

ECHO PROJECT

Newsletter

Period: May 2023 – December 2023

Published: January 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



35818 children



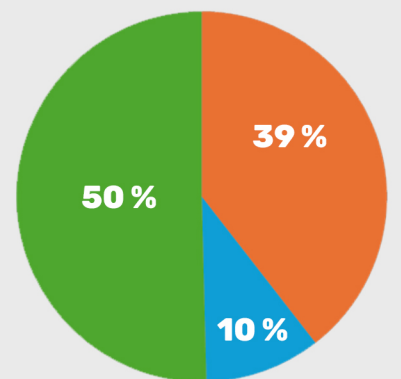
2854 PWDs



12879 Men



10981 women



■ Host Populations
■ Returnees
■ 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: A Glimpse into the Journey

Welcome to the inaugural edition of our project newsletter. Since our project's inception in May 2023, we have been dedicated to creating meaningful change in the lives of children and families affected by conflict in South Kivu. Over the past six months, our efforts in Fizi, Minembwe, and Salamabila have focused on expanding access to education and protection services, ensuring that even in the face of adversity, every child has the opportunity to learn, grow, and thrive.

This newsletter offers a glimpse into the significant strides we've made so far, thanks to the unwavering support of our donor, ECHO, and the collaboration of our stakeholders, including the Local Government, Protection and Education Clusters, INGOs, local partners, and community leaders. Together, we are building a foundation of hope and resilience for the future of South Kivu.

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

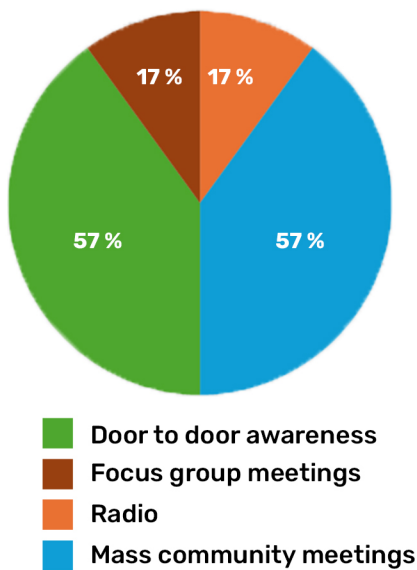
Location : Fizi, Minembwe, Salamabila

Donor : ECHO

Target Population : Internally Displaced Persons, Host Population, Returnee Population

Key Achievements

(May 2023 – December 2023)



Sensitization and Awareness Creation

Through targeted sensitization campaigns, The project reached out to over Fifty nine thousand project beneficiaries, educating them on the importance of education for all children, especially in conflict-affected areas. We used radio broadcasts, community meetings, and door-to-door interactions to spread awareness about the resources available and the steps parents can take to support their children's education during these turbulent times.

Learning Materials Distributed

A total of 9000 girls and boys (including 91 PWDs) across the three health zones were provided with essential learning materials. Each child received a backpack, school uniform, books, pencils, colored pencils, a board, and a slate. These materials not only encourage regular attendance but also bring a sense of dignity and pride to students who have been severely affected by the conflict.



Distribution of school kits to school children in Salamabila

Remedial Classes and Teacher Support

To bridge the educational gap caused by displacement and conflict, we enrolled 1794 (including 3 PWDs) children in remedial classes. These classes, organized within the health zones, provide a safe and structured environment for children of displaced families to catch up on missed lessons.

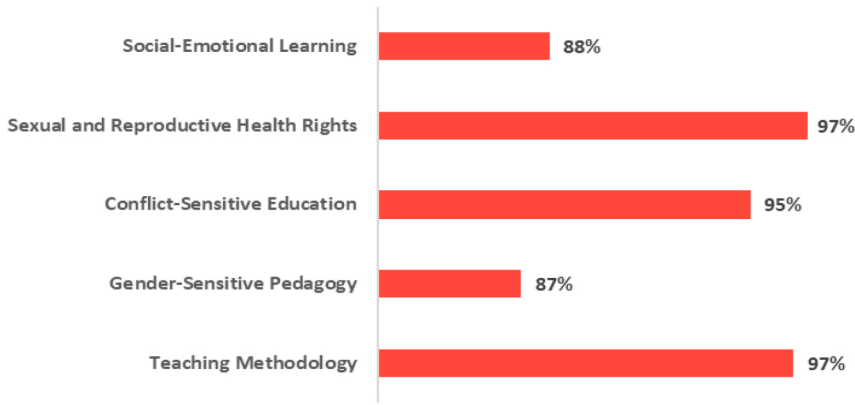


Training of Teachers in Fizi health zone

Additionally, 470 teachers and educational staff were resourced with updated teaching materials. Beyond supplies, our team organized intensive training sessions focusing on: Teaching Methodology, Gender-Sensitive Pedagogy, Conflict-Sensitive Education, Sexual and Reproductive Health Rights and Social-Emotional Learning

The results have been encouraging as 93% of the trained staff demonstrated increased knowledge and skills to meet the protection needs of both girls and boys in the classroom.

Percentage of teachers who improved in various skill areas



Unaccompanied and Separated Children reunited

In a heartwarming effort, our protection teams reunited 20 unaccompanied and separated children with their guardians. Each child's reintegration was carefully managed to ensure their emotional and physical well-being.



Engaging with children at the Multipurpose Center in Salamabila HZ

Safe Spaces for Conflict-Affected Children

To address the trauma that many children have experienced, safe spaces provided by the constructed Multi-Purpose Centers (MPC) across the three health zones served as structures to provide psychosocial support and structured protection activities, serving over 1281 girls and boys. Our safe spaces have become havens for children to play, learn, and heal in a protective environment.

Remedial Classes and Teacher Support

To bridge the educational gap caused by displacement and conflict, we enrolled 1794 (including 3 PWDs) children in remedial classes. These classes, organized within the health zones, provide a safe and structured environment for children of displaced families to catch up on missed lessons.

Additionally, 470 teachers and educational staff were resourced with updated teaching materials. Beyond supplies, our team organized intensive training sessions focusing on: Teaching Methodology, Gender-Sensitive Pedagogy, Conflict-Sensitive Education, Sexual and Reproductive Health Rights and Social-Emotional Learning

The results have been encouraging as 93% of the trained staff demonstrated increased knowledge and skills to meet the protection needs of both girls and boys in the classroom.



Ongoing remedial classes for children of displaced families in Minembwe

Looking Ahead: Continuing the Journey

As we move into 2024, our focus remains on expanding our reach and deepening the impact of our work. We plan to increase enrollment in remedial classes, and reunite more separated children with their families, commence the construction and rehabilitation of identified schools as well as continue the provision of the psychosocial and other support needs of women and children through the Multipurpose Centers the project has setup. We are also committed to strengthening collaboration with local government and community groups to ensure the sustainability of our efforts.

Closing Remarks

This project would not be possible without the dedicated involvement of local leaders, government officials, community members, and international partners. We are inspired daily by the resilience and determination of the communities we serve. Together, we are building a brighter future for the next generation in South Kivu.

Thank you for being part of this journey. We look forward to sharing more progress with you in the months to come.



Web Site & Mail

www.actionaid.org
www.drc.actionaid.org
actionaidrdc@actionaid.org



Social Media

www.facebook.com/actionaidDRC
www.twitter.com/actionaidRDC