



World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES
CHANGING LIVES

WFP Country Name Country Brief May 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**

2022 Human Development Index: **149 out of 193**

Income Level: **Lower middle**

Chronic malnutrition: **19,6% of children between 6-59 months**

In Numbers

501 mt of food assistance distributed

USD 139,458 cash based transfers made

USD 7.0 m six months (June-November 2024) net funding requirements

125,282 people assisted in May 2024

Operational Updates

- WFP led a study tour of four ministries from Republic of Congo to a WFP DRC Rapid Rural Transformation (RRT) project site in Nsélé on 6 of May. The delegation was led by the Directorate General of the Ministry of Planning, and high-level representations from the Ministry of Agriculture, the Ministry of Environment and the Ministry of Social Affairs. The visit hosted by WFP DRC Country team was intended to promote cross-fertilization of WFP resilience programmes in both countries. Following the visit, the Congolese government and WFP are in discussion on the feasibility to adapt the concept of Rapid Rural Transformation model in three sites with a climate adaptation lens.
- Following the high-level study visit by ministries of the Republic of Congo, a team of specialists from WFP Resilience and School Feeding Programme Units conducted a feasibility and exploratory mission in the urban community of Boko. The main purpose of this mission was to engage with the communities regarding the types of agricultural activities in the area, the availability of land, and to assess the potential of this locality for implementing the RRT project in the Republic of Congo.
- WFP organized a field trip with the Italian Ambassador to the districts of Tsiaki and Kingoué in the Bouenza Department. During the visit, they observed the implementation of the Home Grown School Feeding (HGSF) approach, which provides school meals sourced from local production. This initiative, in partnership with the NGO Alisei, benefits 5,476 schoolchildren, including 194 indigenous children, across 34 schools.

Flood response

- As part of the inter-agency response to the flood crisis, WFP continues to provide food assistance through cash-based transfers (CBT) to 3,531 vulnerable individuals affected by the floods in the Impfondo district, in the Likouala Department.

Photo: The Delegation visiting the RRT project implemented by WFP DRC in Nsélé, Kinshasa. WFP/Celia Boumpoutou

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WFP Operations

	Total Requirements (in USD)	Allocated Contributions (in USD)	6 Month Net Funding Requirements (in USD)
SO 01 Food-insecure people affected by shocks have access to adequate food all year round.			
Number of Operations: 3 (Project Duration)	112.1 m	58.5 m (52%)	6.9 m (6,2%)
SO 02 Equitable national social protection interventions effectively target vulnerable populations, including school-aged children with sustained access to safe and nutritious food.			
Number of Operations: 2 (Project Duration)	42.0 m	38.5 m (91,7%)	858,182 (2%)
SO 03 Targeted smallholder farmers and communities benefit from productive and sustainable livelihoods which support nutrition value chains.			
Number of Operations: 3 (Project Duration)	20.3 m	16.7 m (82,1%)	0.0 m (0%)
SO 05 National Humanitarian and development actors have access to WFP expertise.			
Number of Operation:1 (Project Duration)	2.5 m	253,780 (10%)	0.0 m (0%)

GENDER MARKER

Food assistance and nutrition support

- The refugee population is spread throughout the Republic of Congo. Through CBT, in May, WFP assisted 1,605 refugees from the DRC originating from the Kwamouth region, residing in Ngabé (Pool department), 11,917 refugees from the Central African Republic benefited from an in-kind food distribution in Bétou (Likouala).
- As part of the treatment and prevention of moderate acute malnutrition (MAM), WFP assisted 5,796 children aged 6 to 59 months and 6,298 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 in partnership with the National Directorate of Hygiene and Health.

School Feeding & country capacity strengthening

- WFP distributed an estimated 372 mt of food to 88,228 schoolchildren in 491 schools located in seven departments across the country (Likouala, Sangha, Cuvette, Plateaux, Pool, Bouenza, and Lékoumou) under the McGovern-Dole programme, which is funded by the US Department of Agriculture.
- In May, an estimated 16,611 schoolchildren received meals in 62 schools under the Home-grown school feeding (HGSF) approach in the Likouala and Bouenza Departments. This approach is supported by Mastercard.

- WFP, UNESCO, Global Partnership of Education and the government visited the Plateaux and Cuvette Ouest Departments which are heavily affected by school dropouts, to prepare for the next implementation of the HGSF approach. They met with the authorities and trained inspectors, school directors, local communities and smallholder producers to monitor the programme, which will provide nutritious meals to 18,000 schoolchildren from October 2024.

- As part of the deployment of the HGSF approach, WFP carried out a research mission in the Bouenza Department to interview Government, school committees and smallholder farmers to better understand the challenges and opportunities within the bean value chain. Validation of the results will provide valuable information to improve bean supply, support the school feeding programme and contribute to improving food security and the socio-economic development of smallholder farmers.

Support to local value chain

- As part of the “Seeds of Tomorrow” project, funded by the India, Brazil and South Africa Facility for Poverty and Hunger Alleviation (IBSA Fund), WFP visited 10 schools and 10 producer groups located in the Pool, Bouenza and Plateaux Departments which were pre-identified to be part of the project following specific criteria established during the Technical Committee meeting in March 2024. Conversations about the dynamics of each region and local needs tailoring will ensure an effective implementation of the project for all stakeholders while ensuring that children receive nutritious, locally produced food.
- At the request of the Regional Bureau, the national office supported the video message from Congo’s Minister of the Environment at the African Climate Round Table forum held in Johannesburg in May.
- WFP team, the national implementation unit for the Adaptation Fund-financed project and the Minister of the Environment held their monthly technical meeting to review the activities carried out in May and plan for June.

Monitoring and Assessment

- In response to the partners’ request regarding programme’s implementation during the dissemination workshop of the baseline evaluation results for the McGovern-Dole programme (2021-2026), WFP organised a field visit to two schools assisted by the programme with the stakeholders (Government, UNICEF, UNESCO and Catholic Relief Services). In addition to this initiative, a monthly meeting will now be held with all partners to monitor all the activities involved in implementing the programme.

Donors

Adaptation Fund, Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF), 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, World Bank