



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 | 9.6 m (17%) | 5.3 m (83%) |

*June - November 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 centres either for consultation or for child vaccination programmes. The programme faces a critical resource shortfall.

Nutrition: WFP provides specialized food to children under the age of five and 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 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%) | 1.7 m (72%) |

*June - November 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) | 5 Month Net Funding Requirements (in USD)* |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------|-------------------------|--------------------------------------------|
| EMOP 201066 April-Sep 2017 | 3.3 m | 0 m (0%) | 2.1 m (100%) |

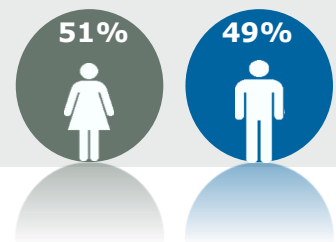
* June - October 2017

The EMOP started in April after a first IR-EMOP of 45 days 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 the assistance period for targeted Congolese households and/or individuals in Pool and Bouenza departments.

In Numbers

53,000 refugees in the Republic of Congo
17,800 people assisted in May

People Assisted
May 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, but the programme is facing a serious funding gap.
- In November 2015, under the safety net component, WFP resumed electronic food transfer to 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 since November 2016.
- **Security situation in the Pool department:** Since late September, several armed clashes between government forces and the 'Ninjas' militia 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 undertakes an Emergency Operation to assist displaced persons in the surrounding villages and towns.

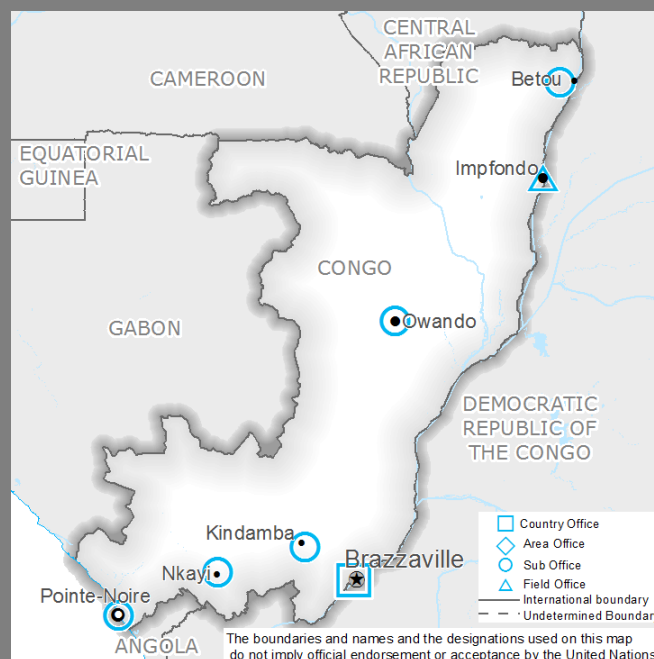
Challenges

- WFP Congo urgently requires funding for the two Emergency Operations as well as the safety net and school feeding programmes.
- In order to avoid logistics constraints in Likouala department, WFP launched electronic food transfers in May in Bétou and Impfondo for the Regional Emergency Operation.

Impact of limited funding

- WFP faces unprecedented resource constraints.
- The Government of the Republic of Congo is the main donor for WFP's Country Programme. Falling oil prices have resulted in serious budgetary constraints for the Government which have left critical funding gaps for the 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 operations under the Country Programme. 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 in the Bouenza department, to include other commodities and areas to further develop the home grown school feeding programme.

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 the majority 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. Sixty-seven percent of children under five are anaemic. In children under the age of five, rates of severe acute malnutrition stand 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 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 and Brazil.