



## Fast Facts

**Country:** Democratic Republic of the Congo

**Duration:** April 2004 to April 2005

**Implementing UN Agencies:** FAO

**Other Implementing Partners:** Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Livestock

**Budget:** \$1,045,903.61

**Key Words:** Conflict-affected communities; food security; agricultural development

## BACKGROUND

By 2004, years of ongoing conflict in the DRC had created conditions of deep human insecurity. Food insecurity was a major issue with almost 73 percent of the population undernourished. Fighting had destroyed seed stocks, displaced farmers from their lands and made fertilizers and pesticides nearly impossible to acquire. At the same time, the public health infrastructure had effectively collapsed and the combination of lack of access to health care and

extensive internal displacement and malnourishment were creating a situation of serious health insecurity. Economic security was also threatened with rampant inflation and restricted opportunities for income creation. To address the state of food, health and economic insecurity among households close to the front lines of the conflict, agricultural inputs were urgently needed.

## PROGRAMME OVERVIEW

### GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

To re-establish the self-sufficiency and enhance the food security of vulnerable households in the target areas (provinces of Equateur, Katanga, Kasai and Kasai Oriental), the project sought to provide IDPs, returnees and host communities with the necessary

agricultural inputs. This included seeds and tools; training in the multiplication of seed stocks and cassava cuttings; as well as establishing a critical mass of poultry farms to compensate for dietary deficiencies.

### BENEFICIARIES

Over 20,000 vulnerable and conflict-affected households directly benefitted from the project and received support to increase their agricultural output. Specifically, families with malnourished children who had been admitted to nutritional centers were given small-scale gardening inputs and training in vegetable

cultivation while poultry-raising kits were delivered to households requiring emergency protein inputs. To ensure the sustainability of the project's activities, members of agricultural associations were trained in seed multiplication techniques.