



DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO

Preparatory Support to Rehabilitation Programme

Disaster Context

Natural disasters occur in the Democratic Republic of Congo on an annual basis. These include flooding, droughts, erosion, and landslides.

Being in an equatorial climatic zone, the country is prone to heavy rains throughout the year. Significant flooding and landslides occur in many areas of the country, especially in urban areas where the consequences are tremendous. Damage is generally high in terms of property destruction and death toll, and the disasters also increase the number of vulnerable persons. Where drainage infrastructures are non-existent, landslides have caused serious erosion that paralyzes economic and social activities in urban areas.

In early February 2003, a tornado hit the heart of Yumbi county, located on the Congo River about halfway between Kinshasa and Mbandaka. The storm killed 17 people, injured 300, destroyed 1,664 homes, and left 1,700 families without shelter. Emergency initiatives were quickly undertaken to increase the local hospital's capacity. The government formally requested the assistance of the humanitarian community, including UN agencies and international NGOs.

Project Title

Preparatory Support to Rehabilitation Programmes (HABITAT ZAI/97/016/A/01/56)

Sectors

- Capacity-building
- Disaster preparedness
- Risk and vulnerability analysis

Funding

This project has benefited from total grant funding of \$8,750,325. Sponsors include:

- UNDP provided \$5,010,622 from TRAC 1.1.1 funds
- Government of Belgium: \$1,692,395
- Government of France: \$138,744
- Government of DRC: \$2,399,613

Partners

- Government of Belgium
- Government of France
- Government of DRC

Programme Activities

This project is designed to rebuild government capacity to launch rehabilitation efforts in most big cities. This project essentially focuses on three main areas:

- Refuse dump and drainage
- Space cleaning up
- Building rehabilitation

Only one aspect of this project (refuse dump and drainage) is effectively dealing with disaster recovery through solid waste evacuation and the rehabilitation of drainage infrastructures to curb landslides and flooding in urban areas. To be operational, a light structure for technical support to the "Secretariat Général à l'Urbanisme et Habitat" of the Ministry of Public Works has been created. It includes:

- Definition of organisational and functioning scheme to support the General Secretariat in this project context
- Identification of drainage infrastructures to be rehabilitated
- Cost assessment process for duties within the project framework

- Follow up of rehabilitation process carried out by selected private agencies
- Monitoring of state of execution of emergency tasks

Separately, UNDP is planning to provide logistic support services and support for the coordination functions of the government and the UN resident coordinator during the emergency response to the Yumbi tornado. An evaluation mission including representatives from FAO, OCHA, UNDP, WFP, UNICEF and other aid organisations was immediately dispatched to assess emergency and recovery needs.