

**UPDATE OF THE HOUSEHOLD ECONOMY ANALYSIS OF THE  
RURAL  
POPULATION OF THE PLATEAUX ZONE,  
MASISI, NORTH KIVU, DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO**



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## **ACROYNMS**

**DRC** – Democratic Republic of Congo

**ECHO** – European Commission’s Humanitarian Aid Office

**FEZ** – Food Economy Zone

**HEA** – Household Economy Approach

**NGO** – Non-Governmental Organisation

**SC-UK** – Save the Children, United Kingdom

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## 1 SUMMARY

Masisi is a territory located in the east of the province of North Kivu, near the border with Rutshuru territory. The zone selected for this assessment is the Plateaux, which includes Save the Children - Goma's project axis (the villages of Nyakariba to Muheto). The Food Security Team conducted the HEA assessment in November 2002, with the aim of evaluating the economic changes in the zone as well as in the livelihood strategies of the population and the changes in the household economy of the 'poor' wealth category, in particular, since the last assessment was carried out in 1999.

The key findings of the HEA update are the following:

- Since 1999, the security situation has improved considerably and the return and reintegration process is well under way;
- Masisi has witnessed three waves of returnees from Rwanda since their departure from Masisi in 1994 and 1996. However, the majority of them has not returned to their villages of origin and tends to be concentrated in camps in eastern Masisi;
- The displaced population found in the Plateaux zone in 1999 has either returned to their place of origin or integrated into the host population. The restoration of their livelihoods is underway;
- Agriculture and petty trade remain the principal economic activities in the Plateaux. However, compared to 1999, there has been a noticeable intensification of certain activities such as brewing, the sale of wood, and the production of charcoal;
- During the past two years, Masisi has witnessed an upsurge of humanitarian interventions. Programmes are principally related to the restoration process and in particular, infrastructure rehabilitation (i.e. roads, health centres, schools, etc.) and the provision of basic materials to some of these structures (essential drugs, school materials, etc.). Several agencies have recently initiated livestock activities;
- Owing to the positive security situation, agricultural activities have regained momentum. However, crop disease and the ashes of the volcano Nyamulagira are two factors that frequently have had an important impact on production levels. More importantly, the lack of access to pre-war markets in Kinshasa and Western Congo has significantly reduced the prices of agricultural products since the supply is greater than the demand;
- Access to seeds is not problematic. Rather, the issues are decreased access to land and absence of pre-war markets, both of which have reduced the population's access to income. The Plateaux of Masisi is therefore cash-poor and not food-poor;
- Small livestock activities have significantly progressed since the last HEA study was conducted and at present, most wealth groups have acquired goats and other small livestock. However, epidemics have reduced the pig and chicken populations;

- With the arrival of the returnee population from Rwanda and the reclamation of pastures, the possibility of a further reduction in the size of plots cultivated by the population cannot be ignored;
- The wealth profile of the population has transformed. Today, only three wealth groups exist – the ‘poor’, the ‘middle’, and the ‘better-off’ categories. In addition, the ‘poor’ category has reduced in size, while the ‘middle’ category has grown;
- Sources of food have not changed since 1999. However, today, ‘poor’ households obtain a larger percentage of their food needs from their own harvests (most likely as a result of increased security overtime). There has also been a decrease in food needs, and subsequently an increase in income needs, originating from labour exchange, which goes to show that there is a stronger need for cash than for food for ‘poor’ households.
- Sources of income have only changed in terms of the relative importance of each source. ‘Poor’ households have increased their reliance on agricultural labour for cash income and depend less on the sale of their harvests (again, a sign of a shift in the importance of food as a priority over cash to that of cash as a more important need);
- Areas of expenditure remain similar to those of 1999. The only difference is in the number of children enrolled in school. ‘Poor’ households can no longer afford to send two children to school. Generally, only one child is enrolled in school and this child usually drops out before the end of the school year, due to the inability of the household to pay for school fees and related expenses;
- The most likely scenario for the coming six months is a continuation of security in the zone. This should allow for the preservation of or improvement in the current economic and food security situation. SC-UK’s immediate and potential programmes will develop in this context.

## **2 INTRODUCTION**

This is an update of the Save the Children Household Economy Assessment (HEA) carried out in the latter part of 1999 in the zone of the Plateaux in Masisi Territory. The fieldwork for the update was conducted in November 2002 in Save the Children's project axis (Nyakariba to Muheto – see map), with the aim of analysing changes in the economic conditions and livelihoods of the war-affected population since 1999.

The main objectives of the assessment update were the following:

- To determine any changes in the general political, social, and economic context, as well as in the economic characteristics of the population and in the household economy of the 'poor' wealth group;
- To determine the level of vulnerability of 'poor' households to becoming food insecure in the next six-month period according to the most plausible scenarios developed and the possible risks incurred;
- To analyse the potential impact of the interventions outlined in the SC-UK project proposal on the restoration of the living conditions and on the food security of the target population;
- To verify the adequacy of SC-UK project interventions in meeting the short to medium-term needs of the population.

### **2.1 Main Points from the Previous Study**

At the time of the HEA study in 1999, stability had only recently returned to the zone of the Plateaux and large numbers of the population were still displaced by the inter-ethnic conflict that began in 1993. The main findings of the study were the following (for the full report, please refer to the Household Food Economy Assessment: Eastern Democratic Republic of Congo, Food Economy Zones of South and North Kivu Provinces, January 2000):

- The following three main wealth groups were identified: 'poor', 'middle', and 'better-off';
- Wealth, which was primarily determined by livestock ownership before the war was, at the time of the study, determined principally by land ownership and livelihood activities (e.g. agriculture, brewing, petty trade, etc.);
- 'Poor' households in general cultivated one-fourth to one-half hectare of land and worked on the fields of 'middle' and 'better-off' households for food and/or cash;
- 'Middle' households cultivated one to two hectares (typically one hectare) and employed some labourers;
- 'Better-off' households cultivated three hectares and employed a large number of labourers;
- The report also identified the 'poor landless displaced', who were reliant solely on labouring for others;
- The following three main sources of food were identified: own crop production, market purchase, and (for the 'poor' and displaced) labour exchange. Wild foods were consumed in small quantities and gifts between wealth groups were rare;
- Sources of income remained extremely limited and were largely related to agricultural activities;

- Income sources for the 'poor' included crop sales, agricultural labour, and 'other' labour – the latter including the purchase and sale of beer and activities related to the commercial market, such as transport, weighing, loading vehicles, etc. 'Poor' households obtained their income primarily from working on the fields of others ('middle' and 'better-off' households), followed by their own production;
- Expenditure for the 'poor' included staple foods (cassava flour, root crops, beans, etc.), other foods (oil, small dried fish, vegetables, etc.), household items (salt, soap, blankets, clothes, etc.), health and education (two children in school and four episodes of illness per household per year), market taxes, and production inputs (such as tools);
- 60 percent of total expenditure of 'poor' households went towards purchasing food;
- The displaced population was only able to cover the costs of the basic staple food basket. Displaced households were unable to purchase necessary basic non-staple items, such as healthcare, education, blankets, etc. and had no flexibility in improving their diet;
- Access to land was relatively easy for those who wanted to increase their cultivated land area or to replace cultivation in their usual fields with the cultivation of fertile ex-pastures of the plateaux. This was an unusual and temporary situation resulting from the flight of the rich cattle-owning population.

## **2.2 Rationale for Update**

Since 1999, the political and economic situation in the Masisi Plateaux has significantly improved. However, the socio-economic situation of most of the population is still inadequate and humanitarian needs are therefore still present. Save the Children - Goma chose to study the socio-economic changes in the context and the evolution of livelihoods, especially those of the 'poor' population, since the last HEA study. Results were expected to lead to an analysis of the current needs of the population in order to adapt interventions.

## **2.3 HEA Methodology**

### **2.3.1 Brief Description of the Household Economy Approach**

The HEA describes the way in which typical households, with defined assets/wealth group characteristics, survive in 'normal' times – the many ways that households meet their food and income needs and the many strategies they employ to reduce the negative consequences of crises. The HEA method is used to assess the current situation with respect to food and livelihood security and to predict the effects of changes in the external environment.

The first step in carrying out a HEA assessment is to identify food economy areas and populations. The intent is to look for areas with similar economies – areas with populations within which most households obtain their food and cash by broadly similar combinations of means (e.g. a population that depends primarily on agriculture compared to one that depends primarily on livestock). Therefore, the division need not necessarily be by geographic area.

The second step is to give a description of the wealth profile of the population. The population within the food economy area to be studied must be broken down into wealth

categories using indicators defined by the community itself. Usually, the groups identified are the 'better-off', 'middle', 'poor' and 'very poor'. Indicators of wealth differ from one culture to the next and can be related to land or livestock holdings, the amount of labour available, etc.

The subsequent steps of the assessment involve describing the household's access to food and cash income, and the types of expenditures incurred as well as how this varies from one wealth group to the next. The links these households have with markets and their potential coping strategies in periods of crisis are also assessed.

Lastly, scenarios are created based on problem specification where the likely impact of shocks on each wealth group is calculated as well as the likely impact of different programme and policy interventions, based on information gathered through previous steps.

The purpose of this HEA assessment was to update the above information, gathered from the previous assessment in the area. Household group interviews focused uniquely on changes in the household economy of the 'poor' category.

### 2.3.2 Interview Sample

The interview sample consisted of nine focus groups of key informants and seven groups of three to five women or men representing 'poor' households. Key informants were persons in the community who were very familiar with the local socio-economic context and had frequent contact with the population. In many cases these were local authorities – district administrators, chiefs of posts, parish secretaries, nurses in health centres, school principals, women's associations, etc. Thematic group discussions were also held with specialised key informants – e.g. agronomist, veterinarian, merchant, etc.

### 2.3.3 Areas Visited

Owing to the project focus, the study was carried out in Save the Children's area of operation – the axis that includes the villages from Nyakariba to Muheto. This axis runs through most of the FEZ and the study therefore considers it as representative of the zone. Villages visited were Nyakariba, Nyamitaba, and Muheto.



### **3 DISCUSSION OF FINDINGS**

#### **3.1 Changes in the context since 1999**

##### *The Security Situation*

Since 1999, the security situation has visibly improved in the FEZ. Ethnic tensions have subsided and there seems to be a general cohabitation between different ethnic groups. A number of local and international NGOs as well as local authorities have carried out campaigns on 'Justice and Peace', which seem to have contributed to an alleviation of tensions.

##### *The Returnees*

The inter-ethnic conflicts of 1993 were concurrent with the departure of the wealthier cattle-owning population towards Rwanda. Since then, there have been three waves of returnees from Rwanda. The first group of returnees arrived in Mushaki in 1999. The second wave occurred in 2000 in Kilolirwe and the third in September 2002 in Kinchanga. Most of the returnees are concentrated in camps in the eastern part of Masisi – Kitshanga (Kahe), Kilolirwe, and Burungu. Some of these returnees originate from zones that are at present inaccessible, such as Walikale, Lubero, Beni, Kalehe and Mulenge (the latter two in South Kivu) as well as Jomba in Bwisha District.

The majority of the returnee population left their pastures or farms in Masisi to be managed by someone or sold them at prices below their real value. A significant part of the remaining population exploited these areas for cultivation. Many households left their fields in fallow in order to go and cultivate unoccupied land, while some continued to cultivate their fields but also extended them with plots from the pastures. A number of returnees have reclaimed their lands and the population has begun the process of abandoning pastures and returning to their fields.

##### *The Displaced Population*

The bulk (an estimated 80%) of the displaced population identified in 1999 has returned to their places of origin and the rest has integrated into the host population. Population movements into the Plateaux since 1999 have remained relatively minimal. The most recent movement occurred in October 2002 in Nyabiondo (located after Masisi centre), triggered by a confrontation between armed forces.

##### *Economic Activities*

Agriculture, followed by petty trade (principally carried out by the 'middle' and 'better-off' category), remains the principal economic activity in the zone. Since 1999, there has been a noticeable intensification of certain activities, such as brewing, the sale of wood, and the production of charcoal. Before the conflict, charcoal production was not a common source of income. As a consequence of the war, however, there has been an intense exploitation of the Virunga National Park and wooded areas for fuel and income. According to a number of

key informants, this has led to changes in the microclimate (i.e. sporadic seasons) in the last few years.

### *Infrastructure*

The year 2000 witnessed a wave of humanitarian interventions in Masisi Territory. The majority of the programmes are strongly linked to the return and reintegration process. These are mostly infrastructure rehabilitation and service provision projects (i.e. rehabilitation of roads, schools, and health centres, and equipping some of these structures). Asramès, a local agency providing essential drugs (funded by ECHO), works with all official health centres and hospitals in the region. The German NGO, Agro Action Allemande has rehabilitated several main roads. Graic, a local development NGO, has already implemented livestock projects. Oxfam carries out water and sanitation projects in the zone.

However, a number of main and secondary roads are still in a bad condition and only a few schools have been rehabilitated.

### *Markets*

The recent improvement in the security situation and the rehabilitation of a number of main roads in the zone, have allowed for better access to markets and market exchange. However, due to the extremely poor state of roads in certain villages, such as Kausa, Kahira, Kinyana, and Mpanamo, enormous efforts and time are required to access the main markets in Nyamitaba and Muheto. Parallel to this is a fall in market prices for agricultural products in these villages. Prices vary according to the accessibility of the bigger markets. In addition, prices usually descend even lower when middlemen from Goma come to these villages and often fix the prices in the markets themselves.

## **3.2 Changes in Agricultural Production and livestock since 1999**

Several major events in the past three years have had negative consequences on agricultural production in the Plateaux. The first is the eruption of the volcano Nyamulagira in January/February occurring almost each year. One of the principal reasons why the zone no longer produces sorghum is because of the effects of the volcano's ashes on this crop (the ashes also affect other staple crops - i.e. potatoes), the production level of which has seen an important reduction. Secondly, changes in the microclimate have also played a role in poor production. Seasons are no longer regular – they are prolonged, reduced, or have sporadic rains or dry periods. Lastly, crop diseases are also having a negative impact on production. Farmers are unable to eradicate certain diseases because of the lack of means – inputs and technical advice – for eradication. For example, the production of potatoes has suffered for reasons of susceptibility to certain plant diseases and the lack of spraying products.

Access to staple crop seeds (i.e. beans) is not problematic. Sufficient quantities are available at reasonable prices on the market. 'Poor' farming households usually have the choice of procuring seeds on the market, receiving them in a form of payment for labour, or (although less frequent) using a part of their harvest. At present, it is difficult to find large

quantities of seeds for such crops as potatoes, peas, and soya on the market. Noteworthy, before the conflict these crops were cultivated in significant quantities.

Small livestock activities have progressed significantly since 1999. This is visible in the number of goats acquired between 1992 and 2002 by the 'middle' and 'better-off' groups. In approximately five years, depending on the security situation, small livestock could reach its pre-war levels. The return of cattle (cows) to the pastures is occurring gradually. Recently, the numbers of pigs and especially chickens have diminished due to epidemics. Disease and the lack of veterinarian products and technical support have almost completely wiped out the chicken population. Certain humanitarian agencies have distributed pigs in the region and, due to these epidemics, have experienced a near total failure of their livestock projects.

### **3.3 Changes in Access to Land since 1999**

Access to land has been an important issue and is even more so today. As was already mentioned, during the period of conflict the wealthy cattle-owning population fled the country, selling their pastures at unrealistically low prices or leaving them to the management of someone else. Many households left their fields in fallow to go and cultivate in these pasture areas. However, an important number of households have also increased the size of their production by cultivating in their own plots as well as in pastures. With the return of the owners of these plots and the subsequent preparation of cultivated land for transformation into pastures, a number of households will see the size of their cultivated plots reduced. Several farms in the zone have already expelled people illegally occupying their land.

### **3.4 Changes in Wealth Groups since 1999**

Due to improvements in the security situation in the zone, some changes in the proportion of certain socio-economic groups within the total population have occurred. The size of the 'poor' category has decreased (from around 40-50 percent in 1999 to approximately 30-40 percent at present), while the 'middle' category has increased (from approximately 30-35 percent to around 45-50 percent today). The return of 'middle' households, due to stability, has allowed for this increase. In addition, part of the 'poor' category must have fused with the 'middle' class. The category of 'better-off' households has decreased slightly (from 20-25 percent to 15-20 percent). A possible explanation for a decrease instead of an increase in the 'better-off' wealth group could be tied to the migration of this type of household to more secure urban centres (an option that was affordable to them at the time of the conflict). Displaced households from identified in the 1999 study have either returned to their place of origin or integrated into the host population.

The criteria for defining wealth have remained relatively similar to those of 1999. Land cultivated has not changed much. Today, with the arrival of the repatriated population, many may be obliged to leave these fields. It is uncertain that the majority will have returned to the same size of land cultivated before the departure of the repatriates.

Livestock is still not a primary determinant of wealth, but is slowly regaining its previous importance. The quantity of small livestock has increased for all groups. 'Poor' households have more guinea pigs. The 'middle' and 'better-off' households now have several goats (one

to three goats compared to none in 1999). Possession of chickens has not increased, due to widespread epidemics. Today, households tend to raise ducks, which are more resistant to disease, instead of chickens.

### 3.5 Changes in Sources of Food for the 'Poor' since 1999

Sources of food have not changed for the 'poor'. This category still relies strongly on their own production, market purchase, and labour exchange for the household's food needs. The importance of labour exchange for food may have reduced slightly (**see table 1**), while that of income has increased significantly (see section 3.6). Owing to the improved security situation 'poor' households have been able to increase overtime the amount of food originating from harvests. Households from this category still produce most of the same crops as before – maize, beans, sweet potatoes, and taro. Potatoes are cultivated less due to the negative impact of disease.

**Table 1: Changes in food sources 'poor' households: 1999 and 2002 – Les Plateaux, Masisi, November 2002.**

<b>CHANGES IN FOOD SOURCES 'POOR' HOUSEHOLDS - 1999 AND 2002</b>		
<b>Source</b>	<b>1999</b>	<b>2002</b>
	<b>% of food needs coming from source</b>	<b>% of food needs coming from source</b>
Own Crop Production	55 – 65	65 – 75
Market Purchase	25 – 35	25 – 30
Labour Exchange	5 - 15	0-5

### 3.6 Changes in Sources of Income for the 'Poor' since 1999

With the exception of the sale of wild foods, the yearly sources of income remain the same. Agricultural labour (working on the fields of 'middle' and 'better-off' households), other labour (the majority tied to agricultural activities), and sale of harvest are still extremely important. However, at present the 'poor' category obtains more cash income from farm labour (which covers approximately 45% of annual household income needs) than from its own harvest sales (around 30 % of income needs) (**see table 2**). The situation was the inverse in 1999 (25-30 % from farm labour and 30-40 % from harvest sales). The 'poor' category no longer obtains significant income from the sale of wild foods, which contributed to 10 to 15 percent of income needs. Total annual income (approximately 40,000 FC) is approximately the same as that of 1999.

**Table 2: Changes in income sources 'poor' households: 1999 and 2002 – Les Plateaux, Masisi, November 2002.**

<b>CHANGES IN INCOME SOURCES 'POOR' HOUSEHOLDS - 1999 AND 2002</b>		
<b>Source</b>	<b>1999</b>	<b>2002</b>
	<b>% of income needs coming from source</b>	<b>% of income needs coming from source</b>
Own Crop Production	30-40	25-35
Labour Exchange	25-30	45-50
Other Work	25-30	20-25

Sale of Wild Foods	10-15	0
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### 3.7 Changes in Expenditure for the 'Poor' since 1999

The types of expenditure for 'poor' households have not changed (**see table 3**). Noticeable, however, is the inability of these households to send more than one child to school compared to two children in 1999. In 1999, school fees were payable in local beer while today they are paid in American Dollars. The cost of sending one child to school is 750 Congolese Francs (CF)<sup>1</sup> per trimester (3 USD/trimester) for primary school and 1,500 FC per trimester (6 USD/trimester) for secondary school. The change in means of payment could be an explanation for the decrease in school attendance of children from 'poor' households.

**Table 3: Changes in expenditure 'poor' households: 1999 and 2002 – Les Plateaux, Masisi, November 2002.**

<b>CHANGES IN EXPENDITURE 'POOR' HOUSEHOLDS – 1999 AND 2002</b>		
<b>Expenditure</b>	<b>1999</b>	<b>2002</b>
	<i>% of income going towards type of expenditure</i>	<i>% of income going towards type of expenditure</i>
Food	55-65	65-75
Social Services	5-15	5-15
Household Equipment	5-15	5-10
Production Inputs	0-10	5-10
Other	10-20	0-10

### 3.8 Current Coping Mechanisms of the 'Poor'

Seasonal stress in food security (specific times of the year when the household has difficulties accessing food) is often reflected in the frequency of coping strategies adopted. 'Poor' households have developed a range of coping strategies, which can be classified as either 'harmless and reversible' or 'harmful and irreversible'. Some of these strategies have also been employed by 'poor' households before the outbreak of the conflict, and some have developed as a consequence of the conflict. The following are mechanisms adopted by the 'poor' category in particular:

- Migration to towns for seasonal work, where daily wages are higher or more job opportunities are available;
- Reducing quality and quantity of meals;
- Sending only one child to school (usually a male child);
- Collecting and consuming wild foods;
- Minimising risk instead of maximising profit – i.e. choice of crop cultivated (e.g. maize instead of sorghum);
- Obtaining payment in food during hunger period – meaning less cash for other essential needs during this period;

<sup>1</sup> One U.S. Dollar equals 250 Congolese Francs (November 2002 rate).

- Utilising traditional remedies as treatment for serious illnesses;
- In a number of cases – in order to pay for the child's education or for health costs the household works in the fields of the teacher or nurse.

#### **4 CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS**

Overall, the economic situation in the Plateaux of Masisi territory has not improved considerably since the conflict subsided in 1999. Nevertheless, positive developments have occurred on a small scale as a result of two years of security in the zone.

Market activities have more or less resumed due to the increased security and, subsequently, to the rehabilitation of some of the main roads. The cessation of the conflict in the zone has also allowed the population to cultivate normally and to gradually carry out other activities, including livestock rearing.

However, despite these positive changes, several recent and past events continue to result in the following shortfalls in the livelihood strategies of households, especially those of 'poor' households:

- Access to land is still a major issue determining the vulnerability of certain wealth groups. The size of the plots cultivated by 'poor' households still does not permit them to surpass production at the subsistence level. The progressive return of the wealthy cattle-owning population may reduce access to land even further.
- The size of plots is an important detail to consider when planning food security interventions such as seed distribution. It is access to land and not the availability of and access to seeds that is open to discussion (sufficient quantities of good quality seeds can be obtained at a reasonable price on the market or through labour exchange). 'Poor' households normally have neither the space, nor the financial or labour inputs, to intensify or expand cultivation.
- Another issue to consider when designing interventions is that, although agricultural production has resumed, households are confronting great difficulties in selling their produce on the market at a reasonable price. Before the war, Masisi was part of the breadbasket of DRC (i.e. Kinshasa and Western DRC), exporting agricultural produce towards food deficit or other areas. Today, due to the separation of East DRC from the rest of Congo, the region no longer has access to the same markets. As a consequence, prices of staple food items are at their lowest. The region is therefore cash poor and not food deficient.
- Additional factors having a negative impact on production levels are crop diseases (especially for the Irish potato) and the regular exposure of crops to the volcanic ash of Mount Nyamulagira causing fanning or, as with the case of sorghum, complete crop failure. Sporadic seasons have also contributed to poor crop harvests.
- Livestock production has equally suffered because of epidemics. The pig and chicken population has seen its numbers significantly reduced because of disease and the lack of veterinarian support and animal drugs.

Transformations in the profile of the population (proportion of wealth groups to the total population) have taken a positive turn. The percentage of 'poor' households has decreased, while the 'middle' category has increased. Most of the displaced population has returned to

their place of origin and those remaining have begun to restore livelihood activities in their host location.

All wealth groups are still able to cover their food energy requirements (although diets are extremely high in tuber content and appear to be lacking in vegetables). Nevertheless, the household economic characteristics of 'poor' households in particular, show a potential vulnerability to becoming food insecure if faced with a shock or acute change. This category depends on a very volatile and marginal existence in satisfying their food and income needs. Flexibility in purchasing non-essential and certain essential items or services is practically non-existent.

The duplication and overlapping of agricultural and livestock projects by humanitarian actors as well as insufficient assessments before projects (to identify the priority needs as well as the most vulnerable groups), and the lack of follow-up and development of impact indicators, have been observed on the field. Greater effectiveness and efficiency could be achieved through better programme practice linked to stronger co-ordination efforts, identification of impact indicators, and the design of pre-, mid- and post-project evaluations.

Scenarios were developed in order to determine the needs of the population in the next six months. A continuation of security in the zone and normal agricultural production was seen as the single most plausible scenario. In this context, this scenario was analysed in relation to its effect on the livelihood systems of the population. Positive trends (although limited) would be expected, such as improved economic activities, improved exchange between villages and towns, increased income, improved food security, etc.

The following recommendations were put forth in light of the HEA assessment findings and results as well as the above scenario.

**RECOMMENDATION:**

<b>HEA</b>	
<b><i>Addressing Short-term Needs</i></b>	
<b>Programme Area</b>	<b>Intervention</b>
Agriculture	1. Distribution of tools (hoes and cutlasses) for improved efficiency in cultivation.
Livestock	1. Increasing availability of and access to small livestock (chickens or ducks, goats, etc.) to improve economic and food security - pending security, feasibility research, and analysis of risk (a 'do no harm' approach).
Infrastructure Development	1. Rehabilitation of main and secondary roads to improve access to markets – outflow and influx of goods and cash. The rehabilitation of roads will also improve access to health centres.
Income-generation	1. Cash for work. A more important priority for vulnerable households is



	<p>cash and not food. It would be more appropriate to remunerate in cash manpower for infrastructure rehabilitation programmes.</p> <p>2. Support of alternative livelihoods/income-generating activities in addition to agriculture.</p>
Research	<p>1. Study of the appropriateness of certain seeds for crop cultivation and for improving the household economy and nutritional status of its members (e.g. vegetable seeds). Document lessons learnt.</p> <p>2. Evaluation of initiatives by other agencies to carry out livestock programmes in the region. Document lessons learnt – failures and successes. This could also include an investigation of livestock epidemics and potential solutions for prevention, control, and eradication.</p> <p>3. Investigation of crop diseases, such as those affecting cassava, taro, and Irish potato, their economic impact on the household, and possible solutions.</p>
Advocacy	<p>1. In the context of a specific shock, advocate for the appropriate targeting of interventions to address the needs of the most vulnerable groups.</p>
Training/Awareness-raising	<p>1. Technical advice and plant/animal health components in conjunction with livestock and agricultural programmes. This should be adapted to the local context/reality.</p>
<b>Addressing Medium to Longer-term Needs</b>	
<b>Programme Area</b>	<b>Intervention</b>
Research	<p>1. Assess mechanisms for improving poor farmer's access to fair market prices for their produce (i.e. through co-operatives).</p> <p>2. Study areas for building local capacity to fabricate or produce items imported regionally and internationally (i.e. tools - entails improving access to raw materials -, processed foods, etc.).</p>
Advocacy	<p>1. Advocate for access to land for those with insufficient land surface to adequately meet food and income needs.</p>
<b>GENERAL OBSERVATIONS</b>	
<b>Addressing Short-term Needs</b>	
<b>Programme Area</b>	<b>Intervention</b>
Advocacy	<p>1. Improved co-ordination between humanitarian actors to avoid overlapping/duplication.</p> <p>2. Improved accountability regarding humanitarian interventions through the development of appropriate monitoring and impact indicators.</p>
<b>Addressing Longer-term Needs</b>	

Research	1. Study the effects of household poverty on the education of children, with a focus on the girl child.
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## **5 ANNEXES**

### **Annex 1: Project Summary**

#### **1. Title**

'The rehabilitation of basic services and the restoration of livelihoods of the war-affected populations in Bwito District (Rutshuru Territory) and in Nyakariba-Muheto (Masisi Territory), North Kivu Province.

#### **2. Global Objective**

To contribute to the restoration of livelihoods and the rehabilitation of basic services for war-affected populations in the project area.

#### **3. Specific Objectives**

- To provide the most vulnerable people in the target area with aid that will help them to restore their livelihoods;
- To physically rehabilitate the functioning schools in the two target areas;
- To rehabilitate roads in order to facilitate transport between urban centres and rural areas;
- To develop a Household Economy baseline analysis of the project area in order to increase understanding of food security issues, coping strategies, and the impact of various intervention options.

#### **4. Beneficiaries**

The direct beneficiaries of this project in East DRC will be approximately 105,000 people living in Bwito District, Rutshuru Territory, 120 Km north of Goma and approximately 36,400 living in Nyakariba-Muheto, Masisi Territory, 70 Km north of Goma.

#### **5. Expected Results**

- SC-UK food security inputs are adequate for 20,200 families and they are received by the most vulnerable groups;
- SC-UK emergency household kits are distributed to 5,560 displaced or newly returned families;
- 22 schools are rehabilitated and can provide a healthy environment for children;
- The stretch of road from Katsiru to Birambizo (Bwito/Rutshuru) and two bridges along the route are restored to a standard that will allow vehicles to complete the route at a steady and safe speed;
- The stretch of road from Muheto to Lushebere (Nyakariba/Masisi) and four bridges along the route are restored to a standard that will allow vehicles to complete the route at a steady and safe speed;
- Improved allocation of resources in relation to appropriate inputs and targeting, through better understanding of the household economy and its relationship to markets and employment opportunities within the project area.

#### **6. Duration**

14<sup>th</sup> of June, 2002 to the 13<sup>th</sup> of June, 2004.

## **Annex 2: List of Key Participants in the HEA Fieldwork**

1. Salomé Ntububa (Assistant Emergency Support Officer)
2. Jean de Dieu Muhindo (Project Leader)
3. Jean-Baptiste Kihindula (Assistant Project Leader)
4. Dieudonné Ntabala (Assistant Administration/Logistics)
5. Jean-Paul Mupanda (Engineer)
6. Luka Djedi (Field Assistant and translator)
7. François-Xavier Majune (Field Assistant)
8. Yuvé Guluma (Food Security Advisor)

### Annex 3: Market Survey

#### PRICES STAPLE FOOD ITEMS - MUHETO MARKET - MASISI TERRITORY

ITEM	LOCAL MEASURE	WEIGHT/UNIT	PRICES (Congolese Francs)*												
			10/01	11/01	12/01	01/02	02/02	03/02	04/02	05/02	06/02	07/02	08/02	09/02	10/02
<b>FOOD ITEM</b>															
<i>Maize</i>	Kimbu	1.5 Kg	20	30	40	15	10	15	25	25	15	15	10	20	20
<i>Sorghum</i>	Kimbu	1.5 Kg	40	50	50	50	50	20	20	25	25	30	35	40	40
<i>Irish Potatoes</i>	Bumba	10 Kg	150	150	150	100	100	150	150	150	100	100	100	150	150
<i>Sweet Potatoes</i>	Basin	15 Kg	40	50	50	70	70	70	50	50	60	50	70	50	50
<i>Taro</i>	Basin	17 Kg	100	100	150	150	150	100	120	150	145	150	130	150	150
<i>Cassava</i>	Basin	12 Kg	400	500	650	500	500	500	550	580	580	450	450	550	600
<i>Beans</i>	Kimbu	1.5 Kg	40	40	60	60	55	30	30	50	40	30	30	40	50
<i>Peas</i>	Kimbu	1.5 Kg	100	100	100	80	80	80	90	90	80	80	80	100	100
<i>Soya</i>	Cup	200 g	20	20	30	20	20	25	20	20	25	25	20	25	25
<i>Cabbage</i>	Piece	1 Kg	20	20	20	10	5	5	10	10	20	20	20	20	20
<i>Zucchini</i>	Piece	2 Kg	30	30	25	25	20	20	30	25	20	35	30	35	30
<i>Greens</i>	Pile	250 g	10	10	15	10	10	10	15	10	15	20	20	15	10
<b>Oil</b>	Bottle	720 g	120	120	100	100	120	120	120	120	130	130	140	140	140
<i>Salt</i>	Cup	250 g	15	15	15	20	20	20	25	25	20	20	20	20	20
<b>HOUSEHOLD ITEM</b>															
<i>Petrol</i>	Bottle	NA	100	100	120	100	100	100	120	120	100	100	130	140	140
<i>Soap</i>	Bar	NA	15	15	20	20	20	20	20	20	20	25	25	20	20

\* Prices are estimations.