



World Food Programme

SAVING
LIVES
CHANGING
LIVES

WFP Republic of Congo Country Brief May 2025

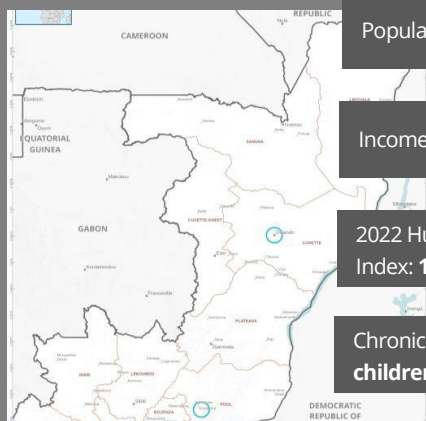


Operational Context

The Republic of the Congo (RoC), with a population of 6.1 million, remains a food-deficit nation despite its abundance of natural resources, producing only 30 percent of its food needs. One in three people, or about 33 percent of the population faces food insecurity, and nearly half live below the international poverty line of USD \$2.15 per day. Among children under 5, the global acute malnutrition level is 5.2 percent, and chronic malnutrition is 19.6 percent.

Food insecurity in RoC doubled in the past decade from 2013 to 2023 due to multiple challenges. Despite the oil sector contributing to 80 percent of the economy, there are persistent fuel shortages and outages, limited infrastructure for transport, and a heavy reliance on food imports, all contributing to high food prices. As an oil-dependent economy, the country is highly vulnerable to fluctuations in global oil prices. Meanwhile, youth unemployment stands at an alarming 42 percent, and fiscal instability—including increasing debt levels—has contributed to a downgrade in the country's credit rating.

The United Nations World Food Programme (WFP) has been active in the Republic of the Congo since 1968, with ongoing operations in 14 of the country's 15 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**

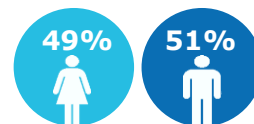
In Numbers

247,352 MT of food assistance distributed.

USD 33,036,152 cash-based transfers made.

USD 7,3 million net funding requirements for the next six months (June 2025 – November 2025), representing 44 percent of total needs.

101,360 people assisted in May 2025.



Operational Updates

On May 8, the Country Director met with the Minister of the Promotion of Women to share WFP's efforts in women's empowerment and to explore opportunities for collaboration, and to continue to push for the Congolese government to contribute to WFP activities.

In May, two UN Humanitarian Air Service flight carried the Joint Assessment Mission (JAM) of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) and WFP, along with the Ministry of Social Affairs and the National Committee for Assistance to Refugees, to Impfondo and Ollombo. The delegation comprised of 12 participants from the 4 entities.

General Distribution

WFP assisted through cash transfers about 14,041 refugees from the Central African Republic and the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) settled in the Likouala, Nkeni-Alima and Djoué-Léfini Departments in purchasing food to eat. This distribution included 3,379 new refugees fleeing ethnic conflicts in the Mai-Ndombe/Kwamouth region in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC).

Nutrition Support

WFP continues its collaboration with Terre Sans Frontières (TSF), Médecins D'Afrique, and the National Directorate of Hygiene and Health Promotion to support the treatment and prevention of moderate acute malnutrition for 6,487 children (aged 6–59 months) and 182 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, 247,352 MT of food was distributed to 79,554 schoolchildren across seven departments. Through the home-grown school feeding programme, 14,277 schoolchildren received food assistance in the Bouenza, Pool and Plateaux departments with meals produced with locally sourced ingredients.

From May 13 to 16, a field monitoring mission was carried out in the districts of Mindouli, Yamba and Mouyondzi (Pool and Bouenza departments) to ensure the smooth implementation of the home-grown school feeding programme, which links local schools with local agricultural cooperatives.

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Country Strategic Plan (2019-2026)

Total Requirement (in USD)	Allocated Contributions (in USD)	Six Month Net Funding Requirements (in USD)
311 m	168 m	7,3 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.

Photo: First step of schoolchildren's tutors registration at the Ntari Ngouari school in Kinkala, Pool department. WFP/Francis Madouda

Operational Updates (continued)

In May, 9,369 schoolchildren benefitted from cash transfers for food in the Plateaux, Cuvette, and Cuvette-Ouest departments through 5,098 tutors, as part of a school feeding project funded by the Global Partnership for Education. The registration of school tutors is also ongoing in the Plateaux and Pool departments to ensure food can reach a total of around 18,000 schoolchildren.

Support to Smallholder Farmers and climate change

On May 7, WFP signed a partnership agreement with the NGO Niosi as part of the implementation of the World Bank-funded project 'ProClimat,' in which labor-intensive activities will be carried out in climate shocks affected areas. By the end of October 2025, 12,877 vulnerable households will receive assistance in the Plateaux and Pool departments.

As part of the same project, an additional targeting mission took place in the Nkeni-Alima and Congo-Oubangui departments to increase the number of beneficiaries from 24,000 to 38,000 by including villages with indigenous populations and new refugees from the DRC.

Monitoring & Evaluation

The JAM mission was carried out by WFP, UNHCR, and Congolese government in the Likouala, Plateaux and Djoué-Léfini departments to better identify humanitarian needs, strengthen coordination between players, consolidate local capacities, and prepare the transition from general food distributions to resilience activities that ensure long term self-reliance of refugee populations.

The country office received a Country Strategic Plan evaluation mission led by cabinet SALANSAN consulting Inc. to evaluate WFP RoC's activities since 2019. The plan will end in 2026, and a new plan will be formed.

Challenges

RoC's refugee assistance programme is experiencing funding shortfalls, therefore there will be a pipeline break at the end of June 2025 unless new funds are received. This comes amid a rising caseload and an influx of over 8,000 refugees arriving from the DRC since December 2024.

Funding for home-grown school feeding, currently supported by the India-Brazil-South Africa Fund, will end at the end of October 2025.

Despite the ongoing McGovern-Dole programme, funding shortages could limit WFP's ability to sustain school meals. USD 4 million is required to support 45,000 schoolchildren for one school year. The McGovern Dole programme that funds the main school feeding activity in RoC will end in September 2026, and school feeding in RoC will cease without new resources.

Donors

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