



THE FEDERATION OF CONGO COMPANIES LAUNCHES "BUSINESS FOR PEACE"



TWO NEW INNOVATIVE SYSTEMS TO PROTECT VICTIMS OF SEXUAL VIOLENCE



IN KATANA, WOMEN HARVEST MORE THAN 2 TONS OF BEANS!



THE 16 DAYS OF ACTIVISM OF THE NATIONAL MOVEMENT OF SURVIVORS OF THE DRC

PANZI NEWS



Dr. Mukwege, Dr. Cadiere, and their teams performing minimally-invasive surgery at Panzi Hospital in Bukavu

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Minimally-invasive surgery at Panzi Hospital repairs internal injuries of raped women

Since 2012, a team specializing in minimally-invasive surgery has been carrying out missions at Panzi Hospital in order to introduce this cutting-edge medical technology to the heart of Africa.

Every 4 months, a team of medical specialists, surgeons, and nurses arrive in Bukavu to operate on the most complicated cases at Panzi Hospital, and to train their staff.

Background on the project and partnership between Dr. Mukwege, medical director of Panzi Hospital and Dr. Cadière who initiated the minimally-invasive surgery missions at Panzi.

Panzi Hospital was originally intended to be a maternity hospital when it was founded by Dr. Mukwege in 1999. As the use of rape as a weapon of war increased in the east of the country (where the hospital is located), Panzi quickly transformed itself into a specialized health center to treat women who had been raped with extreme brutality. Dr. Mukwege had to become resourceful as the armed conflicts increased, and he developed complex surgical techniques to repair the victims' severe gynecological trauma, including vesicovaginal fistulas and organ prolapses.

In 2012, Dr. Mukwege met Dr. Cadière during a trip to Brussels. Knowing Dr. Cadière's specialty, he introduced him to several cases where the physical lesions of the patients were so deep that conducting surgery via the normal vaginal route was insufficient.

This was the beginning of their "4-handed surgery," and a few months later, Dr. Cadière sent a team of specialists to operate at Panzi Hospital.

An extraordinary friendship between the two men was born, and Dr. Cadière's missions to Bukavu became more frequent. Since then, 21 missions have been carried out at Panzi Hospital by Dr. Cadière's team. In addition, Dr. Mukwege's surgical department is now one of the most efficient in Africa, performing operations that have never before been performed on the continent.

Benefits of Minimally-Invasive Surgery and Impact at Panzi

While most surgeons still create wide stomach dissections to perform surgical procedures, minimally-invasive surgery requires only a few holes (less than 1 cm), and is therefore much more precise. An extra-fine camera and surgical instruments specially designed for this type of intervention are then inserted into the abdomen and allow you to operate by observing the internal cavities on a television screen. (see photo page 1)

This surgery is more precise and more "clean," making it particularly suited to our hygiene conditions on the continent. It also makes it easier to avoid infections, since large wounds are more prone to contamination. This often happens when a patient's sanitary conditions are not adequate, such as when patients return to their home village or have to share a hospital room with many other people and visitors.

While minimally-invasive surgery is becoming more popular across the globe, mastering the technique requires very specific training, which increases its success rate.

Between January 27 and 31, 2020, 125 patients at Panzi Hospital were treated using minimally-invasive surgery, including endoscopies, laparoscopies, and ENT procedures.

During their latest mission together, Dr. Cadière and Dr. Mukwege jointly operated on 4 patients in critical condition for particularly complicated fistula cases that required the total reconstruction of their vaginas. Each of these 4, 4-handed operations was successful and the next day the patients were considered medically stable.

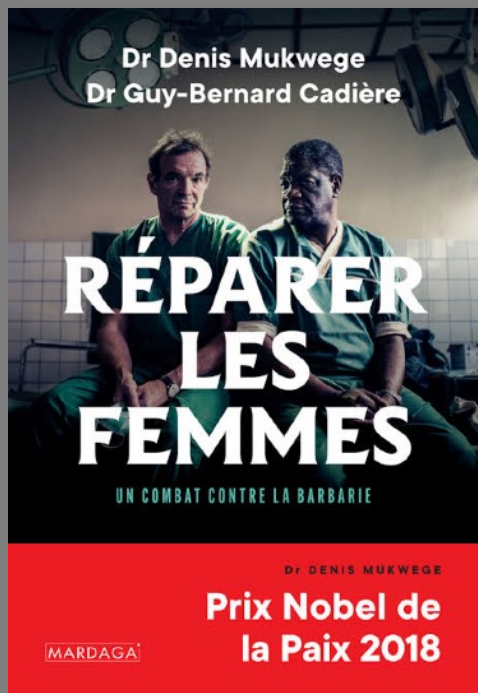
Dr. Cadière and team will next visit Panzi from April 25 to May 2, 2020.

Panzi Hospital provides operations and consultations for anyone in need. In addition to providing minimally-invasive fistula surgeries, the team will also treat colon cancer and stomach cancer, problems associated with obesity, ulcers, inguinal hernias, sinus and ear problems, infertility issues, and organ prolapses.

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You can learn more about the work of Dr. Denis Mukwege and Dr. Guy-Bernard Cadière, and their fight against rape as a weapon of war, in their joint auto-biography. These two men with extraordinary destinies published "Repairing Women" in 2019 (Mardaga Editions), and the film adaptation is currently underway. The main role of Dr. Mukwege will be played by the famous Beninese actor from Hollywood, Djimon Hounsou.

In the DRC, the book is available in Kinshasa, at Espace Culturel Bilembo and at the Librairie de la Halle de la Gombe. Average price, \$20 USD.

Launch of the “Business For Peace” program of the Federation of Congo Companies supported by Dr. Mukwege

The posters of the event read: “The entrepreneurs of the DRC stand behind the Nobel Peace Prize and Dr. Denis Mukwege, to drive advocacy, create jobs and fight against war and poverty. »

The Business for Peace program of the Federation of Congo Companies (FEC) was launched on Saturday, December 14, 2019 at the premises of the Panzi Foundation in Bukavu. Dozens of business leaders from Kinshasa and other provinces of the DRC gathered around the Nobel Peace Prize to discuss the links that exist between the business world and peace.

Work is the dignity of a person

In her welcoming address, the executive secretary of the Panzi Foundation, Dr. Christine Amisi, explained the four-pillar holistic care model that Dr. Mukwege developed to treat survivors of sexual violence. The Panzi Foundation has implemented that model since 2008, which includes socio-economic reintegration support. Dr. Amisi discussed how the Panzi Foundation promotes female entrepreneurship through various income-generating projects, and explained that through these initiatives, the local community is directly involved in promoting peace.

The President of FEC Sud-Kivu, Alain Rubuye, then described the reasons for creating the "Business for Peace" program. This launch follows a series of important events in 2019 that are familiar to the city of Bukavu, including the official inauguration of the agronomic laboratory of Kalambo, a unit of the Institute of Tropical Agronomy in Africa (IITA). Mr. Rubuye reminded participants that the Nobel Prize being awarded to a son from the DRC in December 2018 is a crowning achievement in the emergence of peace: “The Panzi forum is an ideal framework for business to contribute to peace and for peace to contribute to investment in DR Congo,” he explained.



The national vice-president of the FEC, Mr. Kasembo, presented the situation of poverty in which the DRC currently finds itself despite its natural potential. In this dark picture, Mr. Kasembo praised the efforts of the Nobel Prize in the humanization of vulnerable people. "The case of little Sara, a survivor of rape with extreme violence who, despite the hell she lived, knew how to stand up and become an entrepreneur after receiving care at Panzi is an eloquent sign of the revaluation of the human being and of the woman in particular," explained Mr. Kasembo, who firmly believes that business will bring peace and that peace will drive investment.

Dr. Denis Mukwege, who is also the chairman of the Board of Directors of the Panzi Foundation, made no secret of his motivation to sponsor this forum initiated by businessmen from the DRC. As usual, the human rights activist remained constant, denouncing administrative and fiscal complications that victimize traders and workers. This includes women leaving Panzi after receiving job-skills training and a socio-economic reintegration kit to start their own business. These beneficiaries of the "Panzi Model" are often over-taxed, which prevents from practicing their profession, despite the fact that they have the ability to contribute to an increase of the Congolese GDP. If these financial and administrative barriers were overcome, women would be able to better contribute to the development of society and the well-being of the community, especially as women become able to better provide for their children and families. The Nobel Peace Prize laureate has demonstrated that, "To make a business work in the DRC is a test of your bravery, and to invest in DRC means maneuvering through an obstacle course."

In his arguments, Dr. Mukwege discussed how poverty is a great threat to peace. Despite the numerous security and development challenges that face the DRC, he concluded with a series of appeals: "There is a responsibility that we bear to build peace; believe in our nation; love our country".

"To make a business work in the DRC is a test of your bravery and to invest in the DRC means maneuvering through an obstacle course."

Dr. Denis Mukwege, during the launch of the program "Business for Peace" initiated by the Federation of Congo Companies

In Katana, women harvest more than 2 tons of beans!

56 vulnerable women harvested more than two tons of beans from a field donated by the Panzi Foundation to Katana beneficiaries in the Kabare territory. This has become a glimmer of hope for dozens of women without any other means of subsistence.

Despite some climatic disturbances recorded this season, the beneficiaries of an agricultural in-kind subsidy are happy with their latest harvest. In fact, despite heavy rain and a delay in receiving their seeds, their harvest exceeded the women's expectations.

On January 10, the women explained that they had been able to harvest an average of 40 kg of beans from their respective plots of land. For one of the beneficiaries, Ms. Chikwanine M'Kalehezo, this gesture from the Panzi Foundation is beneficial for many families living in rural areas. Even before the end of the harvest period, Ms. Chikwanine has already gathered a sufficient amount of beans. Thus, it has sheltered her from recurrent food insecurity, which is prevalent in certain territories of the province of South Kivu: "From 10 kg of seed, I have just harvested 40 kg [of beans], and I have not yet finished harvesting yet. I have grown enough to feed my children," she explains.

The women and men who operate the Kakondo plantation remain confident about the next growing seasons, especially now that they already have their seeds.

This project of granting assistance to vulnerable women through the rural socio-economic reintegration activities is called "Dorcas Rurale." Currently, 306 beneficiaries receive a grant in-kind within the agricultural fields owned by the Panzi Foundation. In addition to the 56 Katana beneficiaries, 250 people operate a 50-hectare plantation in the Ruzizi plain and in Kamanyola, Katogota, Luvungi and Bwegera, the beneficiaries cultivate corn.

In addition to agricultural support, some households have also received goats for breeding. This supplement often allows families to pay the school fees of their children.



© Photo John ACHIZA MUSHAGA

A beneficiary
harvesting beans in
Katana

The National Movement of Survivors of Sexual Violence in the DRC complete their international campaign “16 Days of Activism Against Gender-Based Violence”

Several members of the National Movement of Survivors of Sexual Violence in the DRC



© Photo Josh ESTEY

The theme of this year's campaign was "Orange the World"

Hundreds of women from Kasai Central, North Kivu and South Kivu gathered in Bukavu to celebrate the closing of their international campaign, "16 Days of Activism Against Gender-Based Violence." For the National Movement of Survivors of Sexual Violence in the DRC, it was a day of reflection on their future. Because the theme of this year's campaign was "Orange the World," all participants wore an orange scarf.

To start the day, participants attended the screening of the fictional film "SEMA," produced by the Congolese director Machérie Ekwa, who is a young prodigy of international cinema. The film was also produced by the National Movement of Survivors of Sexual Violence in the DRC, and is based on the personal stories of more than 60 women members of the movement. It was developed in order to combat the sexual violence and the stigmatization suffered by survivors and their families. After the screening, the survivors discussed issues that concern them on a daily basis, and focused on how to provide support for victims and children of rape.

The women noted with regret that children born of rape are forgotten, rejected, and stigmatized within the community. "We talk about ourselves as mothers, but we forget our children of rape who have no identity. These children are not recognized by either their families or by the state, because no one wants to wear what they consider a shame in their lineage. It is important today that we think about it, that we find solutions," argued Tatiana Mukanire, the national coordinator of the movement.

Congolese director Machérie EKWA and director of photography Jimmy TISSANABO during the shooting of the film SEMA in Bukavu, May 2019



© Photo Maud-Salomé EKILA



*Closing of the international campaign
« 16 Days of Activism » an initiative of
the National Movement of Survivors*

For several decades, the Congolese population has been perpetually plagued by countless massacres, displacement, and rape used as a weapon of war. The number of survivors of rape and sexual violence continues to increase, as does the number of children who are victimized by this epidemic destroying the social fabric of our communities.

SUCCESS STORY:

Imani, freshly graduated in pastry-making!

Panzi Foundation hosts a transit house and community center for women called “Maison Dorcas.” For several years, women have come to Maison Dorcas to rebuild themselves psychologically, and to undergo job skills training to allow their socio-economic reintegration.

Imani is one of those women. “In the past, I asked for money from people around me or on the street and I did not have a job. One day I heard of a training program at Maison Dorcas. It was decided—I had to take charge of my destiny.”

Like hundreds of other women, Imani learned a trade and benefited from a reintegration kit which enabled her to lay the groundwork for her new life.

Pastry-making is now her profession!

Imaani chose the “pastry-making” course at Maison Dorcas, and now bakes and sells different types of cakes. At her home, you can find donuts and other fine pastries for purchase!

She does not forget the difficult moments of her past and encourages other vulnerable women to arm themselves with courage: “My message to women is that life does not come together on its own, you have to fight. I am very proud today to have obtained this diploma.”

As work is dignity, these training courses, offered by the socio-economic reintegration activities of the Panzi Foundation, contribute to the emancipation of Congolese society; an emancipation which can only be guaranteed by the well-being of women, the pillar of the Congolese family.



© Photo Arsène LWABANDJI

We remember...

"Because a people without memory is a people without future, we remember"



59 years ago, **Patrice Emery Lumumba** was killed

Each January 17, Patrice Lumumba, one of the greatest heroes in Congolese and African history, is honored. The father of independence remains in our memories, a symbol of liberation and self-determination.

He was assassinated in 1961 by the enemies of Pan-Africanism and of the sovereignty of the Congo.

The Panzi Model interests national and regional partners

The High Level Meeting of the Ministers of Gender and Justice of the International Conference on the Great Lakes Region (ICGLR) took place in Brazzaville from November 23-28 this past fall. They were to discuss the state of implementation of the Declaration of Kampala on Gender-Based Violence, and Dr. Christine Amisi of the Panzi Foundation had the opportunity to provide a comprehensive overview of Panzi Hospital and its four-pillar holistic healing model (see page 9). These pillars include medical and surgical care, psychosocial support, legal and judicial assistance and socio-economic reintegration. Her presentation raised discussions which resulted in a key recommendation: the state should not forget its sovereign responsibilities, namely the establishment of a solid policy of local justice, despite the organization of mobile courts.

"The state must not forget its sovereign responsibilities, namely the establishment of a solid policy of local justice."

The Mapon Foundation has indicated its interest in the "One Stop Center" model of responding to gender based violence, and in integrating a One Stop Center (OSC) into the Lumbulumbu Hospital Center in the city of Kindu, Maniema Province.

This December 24-31, Panzi experts visited Kindu to explore the integration of the Panzi Model for the benefit of survivors of sexual violence in existing services at the Lumbulumbu Hospital Center. This trip marks the beginning of a hopeful collaboration between the Mapon Foundation and the Panzi Foundation.



On the left, Roger Buhendwa, Gender and Advocacy expert at the Panzi Foundation and Dr. Christine Amisi, Executive Secretary of the Panzi Foundation



Two new innovative technological tools to protect victims of sexual violence, especially children

Developed by Physicists for Human Rights, CIRK (Children's Video Interview Kit) and ViMoVo (Victims Voice Modifier) are welcome in the DRC and other countries where rape as a weapon of war is widespread.

The executive secretary of the Panzi Foundation, Dr. Christine Amisi, traveled to Nairobi to attend a round table discussion on the functioning of these two systems December 3-4.

When victims overcome fear, stigma, and other barriers to seeking treatment, they are often threatened by their abusers who try to discourage them from seeking justice. Victims who choose to prosecute their perpetrators face significant risks. Once trials have started, their testimony can lead to retribution against them and their families. In the cases of sexual violence against minors, the obstacles to obtaining justice are even greater.

In addition, many clinicians do not ask children-survivors in-depth questions, since they lack the basic knowledge on how to deal with cases of sexual violence against minors, nor the tools to interact with them without traumatizing them further. Because of this, they are missing crucial elements to obtain full testimony—evidence that prosecutors could use to support and strengthen the defense of victims of sexual violence.

The first system is a video recording kit of child victims and the second is a voice changer which allows the victim to remain anonymous during trials, Georges Kuzma, criminal investigation expert for Physicians for Human Rights (PHR) explains to us: "ViMoVo can be used in addition to existing tools such as

the closed session, the disguise provided to the victim, the codification of names or even psychological assistance. It is an amplified device which, using a microphone, can modify voices. For example, a young girl can have the voice of a man and vice versa. This tool is very useful, because it allows the total confidentiality of the people who will testify before a court in addition to the already existing tools."

ViMoVo was inaugurated for the first time in the DRC by PHR during the Kavumu Trial condemning the Congolese MP Frederique Batumike to life for Crimes against Humanity by Rape, for the rape of 44 children in the village of Kavumu in South Kivu. At the time of this trial, the device was still in a test phase. It has been modified and is, today, completely autonomous. Thus, it does not require an electrical connection, only periodic recharging: "Several partners already use it during trials and say they are particularly satisfied," added Mr. Kuzma.

ViMoVo is available for less than \$500.

The second technology is the Children's Video Interview Kit (CIRK). "It is a general system concerning the best practice for listening to children victims of violence or child witnesses," Mr. Kuzma explains. "This tool is based on training, on international protocols concerning listening to the child, and finally on a material and judicial approach to the technology, since we will also treat the recording obtained by the material and the protocol as court evidence. It is also about setting up the preservation and analysis of this evidence. Concretely, this means that a suitcase is provided, making it possible to capture the entire conversation of a child with a trained professional (a psychologist or an investigator) according to an international protocol called NICHHD. This protocol will respect all stages of the child's development, but also the protection of the child, confidentiality, but also the child's consent and understanding. Once the registration is complete, it will be copied so that the courts or health centers can have working copies. The original will be analyzed by a box (which is supplied with the system) which will make it possible to obtain the digital signature of the original recording, which will then be placed in a sealed bag which can be sent to justice if necessary. The professionals who use the recordings will therefore be working copies.

During the interview, the questions will be asked according to a certain order. This established protocol will always be the same, which will allow us to have benchmarks and to have elements of comparison concerning the testimony of the child, but especially the testimony in relation to the age of the child and the information useful for the investigation that the child will be able to give.

This way of protecting the original recording is also essential to protect psychologists and doctors who will use

this tool from being accused, as it may be, of having manipulated the images or misappropriating the original information by manipulations since the system does not allow modifications. If there are modifications, this will be known directly and therefore, at the level of the court, the magistrates will be able to take into account the fact that there is a suspicion of modification of the registration.”

The CIRK software costs approximately \$2,500, but also requires training and personnel to utilize it correctly.

We have great hope that both the CIRK and ViVoMo tools will be great resources as we strive to protect victims of sexual violence in DR Congo.



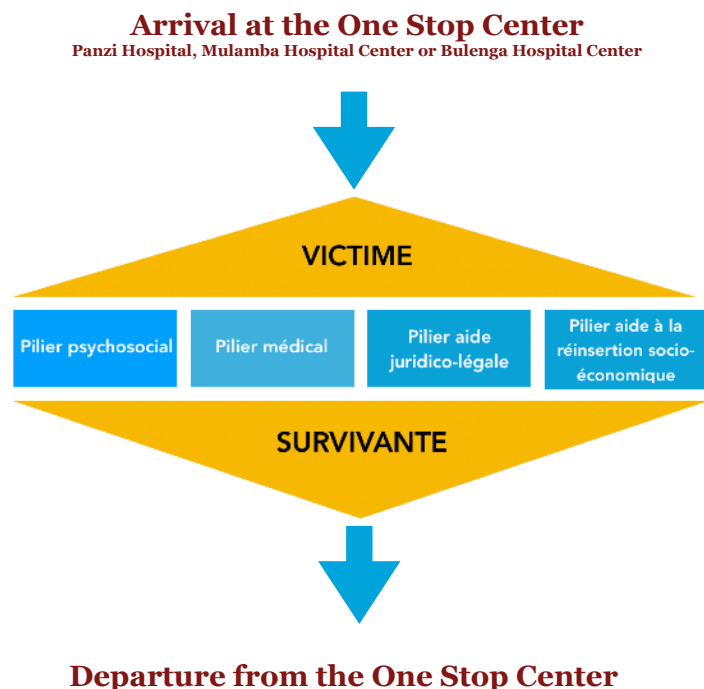
ViVoMo and CIRK victim and witness protection systems launched and presented in Nairobi

THE PANZI MODEL

Developed by Dr. Mukwege, the Panzi Model organizes comprehensive care for survivors of sexual violence around 4 pillars that allow survivors to rebuild their lives. The model allows survivors to become independent and to reintegrate into the society in a sustainable way, in particular through our “One Stop Centers.”



© Photo Josh ESTEY



Activities carried out in each pillar within the various projects of the Panzi Foundation, the Panzi Hospital, and our rural hospitals

Period from December 23, 2019 to January 25, 2020

MEDICAL PILLAR

- **230** patients who are survivors of sexual violence were received, including 34 within 72 hours and therefore eligible for prevention post-exposure prophylaxis (PEP). All the patients were served. Distribution by structure: 195 at Panzi Hospital, 2 at Mulamba Hospital Center, 3 at Bulenga Hospital Center, 24 in PEP-Tushinde structures and 6 in Bunyakiri. Of these, 10 were children under the age of 12. All survivors of sexual violence were referred to the Psychosocial Pillar.

- **37** patients suffering from prolapse were operated on (33 at Panzi Hospital and 4 at Mulamba Hospital Center)

- **118** patients were admitted to hospital for various pathologies (81 at the Center Hospitalier de Bulenga, 35 at the Center Hospitalier de Mulamba and 2 in Kamituga). 60% of these cases were to treat severe malaria.

- **10** patients with urogenital fistulas were operated on (9 at Panzi Hospital and 1 at Mulamba Hospital Center). They have all been referred to the Psychosocial Pillar.

- **282** patients were treated on an outpatient basis for various pathologies other than those mentioned above (193 at the Bulenga Hospital Center, 54 at the Mulamba Hospital Center and 35 at Kamituga and Luhwindja)

- The 2 Hospitals have delivered **129** babies including 29 caesareans (30 at the Bulenga Hospital Center and 99 at the Mulamba Hospital Center)

- **4** cases of gender-based violence have been received in Bunyakiri and Katana; they benefited from the surgical treatment of wounds.

* As a reminder, the work of the Mulamba Hospital Center was significantly disrupted in the last two weeks of 2019 by a strong security tension due to the presence of the FDLR (Democratic Forces for the Liberation of Rwanda) and their dependents from Kalehe fleeing an intervention of the FARDC for their repatriation to Rwanda. Intense fighting between the two groups caused the desertion of the hospital center (staff and patients). They have since returned to the hospital.

* Panzi Foundation's Medical Pillar is also educating the population on the means of prevention and the symptoms of the deadly epidemic of Coronavirus detected in China and in several other countries. It continues its Ebola education activities as well.

PSYCHOSOCIAL PILLAR

- **239** new cases were managed by the psychosocial pillar in the 3 One Stop Centers.

- **71** former cases benefited from psychosocial care.

- **67** cases are survivors of sexual violence, of which 27 are children.

- **11** patients suffering from fistulas and 5 patients suffering from prolapses also received psychosocial care.

- **40** survivors were discharged after their emotional balance was restored during the month of January.

- **81** active listening sessions and **51** home visits were made to the children of 2 School Recovery Centers in Luhwindja and Kamituga.

- **74** children survivors of sexual violence were visited by their families in Kavumu and Bunyakiri as part of the project "The Children of Panzi and Elsewhere" of the Panzi Foundation.

- Organization of the Christmas party for the children supported by the project "The Children of Panzi and Elsewhere."

- Completion of **2** awareness-raising sessions on Maendeleo radio on the symptoms of depression and the integration of mental health into primary health care by psychologists from the mental health project
- Training of psychologists from the 3 One Stop Centers (Bulenga, Mulamba and Panzi) on brief, strategic, and solution-oriented therapies with Michèle Quintin (a Belgian psychotherapist) as part of support and psychological care for patients on short length of hospital stay.
- Completion of several awareness-raising sessions within the framework of the “Children of Panzi and Elsewhere” project with the parents of Kavumu, Bunyakiri and Minova on the family reintegration of children born of rape who are rejected.
- Distribution of subsidies to parents of malnourished children, and to children survivors of sexual violence in Kavumu, Bunyakiri and Minova within the framework of the project, "Support and Accompaniment to Survivor Children of Sexual Violence and Malnourished," supervised by the Nyota center in Kavumu .
- Training of health care providers in the Fizi Health Zone on holistic care for survivors of sexual violence,

LEGAL PILLAR

- **127** requests for assistance were received by the Legal Pillar of the Panzi Foundation (64 cases of sexual violence and 63 cases of gender-based violence). Thus, the sexual violence files were entrusted to lawyers for study, constitution of the elements of the file, drafting of the complaints and judicial follow-up.
- **26** files have been filed for cases of gender-based violence. Old cases have been closed by conciliation of the parties in dispute while others are still sending invitations to the parties and confrontation of the parties with a view to conciliation.
- Judicial follow-up was the subject of **25** files regularly followed up before the competent judicial authorities, both civil and military (Police, Public Prosecutor's Offices, Courts, Courts and Courts).
- In Bukavu, **16** files were the subject of judicial follow-up and, among them, two were pleaded and taken under advisement. 14 cases were received during this period requesting assistance, including 6 cases of sexual violence and 5 cases of gender-based violence.
- In Uvira, **6** child sexual abuse records have been brought to justice, in which all perpetrators are in
- In Kamituga, **3** cases of sexual violence were tried before the Children's Court and this by conviction of the civil responsible.
- In terms of community awareness, **57** community awareness sessions on the law were carried out with the participation of a total of **3,245** people including 220 girls, 151 boys, 1,826 women and 1,048 men. The themes covered were: the 16 forms of Sexual Violence; the rights and duties of children in the school environment; what to do after a rape; the registration of children in the civil status; child protection; property management of the household; violence based on gender; presentation of the activities of the Legal Clinic of the Panzi Foundation; economic violence; marriage and early pregnancy; denouncing rape; means to fight against sexual violence; civil marriage; convention on the elimination of all forms of discrimination against women; and forms of gender-based violence in schools.
- Radio broadcasts were added to these awareness-raising sessions in order to reach the greatest number in the community, thus 16 broadcasts were produced, broadcast and / or rebroadcast respectively in the Uvira area at Radio Notre Dame du Tanganyika, in the Kamituga area at Radio Salama, in the Idjwi-North area to Radio Obuguma, in the Luvungi area in Luvungi Community Radio and

in the Shabunda are in Radio Mutula under the themes: child protection; marriage and early pregnancies; conjugal violence; rape between minor children; ending sexual violence; gender-based violence and denouncing rape; a means to combat sexual violence; gender-based violence: causes, forms and consequences; and the 16 forms of sexual violence.

Other activities carried out:

- Awareness-raising on the gender issue in the face of sexual violence in favor of finalist students and judicial actors.
- The holding of the fairground hearing in Walungu with the Military Tribunal of the Bukavu garrison.
- Training of judicial defenders in Baraka as part of the Panzi Foundation Emergency Project.
- Participation in the interdisciplinary meeting at Panzi Hospital on holistic person-centered care.
- Establishment of new legal clinics in Luhihi and Kabamba, in the Kabare Territory with the funds of the British Embassy.

SOCIO-ECONOMIC REINTEGRATION PILLAR

Transit Support

After-care and transit support is crucial for many survivors who have previously passed through the other pillars of the holistic healing model. Social workers help to reintroduce survivors into the community and guide them as they choose a new trade to learn. This is essential so that survivors are able to provide for themselves and their families when they leave Panzi's programs.

Accommodation: **109** people were housed in transit.

Thirty-four survivors of sexual violence were staying in the Panzi Foundation "Maison Dorcas" transit house with their children (24 children and 10 unaccompanied children, as well as 38 girls who have left prostitution and their 3 children). They were placed in the safe houses of the Panzi Foundation.

All benefited from a balanced and healthy diet, and social support. Hygiene kits have been provided to them and they are receiving medical and psychosocial care in transit.

One of our beneficiaries developed a psychological problem which became psychiatric, and required a referral to the psychiatry department of Panzi Hospital.

Learning

- **652** people benefitted from our activities in the Ruzizi plain via the Dorcas Rurale project and in Maison Dorcas.
- **168** people attended literacy, including 91 in rural areas and 77 in urban areas.
- **484** people in received job skills training, including 178 in rural areas (115 in sewing, 63 in basketry), as well as 306 in urban areas (105 in sewing, 32 in basketry, 43 in embroidery, 48 in pastry-making, 34 in soap-making, 18 in beauty care, and 26 in information technology).

Production and promotion

(Social organization of women in their communities by two approaches implemented by the Panzi Foundation depending on the context and the communities)

1. Mutual Solidarity Approach (MUSO): **34** MUSO were monitored including 10 in the Luhwindja area, 6 in the North area (Bulenga in the territory of Kalehe), 8 in the west area (Mulamba in the territory of Walungu) and 10 in the center in Bukavu (Panzi) .

2. Income-generating activities: **212** beneficiaries benefited from a cash grant.

Monitoring of agricultural production activities:

- **50** hectares of corn crops in the Ruzizi plain for the benefit of the beneficiaries followed by the animators. The crops are in the pre-harvest phase (the harvest will take place in February). In the area of Katana, the beneficiaries have already harvested and are preparing for the next season where they will be cultivating beans in the field. In Kaziba, the teams are working with carrots, onions, and eggplants.

At all stages, the beneficiaries have been trained on agricultural techniques, measurements, staking, nursery field preparation, and more.

Food Processing:

Panzi Fruit Juice Production : **70** liters of ready-to-drink juice or 203 bottles from 14 kg of raw juice (50 bottles).

Child Protection

In the socio-economic reintegration pillar, several activities are organized specifically for children.

- **202** children supervised at the “Aire de Jeux” playground at Panzi

- Schooling of children at school: these are children recovered from mining plots and redirected to school. We organize school recovery centers (CRS) for them. Two follow up visits were organized in the CRSs. These visits led us to organize an educational meeting with the teachers and directors.

Meeting with the CRS students on the theme of punctuality and election of parents’ committees in Kamituga.

Our field hosts broadcast two radio programs, one on mentoring after-school children in parent study sessions, and the other on children’s rights

25 secondary school students from the CRSs were visited by our leaders in Kamituga for socialization before the exams started.

To conclude, we participated in the presentation session of the projects of young entrepreneurs of the OREOL incubator.

For all information concerning

PANZI NEWS

go to the website:

www.fondationpanzirdc.org



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