



World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES
CHANGING LIVES

WFP Republic of Congo Country Brief

December 2024



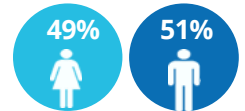
In Numbers

222.8 MT of food distributed

USD 364,844 cash-based transfers made

USD 10.1 million net funding requirements for the next six months (January 2025 – June 2025), representing 45 percent of total needs

132,517 people assisted in December 2024



Operational Updates

Refugee Response

- WFP continued its assistance to refugees by providing cash-based transfers in the Likouala Department to 21,118 refugees from the Central African Republic, with distributions in the localities of Bétou, Enyellé, and Dongou.
- On 20 December 2024, WFP and the Ministry of Social Affairs and Humanitarian Action signed a Memorandum of Understanding to support the implementation of a national food assistance policy and strengthen the Ministry's institutional capacity.

School Feeding

- WFP implements a dual school feeding approach in the Republic of the Congo. Under the McGovern-Dole in-kind program, WFP distributed approximately 184 MT of food to 85,000 schoolchildren across seven departments.
- Additionally, through the Home-Grown School Feeding approach, supported by Mastercard, 13,473 schoolchildren in the Bouenza Department received meals. This model allows schools to source food locally, with support from cash-based transfers.

Support to Local Value Chains

- As part of the IBSA-funded "Seeds for Tomorrow" project, a delegation from the Republic of the Congo (RoC), including representatives from the Ministry of Education, WFP Centre of Excellence against Hunger in Brazil, and WFP RoC, attended the 2nd Global Child Nutrition Forum (GCNF) in Osaka, Japan, from 9 to 12 December. The GCNF focuses on sustainable school feeding, nutritional quality, and climate resilience. The delegation learned from Brazil's long-standing school feeding programme, which will inform the RoC plans to implement a similar system based on local agriculture.

Operational Context

The Republic of Congo (RoC), 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.



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**

Country Strategic Plan (2019-2024)

Total Requirement (in USD)	Allocated Contributions (in USD)	Six Month Net Funding Requirements (in USD)
311 m	169 m	10.1 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.

Nutrition Support

- In collaboration with various cooperating partners including Terres Sans Frontières, Médecins d'Afrique and the National Directorate of Hygiene and Health Promotion, WFP supported 9,170 children (6-59 months) and 2,535 pregnant and breastfeeding women and girls in Brazzaville, Pointe-Noire, Likouala, Pool, and Lékoumou departments for the treatment and prevention of moderate acute malnutrition.

Monitoring

- ProClimat Project:** WFP organized community consultations in the Bouenza and Pool Departments to select villages for food-for-assets activities. A total of 29 villages have been pre-identified for climate-smart agriculture and natural capital management.
- Cash-based transfer (CBT) Evaluation:** WFP conducted a multi-sectoral evaluation of the CBT modality to assess market functionality, beneficiary preferences, and the feasibility of using mobile money, considering operational and security risks. The findings will guide future operational decisions.
- Evaluation insights:** The evaluation aimed to assess market functionality, beneficiary preferences, and mobile money feasibility, while addressing operational and security risks. The results will help determine future intervention methods.
- Annual Performance Plan workshop:** WFP held a two-day workshop in Ouesso to review activities from 2024 and plan for 2025. This workshop was held in Ouesso where, starting in January 2025, a new field office will operate, covering northern and eastern regions, including border areas, to better address local needs.

Challenges

- Underfunding is the key challenge to WFP operations in the coming months, with USD 10.1 million needed to cover critical needs from January to June 2025.
- As flooding worsens in certain parts of the country with the possibility of an emergency being officially declared, the lack of funding for emergency responses remains a major concern in the RoC.
- Despite the ongoing McGovern-Dole programme, funding shortages may limit WFP's ability to sustain school meals, with USD 4 million 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*).