



WORLD FOOD PROGRAMME REPUBLIC OF CONGO

2020 Annual Country Report Highlights



410,609 people assisted



FOOD DISTRIBUTED
8,286 mt



CASH TRANSFERRED
USD 4,429,073

URBAN CASH TRANSFERS HELP PEOPLE COPE WITH THE EXTENUATING CIRCUMSTANCES DUE TO THE PANDEMIC

Rita Mambou is a widow and has 7 dependents (5 children, 1 grandchild and her elderly mother). No one in her family currently has a job. She sells fofou (a staple food often made from cassava) at a market in Brazzaville. Her daughters are in school or university. Bridie, for example, has a degree in hotel management but hasn't found a job yet. Bartelina is in 2nd year of university, studying economics.

When WFP met Rita, she was going to buy oil, salted fish, milk, soap, and cans of sardines, with her son Christ who helps her. Christ has been running a sound transfer business, selling CDs for 5 years. This allows him to have some income to help the family. He dreams of working in ICT.

Rita and her family are among 75,000 vulnerable people in Brazzaville who have received WFP cash transfers to help them cope with the impact of the pandemic. She says "It goes straight to our hearts. It's a big thank you to WFP. We are very happy."

"It's really difficult right now. Since the lockdown, nothing works. I'm managing. I've been a bricklayer's helper with my older brother's friends but I don't like it at all. I prefer to do a job that suits me to really help the family," says Christ.

CONTRIBUTIONS

USD 26.2 million received

[Full Congo Annual Report](#)

COVID-19 IMPACT AND ADAPTATION



The Republic of Congo (RoC) has an economy that relies heavily on oil revenues. The economy was hit hard in 2014 by the sharp decline in oil prices and was on the path to recovery in 2018 and 2019. In 2020, the pandemic and associated restrictions impacted the global demand for oil, creating an excess supply and a steep decrease in oil prices. This has significantly impacted RoC's economic outlook.



To curb the spread of the virus, a national lockdown was imposed, and roads and airports were closed. As a country that heavily depends on imports for its food needs, the border closures and mobility restrictions triggered food inflation and disruption to urban-rural food supply chains between March and June. Besides, the pandemic struck Congo when the northern region was still coping with the consequences of its worst floods in nearly 20 years (which occurred in October 2019) before being confronted to another double crisis at the end of 2020: intense flooding in November 2020 and influx of thousands of new CAR refugees displaced by post-election violence (December 2020).

CROSS-CUTTING RESULTS



To address COVID-19 impacts in rural areas on women, WFP designed the Mbala Pinda project which supports 16 women's groups (approx. 160 women) with training and equipment to process and sell *Mbala Pinda*, a highly nutritious local snack with cassava and peanut. Through this programme, school committees received vouchers to purchase and distribute the product to 3,700 primary school students. Based on a WFP survey, the project contributed to women's empowerment by having a production market and income (which increased by 200-300 percent) and helped retain students after a long period of school closure.



WFP's COVID response included a protection component to tackle gender-based violence (GBV), which increased sharply during the lockdown. From May onwards, WFP teamed up with UNFPA to identify and support GBV victims in the network of shops identified by WFP. They were referred to hospitals for medical and psychological follow-up, while wider communities received awareness sessions on GBV and sexual and reproductive health.

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



USD 1.3 million transferred by mobile money to 68,400 vulnerable people in Brazzaville



13,800 refugees assisted with food and cash based transfers



Food Assistance for Assets participants rehabilitated 140.5 kms of feeder roads

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



75,000 students received on-site school meals and three months of take home rations during school closure



72 mt of salt and USD 20,000 contribution from the government for the school feeding programme



24,000 students received a daily school meal through the Home Grown School Feeding Programme

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



29 warehouses built to reduce post harvest losses in Bouenza and Pool Departments



25 mt of beans and pigeon beans purchased by WFP from smallholder producers for emergency food assistance.



160 women producers of cassava snacks received equipment and training to increase production

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



2589 mt food transported through the Pointe-Noire corridor for the WFP response in the Central African Republic



46 UNHAS flights operated between Brazzaville and Accra through the WFP Humanitarian Hub



1555 mt of food and non food items transported by barge on the Congo river for the UN flood response

PARTNERS

Ministry of Social Affairs and Humanitarian Action, Ministry of Health, Ministry of Education, Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Fishery, Ministry of Planning, Ministry of Primary and Secondary Education and Literature and Ministry of Environment and Tourism

AAREC, ACTED, CARITAS, Centre of Excellence Against Hunger and Malnutrition, Food and Agriculture Organization, International Fund for Agricultural Development, United Nations Children's Fund, United Nations Population Fund, World Health Organization

DONORS

The Adaptation fund, Canada, China, China fund for SSTC, Denmark, European Union, Germany, Global Partnership for Education, Japan, Mastercard, Republic of Congo, The SDG fund, United States of America, UN Central Emergency Response Fund

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