

ECHO PROJECT

Newsletter

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Beneficiaries Reached



13711 children



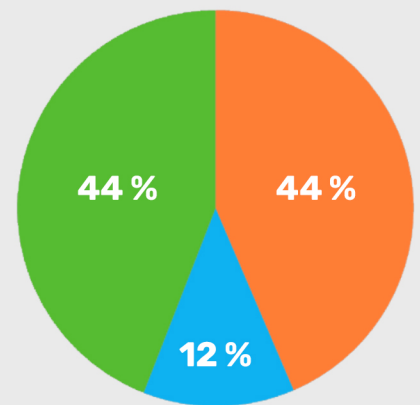
1017 PWDs



6925 Men



7743 women



■ Host Populations
■ Returned
■ Displaced Persons



Protection civile
et aide humanitaire
de l'Union européenne

act:onaid

Improving access to education and protection services for conflict-affected populations in South Kivu, Democratic Republic of the Congo

Introduction: Building Hope and Resilience in South Kivu

Welcome to the latest edition of our project newsletter. Since May 2023, we've been dedicated to creating meaningful change in the lives of children and families affected by conflict in South Kivu. This newsletter captures our progress during the first quarter (Jan-March) of 2024, highlighting how our ongoing efforts are making a difference in Fizi, Minembwe, and Salamabila. With the continued support of our donor, ECHO, and collaboration with local stakeholders, we are empowering communities to build a safer, more resilient future for their children.

Project Overview

The ECHO project aims to increase access to education and community-based protection in South Kivu and bordering areas in Maniema Province. The project's specific objective is for conflict-affected children, their families and caregivers in South Kivu and Maniema Provinces to access a protected environment and high-quality education, freely.



Target Result

- Result 1 - Increase access to a safe and quality learning environment for children.
- Result 2 - Strengthened protection for conflict-affected children, their families, and caregivers.
- Result 3 - Enhanced security, dignity, and empowerment of affected community members through establishing women and girls-led community-based protection mechanisms.
- Result 4 - Immediate and urgent needs of people of concern addressed in case of emergency Contingency planning and preparedness for response.

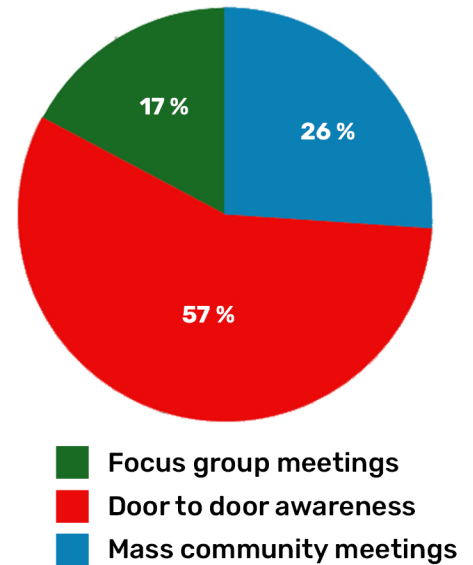
Key Facts

- Project Duration** : May 2023 – May 2025
- Location** : Fizi, Minembwe, Salamabila
- Donor** : ECHO
- Target Population** : Internally Displaced Persons, Host Population, Returnee Population

Key Achievements (January 2024 – March 2024)

Continued Mobilization and Sensitization

Our teams have sustained the momentum in mobilizing and sensitizing communities across the three health zones. Using community meetings, radio broadcasts, and school-based activities, we've continued raising awareness about the importance of education, child protection, and the risks associated with displacement and conflict. These efforts are vital to ensuring that every child has the opportunity to learn in a safe environment. For the period under review, the team reached a total of 28379 project beneficiaries with key messages



Sensitization students of EP KALONDA in Salamabila on the importance of education



Rehabilitated 3 classrooms, an office and 3 latrines at EP RUNUNDU in Minembwe HZ

Establishment of 65 Child Clubs in Schools

We successfully set up 50 Child Clubs in schools, adding to the 15 existing ones, bringing the total to 65 Child Clubs across the 3 HZs. These clubs are crucial in teaching children lifesaving and life-sustaining skills while fostering resilience. With the integration of positive masculinity and child rights into their activities, the clubs aim to prevent and respond to protection violations.

Key highlights of the Child Clubs initiative include:

- Identified 325 club leaders and 130 patrons (teachers) to support the children in running the clubs. They will be trained to serve this purpose
- Designed sensitization topics that seek to address displacement risks, child recruitment into armed groups, sexual violence, and dangers encountered on the way to school.
- Developing action plans that minimize exposure to these risks and collaborating with local authorities to implement them.
- Organizing inter-school debates, drama, and games to promote learning, coexistence, and child protection.

These clubs are supporting a total of 3,250 children, providing them with a platform to engage, learn, and build confidence.



Ongoing construction works at Ep Maendeleo in Fizi HZ

Reunification of Unaccompanied and Separated Children

Our protection teams successfully reunited 40 unaccompanied and separated children (UASC) with their families or placed them in appropriate care arrangements. Each reunification process was carefully managed to ensure the child's emotional and physical well-being, providing them with the stability they need to thrive in their communities. The reunifications are a critical component of our broader child protection efforts, aimed at restoring family unity and offering these vulnerable children a chance to reclaim their childhood.



Latrine constructed as part of school construction work in EP Hakima in Fizi

Classroom construction and rehabilitation

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Looking Ahead: Continuing the Journey

As we advance into the next quarter, our focus remains on completing the ongoing classroom construction projects, expanding the reach of Child Clubs, and continuing our mobilization and sensitization efforts. We are committed to ensuring that every child in the conflict-affected regions of South Kivu has access to safe, quality education and the protection services they need to flourish.

Closing Remarks

The progress we've made so far would not have been possible without the relentless dedication of our local teams, the steadfast support from our donor, ECHO, and the invaluable cooperation of local stakeholders. We are motivated by the resilience of the communities we serve and are determined to build on the successes of this quarter. Together, we are creating a brighter, safer future for the children of South Kivu. Thank you for your continued support and engagement. We look forward to sharing more of our achievements in the next update



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