

Village Justice and Empowerment - Goma, Democratic Republic of Congo



COD-HEA-VJE-P03

Overview:

Our partners live and work in a troubled and fragile part of the world – the eastern part of DRC, bordering Rwanda. In an area that has been ravaged by ongoing civil conflict and horrendous genocide in neighboring Rwanda, our partners offer compassionate and relevant healthcare together with community development to the marginalized, vulnerable and needy. Recognised internationally for their good work in this darkest part of Africa, our partners are a shining light of hope and care. The third (and final) year of this project will establish a further two local village leadership committees of men and women to bring about justice and empowerment to help their communities. Through training and capacity building, it will empower local leaders from all groups to come together to effectively contribute to peace and stabilization. It will help reduce violence (particularly sexual and gender-based violence) through conflict resolution and mediation and establish practices for long-lasting community development. It will further strengthen the six groups established in Years 1 and 2 through ongoing training and support and will provide funds some small start-up businesses.



What we like about it:

This model has a proven track record, working effectively and strategically for over twelve years. These communities have been deeply affected by repetitive wars and insecurity that have seen hundreds of thousands leave their homes to live in internally displaced peoples' camps and since return, often traumatised. This positive community building benefits thousands of villagers and provides a sound justice system where there is none.

Budget: \$24,000 for Year 3 (of 3). Year 3 begins 1/10/20. This includes training in topics such as advocacy, conflict resolution, gender violence, leadership, positive masculinity; follow-up training and visits, together with some micro-credit for small start-ups. This project is tax deductible and 100% gets there.

The Need:

Ranked as the 5th most fragile country in the world where people have been denied justice and peace for so long, the fabric of society breaks down. Good leadership is lacking and a culture of violence, fear and lawlessness takes over. Establishment of Village Justice and Empowerment committees helps restore and rebuild hope in a practical, collaborative way in a country that desperately needs it.

Life Change:

- Through good leadership villagers will feel empowered and safe in their communities
- Village committees will help bring peace to the community
- Villagers can begin to re-build their lives knowing there is justice and stability
- Small loans/hand-outs for start-up businesses will result in children attending school and better health

