



WFP Republic of Congo Country Brief

WFP Assistance

Country Programme	Total Requirements (in USD)	Total Received (in USD)	6 Month Net Funding Requirements (in USD)*
CP 200648 (Jan 2015 - Dec 2018)	56.8 m	8.6 m (15%)	5.6 m (79%)

* February - July 2017

WFP supports the Government through

School Feeding: WFP aims to promote access to education by ensuring that primary school children have a balanced diet using local products. WFP provides capacity building to the Government for school feeding policy development. The policy aims to define the vision and provide guidance as well as a handover strategy. Since the introduction of the 'Observe, React, Act' (ORA) in 2014, WFP has assisted 4,500 additional indigenous children with school meals.

Social Safety Net: WFP is supporting the Government to establish a social safety net for vulnerable households by providing electronic voucher transfers. Through this programme, WFP has distributed vouchers to 3,000 people in newly selected areas, Sibiti and Owando. The safety net programme is a conditional electronic voucher transfer to malnourished individuals under treatment for HIV/AIDS and tuberculosis (TB). Vouchers are also provided to malnourished pregnant and breastfeeding mothers who are undertaking scheduled visits to health centers either for consultations or for child vaccination programmes. The program faces a critical resource shortfall and transfers have been suspended from October 2016.

Nutrition: WFP provides specialized food to children under the age of five, pregnant and breastfeeding women to prevent chronic malnutrition and improve nutritional recovery among people living with HIV/AIDS or TB and receiving treatment.

Disaster and Risk Management: WFP provides technical support to the Government to strengthen disaster and risk management.

Highlights

- The School Feeding Programme faces a critical funding gap. The new school year started in October, but there is currently very little food available for the school canteens. WFP's Social Safety Net programme is also in urgent need of funding.
- Funded by the European Union, WFP, FAO and IFAD have launched a small-holder farmers' project with the Government to promote a home grown school feeding programme.
- WFP has initiated an Immediate Response Emergency Operation following the Government's request to provide humanitarian assistance to the displaced people in the Pool department following fighting between security forces and the "Ninjas" militia.

Critical support to populations affected by the ongoing crisis in CAR and its regional impact

	Total Requirements (in USD)	Total Received (in USD)	6 Month Net Funding Requirements (in USD)*
Regional EMOP 200799 (Jan 2015- Feb 2017)	11.6 m	4.8 m (42%)	1.9 m (77%)

*February - July 2017

The Regional Emergency Operation (EMOP) is in line with WFP's Strategic Objective 1: "Save lives and protect livelihoods in emergencies." It aims to improve food consumption, reduce undernutrition and restore access to basic services of populations affected by the December 2013 conflict in the Central African Republic (C.A.R.).

Support to populations affected by the ongoing crisis in Pool Department in RoC

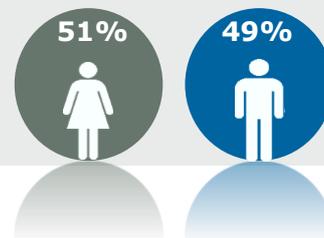
	Total Requirements (in USD)	Total Received (in USD)
IR-EMOP 201039 45 days	0.5 m	0.5 m

The EMOP has started at the end of January and is in line with WFP's Strategic Objective 1: "Save lives and protect livelihoods in emergencies." It aims to stabilize or improve food consumption over assistance period for Congolese targeted households and/or individuals in Pool and Bouenza departments.

In Numbers

53,000 refugees in the Republic of Congo
14,000 people assisted in January

People Assisted
January 2017



Operational Updates

- Through the school feeding programme, WFP provides 95,000 children with hot meals and plans to reach 132,000 children in 2018. The new school year started in October but is facing a serious funding gap.
- In November 2015, under the safety net component, WFP resumed electronic food transfer to the vulnerable people in the newly-selected areas of Sibiti and Owando. The programme, however, is still suspended in Brazzaville and Pointe Noire due to insufficient resources. In the newly selected areas, available funds are also exhausted with a critical gap from November 2016.
- Security situation in the Pool department:** Since late September, several armed clashes between government forces and former militia 'Ninjas' have occurred. According to the Government, more than 60 deadly attacks have been carried out. As a consequence, thousands of people have fled the affected areas. The area had already been hard hit by unrest. WFP has started this month an Immediate Response Emergency Operation to assist displaced persons in the surrounding villages and towns.

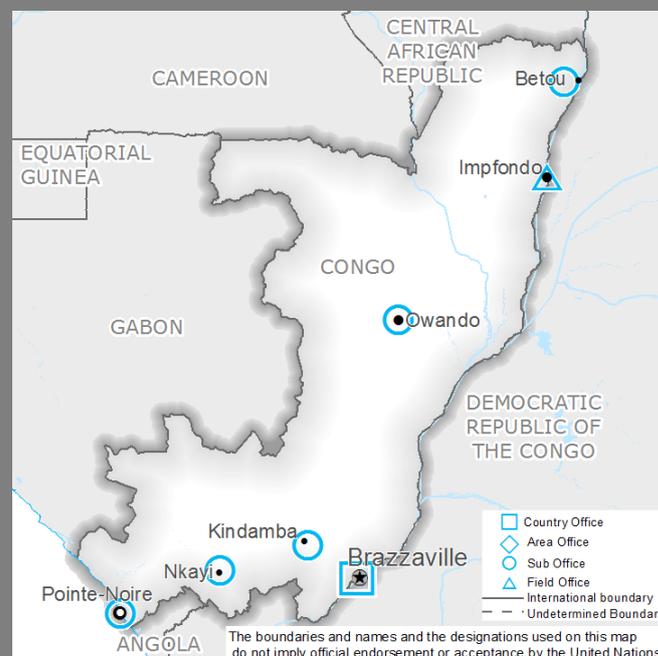
Challenges

- WFP Congo urgently requires funding for the safety net and for school feeding programmes.
- River transport between Brazzaville and Likouala can only be carried out during the rainy season (July-December) when the Ubangi River is passable.

Impact of limited funding

- WFP faces unprecedented resource constraints.
- The Government of Congo is the main donor for the WFP's Country Programme. Falling oil prices have resulted in serious budgetary constraints for the Government and have left a critical funding gap for the WFP Country Programme.
- WFP has not received any contribution from the Government since 2014 and it is expected that the economic and financial crisis will continue in 2017.
- The lack of resources has a huge impact on the implementation of WFP's programmes under the Country Programme, where only very few activities can be carried out, leaving many beneficiaries without any assistance.
- WFP urgently needs support from new donors to continue providing food and nutrition assistance to vulnerable people in the Republic of Congo.
- WFP is also seeking additional support to scale up the small farmers' project started in the Bouenza department, to include other commodities and areas to further develop the home grown school feeding program.

Country Background & Strategy



Despite its status as a lower middle income country with a GDP of USD 14 billion in 2015, 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. Income is very unevenly distributed, reflected by a Gini coefficient of 0.43. 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. 67 percent of children under five are anaemic. In children under the age of five, rates of severe acute malnutrition stood at 2.6 percent; global acute malnutrition at 8.2 percent; stunting at 21.2 percent; and underweight at 12.3 percent. The national HIV/AIDS prevalence is 3.2 percent. 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.

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**

Donors

Government of Republic of Congo, USA, Japan, Brazil