

## Building Peaceful Communities



Goma, Democratic Republic of Congo



Economic Empowerment

Year 1 Budget \$62,000

Project Timeline

FULLY FUNDED

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 March - August 2023



#### 144 Capacity building for 144 new leaders

(8 committees) in 6 sessions conducted. Of these 144, 42% are female – an important statistic to achieve to model gender equality in a society where equal rights are not often upheld. Participants learned about civil and criminal procedure, basic land law, alternative conflict resolution methods (MARC), rebuilding social fabric and restoring broken relationships (SALT), among other issues.

#### 201 cases of conflict were resolved

by the peace committees, assisting in matters of land, marital, inheritance conflicts (being the main disputes types). 86% of mediation sessions were successful, 13% are still in process. One mediation was given court approval and formally stamped as a court order with full legal power – this shows the growing reputation of the Committees.



#### 824 families in the community visited

using the SALT approach, which sensitizes people to the value of restoring peace to relationships and building social cohesion. 43 families were given microloans to increase their incomes through small income generating activities.

- It has become apparent that there is a huge need for medical consultations in the community, with many children suffering acute malnutrition and many unable to afford basic healthcare. The plan for next year is to introduce an outreach medical team to assist. This will also increase credibility of the Peace Committees.



### Transformation stories

Some quotes from participants in the capacity building training: “On a personal level, I experienced great transformation in my married life and social life following the training. These lessons teach me to live well with my wife, my children and neighbors, and this indirectly transforms our community.”

“Within 3 days of the training, there was a change in many situations in my life that had remained unchanged for a long time. It had such an impact on me and now I have hope that despite my passage through certain difficulties of life, everything will eventually change”



Thank you for making a difference