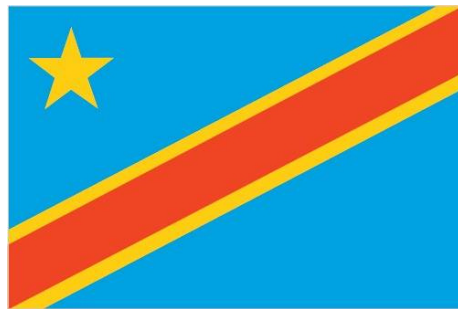


DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO COUNTRY PROFILE

LAWS, POLICY, AND REGULATIONS AFFECTING
THE WATER-ENERGY-FOOD NEXUS



WATER and
ENERGY
for **FOOD**



Government of the Netherlands



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1 SUMMARY

1.1 Current political and socio-economic conditions

- The Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) has more available farmland than any other country in Africa, with 80 million hectares of arable land, 4 million hectares of irrigated land, and many rivers with important fishery resources. As such, the DRC has the potential to become a global agricultural hub with an agricultural potential to feed close to two billion people.
- The agricultural sector contributed 36 percent of GDP and accounted for over 60 percent of employment in 2021.
- The country has the second-largest rainforest after the Amazon and abundant water resources.
- Climate projections for the DRC are unanimous that there will be a significant temperature rise, accompanied by higher extreme temperatures. More rains are expected in future, however, unevenness or asymmetry in rainfall patterns will be experienced.
- The country's rich endowment of natural resources, large population, and strategic location in Central Africa make it a potentially rewarding market, however, the commercial and investment climate remains extremely challenging.
- The DRC economy is largely reliant on commodity prices, particularly prices for copper, cobalt, tin, tungsten, and tantalum. Favorable commodity prices facilitated robust economic growth from 2001 to 2014, but the absence of political will, weak institutions, and persistent conflict in the regions continued to undermine resilience. A drop in mineral prices caused an economic downturn in 2016-2017.
- The weak manufacturing sector, porous borders, weak links between the capital and the periphery, and between the regions have rendered the DRC an import-based economy. Low-cost consumer goods and foodstuffs smuggled into DRC from Angola and Zambia have undercut local production and resulted in large-scale capital flight.
- The accession of Felix Tshisekedi as President in 2019 represented the first peaceful transition of power in the country's history. In 2021, President Tshisekedi ended his alliance with the party of former President Joseph Kabila and formed a new coalition called the Sacred Union. In April 2021, Sama Lukonde became Prime Minister leading a new cabinet.
- DRC is currently facing the second-largest hunger crisis after Yemen, with 13 million people classified as food insecure.
- The country has also been engulfed by the largest-ever Ebola virus disease (EVD) epidemic (outbreak on April 13, 2020) in addition to the COVID-19 pandemic outbreak (first reported on March 10, 2020).

1.2 Priorities and resources for innovators in the Water-Energy-Food (WEF) nexus

- While nine of ten DRC citizens are without electricity, Congo's abundant renewable natural resources, particularly water and sunlight, could meet the country's unmet demand for electricity and support economic development. Innovations in solar energy and hydropower present opportunities for the agricultural sector.
- Farmers use elementary agricultural technology mostly based on outdated production methods and inputs. Hence, the integration of digital technology into agriculture presents a major opportunity for agribusiness to initiate agricultural transformation and raise income for the poor in DRC.
- In the case of DRC, achieving agricultural mechanization requires institutional changes that will increase trust and encourage the private sector to adapt progressively proven technologies to local practices and production modes. The adoption of technologies is anticipated to improve access to markets for inputs, outputs, and finance. Also, policymakers should increase farmers' capacity to evaluate, adapt, and disseminate proven technologies.¹

2 MACRO-ECONOMIC ENVIRONMENT

- The DRC is the largest country in Sub-Saharan Africa (SSA) and is endowed with abundant natural resources. However, DRC has a large poor population and in 2018, it was estimated that 73 percent of the Congolese population (60 million people) lived on less than \$1.90 a day (the international poverty rate).
- The DRC's economy is not very diversified; the country imports and exports a small range of products, the imports include foodstuffs, chemical products, transport equipment and electrical and non-electrical machinery). Its exports are still confined to primary (mining) products, chiefly cobalt, copper, diamonds, gold, and petroleum.
- Since 2001, the macroeconomic situation of DRC has been improving with moderate economic growth,² yet the lives of most Congolese have not. According to the International Monetary Fund, from 2010-2015 real GDP growth averaged 7.3 percent, well above the Sub-Saharan African average of 4.6 percent. However, the difficult external environment and increased political uncertainty have depressed the near-term economic outlook.

2.1 Labor Force and Unemployment

- COVID-19 caused an economic crisis that severely impacted the labor market, which led to job losses in different sectors. The restrictive travel measures adopted by the government to combat the spread of COVID-19 hurt non-extractive activities (commerce, market services and tourism). The high employment rate is prevalent amongst women and youth.³
- Agriculture plays a crucial role in the DRC's economy. In 2000, it contributed to 74 percent of jobs in country, mostly through subsistence farming (see Figure 3). However, this has gradually decreased such that the contribution of the sector to employment was recorded at 64 percent in 2019 and generated about 21 percent of total value-added.⁴

- On the other hand, the contribution of the service sector and industry to employment has been increasing. In 2000, the service sector and industry sector employed 19 percent and 8 percent, respectively. The contribution to employment increased in such a way that in 2019 the service sector and industry sector employed 26 percent and 10 percent, respectively. The industry sector is driven by mining with large reserves of high-grade mineral reserves such as copper, cobalt, and gold.
- While the extractives sector has supported a decent average gross domestic product growth rate of about 6 percent over the past ten years; unemployment rates have remained alarmingly high. This is especially the case among youth ages 15-24 who make up the largest segment of the workforce. Furthermore, the country's human capital index is among the lowest in the world.

2.2 Doing Business in DRC

- The DRC is one of the most fragile countries (top five) in the world in the Fragile States Index (increased from 105.5 indexes in 2007 to 108.4 index in 2021) and has a history of conflict and violence.
- It is ranked 183 among 190 economies in the Ease of Doing Business 2020 Report.⁵ This ranking reflects the poor business environment (corruption, exploitation and mismanagement, political and economic tensions, and conflict). The rankings and scores per category of doing business are shown in Figure 1.
- The DRC scored particularly poor in trading across borders (187), paying taxes (180) and resolving insolvency (168), getting credit (152) and protecting minority investors (176).
- The DRC has increased the port handling time and cost for exporting and importing, thus, making trading across borders more difficult.
- Further, the DRC has made paying taxes more costly for companies by increasing the employers' social security contribution rate (sales tax rate has been increased).



Figure 1. Democratic Republic of Congo ranking on ease of doing business (Source: World Bank, 2020)

- The ease of starting a business was ranked 54 out of 190, a hopeful sign for future investment and entrepreneurship. The DRC has eliminated the requirement that a woman obtains her husband's permission to start a business and they have combined multiple business registration procedures to make starting a business easier through a one-stop-shop.
- The one-stop-shop or "guichet unique," was established in 2005 within the National Agency for the Promotion of Investment. The "one-stop-shop" aims to simplify the process of registering a company by unifying under one roof the required procedures of various government ministries. However, it is not without limitations, it has limited success in expediting company registration. It also lacks sufficient authority to approve licenses and permits.
- As depicted in Figure 5, the inflation rate for the DRC in 2020 was 11.3 percent, an increase from 2019 where it was recorded at 4.9 percent. This sharp spike was largely due to the COVID-19 travel restrictions imposed by the government and monetization of the budget deficit.
- Further, the Congolese Franc (CDF) depreciated sharply by 25% in 2020 due to the high price of imports bringing the exchange rate to 2000 CDF to the US dollar. To combat the increasing inflation and the depreciating Congolese franc against the US dollar, the central bank raised the policy rate from 7.8 percent to 18.5 percent.
- The trade balance for DRC (Figure 9) remained negative for the years studied (1994-2020), mainly due to the non-transformation of exported products by modernized and developed tools. The goods and services that are exported by DRC are not very diversified in sectoral terms and the economy is highly dependent on imports of necessities.

3 COVID-19 MITIGATION MEASURES AND RESPONSE

- When the DRC identified its first case of COVID-19 on March 10th, 2020, the government promptly introduced an outbreak management and control plan. The plan included a series of stringent measures aimed at reducing transmission of the virus including the closure of alcoholic outlets, restaurants and schools, and international borders. Travel in and out of Kinshasa and Gombe was also restricted.
- The restrictions imposed by the government, due to the pandemic, led to the reduction in non-labor income caused by job losses in most households particularly poor and female-headed households. The decline in absolute and relative incomes led to an increase in poverty. There was an increase in inflation of prices of food products and basic goods which had a debilitating effect on markets and food supply chains.
- The economy entered a recession, and the value of currency continued to depreciate leading to loss of investor confidence.⁶
- Today, the restrictions to curb the spread of COVID-19 have been eased in DRC, with borders reopening and travel restrictions being lifted. However, the effects of the COVID-19

are still evident. There is no sign of the economic recovery, and the country still experiences a low level of key exports such as cobalt.

4 TAXATION STRUCTURE

- DRC obtained a score of 40.9 for the Paying Taxes indicator and, ranked 180th out of 190 economies on the Ease of doing Business Index, performing far worse than the regional average (Sub-Saharan Africa). This is due to the multiplicity of taxes, a lack of coordination between the different tax agencies, the prohibitive cost of tax compliance to business operations, and the onerous requirement for newly minted businesses to pay taxes even when they are not profitable. High taxes have caused companies like Nestle, Chevron, and others to close their businesses in the DRC.
- The tax system is complex and involves several levies, including customs duties; VAT; excise duty; personal income tax (IRPP); corporation tax; registration and stamp duties on real estate transactions; local taxes; and other levies on specific products, transport, telecommunications, and so forth.
- The tax system has however undergone major changes since the last TPR due to the introduction of value-added tax (VAT) to replace the previous turnover tax (ICA). In 2012, the country also introduced new Customs and Excise codes.
- The taxable income includes all types of income realized within the perimeters of DRC. This means that income that is realized outside the DRC by a DRC non-resident is not subject to tax in the DRC unless the income is sourced in the DRC.

5 SMEs AND ENTREPRENEURSHIP

5.1 Overview

- The government recognizes the tremendous potential of both formal and informal Micro, Small, and Medium-sized Enterprises (MSMEs) to the development of the country's economy. MSMEs contribute to the employment of people in the country and create entrepreneurship opportunities, especially for women- and youth-led businesses.⁷
- MSMEs dominate the private sector of DRC and play a crucial role in job creation in the country. Roughly, 85% of the national economic activities are conducted by small enterprises in the informal sector with less than 10 employees.
- Despite the huge contribution of MSMEs to the economy, they are faced with constraints that hinder their growth and competitiveness (e.g., access to finance).
- The lack of access to finance is not in any way due to the lack of resources in financial institutions but that MSMEs are considered risky by financial institutions hence they do not qualify for loans. The risk level is attributable to the poor quality of finance applications, inadequate collateral, and characteristics of the business developer.⁸
- The DRC is one of the countries that has continuous civil war, thus experiencing instability and mainly unstable business environment. The unstable business environment (political

instability, negative economic growth, and crisis in the east of the country) makes it difficult for women, youth, and other vulnerable and marginalized groups to venture into businesses.

5.2 Sources of Funding

- DRC has several microfinance institutions, which have the characteristics of commercial banks (e.g., MUCODEC, CAPPED).
- The International Finance Corporation (IFC) has invested more than \$12 million through Advans Bank, Rawbank, and ProCredit Bank for farmers and small business owners to have access to credit so that they could expand their businesses and operate more efficiently.
- IFC also worked with Minoterie de Matadi (also known as MIDEMA), flour and feed milling company, to provide training to farmers and SMEs and facilitated links to financial institutions and access to finance.
- Most (92 percent) SMEs struggle to access finance hence they rely on self-financing most of the time or get financing from friends and family members.⁹
- Financial institutions are more likely to finance SMEs that are registered as companies, and usually do not fund start-ups due to the high insolvency ratio.¹⁰
- Foreign investors are less keen on investing in DRC because of the unstable business environment in the country. In addition, the constraints that hinder investment include unattractive financial returns, underdeveloped infrastructure, inadequate contract enforcement, limited access to credit, continued insecurity in the eastern part of the country, lack of adequate intellectual property rights protection, administrative and bureaucratic delay, corruption, and ineffective enforcement of laws.
- The impediments to foreign investment call for the mobilization of domestic investors to invest in local businesses to realize higher returns and ensure that the enabling environment is a conducive investment.

5.3 Government Regulation and Labor Law

- In the DRC, specific legislation impacting the private sector either does not exist or is not implemented. For example, the Agriculture Law and Mining Code are not implemented nor enforced. Development partners are working with the Government to reform public procurement laws to include preferential provisions for Congolese women entrepreneurs.
- Two new regulatory agencies oversee the energy sector, but clear plans and procedures are not yet established to promote private sector investment.
- The WASH sector's regulatory fragmentation has caused regulatory reforms to differ in substance, scope, and timing across provinces.
- The government of DRC has however implemented several initiatives in an attempt to improve the business climate. The state has eased the process of registering start-ups in 2010 by reducing the time required to register a business, appointing additional public notaries in 2012, and eliminating the requirement to get a certificate indicating the location of a company's headquarters.

- In terms of international trade, the DRC signed a bilateral trade agreement with over 50 countries and affiliates with numerous regional and international trade organizations, including the World Trade Organization (WTO), the Southern African Development Community (SADC), the Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA), the Economic Community of Central African States (ECCAS), the Nile Basin Initiative (NBI), the Economic Community of the Great Lakes Countries (ECGLC), the Organization for harmonization of the business law in Africa (OHADA).
- In March 2018, the DRC signed the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) Agreement. This means that DRC will be able to trade freely with other African countries, with reduced tariffs and will deepen the economic integration of DRC with other African countries.
- In the 1990s, the DRC liberalized its importation regime. The average applied tariff rate in 2008 was 12 percent, all DRC's tariffs are ad valorem and charged on a cost, insurance, and freight (CIF) basis.
- The structure of the tariffs can be classified into three bands:
 - 5 percent for equipment goods, raw materials, agricultural and veterinary supplies and unassembled equipment;
 - 10 percent for large consumable food items, industrial inputs, spare parts, and items for social services, such as hospitals and disabled persons; and
 - 20 percent for clothing, furniture, cigarettes, and other finished products.
- Besides tariffs, there are several taxes collected on imported goods by different government agencies. The taxes besides tariffs that are paid by importers on goods and services average between 10 percent and 40 percent. The government agencies collecting taxes on imports include the following: the customs authority (DGDA), tax authority (DGI), General Direction of Administrative Incomes, Industrial Promotion Fund, Office of Maritime Freight Management, National Office of Transportation, and the Import-Export Control Agency (OCC).

5.4 Expansion Opportunities

- The DRC's economy depends on the mining sector, which accounts for approximately 24 percent of GDP and about 85 percent of export revenue.
- Despite the numerous technical, economic, and institutional constraints, the DRC has vast agricultural potential but relies extensively on food imports (18 percent of GDP on average and only 3 percent of export revenue), has a vast territory, many rivers, favorable climate, fertile soil and an expanding urban market of over 100 million inhabitants in DRC and neighboring countries. Furthermore, the renewed interest of the Government and its partners in the agricultural and rural sectors presents an opportunity for agricultural development.
- Commercial agricultural production remains limited, most farmers are engaged in subsistence farming. In terms of subsistence farming, families produce approximately 42 percent of the food they consume.
- The Government of the DRC is supporting the creation of agro-industrial parks in different locations to cope with the country's food shortage.

5.5 Government Support

- The government has adopted several policies to boost the business environment in the agricultural sector by promoting local small businesses to increase food production, reduce national dependence on imports, save foreign currency, and enhance value addition to farm outputs.
- One such program is the National Agricultural Investment Program (NAIP). The main aim of the NAIP is to stimulate sustained annual growth of the agricultural sector by more than 6 percent. This is essential for reducing poverty, ensuring the food and nutrition security of the Congolese people, and generating sustainable employment and income through agriculture.
- The government also established the One-Stop Service for Starting Business to facilitate company registration and tax registration processes.
- The DRC formulated the Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper (PRSP 2) to improve living conditions of Congolese people by 2015. The improvement should be evident in the economic growth rate of 7.2 percent per year and a reduction in the incidence of poverty to 60 percent in 2015.
- The office of the Prime Minister embarked on developing a strategy to “Engineer Agricultural Transformation” to promote strategic investment in the agriculture sector. The strategy intends to support small-scale farmers through the Small-scale Farmers Initiative and commercial farmers through the Commercial Farming Initiative.
- The Small-Scale Farmers Initiative seeks to provide direct support in the form of agricultural inputs, agricultural tools, as well as to rehabilitate and improve feed roads to make farmland more accessible to markets.
- On the other hand, the Commercial Farming Initiative seeks to address the need for domestic food security, accelerate efforts to reduce food imports and improve nutrition in the country and provide local markets for smallholder farmers. Further, this initiative aims to facilitate public-private partnerships with large agribusiness investors and to establish “agri-business parks”.

6 POLICIES AND TRENDS IN THE WATER-ENERGY-FOOD NEXUS

6.1 Agricultural Context

- The DRC is the largest Francophone country and has the richest resource base in Africa. However, the country is faced with acute levels of food insecurity and malnutrition, mainly caused by the persisting conflicts and civil war that happened between 1998 and 2002¹¹. In rural areas, food security affects 76 percent of the population.
- On the other hand, DRC has an alarming level of hunger, ranking 112 out of 116 countries in the Global Hunger Index in 2021. The country has approximately 80 million hectares of arable land and only 10 million hectares are under cultivation.

- The economy of DRC is mainly dominated by primary sector performance, with agriculture playing a dominant role.
- At present, the agricultural sector contributes 18 percent of GDP and accounts for over 60 percent of new jobs.
- However, the development of the agriculture and rural sectors faces multiple constraints, including: (i) inaccessibility of inputs, agricultural equipment, improved technologies and markets; (ii) weak road infrastructure and degradation of feeder roads; and (iii) the absence of an enabling environment for private investment.
- The DRC's climate is mainly subtropical, the average temperatures are high with good rainfall over 8 months in a year at an average of 700 to 2,100mm/m².
- The percentage area under irrigation is very low, yet irrigated food plots on small-farmer irrigation schemes fulfil important roles in terms of household food security. This presents an opportunity to introduce irrigation systems in rural communities to address poverty and contribute to increased food production.
- The country strategic opportunities program (COSOP) is aligned with the Agricultural Sector and Rural Development Strategy (SSADR) set out in the National Strategic Development Plan (PNSD). The SSADR prioritizes family-based food-producing agriculture by smallholders and improved access to markets. The strategy envisions an inclusive and prosperous agricultural system in which farmers, women and young people practice commercial farming and have easy access to quality inputs, basic infrastructure, markets, support services and affordable financing.
- Perhaps the biggest policy bottleneck for agricultural development is land administration, which is inefficient and cumbersome. Insecure land rights affect livelihoods and hamper investment in agriculture and other sectors. Another major policy affecting the rural sector is decentralization. In accordance with the decentralization policy and law, each provincial government has the power to develop the agricultural program of its province. However, application of the law is lagging, and provinces have neither the means nor the de facto power to exercise their jurisdiction, adding to the fragility of the country.

6.2 Water Use and Energy in Agriculture

- The DRC has abundant water bodies (accounting for an estimated 23 percent of Africa's internal renewable water resources) and it is Africa's most "water-rich" country, possessing an estimated 52 per cent of Africa's surface water reserves (rivers, lakes and wetlands).¹² The DRC also enjoys considerable water autonomy, with 70 per cent (900 km³ /year) of its total actual renewable water resources (estimated at 1,283 km³ /year) generated internally from rainfall.
- Despite the country's immense freshwater resources, the overriding challenge of DRC is access to safe drinking water by most of the population. Investment in the country's water infrastructure and services in DRC has been declining since 1990 exacerbated by the conflict-related destruction of facilities.
- The agriculture sector is highly dependent on rainfall for production and the use of irrigation is insignificant. The agricultural sector accounts for 32 per cent of water withdrawals, followed by industry with 16 per cent.

- The DRC has immense and varied energy potential, consisting of non-renewable resources, including oil, natural gas, and uranium, as well as renewable energy sources, including hydroelectric, biomass, solar, and geothermal power. Hydroelectric power accounts for 96 percent of domestic power generation, the bulk of which is generated by the Inga I and Inga II dams located in Kongo Central province. Inga I and II have an installed capacity of 1,775 megawatts, and the government is supporting maintenance to bring Inga 1 & II back to full capacity.
- Despite this, according to the World Bank only 19 percent of the DRC's 84 million people have access to electricity – about 41 percent in urban areas and one percent in rural areas.
- To combat this shortcoming, the USAID is supporting the implementation of the new national Law on Electricity and assisting the Congolese government's efforts to establish a new Regulatory Authority and a Rural Electrification Agency. The USAID is funding activities that will promote both domestic and foreign investment in the energy sector and ensure that the enabling environment of the power sector is improved.

6.3 Groundwater

- Despite the abundance of surface waters, most of the population in DRC highly depend on groundwater and springs as sources of safe drinking water which is estimated to supply up to 90 percent of DRC's rural population.
- DRC's groundwater is estimated to comprise almost 47 percent (421 km³ /year) of the internal renewable water resources. However, there is no clear information on the extent and quality of groundwater resources in the DRC.

6.4 Supply Chain

- Several key intermediaries drive the local market, serving various end markets with agricultural goods from harvest to end consumption. The actors include small-scale wholesalers (mostly women) to whom farmers sell directly or through farmer cooperatives. Some farmers also go directly to the village or even the urban market to sell their wares themselves rather than using intermediaries.
- The goods are transported using various forms which include bicycle, truck, or on foot, by either individuals or through services delivered via transport organizations. Storage is rented from the farmers' cooperative, association, or muso (another less-organized farmer group) or private depot owners. The transport and storage stage of the value chain can be the most costly and risky.
- The state of roads that deliver agricultural products is extremely poor, especially during the rainy season. The goods are also transported using lake transportation, largely provided by "boats" and private canoes. Air transportation of goods also exists, although the routes are less used for the transport of agricultural goods, mainly because it is expensive for farmers.
- Agricultural inputs and machinery are imported from other countries. There are no large commercial firms and very few government actors that provide inputs for agricultural production. A small number of commercial farmers buy imported products from Rwanda or Uganda through urban retail shops.

7 AGRICULTURE INVESTMENT POTENTIAL

- Globally, the country is among those with the highest prospective agriculture value for major crops such as maize, palm oil, soybean, and sugarcane. Because of the labor-intensive nature of agricultural production, investing in agriculture would undoubtedly lead to job creation and poverty reduction. Increasing women's access to agricultural inputs would improve their livelihoods and increase household food security.
- In DRC, agriculture (including fishing) provides income to 97 percent of households in rural areas with food crop farming (69 percent) dominating followed by livestock production (9 percent), fishing and forestry resources and cash crop production (7 and 5 percent respectively).¹³
- The Government has implemented several agricultural development programs, including the National Agricultural Investment Programme (NAIP) 2014-2020. Between 2013 and 2020, the NAIP aimed to unify all projects and stimulate sustained annual growth of the agricultural sector of more than 6 percent.
- The COSOP is also aligned with the NAIP, which outlines how family farming will gradually lead to the development of the agrifood sector, with high returns for smallholders. Under the NAIP, the private sector is being asked to contribute to the development of the agrifood industry and the Government expects the living conditions of farmers to improve through the creation of "poles of agricultural enterprises".
- In addition, the Government has carried out a program of transforming the national financial sector and improving the business climate in the DRC. The DRC has eased regulatory barriers for business start-ups by reducing the time required to register a business in 2011, appointing additional public notaries in 2012, and eliminating the requirement to get a certificate indicating the location of a company's headquarters in 2013.
- Lately, the DRC has managed to attract sizeable foreign investments of about 1.28 billion in 2018.

8 GENDER AND SOCIAL INCLUSION IN THE WEF NEXUS

- The DRC has a total population of 67.8 million people, of which 51% are women and 48% of the total population is below 15 years old.
- In the DRC, gender inequalities persist when it comes to access to education, economic opportunities, and representation in various institutions of the country.
- Articles 5, 14 and 15 of the DRC constitution establish a legal basis for equality and equity policies. Despite this, women currently occupy only 7.2 percent of positions at the highest level of decision-making at a national level in parliament and government.
- Gender roles are mainly entrenched in the agricultural systems where the role of a woman is to plant, harvest, and trade, while males handle finances and decisions related to these activities¹⁴. This factor discourages women from farming and undermines the advancement of women since they have no decision-making power.

- In the 2021, in Global Gender Gap Index, the DRC is ranked 151 out of 156 countries with a parity score of 0.576. The same report ranks the DRC 126 out of 156 on the Economic Participation and Opportunity (of women) with a score of 0.571.
- Owing to the prolonged conflicts, many Congolese live as refugees or internally displaced persons (IDPs) There were 2,756,600 IDPs in 2014 and 2,715,185 IDPs as of February 2015. There are 467,102 refugees from the DRC.¹⁵
- The DRC's national machinery for gender mainstreaming is the Ministry of Gender, Family and Children. A gender focal point is appointed in each line ministry.
- Many women are engaged in agriculture and small businesses in the informal sector. Women participate in economic activities as much as men. Women's labor participation rate is 96.5 percent of men's participation rate. While the male adult unemployment rate was 6.7 percent in 2014, that of women was 9.4 percent in the same year.¹⁶
- Women account for 70.7 percent of labor in agriculture and trade. 49.0 percent of women are engaged in agriculture. Because they lack access to new technology, they use traditional technology; this allows only for subsistence agriculture and is not regarded as an occupation. Women hand over their incomes from agriculture to their husbands and are not able to make productive investments for productive assets, such as improved seeds and fertilizers, which keeps their productivity low. Traditionally, agricultural land belongs to the tribe and women rarely own land.
- Without the agreement of men who have decision-making positions within the tribe, it is difficult for women to own land. To move to commercial agriculture, they need support such as microfinance and cooperatives, which can allow them access to funds and productive assets.¹⁷

ANNEX 1: FIGURES

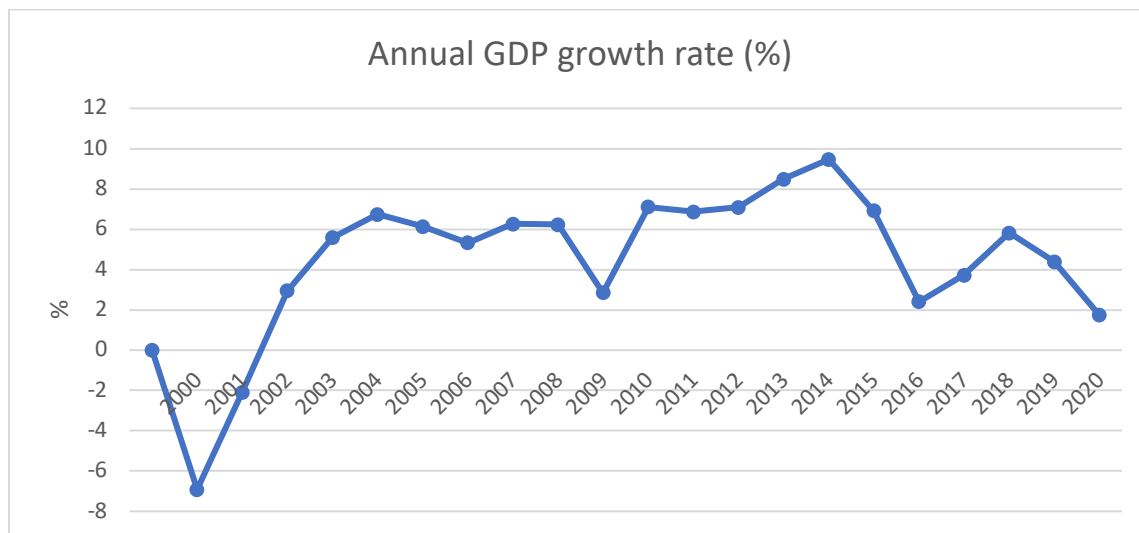


Figure 2. The GDP Annual Growth Rate for Democratic Republic of Congo between 2005 – 2020 in % (Source: World Bank, 2022)

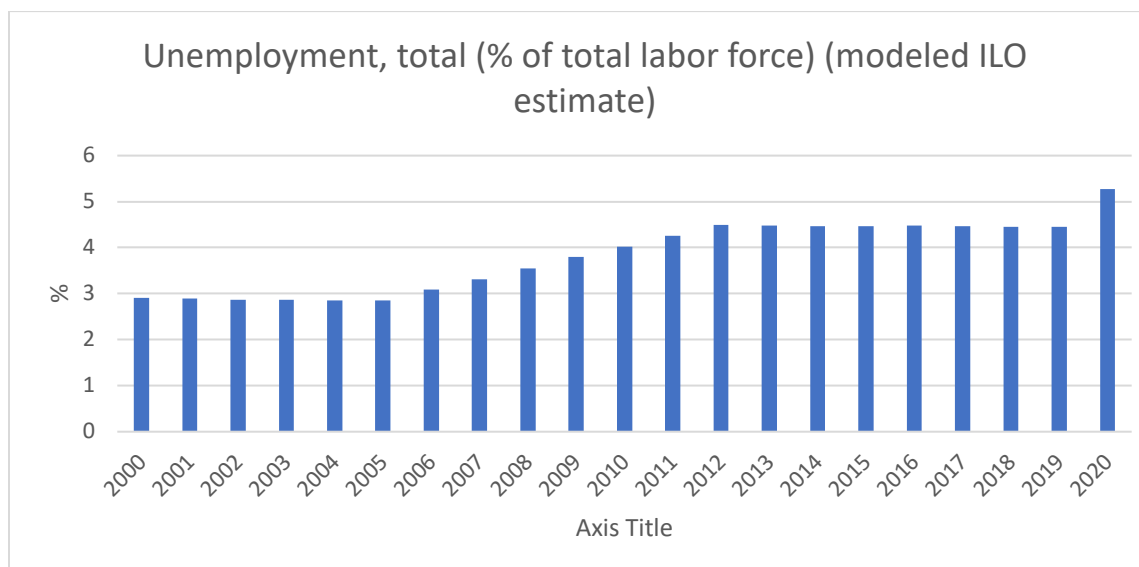


Figure 3. The unemployment rate (%) in the Democratic Republic of Congo between 2000 – 2020 (Source: World Bank, 2022)

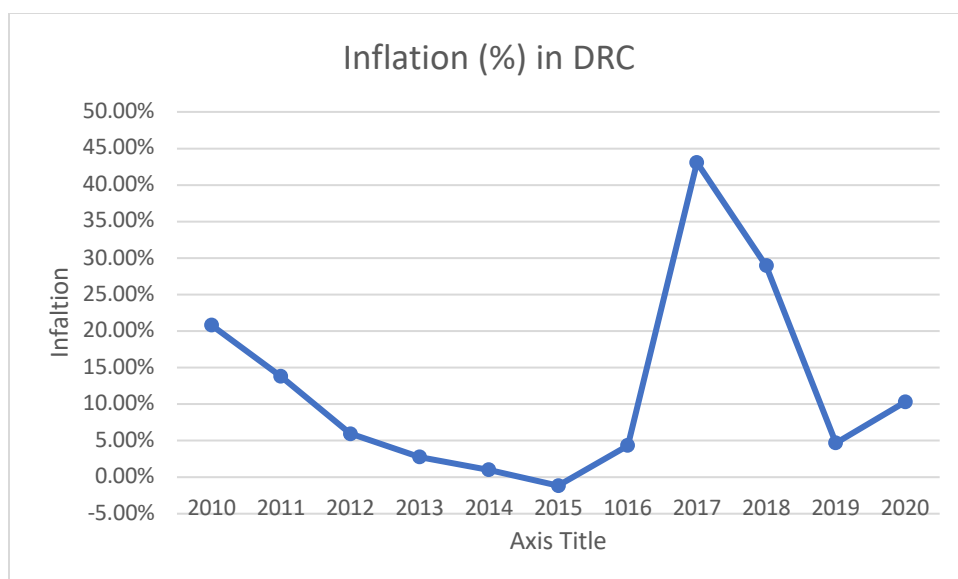


Figure 4. The inflation rate (%) in Democratic Republic of Congo between 2010 – 2020 (Source: World Bank, 2022)

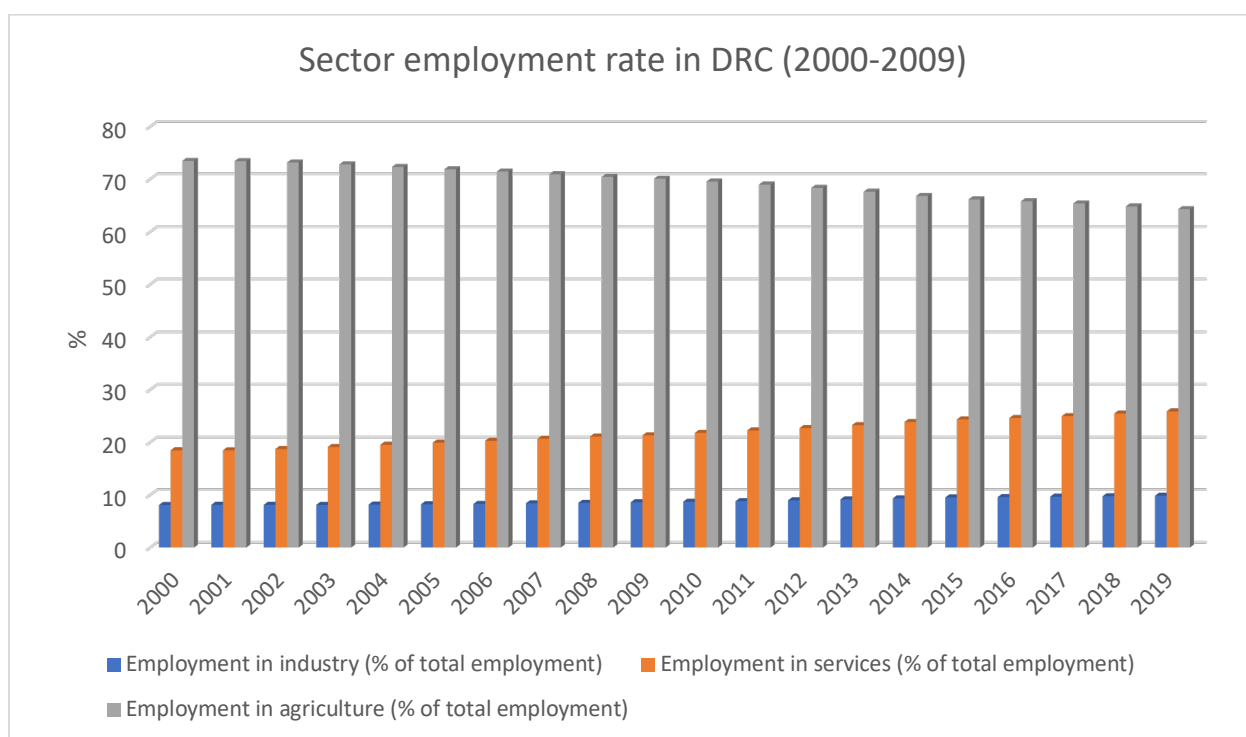


Figure 5. The distribution of employment opportunities by the main 3 economic sectors between 2005-2019 (World Bank, 2020)

Export volume of maize & maize products from 2000 – 2021 (in 1000 metric tonnes)

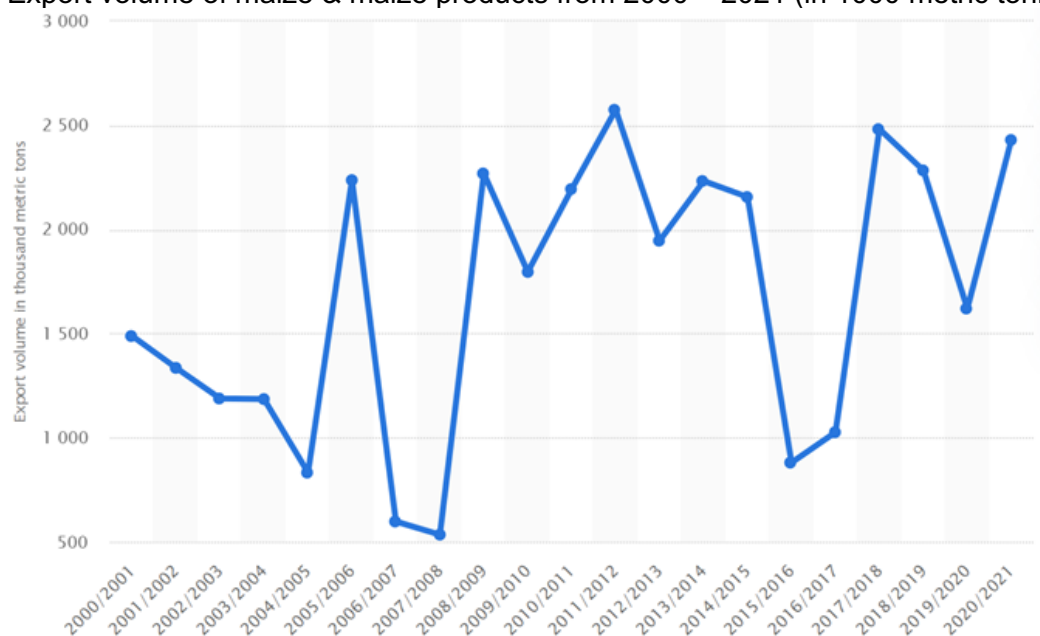


Figure 6. Demonstration of the volume of exported maize & maize products (Source: Statista, 2021)

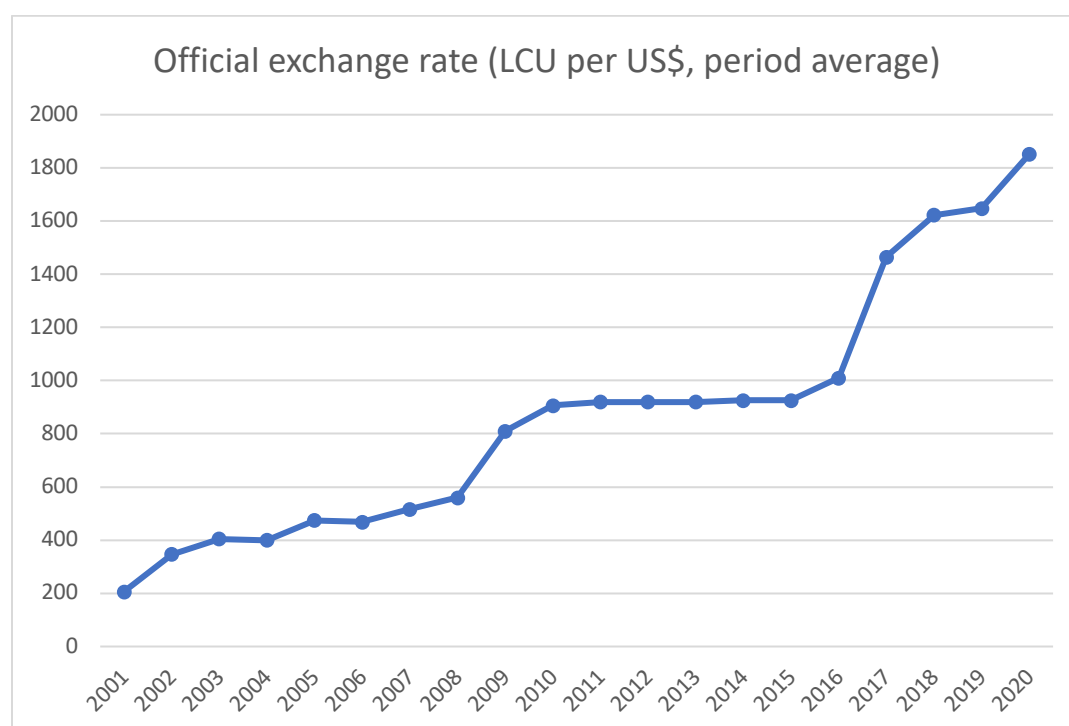


Figure 7. The US dollar to Congolese franc yearly average exchange rates (Source: World Bank, 2022)

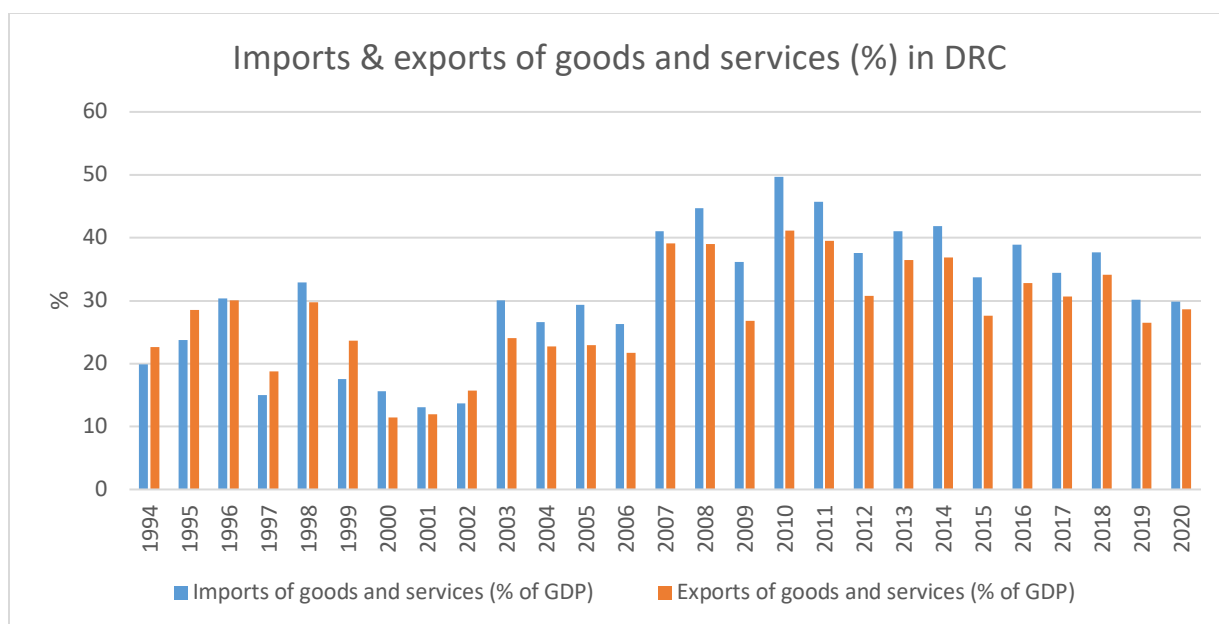


Figure 8. Exported and imported goods and services (Percent of GDP) (Source: World Bank, 2022)

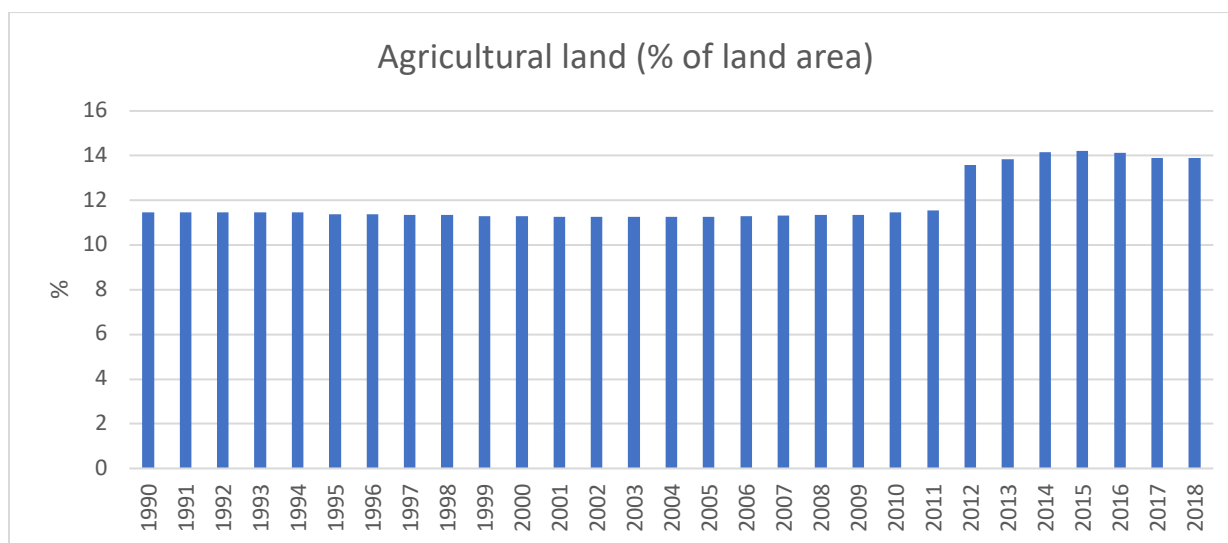


Figure 9. DRC agricultural land (Percent of land area) (Source: World Bank, 2021)

ANNEX 2: AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION AND GENERAL EXPORTED COMMODITIES

Table 1. Major Agricultural Products in DRC and the Production Areas

	Products	Production areas	Characteristics
Staples	Cassava	Bas-Congo, Bandundu, Équateur, Kasai-Oriental, Kasai-Occidental, Orientale	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mostly subsistent farming. Produced in various areas in the country, but especially in North-western area. • Annual production amount: 1.5 million tons. • Possibility in higher value-addition by processing into cassava flour, starch, and other Congolese dish. • Only a limited number of processors is in operation, i.e., limited number of large-scale consumers/outlets. The distribution network is also not well developed.
	Maize	Katanga, Kasai-Oriental, Kasai-Occidental, Bandundu	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mostly subsistent farming. Important staple food in DRC. • Demands in both the domestic and regional markets are high. • In the domestic supply chain, large-scale millers in the urban centers have the power in the governance.
	Rice	Équateur, Kasai-Oriental, Kasai-Occidental, Orientale, Maniema, North Kivu	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mostly subsistent farming. Producing also in Bas-Congo, Bandundu, and the suburbs of Kinshasa with irrigation. • Large demand in the domestic market for food and brewing beer. The distribution network is not well developed. • The milling technology is still low.
	Groundnuts	-	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Annual production amount: Less than 500 thousand tons. • Commercial processors are not available, hence difficult to export. Mainly consumed domestically.
	Dry legumes	North Kivu, South Kivu, Katanga, Bas-Congo	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Annual production amount: 200 thousand tons. • Commercial processors are not available, hence difficult to export. Mainly consumed domestically.
	Plantain	Orientale	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mostly subsistent farming.
Industrial use and Export	Oil palm	Bas-Congo, Bandundu, Équateur, Kasai-Oriental, Kasai-Occidental, Orientale	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Produced in plantations or by small-scale producers. Annual production amount: estimated that 500 thousand tons are produced by plantations, 300 thousand collected from naturally growing trees, and 200 thousands are by small-scale farmers. • Problems of quality found in the products by small-scale producers. Modern processing facilities are almost non-existing. • Modern plantations are in the producing provinces sporadically.
	Natural rubber	Bas-Congo, Équateur,	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • About three quarters are exported and the rest are used for rubber tubes and shoes manufacturing. In

Industrial use and export		Bandundu, Orientale	1970s, private plantations were confiscated and reduced the production. Small-scale farmers who used to produce for these plantations with contracts also disappeared.
	Coffee	Arabica: Kivu Robusta: Équateur , Orientale, Bas-Congo, Kasaï-Oriental	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Suitable areas for both Arabica and Robusta are found with good climatic conditions and soil types. • Mainly grown by small-scale farmers. As the productivity is low with problems of post-harvest handling, the selling price tends to be low. • Some large-scale plantations are available but limited in number. They are typically high in productivity than small-scale farmers. • Processing is not done in rural areas: middlemen purchase the products. • Arabica from Kivu is exported mainly via Rwanda and Uganda. It is exported as Rwandan or Ugandan coffee after the processing. • Robusta is exported mainly through Kinshasa and Matadi.
	Cocoa	Bas Congo Équateur (northern) Oriental	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Have high potentials, but low productivity and quality with the problems of post-harvest handling. • Possible to produce also in Maniema, Bandundu, Kasaï (northern), and North Kivu. • Exported mainly through Kinshasa and Matadi.
	Other	Tea (Kivu), sugarcane	
Livestock	Dairy	Kivu Kinshasa Katanga Bas-Congo Kasaï-Oriental, North Kivu	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Annual production of fresh milk: 5 million tons. • Limited distribution volume of processed products such as cheese but sold and consumed in the urban centers near the production areas.

ANNEX 3: OPPORTUNITIES AND CHALLENGES IN THE WEF NEXUS

Table 2. Opportunities and challenges in the WEF nexus

Opportunities	Challenges
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The DRC has a vast number of fertile lands, abundant water resources and rainfall. The potential for agriculture is huge and the country offers remarkable investment opportunities including a potential market of over 100 million people (own population and that of neighboring countries). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Agricultural and rural sector development is thwarted by advanced environmental degradation and insufficient basic infrastructure; weak institutional and managerial capacity; poor access to inputs, production equipment and markets, and poor access to financial services. In the DRC, gender inequalities (education, economic opportunities, and representation in various institutions of the country) are high. The role of women is confined to reproduction, housekeeping, childcare, and health care for their households. Hence, these gender roles associated with women undermine their advancement and women cannot participate fully in the agriculture and/or business value-chain. The ongoing conflict situation in DRC challenges any potential economic development initiatives. The population live in fear of ongoing rebel attacks which destroy agriculture and causes displacement to many households. This deters continued farming for the communities, commercialization of production, as farmers who are perceived to be successful become targets for pillage.

ANNEX 4: TAXATION STRUCTURE

Table 3. Main tax burdens for companies in DRC

Tax	Rate (%)	Remarks
Corporate income tax	30, 35	The mining industry is subject to tax as prescribed in the Mining Code. For instance, in addition to the corporate income tax (rate: 30%), property tax and vehicle tax, which apply to materials and equipment, and tax on owners of rights to resources.
Branch office tax	35	
Withholding taxes:		
Dividends	20	10% for the mining industry
Interest	20	Tax exemption for the mining industry
Royalties	20	
Services	14	This withholding tax applies to payments for services provided to Congolese companies by foreign companies and individuals without a permanent establishment in DRC. The tax base is the gross amount of the applicable invoice.
Value-added tax (TVA)	16	This tax applies to various products and services when provided in or imported to DRC, not including duty-free articles.
Industrial promotion tax (TPI)	2	This tax is based on the total amount of the CIF values of imported raw materials plus customs tariff, and the sale price in DRC.
Taxes for employment and fees for social security:		
Payroll tax	30	Fixed rate of 30% applies to Annual income exceeding CDF 22,956,000 Progressive tax rate of 0-40% to Annual income not exceeding CDF 22,956,000.
Foreign resident employee tax (IERE)	25	10% for the Mining industries
Contributions to Institut national de sécurité sociale (INSS)	-	Paid by employer: 9% of amount of compensation Paid by employee: 3.5% of amount of compensation
Contributions to Institut national de préparation professionnelle (INPP)	-	- 1-3% of amount of compensation
Contributions to Office National de l'Emploi (ONEM)	-	0.2% of amount of compensation
Main taxes and fees for imports:		
Inspection fee (Frais de Contrôle réglementaires à l'importation)	2% of CIF	Under the jurisdiction of OCC
Marine transport carriage Tax (impôt sur les marchandises importées par voie maritime)	0.59% of CIF	Under the jurisdiction of OGEFREM
Custom duty	0, 5, 10, 20% of CIF	Under the jurisdiction of DGDA

Tax	Rate (%)	Remarks
TVA	16% of CIF	
Precompte de l'impôt sur les bénéfices et profits (BIC)	2% of CIF	
Tax for industrial-boosting funds	2% of the sum of CIF and custom duties	Under the jurisdiction of FPI
Harbor loading and unloading fee	Unknown	Under the jurisdiction of SCPT
Items with export tax:		
Coffee beans	1%	
Mineral resources or concentrate	5% or 10%	
Diamond	1.5% or 3%	
Petroleum, black pitch	10%	
Electricity	5%	
Wood (tax rate depends on unpeeled log and/or timber)	Free, 5%, or 10%	
Fresh water	5%	
Others:		
Taxes determined by local governments	Decided by local government	Under the jurisdiction of local governments

ANNEX 5: LOCAL ENABLING ENVIRONMENT ACTORS AND STAKEHOLDERS IN THE NEXUS

Table 4. List of WE4F stakeholders in the DRC

Sector(s)	Name	Relevance to WE4F
Local NGOs/CSO or Policy advocacy groups		
Water/Food/ Energy	AgriCongo Alliance	– AgriCongo Alliance is a platform of 17 support NGOs aiming to promote the peasant movement in the DRC
Water/Food/ Energy	SOS Faim	– Since the early 1980s, SOS Faim has been supporting family farming in the DRC to fight poverty and food insecurity in rural areas, and collaborate mainly with farmers' organizations and their federation as well as with a local development NGO
Food	Join for Water and CIDRI	– Join For Water and its partner CIDRI build drinking water infrastructure with kiosks as the standard distribution point through drinking water committees and their umbrella organizations.
Private Sector Led Initiatives		
Energy	BBOX	– a private company focused on solar power initiatives in Africa
Food/Water/ Energy	Federation of Congolese Enterprises (FEC)	– Both the Chamber of Commerce and Industry and the main employers' organization in the DRC
Food/Water/ Energy	Confederation of Small and Medium Enterprises of Congo (COPEMECO)	– SME network
Food/Water/ Energy	National Federation of Breeders and Growers of Congo (FENAPEC)	– Breeders' association
Public Private Partnerships		
Food/Water/ Energy	Small Scale Farmers Initiative	– This program seeks to provide direct support in the form of seeds, agricultural tools, fertilizers to farmers as well as to rehabilitate and improve feed roads to make farmland more accessible to markets. Creation of boreholes to access drinking water and the delivery of mechanization to smallholder farmers are additional interventions that have been conceptualized to empower and encourage Congolese agricultural entrepreneurs.
Food/Water/ Energy	Commercial Farming Initiative	– An initiative to facilitate public-private partnerships with large agribusiness investors and to establish 16 “agri-business parks” sites under long-term (25 year, renewable) contracts or concessions. The government commits to invest in bulk infrastructure (roads, electricity and facilitate the securing of land) and provide tax incentives. The commercial farmers on the other hand commit to invest in the operational aspect of the farm and bring commercial farming expertise and established markets for exports to the partnership.
Food/Water/ Energy	Young Farmers Initiative	– The DRC government also is working to encourage young agri-entrepreneurs, particularly from the DRC Diaspora to establish agribusinesses in the country. To attract these prospective stakeholders, the government is offering financial and nonfinancial support to those with strong business plans for projects of at least 50 ha of land or more. An initial award of US\$350,000 has been made and plans are to scale up the initiative to bring on 2-3 young farmers a year from each province – which see between 22 – 33 new young farmers per annum join the industry.

Sector(s)	Name	Relevance to WE4F
Food/Water/ Energy	BRALIMA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The SME Contest (first edition in 2018) is a business creation competition that consists of putting the most viable business ideas into competition. The SME competition is open to all university graduates without a job, ages 22–35 and living in Kinshasa. The five best candidates will benefit from a startup fund of 13 million Congolese francs each and professional support of six months to establish their companies (through an incubator).
Government Organization/Regulatory Bodies		
Energy/Water	Ministry of Ministry of Energy and Water Resources (Ministère de l'Energie et des Ressources Hydrauliques, MERH)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Responsible for the energy sector, including planning, policy, and program development and oversight
Agriculture	Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development (MINAGRIDER)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Rules and regulations, laws related to agriculture, NAIP oversight and supervision
Water/Energy/ Environment	Ministry of Environment, Nature Conservation and Tourism (MECNET)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Water and biodiversity conservation in agriculture
Food/Water/ Energy	Ministry of Land Affairs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Land management
Food/Water/ Energy	Ministry of Gender, Family and Children	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Women and youth empowerment in agriculture and agribusiness
Water	Ministry of Planning, Urban Development, Housing, Infrastructure, Public Works and Reconstruction	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Water supply, infrastructure development
Finance	Ministry of Finance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Rural financing, Women financing
Finance/ agribusiness	Ministry of Trade and economy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Agribusiness and enterprise development
Food/Water/ Energy	Ministry of Planning and Monitoring	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cross-sectoral planning, monitoring, and evaluation
Food/Water/ Energy	Ministry of Higher Education, University and Scientific Research, through the Institut National d'Etudes et de Recherche Agronomique (INERA)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Research and development in water, energy, and food
Food/Water	Ministry service providers/agencies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Additional key stakeholders involved in the design and administration of the NAIP include the Ministries specialized services providers regarding agriculture, fisheries and livestock and they include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS)

Sector(s)	Name	Relevance to WE4F
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ The National Seed Service (SENASEM) ○ The National Extension Service (NES) ○ The National Service Promotion Fisheries (SENADEP) ○ The National Service for Veterinary and Livestock Inputs (SENIVEL) ○ The National Aquaculture Service (SENAQUA) ○ The National Service Mechanization (SENAMA) ○ The National Rice Program (NRP) ○ The Kinshasa Veterinary Laboratory (Labovet) ○ The National Program for Livestock Development (PRONADEF) ○ The Centers for Adaptation and Improved Seed Multiplication (CAPSA) ○ The Centers for Native Cattle Adaptation (CABI)
Energy	Association Congolaise pour les Énergies Renouvelables et Décentralisées (ACERD)	– ACERD est une asbl qui promeut l'industrie des énergies renouvelables et décentralisées en RDC.
Energy	Project Coordination and Management Unit (Unité de Coordination et de Management des Projets du Ministère, UCM)	– Dedicated to coordinating and managing all donor-financed energy projects
Energy	National Agency for Rural Energy Services (Agence Nationale des Services Énergétiques Ruraux, ANSER)	– Agency to promote and finance rural and peri-urban electrification
Energy	Autorité de Régulation de l'Électricité, ARE	– Energy regulator
Food/Water/ Energy	Agricultural Centers	– The Agricultural Centers providing specialized services include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Department of Agriculture Trolley Tracks (DVDA) ○ National Rural Water Service (SNHR) ○ National Service Cooperatives (SNCOOP) ○ National Rural Information (NRS) Service ○ National Service Urban Horticulture and Peri-urban (SENAHUP) ○ National Service of Animal Traction (SENATRA) ○ Service National Technology Adapted (SENATEC) ○ National Renewable Energy Service (SENEN) ○ National Rural Housing Service (SENHARU) ○ National Rural Youth Service (SENEJER) ○ Service National Integrated Rural Development (SENDRI) and ○ National Fisheries Service in Rural Areas (PEMIRU)
International Bodies/Agencies		
Water/Energy/ Food	GiZ	– Multistakeholder programs in agriculture innovation

Sector(s)	Name	Relevance to WE4F
Water/Energy/ Food	World Bank	– Funding programs in collaboration with government bodies
Water/Energy/ Food	USAID	– Grand challenges focused on the nexus
Water/energy/ Food	WFP	– WFP's emergency crisis response currently covers seven of the most populous and conflict-affected provinces – North Kivu, South Kivu, Ituri, Kasai, Kasai Central, Kasai Oriental and Tanganyika. A significant scale-up of WFP activities was required to reverse the deepening hunger crisis and WFP's strengthened field operations yielded substantial results by enabling the organization to reach 6.9 million beneficiaries in 2020 with lifesaving food and nutrition assistance. In 2021, WFP is targeting 8.7 million people
Water/energy/ Food	FAO	– Support smallholder farmers, improve food security through distribution of agricultural inputs, training, cash-for-work activities etc.

ANNEX 5: SUPPLY AND DEMAND OF BDS FOR MSMEs

Table 5. Supply and demand of BDS for MSMEs in the DRC

Service	Service providers
Market access – seek opportunities, linking demand and supply	FEC, CCIFC, Makutano Network, COPEMECO, OPEC, Specialized Associations
Access to market information— procurement rules, regulation, opportunities	FEC, CCIFC, Specialized Associations, Incubators, COPEMECO, OPEC
Support on administrative formalities for the establishment of businesses—link with administrations	GUCE, ANAPI, OPEC COPEMECO
Linking SMEs with suppliers of raw materials and good value quality goods—integration of MSMEs in the national value chains, supply in raw materials and good value goods	ELAN, Incubators
Support to the development of development strategies—start of a new activity, consulting, and strategy	ELAN, I&F Entrepreneurship, KIVU Entrepreneurs, DELLIONS
Communication and marketing— Visibility, linking MSMEs with large national and international enterprises	FEC, CCIFC, Makutano Network
Technical capacity building—Support to the development of a business plan, consulting, and strategy Capacity building in business management— Management consulting, management, marketing, and trade, legal, financial and tax support Coaching and mentoring Incubation—Growing a business, moving from idea to project, development support Access to energy—Provide energy access from a well-performing grid	Congo Call Center, I&F Entrepreneurship, Kivu Entrepreneurs, Congolia, Silikon Bantu, Proxytech, DELLIONS, ELAN, The Hub Un Jour Nouveau
Access to modern equipment and production technologies Facilitates business training now	Congo Call Center, I&F Entrepreneurship, Kivu Entrepreneurs, Congolia, Silikon Bantu, Proxytech, DELLIONS, ELAN (continued)
Access to bank credit—Loans and credit for the financing of MSMEs	TMB, Raw Bank ProCredit
Access to microcredit—Allowing micro enterprises and women-led businesses to access financing Facilitates business training	FINCA, Microcredit Baobab, ProCredit Bank, ADVANS Bank, SMICO
Startup capital	N/A

Service	Service providers
Growth capital and working capital	King Kuba, SOFIDE and FPI (in the process of change)

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