

Village Justice and Empowerment

COD-HEA-VJE-P03



Goma, Democratic Republic of Congo



Economic Empowerment

Year 3 Budget \$24,500

Project Timeline

FULLY FUNDED

JAN 19

MAR 22

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 around Goma 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 project was delayed due to COVID-19 lockdowns.

Impact for Jan - Sept 21



2 Despite lockdowns on and off, two more peace committees (36 people) were established on Idjwi Island and in Karuba. Members received training and support to learn to work together and to identify how best to assist their communities.

COVID-19 has affected all communities

significantly. It has disrupted training of the committees but this is back on track. All communities have suffered COVID-19 cases, increased poverty and violence due to no jobs.



164 164 cases of conflict have been successfully managed by the committees

established over Years 1-3 to date. These involve matters such as conflicts of land, inheritance, domestic violence. This is a significant step forward in places that experience fractured justice systems and instability.

Around 5,000 community members

have access to the two new committees where training continues to underpin the development of these committees. Repayment of small loans has been extended or used up due to the severe financial hardships.



- In addition to COVID-19 lockdowns, there was a major volcanic eruption in May which displaced 500,000 people. Despite this, the project continues with patience and flexibility...these committees are needed more than ever.



Peace Committees

We are gathered around the table, men and women, different ages and backgrounds for training. There are 18 of us put forward by the community to be agents of peace in our area which is troubled by unrest, a very limited justice system and often no accountability for actions. This has become more so in lockdowns as people are so desperate for food and have little or no work. We are analysing the roots and causes of the problems or conflicts in our communities so that we can figure out the proper actions and steps to take for finding the solutions.



Thank you for making a difference