



World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES  
CHANGING LIVES

# WFP Republic of Congo Country Brief September 2024



## Operational Context

The Republic of Congo (Congo) is a resource-rich yet lower middle-income, food-deficit country that produces only 30 percent of its food requirements. In Congo, 31 percent of the population is food insecure. The country has been facing economic stagnation since 2015, aggravated by the COVID-19 pandemic and rising food and transport prices due to the Ukraine - Russia conflict, all of which exacerbate food insecurity. 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 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).

The United Nations World Food Programme (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**

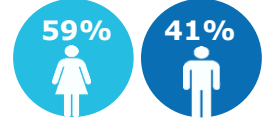
## In Numbers

**42.7 mt** of food assistance distributed

**US\$ 380,224** cash-based transfers made

**US\$ 1.9 m** six months (October 2024 - March 2025) net funding requirements, representing 11% of total

**36,145 people assisted** in September 2024



## Operational Updates

- WFP and UNHCR held a mini-retreat on 24 September to enhance collaboration on refugee support, focusing on sustainable solutions for refugee self-sufficiency, inclusion in social safety nets, and access to school feeding, as well as improving resource efficiency through data sharing. Key actions for the coming year include a joint assessment mission and organizing the voluntary return program.
- The Minister of Education met with WFP to strengthen collaboration on the national school feeding programme, aiming for shared management and increased national ownership. Discussions covered financial challenges, food management, and future funding, highlighting the canteens' positive impact on student health, attendance, and the local economy.

### Food assistance and nutrition support

- WFP provided cash-based transfers to 21,014 refugees from the Central African Republic and the Democratic Republic of the Congo settled in the districts of Bétou, Enyellé, Dongou, Impfondo, Gamboma, and Ngabé (Likouala, Plateaux, and Pool Departments).

### School feeding

- As part of the implementation of the Global Partnership for Education funded project, WFP distributed equipment to school canteens in Ngo, Gamboma and Ollombo (Plateaux Department) and in the Cuvette-Ouest Department in preparation for the opening of 78 new school canteens at the start of the new school year in October 2024. They will benefit 17,636 schoolchildren.
- WFP raised awareness and strengthened the capacity of 44 local school feeding stakeholders (directors, inspectors, teachers, cooks and school canteen management committees) in canteen management in Mindouli, Bouenza Department, in preparation for the new school year. This activity was carried out as part of the McGovern Dole project.

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- WFP, as part of the "Seeds for Tomorrow" project funded by the IBSA Fund, held the second workshop on 19 September in collaboration with WFP's Centre of Excellence Against Hunger in Brazil. This workshop explored the role of family farming in homegrown school feeding (HGSF) and built on the outcomes of the Congolese study visit to Brazil in March. It provided an opportunity to illustrate the evolution of Brazil's HGSF national program and discuss key lessons learned from purchasing from family farms to inform the Republic of Congo's HGSF strategy.
- Additionally, under the same project, a fourth technical committee meeting was conducted on 24 September. The committee reviewed progress on implementation and outlined the next steps for this initiative, which aims to strengthen food security and nutrition for schoolchildren and smallholder farmers within the school feeding programs in the Republic of Congo.

## Monitoring

- As part of the World Bank-funded ProClimat project focused on climate-smart agriculture and natural capital management, WFP has continued to identify the districts for Component 6 of the project, which aims to strengthen food security for vulnerable populations affected by climate shocks. Initiated in August, the targeting exercise was completed this month in the Plateaux and Likouala Departments. Following the targeting report, distribution activities will commence in the Likouala and Plateaux Departments. Additionally, food for assets activities will be implemented in the Likouala, Plateaux, and Pool Departments, while nutrition activities will take place in the Likouala, Plateaux, Lékoumou, Cuvette-Ouest, and Pool Departments.

## Challenges

- As the Republic of Congo enters the rainy season and flooding increases, the lack of funding for the emergency response is a challenge for WFP. Refugees have been alerted of upcoming ration cuts of 70 percent.
- Assistance to refugees from the Democratic Republic of Congo and the Central African Republic is similarly threatened by this lack of funding for emergency programs.
- Despite support from the McGovern-Dole program, funding challenges may impede WFP's ability to fulfill its commitments to sustainability and local sourcing of school meals. An estimated USD 4.2 million would cover the funding shortfall and enable additional activities to be launched to assist 45,000 schoolchildren.

## Country Strategic Plan (2019-2024)

Total Requirement (in USD)	Allocated Contributions (in USD)	Six Month Net Funding Requirements (in USD)
218 m	169 m	1.9 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 schoolchildren.
- 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 to encourage 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 logistical services to humanitarian partners.

## Donors

Adaptation Fund, Germany, Global Partnership for Education, India, Brazil and South Africa Facility for Poverty and Hunger Alleviation, Japan, Mastercard, Republic of Congo, Share the Meal, United States of America, World Bank (in alphabetical order).

**Photo:** Shopkeepers bring food closer to beneficiaries who have received cash-based transfers in Ibenga, Likouala Department. WFP/ Stephen Ickamath