

Building Peaceful Communities



Goma, Democratic Republic of Congo



Economic Empowerment

Year 1 Budget \$62,000

Project Timeline

\$3,400 TO GO

SEP 22

MAR 25

Overview

In an area ravaged by ongoing civil conflict and natural disasters, our partners offer compassionate and relevant healthcare together with community development to the marginalized, vulnerable and needy. This project will establish eight local village leadership committees of men and women in Goma and 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. Further training for established committees is also planned.

Impact for September 2022 - February 2023



3 Three new peace committees established

on Idjwi Island (2 north, 1 south). The 56 new members were trained in basic Congolese law and judicial procedures to help them with mediation sessions and conflict resolution.

Capacity building for 56 new leaders

applying different approaches: 1. understanding the role of a leader; 2. fostering conversation and mutual solutions (SALT); 3. understanding the different modes and methods of conflict resolution that are available.



138 138 cases of conflict were resolved

by the peace committees, assisting 276 parties. These typically involve matters such as conflicts of land, inheritance issues, domestic violence, farming/cattle disputes. The low failure rate highlights the respect and confidence people place in these committees.

315 families in the community visited

using the SALT approach, which helps to stimulate dialogue to rebuild broken social bonds. 21 microloans were distributed to committee members so they can be more sustainable.



- Rebels have seized control of some areas where projects are located with many people fleeing their villages and living in camps. This has limited access to these areas and disrupted some project activities which have had to be delayed. Food prices have risen five-fold.



Peace Committees

What some have to say:

Village chief: "I now know how to manage a group and involve everyone in decision-making to avoid conflicts. When conflicts do arise, I can effectively manage them peacefully through mediation and other processes."

Police officer: "I feel so lucky to be on the committee and to have learnt so much during the 4-day workshop. It helps me in my work and I have grown as a leader in my community."

Teacher: "Being a good leader starts with practicing what I learn with my own family. I realise that accepting others and appreciating their strengths helps build harmony."



Thank you for making a difference