



**DEATH OF LUCHA'S
ACTIVIST FREDDY
KAMBALE**



**INTERNATIONAL DAY FOR
THE ELIMINATION OF
OBSTETRIC FISTULA AT
PANZI HOSPITAL**



**CONSTRUCTION OF 42
HOUSES IN KATANA,
KAVUMUM AND KALEHE**



**14 YOUNG BOYS
RAPED BY PASTOR IN
BUKAVU**

PANZI NEWS



Archives - Crédit : AFP

Dr. Denis Mukwege: "The COVID-19 Pandemic must not make us forget the endemic massacres in the Democratic Republic of Congo."

As of May 22 and over a 7 week period, an estimated 480,000 people have been displaced in the DRC fleeing massacres and violence. The 2018 Nobel Peace Prize Laureate sends an urgent message.

The COVID-19 crisis should not make us forget the atrocities that continue in the East of the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) with indifference.

We must not forget the instability and the worsening security crisis in many parts of the east of the country. The massacres on the civilian populations already traumatized by more than 20 years of cycles of violence and conflicts continue as simple news, and remain even more silent in the context of the health crisis we are going through.

We strongly condemn the killings and acts of extreme violence committed in recent months in Ituri Province, particularly in the territories of Djugu and Mahagi.

The High Commissioner for Human Rights, Michèle Bachelet, rightly declared during an official visit to Ituri in January that this type of act could constitute crimes against humanity and that "this tragedy has lasted too long and must end."

However, the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees reported on May 8 that at least 274 civilians had been killed and more than 200,000 people forced to flee their homes in the past three months in Ituri Province.

Massacres and looting have followed one another since the beginning of the year and the population faces a particularly heinous and brutal wave of violence: every day, innocent civilians are beheaded, women are raped, and villages are burned. This has caused massive displacement of the population of this Province which has already suffered too much from the war.



On the night of Saturday to Sunday, May 17, around twenty people were again massacred with machetes in Djisa, in the chiefdom of North Bahama, in the territory of Djugu. Women, children, and the elderly were among the victims.

These killings, largely attributed to the CODECO militia, risk provoking the formation of new self-defense militias and further fueling inter-community violence if the national security forces and MONUSCO fail to stabilize the situation.

In North Kivu, militias also continue their abuses with impunity. The ADF massacred another 7 people this Sunday, May 17 in Kokola, near Beni, where nearly 1,500 deaths have been attributed to this armed group since 2014.

In South Kivu, the Rwandan and Burundian armies are fighting in armed groups interposed in the highlands of Minembwe, destroying everything in their path.

And in Tanganyika, the Zambians who, until then, had maintained good neighborly relations with the DR Congo, like our neighbors to the east, recently invaded our territory with incalculable consequences for our population.

The violence must end. Instability and repeated massacres cannot go unanswered.

Faced with COVID-19, the government has shown that it can demonstrate political will, and take the necessary preventive measures, and thus save lives.

It is urgent for our authorities to also demonstrate a real political will to put an end to the insecurity in eastern DRC, and take the necessary measures to prevent the non-repetition of the large-scale violence that our population has suffered for more 20 years old.

The solutions are there. They were listed in the recommendations of the Mapping Report of the United Nations High Commissioner published 10 years ago: establishment of an international criminal tribunal for the DRC and/or mixed specialized chambers, mechanisms for establishing the truth, reparation programs, and far-reaching reform of the security and justice sectors.

The time has come to unearth the Mapping Report because the victims of today and yesterday have the right to justice, to the truth, to reparations and to guarantees of non-renewal in the face of these atrocities which must challenge us all. and which must prompt strong actions from the Congolese authorities and the international community.





The Panzi Foundation's renovation and construction project for houses for the most vulnerable has completed its first stage in Kavumu

We continue to serve survivors of sexual violence and vulnerable women in Kavumu, Katana and Kalehe. 42 houses are under renovation or construction and the first 9 beneficiaries have already moved into new homes.

On May 22, Panzi News traveled to Kavumu to meet with several beneficiaries of the project and to collect their stories. Most of the families benefiting from this project lived in unsustainable and precarious conditions, languishing in buildings that they themselves called "bird's nests." By contrast, their new homes today have paved floors and a roof that protects them from the elements, pests, and insects.

Immediately, we encountered courageous and motivated women who inspected the finished houses with interest. Pascasia M'Chiroyi is a survivor. After receiving medical care, she also received psychological support and underwent several training courses at the Panzi Foundation. When she arrived at Panzi Hospital, she could neither read nor write—today she is the secretary of the "Busime Nyamakana Mutual Solidarity" group. Two of her children attend school through the Panzi Foundation's Dorcas Rurale Project, and she received a grant to start her own income-generating activities.

Widowed, Madame M'Chiroyi found herself in a catastrophic situation with her children—she could not provide them with decent housing. A few days ago, she spent her very first night in her new three-bedroom house. She excitedly reunited how she is sleeping peacefully again.

After her time at Panzi Foundation, Mama Pascasia has become a true leader in her community and she hopes that many other vulnerable women will also be able to benefit from such assistance: "While I did not even know how to write my name, I was able to benefit from literacy courses, it changes all the more life for a person of my age. When my husband became seriously ill, he was taken into care at Panzi Hospital. He didn't make it, but my family was able to recover thanks to everything that was in place to help us. In addition to the medical care, the education of the children and the training we have received, we have also been granted a cash grant which allows us to organize small businesses. I particularly appreciate my role in the Mutual Solidarity group that we organized here in Kavumu. Our members manage to evolve and develop their activities to provide for the needs of their families."

You know, after the death of my husband, the house in which I lived completely deteriorated, the capital that I had did not allow me to fix it. Alone, I was unable to pay for the building materials," she explains. "This project is a boon for us. I can't help but thank Papa Mukwege. God bless him. I hope that many other women can be helped to become independent like me and to live in good conditions."



Then we meet Jeannette M'Kanihula. Rejected and stigmatized by her family and in-laws, and expelled from the family home by her husband, she found herself alone raising her children. After a stay at Panzi Hospital, she sought the assistance of the Legal Clinic of the Panzi Foundation, in her antenna of Kavumu. Thanks to the trial, she recovered a small plot to raise her children. It was on this plot that his new house could be built. Thanks to a small grant, Mrs. M'Kanihula was able to start an income-generating activity which is progressing well: "I have gone through difficult times. I was treated and taken care of in Panzi. When I returned, I was chased away by my husband, who had also taken another wife. As I no longer had a place to shelter my children, I went to explain the case to the

Legal Clinic who helped me to claim my rights! And that's how I got this plot. At that time, my children had put together a small house made of banana leaves in which we lived. I am grateful to all of this organization put in place by Dr. Mukwege's teams for us to receive such assistance. I give thanks to the Lord. My joy is so great that I feel capable of flying through the air. I could never have imagined owning my own house, a proper house at this age. This is the first time in my life that I have cleaned a tiled house."

This project to build 42 houses is financially supported by the Luxembourg Red Cross. After the Kavumu stage with the first 9 dwellings, the Katana stage has just started. The project also provides seeds and livestock for livestock.



"At Maison Dorcas, schoolchildren study despite the pandemic"



Maison Dorcas is a transit house located in the Panzi district of Bukavu on the same site as the Panzi Foundation. Maison Dorcas welcomes women and children who are rebuilding themselves psychologically. They also undergo training there which will later help with their socio-economic reintegration.

Young children in transit at Maison Dorcas did not tear up their notebooks during this period of confinement imposed by the coronavirus. Instead, they continue to be supported academically by Panzi Foundation.

In order not to forget the lessons learned over the past two months, the oldest of the beneficiaries makes themselves available to the younger students and supervises them. Study sessions are held every morning from 8 a.m. to 10 a.m. until the schools to reopen. Bravo to our children!

"Because a people without memory is a people with no future, we remember"

When the tragedy visits us with the denial of memory, inequality in the tomb is imperative!

Twenty years ago, RCD elements killed hundreds of civilians in the village of Katogota in Uvira territory in South Kivu. Nearly 350 people lost their lives there for simply having been in this lost village on May 14, 2000. This popular carnage is one of the countless massacres inaugurated by the AFDL with the support of the oriental uncle and which continue today in the four corners of the country. Initially circumscribed in the eastern part of the territory, mass graves spread everywhere, sparing no Congolese country. The mass graves, when there are still some because the killers are more and more erasers, have become legion. According to some state officials, these mass graves are common graves for the destitute whose bodies are abandoned by their miserable families.

Nothing is more true as they have put the country in order, tracking down every penny to pocket it at the expense of the people. Even the arrival of the son of the man who hammered loudly "the people first" seems to do nothing. The people will always wait. Chiefs first, this is the norm of the highly decorative republic of the Congo where the dead, mutilated by militiamen, coronized by Covid-19 or stunned by hunger or even struck down by disease, decorate the calendar of the Congolese and the national landscape. On closer inspection, it is almost every day that we should dedicate to the memory of the successive victims of the murderous barbarism of those thirsty for power, wealth and human blood. Yes, if you look at it with your free eye, you can quickly see that every square inch of the country has received an innocent lifeless body.

What do we do with executioners? Nothing to do with them. No, what am I saying? The republic makes them heroes of ruthless barbarism: they are rewarded, raised in dignity or honored in proportion to the scale or number of their crimes. Impossible to miss them. They have become essential as they are everywhere in the authorities, echelons and state enterprises: high ranking officers of the defense and security forces, members of the government or of the assembly, senior executives of public enterprises, etc. They are celebrated and acclaimed for their success, better, they are feared and fearsome. Beware those who, like Chebeya or Mukendi attracted by the smell of corpses, dare to put their noses in their kitchen. More exactly, I should say, "woe to them" because they end up smelling the smell of the body themselves before they see the bodies whose smell they have sniffed.

In the Republic of the Congo, it is not good to poke around in graves or pits. We often leave our skin there. The first citizen of that republic understood it so well that he preferred to recover the fruits of "the coop" and absolutely refrain from snooping in the past. It's too dangerous: who rubs it gets stung and dies. Is it worth risking your life as a snooper or a stroller around the properties of these masters of life, time and space? Not worth it at all, we whisper in our ears, as it is true that we will not even have the consolation of equality in the tomb. After a miserable and execrable life, most of them will not even have the right to a small grave where they can rest in peace for eternity. Inequality to the grave! The masters of life, time and space take care to keep their memories forgotten. They spare no effort to erase the memory of the victims of their grandiose work of cleaning the nation from the populaceous vermineuse and its few enlightened. And this to better perpetuate their total, incontestable and undisputed domination over goods and men.

A satirical tribune
of Professor
Alphonse Maindo
Researcher and
political scientist,
professor of
political science at
the University of
Kisangani



Why do they die in droves, often broke in the spring of their lives? What a silly question. They died for nothing in general and eternal indifference. And yet, there are always some who stand up to take up their torch by refusing enslavement. Following and like these popular heroes, I too am shouting on May 14, 2020 my revolt at this endless tragedy. I say no. I refuse to resign myself and to bow down. I will shout loud, very loud, loudly, even alone, the memory of those damned of the earth who never had any rights. Until being heard by the Supreme Judge whose sentence is relentless and justice impeccable! Even if human injustice prevents me from honoring them by different mechanisms, I will find the means to send my pain and my anger to Eternal Justice which, in turn, always ends up making its sentences impavid and placid. Why refuse memory to the dead? Does their memory haunt so much the conscience, what am I saying, the unconsciousness of their executioners who lose the north and become insomniacs with nightmarish nights?

Equality in the tomb, as a popular Congolese artist immortalized, is no more than a mirage in the very demonic Republic of the Congo. Yes, one more mirage as much as the other rights solemnly proclaimed, set in stone by the constitution. We have always been sung of equality in the tomb, but the reality is vastly different. We are not born equal, we all die, but we are not all housed in the same boat 6 feet underground. Some do not even have a burial and are left at the mercy of vultures and scavengers, for others their relatives are not even entitled to mourning, in memory of their disappeared. Where's the equality?

Expedited, expatriates ad patres bluntly, without dignity and in a cruelty such that we can even come to envy the slaughter of cattle and goats in our slaughterhouses (in which, at least, our veterinarians take good care of these animals to avoid them a traumatic end which would be harmful for the quality of the meat). These beasts are therefore better than the poor miserable humans knocked out, crushed and crushed by the infernal and unforgiving machine of these animals who do not take offense at massacring humans, denying humanity (or even animality) of their victims, whom they consider as human beasts for whom a traumatic ending is not good for the rest of their souls and the memory of their loved ones and for the survivors.

Even the vote sealed by the constitutional court constituting the new masters of life does not seem to improve the state of this country which has become a huge dungeon covered with blood and sweat. CACH, the course for change, does not change anything. On the contrary, the CACH does not conceal the cash payment which makes it possible to perpetuate collective amnesia.

All the executioners often end their tormented terrestrial race by the memory of those whose memory they deny after having savagely massacred or reduced to human rags. This is the lot of all executioners, big and small, yesterday and tomorrow. Let's rediscover our humanity, restoring even just equality in the tomb. Life is sacred. Let us maintain the eternal collective and individual memory of our Katogota brothers and sisters massacred because they were simply human beings.



© Photo Ston BIRINDWA

"14 young boys raped by a pastor in Bukavu"

14 boys between the ages of 8 and 14 have been under the care of Panzi Hospital since the end of April. The children explained that they had been raped several times by a pastor, who bought their silence with small gifts. The nightmare lasted several weeks.

According to the parents, the ordeal had lasted for more than a month. His reputation as a "man of God" allowed him not to be suspected by his family, despite the frequent recurrence of the acts. One of the victims, psychologically at a loss, had to confide in his parents so that the pedophile and the other victims could be identified. The alleged perpetrator was then brought to justice and the children were taken to Panzi Hospital where they were received medical and psychological care.

In a state of suffering and mental stress, the children presented a mixture of sadness, fear and shame, as specified by Evariste Kajibwami, one of the clinical psychologists who has been following the children since their arrival at Panzi Hospital: "The children feel defiled, they have the impression of having 'offended God' or that they would have become unclean." However, Evariste Kajibwami remains optimistic about the future of these young victims: "As they came to the hospital on time, it is likely that they will not develop too great a disorder in the future, but it is certain that such acts have enormous repercussions on the mental state of the victims. With the holistic care they receive today with the Panzi Model, I hope we can avoid the worst for these children."

Coming from the former eastern province, the pedophile lived with his older sister in Bukavu, in the commune of Kadutu. The man, posing as a pastor, was apprehended by the police before being brought before the courts. The Legal Clinic of the Panzi Foundation is assisting the victims and will monitor the case until justice is done.



Panzi News pays tribute to George Floyd brutally murdered by the American police on May 26, 2020 in Minneapolis, as well as to all the African-American victims of racial injustice and police brutality in the USA.



Dr. Christine Amisi
distributing loincloths to
patients at Panzi Hospital
on May 23

International Day for the Elimination of Obstetric Fistula 2020

Panzi Hospital marked the occasion for the International Day for the Elimination of Obstetric Fistula with this year's theme: "End gender inequalities, health inequalities, end obstetric fistula."

On this occasion, Dr Christine Amisi, coordinator of the Fistula program at Panzi Hospital and executive director of the Panzi Foundation read Dr. Mukwege's speech.

© Photo Ston BIRINDWA and Arsène LWABANJI

"On May 23 of each year, the world celebrates the International Day for the Elimination of Obstetric Fistula. This day essentially aims to raise awareness of this scourge which, worldwide, strikes 2 to 3 million women, mainly in low-income countries of Sub-Saharan Africa, Asia, Latin America, the Caribbean, and many more. Each year 50 to 100,000 women are affected.

In the Democratic Republic of Congo, the prevalence is estimated at 42,000, and the annual incidence of fistula cases is estimated at 5,000 to 7,000 cases.

Fistula is an abnormal passage between the vagina and the bladder or rectum, due to prolonged labor in the absence of obstetric care. The contents of the bladder or other organs can then pass through the fistula to open into the vagina. It thus causes leakage of urine and / or stool from the vagina. In the longer term, it causes chronic medical problems.

It is therefore one of the devastating long-term handicaps associated with prolonged labor, when the baby's head is stuck against the mother's pelvis, resulting in a soft tissue injury. In most cases, the baby dies and the mother ends up with leakage of urine or feces, or both.

While giving birth should be one of the most precious moments, for nearly 2 million women, this act carries enormous risks, particularly fistulas.

In addition to the physical consequences, serious social stigma overwhelms the fistula survivor. Often the woman is abandoned by her spouse and her family. She thus falls into unbearable social isolation.

Beside the shame felt and the stigma of the stench, the insufficiency of financial means often causes them to sink into poverty. To this heavy burden is the association of fistulas with witchcraft.

Most victims of obstetric fistulas come from the most disadvantaged social categories because, in addition to often living in rural areas, far from health facilities, they do not have the financial means to seek treatment.

However, fistula is preventable and treatable. Access to preventive and emergency obstetric care is essential to prevent it. Likewise, the fight against malnutrition, the reduction of early pregnancies and family planning constitute an important strategy to ensure that the woman is physically able to give birth without risk.

In the context of resource-constrained countries, fistula could rightly be considered as one of the most visible indicators of the disparity between the rich and the poor and of gender inequalities. Especially since there is a real feminization of poverty.

At Panzi Hospital and the Panzi Foundation, we have been treating women affected by this disability since 1999. Over the past 20 years, we have repaired 6,957 women with fistulas in 15 of our country's 26 provinces.

We have three main strategies in which we accomplish this:

- Awareness, identification of patients and training of health professionals,
- Treatment of women with fistulas; and their rehabilitation,
- Economic empowerment and reintegration into their communities of women who have received reparation.

Ultimately, we believe that that there is no reason for a woman to suffer the trauma of obstetric fistula.



© Photo Ston BIRINDWA et Arsène LWABANJI

There is no reason for a woman to live in the social isolation and unworthiness engendered by this problem. There is absolutely no reason not to act when a woman has been failed by the health care system, often because of her economic and social situation.

This year, the celebration of this International Day for the Elimination of Obstetric Fistula falls in a difficult global context, dominated by the physical, social and economic consequences linked to the Coronavirus pandemic.

Almost all of the countries which, to date, support the fight against fistulas and surgical repairs for women, are experiencing or will experience in the coming days a financial crisis which will significantly limit their ability to subsidize this fight.

Despite this difficult situation, our message today is to call on the international community, donor countries and all the states of the world to continue to consider the elimination of obstetric fistula as a priority and one of the indicators of the civilization of our world.

To do this, States and all of our societies should remain mobilized on:

- Elimination of all forms of discrimination against women and girls;
- The elimination of malnutrition and female poverty;
- The fight against early marriages and pregnancies;
- Increasing access to quality obstetric care and family planning;
- Increasing education and schooling for women and girls;
- Strengthening the socio-economic empowerment of women;
- The training of health professionals and future health professionals on obstetric fistula;
- Raising awareness and strengthening the involvement of the media, civil society and communities in the fight against fistula.

Fistula is an indicator of failure in the maternal and child health care system. It is obvious that wherever you find fistula, you will also find women who die of pregnancy. The elimination of obstetric fistula is a challenge for our health facilities, for our communities, for our States and for our common humanity, because it is anchored in the rights of women and in the right of each individual to live in dignity.



© Photo Ston BIRINDWA et Arsène LWABANJI



« When Congolese youth express »

"Freddy Kambale, a young peace activist killed in Beni"

"No matter how big the baobab is, it is born from a seed," it is said. Frédéric-Marcus Kambale, young activist of the LUCHA (Lutte pour le Changement) citizen movement was undoubtedly one of those young people who would become baobabs in the Democratic Republic of Congo. But on May 21, 2020, he was cowardly murdered by the Congolese National Police. His only crime: To have called for an end to the massacres of which the civilian populations of Beni have been victims for several years now. By assassinating Freddy, a defenseless young man, the policeman and his superiors became accomplices to the massacres perpetrated every day in Beni.

While the LUCHA citizen movement organized a demonstration in a football field in Beni to demand the end of the massacres, a police officer opened fire on the demonstrators killing, on the spot, Freddy Kambale and wounding two other demonstrators. Images of the bodies of Freddy Kambale lying on the ground immediately went viral on social networks and aroused great indignation around the world. Human rights defender, civil society activists, international organizations—no one was indifferent to the assassination of this young Congolese, who was only 20 years old.

Beyond the global indignation aroused by the death of Freddy Kambale, it has brought to the fore spotlights the shortcomings of the Congolese National Police for whom human life is no longer sacred. Six months ago, another LUCHA activist, Obadi Muhindo, died in the same circumstances. In addition, there are several other Congolese who lost their lives due to the incompetence of the Congolese police during peaceful demonstrations. This umpteenth police blunder also has the merit of putting in the spotlight the lack of rigor in the recruitment of the police which the Congolese authorities demonstrate.

Moved and determined to pay homage to their comrade in struggle, several LUCHA activists mobilized on May 26 for a farewell ceremony to this hero who died for a just Congo: "Your death rekindles our indignation and our will to continue the struggle, our determination to carry this flame of freedom higher even at the cost of the supreme sacrifice to which you have consented," one could hear in the funeral oration of LUCHA activists during the funeral of Freddy Kambale.

In a country where musician and crooked politicians rise to the rank of heroes after their death, the silence of the current authorities in the face of the death of Freddy Kambale must appeal to more than one. It deserves recognition and tribute from the Republic which would have benefited from the fruits of his struggle. Motivated by the struggle of the deceased, several young people from Beni, after his burial, joined the movement to make their contribution to the cause. While the policeman and his superiors thought they were weakening the LUCHA by assassinating one of its activists, they were doubtless surprised by the force that this death gave to this movement of young Congolese who, for more than 8 years, brave prison, threats and sometimes death in their fight for a Congo of justice and prosperity.

Freddy-Marcus Kambale, we pay you a vibrant tribute.

Moïse Makangara
Journalist



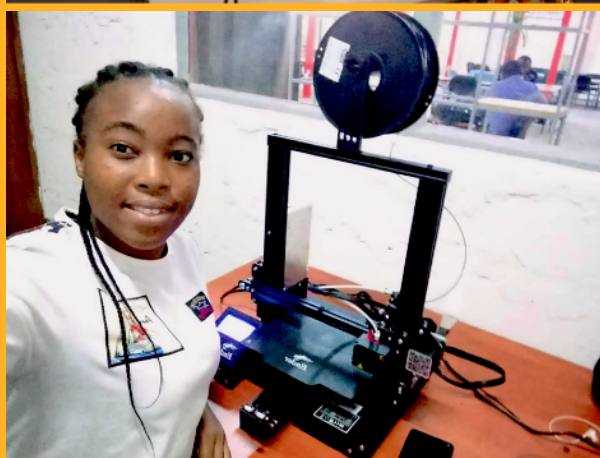
"150 Anti-Projection Visors from the Congolese COVID-19 DRC Scientists Team have been given to Dr. Denis Mukwege for Panzi Hospital"

Since the end of May, the COVID-19 pandemic curve has been devastating the country, so these “made in DRC” visors are timely.

Initiated by Professor Mboyo Esole, the COVID-19 DRC team operates today in several corners of the republic. While the first batches were made with the printers available in each zone, COVID-19 DRC has now acquired its own 3D printers thanks to crowdfunding launched several weeks ago. At the Malaika School of Noella Musunka in the village of Kalebuka, the young girls from the math and science class of Jonathan Mboyo Esole also started the production of Anti-Projection Visors by joyfully programming the machine with their favorite colors, green and purple. They are working hard to supply hospitals in Lubumbashi to help them cope with the virus. In Kinshasa, production with the printers also started and produced day and night. More 3D printers are expected to arrive in Bukavu for Dr. Mukwege's Panzi Foundation in the coming days. We recall that the first batch of Anti-Projection Visors printed in 3D at the French Institute had been assembled by Julianne, survivor and today trainer within the Jewelry Project of the Panzi Foundation. Upon receiving the visors, Doctor Mukwege said he was proud to see the ingenuity of the Congolese youth and this capacity to create and unite to help the community: "I hope that this solidarity in times of crisis will continue after the pandemic."

The collective effort in these times of health crisis is essential for the COVID-19 team, whose priority vision is the empowerment of women, in particular through science: "Women considered vulnerable or young schoolgirls in a village are today 'on the front line' to fight the virus," explains pride Jonathan Mboyo Esole.

In a Congolese society where in certain regions the persistent patriarchy, inherited from colonization, relegates women to the background, his valuing of the expertise of these vulnerable women serves as a good lesson and give us hope for the future of our country.



1. Doctor Mukwege receiving the Anti-Projection Visors from the COVID-19 DRC team assembled by Julianne from the Panzi Foundation
2. Programming of 3D printing by a young girl from the Malaika School in Kalebuka
3. The young girls of the Malaika School in full assembly of the Anti-Projection visors which will be distributed in hospitals of Lubumbashi to protect the nursing staff
4. Production of Anti-Projection Visors in Kinshasa by Sharon-Rose KAPINGA KABULWE, student in third physical degree at the Faculty of Sciences at the University of Kinshasa

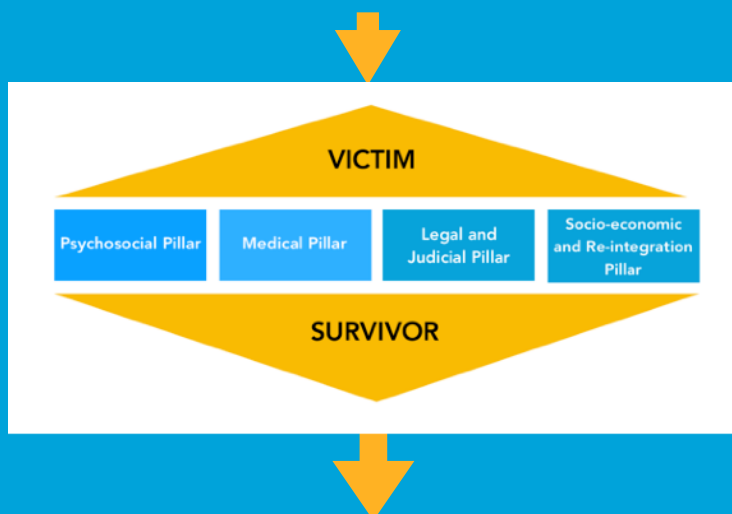
THE MODEL OF PANZI

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



© Photo Josh ESTEY

Arrive at One Stop Center
Panzi Hospital, Mulamba Health Center, Bulenga Health Center, or Panzi Clinic in Kinshasa



Depart from a One Stop Center

Activities carried out in each pillar within the various Panzi Foundation projects, at Panzi Hospital, in our health centers, and in all the areas in which our projects are active

From April 25 to May 25, 2020

Medical Pillar

This month, we are again seeing a significant slowdown in activity following the emergency measures adopted as a result of the Covid-19 pandemic.

In summary:

- **179** sexual violence survivors treated (45 in Panzi Hospital, 4 in Bulenga Hospital, 40 in the Tushinde-PEP structures, 8 in the Bunyakiri Tushinde project structure, 51 in Nundu and 31 in Fizi). Of these patients, 68 were eligible for PEP prevention; 10 of them were boys aged 8-14 years who had been raped by the same perpetrator, a pastor from Bukavu. All these patients have benefited from the psychosocial support of the Panzi Model.
- **3** patients were operated on for genital prolapse (2 in Panzi Hospital and 1 in Bulenga Hospital).
- **5** women with uro-genital fistulas received reconstructive surgery (4 at Panzi Hospital and 1 at Bulenga Hospital).

- **113** deliveries (88 at Mulamba Hospital and 25 at Bulenga Hospital), with 41 emergency Caesarean sections, 66% of which were referrals.

- **175** patients treated on an outpatient basis (124 at Bulenga Hospital, 45 at Mulamba Hospital, 1 in Luhwindja and 5 in Kamituga), for various pathologies including simple malaria, followed by acute pulmonary infections, traumatic wounds and intestinal parasitosis and urogenital infections constitute the majority of cases.

- **106** patients hospitalized (49 at the Bulenga Hospital Center, 56 at the Mulamba Hospital Center and 1 case of pregnancy following a rape complicated by anaemia in Kinshasa).

- **2** patients were referred from Nyangezi to Panzi Hospital for surgical management of genital prolapse complicated by urogenital infection.

* In the framework of the International Day for the Fight against Obstetric Fistula, commemorated every 23rd of May, the HGR Panzi Fistula Programme organised a press conference. This year, the day was celebrated under the theme "Ending Gender Inequalities, Ending Health Inequalities, Ending Obstetric Fistula".

* COVID-19 situation: as of 24 May, the DRC has registered 156 new cases, reaching 2297 confirmed cases, with 337 cured, 67 deaths, 1245 in progress and 648 cases not stabilized. 12 of these new cases are from South Kivu province. In the face of this dizzying evolution of positive cases, it is imperative to strengthen community awareness for the strict observance of barrier measures, which remains the key to the response.

PSYCHOSOCIAL PILLAR

- **265** new cases were taken care of by the psychosocial pillar in the 3 One Stop Centres.

- **76** patients came to the appointment to complete the psychosocial care services,

- **57** cases are survivors of sexual violence, of which **15** are minors.

- **13** cases of prolapse and **4** cases of fistula were also treated.

- **15** survivors were discharged after restoring their emotional balance.

- **10** active listening sessions and **51** home visits were carried out by psychologists and psycho-social assistants with children from the two remedial education centres in Luhwindja and Kamituga

- **29** children were visited at their homes by the psychosocial agents of the "Children of Panzi and Elsewhere" project,

- **2** awareness sessions for staff, patients and family members of children benefiting from the "Children of Panzi and Elsewhere" project on the Coronavirus and the rules of hygiene to be observed to avoid transmission,

- Drafting and updating of two training modules on the psychosocial care of children who have suffered sexual violence and psychological care techniques,

- Realization of a workshop of several days on the harmonization of psychosocial care tools between psychologists and PSAs from the 3 One Stop Centres (Panzi, Mulamba and Bulenga), but also those from other projects of the Panzi Foundation working in the field of mental health.

PILIER JURIDIQUE ET LEGAL

A total of **268** cases requesting assistance were received by the legal pillar, among them; **51** cases of sexual violence, **213** cases of gender-based violence and **4** land cases. Thus, cases of sexual violence were assigned to lawyers for investigation, preparation of the elements of the file, drafting of complaints and judicial follow-up. As for the cases that were settled, **48** cases were closed by reconciliation of the parties in dispute.

- **Judicial monitoring** has been the subject of **43** cases regularly monitored before the competent civil and military judicial bodies (police, public prosecutors, auditors, courts and tribunals).

- **In Bukavu**, **9** cases of sexual violence were monitored in addition to a woman accompanied to the juvenile court to respond to an invitation from the president of the court in a child custody case. Other files were also followed up.

- **In Uvira**, **12** cases were regularly monitored in court.

In Shabunda, **5** cases were brought before the Public Prosecutor's Office and the juvenile court.

- **In North Idjwi**, **3** cases have been brought before the courts

- **In Idjwi-Sud**, **5** cases were monitored

- **In Mwenga**, **4** files were monitored

- **In Bulenga**, **5** detainees in **4** cases were transferred from the Minova police custody to the Kavumu High Court Prosecutor's Office.

- With regard to **community sensitisation**, **26** awareness-raising sessions were carried out to inform the community on legal issues with the participation of **721** persons, including:

inheritance; registration of children at the civil registry; incitement of minors to debauchery; advantages of civil marriage and consequences of early marriage, forms of sexual violence; consequences of common-law marriage and presentation of the CJ, its activities and services; what to do after the rape.

- In addition to judicial monitoring, radio broadcasts are used to raise awareness in order to reach a greater number of people.; ains; **19** programmes were produced, broadcast and/or rebroadcast in the northern Idjwi region on Radio Obuguma; in the Uvira region on Radio Messenger of the People ; in the Shabunda region by Radio Mutula and in the Kamituga region by Radio Salama, in the Luvungi region by Radio Flash FM, in the Idjwi-South region by Radio Kalinga; in the Kaziba region by Radio Umoja and in the Bukavu region by Radio Maendeleo and Mama Radio under the themes : The presentation and functioning of the CJ as well as the roles of the actors; Congolese women's inheritance rights; holistic care, the Panzi model; the Panzi Foundation's one-stop center; the legal clinic and its activities; forms of SGBV; joint management of household property and general information on SGBV and GBV according to Congolese law.

SOCIO-ECONOMIC REINTEGRATION PILLAR

Socio-economic reintegration reflects the entry into the development phase activities for women who have suffered violence of all kinds and who have been followed in the emergency phase within the other 3 pillars.

Transitional care

The care activities in transitional accommodation, which includes social activities (social integration, introduction to the universe), psychosocial activities with different types of mass approaches, medical services, protection services (accommodation, provision of hygiene kit, food), etc., have been organized for 30 persons, including 13 direct beneficiaries, 7 dependent persons, including a newborn baby and 10 unaccompanied children.

A 14-year-old girl gave birth to a child during this month. It should be noted that the girl had initially refused the child, but with the support of the psychological service the girl finally accepted her child.

They all benefited from a balanced and healthy diet, and social supervision by the supervisors, and hygiene kits were offered to them.

Apprenticeship

As stated in the previous report, the activities of the Learning Department are still suspended on the basis of the communication made public by the Chairman of the Board of Directors of the Panzi Foundation, Professor Dr Denis Mukwege, in the framework of the implementation of the COVID 19 disease prevention measures, as decreed by the President of the Democratic Republic of Congo, Felix Antoine Thisekedi.

It should be noted that the literacy service at CH Bulenga and CH Mulamba continue in strict compliance with the barrier measures. The services are organized alternately before and after noon.

Production and promotion

Mutual Solidarity Union (MUSO)

We organized follow-ups for 146 mutual solidarity groups, including 2 in the Kazakh region, 24 in the Ruzizi Plain region, 21 in Bulenga, 33 in Kavumu, 43 in Mulamba and 23 in Luhwinja,

The observation is that the activities of the MUSOs (contributions, granting of mutual credits, reimbursement, solidarity assistance, etc.) have been affected by the COVID pandemic situation. The contributions and reimbursements do not function properly.

The financial situation is as follows: in total the Green Fund has presented an amount of 5403,000FC in addition to the reimbursement of previous credits worth 2,204,900FC. They granted a credit of 7,068,500FC to 111 people, 96 of whom were women including the 5 IPs and 15 men.

The Red Fund: 331,900 CFAF assisted 45 people including 41 women and 4 men with a value of 159,000 CFAF.

Some MUSOs have already initiated livelihood projects such as the MUSO TUNZA which has opted for goat breeding, it has 5 goats, 2 of which are young. The Kaziba MUSOs have opted for an agriculture project.

Village Savings and Credit Association (AVEC)

We noticed during our follow-up missions that there were no new members but the membership fees of the old ones continued:

Thus 18559 shares are purchased for a value of 17277 \$USD, less refunds for the period. They have granted 348 Credits for a value of US\$ 11736.

Nobela Centre (Production and sales point)

The women actresses of the Nobela centre continue with the manufacture of masks for the fight against Covid-19 under the supervision of the trainers. A partner has just specified its collaboration in the fight against COVID 19, by strengthening the capacity of this production with the supply of equipment, (machines) and other inputs as well as the payment of these women producers.

The 5 production and sales points, commonly called Nobela centre, have started the production of masks for the prevention of COVID transmission in Bukavu. Note that the kamituga workshops also produce masks for a local organization.

Income Generating Activity (IGA)

The parents who received the grants were also visited, and we found that the activities are continuing, 60% of the beneficiaries (18 out of 30) are reimbursing the funds in their groups (MUSO) without any difficulties.

We monitored 39 IGAs of the beneficiaries in different areas, and raised awareness among 78 people on the need to save and the respect of barrier measures.

A few constants came out during our follow-up:

¥We noticed that the recipients' IGAs are visible.

¥ One mother sold a pig for \$150 and strengthened her IGA for selling drinks.

¥The beneficiaries' workshops are experiencing a serious problem due to the low clientele currently observed as a result of the confinement.

¥For the soap manufacturing plant in Kamituga there is a scarcity of raw materials (saponification).

-

¥ In the Ruzizi plain, the closure of the borders of Rwanda and Burundi affects the income-generating activities of the beneficiaries.

¥ The Nobella centre in Kaziba provided food to Maison DORCAS with 102 kg of eggplant, 63 kg of onions and 147.5 kg of cabbage.

Agro-pastoral production

In the three areas where the agricultural production technique is practised, the situation is as follows for this month:

We have carried out awareness raising on Gender-based Violence and other violence against women and also educated the local population on the vision, mission, objectives and values of the Panzi Foundation.

North axis: Katana – Kalehe

The month of May was devoted to the second cultivation activities; beginning of bean harvesting, drainage, harvesting of semi-tomatoes, training in field schools, beginning of the establishment of stakes on pacifloraceae, training of beneficiaries on muso management and home visits to some beneficiaries and their fields in Biyenga in the Luhhi groupement, Chahoboka in the Irambi Katana groupement and Kankule in the Bugorhe groupement.

Southern axis: Ruzizi Plain

For this period in the Ruzizi plain, we have been in the activities of treatment or spraying in the framework of the phyto-sanitary fight on the farm of 50 hectares sown in favour of 250 beneficiaries. These sites are kamanyola, katogota, Luvungi and Bwegeera.

¥ - Follow-up of 50 hectares of corn crops for 250 beneficiaries after the torrential rains of April 2020.

Kaziba Axis:

The Month of May was devoted to the Harvest of Marshland crops (Onions and Eggplants), ploughing and second ploughing, the first weeding of beans, the sowing of vegetable seedlings, the Distribution of transplanting seeds (Cabbage and Plum trees); at the end of the month, the harvest of the first crop was completed.

Based on the activities carried out throughout the month, we have arrived at the following **Results**:

¥ 55 meters by 65 meters plowed,

¥ 130 KG of onions 112 KG of eggplants harvested. From the distribution point of view

1° **Onion**, out of 130 KG, we sold 80 KG on credit to the interneers of the House of Dorcas and 30 KG to 6 Agents of the Panzi Foundation. We found that onion has a positive profitability.

2° **Aubergines**, out of 112 KG, 65 KG went on credit to the interneers of the Maison Dorcas and 27 KG was sold locally.

-600 cabbage seedlings and 150 plum seedlings distributed to 6 Beneficiaries

-3,000 was weeded from the Beanstalk.

-80% of the beneficiaries have composting

Habitat Improvement

In this theme, improvement of the beneficiaries' housing, which stipulates the construction of 42 houses including 9 (kavumu); 18 (katana); 15 (kalehe), is being implemented. The month of May was devoted to the 9 Houses of the Kavumu region.

Child protection

As stated in last week's report, child protection activities, including CRS, playground care and schooling for students, are suspended due to the illness of Covid-19.

However, 16 children, including 10 unaccompanied children and 6 dependents of the beneficiaries of the services of Dorcas House, are confined and continue to receive appropriate services at Dorcas House through the psychologist, the social worker and the nurse.

It should be noted that a space for the supervision of these children is available at Maison DORCAS. The children are always welcome at Maison DORCAS. We have organized visits to the families of the children in the two CRS, in Luhwinja and Kamituga, we found some children helping the parents with the housework. But a constant unfortunate fact is that some children have returned to the mining squares.

The parents who received the grants were also visited, and we found that the activities continue, 60% of the beneficiaries (24 out of 30) are paying back the funds in their groups (MUSO) without any difficulties.

Communication team:

Redaction :

Bernardin SEBAHIRE

John ACHIZA

Maud-Salomé EKILA

Conception and design :

Maud-Salome EKILA

Translation:

Emily WARNE

Pictures :

Daniel MUSAKA

Ston BIRINDWA

Arsène LWABANDJI

Bernardin SEBAHIRE

John ACHIZA

Maud-Salomé EKILA



For more information concerning **PANZI NEWS** please visit
www.fondationpanzirdc.org and our Twitter and Facebook
 @PanziFoundationRDC

