



World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES
CHANGING LIVES

WFP Republic of Congo Country Brief October 2024



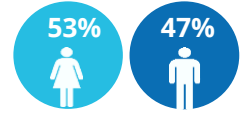
In Numbers

137.5 MT of food assistance distributed.

USD 751,281 cash-based transfers made.

USD 5 million net funding requirements for the next six months (November - April 2025), representing 32 percent of total needs.

104,530 people assisted in October 2024.



Operational Context

The Republic of Congo, with a population of 6.1 million, is one of the least densely populated countries in Africa, with just 17.9 people per square kilometer. Despite its abundant natural resources, the country remains a lower-middle-income, food-deficit nation, producing only 30 percent of its food needs. Approximately 31 percent of the population faces food insecurity, and nearly half live below the international poverty line of USD 2.15 per day.

Economic stagnation has plagued the country since 2015, worsened by the COVID-19 pandemic and the rising costs of food and transportation resulting from the Ukraine-Russia conflict. These factors have further exacerbated food insecurity. The oil sector, which accounts for about half of the GDP and 80 percent of exports, remains the backbone of the economy. However, Congo's heavy reliance on food imports and its limited food systems infrastructure, leave the country vulnerable to global economic disruptions.

The United Nations World Food Programme (WFP) has been active in the Republic of Congo since 1968, with ongoing operations in 11 of the country's 12 departments.

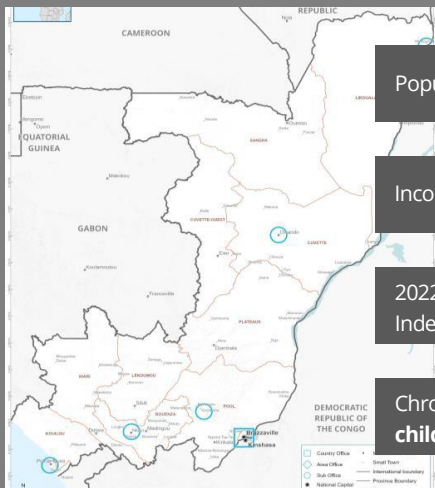
Operational Updates

Updated Country Strategic Plan (CSP)

- The WFP's Country Strategic Plan (CSP) for the Republic of Congo for the 2019-2024 period has been extended until 2026 to better address the growing needs in the country. The CSP remains aligned with national priorities. Originally budgeted at USD 218.6 million, the revised budget has now been increased to USD 311 million.

School feeding

- As part of the phased transfer of school canteen management to the government, WFP officially handed over 25 school canteens to the Government. The Memorandum of Understanding signing ceremony, held on 10 October, was attended by the U.S. Ambassador and other stakeholders. Over the coming years, WFP will continue to support the government as it gradually assumes responsibility for the remaining 530 school canteens.
- WFP implements a hybrid school feeding programme, combining in-kind assistance funded by the U.S. Department of Agriculture McGovern-Dole programme, and homegrown school meals supported by Mastercard. The WFP targets some 126,000 pupils for the new academic year.
- As part of the McGovern-Dole programme WFP distributed about 745 mt of food to 85,000 schoolchildren across seven departments. In preparation for the new school year, WFP also conducted capacity building sessions for local school feeding stakeholders, including school directors, inspectors, teachers, cooks, and canteen management committees.
- Through the Home-Grown School Feeding approach, supported by Mastercard, some 5,600 schoolchildren across the Bouenza Department received meals. This model enables schools to source foods from local production, supported by cash-based transfers.



Population: **6.1 million**

Income Level: **Lower middle**

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

Chronic malnutrition: **19.6% of children between 6-59 months**

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Photo: Education Minister Jean Luc Mouthou and WFP Country Director Gon Myers at the Brazzaville ceremony marking the handover of 25 canteens to the government. [WFP/Celia Boumpoutou]

Country Strategic Plan (2019-2024)

Total Requirement (in USD)	Allocated Contributions (in USD)	Six Month Net Funding Requirements (in USD)
311 m	169 m	5 m

Strategic Result 01: Everyone has access to food

Strategic Outcome 01: Food-insecure people are assisted.

Focus area: Crisis Response

Activity 1: Provide food to affected people.

Strategic Outcome 02: Vulnerable people got social protection.

Focus area: Root causes.

Activity 2: School aged people are supported.

Activity 3: Government receive technical support.

Strategic Result 03: Smallholder productivity and incomes

Strategic Outcome 03: Smallholder farmers are supported.

Focus area: Resilience building.

Activity 4: Build the capacity of smallholder farmers.

Strategic Result 08: Enhance global partnerships

Strategic Outcome 04: National programmes and systems are strengthened.

Focus area: Crisis Response.

Activity 5: Provide supply chain services.

Strategic Result 08: Enhance global partnerships

Strategic Outcome 05: Humanitarian and development actors are more efficient.

Focus area: Crisis Response

Activity 6: Provide supply chain services.

Activity 7: Provide UNHAS air services.

Refugee Response

- WFP is assisting about 25,000 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), through cash-based transfers.
- On 18 October, WFP and the UNHCR signed a Joint Activity Plan to enhance their collaboration in supporting refugees and building their resilience, with a particular focus on food security, nutrition, and socio-economic inclusion. This agreement allows both agencies to leverage their resources to deliver sustainable solutions for refugees.

Nutrition support

- As part of the treatment and prevention of moderate acute malnutrition, WFP, in collaboration with the National Directorate of Hygiene and Health Promotion, supported 9,400 children aged 6 to 59 months, as well as 5,600 pregnant and breastfeeding women and girls, in the cities of Brazzaville and Pointe-Noire, and the departments of Likouala, Plateaux, Pool, and Lékoumou.

Support to local value chain

- As part of the World Bank-funded ProClimat project on climate-smart agriculture and natural capital management, WFP started the beneficiary identification process in the areas of operation (Likouala, Plateaux, Cuvette-Ouest and Pool and Lékoumou Departments).

Monitoring

- In October, WFP and UNHCR launched a Joint Assessment Mission in the Pool, Plateaux, and Likouala Departments to assess food security vulnerabilities among refugees and host communities. The mission focuses on targeted assistance based on vulnerabilities, not population status, and will inform recommendations for interventions in livelihoods, resilience building, and socio-economic inclusion.

Challenges

- Underfunding is the primary challenge threatening WFP operations over the next few months. A total of USD 5 million is needed to cover critical needs. from November 2024 to April 2025.
- As the Republic of Congo enters the rainy season and flooding intensifies, lack of funding for emergency response remains a significant concern.
- Assistance to refugees from the Democratic Republic of Congo and the Central African Republic is at risk due to insufficient funding for emergency programmes. Refugees have been notified of imminent ration cuts of up to 70 percent.
- Despite support from the McGovern-Dole, ongoing funding challenges may limit WFP's ability to sustain its commitments to school meals. Approximately USD 4 million is needed to support 45,000 schoolchildren and expand activities.

Donors

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