



# Standard Project Report 2015

## World Food Programme in Congo, Republic of the (CG)

### Assistance to Congolese Refugees from the Democratic Republic of the Congo in the Likouala Province of the Republic of the Congo

Reporting period: 1 January - 31 December 2015

Project Information	
Project Number	200147
Project Category	Single Country PRRO
Overall Planned Beneficiaries	148,100
Planned Beneficiaries in 2015	17,000
Total Beneficiaries in 2015	16,950

Key Project Dates	
Project Approval Date	March 29, 2011
Planned Start Date	January 01, 2011
Actual Start Date	March 01, 2011
Project End Date	June 30, 2016
Financial Closure Date	N/A

Approved budget in USD	
Food and Related Costs	47,260,944
Capacity Dev.t and Augmentation	N/A
Direct Support Costs	5,583,314
Cash-Based Transfers and Related Costs	N/A
Indirect Support Costs	3,699,098
<b>Total</b>	<b>56,543,356</b>

Commodities	Metric Tonnes
Planned Commodities in 2015	2,607
Actual Commodities 2015	702
Total Approved Commodities	43,631

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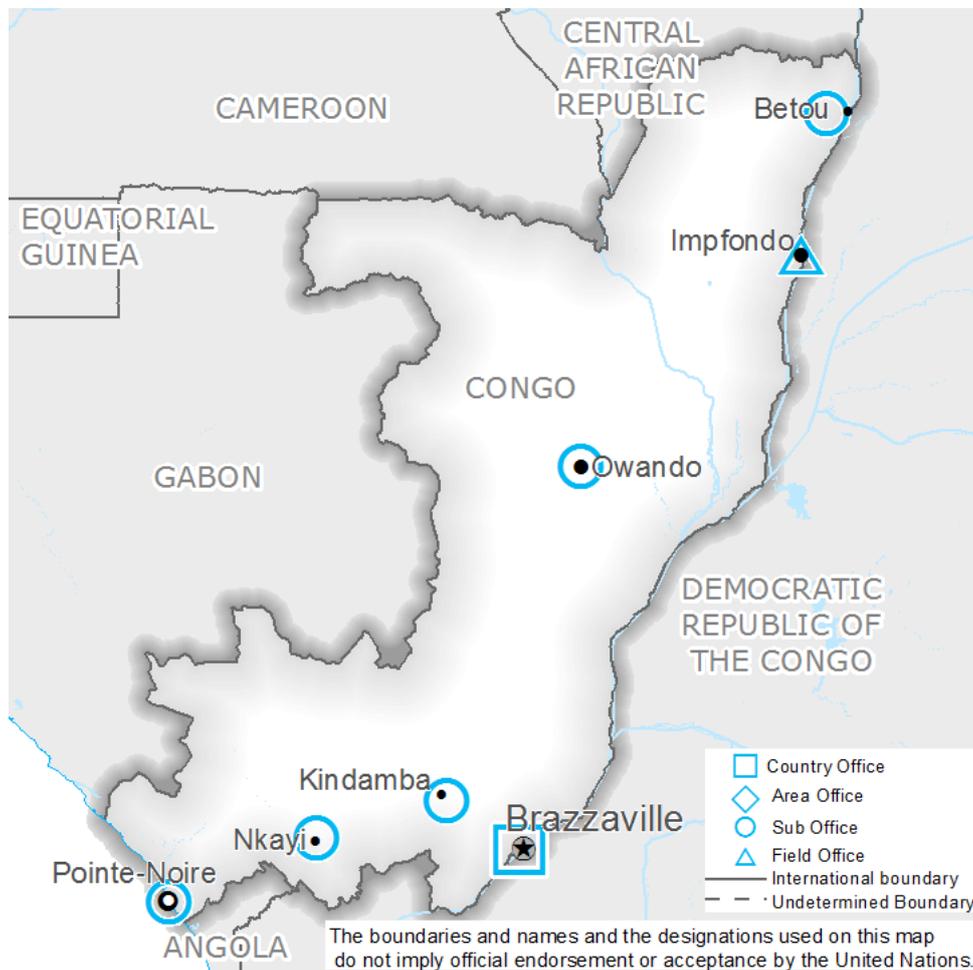
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# COUNTRY OVERVIEW



## Country Background

The Republic of Congo has a population of 4.2 million people, of which about 64 percent live in the urban areas of Brazzaville and Pointe-Noire. Congo is a lower middle-income country, and had a GDP of USD 14 billion in 2015. The 2015 UNDP Human Development Index ranked the Republic of Congo 136th out of 188 countries, placing it in the "medium" category for human development. Congo is rich in natural resources (oil, timber) and fertile land. Oil exports contribute to approximately 70 percent of government revenues and about 95 percent of export earnings. The downward trend in oil prices in recent years and the current sharp fall of the oil price is having a negative impact on the local economy. The country is politically stable, with the presidential elections announced in March 2016.

Meanwhile, food production is below the national requirements. Only two percent of arable land is currently under cultivation, producing less than 30 percent of the population's food needs. The country imports most of its food, leading to high food prices. Income is very unevenly distributed in Congo, reflected by a Gini coefficient of 0.43. Roughly 48 percent of Congolese live on less than USD 1.25 per day.

The RoC's score on the Global Hunger Index in 2014 was 18.11, slowly decreasing from the 2005 value (18.3), but still placing the country at a serious hunger level. More than 121,000 households – 14 percent of the population – suffer from food insecurity. This is related to poor economic diversification, low agricultural productivity and household poverty. Brazzaville and Pointe-Noire have the largest number of food insecure people although the percentage of food insecure people is higher in the rural areas. The national population below the minimum level of dietary energy consumption is reported by WHO to be at 30.5 percent.

A dire shortage of nutritious food results in children suffering from acute malnutrition. Sixty-seven percent of children under five are anaemic. The under-five mortality rate was estimated by the Multiple Indicator Cluster Surveys (MICS) undertaken by UNICEF and the government in 2014/2015 to be at 52 deaths per 1,000 live births, a very high value notwithstanding its downward trend. The same survey found that 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. Approximately 12 percent of women suffer from acute malnutrition, with body mass index of less than 18.5, 8 percent of women suffer from clinical vitamin A deficiency (history of night blindness during most recent pregnancy) and 70 percent of pregnant women have iron and folic acid deficiencies. Malnutrition has various causes, including food insecurity, lack of dietary diversity, poverty, limited access to health care, poor hygiene, inadequate infant feeding practices and infectious diseases.

The national HIV/AIDS prevalence is 3.2 percent, with urban areas having a higher prevalence than rural areas (3.3 percent against 2.8 percent). The Republic of Congo also hosts some 120,000 refugees and asylum seekers, mainly originating from the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) and Central African Republic (CAR).

WFP's operations in RoC contribute to the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) 1 (eradicate poverty and hunger), 2 (achieve universal primary education), 3 (promote gender equality and empower women), 5 (improve maternal health) and 6 (combat HIV/AIDS, malaria and other diseases). This applies to the Country Programme, the PRRO, and the regional EMOP, despite the fact that these last two programmes do not focus on education. Within the Country Programme, considerable progress have been made on achieving MDG 1 and 2, but better strategies will have to be put in place to ensure adequate exit strategies for beneficiaries to become self-sufficient and effectively alleviate poverty. In the future, WFP in RoC will continue its programmes and ensuring its adherence 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).

## Summary Of WFP Assistance

In 2015, WFP continued to implement a Protracted Relief and Recovery Operation (PRRO 200147), and started implementing two new projects: the Country Programme (CP 200648) and a regional Emergency Operation (EMOP 200799) in the Republic of Congo.

PRRO 200147 started in January 2011 and aimed to provide emergency food assistance for the refugees from the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC). Refugees from Central Africa Republic (CAR) were added to the project in 2013. In 2015, due to the deteriorating situation in CAR and to take into account the regional dimension of the CAR refugee crisis, a regional emergency operation has been launched focussing on CAR refugees in Congo, Cameroon, Chad and DRC. In 2015, the PRRO targeted the remaining DRC refugees. Many DRC refugees have already gone back to their country during the repatriation process organized by UNHCR, or on their own. The PRRO's objectives are to save lives among the most vulnerable (especially children and women); to ensure basic food needs of refugees until their return to their home countries; and to reduce pressure on the host population for food supplies, housing, health and sanitation. Through this PRRO, WFP has provided assistance to 17,000 DRC refugees in 2015.

Under CP 200648, WFP is providing support to the government through four (4) components.

Component 1: WFP assistance aims to promote access to education by ensuring that primary school children have a balanced diet based on local products. Through the school feeding program, WFP is providing hot meals to 95,000 children and has planned to reach 132,000 beneficiaries through 2018. WFP is providing capacity building to the government in school feeding policy development. The policy aims to define the vision and provide guidance and a handover strategy to the government. Since the introduction of the ORA (Observe, React, Act) in schools in 2014, WFP has provided school meals to an additional 3,500 indigenous children in 2015 and the program will be expanded to promote access to education for this population.

Component 2: WFP is supporting the government in setting up a social safety net for vulnerable households who are provided electronic voucher transfers. Through this program, WFP has provided voucher transfers to around 3,000 beneficiaries in newly selected areas, Sibiti and Owando, and has planned to target 117,000 beneficiaries across the country through 2018. The safety net programme is a conditional electronic voucher transfer to malnourished individuals under treatment for HIV and TB ; and to malnourished pregnant and lactating women who undertake scheduled visits to health centers either for consultation or for child vaccination programmes.

Component 3: WFP is providing nutrition support to children under-five, pregnant and nursing mothers and specific nutrition support to HIV and tuberculosis patients. In 2015, WFP has provided nutrition support to 2,276 HIV and 390 TB patients.

Component 4: This component aims to: i) strengthen national risk management capabilities, reduce vulnerability to natural and human-incurred disasters and promote climate change adaptation, particularly through training and crisis simulation exercises; and ii) provide tools for early warning, contingency planning and risk analysis. In 2015, a first support mission was organized by WFP to help the government and partners to finalize the national strategy for risk prevention and reduction and disaster management, with the aim of creating a permanent platform for addressing risks and disasters effectively and supporting implementation.

The country program is aligned with the National Development Plan 2012-2016.

Since January 2015, the assistance to CAR refugees is provided through the regional EMOP 200799. The refugees arrived in poor physical condition in a region with food shortages and with few opportunities for food production. Government policy places some restrictions on access to land and to other livelihood activities for refugees. Refugees are almost completely dependent on assistance from the local population or humanitarian assistance, and their prospects for improving their level of self-sufficiency are limited. WFP's response ensures the food needs of refugee populations, including access to nutrient rich fortified food through the inclusion of super cereal in the food basket and provides treatment services for moderately acute malnourished children aged from 6 to 23 months and pregnant and lactating women. In 2015, WFP provided emergency food assistance to 18,585 CAR refugees and nutrition support to 2,135 children and 1,642 PLW. UNHCR leads coordination of the response to the refugee crisis in close collaboration with the Ministry of Social Affairs and Humanitarian Action, UN agencies and NGOs. The regional EMOP has been extended until the end of 2016.

Beneficiaries	Male	Female	Total
Children (under 5 years)	3,851	5,476	9,327
Children (5-18 years)	51,208	52,533	103,741
Adults (18 years plus)	8,276	14,417	22,693
<b>Total number of beneficiaries in 2015</b>	<b>63,335</b>	<b>72,426</b>	<b>135,761</b>

Distribution (mt)						
Project Type	Cereals	Oil	Pulses	Mix	Other	Total
Country Programme	1,386	141	340	89	261	2,217
Single Country PRRO	431	45	202	0	25	702
<b>Total Food Distributed in 2015</b>	<b>1,817</b>	<b>186</b>	<b>542</b>	<b>89</b>	<b>286</b>	<b>2,920</b>

# OPERATIONAL SPR

## Operational Objectives and Relevance

The Republic of Congo (RoC) hosts more than 115,000 refugees and asylum seekers, mainly from the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) and Rwanda, but also from Angola, Burundi, the Central African Republic (CAR) and Chad.

In 2013, UNHCR began a repatriation operation, through which some 98,000 refugees have returned home since December 2014. Additionally, since January 2015, refugees hosted in RoC from the Central African Republic have been assisted through a regional emergency operation (EMOP) 200779. This protracted relief and recovery operation (PRRO) 200147 therefore targets only refugees from DRC hosted in the Likouala province of the country, who arrived in 2009 following violent tribal conflicts. These refugees are currently living in some 90 sites among the host population, along the Ubangi River. There is also one main camp in Betou, the "15 avril" camp, and one in Ikpebele.

The overall objective of this PRRO is to protect the food security of refugees from DRC hosted in the country until such a time as they are assessed to be self-sufficient or undergo repatriation. The operation is in line with WFP Strategic Objective 1: "to save lives and protect livelihoods in emergencies."

Throughout 2015, WFP assisted some 17,000 refugees (of which 47 percent are women). Between August and December 2015, a biometric registration was organized by UNHCR in order to increase the accuracy of the refugee list.

The food security situation has continued to be precarious for the remaining refugee caseload. According to the Post-Distribution Monitoring (PDM) survey conducted in December 2015, 14.5 percent of the refugee households have poor or borderline food consumption, due to a number of factors including pipeline breaks in WFP food assistance. This was further affected by restrictions on refugee access to agricultural land by authorities, as of January 2015, due to the growing refugee population settling in host communities and subsequent decrease in arable land in the Likouala province. However, the survey also confirmed previous results from the JAM survey showing that the majority of DRC refugees are engaged in some income-generating activities (commonly agriculture, fishing, petty trade and daily wage labor) which allowed a reduction of 25 percent of the normal food ration. The Governments of DRC and the Republic of the Congo, as well as UNHCR and WFP, planned consultations in the second half of 2015 to determine the future of the remaining DRC refugees in the Republic of the Congo. These consultations, however, have not taken place and as yet the future of the operation remains unclear.

The PRRO is currently scheduled to end in June 2016. In the meantime, based on the biometric registration, WFP and UNHCR have revised the current beneficiary numbers down to 12,000 people and have agreed to prioritize assistance to the most vulnerable refugees in 2016.

## Results

### *Beneficiaries, Targeting and Distribution*

Targeting of refugees is commonly based on their refugee status as confirmed by UNHCR, which creates and manages a database of beneficiaries and is updated for births and deaths, and those leaving the area for repatriation or other reasons. Few refugees expressed their willingness to repatriate in 2015, which slowed down the repatriation process throughout the year.

Due to low market capacities and weakness of the financial infrastructure in the Likouala province, food transfers were chosen as the most appropriate modality for this programme. As such, they receive a monthly general food distribution (GFD) from WFP, providing them with a daily ration of 300g of cereals, 100g of pulses, 20g of vegetable oil and 5g of salt. While this PRRO also included assistance to CAR refugees in 2014, this group have been supported under regional EMOP 200779 since January 2015.

Food assistance is based on an updated refugee list provided by UNHCR on a monthly basis. Joint Assessment Missions (JAMs) are carried out to assess the food security and nutrition situation of the refugees. The results of the 2011 JAM, which were confirmed by the 2014 JAM, led to a reduced food ration which is reflective of the refugees'

ability to cover part of their own food needs through income generating activities; refugees now receive 75 percent of a full ration.

In 2015, 99.7 percent of targeted refugees were reached, totalling just under 17,000. However, the achievement was much lower for commodities distributed due to resource shortages and corresponding pipeline breaks. Only 26.9 percent of the planned quantity of food was distributed. Pipeline breaks occurred in February and October with substantially reduced distributions in January, March, June, July, September and November. To cope with the pipeline breaks, WFP adopted various strategies, including reducing the number of feeding days or alternating the assisted beneficiaries.

In addition to resourcing shortfalls, the operation faced logistical challenges, particularly during the dry season (January to June) when the water level in the Ubangi River, a major access route to the area, was very low. In July 2015 however, the Ubangi river flooded. While this helped to ease logistical challenges in the delivery of food via the river, it also increased refugees' exposure to food insecurity by damaging local agricultural production and limiting their ability to fish; hence reliance on WFP assistance increased.

WFP reached more refugees than planned in certain age groups, specifically those under 18 years old, based on the demographic breakdown of the refugee population, in which more children are present.

Beneficiary Category	Planned			Actual			% Actual v. Planned		
	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total
<b>Total Beneficiaries</b>	5,440	11,560	17,000	8,213	8,737	16,950	151.0%	75.6%	99.7%
<b>By Age-group:</b>									
Children (under 5 years)	850	1,870	2,720	1,829	1,848	3,677	215.2%	98.8%	135.2%
Children (5-18 years)	1,360	2,720	4,080	2,520	2,688	5,208	185.3%	98.8%	127.6%
Adults (18 years plus)	3,230	6,970	10,200	3,864	4,201	8,065	119.6%	60.3%	79.1%
<b>By Residence status:</b>									
Refugees	5,440	11,560	17,000	8,814	8,136	16,950	162.0%	70.4%	99.7%

Activity	Planned			Actual			% Actual v. Planned		
	Food	CBT	Total	Food	CBT	Total	Food	CBT	Total
General Distribution (GD)	17,000	-	17,000	16,950	-	16,950	99.7%	-	99.7%

Beneficiary Category	Planned			Actual			% Actual v. Planned		
	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total
<b>General Distribution (GD)</b>									
People participating in general distributions	1,122	2,278	3,400	1,668	1,722	3,390	148.7%	75.6%	99.7%
<b>Total participants</b>	1,122	2,278	3,400	1,668	1,722	3,390	148.7%	75.6%	99.7%
<b>Total beneficiaries</b>	5,440	11,560	17,000	8,213	8,737	16,950	151.0%	75.6%	99.7%

The total number of beneficiaries includes all targeted persons who were provided with WFP food/cash/vouchers during the reporting period - either as a recipient/participant or from a household food ration distributed to one of these recipients/participants.

Commodity	Planned Distribution (mt)	Actual Distribution (mt)	% Actual v. Planned
Iodised Salt	31	25	80.7%
Maize Meal	-	60	-
Rice	1,841	370	20.1%
Split Peas	613	202	33.0%
Vegetable Oil	123	45	36.4%
<b>Total</b>	<b>2,607</b>	<b>702</b>	<b>26.9%</b>

## Story Worth Telling

Jean Paul Pambala is a 57-year-old refugee from the Democratic Republic of Congo. He currently lives at the “15 Avril” site in Betou, and is the head of a household of six people.

Jean Paul left the Democratic Republic of Congo in 2009 with his family because of the ethnic conflict that was plaguing his region of the country. The local authorities of the Republic of Congo welcomed his family in November 2009, just one month before humanitarian organizations began to respond to the growing refugee crisis in the region.

He remembers the night they fled: they brought nothing and had to get onto a small boat to cross the Ubangi river, which separates the two Congos: “In order to be able to get on board and secure a seat you had to be strong and fast.” After they had crossed the river, he realized that his oldest son, age 20, was missing; travelling merchants have since told him and his family that his son was forced to join the rebels and that he died in combat.

Jean Paul's family have been in the Republic of Congo for six years now and feel fortunate to have been able to count on WFP. The rations provided have allowed them to stay healthy, protecting them from food insecurity, malnutrition and diseases related to lack of food and micronutrients. In 2015, for example, many crops were destroyed in Betou when the Ubangi river flooded; Jean Paul and his family continued to receive WFP food which ensured their basic food and nutrition needs, and also meant his children had enough energy to keep attending local schools.

## Progress Towards Gender Equality

Men, women, boys and girls are all in need of adequate feeding and nutrition. Upon their arrival, refugees are sensitized on sexual violence and any related issue about gender equity and parity. The names of both the husband and wife are included on ration cards, and women are encouraged to collect food rations and handle the commodities at home, to ensure they are used for household consumption. This ensures that women can receive assistance without discrimination. During food distribution, WFP and UNHCR explain distribution protocol, the composition of food rations, and other issues related to gender equality to all beneficiaries. WFP will continue sensitization efforts to ensure decisions on the use of food at household level are being made by both men and women together.

The difference of results in the chart below between the “previous” and “latest follow up” is explained by the different groups questioned in the last two Post Distribution Monitoring (PDM) surveys, due to the flooding of a refugee site and the consequent unavailability of the 2015 August group. WFP was therefore obliged to interview a different group of refugees in December 2015.

WFP ensures that female refugees are active during food distributions and, together with UNHCR, makes sure that women are well represented on refugee committees. The minimum requirement for the composition of committees is the inclusion of 30 percent women. Initially, there was hesitation from female refugees in applying for management positions due to the culturally traditional predominantly male makeup; however the situation is improving with strong advocacy and sensitization by UNHCR and WFP. In Betou, for example, 1 of the 13 DRC refugee committees is currently chaired by women.

Cross-cutting Indicators	Project End Target	Base Value	Previous Follow-up	Latest Follow-up
<b>Proportion of households where females and males together make decisions over the use of cash, voucher or food</b>				
<i>LIKOUALA, General Distribution (GD) , Project End Target: 2015.12 , Base value: 2014.12 , Previous Follow-up: 2015.08 , Latest Follow-up: 2015.12</i>	=40.00	25.00	5.00	9.00
<b>Proportion of households where females make decisions over the use of cash, voucher or food</b>				
<i>LIKOUALA, General Distribution (GD) , Project End Target: 2015.12 , Base value: 2014.12 , Previous Follow-up: 2015.08 , Latest Follow-up: 2015.12</i>	=50.00	55.00	39.00	42.00
<b>Proportion of households where males make decisions over the use of cash, voucher or food</b>				
<i>LIKOUALA, General Distribution (GD) , Project End Target: 2015.12 , Base value: 2014.12 , Previous Follow-up: 2015.08 , Latest Follow-up: 2015.12</i>	=10.00	20.00	56.00	49.00
<b>Proportion of women beneficiaries in leadership positions of project management committees</b>				
<i>LIKOUALA, General Distribution (GD) , Project End Target: 2015.12 , Base value: 2014.12 , Previous Follow-up: 2015.08 , Latest Follow-up: 2015.12</i>	=50.00	40.00	48.00	48.00
<b>Proportion of women project management committee members trained on modalities of food, cash, or voucher distribution</b>				
<i>LIKOUALA, General Distribution (GD) , Project End Target: 2015.12 , Base value: 2014.12 , Previous Follow-up: 2015.08 , Latest Follow-up: 2015.12</i>	>60.00	90.00	100.00	100.00

## Protection and Accountability to Affected Populations

Refugees did not experience safety problems travelling to and/or from the 62 various distribution sites or the WFP programme sites in the reporting period. Assisted sites in Bétou are adequately set up and secured with partner NGO staff, ensuring that distributions are carried out peacefully. Distributions take place on a monthly or bi-monthly basis at sites close to where the refugees are living. At the biggest distribution site in Bétou, refugees are divided into groups according to the size of their household and receive distributions on a designated day of the week. This facilitates efficient distributions by regulating the influx of refugees waiting for and receiving food rations. During the distribution days, government security forces are deployed to maintain security and safety.

In 2014, after minor complaints from DRC and CAR refugees about the difference in the rations provided to the two groups, WFP successfully carried out sensitization sessions in 2015, together with UNHCR. Once registered by UNHCR, every new refugee is invited to receive sensitization training on general food distributions carried out by WFP, including information on location of assisted sites and distribution days. During these sessions, the rationale behind the food basket and ration fixation is also explained and discussed to allow a common understanding. Notwithstanding WFP efforts, not all refugees participated in the awareness raising sessions; hence only 71 percent of refugees stated they were informed about the programme. WFP is looking into means of increasing participation in awareness sessions to ensure all beneficiaries are informed of their entitlements.

During senior management field visits, a question and answer session is always organized with refugee committees to allow open discussions on the operation and any issues of concern to the refugees. These platforms are also used to keep refugees informed on handover processes, the resourcing situation and any predicted pipeline breaks.

Cross-cutting Indicators	Project End Target	Base Value	Previous Follow-up	Latest Follow-up
<b>Proportion of assisted people informed about the programme (who is included, what people will receive, where people can complain)</b> LIKOUALA, General Distribution (GD) , <b>Project End Target: 2015.12 , Base value: 2014.12 , Previous Follow-up: 2015.08 , Latest Follow-up: 2015.12</b>	=80.00	100.00	44.00	71.00
<b>Proportion of assisted people who do not experience safety problems travelling to, from and/or at WFP programme site</b> LIKOUALA, General Distribution (GD) , <b>Project End Target: 2015.12 , Base value: 2014.12 , Previous Follow-up: 2015.08 , Latest Follow-up: 2015.12</b>	=90.00	95.00	95.00	98.00

## Outputs

In 2015, WFP continued providing general food assistance to DRC refugees hosted in the Likouala department, to ensure their food and nutrition security. Despite limited resources, WFP reached close to 100 percent of the planned beneficiaries. However, due to continued severe resourcing constraints resulting in pipeline breaks, the number of feeding days in 2015 was reduced by almost 50 percent and refugees were fed for 210 out of 360 planned days.

To minimize the negative impact of this situation on the refugees, WFP and UNHCR have undertaken sensitization campaigns and nutritional messaging for malnourished children and pregnant and lactating women. Host communities have also demonstrated solidarity and provided support to the refugees when WFP food was not available. The refugees also intensified self-sufficiency activities, oriented towards trade rather than agriculture due to their inability to access land.

In the meantime, WFP is also seeking other, more cost-efficient options for the delivery of food to beneficiaries, following logistical challenges in the reporting period. Rather than relying on the Pointe Noire – Ubangi River route, which is not viable during the dry season, the road through Douala and Ouessou is now a potential delivery route, and does not involve passing through the insecure area of Bangui in Central African Republic.

WFP in RoC is also exploring the most appropriate food assistance method; a market assessment, performed in November 2015, has shown that a hybrid method would be the most efficient, which would mean combining food assistance (specifically the distribution of Super Cereal) with cash-based transfers (CBT). A follow-up study, to evaluate the feasibility of mobile transfers and to determine if sufficient shops exist in the Likouala area, is planned for 2016.

Output	Unit	Planned	Actual	% Actual vs. Planned
<b>SO1: General Distribution (GD)</b>				
Number of feeding days	instance	360	210	58.3

## Outcomes

The Post Distribution Monitoring (PDM) survey undertaken in December 2015 revealed the negative impact of the pipeline breaks on refugees' overall food security, due to pipeline breaks in February and October and reduced distributions in January, March, June, July, September and November. WFP therefore alternated the groups of beneficiaries receiving food at certain times. Furthermore, since the beginning of 2015, the Likouala authorities prohibited the refugees from accessing agricultural land, which contributed to decreasing food security; in 2014, some 37.4 percent of refugees earned their primary source of revenue from agriculture, which reduced to 16 percent in 2015. Additionally, the flooding of the Ubangi river in July and August 2015 limited refugees' ability to carry out other income-generating activities, such as fishing.

These factors combined to generate a significant deterioration in Food Consumption Score (FCS) indicators in 2015. The percentage of households with poor FCS increased, from 3.8 percent in August 2015 to 14.5 percent in December 2015. Female-headed households were the most affected by this deterioration; poor FCS for this group increased from 3.3 percent in August to 19.7 percent in December. For male-headed households, the increase was from 4.1 percent in August to 10.6 percent in December. In addition to the factors mentioned above, which affected

all households, men fared slightly better in that they had more income-generating activities to fall back on, such as fishing and daily labour, than women.

This decline in the food security situation was confirmed by a decrease in the Dietary Diversity Score, which fell to an average of 3.9 in December against a target of 6.5.

As the same group of refugees could not be interviewed over the last two PDMs, the Coping Strategy Index (CSI) was calculated using the average CSI in the refugee population. Results show a different trend to that of the FCS; the latest follow-up value (average CSI = 16.82), calculated on the basis of the last PDM (December 2015), is almost stable when compared to the base value for December 2014 (19.45). It nonetheless signals improvement with respect to the previous follow-up (23.13), calculated in August 2015, while still remaining above the target. An explanation for this relates to the period under analysis: the December 2015 PDM was performed just after food distribution, targeting those beneficiaries that had just received food rations in the previous month, who were thus not forced to adopt strong coping strategies. This situation was very different from the August PDM, which did not follow a food distribution, and hence targeted households who had adopted more coping strategies.

Outcome	Project End Target	Base Value	Previous Follow-up	Latest Follow-up
<b>SO1 Save lives and protect livelihoods in emergencies</b>				
<b>Stabilized or improved food consumption over assistance period for targeted households and/or individuals</b>				
<b>FCS: percentage of households with poor Food Consumption Score</b>				
<i>LIKOUALA DEPARTMENT , Project End Target: 2015.12 PDM , Base value: 2014.12 WFP survey PDM , Previous Follow-up: 2015.08 WFP programme monitoring PDM survey , Latest Follow-up: 2015.12 WFP programme monitoring PDM survey</i>	=0.18	0.90	3.80	14.50
<b>FCS: percentage of households with poor Food Consumption Score (female-headed)</b>				
<i>LIKOUALA DEPARTMENT , Project End Target: 2015.12 PDM , Base value: 2014.12 WFP survey PDM , Previous Follow-up: 2015.08 WFP survey PDM survey , Latest Follow-up: 2015.12 WFP programme monitoring PDM survey</i>	=0.42	2.10	3.30	19.70
<b>FCS: percentage of households with poor Food Consumption Score (male-headed)</b>				
<i>LIKOUALA DEPARTMENT , Project End Target: 2015.12 PDM , Base value: 2014.12 WFP survey PDM , Previous Follow-up: 2015.08 WFP programme monitoring PDM Survey , Latest Follow-up: 2015.12 WFP programme monitoring PDM survey</i>	=0.10	0.50	4.10	10.60
<b>Diet Diversity Score</b>				
<i>LIKOUALA DEPARTMENT , Project End Target: 2015.12 Post distribution Monitoring , Base value: 2015.08 WFP programme monitoring Post Distribution Monitoring , Previous Follow-up: 2015.08 WFP programme monitoring PDM survey , Latest Follow-up: 2015.12 WFP programme monitoring PDM survey</i>	=6.50	4.90	4.90	3.90
<b>Diet Diversity Score (female-headed households)</b>				
<i>LIKOUALA DEPARTMENT , Project End Target: 2015.12 PDM , Base value: 2015.08 WFP programme monitoring Post Distribution Monitoring , Latest Follow-up: 2015.12 WFP programme monitoring PDM survey</i>	=6.50	4.80	-	3.70
<b>Diet Diversity Score (male-headed households)</b>				
<i>LIKOUALA DEPARTMENT , Project End Target: 2015.12 Post distribution Monitoring , Base value: 2015.08 WFP survey Post distribution Monitoring , Latest Follow-up: 2015.12 WFP programme monitoring PDM survey</i>	=6.50	5.00	-	4.10

Outcome	Project End Target	Base Value	Previous Follow-up	Latest Follow-up
<b>CSI (Food): Percentage of households with reduced/stabilized Coping Strategy Index</b>				
<i>LIKOUALA DEPARTMENT , Project End Target: 2015.12 PDM , Base value: 2014.12 WFP survey PDM , Previous Follow-up: 2015.08 WFP programme monitoring PDM survey , Latest Follow-up: 2015.12 WFP programme monitoring PDM survey</i>	<19.00	19.45	23.13	16.82
<b>CSI (Food): Percentage of female-headed households with reduced/stabilized Coping Strategy Index</b>				
<i>LIKOUALA DEPARTMENT , Project End Target: 2015.12 PDM , Base value: 2014.12 WFP survey PDM , Previous Follow-up: 2015.08 WFP programme monitoring PDM survey , Latest Follow-up: 2015.12 WFP programme monitoring PDM survey</i>	<19.00	19.37	24.20	18.06
<b>CSI (Food): Percentage of male-headed households with reduced/stabilized Coping Strategy Index</b>				
<i>LIKOUALA DEPARTMENT , Project End Target: 2015.12 PDM , Base value: 2014.12 WFP survey PDM , Previous Follow-up: 2015.08 WFP programme monitoring PDM survey , Latest Follow-up: 2015.12 WFP programme monitoring PDM survey</i>	<19.00	19.51	22.00	15.70

## Sustainability, Capacity Development and Handover

As highlighted during tripartite discussions held between UNHCR and the Governments of the Democratic Republic of Congo and the Republic of Congo in 2014, DRC refugees hosted in RoC have limited opportunities to develop self-sufficiency. As of January 2015, refugees are no longer permitted to access land to grow crops. Advocacy is ongoing with the host government to identify a viable, long-term solution for the remaining DRC refugee population.

In the second half of 2015, the governments of DRC and RoC, with UNHCR and WFP, planned a series of consultations with the aim of determining the future of assistance for refugees residing in RoC. However, these consultations have been postponed until mid-2016 and the future of the refugees in the country currently remains unclear. It will be necessary for WFP to keep providing support until such a time as a sustainable solution is reached or the refugees are repatriated. However, WFP continues to face severe funding challenges in this operation.

## Inputs

### Resource Inputs

This operation suffered severe funding constraints in 2015. Multilateral funding was received through WFP's strategic resource allocation committee (SRAC), in addition to receiving a contribution pledged in 2014. The allocated resources were less than the previous year which has resulted in several pipeline breaks.

The Government of RoC contributed to this operation through facilitating the imports of food commodities, while cooperating partners provided technical support and complementary inputs in the implementation of activities.

Donor	2015 Resourced (mt)		2015 Shipped/Purchased (mt)
	In-Kind	Cash	
Japan	0	72	1,111
MULTILATERAL	0	227	504

Donor	2015 Resourced (mt)		2015 Shipped/Purchased (mt)
	In-Kind	Cash	
<b>Total</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>299</b>	<b>1,615</b>

See Annex: Resource Inputs from Donors for breakdown by commodity and contribution reference number

## Food Purchases and In-Kind Receipts

Food production in the Republic of Congo is below national requirements, with only 2 percent of arable land currently under cultivation, producing less than 30 percent of the population's food needs. The country is therefore a net food importer, importing 70 percent of its food, leading to high food prices on the local market.

In 2015, all commodities for this operation were purchased on international and regional markets. As lead times are high and can reach up to six months, the operation experienced delays in the arrival of food in-country. The rice for refugees, for example, came from a Japanese contribution. The donor, however, stipulated that the rice had to be purchased on the Japanese market, causing a significant delay.

Commodities	Local (mt)	Developing Country (mt)	Other International (mt)	GCMF (mt)
Rice	0	182	1,543	0
Split Peas	0	0	72	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>182</b>	<b>1,615</b>	<b>0</b>

## Food Transport, Delivery and Handling

The Pointe Noire corridor is used for the reception of food commodities for this project. WFP relies on rail wagons to move commodities from Pointe Noire to Brazzaville, and subsequently on private barges from Brazzaville to the Likouala province. River transport between Brazzaville and Likouala can only be done during the rainy season (July - December) when the Ubangi River is navigable. Transport from extended delivery points to final distribution points was done using small barges contracted from private owners while food handling, loading and offloading at the entry port, the extended delivery points and the final delivery points were also carried out by private companies.

## Post-Delivery Losses

Minor post-delivery loss of commodities occurred, mainly as a result of poor packaging and due to water leakage on small barges used for commodity transport from the extended delivery points to the final distribution points. As WFP contracted private transporters, all related losses were reimbursed.

## Management

### Partnerships

A tripartite agreement was signed in 2015 between UNHCR, WFP and a local NGO, AAREC (Agence d'Assistance aux Rapatriés et Réfugiés du Congo) for food distributions. Throughout 2015, WFP worked closely with UNHCR, which maintains a database of beneficiaries and provides updated lists for food distribution.

AAREC has already worked with UNHCR in refugee operations and has a very good knowledge of the local area. All refugee sites are located on or near the river banks, and local NGO knowledge of the environment has been a major asset in the organization of food distributions. Reaching beneficiaries in remote sites would not have been possible without these local partnerships, as some locations are accessible only with small boats. The Ministry of Social Affairs, Humanitarian Action and Solidarity has been actively following the refugee situation, providing clothing and vegetable oil when available. Local officials provide security and intervene as needed.

Partnership	NGO		Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement	UN/IO
	National	International		
Total	1			1

Cross-cutting Indicators	Project End Target	Latest Follow-up
<b>Amount of complementary funds provided to the project by partners (including NGOs, civil society, private sector organizations, international financial institutions and regional development banks)</b>		
<i>LIKOUALA, General Distribution (GD) , Project End Target: 2015.12 , Latest Follow-up: 2015.12</i>	=500,000.00	200,000.00
<b>Number of partner organizations that provide complementary inputs and services</b>		
<i>LIKOUALA, General Distribution (GD) , Project End Target: 2015.12 , Latest Follow-up: 2015.12</i>	=1.00	2.00
<b>Proportion of project activities implemented with the engagement of complementary partners</b>		
<i>LIKOUALA, General Distribution (GD) , Project End Target: 2015.12 , Latest Follow-up: 2015.12</i>	=100.00	100.00

## Lessons Learned

Despite the fact that resourcing constraints led to pipeline breaks in 2015, which meant beneficiaries did not receive food assistance in certain periods of the year, awareness raising and frank dialogue with refugee committees have been key for maintaining a peaceful environment and limiting the dissatisfaction. The refugees appeared to appreciate the time taken to explain the situation, and took measures to mitigate as much as possible any negative effects. Specifically, they have increased their participation in income-generating activities, such as fishing, labour, and running small businesses. However, at the same time, limited access to land as of January 2015 hampered their efforts to become more self-sufficient by growing their own food.

The host population continued to demonstrate solidarity and generosity, by supporting refugees with their already limited resources, at times when WFP was unable to provide food assistance.

## Operational Statistics

### Annex: Participants by Activity and Modality

Activity	Planned			Actual			% Actual v. Planned		
	Food	CBT	Total	Food	CBT	Total	Food	CBT	Total
General Distribution (GD)	3,400	-	3,400	3,390	-	3,390	99.7%	-	99.7%

### Annex: Resource Inputs from Donors

Donor	Cont. Ref. No.	Commodity	Resourced in 2015 (mt)		Shipped/Purchased in 2015 (mt)
			In-Kind	Cash	
Japan	JPN-C-00338-01	Rice	0	0	1,039
Japan	JPN-C-00338-01	Split Peas	0	72	72
MULTILATERAL	MULTILATERAL	Rice	0	95	504

Donor	Cont. Ref. No.	Commodity	Resourced in 2015 (mt)		Shipped/Purchased in 2015 (mt)
			In-Kind	Cash	
MULTILATERAL	MULTILATERAL	Split Peas	0	96	0
MULTILATERAL	MULTILATERAL	Vegetable Oil	0	36	0
<b>Total</b>			<b>0</b>	<b>299</b>	<b>1,615</b>