



World Food Programme

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LIVES

# WFP Republic of Congo Country Brief January 2024



## Operational Context

With a population of 6.1 million people, the Republic of Congo is one of the least densely populated countries in Africa, with 17.9 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. The oil sector accounts for about half of the country's gross domestic product and 80 percent of its exports. After growing by an estimated 1.5 percent in 2022, the Congolese economy continued to recover in 2023, mainly driven by the oil sector. Yet, around half the population lives below the international poverty line (USD 2.15/day). WFP has been present in the Republic of Congo since 1968. Operations are currently ongoing in 11 of the 12 Departments.



Population: **6.1 million**

2021 Human Development Index: **153 out of 191**

Income Level: **Lower middle**

Chronic malnutrition: **21.2% of children aged 6-59 months**

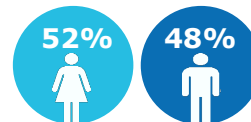
## In Numbers

**840.5 mt** of food distributed

**233,945 USD** cash-based transfers

**2.2 USD million** six-month (February 2024 - July 2024) net funding requirements

**151,397 people** assisted



## Operational Update

- In support of the Government, WFP facilitated the coordination of the joint UN-Government floods impact assessment and the inter-agency response to the floods since the state of humanitarian emergency was declared on 29 December 2023.

### Food assistance and nutrition support

- Through cash-based transfers (CBT), WFP assisted a total of 3,136 refugees from the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC, Kwamouth area) in Ngabé (Pool Department), and 4,727 refugees from DRC (Yumbi district) in Bouemba (Plateaux Department).
- 19,860 refugees from the Central African Republic residing in Bétou (Likouala Department) benefitted from in-kind food distribution.
- As part of the treatment and prevention of moderate acute malnutrition (MAM), WFP assisted 11,872 children aged 6 to 59 months and 12,572 pregnant and breastfeeding women and girls in the cities of Brazzaville, Pointe-Noire, and the Departments of Likouala, Pool, Lékoumou and Plateaux. The distributions were implemented through health centres with the National Directorate of Hygiene and Health Promotion.
- An evaluation of the Food for Asset market gardening project implemented in the Mindouli and Kindamba districts (Pool Department) between August and December 2023 showed that 97 percent of the 1,500 participants were satisfied with the project. On average, the area cultivated by smallholders doubled.

### School Feeding & country capacity strengthening

- WFP distributed an estimated 329 mt of food to 86,780 schoolchildren in seven departments across the country under the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) funded McGovern-Dole programme (2021-2026).
- WFP raised awareness and strengthened the capacity of 521 local school feeding stakeholders (directors, inspectors, teachers, cooks and school canteen management committees) in canteen management as part of the USDA-funded McGovern-Dole programme in the Bouenza and Pool Departments.
- An estimated 7,011 schoolchildren received meals in 42 schools under the Home-Grown School Feeding (HGSF) approach, known locally as "Cantine ya Buala", which enables schools to provide school meals based on local production thanks to WFP's CBT.

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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	149 m	2.2 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.

**Photo:** Flooded homes in Makotimpoko, in the Plateaux Department.  
WFP/Gautier Massamouna

- WFP and the National Implementation Unit of the project financed by the Adaptation Fund set up the local technical committees in the Departments of Bouenza, Sangha and Likouala. Local authorities were also updated on the progress of this project which has the objective to build adaptive capacity to climate change in vulnerable communities living in the Congo River Basin.
- As part of the same project, the Marien Ngouabi University's Geography, Environment and Planning Laboratory (LAGEA) initiated the baseline assessment.

Monitoring and Assessment

- WFP led the UN coordination efforts for the multisectoral joint UN-Government and other humanitarian actors' assessment of the impact of the floods. The assessment was conducted from 11 to 20 January, with WFP financial and technical support. It estimated that approx. 1.8 million people were affected by the floods, including more than 336,560 in need of immediate food assistance.
- WFP organized a workshop to disseminate the results of the final evaluation of the McGovern-Dole school meals programme (2017–2022) in the presence of all stakeholders. The recommendations made and the lessons learned will inform the implementation of the new McGovern-Dole programme (2024-2026).
- With the aim of changing behaviours and having an impact on the nutritional status of the population, WFP trained its school feeding and nutrition partners (UNICEF, the Ministry for Pre-school, Primary and Secondary Education and Literacy, the Ministry of Health and Population and the Catholic Relief Services) on Social Behavior Change and Communication approach. This approach will be used in nutrition specific and sensitive programmes to positively influence behaviour among targeted communities.

**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.