

Economic Reintegration of Returnee Women and Girls South Kivu, DRC

A UNHCR Women Leading for Livelihoods Project



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PROJECT GOAL:
Increase household income through the cultivation of short-cycle vegetable crops.

LOCATION

Kazimya, South Kivu, Democratic Republic of the Congo

DURATION

Three years

DONOR

Soroptimist International of Americas (SIA)

- Japan Kita Region
- Japan Higashi Region
- Japan Chuo Region
- Japan Nishi Region

BUDGET

US\$63,585 (for first year)

IMPLEMENTING PARTNER

Women for Women International

www.womenforwomen.org

BACKGROUND

Repeated wars over more than a decade have destroyed the livelihoods of a huge number of people in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC). The situation is particularly complex in Fizi, one of the most densely populated areas of eastern DRC and the main area of return for refugees from Tanzania and Burundi. Since October 2005 more than 40,000 people have been repatriated to this region by UNHCR. These refugees have no source of sustainable income and face extreme poverty and food insecurity. In this context, leveraging the skills of women is crucial: according to a study by Women for Women International, **womens' animal husbandry skills and experience in managing small-scale businesses are instrumental in ensuring the survival of households during armed conflict as well as in peacetime**. Building on the results of this study, the project will support women refugees' efforts to rebuild their livelihoods through agriculture. Two similar projects are being successfully implemented in nearby villages.

OBJECTIVE

To provide refugee women with training and support for the cultivation and sale of short-cycle vegetable crops (3-4 months)

ACTIVITIES

- Training in the **cultivation and transformation of agricultural products** (soil fertilization, natural protection of vegetables and stock, anti-erosion and preservation techniques)
- Training in the **management of agricultural cooperatives**
- Establishment of **collective fields** in the villages and provision of buffalos to cultivate them
- Establishment of **agricultural cooperatives**
- **Awareness-raising initiatives** around community development activities, aimed at both women and men
- Provision of **small grants for women to establish small businesses**
- **Numeracy and literacy courses** as required

OUTCOMES

- **Increased revenues** for 100 women of whom 55 percent are returnees, 20 percent are victims of sexual violence, 10 percent are IDPs, and the remaining 15 percent are vulnerable women and girls from the local community
- **Increased agricultural productivity** in the village of Kazimya

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