



WFP Republic of Congo Country Brief

April 2018

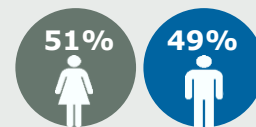
In Numbers

211 mt of food assistance distributed

US\$ 281,000 cash based transfers made

US\$ 10 m six months net funding requirements, representing 18% of total

39,700 people assisted in April 2018



Operational Context

Despite its status as a lower middle-income country, RoC ranks poorly on the Human Development Index. Food production is below national requirements, with only 2 percent of arable land currently under cultivation. RoC produces 30 percent of the country's food needs and thus imports almost all of its food, leading to high food prices. Forty-eight percent of Congolese live on USD 1.25 per day.

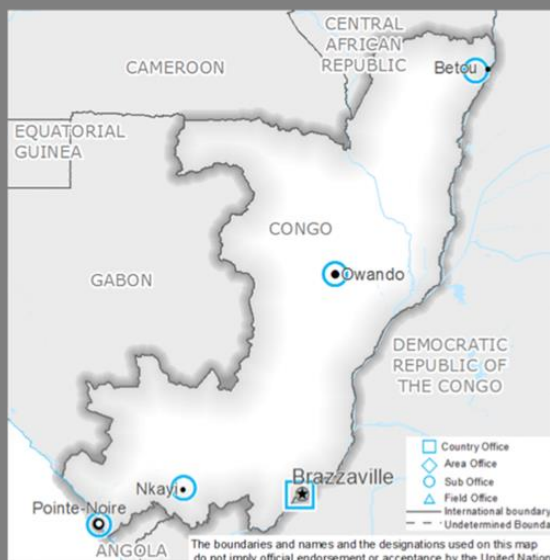
According to the Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey, there is a dire shortage of nutritious food, resulting in children suffering from acute malnutrition.

WFP's operations in RoC contribute to the global efforts to reach Sustainable Development Goals 1 (End Poverty), 2 (Zero Hunger), 3 (Good Health and Well-Being), 4 (Quality Education) and 5 (Gender Equality).

WFP has been present in RoC since 2000.

Operational Updates

- The "cease-fire and cessation of hostilities" agreement signed in December between the Congolese government and the rebels of Pastor Ntumi's Pool is holding. A joint commission is working to define the peace process.
- Hard-to-reach areas in the Pool Department are becoming accessible. In April 2018, WFP was able to carry out the first food distribution in Kindamba which has remained out of reach since the beginning of the conflict.
- In response to the Pool crisis, the Government and the UN Country Team have launched the Humanitarian Response Plan for 2018. Sectorial and early recovery projects are begin finalized jointly by the UN Country Team and its implementation partners.
- Some 7,100 children under the age of five and about 6,100 pregnant and breastfeeding women received specialized nutritious foods to treat and prevent chronic malnutrition.
- WFP bought 10mt of beans for the school feeding programme from a smallholder farmers project funded by the European Union.
- In the fourth quarter of 2017, WFP received funding from the Government of Japan and from McGovern-Dole for its School Feeding programme. Most procured commodities have arrived in the country.
- The Zero Hunger Strategic Review has been finalized. The RoC Country Strategic Plan is being defined and will be launched in 2019.



Population: **4.2 million**

2015 Human Development Index: **136 out of 188**

Income Level: **Lower middle**

Chronic malnutrition: **21.2% of children between 6-59 months**

Main Photo

Credit: WFP/Benoît Lognoné
Caption: Day on WFP activities with CAR refugees in the Likouala

Contact info: Elisa Gabellieri (elisa.gabellieri@wfp.org)

Country Director: Jean-Martin Bauer

Further information: <http://www.wfp.org/countries/congo>

	Total Requirements (in USD)	Confirmed Contributions (in USD)	6 Month Net Funding Requirements (in USD)
Country Programme			
CP 200648 (Jan 2015 - Dec 2018)	56.8 m	15.1 m (27%)	4.1 m (10%)
Support to populations affected by the ongoing crisis in Pool Department, RoC, and in CAR			
EMOP 201066 (2018)	18.8 m	5.7 m (30%)	6 m (46%)

Monitoring

- The results of the latest PDM in Pool department show that the food security situation of displaced households has significantly improved since the beginning of WFP assistance: the prevalence of food insecurity dropped from 51 percent to approximately 13 percent, and more than 75 percent of the assisted population is estimated to have acceptable levels food consumption (compared to 47 percent in May 2017).
- The latest nutritional assessment conducted in the Pool department highlights the difficulty of displaced children and women to access health centers

Challenges

- WFP Congo urgently requires funding for the EMOP to continue assisting IDPs in the Pool and Bouenza departments and CAR refugees in the north of the country (Likouala department).
- WFP Congo is facing a critical resource shortfall for its Country Programme: the Social Safety Nets and Nutrition activities have been suspended since 2016 for lack of resources. Funding is also required to support the Government in building disaster and risk management capacity.

Pool Crisis Update

Some 114,000 displaced persons are estimated to be in need of assistance due to the conflict in the Pool department.

In March, the Government and the UN Country Team launched the Humanitarian Response Plan for 2018. The plan requires an overall funding of USD 70.7 million, of which USD 22.9 million are for urgent humanitarian needs and USD 47.8 million for early recovery. The food security intervention requires a budget of USD 9 million.

Displaced households returning to their places of origin need both life-saving and early recovery assistance. Recent missions in areas of return confirmed the urgent humanitarian needs of the population.

For the first time since the beginning of the conflict, WFP was able to reach Kindamba to carry out a first emergency food distribution: 60mt of food were distributed to approximately 4,500 people in need. A second mission to Kindamba planned for early May will also reach Kimba and Vindza.

In April 2018, WFP provided assistance to 23,700 IDPs in the Bouenza and Pool departments. WFP assistance included 143mt of in-kind distributions and USD 103,300 of cash based transfers.

Assistance has already been delivered through SCOPE (WFP's beneficiary and transfer management system) in most localities in the Pool and Bouenza departments. The distribution of SCOPE cards to beneficiaries is continuing in May.

Donors

Government of Republic of Congo, USA, Japan, Brazil, European Union, France, Italy, China.