

Congo (Brazzaville)

Exchange rate: US\$1.00 = 496 CFA francs.

Old Age, Disability, and Survivors

Regulatory Framework

First law: 1962.

Current laws: 1986 (social security) and 2012 (pensions).

Type of program: Social insurance system.

Coverage

All private-sector employees.

Exclusions: Self-employed persons.

Voluntary coverage is available.

Source of Funds

Insured person: 4% of covered earnings.

The minimum earnings used to calculate contributions are the legal monthly minimum wage.

The legal monthly minimum wage is 50,400 CFA francs.

The maximum monthly earnings used to calculate contributions are 1,200,000 CFA francs.

Self-employed person: Not applicable.

Employer: 8% of covered payroll.

The minimum earnings used to calculate contributions are the legal monthly minimum wage.

The legal monthly minimum wage is 50,400 CFA francs.

The maximum monthly earnings used to calculate contributions are 1,200,000 CFA francs.

Government: Provides an annual subsidy if needed.

Qualifying Conditions

Old-age pension: Age 57 with at least 264 months of contributions for blue-collar workers; age 60 with at least 300 months of contributions for white-collar workers; and age 65 with at least 360 months of contributions for senior executives.

Employment must cease.

Early pension: Age 55 with at least 264 months of contributions for blue-collar workers; age 57 with at least 300 months of contributions for white-collar workers; age 60 with at least 360 months of contributions for senior executives. The insured must be unable to work as the result of a physical or mental disability.

Partial pension: Paid if the insured does not qualify for the old-age pension but is of pensionable age, is retired from paid employment, and has at least 60 months of contributions.

The pension is payable abroad only under reciprocal agreement.

Old-age settlement: Paid at pensionable age if the insured has less than 60 months of contributions.

Disability pension: Must be younger than the pensionable age, be assessed with at least a 66.7% loss of capacity for any work, be registered with the National Social Security Fund for at least five years, and have at least six months of contributions in the year before the disability began.

Survivor pension: The deceased received or was entitled to receive an old-age or disability pension at the time of death.

Eligible survivors include a widow(er) who was married to the deceased for at least one year, and all dependent children younger than age 16 (age 17 if an apprentice, age 20 if a student or disabled).

Survivor settlement: The deceased was not entitled to receive an old-age or disability pension at the time of death.

Eligible survivors include a widow(er) who was married to the deceased for at least one year, and all dependent children younger than age 16 (age 17 if an apprentice, age 20 if a student or disabled).

The widow(er)'s pension ceases on remarriage.

Old-Age Benefits

Old-age pension: 44% of the insured's average monthly earnings in the best 36 months of the last 10 years is paid for blue-collar workers; 50% for white-collar workers; and 60% for senior executives.

An additional 2% of the insured's average monthly earnings is paid for each 12-month period of contributions exceeding the minimum contribution period for a pension; 1% if the insured has at least six months but less than 12 months of extra contributions.

The maximum pension is 80% of the insured's average monthly earnings.

Partial pension: 2% of the insured's average monthly earnings in the best 36 months of the last 10 years is paid for each 12-month period of contributions.

Benefits are paid quarterly.

Benefit adjustment: Benefits are adjusted according to changes in the cost of living.

Old-age settlement: A lump sum of one month of the insured's average monthly earnings in the best three or five years of the last 10 years for each 12-month period of contributions is paid.

Permanent Disability Benefits

Disability pension: The disability pension is calculated in the same way as the old-age pension. The insured is credited with a six-month contribution period for each year from the date the disability began up to the normal pensionable age.

When the insured reaches the normal retirement age, the disability pension is replaced by an old-age pension.

The maximum disability pension is 80% of the insured's average monthly earnings.

Constant-attendance allowance: None

Benefits are paid quarterly.

Benefit adjustment: Benefits are adjusted according to changes in the cost of living.

Survivor Benefits

Spouse's pension: 15% of the old-age or disability pension the deceased received or was entitled to receive is paid to the widow(er). If there is more than one widow, the benefit is split equally.

Orphan's pension: 35% of the old-age or disability pension the deceased received or was entitled to receive is paid to an orphan. If there is more than one orphan, the benefit is split equally.

All survivor benefits combined must not exceed 50% of the old-age or disability pension the deceased received or was entitled to receive.

Benefits are paid quarterly.

Benefit adjustment: Benefits are adjusted according to changes in the cost of living

Survivor settlement: A lump sum is paid.

Administrative Organization

Ministry of Labor, Employment, and Social Security provides supervision.

National Social Security Fund, managed by a tripartite board and a Director General, administers the program.

Sickness and Maternity

Regulatory Framework

First law: 1956.

Current laws: 1975 (labor code) and 1986 (social security code).

Type of program: Social insurance system.

Coverage

All private-sector employees and civil service contractors.

Exclusions: Self-employed persons.

Voluntary coverage is not available.

Source of Funds

Insured person: None.

Self-employed person: Not applicable.

Employer: See source of funds under Family Allowances.

Government: None.

Qualifying Conditions

Cash sickness benefits: No statutory benefits are provided.

Cash maternity benefits: Must have been employed for at least six consecutive months with at least 20 days or 133 hours of work a month. The insured must reside and work in Congo.

Sickness and Maternity Benefits

Sickness benefit: No statutory benefits are provided. (The 1975 labor code requires employers to provide paid sick leave.)

Maternity benefit: 100% of daily covered earnings (50% paid by the employer and 50% by the National Social Security Fund) is paid for 15 consecutive weeks, including at least nine weeks after the date of childbirth; the payment may be extended for three weeks if there are complications arising from pregnancy or childbirth. Daily covered earnings are based on earnings in the month before the maternity leave begins.

Benefits are paid monthly.

Workers' Medical Benefits

The 1975 labor code requires employers to provide certain medical services.

Medical benefits for dependents are the same as those for the insured.

Dependents' Medical Benefits

Medical benefits for dependents are the same as those for the insured.

Administrative Organization

Ministry of Labor, Employment, and Social Security provides supervision.

National Social Security Fund, managed by a tripartite board and a Director General, administers the program.

Work Injury

Regulatory Framework

First law: 1959.

Current laws: 1986 (social security) and 2012 (pensions).

Type of program: Social insurance system.

Coverage

All private-sector employees and civil service contractors.

Exclusions: Self-employed persons.

Voluntary coverage is not available.

Source of Funds

Insured person: None.

Self-employed person: Not applicable.

Employer: 2.25% of covered payroll.

The minimum earnings used to calculate contributions are the legal monthly minimum wage.

The legal monthly minimum wage is 50,400 CFA francs.

The maximum monthly earnings used to calculate contributions are 600,000 CFA francs.

Government: None.

Qualifying Conditions

Work injury benefits: There is no minimum qualifying period. Accidents that occur while commuting to and from work are covered.

Temporary Disability Benefits

100% of the insured's daily covered earnings in the month before the disability began is paid for up to the first 29 days; 66.7% from 30 to 89 days; and 33.3% from 90 days onwards.

Permanent Disability Benefits

Disability pension: The benefit is the insured's average earnings in the 30 days before the disability began multiplied by 0.5 for each degree of assessed disability from 10% to 50% plus the insured's average earnings multiplied by 1.5% for each degree of assessed disability greater than 50%.

For an assessed disability less than 50% a lump sum is paid, for 50% to 75% the pension is paid quarterly; for greater than 75%, the pension is paid monthly (at the insured's request) or quarterly.

Workers' Medical Benefits

Medical facilities under contract with, and paid by, the National Social Security Fund provide medical benefits directly to the patients. Medical benefits include general and specialist care, surgery, hospitalization, occupational rehabilitation, medicine, prostheses, and travel expenses.

Survivor Benefits

Spouse's pension: 15% of the old-age or disability pension the deceased received or was entitled to receive is paid to the widow(er). If there is more than one widow, the benefit is split equally.

Orphan's pension: 35% of the old-age or disability pension the deceased received or was entitled to receive is split equally among eligible orphans. The pension must be at least equal to family allowances.

The sum of all benefits awarded to the survivors cannot exceed 50% of the old-age or disability pension the deceased received or was entitled to receive.

Benefits are paid quarterly.

Benefit adjustment: Benefits are adjusted according to changes in the cost of living.

Funeral grant: The cost of the funeral is paid, up to a maximum.

Administrative Organization

Ministry of Labor, Employment, and Social Security provides supervision.

National Social Security Fund, managed by a tripartite board and a Director General, administers the program

Family Allowances

Regulatory Framework

First law: 1956.

Current law: 1986 (social security).

Type of program: Employment-related system.

Coverage

All private-sector employees and civil service contractors.

Exclusions: Self-employed.

Voluntary coverage is not possible.

Source of Funds

Insured person: None.

Self-employed person: Not applicable.

Employer: 10.03% of covered payroll.

The employer's contributions also finance sickness and maternity benefits.

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The minimum earnings used to calculate contributions are the legal monthly minimum wage.

The legal monthly minimum wage is 50,400 CFA francs.

The maximum monthly earnings used to calculate contributions are 600,000 CFA francs.

Government: None.

Qualifying Conditions

Family allowances: The child must be younger than age 16 (age 17 if an apprentice, age 20 if a student or disabled).

The insured must have been employed for at least six consecutive months with at least 20 days or 133 hours of work a month or be the widow of an insured person, or be receiving an old-age or disability pension.

Prenatal allowance: The expectant mother must undergo periodic prenatal medical examinations.

Birth grant: Paid for the first three births from the first marriage.

Family Allowance Benefits

Family allowances: 2,000 CFA francs a month is paid for each child.

The benefit is paid quarterly.

Prenatal allowance: 2,000 CFA francs a month is paid for each month of pregnancy, up to nine months. The benefit is paid in two parts: 8,000 CFA francs after the second prenatal control and 10,000 CFA francs after the third prenatal control.

Birth grant: A lump sum of 1,800 CFA francs is paid for each of the first three births.

Mothers and children also receive some health and welfare services.

Administrative Organization

Ministry of Labor, Employment, and Social Security provides supervision.

National Social Security Fund, managed by a tripartite board and a Director General, administers the program.