

Data Sheet

USAID Mission:	Democratic Republic of the Congo
Program Title:	Livelihoods
Pillar:	Economic Growth, Agriculture and Trade
Strategic Objective:	660-004
Status:	Continuing
Planned FY 2005 Obligation:	\$2,365,000 CSH; \$3,973,000 DA
Prior Year Unobligated:	\$0
Proposed FY 2006 Obligation:	\$2,339,000 DA
Year of Initial Obligation:	2004
Estimated Year of Final Obligation:	2008

Summary: USAID's program to improve livelihoods in targeted areas includes increasing agricultural productivity, improving access to markets along selected corridors, improving access to financial services and addressing the critical needs of vulnerable populations. The aim of this program is to help create a favorable enabling environment for small-scale private sector-led growth in peri-urban, and rural areas. It includes activities that will support enhancing the role of women in agricultural production and marketing and in rural entrepreneurial activities as well as activities to support the victims of gender-based violence and to reduce the incidence of child separation and abandonment.

Inputs, Outputs, Activities:

FY 2005 Program: Increase Agricultural Productivity (\$2,013,000 DA). USAID will continue production and distribution of cassava varieties resistant to Cassava Mosaic Disease (CMD). CMD very significantly reduces yields for cassava, which accounts for approximately 60% of human caloric consumption in the western DRC. Distribution of the first 100% CMD resistant varieties that were developed by the International Institute of Tropical Agriculture (IITA) began in October 2004. The activity has expanded into indirect methods of improving agricultural productivity by improving cassava processing and marketing. IITA is diffusing improved technologies for processing cassava as well as promoting the market for higher-value cassava products. USAID intends to expand distribution of disease resistant cassava cuttings and to include research and extension components to address the increasingly pernicious disease problems (Banana Bacterial Blight and Ensete) of plantain bananas in the eastern DRC. Two USAID-funded U.S. NGOs will continue to improve agricultural productivity by rehabilitating rural feeder roads, producing and distributing planting materials, and diffusing appropriate technology for the production, marketing and processing of food crops. USAID also provides short-term training in agriculture for war-affected youth. Principal contractors and grantees: IITA, the Southeast Consortium for International Development (SECID), IRM, and Pact.

Improve Sustainable Management of Natural Resources and Biodiversity Conservation (\$500,000 DA). USAID employs methodologies that emphasize sustainable management of resources at the community level; emphasizes biological measures, such as mulching, to restore soil fertility; and provides extension advice on fishing methods to conserve fish stocks and biodiversity as well as in the use of vetiver grass technology to control erosion. Principal contractors and grantees: IRM and Pact.

Protect and Increase the Assets and Livelihoods of the Poor During Periods of Stress (\$360,000 DA). USAID funds a small enterprise development component for redundant miners in southern Katanga-micro-finance activities to mobilize capital for micro-enterprises, and assistance to micro-enterprises with the processing, production and sale of improved cassava products. Another USAID activity is assisting micro-finance development in the eastern DRC. USAID provides training in micro-project management for war-affected youth. Principal contractors and grantees: IRM, Pact, and World Relief.

Increase Food Security of Vulnerable Populations. USAID will continue to support the WFP's Protracted Recovery and Relief Operation. WFP will program 49% of its resources toward recovery programs in support of IDP resettlement, rural infrastructure, and training in 2005. Total beneficiaries in FY 2005 will approximate 1.6 million. Principal contractors and grantees: WFP.

Protect Human Rights and Equal Access to Justice (\$2,365,000 CSH; \$1,100,000 DA). Separated and abandoned children are numerous in the DRC. There are one million AIDS orphans, and tens of thousands of street children. With the Displaced Children and Orphans Fund, USAID reintegrates children into their communities, creates opportunities for formal and non-formal education, creates work opportunities, and prevents further separation and abandonment. USAID will improve the lives of women associated with armed groups through the USAID DDR program and the SGBV activities. These two activities will work together to afford access to and identify women associated with armed groups (dependents and often abductees); discuss and identify their needs; and link them up to reintegration programs, medical, psychosocial, and socio-economic activities that are provided through the SGBV and DDR programs. Principal contractors and grantees: Pact, Save the Children/UK, International Rescue Committee, CARE, Global Rights and World Vision.

FY 2006 Program: Protect and Increase the Assets and Livelihoods of the Poor During Periods of Stress (\$2,339,000 DA). USAID will continue to address production problems for staple crops by funding a continuation of one of the following ongoing activities:

Increase Agricultural Productivity (\$1,839,000 DA). Distribution of improved plant varieties will continue for both cassava and plantain banana, and the area covered by the distribution will expand. USAID will diffuse improved technologies for processing cassava as well as help create markets for higher value cassava products. Principal contractors and grantees: IITA.

Improve Sustainable Management of Natural Resources and Biodiversity Conservation; Protect and Increase the Assets and Livelihoods of the Poor During Periods of Stress (\$500,000 DA). USAID will fund activities to promote sustainable management of resources at the community level. Principal contractors and grantees: IITA.

Performance and Results: The Cassava Production Rehabilitation (CPR) program gained widespread recognition by making high quality cassava planting materials available through a community-driven approach. CPR has provided 50,000 farmers with extension services for cassava, and, in a major breakthrough, has produced four 100% cassava mosaic disease-resistant varieties. The Foundation Internationale for Community Assistance (FINCA) has demonstrated that micro-credit programs can be successful in the extremely difficult economic operating environment of the DRC, and has provided micro-loans to over 35,000 individuals. P.L. 480 resources channeled through the WFP are being effectively utilized in the DRC both to provide relief to IDPs and to rebuild local economies. Beneficiaries of WFP activities totaled 1.6 million in FY 2004. Ongoing USAID activities demonstrate the utility of community-driven approaches in improving livelihoods through mobilization of local resources. These activities have introduced village-level seed production in their respective operating areas. A very promising start has been made in disseminating vetiver grass technology. (Vetiver is a tall grass with an abundant and long (up to ten metres) root system.) Thirty-two hundred women have been engaged in the USAID-funded micro-credit programs. Over 1,000 separated and abandoned children have been reunited with their families and 70% of those have remained home after six months. A total of 13,000 women and girl victims of rape and sexual violence have been assisted since July 2002.

Improving livelihoods is critical to the DRC in successfully completing its transition to stable democratic governance. By the end of the program, USAID will assist in the return of an estimated 20,000 IDPs in Equateur Province and 270,000 in Katanga Province. An additional 30,000 farmers will be primary beneficiaries of disease-resistant cassava varieties in war-damaged parts of the eastern DRC; and disease problems for another primary staple crop, banana plantains, will have been addressed. Hundreds of villages in Bandundu, Equateur, Katanga, Maniema and the North and South Kivu provinces will have proven that substantial economic recovery at the local level is possible through mobilization of community resources.

US Financing in Thousands of Dollars

Democratic Republic of the Congo

	CSH	DA
660-004 Livelihoods		
Through September 30, 2003		
Obligations	0	0
Expenditures	0	0
Unliquidated	0	0
Fiscal Year 2004		
Obligations	1,000	3,800
Expenditures	0	70
Through September 30, 2004		
Obligations	1,000	3,800
Expenditures	0	70
Unliquidated	1,000	3,730
Prior Year Unobligated Funds		
Obligations	0	0
Planned Fiscal Year 2005 NOA		
Obligations	2,365	3,973
Total Planned Fiscal Year 2005		
Obligations	2,365	3,973
Proposed Fiscal Year 2006 NOA		
Obligations	0	2,339
Future Obligations	0	30,000
Est. Total Cost	3,365	40,112