



World Food Programme

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LIVES

# WFP Republic of Congo Country Brief February 2025



## 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 33 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**

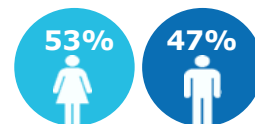
## In Numbers

**235.209 MT** of food assistance distributed.

**USD 45,985.735** cash-based transfers made.

**USD 9.5 million** net funding requirements for the next six months (March 2025 – August 2025), representing 49 percent of total needs.

**97,860 people assisted**  
in February 2025.



## Operational Updates

- The Country Director met with the Prime Minister of the Republic of Congo (RoC), Anatole Collinet Makosso, on February 20 to discuss food security in the country and the need to mobilize local resources and gradually transition WFP's school feeding programme to the national government.
- The same day, the Government of the Republic of Congo officially signed its national commitment to the Global School Meals Coalition, a coalition of over 100 countries pledged to school feeding. As RoC has been a member of the coalition since August 2021, this signature marks the next milestone in the government's determination to develop a national Congolese-led school feeding programme, including by maintaining the budget allocated to school feeding, revising the national school feeding policy, and creating a national school feeding committee and a technical committee.
- The Country Director met with the Congolese Minister for Agriculture, Livestock and Fisheries on February 8 to discuss the challenges and opportunities facing the agricultural sector, providing an opportunity to explore ways of working together to support smallholder farmers, improve agricultural productivity and strengthen the resilience of communities in the face of climate-related challenges.

## Emergencies

- Media reports noted that around 3,500 people fled the ethnic conflict in the Bolobo and Kwamouth regions of the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) and arrived in several localities in Pool and Plateaux departments along the Congo River. Under the designation of the UN Resident Coordinator in Congo, WFP agreed to lead the coordination of humanitarian response preparation and conducted an assessment mission in collaboration with the Congolese Ministry of Social Affairs and Humanitarian Action and UNHCR.

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**Photo:** Work meeting between Anatole Collinet Makosso, Prime Minister, Head of Government and Gon Myers, WFP Representative and his team. IWFP/Souleymane BERTHEI.

## Country Strategic Plan (2019-2026)

Total Requirement (in USD)	Allocated Contributions (in USD)	Six Month Net Funding Requirements (in USD)
311 m	167 m	9.5 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.

## Nutrition Support

- WFP continues its collaboration with 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 14,566 children (aged 6–59 months) and 9,035 pregnant and breastfeeding women and girls, across Brazzaville, Pointe-Noire, and the Likouala, Pool, and Lékoumou departments.

## School Feeding

- As part of the McGovern-Dole funded programme, 182.582 MT of food were distributed to 77,637 school children across seven departments. Through the home-grown school feeding programme, 14,879 schoolchildren received food assistance in the Bouenza department, insuring them meals produced with locally sourced ingredients.
- Thanks to a Global Partnership for Education (GPE) contribution, 1,983 schoolchildren received assistance through cash transfers in Gamboma (Plateaux department).
- At least 137 members of community-based school management committees and education inspectors received training on good management of school canteens in the Plateaux and Pool departments. Those trainings will continue until April.

## Support to Smallholder Farmers

- As part of the project financed by Adaptation Funds, WFP and UNESCO signed a memorandum of understanding on February 5 aimed at building the capacity of Congolese teachers and raising public awareness through targeted activities and campaigns, thereby contributing to a better support for communities in the face of climate change.

## Monitoring

- The review of the 2024 Annual performance Plan has been finalized this month following a face-to-face workshop.
- The 2024 Annual Country Report has been finalized and will be shared in the coming weeks to our activity stakeholders and donors.

## Challenges

- Underfunding is the main challenge for WFP's operations in the coming months, with approximately USD 9,5 million needed to cover critical needs from March to August 2025.
- The influx of refugees fleeing conflict in eastern DRC continues towards border towns in RoC without enough resources to meet the needs of the new refugees.
- The lack of funding for emergency responses remains a major concern as flooding worsens in parts of the country and official emergency declaration remains a possibility.
- 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 school children and expand activities.

## 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*).