



World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES
CHANGING LIVES

WFP Republic of Congo Country Brief

October 2020



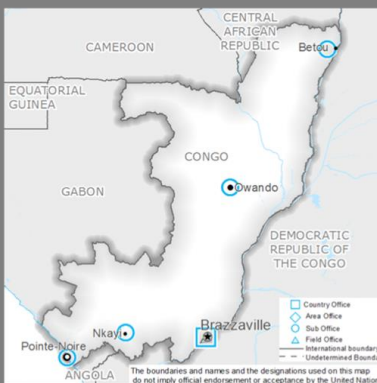
Operational Context

The Republic of Congo (RoC) ranks poorly on the Human Development Index. Its food production is below national requirements, with only 2 percent of arable land currently under cultivation covering 30 percent of the country's food needs. Forty-eight percent of Congolese live on less than USD 1.25 per day.

WFP is assisting 130,000 people affected by catastrophic flooding which took place in late 2019 and early 2020. Vulnerability assessments show that between 36 and 79 percent of the population is moderately or severely food insecure. Sustained food assistance until the end of 2020 is needed in order to avoid a full-blown food crisis in affected areas. WFP also provides assistance through food for assets to people in Pool region, an area of the country that was affected by a conflict in 2016-2018. WFP support communities in building their resilience through fish ponds and rural roads rehabilitation.

WFP also supports refugees from the Central African Republic in Likouala and from the Democratic Republic of Congo in Plateaux with food and nutrition assistance.

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), 5 (Gender Equality) and 17 (Partnerships).



Population: **4.2 million**

2018 Human Development Index: **137 out of 189 countries**

Income Level: **Lower middle**

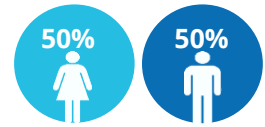
Chronic malnutrition: **21.2% of children aged 6-59 months**

In Numbers

612.8 mt of food assistance distributed

USD 633,235 cash-based transfers made

102,860 people assisted
In October 2020



Operational Updates

- On October 15, to celebrate World Food Day, an agricultural fair was organized in Madingou (Bouenza region) as part of the Pro Manioc project funded by the European Union. This fair brought together producers and processors of cassava in different products (gari, mbala pinda, attiéké, ect), buyers and institutional representatives. According to the project, two other fairs will be organized, including one in Brazzaville.
- The urban cash-based transfer programme continues in the outlying arrondissements of Brazzaville for people targeted as severely food insecure. In October 2020, the CBT team worked on the beneficiaries list for the implementation of the USD 2 million contribution from USAID BHA.
- On October 12, the school year 2020-21 started after several months of closure due to Covid-19. During this school year, 108,000 students will receive a daily meal through WFP school feeding programme. 25% of the programme is based on Home-Grown School Feeding, which represents numerous benefits for local economies.
- In October 2020, the government of the Republic of Congo contributed to the school feeding programme through a donation of 72 mt of salt, which will complement the school meals provided by Mc Govern Dole (rice, peas, oil), and XAF 11 million. This is the second participation of the government to WFP RoC Country Strategic Plan.
- Since July, humanitarian actors are in alert because of early heavy rainfall in the northern part of the country, which led to high level of waters and potential damaging floods. In October, the Minister of Social Affairs and Humanitarian Action, the Resident UN Coordinator and the Representant of WFP went in Liranga to attest the situation and early impacts on the population. Following this mission, the Minister announced the state of humanitarian emergency in the departments of Likouala, Sangha, Plateaux and Cuvette.

Country Strategic Plan (2019-2023)

Total Requirement (in USD)	Allocated Contributions (in USD)	Six Month Net Funding Requirements (in USD)
97.9 m	59.5 m	11.6 m

Strategic Result 1: Everyone has access to food

Strategic Outcome 1: Food insecure people affected by shocks have access to adequate food all year round

Focus area: Nutrition, distribution of cash/ food to the affected households, and Food Assistance For Assets

Activities:

- Provide unconditional and/or conditional food and nutrition assistance to people affected by shocks

Strategic Outcome 2: Equitable national social protection interventions effectively target vulnerable populations, including school-aged children with sustained access to safe and nutritious food

Focus area: School feeding and technical assistance to the Government

Activities:

- Provide safe, adequate and nutritious school meals to targeted school children.
- Provide technical support to Government for improved implementation of shock-responsive social protection interventions

Strategic Result 3: Smallholder productivity and incomes

Strategic Outcome 3: Targeted smallholder farmers and communities benefit from productive and sustainable livelihoods which support nutrition value chains

Focus area: Technical supports to smallholders and local purchase

Activities:

- Provide analytical, technical and equipment support for smallholder farmers aimed at encouraging market-oriented and climate-resilience production and livelihoods

Strategic Result 8: Enhance global partnership

Strategic Outcome 4: Humanitarian and development actors and national systems have access to WFP expertise and services

Focus area: Provision of logistic support

Activities:

- Provide on-demand supply chain services for partners

are of poor quality and the situation will soon be followed by a shortage of these products on local markets.

- On October 9th, the Ministry of Social Affairs and Humanitarian Action and UN representatives went in Liranga (Likouala) to attest first impacts and speak with local authorities on the needed response. This mission was followed by an official communication from the Minister to the humanitarian community in Congo, and soon after by a declaration of humanitarian emergency state in the departments of Likouala, Sangha, Cuvette and Plateaux.
- RoC CO and humanitarian partners are working on a joint and respective response plan. The partner Cloud to Street provides relevant monitoring of the situation through satellite analysis.
- In Likouala, people affected by the previous flood emergency continue to receive assistance through in-kind and Cash-Based transfers, a total of 63,165 received assistance in October 2020.

Response to the COVID-19 in urban areas

- WFP continues to implement the urban cash-based transfer programme. In October, less beneficiaries than planned received a transfer (USD 17/month/person), due to beneficiaries list verification delay. However, the USD 2 million contribution from USAID BHA is about to be implemented in the outlying districts of Brazzaville to people targeted as severely food insecure.
- Staff from UNFPA remain present at WFP-contracted shops to identify and assist gender-based violence victims (GBV), providing medical and psychological support. In addition, wider communities are sensitized on GBV, and sexual and reproductive health.
- An additional in-kind support from China is about to be confirmed. As part of this contribution, 100 mt of cassava flour will be bought in Republic of Congo for a quick response.
- CO received a masks donation from a Chinese NGO named CFPD. Those masks are distributed in selected hospitals in Brazzaville

Monitoring

Flood-affected people in the Likouala, Cuvette, Sangha and Plateaux departments

- As of October 2020, a total of 46,000 people was affected by the new flood situation in 30 flooded villages and 43 partially flooded villages in the departments of Likouala and Cuvette.
- So far, the most urgent needs concern WASH, food security, health and shelter sectors. Populations are displaced from their villages and find themselves in unsanitary living conditions and are at high risk of contracting water-related diseases.
- In the affected districts, fields are flooded, and crops are lost. In September, cassava and tuber products were harvested by producers. These early harvests have increased the supply on local markets and led to a drop in prices, however the products

Donors

Canada, Republic of Congo, China, Denmark, European Union, Germany, Japan, United States of America.

Photo: Bags of cassava transformed into gari at the Madingou agricultural fair. WFP Alice Rahmoun