



Working Villages International

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The Situation:

In the Ruzizi Valley in South Kivu province in the Democratic Republic of Congo, a gallon of gasoline cost roughly \$12, and unemployment and underemployment account for nearly 100% of the population. In this war torn nation there is a shortage of food, a shortage of stability, a shortage of employment, and a shortage of hope. This is ironic in a country that is one of Africa's richest in terms of fertile land, water and natural wealth.

The Solution:

As an answer to the problems that Congo is facing, Working Villages International is teaming up with the people of the Ruzizi Valley in the Democratic Republic of Congo to build a unique prototype town of 5000 people. The town will be economically self-reliant, replicable and will feature:

- *Thousands of independent farmers*
- *Transport and plowing with trained ox teams*
- *Clothing, construction materials, and tools manufactured locally*
- *Comprehensive biogas recycling system*
- *Housing built locally*
- *Free medical system for the residents*
- *100% recycling of all garbage and waste*

Currently the project is in its second year employing over 100 villagers and is producing enough food to feed 1000 people. By April 2008 the project will be able to do this without any further subsidy from WVI. When the project began, the cost to WVI was \$1.25 per person per meal. By growing its own food, the project had by January 2008 reduced the cost to \$.03 per person per meal and by April 2008 the cost will be \$.00 per person per meal. The reduction in the cost of food has played, and will play, a big part in the overall reduction of the cost of building the town and support industries.

The cost of the entire project will be about \$2 million. If funding is available quickly the entire town can be constructed within 2 years. If funds continue to be raised at the current rate, the program will move forward at a proportionately slower pace, finishing in 8 years. However, once the town reaches self-sufficiency, it will require no further investment. A detailed breakdown of the project and budget is available on request.

WEBSITE: www.workingvillages.org

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