

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 support 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) initiative 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 WFP safety net programme is administered through 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 during scheduled visits to health centers either for consultations or for child vaccination programmes. The programme faces a critical resource shortfall.

Nutrition: WFP provides specialized food to children under the age of five as well as pregnant and lactating women to prevent chronic malnutrition and improve nutritional recovery among people living with HIV/AIDS or TB and receiving treatment. The Nutrition programme faces a critical resource shortfall.

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

Highlights

- In August WFP reached 1,116 displaced persons in YAMBA with transfers. WFP also continued assistance in the Pool department.
- The School Feeding Programme faces a critical funding shortfall. The new school year will start 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.

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)
EMOP 201066 April-Sep 2017	3.3 m	0 m

The EMOP began in April 2017 following a 45-day IR-EMOP. The EMOP is in line with WFP's Strategic Objective 1: "Save lives and protect livelihoods in emergencies." It aims to stabilize and improve food consumption over assistance period for targeted households and individuals in the Pool and Bouenza departments.

In Numbers

10,255 CAR refugees assisted in Republic of Congo

166,000 displaced persons affected by Pool crises;

1,116 IDPs assisted in Pool department

August 2017



Operational Updates

- The results of the latest Post-Distribution Monitoring (PDM) report show that the suspension of the safety net programme has negatively affected the nutritional status of beneficiaries. The most affected people are HIV/AIDS and TB patients in Brazzaville and Pointe Noire.

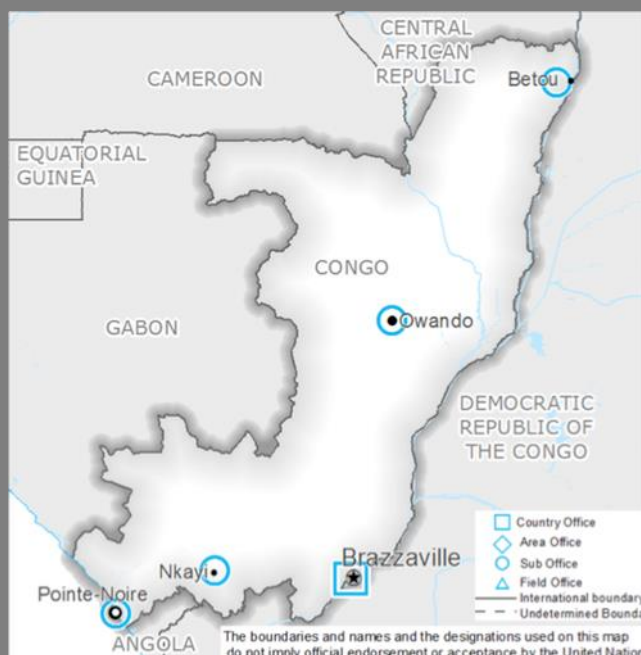
Challenges

- WFP Congo urgently requires funding for the EMOP as well as the safety net and for school feeding programmes.
- In order to avoid logistical constraints in Likouala department, WFP launched electronic food transfer in Bétou and Impfondo for the Regional EMOP in May.

Impact of limited funding

- 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 critical funding gaps for the WFP Country Programme.
- The lack of resources has had a huge impact on the implementation of WFP's work under the Country Programme, where very few activities can be carried out, leaving many beneficiaries without any assistance.
- WFP urgently needs support from partners 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 holder 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