



Statement on World Humanitarian Day by ActionAid DRC

August 2022

Every year on August 19, the whole world celebrates International Humanitarian Day.

ActionAid joins with those who dedicate their time, effort and skills, contributions/donations, and others to save the lives of people affected by humanitarian crises and armed conflict. Aid workers may not be Olympic athletes, but in their work, they often put their lives on the line to protect those of others. The tasks performed are not so easy as they are exposed to protection risks like kidnapping, robbery, and death threat. In this humanitarian journey, the goal is not to have the best time, but to be as effective as possible towards people affected by humanitarian crises. They carry the candle of solidarity and compassion to reduce the level of vulnerability. Seizing the opportunity of this day, ActionAid DRC remains grateful to all its donors who are actively involved in mobilizing their necessary means to meet the urgent needs of the vulnerable population.

ActionAid DRC honors all its humanitarian workers who save lives and help the most vulnerable people in these times of global crisis which does not spare the Democratic Republic of Congo in the eastern part of the country. Their courage, their will and their determination and dedication are a victory for all of us!

As a reminder, the persistence of armed conflicts in the country, particularly in the East of DRC linked to the proliferation of local and foreign armed groups active in this part of the country which are the authors of several cases of threats and make the population more vulnerable **where more 1,000,000 people are internally displaced, mostly women and children**. Faced with this critical and complex situation, thousands of children are deprived of access to quality education and remain prey to be recruited by armed groups, young girls and women are exposed to the risk of abuse and sexual exploitation, etc

Through humanitarian donors, ActionAid DRC, exploits the right strategy of empowering people affected by humanitarian crises to provide humanitarian protection and humanitarian assistance to vulnerable people, particularly women and children affected by crisis coupled with living in the most disadvantaged places and conditions.

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Thus, ActionAid DRC, a member of the large humanitarian family operating in this country, salutes Congolese humanitarian actors, for their sense of dedication because it is never easy to see one's compatriots in suffering. However, in the DRC, we also have "invisible" humanitarian workers, mostly women and young people who we speak very little but who represent, in many cases, the first line of response. We also salute the Congolese populations and host families, who, in times of crisis, let their hearts speak and come to the aid of their fellow citizens. They symbolize the idea of global citizenship through which each of us is a humanitarian actor.

As we commemorate this Day, ActionAid DRC would like to emphasize that ActionAid DRC is always in solidarity with the Congolese Government and its citizens, Congolese women and families before, during and after humanitarian crisis.

Our collective efforts have made it possible for the improvement observed in the protection of women and children. There is evidence of improved safe and protective learning conditions of vulnerable children and increased in the self-esteem of women.

However, since humanitarian aid is not an end in itself, ActionAid DRC, the Congolese State, the Congolese people, sister humanitarian actors and development actors will have to redouble our efforts in order to create system change necessary to maintain stability and thus enable the DRC to emerge from the humanitarian crisis and move on to the phase of promoting security and peace to make way for development".

Long live the donors,

Long live the DRC,

Long live ActionAid !

For Actionaid DRC

Yakubu Mohammed Saant
Country Director

Country Director
actionaid DRC
Action For Global Justice