



WFP Republic of Congo Country Brief January 2025

World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES
CHANGING LIVES



Operational Context

The Republic of the 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 the 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**

Contact info: Souleymane Berthé
(souleymane.berthe@wfp.org)

Country Director: Gon Myers (gon.myers@wfp.org)

Further information: www.wfp.org/countries/congo

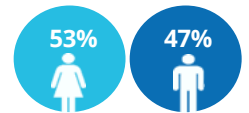
In Numbers

282 MT of food assistance distributed

USD 360,145 cash-based transfers made

USD 9.9 million net funding requirements for the next six months (February 2025 – July 2025), representing 45 percent of total needs

117,000 people assisted in January 2025



Operational Updates

- The WFP Republic of Congo Country Director met with the Minister of Education to discuss the progress of the school feeding programme, seek greater involvement in its management, and explore joint resource mobilization efforts. They also discussed the Ministry's commitment to the School Meals Coalition. Additionally, the Country Director met with the Minister of Environment to address progress and delays related to the Adaptation Fund for resilience.
- WFP participated in the Partners' Forum for Development (Forest, Environment, Agriculture and Food Security Working Group). This meeting provided an opportunity for various partners and agencies to present their key activities, as well as future perspectives related to the environment, agriculture and food security, forests and biodiversity, and ecotourism.

Refugee Response

- As part of food assistance efforts, 4,886 households, representing a total of 24,430 beneficiaries, received cash transfers in the Likouala department. This support was specifically provided to Central African Republic refugees residing in Bétou, Enyellé, Impfondo, and Dongou districts to enhance their access to adequate food and improve their living conditions.
- In January 2025, Government authorities reported an influx of new refugees fleeing ethnic conflicts in the Bolobo and Kwamouth regions of the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC). Refugees arrived in different locations in the ROC along the Congo River, in the departments of Pool and Plateaux. Over 3,000 people have reportedly left their villages in the DRC and are in a critical humanitarian situation, requiring assistance. The Congolese Ministry of Social and Humanitarian Affairs has requested for humanitarian organizations such as WFP to assist. WFP is leading coordination efforts to assist the refugees.

Photo: Cash beneficiary registration session for the creation of the SCOPE database in the Plateaux department. [WFP/Souleymane BERTHE]

Country Strategic Plan (2019-2026)

Total Requirement (in USD)	Allocated Contributions (in USD)	Six Month Net Funding Requirements (in USD)
311 m	167 m	9.9 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.

School Feeding

- In January 2025, 6,025 students in the Bouenza department received food assistance as part of the home-grown school feeding programme. This programme also improved the local economy as the food was purchased from local businesses. Meanwhile, school canteens providing in-kind food assistance distributed 118 MT of food to 64,923 students across seven departments.

Following funding from the Global Partnership for Education (GPE), which aims to keep 18,000 students in school, a mission was deployed to the Cuvette and Plateaux departments to enrol parents of eligible students for cash transfers. This mission aims at improving school nutrition as it helps ensure adequate food for students while promoting school attendance.

Support to Smallholder Farmers

- The second Steering Committee meeting of the project 'Strengthening Smallholder Farmers' Access to Local Markets', which is funded by the India-Brazil-South Africa Facility, took place virtually on January 23, 2025, in Brazzaville.

Under the patronage of the Minister of Agriculture, Livestock, and Fisheries, the session reviewed the project's progress and next steps. It highlighted the project's role in building farmers' skills, improving market access, and strengthening school food security.

Nutrition Support

- WFP continues its collaboration with cooperating partners such as Terre Sans Frontières, Médecins d'Afrique, and the National Directorate of Hygiene and Health Promotion to support the treatment and prevention of moderate acute malnutrition for 20,215 beneficiaries, including 9,170 children (aged 6-59 months) and 2,535 pregnant and breastfeeding women and girls. The collaboration efforts reached vulnerable people in Brazzaville, Pointe-Noire, Likouala, Pool, and Lékoumou.

Challenges

- Underfunding will be the main challenge for WFP's operations in the coming months, with approximately USD 10 million needed to cover critical needs from February to July 2025.
- Despite the ongoing McGovern-Dole programme, funding shortages could limit WFP's ability to sustain school meals, with USD 4 million required to support 45,000 schoolchildren and expand activities.
- An influx of refugees from DRC are arriving in ROC, escaping ethnic and armed rebel conflict in eastern DRC.
- As flooding worsens in parts of the country and an official emergency declaration remains a possibility, the lack of funding for emergency responses is a major concern in the ROC.

Donors

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