The Democratic Republic of the Congo continues to have the world’s highest number of people facing acute food insecurity: 26 million through June. Around 80 percent live in rural areas and rely on agriculture to feed and provide for themselves. Between 2016 and 2020, only USD 9 out 100 in food security assistance went to support rural livelihoods. This ratio needs to change for food security to improve.

What humanitarian investment in agriculture can achieve

**USD 0.70 =** Vaccinating one sheep/goat protects a vital food asset that would cost USD 90 to replace if the animal died. = Keep a milking animal alive, productive and feeding children

**USD 100 =** A cropping package of seeds and tools supports a household to cultivate 1 ha of land and produce an estimated 0.7 tonnes of maize, worth USD 280 on the local market. = Provide a family of 6 with staple food for 8 months

**USD 105 =** Unconditional cash transfers of USD 35/month for 3 months during the agricultural lean season enable a household to buy farming inputs as well as food to consume while their crops are growing. = Enable a family to farm while covering food needs before harvest
Urgency of humanitarian agricultural assistance

For decades, the Democratic Republic of the Congo has been facing a complex humanitarian crisis, fuelled by armed conflict, natural disasters and disease outbreaks. Compounding the situation are the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic and structural weaknesses. As a result, the Democratic Republic of the Congo is the most food-insecure country in the world as well as one of the poorest. Women and children remain the most vulnerable.

Goats and poultry are some of the most accessible and important sources of protein for rural households, which they also use to generate income to cover other basic needs. In addition, fish production support along with nutrition education significantly improve households’ food security and nutrition, as fishing is a vital source of nutritious food, income and employment, contributing to the local and national economy.

Coordination

As co-leads of the Food Security Cluster (FSC) in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) and the World Food Programme work closely with 58 local and international partners, in collaboration with government counterparts, to ensure a needs-based, coordinated and effective response.

Key facts

Drivers of food insecurity

- Population displacement
- Armed conflict
- Poor rainfall and production
- COVID-19
- High food prices
- Diseases

Country population: 92.4 million

26 million people projected to be in high acute food insecurity (January–June 2022)

1.33 million people in acute malnutrition (September 2021–August 2022)

5.2 million internally displaced people, 1.4 million returnees, and +500,000 refugees and asylum seekers from neighbouring countries

USD 9 out of 100 in food security assistance went to support rural livelihoods (2016–2020)
## FAO priorities

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Priorities</th>
<th>Type of assistance provided/ contents of assistance package</th>
<th>Cost per beneficiary (USD)</th>
<th>Number of beneficiaries (people)</th>
<th>Total cost (USD)</th>
<th>Calendar of funding deadlines and implementation</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Support and restore the agricultural livelihoods of affected households</td>
<td>Vegetable seeds (50 g/household) and tools (two hoes, rake, shovel, watering can/household and one wheelbarrow/25 households); legume seeds (10 kg of bean/household); cereal seed (15 kg of maize/household); COVID-19 protection kit (mask, hand sanitizer); 50-kg polypropylene bags (10/household)</td>
<td>57.30</td>
<td>660 000</td>
<td>37 500 000</td>
<td>Jan $</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Strengthen communities’ capacities to set up and manage sustainable safety net structures and systems, and reduce tensions/ conflicts related to the use of natural resources for agropastoral activities</td>
<td>Dimitra clubs; income-generating activities and coisses de résilience; farmer field schools and training on (i) production, post-harvest storage, processing and marketing of agricultural products; (ii) seed production and multiplication techniques, the functioning and maintenance of processing units, and facilitation and monitoring techniques; (iii) livestock management, good agricultural practices and organizing input trade fairs; and (iv) disaster risk management; COVID-19 prevention measures; conflict management and prevention, securing land rights and setting up community radio stations; support to information and early warning systems; direct distribution of seeds, cuttings and agricultural inputs to farmers’ groups, livestock restocking (dewormed and vaccinated); cash for work to rehabilitate infrastructure.</td>
<td>58.33</td>
<td>540 000</td>
<td>31 500 000</td>
<td>Feb $</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ensure FSC coordination, while facilitating needs assessments, activity planning, including the definition of priorities, the identification of gaps and the preparation of call for funds</td>
<td>Cluster coordination, working closely with stakeholders; facilitate the organization of inter-agency technical group meetings and IPC workshop; contribute to drafting of sector strategies; coordinate agricultural and livelihoods response; training in agriculture and livelihoods; develop preparedness and response capacity within the Cluster.</td>
<td>–</td>
<td>–</td>
<td>1 000 000</td>
<td>Dec $</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>


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