

CONCEPT NOTE

GlobalGiving Fundraising Project

Project Title

Menstrual dignity and SRH rights for war-displaced women in the DRC

1. Context and justification

Recurring armed conflicts in the Democratic Republic of Congo have displaced millions of people, particularly exposing women and girls to extremely precarious living conditions. In displacement sites and host communities, access to menstrual hygiene products and sexual and reproductive health (SRH) information remains very limited, if not non-existent.

Lacking access to suitable sanitary pads, many displaced women resort to unsanitary materials, leading to infections, social stigma, and a loss of dignity. Meanwhile, a lack of information and awareness about their sexual and reproductive health rights increases the risk of unintended pregnancies, gender-based violence, and other reproductive health problems.

Faced with this double vulnerability, this project proposes an integrated and community-based response, focused on the **local production of washable sanitary pads made available free of charge to displaced women**, and the **training of volunteer community relays** to strengthen awareness of SRH rights.

2. Target population

Direct beneficiaries

- Women and girls displaced by war
- Aged 15 to 49
- Living in displacement sites and reception areas in eastern DRC and Bandundu

Indirect beneficiaries

- Host communities
- trained community liaisons
- Local initiatives by women producers

Estimated initial target :

- 1,000 displaced women receive menstrual kits
- 50 trained volunteer community liaisons

3. Project Objectives

General objective

Contributing to the dignity, health and empowerment of war-displaced women through free access to washable sanitary pads and community awareness-raising on SRH rights.

Specific objectives

1. To produce and distribute free washable sanitary pads to vulnerable displaced women.
2. Strengthening displaced women's knowledge of their sexual and reproductive health rights.
3. To train volunteer community liaisons capable of carrying out local awareness-raising activities.
4. Supporting local production initiatives led by women.

4. Description of activities

Activity 1: Support for the local production of washable sanitary napkins

- Identification and support for **two local production initiatives** .
- Purchase of raw materials and basic equipment.
- Strengthening the technical and organizational capacities of women producers.
- Production of washable sanitary napkin kits.
- Free distribution to targeted displaced women.

Activity 2: Training of volunteer community liaisons

- Selection of community relays (women leaders, young volunteers, facilitators).
- Training on:
 - SSR rights
 - menstrual hygiene
 - infection prevention
 - community outreach techniques.
- Provision of simplified teaching materials.
- Organizing local awareness sessions at travel sites.

5. Approach and added value

- An approach **centered on dignity and human rights** .
- **Local** intervention , led by community actors.
- **Sustainable and ecological** solutions thanks to washable towels.
- Strengthening the local women's economy.
- Reduction of dependence on one-off humanitarian aid.

6. Expected results and indicators

Expected results

- Displaced women have dignified means to manage their menstrual hygiene.
- Knowledge about SSR rights is improved.
- Active community liaisons conduct regular awareness-raising activities.

Key indicators

- Number of sanitary napkin kits produced and distributed.
- Number of women beneficiaries.
- Number of community relays trained.
- Number of awareness sessions organised.
- Percentage of beneficiaries reporting an improvement in their SSR knowledge.

7. Budget and financing

The project will be funded by a **donation campaign on the GlobalGiving platform** .

The funds will be used primarily for:

- the purchase of raw materials for the production of towels;
- training for women producers and community relays;
- the free distribution of kits;
- project monitoring and coordination.

8. Partnerships and implementation

The project will be implemented by a local organization with experience in:

- working with displaced women;
- community-based approaches;
- the promotion of SSR rights.

Partnerships will be established with:

- local women's production initiatives;
- community leaders;
- local healthcare providers.

9. Sustainability

- Local initiatives will continue production beyond the project.
- Community relays will remain active in their communities.
- The model is replicable in other conflict-affected areas.
- Washable sanitary pads reduce long-term costs for women.

10. Key message to donors

Your donation allows a displaced woman to **regain her dignity, protect her health and learn about her rights**, thanks to simple, sustainable solutions driven by the communities themselves.