

# ECHO PROJECT

## *Newsletter*

Period: April 2024 – June 2024

Published: August 2024

### *Content*

- Introduction and project overview
- Key achievements
- Looking ahead
- Closing remarks

### *Contact Person*

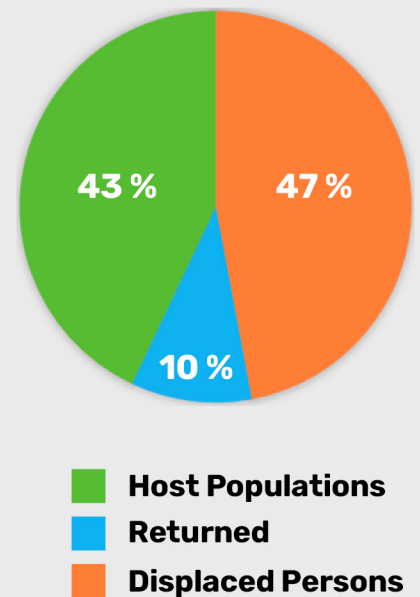
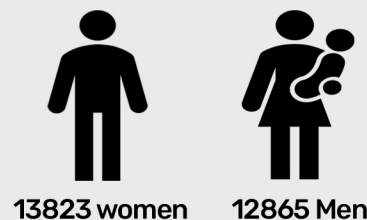
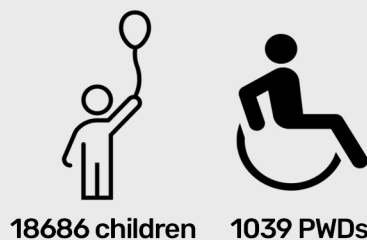
#### **Yakubu Saani**

Country Director  
ActionAid International, DRC  
Email:  
saani.yakubu@actionaid.org

#### **Eustache Masasi**

Project Coordinator  
ActionAid International, DRC  
Email:  
Eustache.masasi@actionaid.org

### *Beneficiaries Reached*



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: Strengthening Foundations for Safe Learning in South Kivu*

---

Welcome to the latest edition of our project newsletter. As we move through the second quarter of 2024, our project in South Kivu continues to gain momentum, thanks to the relentless efforts of our teams and the unwavering support of our donor, ECHO, and local stakeholders. This newsletter highlights the key achievements of the past quarter, focusing on education, protection, and community empowerment initiatives that are making a tangible difference in the lives of conflict-affected populations.

## *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

## (April 2024 – June 2024)

### *Distribution of Learning Materials*

Education is a powerful tool for change, and we are proud to report that we have now provided 19,500 girls and boys with essential learning materials since the project's inception. This quarter, we continued distributing backpacks, school uniforms, books, pencils, colored pencils, boards, and slates to children across Fizi, Minembwe, and Salamabila. These resources are critical in encouraging school attendance and improving the overall learning experience, particularly for children affected by conflict.



***Distribution of school kits to students of EP ABDALAMANGALA in Salamabila***



**Rehabilitated school at EP Halima in Fizi health zone**



**Distribution and sensitization on use of dignity kits in Fizi health zone**

### *Progress in Classroom Rehabilitation and Construction*

Our efforts to improve learning environments have made significant strides this quarter. We are pleased to report that 80% of the planned classroom rehabilitations have been completed, and 70% of the new classroom constructions are well underway. These upgrades are designed to enhance safety and create more conducive spaces for learning, ensuring that more children have access to quality education in secure, supportive environments.

### *First Distribution of Dignity Kits*

In a significant step towards supporting the dignity and well-being of women and girls, we distributed 1,000 dignity kits this quarter. These kits, which were provided to 346 girls and 654 women, include essential hygiene products and materials designed to help them manage their menstrual health with dignity. This first distribution has been met with positive feedback, highlighting the importance of such initiatives in improving the overall health and well-being of vulnerable populations.

## *Reconstitution and Training of Women and Girls Groups and Men Platforms on Protection Risk Reduction (MPPRR)*

This quarter, we successfully reconstituted all the Women and Girls Groups and Men Platforms across the 65 localities. These groups have been provided with refresher training on crucial topics, including women's rights in emergencies, sexual and reproductive health, general health and hygiene promotion, human trafficking, child labor, gender-based violence (GBV), and the prevention of sexual exploitation and abuse (PSEA). In collaboration with other community structures, the MPPRR members—each group comprising 30 individuals aged between 18 to 40—are now actively engaging in community sensitization activities. They are challenging harmful behaviors related to child marriage and toxic masculinity and working closely with women to address their protection concerns. The groups have also started developing protection risk reduction plans, with built-in sustainability measures to ensure resilience and independence. These efforts are crucial in building community capacity to manage protection risks by themselves in the future.



***Resourcing women and men's groups trained after reconstitution in Fizi health zone***

### *Training of Protection Monitors*

As part of our commitment to enhancing protection strategies, we trained 65 protection monitors this quarter. The training focused on identifying protection risks, developing mitigation strategies, and supporting the Women and Men Groups in conducting protection risk audits. Equipped with these skills, the protection monitors are leading efforts in developing and implementing protection risk reduction plans within their communities, ensuring that both women and men are actively engaged in creating safer environments

# *Looking Ahead: Strengthening Our Impact*

---

As we look forward to the next quarter, our focus will be on completing the ongoing construction projects, further expanding the reach of our sensitization efforts, and continuing to empower communities through education and protection initiatives. We remain committed to building a future where every child in South Kivu has access to safe, quality education and where communities are equipped to protect themselves from the risks associated with conflict and displacement.

## *Closing Remarks*

---

The progress we have made this quarter is a testament to the strength and resilience of the communities we serve, as well as the dedication of our teams and the continued support from our donor, ECHO, and local stakeholders. Together, we are making significant strides towards creating a safer, more secure future for the children and families of South Kivu. Thank you for your ongoing partnership in this critical work. We look forward to sharing more of our successes in the coming months.



### *Web Site & Mail*

[www.actionaid.org](http://www.actionaid.org)  
[www.drc.actionaid.org](http://www.drc.actionaid.org)  
[actionaidrdc@actionaid.org](mailto:actionaidrdc@actionaid.org)



### *Social Media*

[www.facebook.com/actionaidDRC](http://www.facebook.com/actionaidDRC)  
[www.twitter.com/actionaidRDC](http://www.twitter.com/actionaidRDC)