

## Village Justice and Empowerment

COD-HEA-VJE-P02



Goma, Democratic Republic of Congo



Economic Empowerment

Year 2 Budget \$24,000

Project Timeline

FULLY FUNDED

JAN 19

DEC 21

### Overview

In an area ravaged by ongoing civil conflict and horrendous genocide, our partners offer compassionate and relevant healthcare together with community development to the marginalized, vulnerable and needy. This project will establish 8 local village leadership committees of men and women on Idjwi Island to bring about justice and empowerment in their communities. Through training and capacity building, local leaders from all groups will come together to effectively contribute to peace and stabilisation. It will help reduce sexual and gender-based violence through conflict resolution and mediation, and establish practices for long-lasting community development. Support for some small economic activities is included and organised by the committees. The Year 3 budget for 2021 is \$24,000.

### Impact for Jan - Dec 2020



**36** In 2020, 2 more committees (4 in Year 1) were established in villages. 36 members received training and support to learn to work together and learn topics including conflict resolution and peace building.

### COVID-19 has affected all communities

with loss of jobs, increased family pressures, food shortages/increased prices, increased crime, deaths from coronavirus (no treatment available on Idjwi).



**117** 117 of 137 cases of conflict were successfully managed by the committees in the villages established in Years 1 and 2. This is a significant step forward in places that experience fractured justice systems and instability.

### 108 start-up loans were distributed

to needy villagers with the committees to support and collect repayments of loans to then give out to others. This provides a hand-up rather than a hand-out. Other committees have used the funds for community projects such as rearing goats.



- with lockdowns ending, plans to visit and further train existing committees are in place
- the formation of 2 new committees is planned for Year 3 2021



### Sifa's Story

Sifa is one of the village committee members. She has seen the changes in her own life and in the community due to the establishment and training of the VJE committee. She says, "The village chief calls me in to help with conflict between women in my community. He recognises my good training and asks me to participate in conflict resolution." In communities where a woman has little authority, this is a big step forward. The Chief says "We are cooperating to bring peace to our community. Our committee helps bring peace and stabilisation. We have made Sifa our Vice-President."



**Thank you for making a difference**