



Founded by Ben Affleck, the Eastern Congo Initiative (ECI) is the first U.S. based advocacy and grant-making initiative wholly focused on working with and for the people of eastern Congo. We envision an eastern Congo vibrant with abundant opportunities for economic and social development, where a robust civil society can flourish. ECI believes that local, community-based approaches are essential to creating a sustainable and successful society in eastern Congo.

We believe public and private partnerships, combined with advocacy that drives increased attention and public policy change, will create new opportunities for the people of eastern Congo.

To achieve this vision we will be advocates with and on behalf of the people of eastern Congo to:

- Raise public awareness about the tremendous need in the region through highly targeted media and advocacy activities
- Drive policy change that increases United States and European government engagement in Congo
- Increase the quantity and quality of public and private funding that supports the communities and citizens of eastern Congo, providing local organizations and leaders with the necessary resources to heal and sustain their communities

The Eastern Congo Initiative will support Congolese organizations that are applying local solutions in the areas of:

- *Support for survivors of rape and sexual violence*
- *Returning and reintegrating child soldiers into their communities*
- *Community-level peace and reconciliation programs*
- *Increasing access to health care and education*
- *Promoting economic opportunity*

Founded in 2010 by Ben Affleck, the Eastern Congo Initiative (ECI) is a project of the New Venture Fund, a 501(c)(3) charity registered in the United States. Additional founding members include Howard G. Buffett, Humanity United, the Bridgeway Foundation, Jewish World Watch and others.