



## Fast Facts

**Country:** Democratic Republic of the Congo

**Duration:** May 2002 to April 2003

**Implementing UN Agencies:** FAO

**Other Implementing Partners:** local NGOs

**Budget:** \$978,500

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

## BACKGROUND

Decades of prolonged unrest and weak governance in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) have resulted in instability, economic collapse and widespread destruction of the agricultural sector. Since fighting destroyed seed stocks, displaced farmers from their lands and made fertilizers and pesticides nearly impossible to acquire, food insecurity emerged a major issue with malnutrition rates ranging from 10 to 15 per cent. By 2001, at least 16 million people were threatened by urgent food insecurity, of which more than one million lived in

remote areas beyond the reach of relief operations. In addition, 2.3 million internally displaced persons (IDPs) placed intense pressure on the resources of the areas to which they had come to rest. In order to address the fragile food situation and strengthen the overall human security in the DRC, vulnerable people required seeds, tools and technical assistance that could restore agricultural production and strengthen the capacities of communities to counteract food insecurity in a sustainable manner.

## PROGRAMME OVERVIEW

### GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

The project's overall goal was to provide assistance to conflict-affected communities to mitigate food insecurity. More specifically, the project aimed to increase and diversify agricultural production through the distribution of essential inputs and through technical support to actors in the agricultural sector. In

practical terms, this included (i) the supply of tools and seeds for food crops and gardening; (ii) the distribution of agricultural equipment, ducklings, animal feed and veterinary supplies; and (iii) the provision of technical support to local NGOs involved in the agricultural sector.

### BENEFICIARIES

The project targeted 30,000 war-affected Congolese households, selected according to vulnerability, the availability of farming land, commitment and physical ability to cultivate crops. The distribution of seeds and tools to vulnerable households and IDPs in Kinshasa,

Lubumbashi and their hinterlands allowed beneficiaries to produce 4,968 tons of fresh vegetables. Meanwhile, the supply packages of garden seeds and tools distributed to the Kinshasa area generated 6,600 tons of food.