

**HOUSEHOLD ECONOMY ANALYSIS OF THE  
RURAL POPULATION OF SOUTH-WESTERN  
BWITO, RUTSHURU, NORTH KIVU, DEMOCRATIC  
REPUBLIC OF CONGO**



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## **ACRONYMS**

**AFDL** – Alliance des Forces Démocratiques pour la Libération du Congo

**DRC** – Democratic Republic of Congo

**FEZ** – Food Economy Zone

**HEA** – Household Economy Approach

**JTN** – Jardin Théicole de Ngeri

**MIB** – Migration of the Banyarwanda

**PRA** – Participatory Rural Appraisal

**RCD** – Rassemblement Congolais pour la Démocratie

**RRA** – Rapid Rural Appraisal

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

**SOMIKIVU** – Société Minière du Kivu

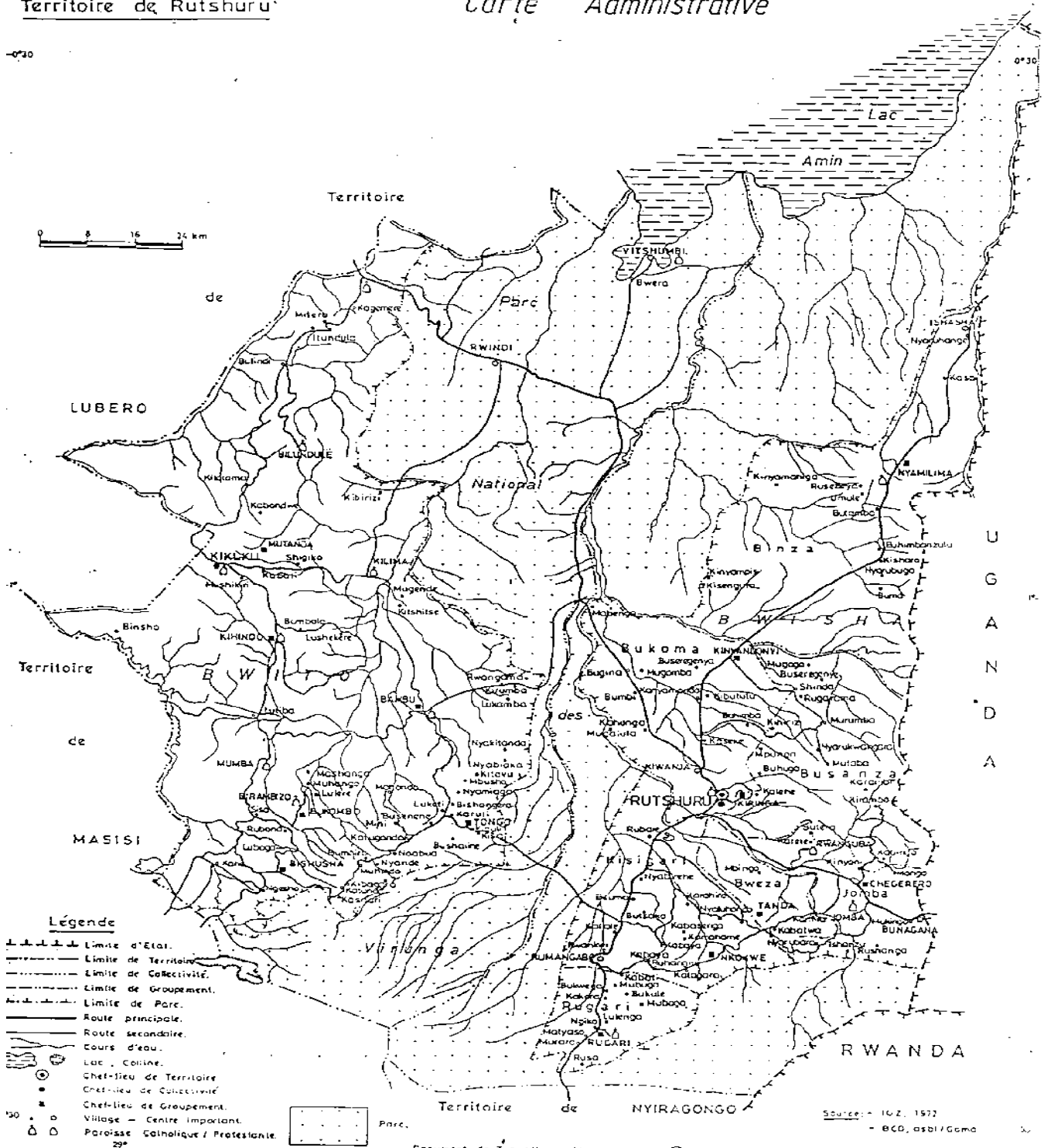
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# Map of Rutshuru and Bwito

Republique Democratique du Congo  
Province du Nord-Kivu  
Territoire de Rutshuru

Carte Administrative



## 1 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This report looks at the economic characteristics of different wealth groups in the war-affected population of Bwito district, Rutshuru territory, North Kivu province, in the East Democratic Republic of Congo. The study was carried out in October/November 2002 by the Save the Children Food Security Team, in the organisation's project axis. The main objective of the assessment was to describe the household economy of the population's different socio-economic groups, in order to identify the appropriate interventions to address their most important needs.

The key findings of the report are the following:

- Security returned to Bwito in 2001 and the return and reintegration process of the displaced population began the following year. The year 2002 was the first time since the onset of the conflicts in 1992/3 and 1996 that the population has been able to restore some of its economic activities – mainly agricultural and petty trade.
- The population of south-western Bwito is composed almost entirely of agricultural households, of which the majority own or rent around half a hectare to five hectares of land for subsistence and income-generating farming. Before the conflict, most households were involved in livestock rearing and during this period, the number of livestock owned by a household was considered a primary determinant of wealth. Today, due to the total decimation of herds during the conflict, livestock numbers have taken a secondary position in defining wealth. Noticeably, however, the importance of small and big livestock in the region is making a timid return.
- Based on local concepts of wealth (amount of land, livestock, and local beer produced), the HEA assessment identified three socio-economic categories or wealth groups – 'poor', 'middle', and 'better-off.' These wealth groups account respectively for, 45-55 percent, 30-40 percent, and 10-20 percent of the population. This report focuses primarily on the household economy and the level of vulnerability to food insecurity of the 'poor' category.
- 'Poor' households rely on two major sources of food. The first and most important source is market purchase, followed by labour exchange (working on the fields of 'middle' or 'better-off' households). The crop production of 'poor' households contributes least to their food needs. In contrast, 'middle' households depend on their own crop production for up to three-fourths of their food consumption requirements.
- Income sources for 'poor' households are more diverse than the other wealth categories, although less stable. The most important source of income originates from labouring in the fields of wealthier households. This activity accounts for more than half of yearly cash income for 'poor' households. The annual estimated income of 'poor' households (around 35,000 Francs Congolese (FC) (140 USD) compared to that of 90,000 FC (360 USD) for the 'middle' category), which typically compromise seven members, covers approximately 75 percent of a

minimum consumption basket (essential food and non-food items) valued at 4,080 FC/month (16.30 USD/month) each month.

- Expenditure for 'poor' households is limited to the most basic of needs. Up to 85 percent of yearly income goes towards purchasing food. This signifies that very little remains for other important needs, such as education and health. 'Poor' households can rarely afford to send more than one child to school and often incur debts from treatment at health centres.
- The degree of access to food and income depends significantly on seasonal variants. During certain months of the year (i.e. October, November, September) food availability, job opportunities, and certain expenses are more or less prevalent. For example, before the harvest months, 'poor' households deplete food stocks. In the same period, on-farm labour opportunities are greatly reduced. It is during these crisis months that 'poor' households seek other sources of income or, if doing agriculture work, ask for payment in kind.
- Before the war, and as its consequence, the 'poor' category has developed a range of 'coping strategies' to meet household needs. These strategies include minimising risk instead of maximising profit in crop production, reducing the quality and quantity of meals, migrating to other areas for job opportunities, obtaining payment in food during the crisis months and therefore reducing income for other essential needs, etc.
- The main constraints (past and current) to food security in Bwito are the following: poor access to land; low prices of staple food items (due to loss of access to markets in central and western DRC); isolation of certain zones, which creates an obstacle for farmers to accessing markets to sell produce; isolation of certain zones and, as a consequence, raised prices of goods unavailable locally (imported); loss of livestock during conflict; insecurity and population displacements; loss of crops to disease; and, over-dependency on the agricultural sector.
- The most likely scenario for the next six months is a continuation of the current security in the zone and of normal agricultural production in Bwito. This should allow for a preservation of or an improvement in the current economic and food security situation of the population. SC-UK's immediate and potential programmes will develop in this context.
- The appropriateness of seed distributions in covering the most urgent or important needs of the population is questionable. Quality seeds are available in more than adequate quantities on the local market. Rather, the issue here is the lack of sufficient land area per household as well as the lack of financial and labour inputs and of time to intensify production.

## **RECOMMENDATIONS:**

Evidence from the field has shown the adequacy of the recommendations outlined below with the real needs and priorities of the population in south-western Bwito.

<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 cash and not food. It would be more appropriate to remunerate in cash manpower for infrastructure rehabilitation programmes.  2. Support of alternative livelihoods/income-generating activities in addition to agriculture.
Research	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.  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.  3. Investigation of crop diseases, such as those affecting cassava, taro, and Irish potato, their economic impact on the household, and possible solutions.
Advocacy	1. In the context of a specific shock, advocate for the appropriate targeting of interventions to address the needs of the most vulnerable groups.
Training/Awareness-raising	1. Technical advice and plant/animal health components in conjunction with livestock and agricultural programmes. This should be adapted to the local context/reality.
<b><i>Addressing Medium to Longer-term Needs</i></b>	
<b>Programme Area</b>	<b>Intervention</b>
Research	1. Assess mechanisms for improving poor farmer's access to fair market

	<p>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><i>Addressing Short-term Needs</i></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><i>Addressing Longer-term Needs</i></b>	
Research	<p>1. Study the effects of household poverty on the education of children, with a focus on the girl child.</p>



## 2 INTRODUCTION

This is a report of the household economy analysis of Bwito district, Rutshuru, North Kivu, in the East Democratic Republic of Congo (East DRC). The fieldwork was conducted by Save the Children – Goma between October 28<sup>th</sup> to November 7<sup>th</sup>, 2002 with the aim of analysing the current food security situation and the general economy of the rural war-affected population in the southern part of Bwito. This zone also includes Save the Children's project axis (**see map page 14**).

The main objectives of the assessment were the following:

- To determine the needs of the population and subsequent interventions that will contribute to the restoration of the living conditions and food security of households in Bwito;
- To identify the socio-economic groups vulnerable to food insecurity in the next six-month period according to the most plausible scenarios developed and the possible risks incurred;
- To determine which interventions could be implemented in order to prevent or reduce the negative impact of a likely shock (e.g. conflict, economic crisis, crop production failure, etc.) on these households;
- To analyse the potential impact of the interventions outlined in the SC-UK project proposal on the restoration of livelihoods and on the food security of the target population;
- To verify the adequacy of SC-UK project interventions with the short to medium-term needs of the population.

The background and methodology as well as Save the Children's project rationale are outlined in this chapter. Knowledge of the socio-economic, political, and geographical context in Rutshuru, and more generally in East DRC, is essential for an interpretation of population, household, and market dynamics as well as the impact of programme interventions to address needs in the area. The methodology used to obtain more detailed information about the population and household and their access to food and income is the Save the Children Household Economy Approach.

Chapter 3 discusses the findings on the household economy of the population of Bwito, over the period of October 2001 to October 2002. This period was selected for the analysis given that it covers the most recent twelve-month period (allowing for an analysis of the current situation and how it could evolve in the near future) and includes all seasonal activities. In this chapter, different income and food sources as well as essential expenditure and their relative importance for each wealth group in the population are explained.

Chapter 4 concludes the discussion of assessment findings, extracts recommendations from the analysis, examines the appropriateness of programme interventions, and discusses possible scenarios for the next six months.

## 2.1 Background on Bwito

### 2.1.1 Geography

Bwito district has a surface area of 1,470 Km<sup>2</sup> (excluding Virunga National Park) and is located in Rutshuru territory in the province of North Kivu (see map page iv). The district is an integral part of the 'mountainous Kivu' region and is cut across by the Nile Zaire mountain range, which has an average altitude of 1900 m. In the west, Bwito extends towards Mweso River and the Congo Basin and in the east, towards the Nile Basin. On the south-eastern border, between the Rwindi and Rutshuru Basins, altitude reaches a peak of 3,000 m. The south of Bwito is very mountainous and average altitude wavers somewhere between 1,800 and 2,100 m, reaching up to 2,500m at Rushengo Mountain.

The Bwito landscape is mostly savannah dotted with trees and occasional strips of small forest. Soil characteristics are generally associated with dark rich topsoil, able to support many types of cultures.

The mountainous climate is temperate and wet with a temperature that falls below 18°C in the cold season but remains above 3°C. Average rainfall in the south of Bwito is around 1,800mm and the average temperature is approximately 16°C. The region has two wet seasons. The dry season is not very distinct and occurs in the form of a slack period between wet seasons. Due to the high level of precipitation, the south of Bwito has numerous water sources.

The north of Bwito is distinctly different from the south. The average altitude is lower than that of the south. Slopes are softer and less abrupt. Hills are elongated, with horizontal ridges. Northward from the Mweso-Katisiru-Bambu axis, the dry season becomes more noticeable. Even further north rainfall diminishes and soil characteristics are associated with a less fertile and lighter sandy/argilus topsoil.

Altitude and relief vary significantly in the region, typifying Bwito as a mosaic of micro-climates.

### 2.1.2 Population Characteristics

Today, Bwito is the homeland of three main ethnic groups – Hunde, Hutu and Nande. Before 1992, the Tutsi constituted the fourth most important ethnic group in the district. At present, the centre and south of Bwito are predominantly Hutu. A number of villages, which were multi-ethnic before the conflict, are now mono-ethnic.

Due to recent conflict, Bwito has a high proportion of single-female headed households of which widows head the majority.

For the most part, households are nuclear and monogamous. The presence of an extended family as part of a household is atypical and the average size of a family is seven members (parents and five children) (findings from the HEA assessment).

### 2.1.3 History of Events

The table below outlines some important events in Bwito since the beginning of the century, which have significantly helped to shape the region's current context. Inter-ethnic tensions have long been a feature of socio-political dynamics in Rutshuru and other territories in Eastern DRC.

**TABLE 1: History of Events, Bwito, Rutshuru, East DRC – October 2002**

PERIOD	EVENTS
<b>End 19<sup>th</sup> century</b>	Towards the end of the 19 <sup>th</sup> century, Bwito was occupied by the Bahunde (or Hunde) who migrated from Uganda. A series of internal slave raids, emanating from the western territory of Walikale, significantly reduced the Bahunde population.
<b>1940</b>	By 1940, Bwito was almost emptied of its former inhabitants (the Bahunde). The northern pastures were occupied on a small scale by Tutsis immigrants from Jomba, in eastern Rutshuru, on the border with Rwanda.
<b>1946</b>	The south of Bwito experienced a massive migration of Tutsis from Rugari, in southern Rutshuru, followed by immigration from the north of Rwanda.
<b>1949</b>	The Mission for the Migration of the Banyarwanda (MIB) was established. Bwito, among other zones, was declared a 'zone of migration'.
<b>1950</b>	Under the auspices of the MIB, tens of thousands of Rwandans settled in Bwito between 1950 and 1960.
<b>1960</b>	Beginning in 1960, the Banande immigrated to Bwito from the north of North Kivu – Lubero and Beni. However, until recently, customary power was in the hands of the first arrivals – the Bahunde.
<b>1992/93</b>	Beginning of a four-year+ inter-ethnic conflict. Frequent displacements of the population towards other territories, such as Lubero, Masisi and the town of Goma as well as other urban centres. The large scale pillaging of goods and livestock as well as the destruction of houses and public infrastructure were characteristic of this period. Cultivation and harvesting of crops were impossible.
<b>1994-96</b>	Arrival of Hutu refugees from Rwanda and departure of the Congolese Tutsi population towards Rwanda. Systematic pillaging of large livestock.
<b>1996-98</b>	RCD and AFDL wars of liberation. General population movements due to insecurity caused by warring factions. Large-scale destruction of infrastructure and pillaging of small livestock.
<b>1999-2000</b>	Beginning of the peace process along with the reinforcement of Rwandan troops and the RCD and the retreat of militia toward the national park and the forests of Walikale.
<b>2001-2002</b>	Return of displaced population and Tutsi returnees. Reintegration of the displaced population and temporary relocation of returnees to camps in Kahe (Kishanga). Re-establishment of agricultural activities and progressively small livestock.

### 2.1.4 Economic Situation

The population of Bwito is majority agro-pastoralist and depends on these activities for both food and cash income. Other important economic activities are petty trade, brewing (local banana beer) and logging. The conflict dominating the latter half of the 90s and the subsequent pillages and population movements brought about a significant reduction in agricultural production, the closing down of big farms, and the loss of markets for selling and purchasing goods. Economic activities were minimal, and the

main livelihoods activities, especially that of agriculture and livestock rearing, came to a near standstill.

Before the 1996 war, many areas in East DRC were the breadbaskets of the entire country. The Bwito economy was very much dependent on exportation of goods towards and market exchange with the rest of DRC. The isolation of East DRC from the rest of Congo has greatly stifled economic activities since the region no longer has access to the same markets, and the area has, subsequently, become cash poor.

The recent phase of stability has allowed the population to resume a part of their former activities. The rehabilitation of main roads by the German NGO Agro-Action-Allemande (AAA) and other agencies has helped revive market activities in the main towns.

Cash crops, especially tea and coffee are produced on an industrial scale by large enterprises, such as Ngeri JTN in Bukombo, although production has not returned to pre-war levels and a fall in international market prices has made this activity less lucrative. Staple crops (cassava, sweet potatoes, Irish potatoes, taro, maize, sorghum, millet, beans, peas, soya, groundnuts, sugar cane, and bananas – the latter for direct consumption and for brewing beer) are grown on a wide scale, although prices are at their lowest due to a lack of international and regional markets (i.e. Kinshasa and Western Congo).

Livestock rearing consists mainly of goats, sheep, poultry, and pigs. Today, only a minority of the population raises cattle (cows), which, in the past, were a common sight on pastures (albeit only associated with wealthier households).

The mining sector has also been revitalised on a moderate scale. For example, at present, the mining company SOMIKIVU exploits deposits of perochlore in the north of Bwito.

## **2.2 Project Description and Rationale**

Save the Children (UK) is in its fourth phase of a European Union funded project to rehabilitate services and restore livelihoods of the war-affected populations in Bwito district (**See Figure 1 for map of project zone**). The more specific objectives of the project are the following:

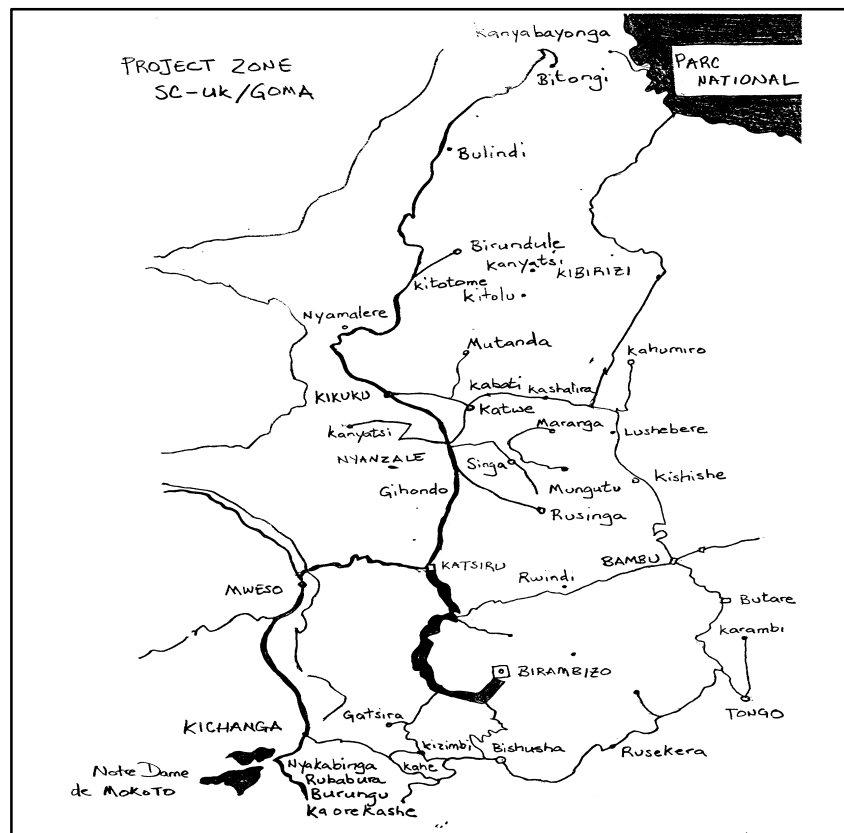
- To provide the most vulnerable households (identified through the HEA assessment) in the target area with assistance that will help them to restore their livelihoods;
- To physically rehabilitate the functioning schools in the target area;
- To rehabilitate roads in order to facilitate transport between urban centres and rural areas, and;
- To develop a Household Food Economy baseline analysis of the project area in order to increase understanding of food security issues, coping mechanisms, and the impact of various intervention options.

Within the context of East DRC, an area still entangled in a complex emergency, the needs within all sectors are important. However, these same needs are not easily quantified since reliable figures for the region are hard to come by. Since the beginning of the conflict in 1993, no field studies, which provide a statistical analysis of the humanitarian situation, have been carried out. This lack of statistical data is a consequence of difficulties associated with access and often funding.

The war has reduced the poorest sections of the population, both displaced and host/local communities, to an extremely marginal existence. Consequently, in the past five years the fighting has displaced 80 percent of families in rural areas of the two Kivu provinces.

In Bwito, while agricultural households (a huge bulk of the population) have recently been able to revive their farming activities, they no longer have access to traditional national market centres (or even territorial markets due to the insecurity) to sell their products. Furthermore, even within districts the extremely poor state of roads has made access to markets and basic services very difficult. Poor roads have significantly reduced trade throughout the region.

The little infrastructure that existed before the conflict has crumbled and health and education systems are in a state of collapse. The dilapidated state of schools, caused by a lack of funds for maintenance and rehabilitation costs and for the provision of pedagogic materials, has created an environment that is non-conducive to teaching and learning. **(See Annex 1 - Project Summary)**

**FIGURE 1: Project axis Save the Children (UK) - Goma. South-western Bwito, Rutshuru.**

Adapted from a map designed by Jean-Bapiste Kihindula

## 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 – 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 requires giving 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 could 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, cash income, and the types of expenditures incurred as well as how this varies from one wealth group to the next and according to seasons. 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.

*(Further information on the HEA methodology is available in Save the Children, UK's Manual: 'The Household Economy Approach: a resource manual for practitioners').*

### 2.3.2 The Food Economy Zone

Bwito is divided into two Food Economy Zones (FEZs) – that of the Northeast and that of the Southwest (or simply the North and the South), with a transitory strip in between these two zones.<sup>1</sup>

As mentioned earlier in the report, with regard to climatic and geographical features, the North has a landscape associated with plains as well as a more humid and hot climate, whereas the South is scattered with hills and plateaux and has a temperate or colder environment.

Crop production also differs between the two FEZs. Bean, coffee, banana and cassava production is stronger in the North, whereas taro production is more prevalent in the South.

A more developed road network in the North (including its proximity to the national route) facilitates access of secluded areas to markets and thus allows for a more advanced cash crop system than in the South.

The South hosts more livestock raising activities than the North does due to its extensive pastures and a higher concentration of traditional pastoralist communities.

The rationale for choosing the South over the North for the study is because the South has several disadvantages, in regards to infrastructure and market access when compared to the North. In this context, generally, the South is more vulnerable than the North.

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<sup>1</sup> The transitory strip implies an area between two FEZs where the characteristics that define each zone become blurred.

### *Differences within the south-western food economy zone*

Although the south-west of Bwito is perceived as one zone, slight variations within the zone itself are worth mentioning. Climate changes are apparent as altitude increases towards the south (lower temperatures). Crop production also differs further to the south, and from Katsiru onwards to Birambizo cassava production is noticeably less common. This distinction is probably due to the swamp-like environment of Katsiru (leading to tuber water retention) and the cooler temperature, which are not very conducive to cassava cultivation. Noteworthy, sorghum production is also more prevalent in the southern part of the zone, which has a micro-climate more favourable to sorghum. Another reason for this prevalence is the eating habits of the predominant ethnic group in the area. Daily wages also differ between the southern part of the project axis<sup>2</sup> and the north. In Katsiru and Birambizo, the work rate is 60 Congolese Francs (CF)<sup>3</sup> per day, whereas in the rest of the zone payment is 100 CF per day (likewise, the price of a bottle of banana beer – an important social symbol and sometimes a form of payment - is 5 FC instead of 10 FC). Rehabilitated infrastructure (i.e. roads) equally varies between the northern and southern parts of the project axis. At present, the road that links Katsiru with Birambizo is practically impassable, whereas the road from Katwe to Nyanzale is in descent shape.<sup>4</sup>

#### 2.3.3 Description of Interviews

The interviews consisted of fourteen focus groups of key informants and 34 socio-economic groups comprised of either women or men representing 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, ‘chefs de poste’, secretaries of parishes, 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.

Separate interviews were carried out with groups of three to five representatives of the three wealth groups identified (see next chapter for detailed description of each category). Unfortunately, due to the lack of time, it was not possible to include in our wealth groups a sufficient number of ‘better-off’ households. Therefore, information for this group is not detailed in most of the analysis<sup>5</sup>.

#### 2.3.4 Villages 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 Katwe to Birambizo. This axis runs through most of the FEZ and the study therefore considers it as representative of the

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<sup>2</sup> The SC project axis consists of a strip that runs through the food economy zone – from the village of Katwe to Birambizo.

<sup>3</sup> One USD equals 250 Congolese Francs (October 2002).

<sup>4</sup> The road between Katsiru and Birambizo will be rehabilitated through the SC project.

<sup>5</sup> Due to the absence of a representative sample of ‘better-off’ households, we could only exploit information obtained from key informants on general characteristic of this group, such as those outlined in the wealth breakdown (see further in text).



zone. Villages visited were Katwe, Kikuku, Nyanzale, Kihondo, Singa, Katsiru, Kabugu, Bukombo, Birambizo, Mutanda, and Kalambi. Interviews were also held in the more secluded areas surrounding these villages.

### 2.3.5 Data Collection and Analysis

Information is collected using rapid rural appraisal (RRA) and participatory rural appraisal (PRA) techniques employed during semi-structured interviews with individuals and groups.

Two principal methods were used during and following interviews to ensure that the information collected was reliable - comparison/cross-checking and triangulation. Comparison and crosschecking involves checking for internal consistencies, comparing information between different key informants or different socio-economic groups and checking for a balanced household economy. For example, unless a household has savings, expenditure should be equal to income. Similarly, quantities of food consumed during a certain period are compared with the expenditure that goes towards buying food. The amount of food produced by the household cannot exceed its manpower or land surface.

Triangulation involves the use of the following methods: several participatory research tools and techniques – i.e. interviews with key informants, interviews with groups of women and groups of men, use of secondary sources (although, as was already mentioned, very few recent secondary sources exist on Bwito); observation – e.g. walking through a village and noticing what is grown and what types of livestock a poor household might have; and, lastly, ensuring that the team is multidisciplinary – team members come from various educational backgrounds (e.g. agronomy, nutrition, history, social policy, etc.).

Data collected was partly reconciled during the interviews and mostly reconciled through regular team consolidation exercises following a number of interviews. Primary data was converted to common units. Quantities of food, for example, were calculated over a 12-month period and then converted to kilocalories per family size per year, which were then taken as a percentage of total kilocalorie requirements per family per year. This enables us to estimate just how close to the borderline the wealth groups are from becoming food insecure (meaning that they are unable to cover their food energy needs) (*see SC-UK's resource manual for practitioners for further explanation*).

#### References:

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### 3 DISCUSSION (Findings and Results)

This chapter seeks to describe the household economy of the different wealth groups in a given time period or a 'reference' year. Wealth groups or socio-economic categories are identified because all members of a community or population do not have the same social and economic characteristics and, subsequently, react differently to stress. For that reason, it is very important to recognise which strata of the population are most susceptible to ensuing risks. Analysing how households obtain and utilise their income and food allows for a better understanding of household economics and, therefore, household food security and how a likely shock might affect their livelihood strategies as well as what survival options are available to them.

#### 3.1 Findings

##### 3.1.1 Reference Year

The reference year used for this study was 2002. In spite of the recent security in the region, economic activities have not returned to pre-war levels for the various reasons mentioned above (see section 2.1 on background). Consequently, the reference year is recognised as one in a context of East DRC's regional isolation and of the district's present state of security, although during this year one of the principal activities - livestock production - did not attain its usual levels. Security returned to the south-western part (or project axis) of Bwito in 2001, when, subsequently, the return and reintegration process began. The year 2002 was the period when, according to key informants, the population was able to cultivate 'normally' and when other economic activities began to return to normal. No major incidences of insecurity, seasonal abnormalities, or food deficits occurred during this period and household crop production was near 70 percent of pre-war levels, despite the lack of access to the same markets (Western Congo – more specifically Kisangani and Kinshasa) and the same prices for selling produce<sup>6</sup>.

The study also sought to understand the population's livelihoods at present (2002), in order to determine potential changes in the coming months and where to intervene.

##### 3.1.2 Wealth Categories

The population of Bwito, according to local concepts of wealth, is broken down into three distinct socio-economic groups – 'poor', 'middle' and 'better-off' households. Through discussions with key informants in the communities visited, a definition of wealth was produced based on three key attributes. The most important criterion of wealth was access to land and therefore the size of the plots cultivated. The other two important criteria were the number of small livestock a household owned and the amount of local beer produced for sale (**see Table 1**). A 'middle' household for example has average landholdings of one to three hectares of cultivated land, three to five chickens or ducks,

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<sup>6</sup> Before 1993, a sack of beans cost 30 to 40 USD. Today, the same sack is valued at five to ten USD. Parallel to this decrease in prices of staple food items is a fall in agricultural wages from approximately half a dollar in 1993 to around one-third of a dollar today.

and produces a monthly average of five to ten jerry cans of beer. 'Poor' households have between 0.5 to 1 hectare of cultivated land and, apart from a few guinea pigs and perhaps one chicken, own no livestock. These criteria were confirmed during discussions with the representatives of the wealth categories themselves.

It would seem that 'rich' households no longer exist in Bwito due to their migration to urban centres during the periods of conflict. The present 'better-off' households apparently originate from the middle class from before this period.

Before the conflicts, the number of livestock (i.e. goats, sheep, and cows) was a primary determinant of wealth in Bwito<sup>7</sup>. Today, this is no longer valid due to the total decimation of herds through pillaging during the conflict, and the criterion has taken a secondary position in defining wealth. Recently, a timid recovery of livestock rearing has been observed. A number of 'middle' and 'better-off' households are in possession of a few chickens or ducks, and the latter owns goats.

**TABLE 1: Wealth Breakdown, Bwito, Rutshuru, East DRC – October 2002**

<b>WEALTH BREAKDOWN, BWITO, RUTSHURU</b>			
	<b>WEALTH CATEGORY</b>		
	<b>'Poor'</b>	<b>'Middle'</b>	<b>'Better-off'</b>
<b>PERCENTAGE OF HOUSEHOLDS</b>	45 – 55 %	30 – 40 %	10 – 20 %
<b>CRITERIA</b>			
Size of Land Cultivated (Ha.)	0.5 - 1	1 - 3	3 – 5
Number of Livestock	0 – 1 Chicken 5 – 10 Guinea Pigs	0 – 1 Goat 3 – 5 Chickens/Ducks 10 – 20 Guinea Pigs	2 – 3 Goats 5 – 10 Chickens/Ducks 10 – 20 Guinea Pigs
Number of Jerry Cans of Beer Produced each Month	0	5 - 10	10 - 20

### 3.1.3 Access to land

<sup>7</sup> Before the 1993 inter-ethnic conflict, livestock figures in Bwito were estimated at the following: between 58,000 to 62,000 cows, 320,000 goats/sheep, 150,000 pigs, and 500,000 poultry - Source: key informant.

Access to land in the region has been reduced by several factors. The principal cause is attributed more to a poor redistribution of land than to an actual unavailability of land. Great expanses are owned by a minority of wealthy landholders, and the remaining land area is divided into small plots of 0.50 to 2 hectares owned by small landowners. Additional reasons for the reduced accessibility to land are population displacements and a lack of income to purchase or rent plots.

The area hosts a number of households displaced due to the fighting that have integrated into the host community and, to a certain extent, re-established their livelihoods. A small percentage of recently displaced households (for example in Kikuku) are able to return to their plots to harvest perennial cultures, such as manioc, taro, and sweet potato.

The system of tenant farming or sharecropping is quite widespread in the region. Normally, 'poor' households have to give approximately 10 percent of the harvest as a form of rental payment.

#### 3.1.4 Sources of Food

The percentages of consumption requirements coming from each source of food were calculated using estimates of yearly quantities, which were in turn converted to their energy values (kilocalories) (refer to methodology section 2.3).

Food needs for all wealth groups come from two main sources – **own production and market purchase (see Figure 1)**. The 'middle' household category obtains approximately 80 percent of their food needs from two yearly harvests. In contrast, the 'poor' rely more on food purchased from the market (approx. 50% of their food needs) than that which comes from their own production. This group also depends on labour exchange (payment for daily work in food items equivalent to daily cash rate = average 80 Congolese Francs) – a source contributing equally, if not more, to that of their own crop production. Typically, the woman and children (usually the eldest child) in the household work for food one day a week during an average of eight months in the year. Although this means of payment is available throughout the period, it is most intense during the hunger months (October and November). Payment is usually in taro and occasionally in beans<sup>8</sup>.

'Poor' households most frequently produce on their own fields (average of 0.50 to 1 hectare) beans, taro and/or sweet potatoes, maize and in some areas sorghum.<sup>9</sup> 'Middle' and 'better-off' households cultivate, in addition to these crops, sorghum, cassava, Irish potatoes, bananas, sugar cane, and groundnuts. Recently, however, crops such as taro, cassava, and groundnuts have been hit hard by disease, and in some areas, this has significantly reduced production (i.e. Katsiru, where taro production is almost absent).

Approximately, half of the food needs for 'poor' households comes from market purchase, compared to one-third of food needs for 'middle' households. Food purchased by the

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<sup>8</sup> During the months approaching the harvest (hunger period), poor households have already consumed their entire stock of beans and prefer to receive payment in this item.

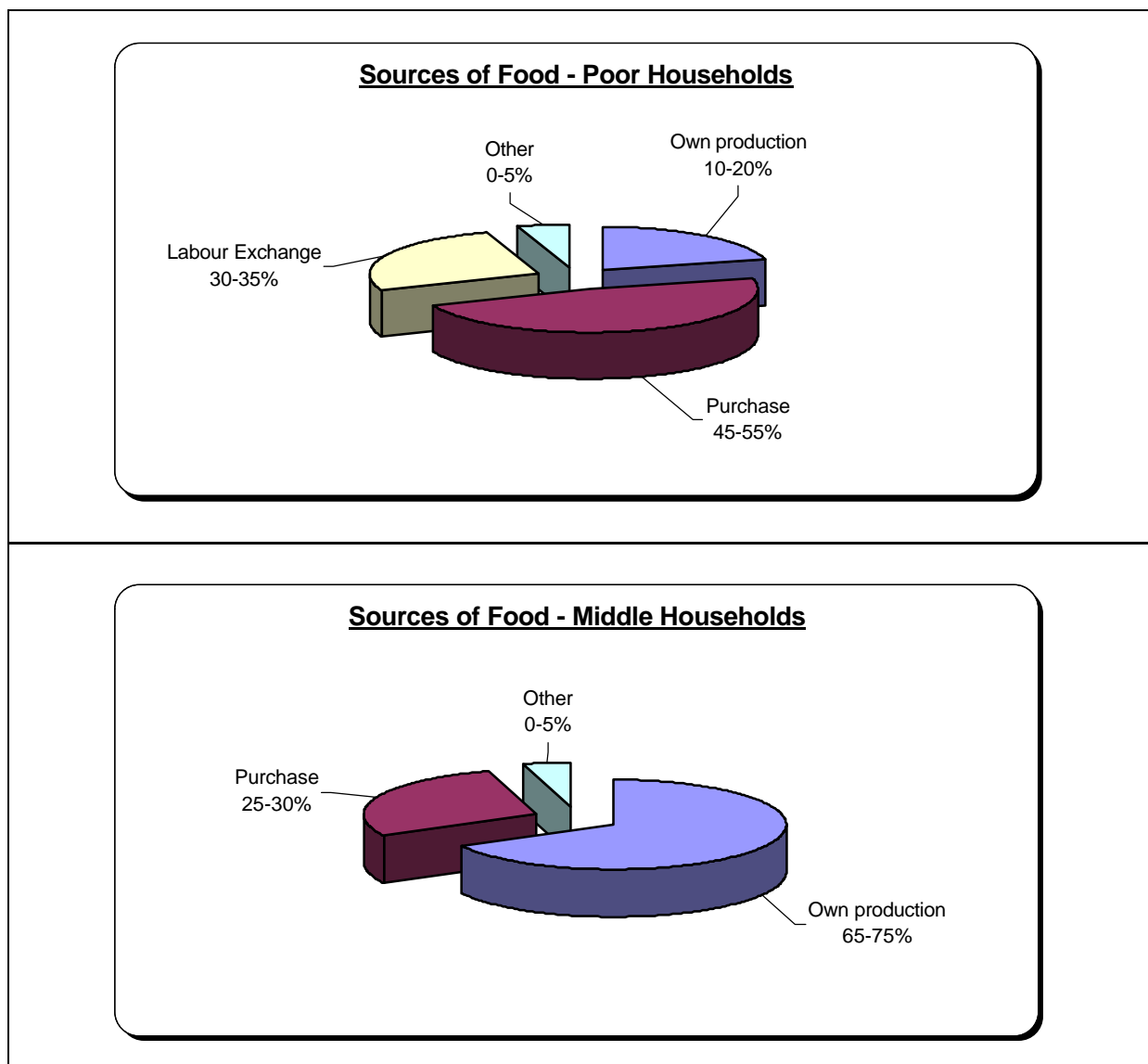
<sup>9</sup> On half a hectare of land, an average of three staple crops can be cultivated simultaneously.

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'poor' is mainly staple items – taro, sweet potatoes, beans, and dried cassava.<sup>10</sup> Evidently, household cultivation of these crops is not sufficient for consumption needs. The household equally purchases essential cooking items – salt and palm oil – as well as dried fish (fretins) and vegetables (i.e. cabbage).

Food intake originating from own livestock products is negligible. Information on assistance from relatives, the community, or humanitarian/non-profit organisations (e.g. NGOs, church, etc.) was difficult to extract from interviews, and those being interviewed declared this source to be virtually nonexistent.

**FIGURE 1: Sources of Food - 'Poor' and 'Middle' Categories, Bwito, Rutshuru – October 2002.**



<sup>10</sup> Cassava once harvested is usually fermented, dried, and crushed into a fine white powder, which is used to prepare traditional meals, such as 'foufou' and 'lugali'.

### 3.1.5 Sources of Income

Sources of income are representative of the twelve-month period from October 2001 to October 2002. The average annual income for a 'poor' household was estimated at 35,000 FC (140 USD) compared to that of 90,000 FC (360 USD) for the 'middle' category. The 'poor' rely predominantly (approximately 50%) on cash earnings originating from labour on the fields of 'middle' and 'better-off' households (**see Figure 2**). These households work on average three days a week for an estimated eight months in the year. Paid **agricultural labour** usually involves at least three members of the family (parents and the eldest child). As noted above, the woman and the eldest child tend to work one day in the week (principally during the hunger months) for food and the other two days for cash. Younger children may help both parents to finish daily tasks, but are not compensated for their work. Customarily, the man works exclusively for money<sup>11</sup>. An additional important source of income for 'poor' households is the sale of crops from their own production. However, overall, crops produced are primarily for subsistence needs and the utilisation of a large part of the harvest for acquiring income is uncommon.

Households from the 'middle' category depend largely on their own crop production for income (approx. 60%), followed by brewing (sale of local banana beer). Typically, for those households that own around three hectares, approximately one-third to one hectare is planted with banana trees. An average 'middle' household can produce for sale five to ten jerry cans of beer per month. A jerry can sells for 200 FC.

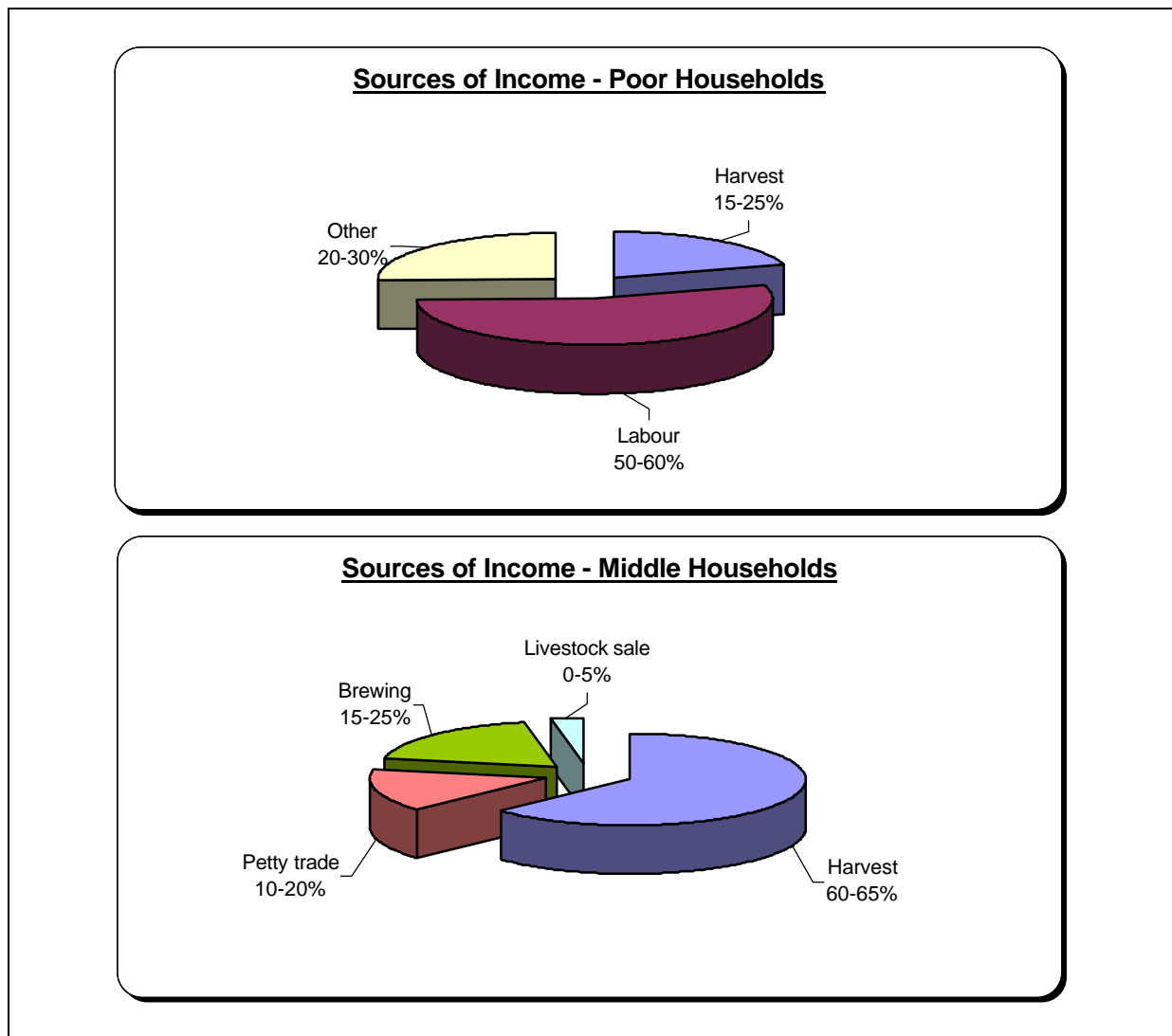
The diversification of economic activities appears to be linked to the income level of the household. Despite a strong dependency on agricultural labour, 'poor' households are inclined to have more varied, but nonetheless, volatile (dependant on seasonality and labour needs) sources of income. Around 25 percent of their income comes from other sources, which include the transport of market goods for others, the purchase and resale of staple foods or local beer, the sale of primary construction materials, small-scale artisanal activities, and woodcutting. Again, most of these sources are more intense during the months when agricultural employment opportunities are less available.

'Middle' households are also involved in petty trade - the sale of diverse products, such as essential cooking items (i.e. salt and oil) and basic household items (i.e. soap and petrol) - and small-scale logging activities (selling of trees or planks).

**FIGURE 2: Source of Income - 'Poor' and 'Middle' Categories, Bwito, Rutshuru - October 2002.**

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<sup>11</sup> Between 60 to 100 FC/day.



### 3.1.6 Expenditure

A bulk of the household budget for both groups goes towards **purchasing food** items (see **Figure 3**). Most of the 'poor' household's income (approx. 80 %) is spent on food, compared to around 35 percent for 'middle' households. Expenditure on social services, such as education and health, is not major. Generally speaking, 'poor' households face great difficulties in paying for such services and often accumulate debts.

In Bwito, essential drugs are free of charge. For the past five years, the local NGO, Asrames, has been distributing essential drugs to all official health centres and hospitals in Rutshuru. Patients only have to pay a consultation fee of 0.50 USD or a hospitalisation fee of 0.80 USD. Nevertheless, a day of hospitalisation costs two or three days of work for a 'poor' household and such a sum is difficult to have all at once.

Even if a 'poor' household is able to send one child to school, frequently this child does not terminate the school year due to the family's inability to pay school fees. Schools

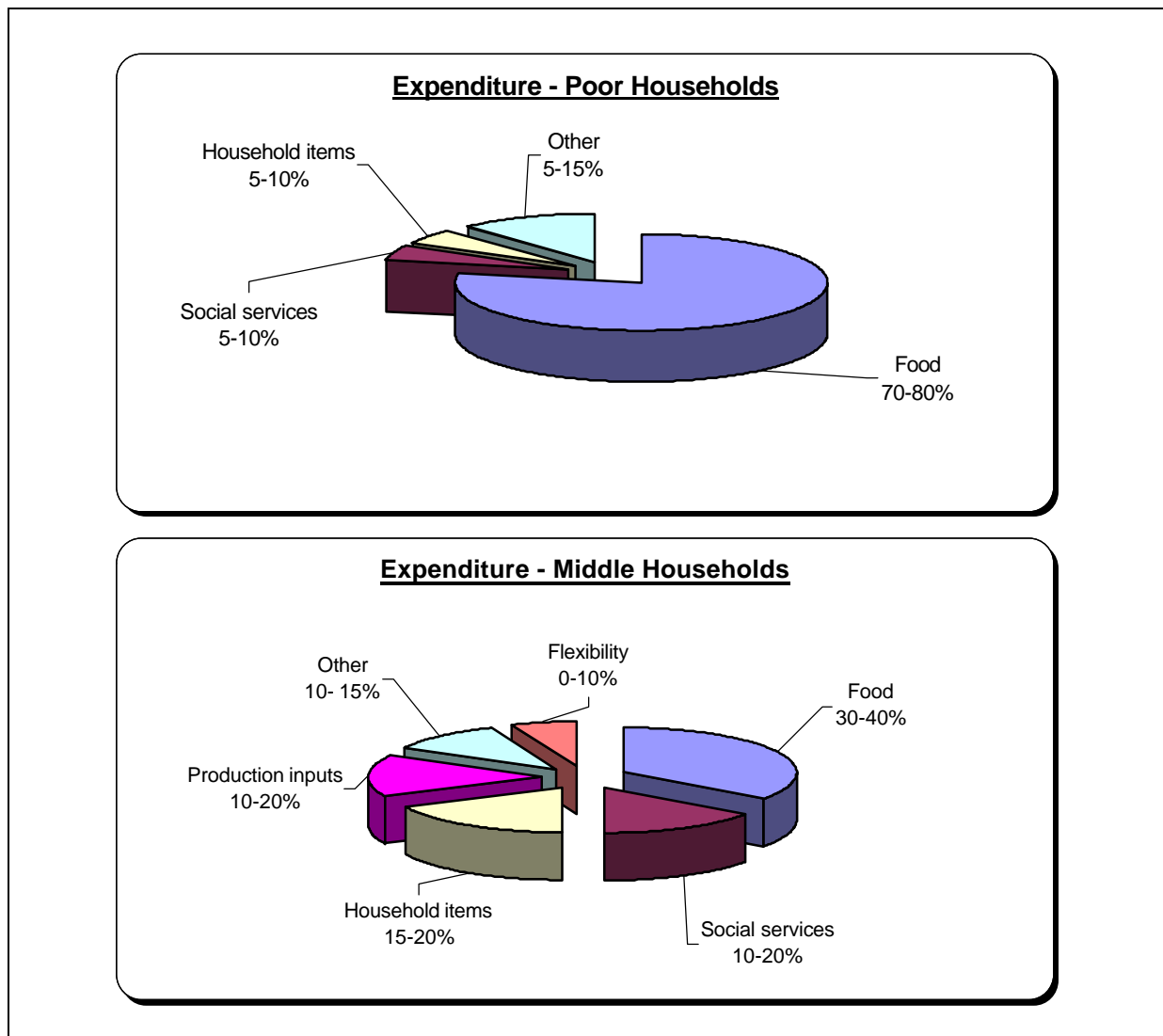


fees are 625 FC (2.5 USD) per trimester for primary school and 1,500 FC (6 USD) per trimester for secondary school. In addition to school fees, annual costs for school supplies (stationary and uniforms) range anywhere from 1, 250 to 3,750 FC (5 to 15 USD) per student depending on the year of study.

Other expenses for the 'poor' include taxes, transport costs, purchase of beer, etc. These households usually do not buy petrol or matches, but instead use the system of the 'fire keeper', where one household maintains a permanent source of fire to be freely exploited by the community.

The flexibility seen in the 'middle' wealth category signifies cash income that could be used for non-essential items and services or kept aside as savings and is characteristic of increasing wealth.

**FIGURE 3: Expenditure - 'Poor' and 'Middle' Categories, Bwito, Rutshuru – October 2002.**



### 3.1.7 Minimum Food and Non-Food Basket

The minimum food and non-food basket is valued at 4,080 FC/month (16.30 USD/month) or 136 FC/day (0.54 USD/day) and is calculated for a seven-member household. The basket consists of two staple items (taro and beans) and two essential household items (salt and soap). Average income for a 'poor' household was approximately 35,000 FC or 140 USD/year (approx. 3,000 FC or 12 USD/month), meaning that approximately 75 percent of the minimum consumption basket can be purchased with income earnings alone. As was previously mentioned, 50 percent of 'poor' households' food needs are covered by market purchase and the remaining 50 percent originates from either own production or labour exchange.

### 3.1.8 Seasonal Variations

Seasonal factors determine the degree of access to food and income. Throughout the calendar year (in this case January 2001 to January 2002), peaks in employment opportunities, food availability and expenses (i.e. health, education, and food) as well as commercial activities (e.g. construction, sale of agriculture and livestock products, logging, etc.) are characteristic of certain months (refer to Annex 4 - seasonal calendar). Health costs have a tendency to be most frequent during the rainy season/cold season (i.e. colds, malaria). Important educational costs (i.e. schools fees, stationary and uniforms) are incurred in September – the beginning of the school year. Before the planting seasons, expenses in production inputs (i.e. seeds, tools, labour, etc.) are at their highest. Prices of certain staple food items tend to be highest before the harvest months (**see Annex 2 – Market Survey**).

October and November are the most difficult months in the year, when money and food are running low. These are months prior to the harvest as well as periods when agriculture employment opportunities, in particular, are at their lowest.

### 3.1.9 Coping Strategies

Seasonal stress in food security 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 been employed by 'poor' households before the outbreak of the conflict and some have developed as a consequence of the conflict. The following are several 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 crops cultivated (e.g. maize instead of sorghum)<sup>12</sup>;
- Obtaining payment in food during hunger period – meaning less cash for other essential needs during this period;
- 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 - working on the fields of the teacher or nurse.

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<sup>12</sup> Sorghum requires more inputs than maize and is less resistant to bad weather and disease. However, the sale of sorghum generates more profit than maize (prices for October 2002: 1kg of sorghum = 31 FC; 1kg of maize = 20 FC).

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## 4 CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Overall, the population of Bwito is able to meet its food needs. However, the potential vulnerability of 'poor' households, in particular, to becoming food insecure if faced with a shock or acute change is high. This category is sustained by a very volatile and marginal existence, where the degree of flexibility to purchase non-essential and certain essential items or services is practically non-existent.

A fundamental issue, concurrent to the vulnerability of certain wealth groups, is access to land. Noticeably, 'poor' households are caught in a vicious cycle, in which they are unable to produce adequate profit from their small plots and subsequently cannot afford to expand the cultivated area, which would allow them to increase production and to maintain a modest income flow. However, even if a household could produce more food for sale, prices of staple food items on the market are extremely low since the supply is greater than the demand. Again, farming households no longer have access to regional/national markets to sell their produce.

In addition to reduced access to land, conditions tied to sharecropping are restrictive and limit the types of crops that can be grown. For example, those renting out the plots prefer crops with short growing cycles, which more or less guarantee two harvest payments in the year. Hence, it is difficult for those renting plots to cultivate such staple crops as taro or manioc, which have longer maturation cycles (approximately, 18 months). This system has a negative impact on the coping mechanisms of 'poor' households, since these crops minimise economic risk and can serve as dietary coverage for periods of crisis (i.e. hunger gaps and insecurity).

In general, the energy requirements of all households in each group are covered. However, the diets of the population, and especially those of 'poor' households, are high in tuber content – more than 70 percent of energy requirements comes from roots and tubers. One could wonder if diets are deficient in micronutrients and proteins. 'Poor' households do not have sufficient income to purchase fish or meat on a regular basis.

'Poor' households are dependent on labour exchange for food and income and any changes in production levels, fall in wages, or loss in jobs will have a significant impact on their entitlements or access to food and income. The 'poor' category does not hold savings or own important assets that could potentially act as safety nets and take them through a temporary crisis.

The tendency of the 'poor' to use the majority of household income to purchase food signifies that very little remains for other important needs, such as health and education, which comprise the five percent going towards expenses for social services. As a rule, when a family is able to send one or more children to school, the priority is more than often to educate male children above female children. The widespread inadequacies in the educational system, compounded by the inability of families to pay tuition fees, will obviously have a longer-term negative impact on children's development, with a more profound impact on the girl child.

The loss of livestock during the conflicts has also played a primal role in destabilising livelihoods. If the current stability in Bwito is maintained, then livestock rearing activities should move, in the coming year or so, from being a secondary criterion of wealth to that of, once again, a principal determinant of wealth in the zone. This will contribute significantly to an improved food intake (allowing for a more balanced protein diet) and an increase in household income as well as provide 'poor' households with assets or a much-needed safety net for future shocks or periods of crisis.

The HEA explored the likelihood of acute changes (e.g. conflict, climatic factors, etc.) occurring in the zone in the upcoming months and their potential impact on each wealth group. The effect of these changes on a particular livelihood system (the ways in which households obtain income) should be analysed in relation to their effect on the major sources of household entitlements (or methods of access) within that livelihood system as well as on changes in the household's economic circumstances. In this context, an evaluation of the alternative strategies available to the household is also necessary.

Considering this analysis, the following scenarios were developed in order to determine the needs of the population in the next six months:

- Continued security in the zone and normal agricultural production in the next six months.
- Increased insecurity in the zone.

### **1. Scenario One: Continued security in the zone and normal agricultural production in the next six months.**

Effects on livelihood systems and the population:

- Improved agricultural production
- Improved economic activities
- Improved exchange between villages and towns
- Increased income
- Improved food security

Alternative strategies expected to develop:

- None

Immediate and potential interventions:

- Programmes to support livelihoods
- Agricultural programmes:

*Tool distributions – Distribution of tools, in particular hoes and cutlasses, to 'poor' households will render agricultural work more efficient by reducing the time spent on cultivating and removing the cost associated with buying a hoe or cutlass. 'Poor' households normally purchase one hoe and one cutlass every two years. The cost of such*

*a purchase is 2.00 USD per tool (500 FC) or five to six days of work. 'Poor' households without farming tools usually work on the farms of others for a reduced wage, the difference covering the cost of rental. Providing a 'poor' household with tools will allow them to receive the standard full payment.*

- Increasing availability of and access to small livestock (chickens, ducks, goats, pigs, sheep, etc.):

*HEA interviews have shown that the community does not anticipate potential pillages or episodes of insecurity due to an augmentation of livestock in the region.*

*It is obvious from the household economy analysis that livestock programmes will have a significant impact on 'poor' and 'middle' households by allowing them to strengthen and diversify household income and food sources. In addition, this activity is a means of building assets and, therefore, creating a safety net in periods of crisis, which reduces vulnerability when faced with certain shocks. It will also lessen the dependency of 'poor' households on agriculture and agricultural labour.*

*Small livestock numbers are still not sufficient in Bwito to revive the livestock economy. Ways to kick start and sustain the process should be identified. Although additional research is needed on the most appropriate methods of increasing livestock numbers and access to livestock, several options can already be considered. The first is direct and targeted distributions to households – e.g. the distribution of poultry to 'poor' households. Direct distributions to 'middle' households will also have an indirect and positive impact on 'poor' households through increased caretaker opportunities (guarding livestock). This will be an additional source of income for 'poor' households and may eventually allow them to obtain larger livestock (i.e. a goat), which is sometimes given to the caretaker by the employer after a period of work. Another direction could be programmes that look at increasing local market capacity to sell large numbers of livestock at prices accessible to 'middle' and 'poor' households.*

*However, the actual context and immediate future does not envisage this type of intervention without confronting some major risks. A 'do no harm' analysis must be considered before designing and planning livestock programmes. The question needs to be asked: Would this type of intervention trigger insecurity (risk of looting) in the area, if households owned more small livestock?*

- Improving access to markets

*Although the isolation of East DRC from the rest of Congo is a fundamental cause for a drastic reduction in access to markets, reduced access to territorial and district market centres is also an important issue contributing significantly to constraints in food security. Numerous zones within Bwito itself are isolated because of the bad condition of roads or the lack of secondary routes. The rehabilitation of roads (main and secondary) will improve significantly the capacity of households to sell their produce at prices superior to that on their local market. The price of products unavailable locally will also decrease because of an increased access to these products.*

- Improving access to cash

*East DRC is a cash poor area due to the loss of pre-war markets. Food for work (to compensate manpower for the rehabilitation of roads and schools) is another issue for discussion. Significant food deficits currently do not exist in Bwito and do not seem to be the case in the foreseeable future. Shortfalls, however, are present in the income levels of 'poor' households. Cash for work in this context would be a more appropriate solution to addressing, in priority, the needs of 'poor' households. **Generally speaking, activities to support livelihoods and increase income are vital.***

- Research

*Other agencies have already developed initiatives for livestock and vegetable gardening in the region and there is a strong need to evaluate these programmes in order to document lessons learnt – successes and failures. More specifically, research is needed on whether to increase access to seeds (i.e. vegetable seeds) and if yes, on how to do this (e.g. distribution, market, multiplication, etc.). A study could be carried out to review experience to date with the distribution of vegetable seeds, in particular to households with a child in a feeding centre – measuring the economic impact on the household as well as the impact on the nutritional status of its members. Combined research methods (HEA and nutritional assessment tools) could be employed to obtain this information.*

*Research is also necessary to assess the appropriateness of certain seeds for each wealth group. Seeds that produce crops that are more profitable should be considered. However, this needs to be done in the context of reduced access to land and of potential solutions to increasing access to land (the latter a longer-term goal).*

*Crops, such as taro, Irish potato, and cassava have been affected by disease. In some areas, disease has significantly reduced production of these crops. A study of crop diseases and the economic impact this is having on the household is very important. Likewise, livestock epidemics and their economic impact on the household cannot be overlooked. Assistance in the prevention, control, and eradication of animal epidemics and crop diseases could then be based on this research.*

*The accessibility to tools and other items imported regionally and internationally is another area of concern. 'Poor' households can rarely afford to renew tools for the cultivation of their fields because of the price. Merchants import these tools into the milieu from Goma and neighbouring countries. Similarly, households do not have the means to process certain food-stuffs, such as cassava and maize, due to lack of access to technology. Local capacities to fabricate hoes and cutlasses (which includes increasing access to primary materials) and to process certain food items and ways to support trade and marketing could be investigated.*

Through evidence from the field, a warranted debate is developing around the appropriateness of seed distribution in East DRC. Quality seeds for subsistence crops, such as beans, maize, and sorghum, are available on the local market at reasonable prices. Merchants often come from Goma to procure large quantities of beans, selling 1 kg for 0.7 USD in Goma – a price that is 10 times superior to that of rural Rutshuru. Programmes distributing cash crop seeds, such as groundnut, might be more

appropriate since 'poor' households cannot afford to procure these seeds on the local market. However, it is access to land and not the availability of and access to seeds that is open to discussion. 'Poor' households normally have neither the space, nor the financial or labour inputs, to intensify or expand cultivation<sup>13</sup>.

The duplication and overlapping of in particular 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 has been observed on the field. Greater effectiveness and efficiency could be achieved through better practice linked to stronger co-ordination efforts, identification of impact indicators, and the designing of pre-, mid- and post-project evaluations.

## **2. Scenario Two: Increased insecurity in the zone.**

Due to the dominance of the first scenario, the HEA analysis did not develop the second scenario in depth. In a few words, if fighting resumes in Bwito, it is assumed that the population will be displaced outside of the zone. Interventions to address the needs of the displaced population will require an assessment beforehand in the host location. Programmes will probably have to resort to relief activities to cover the immediate needs of the target groups.

The impact on especially 'poor' households of insecurity and subsequent population movements outside Bwito should be analysed. This group is dependent on agricultural labour provided from 'middle' and 'better-off' households and will be particularly vulnerable if fighting resumes and an eventual displacement occurs. Compared to the 'middle' and 'better-off' category, greater difficulties will be encountered by the 'poor' category, since it lacks sufficient assets and/or savings. In addition, opportunities to work or cultivate in the host location will be meagre. In this context, programmes will need to focus on food and essential non-food assistance (in particular to 'poor' households) during the initial stages of displacement.

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<sup>13</sup> For example, a sack of groundnuts (100 Kg) sells at 40 USD. One hectare of land is needed to cultivate 300 Kg. In other words, to produce a sack of groundnuts, one-third of a hectare is needed. In addition, groundnuts need a significant amount of care and are susceptible to disease.

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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 the urban centres and the 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: Market Survey

## PRICES FOOD ITEMS - NYANZALE / MUTANDA MARKETS - RUTSHURU TERRITORY

DENREES	LOCAL MEASURE	WEIG/UNIT	PRICE (FC)*												
			Oct.2001	Nov.2001	Dec.2001	Jan.2002	Feb.2002	Mar.2002	Apr.2002	May.2002	Jun.2002	Jul.2002	Aug.2002	Sept.2002	Oct.2002
<b>Cereals</b>															
Maize	Bumba	10 Kg	100	100	80	60	60	70	100	50	60	60	80	200	200
Sorghum	Bumba	8 Kg	160	160	200	250	150	200	250	200	180	200	200	200	250
Millet	Ngemeri/Kimbo	1 Kg	100	100	80	70	70	80	80	100	100	80	80	100	100
<b>Tubers and Roots</b>															
Dried Cassava	Basin	15 Kg	300	300	250	200	200	200	200	200	150	200	200	150	150
Fresh Cassava	Pile	1.5 Kg	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10
Irish Potato	Bumba	10 Kg	200	200	200	150	150	150	150	150	200	200	150	200	200
Sweet Potato	Basin	10 Kg	100	100	100	80	80	80	100	100	100	100	100	80	100
Sweet Potato	Pile	1.5 Kg	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10
Taro	Basin	17 Kg	150	150	150	200	200	150	150	150	120	150	150	150	100
<b>Grain Legumes and Products</b>															
Beans	Bowl	1 Kg	25	25	20	20	20	20	18	20	15	15	20	20	30
Groundnut	Bumba	9 Kg	900	900	700	700	700	700	900	900	750	750	700	1000	1100
Soya	Ngemeri/Kimbo	1 Kg	50	50	60	60	80	80	60	70	70	50	50	60	70
<b>Vegetables</b>															
Cabbage	Piece	2 Kg	20	20	20	10	10	10	20	20	20	10	20	20	20
Eggplant	Pile	0.5 Kg	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10
Leeks	Stock	NA	20	20	20	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10
Tomato	Pile	1 Kg	10	10	10	10	10	10	20	20	20	10	10	20	80
Onion	Piece	NA	20	20	20	20	20	20	10	10	10	20	20	20	20
Zucchini	Piece	5 Kg	80	80	60	50	50	50	50	80	80	60	60	50	150
<b>Bananas</b>															
Bananes Plantains	Bunch	14 Kg	100	100	120	60	60	80	75	75	80	100	100	100	100
Gros Michel	Bunch	10 Kg	150	150	150	100	120	150	150	200	200	120	120	150	150
Bananes de Table	Bunch	NA	50	50	50	40	60	60	60	50	70	50	50	50	60
<b>Other Fruits</b>															
Avocats	Pile (3)	1 Kg	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10
Manques	Tas (4)	NA	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10
Pineapple	Piece	1 Kg	40	40	50	50	40	50	50	40	40	30	30	40	30
Lemon	Pile (3)	1 Kg	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	20	20	20	20	20	40
Sugar Cane	Piece	15	15	15	15	15	15	15	10	10	10	10	10	10	10

\*Prices are estimates.

**Annex 3: List of Key Participants in the HEA Field Work**

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

## Annex 3: Seasonal Calendar

## SEASONAL CALENDAR - BWITO, RUTSHURU

	Jan	Feb	March	April	May	June	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec
Rains												
<b>Agricultural Production</b>												
Land Clearing												
Land Preparation	- Cassava - Sweet Potato - Taro - Bananas - Sugar Cane	Ditto		All Crops	- Beans - Maize - Sorghum - Groundnut - Soya							
Planting			- Beans - Maize - Groundnut - Soya - Vegetables	- Beans - Groundnut - Cassava - Sweet Potato - Potato - Taro					- Beans - Sorghum - Groundnut - Maize	- Beans	- Potato - Taro - Sweet Potato	
Weeding												
Harvest	- Beans - Groundnut	- Beans - Groundnut - Maize - Potato	- Beans - Sorghum - Groundnut - Maize			- Beans	- Beans - Groundnut - Maize - Potato	- Beans - Groundnut - Maize - Potato - Sorghum				- Beans
<b>Commercial Activities</b>												
Sale of Harvest (% carried out)	80 %	50 %	80 %	50 %	50 %	50 %	100 %	80 %	80 %	30 %	Esp. Manioc/ Other Products 20%	40 %
Sale of Livestock	Most Livestock	Most Livestock/ Agriculture Inputs	Ditto	Ditto								
Sale of Wood (% commercial activity)	40 %						30 %			80 %	80 %	60 %
Construction												