,000 people, including the host population, and groups at risk including indigenous populations and refugees. The Government sought a joint response with the United Nations, and a “state of humanitarian emergency and calamity” was declared.

2. CHANGES

Strategic orientation

6. There is no change in strategic orientation.

CSP outcomes

7. *To address the Increased influx and increased food insecurity among refugees and asylum seekers,* WFP plans to continue supporting the refugees from CAR and the asylum seekers from the DRC with unconditional general distribution through in-kind and cash-based transfers until the end of December 2023, at which point the support will transition fully to conditional food assistance. This transition from unconditional to conditional assistance and the adoption of a community-based approach aims to build self-reliance and bring transformational change to their lives and livelihoods in a sustainable way.
8. The proposed Food Assistance for Assets (FFA) for refugees and asylum seekers will be implemented from July 2023 to December 2024. The cash for food assistance in exchange for their participation will fill their consumption gap. The assets created/rehabilitated under FFA such as the construction of dikes to protect the surfaces of agricultural operations, and the construction of water pipes in the fields to avoid the loss of crops during floods will reduce disaster risk, enhance production, and reduce climate vulnerability through adaptation and mitigation technologies. Beneficiaries will be required to participate in integrated climate risk management activities that align with the seasonal calendar and are subsequently layered and sequenced to achieve food security and nutrition outcomes. WFP will follow a risk-centered three-pronged approach to inform the design of these interventions.
9. *To address increased malnutrition in urban areas.* WFP will target pregnant and breastfeeding women/girls and children under the existing activity 1, for the treatment and prevention of moderate malnutrition (MAM) throughout the remaining duration of the CSP. The nutrition component of the refugee assistance has been already incorporated in the previous revision 2 and will continue until December 2024, ensuring the nutritional needs of the beneficiaries are addressed alongside other forms of support.
10. WFP extends assistance for people at risk in urban areas of Brazzaville and Pointe-Noire through General Food Distribution (GFD) for one additional month, enabled by in-kind contributions received from China.

11. *To address recurrent shocks and stressors*, a three-month contingency plan is outlined for each year (2023 and 2024). This plan aims to assist the flood-affected community of 50,000 people in the northern part of the country, specifically Likouala, Cuvette, and Plateaux and Cuvette Departments, as well as indigenous people, refugees from CAR, and asylum seekers from DRC. This support will be provided for a period of three months each seasonal year in the form of General Food Distributions, until December 2024.
12. Partnerships: Activities will be implemented in collaboration with the Government, particularly the Ministry of Social Affairs. With the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, United Nations Children's Fund, and United Nations Populations Fund, the focus will be on delivering holistic assistance to crisis-affected populations. Funding for food and nutrition assistance under strategic outcome 1 is expected to be maintained.
13. Accountability to affected populations, protection risks, restrictions of gender and disabilities: WFP will ensure that the most vulnerable people are included first in the unconditional assistance, following the vulnerability criteria, such as persons with disabilities, and the elderly. Close monitoring will be done with UNHCR to ensure that persons with disabilities will continue to be assisted.
14. Risk Management: As per the WFP reassurance plan, WFP's top priority is the secure, timely, and complete delivery of assistance to those in need. WFP Congo has identified and closely monitors a set of both internal and external risks. While partnering with the Government on nutrition and school feeding activities, WFP follows the recommendations from the Reassurance Plan, which emphasizes the importance of a clear segregation of duties in terms of targeting and distribution, a practice incorporated into the daily distribution reporting. WFP Congo also received an M&E oversight monitoring mission from the Regional Bureau Johannesburg as part of risk mitigation. Additionally, the country office is working to address the recommendations of an M&E oversight monitoring mission from the Regional Bureau Johannesburg, including improving the process monitoring for all activities internally or through a third-party monitoring team, and the segregation of duties between the Monitoring and Programme implementation teams to reduce conflict of interest. A standard operating procedure of food distribution agreed by all actors should be created to better target and improve the Community Feedback Mechanism and reduce fraud. This will ensure that distributions occur on time and do not overlap with the following month.

Beneficiary analysis

15. By extending assistance to refugees from the Central African Republic and asylum seekers from the Democratic Republic of the Congo, WFP will provide 25,000 people with in-kind food or cash-based transfers until December 2023. After 2023, only 12,000 will continue to be assisted through FFA until the end of 2024.
16. Assistance to the urban population in Brazzaville and Pointe Noire, which was scheduled to conclude by 2022, will be extended by one month to 68,000 people, facilitated by in-kind food contributions. The beneficiary targeting in urban areas is based on the national social protection programme "registre social unique" of the Ministry of Social Affairs and Humanitarian Action. WFP applies its own criteria to prioritize the most at-risk people (women, children, elderly, persons with disabilities).
17. WFP is planning to assist a contingency caseload of 50,000 people affected by periodic floods in the northern regions of the country.

18. WFP will target 57,231¹ pregnant and breastfeeding women/girls and children for the treatment and prevention of moderate malnutrition (MAM) throughout the remaining CSP duration.

TABLE 1: DIRECT BENEFICIARIES BY CSP OUTCOME, ACTIVITY & MODALITY							
CSP Outcome	Activity ²	Period	Women (18+ years)	Men (18+ years)	Girls (0-18 years)	Boys (0-18 years)	Total
CSP 1	1	Current	164 698	95 876	158 361	166 680	585 615
		Increase/decrease	46 938	46 938	35 955	65 674	195 505
		Revised	211 636	142 814	194 316	232 354	781 120
CSP 2	2	Current	-	-	113 250	113 250	226 500
		Increase/decrease	-	-	-	-	-
		Revised	-	-	113 250	113 250	226 500
	3	Current	-	-	-	-	-
		Increase/decrease	-	-	-	-	-
		Revised total	-	-	-	-	-
CSP 3	4	Current	1 318	782	-	-	2 100
		Increase/decrease	-	-	-	-	-
		Revised	1 318	782	-	-	2 100
TOTAL (without overlap)		Current	165 480	97 194	271 610	279 931	814 215
		Increase/decrease	41 057	41 057	31 445	57 444	171 003
		Revised	206 537	138 251	303 055	337 375	985 218

¹ There are overlaps between refugees and asylum seekers, and beneficiaries targeted under nutrition interventions.

Transfers

19. For general food distribution activities, the cash-based transfers per person per day have been raised from USD 0.6 to USD 0.94 due to ongoing increases in local food prices. According to the National Institute of Statistics December 2021 review, the national consumer price index has increased to 1.5 percent from previous months, leading to inflation of over 2 percent. The prices were revised considering the basic food basket (400g of rice, 120g of pulses, 30g of oil, and 5g of salt) per day per person.

20. The increase in the total food and cash-based transfer requirements (as shown in Table 3) is linked to the increase in the number of beneficiaries.

	Strategic outcome 1						Strategic outcome 2	
	Activity 1						Activity 2	
	GFD	MAM treatment-PLWG	MAM prevention-PLWG	FFA	MAM treatment children	MAM prevention children	School meals: ration 1	School meals: ration 2
Modality	Food/CBT	Food	Food	Food/CBT	Food	Food	Food/CBT	Food/CBT
Cereals	400	-	-	400	-	-	150	-
Pulses	120	-	-	120	-	-	40	40
Oil	30	25	25	30	-	-	15	15
Salt	5	-	-	5	-	-	5	5
Canned fish	-	-	-	-	-	-	30	30
Cassava flour	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	150
Super Cereal	-	250	200	-	-	-	-	-
LNS-MQ (Plumpy'Doz)	-	-	-	-	-	50	-	-
RUSF (Plumpy'Sup)	-	-	-	-	100	-	-	-
Total kcal/day	2 100	1 175	940	2 100	510	255	901	900
% kcal from protein	10.8	13.8	13.2	10.8	10	10	-	9
Cash-based transfers (USD/person/day)	0.94	-	-	0.80	-	-	0.30	-
Number of feeding days per year	360	90	120	48	90	120	180	180

	Current budget		Increase/decrease		Revised budget	
	Total (mt)	Total (USD)	Total (mt)	Total (USD)	Total (mt)	Total (USD)
Cereals	22 854	10 070 379	6 091	2 222 483	28 945	12 292 862
Pulses	6 537	5 229 329	1 827	1 302 928	8 364	6 532 257
Oil and Fats	2 260	2 584 294	588	818 414	2 848	3 402 708
Mixed and blended foods	3 205	3 668 768	1 624	2 581 998	4 830	6 250 767
Other	2 889	6 139 863	76	7 826	2 966	6 147 689
TOTAL (food)	37 745	27 692 634	10 207	6 933 649	47 952	34 626 283
CBT (USD)		60 075 600		5 349 600		65 425 200
TOTAL (food & CBT USD)	37 745	87 768 234	10 207	12 283 249	47 952	100 051 483

3. COST BREAKDOWN

21. For strategic outcome 1, the increase in the budget is related to the extension of the urban nutrition assistance until December 2024, extension of the refugee and asylum seeker activities until the end of 2023, the introduction of FFA activities to the refugee response from July 2023 to Dec 2024.

WFP strategic outcomes	SO 1	SO 2	SO 3	SO 4	SO 5	Total
CSP outcomes	CSP 1	CSP 2	CSP 3	CSP 4	CSP n	
Focus area	Crisis response	Root Causes	Resilience	Crisis Response	Crisis Response	
Transfer	18 039 841	-	-	-		18 039 841
Implementation	715 112	-	-	-		715 112
Direct support costs	<i>(no figures in the grey cells)</i>					1 049 001
Subtotal						19 803 955
Indirect support costs						1 288 350
TOTAL						21 092 305

WFP strategic outcomes	SO 1	SO 2	SO 2	SO 4	SO 5	Total
CSP outcomes	CSP 1	CSP 2	CSP 3	CSP 4	CSP 5	
Focus area	Crisis Response	Root Causes	Resilience Building	Crisis Response	Crisis Response	
Transfer	98 721 003	45 071 835	17 776 205	1 887 576	2 235 000	165 691 619
Implementation	13 382 716	10 975 876	2 513 295	61 225	232 970	27 166 081
Direct support costs	7 066 571	3 974 741	1 393 224	126 702	170 717	12 731 955
Subtotal	119 170 291	60 022 451	21 682 724	2 075 503	2 638 687	205 589 656
Indirect support costs	7 746 069	3 901 459	1 409 377	0	0	13 056 905
TOTAL	126 916 360	63 923 910	23 092 101	2 075 503	2 638 687	218 646 561