The Democratic Republic of the Congo is one of Africa’s largest internal displacement crises, with 22 percent of the population acutely food insecure due to increased armed conflict and the impact of climate hazards. **Emergency agricultural interventions offer cost-effective solutions.** For example, with a USD-80 market gardening package, a family can quickly produce a variety of nutritious vegetables, worth USD 480 on the local market, improving their self-reliance.

**What investments in agriculture can achieve**

**USD 160** = With a staple crop package (40 kg of seeds, four tools and biopesticides), a household can cultivate 0.4 ha of land and produce about 0.43 tonnes of cereals and pulses, worth USD 500 on the local market. = Enable a family of 6 to produce staple food for 4.5 months

**USD 410** = With a fishing package, a household can catch around 35 kg of fish per week, worth USD 140 on the local market. = Provide a family with a sustainable source of income and the means to access nutritious food

**USD 0.80** = Vaccinating a goat protects a vital food asset worth USD 100 that provides a continuous source of milk, meat and income. = Keep a productive animal alive and sustaining families
Urgency of humanitarian agricultural assistance

Despite being rich in natural resources, the Democratic Republic of the Congo is still one of the five poorest countries in the world, with nearly 1 in 6 Congolese living in extreme poverty. And although the country’s economy relies heavily on the agriculture sector, employing a majority of women, it fails to ensure the population's food security. Over 20 years of armed conflict and climate extremes such as floods – about 20 episodes recorded between 2010 and 2022 – continue to exacerbate food insecurity and malnutrition. Other key factors include crop diseases and poor access to agricultural inputs, leading to reduced production. In addition, recurring measles, cholera epidemics and persistent population movements are causing increased levels of malnutrition, with 1 in 15 children in the country acutely malnourished.

In 2024, the humanitarian crisis in the Democratic Republic of the Congo will continue including high levels of acute food insecurity. With over 21.8 million people in IPC Phase 3 or above living in rural areas, providing vulnerable households with time-sensitive agricultural support is fundamental to the humanitarian response.

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 104 local and international partners, in collaboration with government counterparts, to ensure a needs-based, coordinated and effective response.
In 2023, FAO reached 135 000 farmers, pastoralists and fishers with emergency agricultural support. For example, households were provided with a total of nearly 1.7 tonnes of market gardening seeds, 2 025 tonnes of food crop seeds, 3 375 herd breeding nuclei, 6 750 fishing kits and 490 000 tools. As a result, nearly 54 000 tonnes of food was produced as well as 1 485 tonnes of fish. This has contributed to increasing availability of and access to food for vulnerable communities, thereby improving their food security.

### FAO priorities

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Priority</th>
<th>Type of assistance to be provided/content of assistance package</th>
<th>Cost per household (USD)</th>
<th>Number of beneficiary households</th>
<th>Total cost (USD)</th>
<th>Funds needed by</th>
<th>Planned implementation period</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Support sustainable agricultural production</strong></td>
<td>40 kg of crop seeds, tools, training and technical assistance</td>
<td>160</td>
<td>150 000</td>
<td>24 000 000</td>
<td>June</td>
<td>August–October</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>50 g of vegetable seeds, tools, cash, training and technical assistance</td>
<td>120</td>
<td>180 000</td>
<td>21 600 000</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Improve animal health and livestock production</strong></td>
<td>Animal feed, animal health protection equipment, vaccination campaigns, cash and technical assistance</td>
<td>260</td>
<td>55 000</td>
<td>14 300 000</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Enhance fish production and availability in food-insecure areas</strong></td>
<td>Equipment for aquaculture and fishing, training and technical assistance for fish production, conservation and marketing</td>
<td>1 500*</td>
<td>100 000</td>
<td>150 000 000</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Strengthen communities’ capacities to establish and manage sustainable safety net systems and to reduce tensions/conflicts related to the use of natural resources for agropastoral activities</strong></td>
<td>Conditional cash transfers; training on conflict management and prevention; securing land rights and support for community radio stations for information systems and early warning</td>
<td>200</td>
<td>35 000</td>
<td>7 000 000</td>
<td>Year-round</td>
<td>Year-round</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Scale up emergency livelihoods response in conflict-affected areas in the eastern part of the country</strong></td>
<td>Pre-positioned agricultural inputs to restore market gardening and livestock production</td>
<td>200</td>
<td>80 000</td>
<td>16 000 000</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Ensure FSC coordination, while facilitating needs assessments and activity planning in line with operationalizing the humanitarian-peace-development nexus</strong></td>
<td>Cluster coordination, working closely with stakeholders; contribute to drafting of sector strategies; coordinate agricultural and livelihoods response; enhance partners’ technical capacities; identify learning opportunities</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>1 000 000</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*USD 1 090 for aquaculture and USD 410 for fishing

**REQUIRED CITATION**


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CD0237EN/1/04.24

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