



World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES
CHANGING LIVES

Building resilient livelihoods in Tanganyika, Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC)

The DRC is one of the most fertile countries on earth, with the potential to feed all its inhabitants and even export food commodities.

Despite its vast natural resources, the DRC faces the largest hunger crisis in the world. According to the findings of the 19th Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC), 27.3 million people in DRC are currently severely food insecure. In Tanganyika alone, this proportion reaches 1.2 million people.

The country continues to experience prolonged conflict – particularly in the east – contributing to large-scale population displacements, disrupting agricultural activities and impeding access to markets, schools and healthcare.

In Tanganyika, clashes between armed groups and inter-ethnic conflicts, further aggravated by the impact of recurring agricultural and climate shocks such as erratic rainfall, floods and landslides, have led to massive displacement of populations and disruption of , livelihoods, and have devastated the economy and social fabric.

To respond to the vast needs in Tanganyika, the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) and WFP are implementing an integrated programme to build community resilience and strengthen agricultural value chains. This is being done in collaboration with the DRC Government (at national and local level) and cooperating partners, including national and international humanitarian organizations.

The pilot phase started in Kabalo in Tanganyika province and Bikoro and Ingende in Equateur province in 2009. The second phase of the project started in 2016 thanks to funding from the Kingdom of Sweden with the aim to both consolidate the initiative in Kabalo and extend it to new geographic areas (Nyunzu) in the same province.

In addition, new project components were included based on lessons learnt and needs identified such as social cohesion, gender equality and peace building, road rehabilitation with social transfer or access to credit.

PROJECT DETAILS

The WFP-FAO resilience project in Tanganyika titled *Strengthening value chains for smallholder farmers in the DRC*, is implemented from 2016 to 2021 with funding from the Kingdom of Sweden. The project is targeting 18 000 households (12 000 in Kabalo, 6 000 in Nyunzu), that is nearly 90 000 individuals with combined technical, economic, and social interventions to revitalize local economies and livelihoods.

This integrated approach, which is in line with the triple humanitarian-development-peace nexus, has helped ease tensions between communities and strengthen social cohesion in Nyunzu and Kabalo. In 2021, the project will continue its activities in Tanganyika including, in addition, provision of nutrition support thanks to the funding from Government of Norway.

MAIN ACHIEVEMENTS (2016-2020)

Support to community based organizations

- Establishment and capacity strengthening of **720 farmer organizations (FOs)** organized in **14 Unions of farmer organizations**, with **30%** of management committee members being women.
- Creation of **20 Early Warning Committees, 22 Peace Committees, 146 Dimitra Clubs** to enhance peaceful cohabitation between ethnic groups.
- Community **radios rehabilitated and equipped** to diffuse tension likely to lead to violent conflict, with support from territorial authorities.
- As a result of these activities, **trust between the communities is gradually restored**. Twa and Bantu are members of the same organizations and contribute to the implementation of resilience activities together.

Agricultural production and value chain development

- **141 Farmer Field Schools (FFS)** established encouraging the adoption of improved agricultural practices through a participatory learning approach. As a result **60% of smallholder farmers** adopted at least one good practice to protect the environment.
- Around **1 500 hectares** of community fields planted with maize, groundnut, cassava, cowpea and rice and **33 farmer organizations trained** on seed multiplication techniques.
- **10 500 households** supported in food production and **5 000 households** in nutrition sensitive vegetable production.
- In 2020, **386 085 Mt** of agricultural products consisting of maize, rice, groundnuts and cassava stored and marketed in the warehouses, of which **199 660 Mt** were sold.
- **1 702 Kg of honey** produced in 2020 by 32 beekeepers' associations.
- **20 hectares** of fruit trees planted to combat deforestation.

Post-harvest management and market access

- Construction of **4 community infrastructure complexes**, composed of warehouses, input shops, drying platforms,

and transformation unit shelters as well as **2 community markets**.

- **100 Km of feeder road rehabilitated** through the Food Assistance for Assets (FFA) approach and strategic bridges rebuilt.
- **100% of farmers** adopted improved post-harvest management techniques.
- **77% of FOs** have access to appropriate storage units.
- In 2020, **60% of FOs** engaged in collective sales.



Gender equity and women empowerment

- **90% of women** in the project area said that their standing in the community has improved and that they have better access to social assets.
- Provision of literacy training to over **8 000 women**, 92% of whom now can read, write and do basic arithmetic.
- **800 women** supported in income generating activities including breadmaking, soap making and small-scale catering.
- More than **800 awareness-raising campaigns** organized to combat discrimination and gender-based violence.

Financial capacities and inclusive financing

- **348 Village and Saving Loans Associations (VSLA)** have been created, contributing to reducing negative coping strategies and strengthening rural livelihoods by fostering income generating activities through access to credit.
- As a result, **88% FOs** have access to credit. More than **51 000 USD** saved, and **17 000 USD** credit granted to members.
- All the project beneficiaries have **increased their income sources** thanks to the project.

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