



2018

Annual Report

**Democratic Republic
of Congo**

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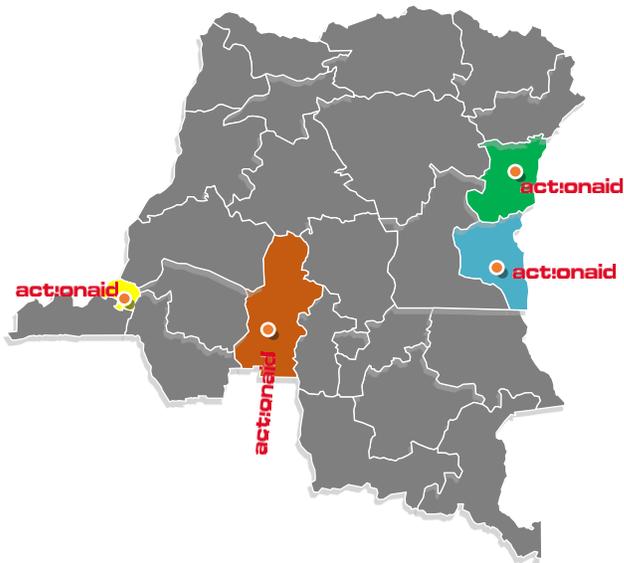
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Where we work In DRC



-  Kinshasa, Kisenso
-  North Kivu, Goma (Nyiragongo)
-  South Kivu, Bukavu (Kabare, Idjwi, Baraka-Fizi territory)
-  Kasai (Central and Oriental)

Highlights

ActionAid DRC which started the year with the implementation of new projects and relatively new staff operated in an exceptionally complex and challenging environment, where insecurity, limited logistical infrastructure and vast swaths of wilderness require innovative approaches to reach people. AA DRC scaled up its operations in new areas of need, such as the Kasais, Fizi, Bena Dibele while maintaining our presence in the areas of traditional humanitarian need, such as the Eastern Provinces.

Introduction

The largest Francophone country in Africa, the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), endowed with vast natural resources, has over 80 million inhabitants, fewer than 40% of whom live in urban areas. The DRC has the potential to become one of the richest economies on the continent and a driver of African growth, if it can overcome its political instability and improve governance.

Political Context

The DRC is still recovering from a series of conflicts that broke out in the 1990s, creating a protracted economic and social slump. Joseph Kabila served as head of state between 2001 and 2019. Presidential and parliamentary elections, initially slated for November 2016, were postponed until December 30, 2018 to facilitate an overhaul of the electoral register. Felix Antoine Tshisekedi—the son of Etienne Tshisekedi, the country's longstanding opposition leader—secured 38.5% of the vote and was declared the winner by the national independent electoral commission. This victory was contested, including by the National Episcopal Conference of Congo (CENCO), which had deployed 40,000 election observers. CENCO's data had predicted that Martin Fayulu would win 62.8% of the vote, defeating the ruling party's candidate, Emmanuel Ramazani Shadary (17.99%) and Felix Tshisekedi (15%).

Economic Context

In 2018, the DRC emerged from the economic recession triggered by the decline in the global prices of its main export commodities between 2015 and mid-2017. The economy continued to expand, growing at a rate of 4.1% in 2018, up from 3.7% in 2017 and 2.4% in 2016—the country's weakest performance since 2001. This economic rebound was largely driven by the recovery in mining activity and strong world copper and cobalt prices, following an upturn in global demand for these products.

Public financial management was also strengthened in 2018 through continued cash-based budget management and improved domestic resource mobilization. Owing to tighter public expenditure control—despite higher spending related to the elections—and an increase in direct tax revenue from the mining sector, the overall budget surplus of 0.4% of GDP in 2017 increased to 1.3% of GDP in 2018, after three consecutive years of deficits. However, public social and investment spending is still low and inadequate to ensure more sustained and inclusive growth in the medium and long term.

Despite increased mining exports, the current account deficit widened from 2.9% of GDP in 2017 to 3.9% of GDP in 2018. This deterioration in the country's investment position is mainly due to the largest increase in imports of goods and services related to the rise in mining investments and to election expenses in the second half of 2018. The current account deficit has nonetheless been more than offset by net financial flows, primarily for the mining sector—in the form of foreign direct investments—triggering a balance of payments surplus of 1.3% of GDP. This enabled the country to maintain the level of international reserves and stabilize the Congolese franc exchange rate, thereby helping to significantly contain inflationary pressures observed over the past two years. The value of the Congolese Franc depreciated by only 5.9% in 2018, compared to 31% in 2017, while inflation plummeted from 54.8% in 2017 to 7.2% in 2018.

Social Context

Economic growth between 2005 and 2012 was associated with a moderate reduction in poverty in the DRC. In 2018, the poverty rate fell by 5.3 percentage points from 69.3% in 2005 to 64% in 2012. Although poverty is a rural phenomenon in most African countries, the poverty reduction rate in the DRC was slightly higher in rural areas (5.6 percentage points compared to 4.1 percentage points in urban areas). In 2012, 77% of the population was

living in extreme poverty on less than \$1.90 a day. The most recent World Bank estimates put the extreme poverty rate in the DRC at 73% in 2018, one of the highest in sub-Saharan Africa, placing it ahead of only Nigeria.

With some five million people currently displaced, and almost 13 million in need of assistance, the country faces more than just political problems. Four of the most pressing humanitarian challenges within this period included:

Ebola is endemic in the DRC. But the country's current 10th outbreak is its worst, and it's far from over yet. Not only is this the second largest Ebola outbreak in history—beaten only by the 2014-2016 epidemic that claimed more than 11,000 lives across West Africa—it's the first to take place in an active conflict zone. It began in August 2018 around Beni and Mangina in eastern North Kivu province. It has now killed more than 800 people and spread to more densely populated urban areas. The security situation also deteriorated in 2018 in nearby Beni Territory, which is plagued by armed groups and is the epicentre of the current Ebola outbreak.

Devastating wars - Eastern Congo, which was the epicentre of two devastating wars, 1996-1997 and 1998-2003, is still caught up in near-constant fighting, fuelled by the presence of more than 130 armed groups, often vying for control over lucrative mining operations and other natural resources. The provinces of North Kivu and South Kivu have witnessed regular killings, rapes, mutilations and other atrocities against civilians. The number of human rights violations in North Kivu alone amounts to one third of all the abuses recorded in the DRC, the UN said in a report in December that documented “hundreds” of extrajudicial killings and cases of torture and sexual violence against civilians over the last two years. Widespread violence, largely attributed to armed groups, provoked mass displacements of people.

Kasai Conflict - In 2016, conflict erupted in Kasai between the Kamuina Nsapu anti-government movement and Congolese security forces and soon engulfed the entire region. An estimated 5,000 people were killed and more than 1.4 million displaced.

Although the authorities have since regained control of much of the region, ethnic tensions and political disputes continue. And for those who have come back home, the destruction caused by years of fighting means that returns are accompanied by significant humanitarian needs. The Kasai region already had some of the poorest and least developed provinces in the DRC, even before the 2016 conflict. After the violence began, people were unable to grow crops, driving a 750 percent rise in food insecurity and a massive increase in malnutrition rates. In May 2018, UNICEF reported that 400,000 children were “at risk of death” in the Kasais because of food shortages. A November 2018 report by MSF documented alarmingly high levels of rape in region. The health NGO said it treated 2,600 victims of sexual violence between May 2017 and September 2018.

Deportation from Angola - Compounding an already stressful humanitarian situation, more than 300,000 Congolese nationals who were expelled from neighbouring Angola in October, crossed over into Kasai, piling a new emergency on top of existing ones in an already fragile region. Most returnees appear to want to move away from the Kasai border areas, toward other destinations inland, which could help ease the humanitarian strain. However, expulsions from Angola are not an isolated event and more returnees could arrive in the coming year.

Sexual violence has characterised much of the violence perpetuated in Congo. Used as a tactic of war, the daily violations of women and children by armed groups have created a climate of fear and a reputation for the DRC as world's “worst place to be a woman or a child”. [5] Women from ages “six to eighty” have become victims and one statistic suggests that over 200,000 women may have been victimized over the past decade, while another notes that in some regions, as many as 40 women are raped every day.

Delivering on priorities

PRIORITY 1:

Address the structural causes of violence against women and girls and secure economic justice

FOCUS AREA 1 | **Violence and Economic Exclusion of Marginalized and Targeted Women**

➤ Increase protection of women in urban spaces

Bi-annual community urban forum held with head of the National Police in charge of the office addressing VAWG and in collaboration with the Mayor of Kisenso and the Territorial Police led to the opening and establishment of Police Post in Kisenso.

The forum created space for the leadership of Kisenso to draw attention of the PNC (Police National du Congo) about the security realities as well as the interventions of ActionAid DRC and Conafed, a local partner. The Urban Forum highlighted issues around the insufficiency of police units in Kisenso, the impunity of perpetrators of sexual violence, the reprisals suffered by women after denouncing perpetrators of violence, and the inability of the police to keep the perpetrators of violence and crime in detention.

The police Colonel in charge of sexual violence and the protection of children made a presentation on the various interventions that her office has taken part in, re-affirmed her commitment to addressing VAWG, and agreed to establish additional police units within the commune. As a follow up, the women's groups in different villages in Kisenso mapped the areas that required increased police protection and were able to make continuous contact with the police units in their area. The Police Post was thereafter established and there is evidence of increased police patrol in three districts of Kisenso. This has drastically reduced abuse and attacks on women especially by gangsters ("Kuluunas"). It is important to note that women's engagement will continue until all 17 neighborhoods have easy access to protection.

In recognition of the work in promoting the rights of women and girls in Kisenso, the women's groups have been awarded the Mukendi Mbayi trophy from KIN24, a local TV station. The annual Mukendi Mbayi Trophy is supported by UNESCO and awards Congolese and non-Congolese actors actively involved in gender, social and humanitarian activities.

The Kisenso Communal Development Plan, which was revised through engagement with the women's groups in order to include objectives related to women's safety in public spaces, was finalized with the CDC, Deputy Mayor and validated by the Provincial Minister of Planning, Budget, Public Works and Infrastructure. It was recently ranked third of 24 Commune Plans within Kinshasa in recognition of its consideration for gender equality, and other NGOs have drawn upon its content for application in other areas of the city. Collaborative meetings are organized with the municipal authorities and the CDC to link the project activities with the Communal Development Plan.

➤ Increase women budgetary engagement processes

Training and quality support were provided to the Women's Task Group to support Economic Literacy and Budget Accountability for Governance (ELBAG) to equipped 25 women in the Task Group with the necessary skills to track local plans and budgets, as well as develop their own financial plans.

The training was held in French and Lingala with 25 women and 20 CDC members in attendance and covered 87 financial concepts and terms commonly used in the economic field, as well as covering accountancy terms and documents. A refresher course on fiscal responsibility and participatory governance was organized for the Task Group, following up from the training held last October. In collaboration with the CDC, the Task Group are involved in Kisenso's participatory budgeting processes, and the training supports them to understand the detail of the budget, its application in the community and to facilitate effective budget monitoring.

At the end of the training, the women drew up a quarterly calendar of meetings they will hold with the accompaniment of a consultant to participate in the management of the public and administrative assets of the municipality of Kisenso. Women's groups have started to implement their local action plans. The actions are designed by the women, taking into account the Kisenso Community Development Plan as a working basis, and includes local awareness-raising initiatives, implementation of local protection mechanisms, and advocacy with local / regional authorities and service providers.

To complement the implementation of the CDP, the Mayor set up a monitoring and evaluation unit for the sensitization activities in Kisenso, which is provided by nine members of the CDC. The mission of the unit is to support the women’s groups in their activities and to facilitate meetings with municipal authorities and public service officials.

Some of the demands and actions after the training include submission of memoranda to 17 Heads of Wards for the prosecution of perpetrators of sexual violence; three Police Commanders in Kisenso agreed to collaborate with women to identify Kuluna members (gangs), deputy Bourgmestre (Mayor) has made commitment to fight erosion and silting; street leaders are ensuring the safety of women and girls at the water distribution and access points and CDC members hold regular feedback on their meetings with women.

➤ Responding to SGBV

Regarding care and response to cases of sexual and gender-based violence, 5 contracts were signed with the general hospitals of reference to make medical care operational, these are: Miabi HGR Saint Joseph, Kabeya Kamuanga HGR, Thishimbi HGR, and Mukumbi HGR.

52 cases
were legal
&
42
psychosocial

Cases of GBV were treated within 72 hours sparing victims the risk of unwanted pregnancy and are forced to contract sexually transmitted diseases and psycho-social trauma.

A total of 1907
people were sensitized
including 872 women, 810
men, 122 girls and 103 boys

The sensitization focused on consequences of the sexual violence, human rights, the duties of a citizen and community in preventing and responding to SGBV.

PRIORITY 2:

Ensure increased civic participation and state accountability for the redistribution of resources and delivery of quality, gender-responsive public services

FOCUS AREA 1 | **Gender Responsive Public Education and Urban Services**

➤ 5,300 unaccompanied children accessed multi-sectoral service

AA DRC in collaboration with UNICEF strengthened capacity of community structures to enable 2,300 children affected by conflict with specific protection needs had access to a multi-sectoral service package tailored to their needs including collective reintegration.

The initiative was an emergency response for the protection of children affected by conflict in the city of Mwene-Ditu, Kamiji territories, Luilu in Lomami province, Lusambo in Sankuru province, Mbujimayi town in Kasai Oriental province. The conflict that began in Central Kasai province affected all five provinces of the Kasai region, including the provinces of Kasai, Kasai Central, Kasai Oriental, Lomami and Sankuru.

According to the 2018 humanitarian response plan,

2,100,000 people are affected by the crisis	960,000 are in need of protection	60% are children
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Children indeed lived in a strong psychosocial distress with several cases of summary and extrajudicial executions include children allegedly associated with militias.

In our narrative of internally displaced persons and refugees, we often forget about the unaccompanied children in our analysis and response. This initiative therefore enabled unaccompanied children including child militias exposed to multiple risks to access psychological assistance in child friendly spaces based on their strategic needs and realities. Community structures like Parents Association, Community Network for Child Protection and local authorities who hitherto did not consider this category of internally displaced persons put in place community mechanisms for preventing and responding to violence and community reintegration of children out of militia.

Transitional care and family reunification of unaccompanied children was also facilitated ensuring that all the children lived in a protective environment.

Result of the transitional care,

2,300
out of over
10,000
unaccompanied children enrolled into schools
in their localities

174
unaccompanied children were
supported to find their families

“The community sensitisation and trainings received by their community people ensured a protective environment for those of them without parents. Some people voluntarily accept to take care of some of us without knowing where we come from. The schools in our communities saw us as children in the community”.

Master Benoit Lumba,
a 12-year unaccompanied child

ActionAid collaborated with the head of education to provide playful kits for unaccompanied children as well as organised catch up lessons to make up for the time lost.

**ActionAid and UNICEF
Learning experience**

In targeting people affected by conflict, we should avoid categorizing all affected people same as their context, experiences and realities are different and response mechanism needs to be developed with them to make significant impact

➤ **Increasing access to conducive teaching and learning.**

Rehabilitation of the LUKUNZU Primary school in Miabi territory, Kasai oriental province is completed. Two additional classrooms, 6-seater sanitary facility and teachers’ offices and store are being rehabilitated at the MALANDJI Primary School in Kananga.

The Malandji Primary school was built in the early 1960’s and had never seen rehabilitation till early this year with the support of ActionAid and UNHRC. The school which was identified with some insects which bites pupils because of its bear nature is now regarded as a good school.

It was refurbished with walls and floors renovated, plastered and painted. The school has accommodated about 115 pupils internally displaced people. It has a total of 1064 pupils, although this number is expected to swell as more pupils affected by war come back to school. Prior to ActionAid support to the school, the school had acquired a nick name (Malandji Tubuasa) associated with some blood sucking insects called chew which had infested the school. Tubuasa, means chew in the local Tshiluba language. The insect thrives on dirty environments and places with no cement floors.

“I am happy to be in school. I experienced some itching under my feet caused by the insect. I scratched by feet all the time and this affected my concentration in class. Some of my friends from school were scratching their feet on the floors, benches and walls due to the insect. I am glad to say that there are new floors in my class and I no longer feel itchy under my feet anymore.”

Rachel,
a class 6 pupil of the Malandji Primary School in Kananga,
she lost a cousin sister during the war. She now stays in Kananga Town with her father and eight other siblings.

*“I used to come clean at school and go back dirty. Now I go back clean because our school has been refurbished”,
said Rachel*

“More and more parents who had withdrawn their children due to the dilapidated nature of the school and those affected by the conflict are now bringing their children to the school. Every year, we used to lose 25% of our pupils who dropped out of school due to the run-down school environment.”

Musangilayi Kandolo,
the school director at Malandji Primary school

The school, which has a total of eight classes, is currently having six classes being renovated including construction of pavements and six toilets as part of ActionAid’s support to communities displaced by conflict in the Kasai area.

➤ Improved gender-responsive public service provision relevant to female farmers

Women in the project area played a lead role in their localities to educate community members on the project plans and goals, including walking them through the entire life cycle of the project and discussing possible outcomes. During this participatory process, women in the communities set criteria for their involvement, agreed on transparency processes for project implementers, and assigned roles and responsibilities for the staff, partners, and for themselves. They also discussed the types of land and duration of growing periods to determine which crops are most appropriate for their cultivation, both for consumption and for sale at market.

Related to this, 20 Political and administrative leaders of the Nyiragongo territory and traditional authorities held meetings with the Women Farmer’s Forum to discuss the implementation of climate resilient sustainable agriculture policies and programs in the area. Though the Virunga Forest Authorities did not actively participate in the meeting, minutes of the meetings were shared with them to get their buy in on some of the initiatives.

After a competitive bidding process, land was secured for the construction of the women farmers’ leadership training and processing center from the Department of Gender and Social Affairs in the Nyiragongo government, led by the Chief of the Bukumu Kingdom. Due diligence was performed to ensure the provenance and legal status of the land selected for the center. The center is completed and handed over to the women in collaboration with the Territorial administration. It was commissioned by the Provincial Minister for Gender and Social Affairs. Prior to the bidding of the construction work for the center, a women’s committee was formed for management of the facility. These women, alongside representatives from the Department of Gender and Social Affairs are running the center’s daily operations.

PRIORITY 3

Advance transformative women-led emergency preparedness, response and prevention

FOCUS AREA 1

Strengthen women’s leadership, protection and resilience in conflict, disasters and occupation.

“I am very happy to be part of the beneficiaries of this project because we as pygmies have long been marginalized and excluded. We were not part of economic activities, yet we are also human beings like other ethnic groups in Nyiragongo. We can work to earn a living. We are not condemned to begging, stealing and hunting as labelled by other ethnic groups. Before my husband passed away, we would go together in the Virunga National Park looking for firewood, hunting wild animals and medicinal plants which we used to sell in the community. You run so many risks in running activities in the park, including being raped by gangster, being arrested by the park managers and put into the prison. Really, my integration into the KATALE women’s group has changed my behaviour and given me self-confidence. Pygmies, like me thought we are less human than the other ethnic groups. That’s why we have no relationship with other groups. Now, I can express my opinion in a multicultural group during our weekly discussions facilitated by Actionaid on women’s rights and the promotion of agriculture in Nyiragongo territory. I’m one of the women who got livestock and I’m part of a women’s group in agriculture. We have a community farm where we work with our Bantu counterpart. We have grown potatoes in our farm and it’s great to work as a team with other non-pygmy women. It helps us interact with women from different culture and integrate into the community without any problem. Now I can see the future of myself and family. I thank ActionAid for helping and supporting me to understand that outside the Park there is life and that the environment should be protected and preserved”.

BADODO FUKO, 47 years old.

widowed mother of 3 children, a boy and 2 girls. Living in HEHU village, KIBUMBA district in Nyiragongo territory.

➤ Using Cash Based Intervention (CBI) to build resilience

Targeting and Registration of 2,800 households for CBI was conducted to identify people of concern to support with multi cash transfer. The 2,800 households targeted include: Kasai Oriental 1,000 households - 300 households in Mbuji Mayi (Communes

of Bipemba, Muya and Diulu), 400 households in Miketa locality of Miabi and 300 households in Kabeya Kamwanga territory; Kasai central 1800 households - 1000 households in Kananga and 800 in Dimbelenge. These people of concern - 70% Women Heads of households, 10% Children Not Accompanied, 20% People Living with Disability. This targeting is informed by the lessons learnt from a similar intervention ActionAid implemented in 2017 where some of these people were excluded. The targeting in Kabeya Kawanga and Dimbelenge was repeated to enable the team to use a New UNHCR Targeting Tool called "Targeting Form" and CIB related SOP (Standard Operating Procedures). Registration of households already targeted is also ongoing by Vodacom and funds will be transferred to the 2,800 households. However, a decision will be taken on how funds will be transferred to unaccompanied children to ensure that support reaches these children who are under the care of their "guardians", Monitoring visits were also conducted to document the impact of the CBI implemented in 2017.

"We received a once off US\$135 from ActionAid. We bought a pig, a goat and cultivated our field where we planted cassava, maize and beans. We also bought clothes for our children. Our household food access has increased. We now have a decent meal once a day as opposed to before I was assisted. The goat and pig businesses are for commercial purposes. I am happy to say the pig has given birth to four piglets. We will use the profit from the goats and pigs to pay for school fees for our children. Four of our children (2 boys and 2 girls) who had dropped out of school because of the conflict are now back in school."

One of the beneficiaries Azaria Kabamba (53) and wife Jeanine Katanda (44) of Kabeya Kamwanga Village in Kabeya Kamwanga Territory in Kasai Oriental Revealed.

Asked about his experiences with using the phone to access money, Azaria said: *"It's better off to be given the money in mobile form as there is little temptation to use it carelessly. If the money is in the phone, it is secure than it being in cash. Most of the money we get now from selling produce from my field, I keep it in the phone where I feel its secure than keeping it as cash."*

800 households of internally displaced persons and host families (men, women, boys and girls) also benefited from essential household items and household items in Luiza territory in central Kasai province in collaboration with CARITAS LUIZA. Items distributed include flour, rice, salt, beans, pans, blankets, soaps, etc.

➤ Increase opportunities for alternative livelihood

150 women supported in income-generating activities yielded positive fruits on the lives of women IDPs in the Kasai. : testimonies on the evolution of the activity, the response that the activity brought (the occupation for the displaced woman, the empowerment of the woman, the school fees of the children of some women etc) in the territory of Miabi province of Kasai oriental.

A 34-year-old displaced woman and mother of four children named Mamie TSHIENDA TSHIBOLA living in KANSHI commune in Mbuji Mayi town in Kasai Oriental asked for financial help to support her children with HIV / AIDS. Acute malnutrition with the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees through an alert made by a religious sister director of TUDIKOLELA hospital where the woman is welcomed.

After analysis and descent on the ground and analysis on the living conditions of the woman Actionaid together with the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees through its Protection Officer based in Mbuji Mayi, decided to help this woman with a sum of money for organizing an income-generating activity. Three weeks after the remittance and the identification of the income generating activity with the beneficiary, a follow-up team went down to the ground to learn about the evolution of the situation. The result was favourable because the woman currently sells fresh fish and cassava flour and provides for the needs of the children. She was able to rent a house where she now lives with her family.

In the provinces of Kasai Central and Kasai Oriental, 30 displaced and resident children's clubs have been trained and sensitized on the consequences of sexual violence based on gender, peaceful coexistence and conflict management. A total of 1200 children including 152 ENA (unaccompanied children) who are in the process of being reintegrated socially participate in the activities of these clubs under the guidance of their instructors. The Internally Displaced Children's and Resident Trained Clubs have developed their action plans for regular meetings around the rights and duties of children, and the reduction of protection risks in the family and in society.

➤ Increased access to and control over land by women smallholder farmers

Although ActionAid has been working with this community on women's rights and empowerment since 2003, the project design included training specific to women's rights to land. In addition to this sensitization of the women, the project team and partner staff worked with traditional leaders to further advance their understanding of women's rights regarding land. The Chief of Bukumu expressed interest in the outcome of the baseline survey and have since provided leadership in the fight against customary practices preventing women from holding land. Three meetings were also held between the leadership of the women and territorial authorities to link up with their traditional authorities to honor promises made on releasing land for women. In all, 636 have gained access to their own with sizes ranging between 30x60 meters and below. 164 women also rented land where they cultivated potatoes and beans. 227 out of the 800 women mobilized were supported with 1063 kilos of potatoes and 573 women got 5 kilos of beans each. They are preparing to harvest by end of January 2019.



**For
the first time**

ActionAid has supported the integration of the marginalized community of "Bambute," pictured below, into a project alongside other community. This group lives in an isolated area and generally keep to themselves, as they have traditionally been ostracized and discriminated against. During project design, the Bambute people were integrated into our participatory processes and designated as beneficiaries for project activities. The women's center is also being built near the Bambute village, which in effect encouraged collaboration between the Bambute and other communities. The community has been receptive to ActionAid's efforts, and their leaders feel confident that greater visibility and integration of the Bambute people will have long term benefit.

➤ Increased resilience of women and young farmers against the negative effects of climate change

In order to enhance overall climate resiliency and environmental sustainability, a training in climate-resilient sustainable agriculture and farming techniques was conducted for 75 women, broken into two groups, over two days.

Participants were drawn from the 14 project communities and designated as extension workers. The training focused on principles of sustainable agriculture and low external-input agriculture, including ActionAid's CRSA Framework; the importance of soil fertility and techniques to enhance it, such as crop rotation and the use of organic fertilizer; and the roles and responsibilities of community extension volunteers. Other components of the training include soil and environmental conservation techniques and practices. In addition to knowledge and skills, the women received basic equipment to assist them in their duties. These enabled 426 women to plant eucalyptus trees provided by the territory environment service to be used as woodlots for both domestic and commercial purposes. This will address the need for wood frequently drove women into Virunga National Park, and by planting species of fast-growing trees, the community members expect to begin harvesting wood within the next couple of months.

Finance

In the year under review, ActionAid DRC realized a total income of GBP3,007K (including net transfers) as compared to GBP1,319K for the same period last year. This represents a 114% increase over the income for last year and an increase of 254% over the plan income for 2018. The commitment for the CP to fundraising yielded very positive results in 2018. The CP secured a total amount of GBP2,385K as income from partnership and Institutional Funding representing a 245% increase in partnership and Institutional funding for the same period last year. The sources of partnership & Institutional funding for the year under review is summarized in the table below:

Partnership & Institutional Funding

Project Name	Donor	Project Location	AAI £ '000	Local £ '000	Total £ '000
● Safe Cities: Improving Safety Mobility in DRC	Comic Relief	Kisenso	111		111
● Women Farmers' Forum	Packard Foundation	Nyirangongo	122		122
● Cholera Response Project	STARTFUND	Bena Dibebe, Kasai	64		64
● Vocano Prevention	STARTFUND	Nyiragongo			
● AA Australia Women Led Project	Deucere	Kasai	16		16
● People for Change	AA Denmark			2	
● Protection of Refugees	UNHCR	Kasai		912	912
● Protection of Refugees	UNHCR	Baraka/Fizi		237	237
● UNICEF Education Project	UNICEF	Kasai		154	154
● UNOCHA Education Project	UN OCHA	Kasai		433	433
● UNOCHA Cholera Project	UN OCHA	Bena Dibebe, Kasai		334	334
Total			313	2,072	2,385

The CP commenced the financial year with a reserve of GBP125K. This was made up of Regular Giving Reserves of GBP -90K and reserves held for donor funded projects of GBP215K. At the end of the reporting period, the reserve position had increased to GBP281K. This comprised of Regular Giving reserves of GBP140K and reserves held for partnership funding of GBP141K. The Regular Giving reserves represent 4.1 months of planned expenditure for 2019. In order to ensure that the CP does not slip back into negative reserves as it occurred in 2017, management has established several cost management measures to minimise any risk that can result in cash crises for the CP. Procurement practices are therefore being managed prudently to achieve enhanced value for money. The CP is also ensuring strict compliance with grant compliance to avoid any disallowance which may have adverse effect on the reserve position. The total amount of the reserves held by AAI at the end of the financial year on behalf of the CP is GBP200K (GBP122K for partnership funding and GBP 78K for Regular Giving).

Risk Analysis

One of the major risks that the CP faces is the risk of disallowance from donor funded projects due inadequate understanding of the provisions in grants contract and documentation. Management has put in place measures such as digital filing of documents to ensure that soft copies of all project documentation are stored on the OneDrive. Efforts have also been intensified to ensure that all staff are adequately briefed on the requirements of all grant contracts for strict compliance.

Another major risk that can threaten the financial sustainability of the CP is the dwindling Regular Giving Income. It is worthy to note that the CP has not been allocated sponsorship links in the last 3 years. As a mitigating measure, management has intensified its fundraising initiatives to generate partnership funding to augment the dwindling the Regular Giving Income. The year under review attest to the commitment and effort of management to diversify the funding stream of the CP.

One of the major challenges faced by the CP in the year under review

Is the absence of a SUN Accounting software for use by the finance team. This meant that transactions were recorded in an excel template and sent to the Finance Advisor for upload into SUN. This often resulted in non-timely recording of transactions in SUN making it difficult to generate management that were timely and reflective of activities that had taken place during the period. A finance Manager has been engaged who has been given a super user access to SUN and the situation is expected to improve in the next period.