



World Food Programme

SAVING
LIVES
CHANGING
LIVES

WFP Republic of Congo Country Brief February 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**

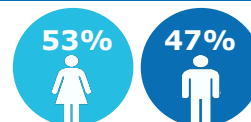
In Numbers

767.5 mt of food distributed

147,960 USD cash-based transfers

7.6 USD million six-month (March 2024 - August 2024) net funding requirements

145,125 people assisted



Operational Update

- WFP in the Republic of Congo welcomed Gon Myers as Country Director and Representative.

Flood response

- In support of the Government, WFP continued facilitating the coordination of the inter-agency response to the floods since the state of humanitarian emergency was declared on 29 December 2023.
- WFP provided logistical support and technical expertise to the Government and the humanitarian community. This included beneficiary data management in support of the Government national response headed by the Ministry of Social Affairs, Solidarity and Humanitarian Action. WFP transported and set up storage facilities for food and non-food items for humanitarian responders in the Likouala and Cuvette Departments. WFP also transported 2.59 metric tons of UNFPA's non-food items to the Plateaux, Cuvette, Likouala, Pool and Lékoumou Departments, and the city of Pointe-Noire as part of the flood response.

Food assistance and nutrition support

- The refugees are spread out in the Republic of Congo. Through cash-based transfers (CBT), WFP assisted 3,368 refugees from the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) originating from the Kwamouth area, residing in Ngabé (Pool Department). 4,712 refugees from DRC originating from the Yumbi district received CBT in Bouemba (Plateaux Department). 19,725 refugees from the Central African Republic received CBT in Bétou (Likouala Department).
- As part of the treatment and prevention of moderate acute malnutrition (MAM), WFP assisted 12,546 children aged 6 to 59 months and 14,336 pregnant and breastfeeding women and girls in the cities of Brazzaville, Pointe-Noire, and the Departments of Likouala, Plateaux, Pool and Lékoumou. The distributions were implemented through health centres with the National Directorate of Hygiene and Health Promotion.

School Feeding & country capacity strengthening

- WFP distributed an estimated 319 mt of food to 82,184 schoolchildren in seven departments across the country (Likouala, Sangha, Cuvette, Plateaux, Pool, Bouenza, Lékoumou) under the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) funded McGovern-Dole programme (2021-2026).

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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 | 7.6 m | |

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| 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 |

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| Activity: |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">Provide unconditional and/or conditional food and nutrition assistance to people affected by shocks. |

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| 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 |

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| Activities: |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">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. |

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| 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 |

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| Activity: |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">Provide analytical, technical and equipment support for smallholder farmers aimed at encouraging market-oriented and climate-resilient production and livelihoods. |

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| Strategic Result 08: Enhance global partnership |
| Strategic Outcome 05: National Humanitarian and development actors have access to WFP expertise |
| Focus area: Crisis response |

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| Activity: |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">Provide on-demand logistics common services to humanitarian partners. |

Photo: Discussions with smallholders in Kimbedi as part of the implementation of the project "Enhancing Family Farmers' Access to Local Markets in the Republic of Congo through South-South Cooperation" in the Pool Department. WFP/Jules Manguengue

- Continuing efforts initiated the previous month in other Departments covered by the USDA-funded McGovern-Dole programme, WFP raised awareness and strengthened the capacity of 250 local school feeding stakeholders (directors, inspectors, teachers, cooks and school canteen management committees) in canteen management in the Likouala and Sangha Departments.
- An estimated 11,357 schoolchildren received meals in 38 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. This approach is implemented in the Departments of Bouenza and Pool with the support of Mastercard.

Support to local value chain & climate change

- As part of the project "Enhancing Family Farmers' Access to Local Markets in the Republic of Congo through South-South Cooperation" funded by the India, Brazil and South Africa Facility for Poverty and Hunger Alleviation (IBSA Fund), WFP conducted the first scoping mission to define the targeting criteria. The project will be implemented in the Departments of Pool, Bouenza, and Plateaux.
- WFP also conducted consultations with local authorities and communities in the Pool and Bouenza Departments to further understand current activities, challenges and opportunities in linking the local smallholder production with the school feeding programme.
- Under the same project, WFP organised a workshop with 42 stakeholders of the cassava leaves value chain in the district of Mouyondzi (Bouenza Department), as a starting point to assess the current system and the product's potential for inclusion in school meals.
- WFP and the National Implementation Unit of the project financed by the Adaptation Fund trained government partners on seasonal livelihood programming. This participatory process of coordination and partnership under local government leadership and community-based participatory planning will help targeted communities better understand, manage, and mitigate the climate risks they face and improve their resilience to climate.

Monitoring and Assessment

- WFP participated in the validation workshop of the final United Nations Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF) report for 2023, to review the achievements of each agency. The lessons learned will facilitate the planning of the 2024 UNDAF work plan.

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.