



Food and Agriculture
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United Nations

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World Food
Programme

Democratic Republic of the Congo

Strengthening the resilience of
smallholder farmers and vulnerable
populations



Collaborating agencies:

- Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)
- United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF)
- World Food Programme (WFP)



Grant duration:
2020–2023



Funding:
EUR 50 million

Resource partner: the Federal
Ministry for Economic Cooperation
and Development through the
German Development Bank



Background

The Democratic Republic of the Congo has the potential to feed its entire population while also exporting food commodities. The country has about 80 million ha of arable land – the second largest cultivable area in the world after Brazil – as well as about 50 percent of the continent's water resources with an annual potential fishing capacity of 707 000 tonnes.

Despite its vast natural resources, the Democratic Republic of the Congo is still experiencing the second largest food crisis in the world after Yemen. According to results of the latest Integrated Food Security Phase Classification analysis, 15.6 million people are facing severe acute food insecurity. In addition, some 5.8 million people required nutrition assistance in 2019, including 800 000 pregnant and lactating women, and 5 million children suffering from acute malnutrition.

The protracted conflict in the country, particularly in the eastern and Kasai provinces, is triggering large-scale population displacements, disrupting agricultural activities and hampering access to markets, schools and healthcare services. In North and South Kivu, insecurity, population displacement and the effects of recurring climate shocks have devastated the socio-economic fabric, where young people remain vulnerable to recruitment by armed groups due to the lack of job opportunities and low levels of education.



Targeted beneficiaries:
30 000 smallholder farming families (180 000 people) and **101 788** people for nutrition interventions

(Includes household members of the 30 000 farming families based on needs)



Intervention areas: Walikale in North Kivu, and Mwenga and Walungu in South Kivu



Implementing partners: the Ministry of Agriculture, the Ministry of Livestock and Fisheries, the Ministry of Rural Development, Environment and Sustainable Development, the Ministry of Health, the Ministry of Social Affairs, the Ministry of Education, and national and international Non-governmental Organizations



Sustainable Development Goals: 2, 5, 6, 16, 17

Furthermore, on 1 August 2018, the Ministry of Health declared the tenth Ebola virus outbreak (EVD) in the Democratic Republic of the Congo the second largest in history. Thus far, more than 3 000 EVD cases have been reported in North Kivu (the epicenter of the outbreak), South Kivu and Ituri, as well as over 2 000 deaths.

Joint response

Integrated approach

The joint FAO/UNICEF/WFP integrated resilience programme will build on the comparative advantages of each of the three agencies to provide targeted beneficiaries with multisectoral assistance, as follows:

- FAO will support the livelihoods of vulnerable smallholder farmers – organized into farmers’ groups – through increased food production and processing, thereby improving diet diversity and access to credit, increasing income generation and enhancing social cohesion.
- UNICEF will address severe acute malnutrition, improve access to water, sanitation and hygiene, and promote education for peace, with a focus on women and children.
- WFP has vast experience in supporting commodity aggregation, post-harvest handling and storage, community asset creation and rehabilitation, marketing and nutrition, which will revitalize the local economy and contribute to economic growth.

The project is also based on the *caisses de résilience* approach which aims at strengthening the social, productive and financial capacities of beneficiary households through village savings and loan associations (VSLA) that provide rural communities with access to credit, allowing them to diversify their sources of income. Furthermore, it helps ease tensions between communities and strengthen social cohesion.





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Objective

To strengthen the resilience of smallholder farmers and vulnerable populations in food-insecure areas, and improve their livelihoods and access to basic social services.

Expected outcomes

- The agricultural production and productivity of vulnerable smallholder farmers are increased through sustainable, nutrition-sensitive approaches such as the provision of improved seeds, post-harvest management, technical capacity building, etc.
- The livelihoods of vulnerable households, particularly female-headed, are strengthened through improved access to markets and income diversification.
- The health conditions of families are improved through increased access to basic social services and improved health facilities; women and children are targeted to address stunting, diarrheal diseases, etc.
- Community associations and organizations (e.g. farmers' groups) are enhanced to promote gender equity, peace and social cohesion.

Planned activities

FAO	UNICEF	WFP
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide quality seeds and seeds of biofortified crops to improve agricultural production and productivity 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Community-based nutrition activities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conditional cash transfer (Food Assistance for Assets and cash for assets)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improve access to land through the Participatory and Negotiated Territorial Development approach 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prevent water borne diseases 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Women empowerment (literacy for financial inclusion; promote women leadership in community-based organizations, etc.)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support sustainable management of natural resources 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prevent stunting 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Market support through food procurement and construction /rehabilitation of markets
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strengthen the capacities of local communities through the farmer field school approach 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prevent and provide treatment for moderate and severe acute malnutrition 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Post-harvest handling management
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide food processing equipment 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improve access to basic services 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Early warning, and conflict prevention and management
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improve access to animal protein through support for small livestock production, fish farming and beekeeping 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strengthen existing community-based conflict resolution mechanisms
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strengthen income-generating activities through the creation of VSLA 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support access to conservation techniques through the construction of input shops, warehouses, drying areas, markets, etc.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strengthen sustainable and nutrition-sensitive agricultural production by diversifying crop production using nutrient-rich crops 		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support health centres in the establishment of kitchen gardens to grow vegetables 		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strengthen the participation of farmer organizations in the promotion of social cohesion using tools such as Dimitra Clubs 		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sensitization campaigns on project activities and results 		

Thanks to the support of:



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