

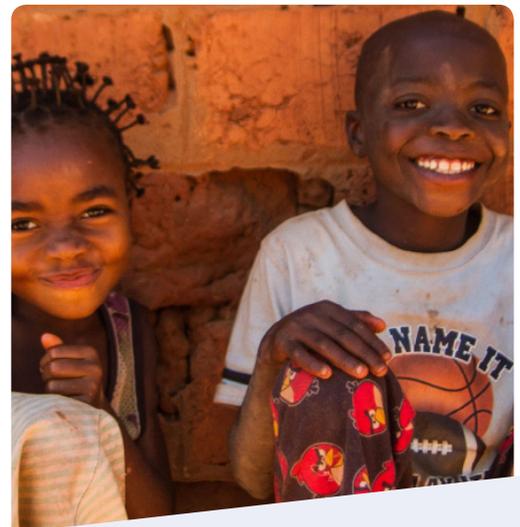


Building Hope Justice and Peace in DR Congo

Community development in impoverished mining areas

As a fragile state ranking at the bottom of the Human Development Index, DR Congo needs to address many challenges to protect the country's most vulnerable. Women, girls and children often live in dangerous conditions and their rights to health, education and freedom are at risk. In 2012, Good Shepherd Sister programs (GSS) were established in Kolwezi to assist these vulnerable groups, in particular Domaine Marial, an isolated, impoverished and underserved mining area rich in minerals such as cobalt and copper. The programmatic outcomes of Good Shepherd activities in these areas of DR Congo, as stated in GSS strategic plan 2013-2017, are:

1. Strengthen child protection systems and improve the provision of basic services for children.
2. Enhance cohesive citizenship within the artisanal mining community to lobby the Government for an equitable distribution of resources and to increase the accountability of the mining companies.
3. Increase food security and family income through alternative livelihoods.
4. Decrease gender discrimination through social, political and economic empowerment of women and girls.



*"It's no fun going into the mine.
But that work is finished for me now!
Now I study. Now, I'm doing well.
At Good Shepherds I learned that children
have rights and that all children are born equal."*

Morgan, 8 year old
Child Protection Program, Kolwezi (DRC)

Project summary

The aim of the GSS multi-annual program is to help break the cycle of violence and abuse against children and girls and to improve the living conditions of 900 children, 80 teenage girls, and their families. The project supports the equitable participation of these vulnerable groups, responds to their immediate needs and also redresses the structural inequalities that perpetuate the cycle of violence and poverty.

The intergenerational transfer of poverty and violence that traps girls and children in these mining communities can only be interrupted through a multi-dimensional approach that includes social protection service provisions, community mobilization, lobbying to implement existing laws and facilitation of social transformation.

Activities and results

Through a participatory consultation that involved all community members, the program is developing 4 main activity areas that currently serve more than 4,000 people.



1 Farming project: generating alternative income and food security

The project provides technical training in agricultural and animal husbandry methods to community members offering them an alternative livelihood to the unsafe mining work. Thanks to Maisha Farm (47 members joined the cooperative) 93% of the involved families have year round food security and produce covers 21% of subsistence needs. Moreover, 89% of the women who joined the cooperative no longer work in the mines. The project has recently expanded its operation to an additional 2 sites in the community of Mwanza and Kanina providing training and tools for agribusiness to about 100 women.

✓ **1,100** girls and boys attending informal school

✓ **98%** of children enrolled in education project quit the mines

✓ **119** children reintegrated into the formal school system



2 Training and income generating project

The training program enrolled 125 girls and 28 women. The girls trained at the Economic Empowerment Center in competency-based tailoring skill development and in catering/food production now earn an income - an average \$180 per month - and can use their earnings also to pay for their school exams. Furthermore, the project provides community sensitization activities on gender equity and women's rights and offers family counselling and support to victims of abuse/violence.

✓ **29,000+** children vaccinated in the area

✓ **150+** women and girls received vocational training and earn an income



3 Education and Child Protection project

The program provides access to informal education and school feeding, and also supports the reintegration of children into the formal school system. Some 1,100 children (who formally worked in the mines) were enrolled and 98% of them have not returned. The children each receive 1 meal per day and the rate of malnutrition has decreased to less than 4%. A total of 119 children were reintegrated into the formal school system and are monitored to ensure continued participation.

✓ **93%** of people who joined to Maisha Farm Coop have year round food security



4 Civic Strengthening and Community mobilization project

A solid group of 1,294 women, 625 girls and 7 men are regularly involved in human rights awareness raising, that includes advocacy work and lobbying the local Government and mining companies for better living conditions. The voices of women were also heard recently when they participated in a radio program promoting education and the end of child marriage. The lobbying effort with government officials has already produced results, including the installation of a new generator (5,000 households), the construction of 5 schools (1,500 children) and the digging of well (3,000 residents).

✓ **89%** of them are no longer working in the mines.

NO CHILDREN IN ARTISANAL MINING

Our program in Kolwezi, thanks to the tangible impact its having on the lives of thousands of artisanal miners and on the quality of the management systems in place, was selected by World Vision and the local Government offices as one of two eligible recipients of a World Bank grant to implement a national program aimed at "Reducing the Presence and Participation of Children (and women) in the Artisanal Mines".

THE FILM "MAISHA: A LIFE OUTSIDE THE MINES"

The Good Shepherd International Foundation produced the film "Maisha: A New Life Outside the Mines" documenting the living conditions of the artisanal mining community in Kolwezi and the impact that this community development project is having. The film is currently available online and is being shown at events throughout the world. It was selected to be part of 12th Human Rights Film Festival of Barcelona that will be held in November 2016.

www.maishafilm.com