



Food and Agriculture
Organization of the
United Nations



World Food
Programme



for every child



Strengthening the socio-economic resilience of smallholder farmers and vulnerable populations in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC)

Background

The activities of armed groups and interminable intercommunal violence in North and South Kivu, eastern Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) have hindered the development of both provinces for more than 20 years.

In 2020, the humanitarian situation deteriorated further in North and South Kivu, with armed conflict contributing to large-scale population displacements, disrupted agriculture and reduced access to markets, schools and healthcare. This situation has not only created agricultural insecurity but also devastated the socio-economic fabric of North and South Kivu, resulting in more impoverishment and chronic vulnerability.

According to the findings of the 19th Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IFSPC), more than 27.3 million people are facing high levels of acute food insecurity in the DRC. In North and South Kivu, nearly one in two children under 5 suffer from chronic malnutrition.

These problems are made more acute by a lack of access to safe water and sanitation combined with poor hygiene practices.

Smallholder farmers face significant challenges in their struggle to make the change from subsistence agriculture to producing food surpluses.



TARGETED POPULATION



60,000 SMALLHOLDERS

An integrated approach to resilience

The United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), the Food and Agricultural Organization (FAO) and the World Food Programme (WFP) have joined forces in a pioneering programme to help marginalised people in the conflict-stricken eastern Congolese provinces of North and South Kivu.

The three UN agencies are working to strengthen the livelihoods of vulnerable communities and households – particularly female heads of households – by helping them gain improved market access while diversifying their incomes.

The overall focus of the initiative is to promote more resilient communities with greater gender equality and more social cohesion.

The project's approach to resilience is based on the triple nexus approach (humanitarian – development – peace), which is in line with the resilience priorities of the German Federal Ministry for Cooperation (BMZ). This focuses on promoting humanitarian action, recovery and development as the foundations for sustainable development.

WFP and FAO have since 2018 been working with funding from the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) through the German Development Bank (KfW) to strengthen the resilience of fragile communities in the two provinces.

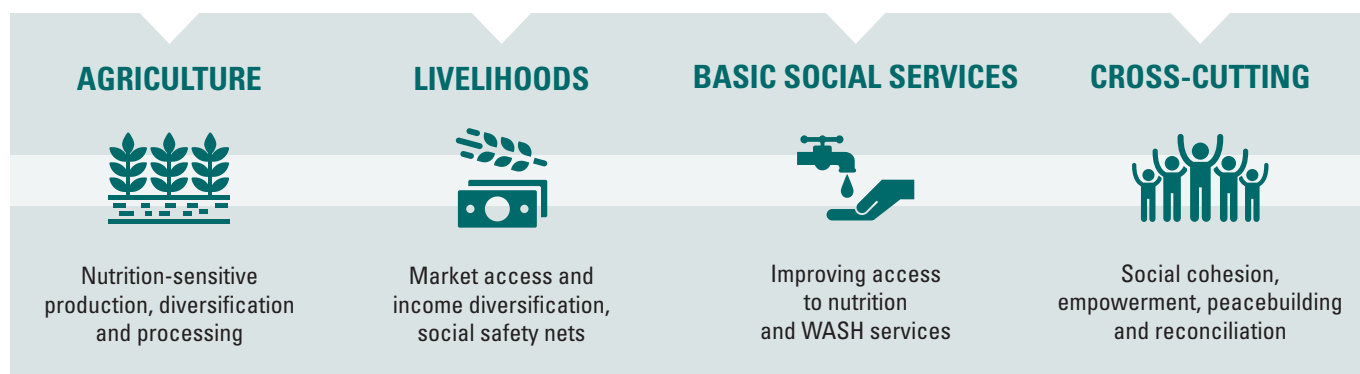
The funding has been used to revive agricultural production and commodity markets, tackle food insecurity, increase access to credit, improve community infrastructures, and promote peacebuilding.

The integration of UNICEF into the FAO-WFP partnership has been done with the aim of enlarging the scope of interventions to include fighting malnutrition, increasing access to basic social services with a focus on women and children.

Adding a Water Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) component to the tripartite programme will strengthen public healthcare. Better sanitation will also help to reduce the number of faecal-oral pathogens that are ingested and cause infections. Access to WASH services in schools has been shown elsewhere to have a direct impact on the reduction of absenteeism, especially for girls.



© UNICEF/UND416570/Mulata



Donor

German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) through the German Development Bank (KfW)

Total financing

120 million Euros

Project duration

2020-2023 (4 years)

Estimated number of beneficiaries

800,000

Target areas

North Kivu: Nyiragongo, Masisi, Rutshuru and Walikale

South Kivu: Kalehe, Walungu, Uvira and Mwenga



Robert Oliver, Global Coordinator: robert.oliver@wfp.org
Azzurra Chiarini, Head of Resilience, WFP DRC: azzurra.chiarini@wfp.org
Faiza Meguellati, Project Coordinator, UNICEF DRC: fmeguellati@unicef.org
Michel Ngongo, Resilience Coordinator, FAO DRC: michel.ngongo@fao.org