

Consortium of African Great Lakes Region

Project Title: Breaking the Silence: Healing After Sexual Violence in Eastern DRC

Sexual violence remains one of the most devastating realities facing women and girls in parts of the Democratic Republic of Congo. Rape does not only harm the body; it fractures families, livelihoods, mental health, and a woman's place in her community. Many survivors are abandoned by their husbands, rejected by their families, and left to raise children born of rape in extreme poverty and isolation. Others are forced to stop farming or income-generating activities because of trauma, illness, or stigma, leaving them without a means to survive. This project is designed to increase the economy of women in the local community in DRC by helping them become aware of the reality of the present in order to face the future and have a sense of autonomy.

Funding Amount / Target: 27289 USD

Challenge	Solution	Long term impact
Sexual violence continues to devastate the lives of women and girls in eastern Democratic Republic of Congo. Survivors are often abandoned by their husbands, rejected by families, and forced to stop farming or income-generating work. Many are left to raise children born of rape alone, while coping with trauma, illness, and deep social stigma. Yet healing is possible. With appropriate medical care, psychological support, and community-based treatment, survivors can begin to reclaim their health, dignity, and hope our teams.	These stories reflect both the horror of sexual violence and the transformative power of compassionate, comprehensive care. Psychological and medical care for rape victims infections do more than reduce symptoms—they restore humanity, rebuild families, and allow women to envision a future beyond violence. However, many survivors still face poverty, stigma, and lack of social support, particularly those raising children born of rape. Continued investment in survivor-centred programs is essential—not only to heal wounds, but to prevent survivors from being silenced, abandoned, or forgotten.	Before treatment, many women reported constant fear, flashbacks, nightmares, suicidal thoughts, and physical illness, including untreated sexually transmitted infections. Several described emotional numbness, hatred toward men, and inability to care for their children. Some were frequently sick and unable to move freely within their communities. After treatment, survivors experienced remarkable improvements. Trauma-related thoughts and nightmares diminished or disappeared. Fear gave way to emotional stability and renewed joy. Physical health improved, infections were cured, and chronic symptoms eased.

Donation Options: *How can I illustrate to you the impact of one person's donation? For the purposes of this exercise, we recommend describing three donation options under \$100.*

<i>Amount</i>	<i>Description</i>
\$50	Will cover school fees for children born as a result of sexual violence.
\$25	Will cover dignity kits for women victims of violence
\$10	A \$10 donation will pay for woman's transportation after training on how to set up an income-generating activity
\$100	Will Cover the monitoring and evaluation of women who benefit from the fund
\$150	Will Cover the start-up costs of income-generating activities for women

Photo Gallery

*Choose four images that show the impact of your work and project with clear captions . Choose **High-resolution** photos that are positive and uplifting and show the community you serve with **respect and dignity** . Before sharing a photo, ask yourself this question: *Would I want to be portrayed this way? Does this image instill hope? Uploading photos to the worksheet however makes the most sense - photos don't have to fit perfectly in the box!**



*Image 1. Distribution of dignity kits to women victims of violence
Vulnerable widowed women in Bubanza province,*

awareness image on stigmatisation

Burundi.



Image 3. Photo taken during awareness.



Image 4; Raising awareness about violence prevention

Budget total: **27289 USD**

Source:

website :

<http://www.copgla.org>

Facebook

<https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100080624233736>

Instagram

[https://www.instagram.com/copgla?igsh=YzljYTk1ODg3Zg ==](https://www.instagram.com/copgla?igsh=YzljYTk1ODg3Zg==)