



World Food Programme

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# WFP Republic of Congo Country Brief November 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 the 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**

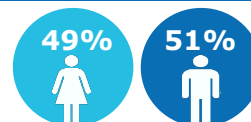
## In Numbers

**239.9 mt** of food distributed

**567,302 USD** cash-based transfers

**4.9 USD million** six-month (December 2023 - May 2024) net funding requirements

**100,727 people assisted**



## Operational Updates

- A third budget revision of the Country Strategic Plan (CSP) 2019-2024 was approved to increase crisis response interventions targeting refugees, asylum-seekers, urban populations at risk, and those affected by floods. There was no change in strategic orientation.

### Food assistance and nutrition support

- WFP provided food assistance through cash-based transfers (CBT) to 1,818 refugees from the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), Kwamouth area, settled in Nagbé (Pool Department).
- WFP provided food assistance to 3,090 refugees from DRC (Yumbi District) in Bouemba (Plateaux Department), through CBT.
- WFP provided food assistance to 3,337 refugees from the Central African Republic in Bétou (Likouala Department), through CBT.
- As part of the treatment and prevention of moderate acute malnutrition (MAM), WFP assisted 4,821 children aged 6 to 59 months and 1,927 breastfeeding women in the cities of Brazzaville, Pointe-Noire, and the Departments of Bouenza, Pool and Plateaux. 17.8 mt of nutritious foods were distributed through health centres with the National Directorate of Hygiene and Health Promotion.
- As part of the Food for Asset market gardening project located in the Mindouli and Kindamba districts (Pool Department), WFP provided food assistance through CBT to 9,750 beneficiaries from 1,497 vulnerable households.

### School Feeding & country capacity strengthening

- WFP delivered 222 mt of food to an estimated 321 schools in seven departments across the country under the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) funded McGovern-Dole programme (2021-2026).
- WFP conducted sensitization and capacity building missions for programme management and advocacy within 123 schools and communities in seven departments of the country where the USDA McGovern-Dole programme is implemented.
- WFP finalized the capacity strengthening strategy which will inform planning and implementation of school feeding activities and related capacity-strengthening initiatives with national actors and the Government.

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Country Strategic Plan (2019-2024)		
Total Requirement (in USD)	Allocated Contributions (in USD)	Six Month Net Funding Requirements (in USD)
218 m	141 m	4.9 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.

Support to local value chains

- To pave the way for a sustainable link between smallholder production and school feeding in the long term, WFP launched analyses of the food safety and quality of beans produced by former beneficiaries in the Bouenza department.
- WFP provided financial and technical support to the Congolese delegation and participating in the Conference of the Parties on Climate Change (COP 28) held in Dubai led by the Ministry of Environment, Sustainable Development and the Congo Basin.

Monitoring and Assessment

- WFP, along with other United Nations agencies, contributed to strengthen the Government's capacity to monitor progress of the National Development Plan (2022-2026) through a 3-day workshop that enabled the sharing of experience and tools.
- Through a week-long training, WFP strengthened the capacity of Country Office and Sub-Offices' employees on monitoring and evaluation standards to ensure proper planning and monitoring of school canteens, emergencies and resilience activities for the coming year.

Donors

Adaptation Fund, Germany, Global Partnership for Education, India, Brazil and South Africa Facility for Poverty and Hunger Alleviation, Japan, Mastercard, People's Republic of China, Republic of Congo, Share the Meal, United States of America.

Photo: Food supply delivery to schools in the Likouala Department.  
WFP/Gabriela Vivacqua