



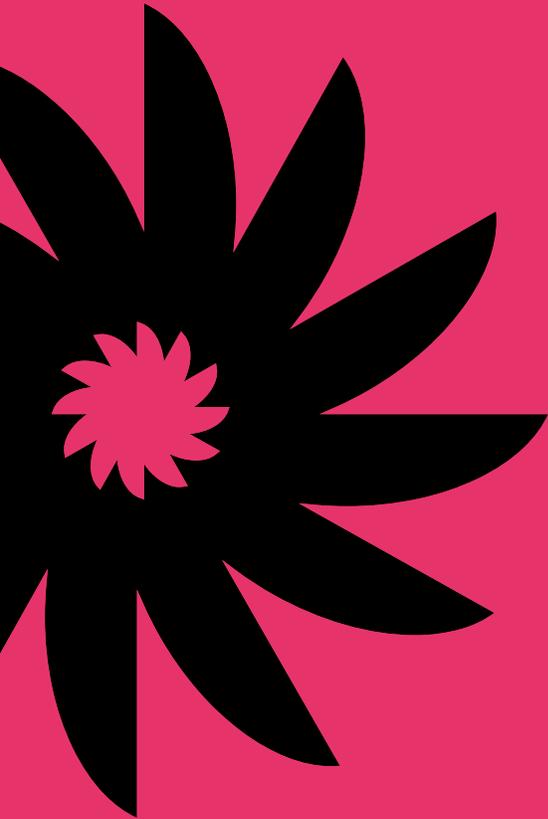
2024

ANNUAL

REPORT

The Ida Lee Project

Advancing Women's Healthcare in the DRC



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Letter from the Founder

Ravonna
Martin

Founder & Director,
The Ida Lee Project



Dear Friends,

As I reflect on the incredible work we've accomplished over the past year, I am filled with gratitude for each of you who has supported The Ida Lee Project (ILP) in our **mission to improve the health, dignity, and futures of women and girls** in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC). Your belief in our work has made a profound difference, and together, we have touched the lives of thousands of women and girls facing some of the most unimaginable challenges.

2024 marked a pivotal year for us. We received our **first grant funding through the US Embassy** in Kinshasa and, beyond our ongoing healthcare programming in Kisangani, we successfully completed an ambitious health campaign in the **internally displaced persons (IDP) camps** near Goma. During this campaign, we provided vital health screenings, cancer detection, trauma care, and psychological support to over 500 women, many of whom had endured unimaginable suffering from sexual violence and forced displacement.

We helped hundreds of women undergo **life-saving cancer screenings, identified and treated urgent health issues, and performed critical surgeries**, including mastectomies for women living with advanced breast cancer. Over 50% of those we served were survivors of sexual violence, and through our collaboration with World Hope Givers, we were able to provide necessary psychological care as well. This work is not just about healthcare—it is about **restoring dignity, supporting the healing of visible and unseen traumas, and offering hope** where it is so desperately needed.

One of the most moving aspects of this campaign was the launch of our **“Soap and a Spritz”** initiative. *(A special thanks to all those local donors who brought boxes on boxes of soap bars and perfumes!)* What began as a simple idea to give women a moment of self-care amidst the chaos turned into something much deeper: a moment of **connection, joy, and empowerment**. Through this small act of choosing soaps and perfumes, women who have faced so much pain and loss were able to experience a tangible form of loving solidarity, reminding them that they are **worthy of dignity and care**.

The challenges we faced in 2024 were not without serious obstacles. From the escalating violence in eastern Congo to the logistical hurdles of setting up mobile clinics in remote camps, our team has showed **resilience, determination, and compassion** every step of the way. We could not have done this without our local partners who worked alongside us to ensure that women received the care they needed.

Looking forward to 2025, our work is far from over. In fact, we are **determined to expand our efforts** in a way that will touch even more lives. Our goal is ambitious but achievable: we will continue to increase access to **reproductive health screenings, treatments, and education** for women and girls in both the IDP camps and the communities we serve in Kisangani.

Additionally, we are **laying the groundwork for our Women’s Health Hub**—a dedicated space in Kisangani for women to receive specialized care, education, and support. This facility will be the heart of our mission, a place where women and girls can find safety, healing, and the tools they need to thrive. It will also serve as a hub for training local healthcare professionals to ensure sustainable, community-led solutions.

None of this would be possible without you, beloved supporters. Whether you have donated, volunteered, shared our mission, or simply held us in your thoughts, you have made an enormous impact. Together, we are not just providing medical care—we are giving women opportunities to **reclaim their futures, their dignity, and their lives**.

As I write this, I am reminded of one of the women we treated last fall. She had been through more than most of us could imagine, but when we gave her a moment to **feel seen, to feel valued**, she opened up, smiled, laughed. It is moments like these that inspire me to keep going, no matter the hurdles.

Thank you for being a part of this journey. Together, we are building a future where every woman and girl in the DRC has the **right and access to safe, dignified, and life-saving healthcare** to thrive.

With gratitude,
Ravonna Martin
Founder & Director, The Ida Lee Project

Mission & Vision



Vision

We envision a future where every woman and girl in the DRC has access to dignified, life-saving healthcare—regardless of her location, income, or circumstances.

Our long-term vision is to establish locally led, resilient healthcare systems that not only meet medical needs but also support the potential of Congolese women to lead change in their communities and beyond.

Mission

The Ida Lee Project exists to provide compassionate, high-quality medical care to women and children in the DRC.

We focus on reproductive health, cancer prevention and treatment, and trauma-informed care, empowering women through access to services, education, and support delivered by Congolese practitioners.

Highlights in 2024

03



1: Expanded Cancer Care

- Screened over 164 women for cervical and breast cancer at our headquarters in Kisangani.
- 14% of Kisangani patients received life-saving surgical interventions for reproductive cancers.
- Attended to 536 women in our mobile cancer screening centers based at internally displaced persons (IDP) camps outside Goma, DRC.

2: Reproductive Health Care

- 97% of new patients had reproductive health screenings at our headquarters in Kisangani.
- Distributed over 600 menstrual care kits to young students, addressing period stigma and helping to keep girls in school.
- Launched a reproductive health educational series reaching hundreds of adolescent girls in Kisangani, DRC.

Highlights in 2024

03



3: GBV Response & Survivor Support

- Treated 66 survivors of gender-based violence with trauma-informed care at Goma IDP camps.
- Offered psychological support in collaboration with partner organization, World Hope Givers.
- Partnered with new organizations to continue building health infrastructure in IDP camps.

4: Local Leadership & Educational Training

- Supported training of Congolese medical staff through nursing school.
- Medical staff from the ILP spoke at several public events, actively growing our network and uplifting our impact in new communities across the DRC.
- XYZ

Program Impact

Santé Pour Les Femmes Campaign



In 2024, The Ida Lee Project launched one of its most critical and compassionate missions to date: the “Santé Pour Les Femmes” (Health for Women) campaign. Carried out in partnership with World Hope Givers, this campaign delivered urgent medical care to women in internally displaced persons (IDP) camps near Goma, in North Kivu, Democratic Republic of Congo—a region ravaged by ongoing conflict and humanitarian crisis.

Reaching Women in Crisis

In the fall of 2024, our mobile medical team operated under incredibly challenging conditions, offering care directly inside displacement camps like Kanyaruchinya and Lushagala. Women in these camps endure staggering rates of sexual violence. Many live with untreated trauma and preventable health conditions, including reproductive cancers and complications from assault.

Despite limited infrastructure and security risks—including the suspension of one mission due to M23 rebel attacks—our team remained unwavering in its purpose: to deliver dignified, trauma-informed care to the women who need it most.

Program Impact

Santé Pour Les Femmes Campaign

Humanity Beyond Medicine

This campaign was about more than just physical treatment—it was about restoring hope, dignity, and humanity.

In the midst of crisis, our founder, Ravonna Martin, launched a small yet powerful initiative called “Soap and a Spritz.” Women were invited to choose donated soaps and perfumes—an act of personal care that became a moment of restoration and joy.

“Almost every one of the women seen by Dr. Bafoa and I had been raped... One woman began to weep and hold her head in her hands. The memory of her violation was as alive in her as the day it occurred. She went through four surgeries to repair the damage caused. You very seldom witness the kind of grief that can chill you to the bone.”

— Ravonna Martin, ILP Founder

534

women received health consultations, reproductive exams, and preventive screenings.

132

cancer screenings were conducted—primarily for breast and cervical cancers—leading to early detection and intervention in several high-risk cases.

3

life-saving surgeries were performed within a two-week period, including a mastectomy for a woman with an advanced cancerous mass.

66

of survivors of sexual violence received professional psychological support, facilitated through our collaboration with World Hope Givers.

Program Impact

Santé Pour Les Femmes Campaign



Logistical Challenges and On-the-Ground Collaboration

Delivering healthcare in an active war zone is never simple. Our team operated out of tents in intense heat, using borrowed chairs and makeshift exam tables.

Partnerships were key to our success. We were honored to collaborate with:

- **World Hope Givers**, our psychological and programmatic partner
- **Women in Action for Human Dignity – WAHDi asbl**, an inspiring group leading empowerment programming for women and girls in Goma led by Gracis Kibanja
- The Belgian branch of **Doctors Without Borders (MSF)**, who have committed to joining us in 2025 to expand cancer care services
- **Kyeshero Hospital**, who supported our patients with a safe facility nearby our base for surgery and follow-up care.

Financial Reporting



Our efforts in 2024 proved that with focused intention, strong partnerships, and community trust, life-saving care can reach even the most hard-to-reach women in conflict zones.

In regions where so few services exist, The Ida Lee Project is often the only source of comprehensive healthcare for women. Your continued support is not just appreciated—it's truly essential.



Revenue &
Donations

\$84,606 USD

Program
Expenses

\$69,085 USD

Stories & Testimonies

“I’m currently in Nyiragongo territory, working with local outreach teams. The women are asking if you’ll return—they need treatment. There are still areas without adequate health care, and many women need help. I believe we must broaden our scope for the next mission.”

- Tresor, partner at World Hope Givers (WHG)



Testimonies from the IDP Camps in Goma

“We thank Ida Lee for the care you sent us. I received it myself, and now I am doing well. Our wish is to see you return to treat us because many women are suffering and lack the means to seek treatment.”

- Judith, ILP patient & resident of Kanyaruchinya

“We thank Ida Lee and Dr. Ravonna who treated us. We ask them to not tire in their mission. We still need them because there are still other women suffering in our community who still need care.”

- Shukuru, ILP patient & resident of Bujari

Looking to 2025

In 2025, The Ida Lee Project will deepen its commitment to advancing women's health in the Democratic Republic of Congo through five strategic initiatives. Our goal is to deliver lifesaving care, restore dignity, and build a sustainable model of healthcare led by Congolese professionals.

1: Santé Pour Les Femmes 2

Reaching More Women at IDP Camps in Eastern Congo

Women in internally displaced persons (IDP) camps near Goma are facing urgent medical and safety needs due to ongoing conflict and displacement. In 2025, we will:

- Resume medical missions to Kanyaruchinya and Lushagala camps, offering exams, trauma-informed treatment, and critical surgeries.
- Address the devastating impact of sexual violence and traumatic fistula, which remain tragically common.
- Prioritize team safety through close monitoring and risk mitigation amid escalating violence and instability in the region.
- Continue building regional partnerships that will directly benefit women and local health infrastructure.

2: Bilan de Santé Anniv'

Women's Birthday Campaign: Normalizing Preventive Care

We will continue to expand our unique campaign that encourages women to prioritize their health by scheduling medical check-ups every year during their birthday month. In 2025, we plan to:

- Increase access to free screenings for breast and cervical cancer
- Reach more women in need of life-saving procedures like mastectomies, hysterectomies, chemotherapy, and palliative care.
- Promote early detection and reduce stigma around reproductive cancers.
- Create a culture where preventive healthcare is seen as a right—not a privilege.



3: Le Projet Mensuel de l'ILP

The ILP Period Project: Dignity Through Menstrual Health

Period poverty is a silent barrier to education, opportunity, and well-being for girls and women across the DRC.

Through our Period Project, we will:

- Distribute menstrual hygiene kits and expand educational outreach in schools and communities.
- Empower girls with knowledge about menstrual and reproductive health, promoting confidence and bodily autonomy.
- Use menstrual health education and reusable pad project as a gateway to broader reproductive health awareness.

4: Le Cercle de la Santé

Health Screenings, Workshops & Educational Training

True empowerment begins with access. In 2025, we will continue building long-term health equity through:

- Direct medical care, including reproductive and cancer services for women and girls.
- Health education circles, community outreach, and workshops tailored to the needs of Kisangani's most vulnerable.
- Training local Congolese health workers, especially women, to lead in clinical and community-based healthcare settings.

Looking to 2025

07

“It will be a monumental day when we open the door to our own space.”

- Jean Battig, Board President, The Ida Lee Project



5: The Ida Lee House

Building a Women’s Reproductive Cancer Center in the DRC: A Permanent Home for Healing

Our most ambitious initiative for 2025 is the creation of a dedicated Women’s Reproductive Cancer Health and Surgical Center in Kisangani. This facility, the Ida Lee House, will:

- Provide a safe, purpose-built space for comprehensive care—free from the limitations of borrowed hospital infrastructure.
- Offer no-cost surgeries, cancer treatment, reproductive health services, and trauma care in one centralized location.
- Serve as a hub for training, education, and leadership development, ensuring sustainability and local ownership.
- Stand as a lasting symbol of hope, healing, and dignity for generations to come.

Looking to 2025

07



With the support of our community, we are:

- Reaching women in crisis zones with life-saving medical care.
- Encouraging a culture of preventive health through accessible initiatives.
- Combating period poverty with practical tools and empowering education.
- Supporting local professionals to lead in providing high-quality care.
- Laying the foundation for a permanent women's reproductive cancer center for generations to come.

Thanks To You

08



Thank you. None of this would be possible without our allies, donors, volunteers, medical partners, community advocates and partners. You are helping build a future where every woman in Kisangani has the right and access to safe, dignified, and life-saving healthcare.

Together, we are restoring health. Together, we are reclaiming dignity.

With deep gratitude,
The Ida Lee Project Team

Contact Us & Donate



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Le Projet Ida Lee
Santé des Femmes



The Ida Lee Project

Advancing Women's Healthcare in the DRC
