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### **DRC: Solving the Congolese Starving Population**

In DRC the population was 89.56 million people in 2021. 46.2% is the urban population and 53.8% is the rural population. They are under a Republic government and leadership following the Semi-presidential system. With 80 million hectares of arable land, 4 million hectares of irrigated land, and many rivers with important fishery resources, the DRC has the potential to become a global agricultural power. Although the agricultural sector employs over 60 percent of Congolese and comprises 19.7 percent of GDP, it fails to ensure food security and generate sufficient revenues and sustainable employment. The main cash crops include coffee, palm oil, rubber, cotton, sugar, tea, and cocoa. There has been some success in developing cocoa and coffee for export. Food crops also include cassava, plantains, maize, groundnuts, and rice. Commercial agricultural production remains limited, with most producers engaged in subsistence food agriculture. To cope with the food shortage, the GDRRC is supporting the creation of agro-industrial parks in different areas of the DRC. The average farm size is 1.6 hectares. There has been some success in developing cocoa and coffee for export. In the river basin, the climate is hot and humid but in the southern highlands, it is cool and dry.

In 2021, the urban population of the Democratic Republic of the Congo was 46.2 % urban population. Over the last 50 years, the urban population of the Democratic Republic of the

Congo grew substantially from 25.1% to 46.2 % rising at an increasing annual rate that reached a maximum of 1.47% in 1985 and then in 2021 it decreased to 1.31%. Urban population refers to people living in urban areas as defined by national statistical offices. This is calculated using World Bank population estimates and urban ratios from the United Nations World Urbanization Prospects. Rural population refers to people living in rural areas as defined by national statistical offices. It is calculated as the difference between the total population and the urban population. The gigantic urban influx that began after independence led to a fourfold increase in the population of Kinshasa, creating a massive housing problem that is still far from solved. Tens of thousands of squatters are crowded into squalid shantytowns on the outskirts of the capital. Other, more prosperous migrants have built themselves permanent dwellings. Unable to control the spread of unauthorized and generally substandard construction or to come up with adequate alternatives, the government tolerated what it could not prevent and began extending basic utilities to the new settlements.

The average family size in DRC is 5.3 members. At last estimate, more than half of the housing units were traditional one-room adobe, straw, or mud structures, and less than half were modern houses of durable or semi-durable material containing one or more rooms. Housing falls under the responsibility of the Department of Public Health and Social Affairs. Public housing and homebuilding loans sponsored by the National Housing Office still cover no more than a tiny fraction of the country's massive housing needs. At last estimate, more than half of the housing units were traditional one-room adobe, straw, or mud structures, and less than half were modern houses of durable or semi-durable material containing one or more rooms. The typical family diet is composed mostly of cassava and maize. Families get their food from subsistence farming. Most Congolese work in the agricultural sector and have an average salary

of \$394.25 a year. Most children do not attend school and those that do start late at the average age of six. Congolese do not have access to sanitary water and DRC is an exporter of electric power. The biggest barriers that Congolese face in DRC are Poverty and Street Children. They do not make enough money to feed their families and put them all through school

The Congolese started suffering serious conflict and economic collapse. Their community is steadily worsening. There are currently more than 100 different armed groups vying for territory and control in eastern DRC. This conflict is causing massive displacement and urgent humanitarian needs as families flee their homes for safety. The armed conflict and insecurity have displaced 4.5 million people within the country. Poverty is high and remains widespread. Decades of war, violence, and poverty have claimed the lives of over five million people. An absence of schools, health care, and reliable income-generating opportunities hinder communities' ability to emerge from the crisis. Despite overwhelming odds, there is hope across eastern Congo today. Rural populations can grow their food but urban populations are overpopulating and it is harder for them to get food. Single mothers are affected by this problem the worst. All populations, even indigenous suffer badly from food insecurity. The environment in DRC is too heavily forested landscape.

I feel that the best way to solve starvation and food insecurity in the Democratic Republic of Congo is to remove some of the trees that surround them. Create more farming land, and use their rich agricultural land to their advantage. Get funds and loans from national banks. Contact the Speed the light project to help get money. We can ask local communities to donate to the DRC project. GDRC would be the best choice to help DRC. Additionally, the GDRC intends to build new, and expand existing, agro-industrial projects. These projects will benefit from the participation of foreign agricultural firms with tolerance for risk, experience operating in

complex or fragile environments, and access to capital to finance their participation. We should help to donate money to “Action Against Hunger”. Action Against Hunger is a major player on national coordination platforms, working in close collaboration with government technical services at both national and local levels to influence and strengthen the capacity of key actors to address nutritional insecurity. During the COVID-19 pandemic, they have been supporting three health centers, strengthening the implementation of infection, prevention, and control measures through the creation of triage facilities, installation of handwashing stations, and donation of PPE. “GDRC” and “Action Against Hunger” are both great examples of things we can do to help the agricultural problems and starvation of DRC.

### **Leading Sub-Sectors**

- Crop planting
- Cultivation
- Fishery, land, and wildlife conservation
- Fertilizer, herbicides, pesticides, and fungicides
- Farm equipment leasing and financing
- Agricultural industrial park

### **Opportunities**

- To develop the agricultural sector, the GDRC launched a program with the following objectives:
  - Strengthen its contribution to economic growth.

- Restore the country's food security.
- Reduce poverty and insecurity in rural areas.
- Increase the production of food and durable goods.

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