

# ANNUAL REPORT 2023



**CENTRE  
KITUMAINI**

## **1. INTRODUCTION**

### **1.1. POLITOCAL CONTEXT**

The DRC is in the middle of an electoral period: on December 20, the population elected new leaders at the head of the country.

The security and human rights situation continues to deteriorate, particularly in the eastern provinces of the country. The administration of President Felix Tshisekedi has made little progress in the implementation of the systemic reforms that he had promised to break the cycles of violence, abuses, corruption and impunity that have plagued the country for decades.

In the east of the country, the state of siege imposed for more than a year in North Kivu and Ituri has failed to stem the widespread violence and atrocities perpetrated by numerous armed groups against civilians. According to the United Nations, nearly 5.6 million people have been displaced across the country to flee atrocities, including more than 1.6 million in Ituri and more than 1.8 million in North Kivu.

Thanks to free education, access to education has improved considerably over the last two years, particularly for girls and young children. However, the quality of education remains extremely low.

Health is increasingly deteriorating in areas attacked by rebels throughout the country. Epidemics of measles, yellow fever, cholera and malaria continue to create considerable devastation. Hospitals remain poorly equipped, with high healthcare costs, which limits the use of health facilities by the majority of the population, thus leading to an increase in mortality, especially for children. Added to this, the rise in food prices increases the rate of malnutrition in rural areas, particularly in the territory of Kabare, our intervention area. The rise in fuel prices results in higher transport costs.

### **1.2. CENTRE KITUMAINI**

The Centre Kitumaini –CK–, through its project to support vulnerable women through agriculture and livestock, organized several activities this year. The goal pursued by the CK is to increase peasant agricultural production to thus improve living conditions in households and contribute to the development of the Kabare territory.

In our intervention area, this year was characterized by certain climatic disturbances during both seasons (B & A). Despite everything, some farmers managed to harvest corn, beans, soya and other crops with more or less positive yields for the two growing seasons.

**For this season A, the row sowing of corn, beans, soybeans, cabbage, carrots, sweet potatoes, eggplants, tomatoes and amaranths is in place and the harvest is on progress.**

**Several activities were carried out this year in agriculture, livestock, social, health-nutrition and education. These would not be successful without the financial support of AFDI Pays de la Loire, of the Comitato IMOLA BUKAVU and of MARYLAND TRUST Company that we would like to sincerely thank. Our thanks also go to RIKOLTO for its material support during this year.**

## **2. AGRICULTURE**

**Several agricultural activities were carried out in 2023:**

- Agricultural techniques (surface ploughing, row sowing, weeding, respecting the sowing date, crop rotation, fertilization, construction of manure holes, composting, phytosanitary treatments).**
- As part of the AID-I project, 1,698 women received small packets of seeds.**
- Distribution of seeds and agricultural tools to 200 beneficiaries after training.**
- Several training courses: on the production of bio-pesticides and liquid bio-fertilizers – on composting through plant debris – on innovative agricultural techniques (line sowing, construction of manure holes, composting, weeding, phytosanitary treatments ).**
- An exchange of experiences between farmers' organizations (in partnership with the Centre Kitumaini) from different zones made it possible to discuss relevant themes and organize practical sessions.**
- Preparation of agroforestry trees.**

### **2.1. Agricultural techniques**

**The online sowing technique is popularized by the CK for its advantages: saving seeds, easy maintenance work, good space management. CK beneficiaries are increasingly adopting this technique: CK facilitators have identified to date 811 fields sown online. Our farmers respect the sowing date, our agronomist technicians and facilitators continue to communicate and monitor the beneficiaries to ensure compliance with the sowing date. Certain beneficiaries already practice crop rotation: this was never practiced in our organizations.**

**Regarding soil fertility management, the Centre Kitumaini continues to popularize the technique of composting and manure holes among beneficiaries. It is advantageous in that it is an organic fertilizer, without any effect on the environment and meets the economic conditions of households who are financially incapable of obtaining chemical fertilizers.**

**1584 compost bins and 1260 manure holes have already been set up: this practice is growing in all the villages of our beneficiaries and is already being practiced by indirect beneficiaries.**

**Note that the armyworm continues to ravage corn crops: these caterpillars have a gregarious instinct and can move in tight rows, going from one field to another in search of food. The damage caused by these larval bands affects tender organs full of sap, such as leaves and young stems. To combat these larvae, the Centre Kitumaini used a chemical control method that consists of a mixture of an insecticide product called ROCKET (profenos 40% and cypermethrin 4%) with sand.**

**Then this mixture is placed in different corn plants. 1217 fields were processed. This method is very beneficial and uses fewer phytosanitary products. In the future, the Centre Kitumaini plans to expand the use of bio-pesticides to see their effect on caterpillar control.**



*Online sowing in the OBA OP in Mulengeza*

## **2.2. Distribution of seeds and farming tools**

The CK distributed to its members quality seeds from multiplier farmers (AGRIFORCE): 2 tonnes of beans (varieties HM 21, MUKE MWEMA and MWA RWANDA) and 1 tonne of corn (ZM 625 and SAM VITA) were distributed on 12/09/23 to 200 beneficiaries belonging to CK partnering Farmers' Organizations - PO. This distribution was preceded by six training sessions in the different PO.

200 agricultural tool kits (tridents, hoes, rakes and machetes) were distributed by the Centre Kitumaini to women members of the Pos under its care.

The RIKOLTO organization distributed through the Centre Kitumaini in February (season B) and September (season A) improved first generation F1 seeds to women from 6 farmer organizations supported by the Centre Kitumaini. 500 women received the seed at the rate of 100 grams per woman in February (season B), i.e. 50 kg of the HM21-7 variety bean seeds for the women and 40 kg intended for the women's community fields.

1198 women also received seeds in September (season A) i.e.:

- 1198 small packets of beans or 119.8 kg (variety HM 21-7)
- 1198 small packets of corn (Bazooka variety)
- 150 packets of tomatoes (Gamhar variety)
- 230 eggplant packets (Kashinka variety)
- 30 cabbage packets (Tacoma variety)
- 45 packets of carrot seed (Nantes variety)
- 120,000 orange-fleshed sweet potato cuttings (Mayayi, Naspot, Vander hall and Kakamega varieties)
- 550 small packets of amaranth (Nguruma, Poli, Madira varieties)

The objective is the multiplication of seeds: to allow women to have quality seed with a high germination rate. The women were trained on how to use the seeds (line sowing, organic fertilization and seed conservation).





*Distribution of seeds and agricultural tools in a Miti PO*



*Small packages distributed to women by RIKOLTO*

## 2.3. Organization of training

### - Training on the production of biofertilizers and biopesticides

It is within the framework of the AID-I project that RIKOLTO through SENAHP (National Horticultural Service) launched training activities on the production of biofertilizers and liquid biopesticides in pick bags. This is how the partnering PO of the Centre Kitumaini participated in this training that was more practical than theoretical. In the partnering PO, eleven (11) women from its 6 farmer organizations, two (2) men from the tomato producer PO and two (2) agents

from the CK followed the training. Then training sessions were launched in the PO to put this technique within the reach of female producers: 173 women responsible for groups of 10 were trained on these techniques.

The objectives of this technique were to establish the policy for the production of liquid organic fertilizer and biopesticide at the organizational level in PO and in households thanks to clearer information on the concept of "fungicide, insecticide and fertilizer" and the other related concepts such as soil, plant diseases and compost.

The other objective was to arouse interest among participants in strengthening their actions to use local products.



*Training on the manufacture of liquid biofertilizers in Kayanja*

#### **- Training on innovative agricultural techniques**

To face climate change and thus fight against soil degradation in the region, the Centre Kitumaini organized training for producers (farmers) on innovative agricultural techniques.

Several techniques were learned, including row sowing, crop rotation, respecting the sowing date, composting, fallowing, the use of organic fertilizers, mulching the soil, the use of anti-erosion hedges for sloping fields, installation of agroforestry trees.



**373 women were trained in these techniques. A consultant provided guidance on innovative and, above all, agro-ecological techniques that facilitate agricultural production while safeguarding the environment.**



*Demonstration on the production of aerial compost and row sowing of corn and beans in Kayanja*

## **2.4. Exchanges of experiences inter PO**

**To strengthen the PO, the Centre Kitumaini organized exchanges between beneficiaries. So an exchange was organized during this period, between two Farmers' Organizations (OBA and AMKENI).**

**This activity showed perfect dynamism and enthusiasm from members on both sides: we recorded 258 members including 173 members of OBA and 85 members of AMKENI present at the activity. Row sowing of corn and peanuts was done in the community field of the OP OBA (spacing of 30cm x 30cm for peanuts and 80cm x 80 cm for corn).**

**These activities make it possible to encourage and revitalize Farmers' Organizations, establish and consolidate relationships and create a team spirit between them.**





*Exchange of experience in Mulengeza between OP Oba and Amkeni*

## **2.5. Preparation of trees for agroforestry**

The Province of South Kivu is faced with several environmental, social, cultural and economic problems, but the most dangerous is that of the environment that presents harmful consequences in the province and human and material losses. The territory of Kabare where our beneficiaries live has not been spared and we are already seeing changes in the climate. The soil is becoming more and more infertile, with erosion, floods and landslides hitting our area of intervention, with rising temperatures in certain areas and with deforestation progressing at an alarming speed.

However, trees are excellent means of countering heat islands, fighting erosion and climate change. Trees have the capacity to sequester greenhouse gases: they are natural and anthropogenic gaseous constituents of the atmosphere that absorb and re-emit infrared radiation. Trees are therefore real sinks because they eliminate greenhouse gases from the atmosphere.

To contribute to the fight against climate change, the Centre Kitumaini set up an agroforestry tree nursery in Kayanja and 8,372 tree seedlings were distributed to women.



*Maria M'CHAMBALIRA plants her trees*

### **3. CATTLE BREEDING**

The Centre Kitumaini, in its program to revive livestock breeding activities within households, continues to support women by providing goat parents.

- In 2021, 111 households benefited from goat breeding stock in the form of revolving credit. Of the 111 goats distributed in 2021, 96 kids were put back into the revolving system for the first phase after giving birth and 67 other kids for the second phase between the beneficiaries. Taking into account the 8 goat losses, this is an equivalent of 266 goats in 2021.
- In 2022, the CK supported 180 households with goat breeders. Of the 180 goats distributed, 127 kids came back into the revolving system for the first phase after giving



birth and 74 kids for the second phase. A total of 364 goats in OP for 2022, as a loss of 17 goats caused by PPR (pest of small ruminants) was recorded.

- In 2023, 168 goats were purchased and to date 67 born kids will go back in the system.

Following the floods that occurred in Katana in October, there was a recorded loss of 14 goats in this village and 18 on the CK farm. We therefore arrive at a total of 798 goats distributed for the last 3 years.

The CK organizes capacity building for beneficiaries before the distribution of goats on “Techniques for rearing goats in stalls”. A technical sheet is distributed to participants as support for the activity. Regarding construction, the CK field team supervises households in setting up the stables among the beneficiaries.



The CK then launches the market for purchasing goats locally in the villages concerned with a view to good adaptation. At the end of the training, an official goat handover ceremony is organized and attended by local chiefs, then a goat credit contract is handed over and signed by the village chief.

*Immaculée Katula, president of a Katana PO, with her goat. Immaculée received a goat in 2021, and after the first kid given back, she currently has 3 goats.*



*Distribution of goats in OP UMOJA in the village of Kashusha.*



## **4. PARTNERSHIP AND STRUCTURAL ASPECT**

### **4.1. PARTNERSHIP ASPECT - MISSIONS**

The Kitumaini Centre carried out a mission with its partners AFDI Pays de la Loire in Kinshasa DRC from June 22 to July 6, 2023. The objective was to organize meetings with different organizations and exchange with partners.

Several points and programs were carried out:

- Briefing on the activities implemented in the first half of 2023 and prevision for the 2<sup>nd</sup> half.
- Carrying out the BSF Profiling and Financial Health Assessment.
- Work on accounting (recording tools, eligibility of accounting documents, etc.).
- Discussion on the conditions for signing up for AFD type funds...
- Reflection on a pre-assessment approach for the partnership.
- Meeting with other actors involved in rural development.
- Meeting with state authorities and structures (Ministry of Agriculture, Ministry of the Environment, National Extension Service SNV).
- SCAC and AFD meeting.
- Meetings with Belgian, German and Japanese cooperation.
- Meeting with the organizations ENABEL, TRIAS, HUMUNDI (SOS FAIM), FAO, COAD and EXPERTISE FRANCE.
- Work on a call for crowd funding on the theme of literacy.
- Work on Totem file.
- Visits to the agropastoral parks of Kinshasa.

### **4.2. STRUCTURAL ASPECT**

For the restructuring of peasant organizations (PO), training for groups of 10 was organized in the six POs supervised by the CK. The aim was to restructure the PO, define the missions of the groups of 10 in the PO and strengthen social cohesion. 158 women presidents and vice-presidents of groups of 10 benefited from the training.

Note that the CK organized 51 meetings during this year on the planning and development of different activities – 13 meetings between the CK staff and SOFEPAGRI (Women's solidarity for the improvement of agriculture)

Meetings (51) were organized in different PO over the year.

## **5. HEALTH AND NUTRITION**

### **5.1. Health**

The Centre Kitumaini also assisted women by offering them medical care: 548 women received medicine from the CK with the assistance of the Doctor.



*The Doctor consults a woman in Kabuga / Kavumu.*

### **5.2. Nutrition**

It can be noted that the Centre Kitumaini assists orphaned children suffering from acute malnutrition in Miti: these children benefit from concentrated cereal porridge throughout the week and for 6 months. In the year 2023, the Centre Kitumaini assisted 80 children. This

malnutrition program is in such a demand in several groups (Katana, Kavumu, Kashusha, Chegera) because children are increasingly abandoned by their parents, thus causing a serious food deficit.



*Pascalinne Nabintu (5 years old) drinking porridge in Miti, Pascalinne weighed 6kg when she arrived at the nutritional center, but after 4 months of follow-up she weighed 10 kg*



*Agisha Murhula (7 years old) drinking porridge in Miti: 8kg on arrival at the nutritional center, weighs 14kg after 6 months of care*

## **6. EDUCATION**

### **6.1. Training in Functional Literacy**

The Centre Kitumaini has started literacy training for a period of 6 months (February to July). The training concerned women working in different Farmers' Organizations supervised by the CK. The final objective was to enable learners to have basic notions of writing, reading, speaking and counting. The training took place in 2 different places to facilitate the transportation of learners to the training location.

In total, out of 40 women registered at the beginning, 36 took the written and oral test, 23 passed it and 13 women were unable to reach half of the points. Some women gave up due to lack of means to reach the training places and because of illnesses among some learners during the training period.



**This training was of great importance because it allowed the learners to acquire basic notions of oral reading, counting and a little writing; the women receiving the training are eager to participate in the second level of training.**



*Learners during the assessment in Majalwe*



*The learners, the CK agents and the supervisor after the final evaluation in Majalwe*



## 6.2. Schooling of children

The Centre Kitumaini supports the education of several orphaned, destitute and rape children, aged between 6 and 18 years old, through a long-distance adoption program. Currently the Centre Kitumaini supervises more than 320 students. Since 2016, a school has been under construction in Kavumu, with 9 classes already built. The school is progressing and brings together most of the children born of rape and orphaned children. During the break, these children benefit from porridge because they often arrive at school hungry.



*Third primary level schoolchildren in Majalwe*

## 7. CUTTING AND SEWING

The Centre Kitumaini continues to support the cutting and sewing and knitting project with the aim of helping vulnerable girls, a category of girls considered abandoned in society and whose vulnerability exposes them to sexual exploitation with all its consequences. This year, 25 girls took the cutting and sewing training. The CK provided them with the necessary materials (machines, fabrics and others) and a technician for their training.



*Current training in cutting and sewing in Majalwe*

## **8. SOCIAL**

The Centre Kitumaini supported members who had experienced medical care problems, bereavements, and family problems, through advocacy.

During the month of October, it should be noted that the CK assisted the victims of the floods that occurred in Katana/Kabushwa with food, various supplies and seeds to support members who saw their fields and tools swept away by the waters.

Done in Kavumu on the 29<sup>th</sup> of December 2023

*The achievement and success of all the activities presented above are the fruit of the commitment and financial support of AFDI PAYS DE LA LOIRE*

*of the COMITATO IMOLA BUKAVU,  
and of MARYLAND TRUST COMPANY LTD,*

*which we sincerely thank.*

*We also extend our sincere thanks to RIKOLTO  
for its support during this year.*



# **ANNEXES**

## **WOMEN'S TESTIMONIALS**

### **1. ANASTASIE NDAHALIZA**

*She thanks the Centre KITUMAINI for the services it provides her. Her husband, after a serious accident and finding himself in a current state of health marked by mental disorders, the CK remained the only support for this woman. Seeds and the goat received from the CK allow her to meet the food needs of her family, take care of her husband's health costs, and she managed to pay part of the dowry for her boy.*

### **2. FERDIANE MUNYARHAKENGWA**

*After losing her husband, the Centre KITUMAINI remained her only hope for survival. As a widow, she testified that thanks to the seeds and goat received from the CK and that allowed her to meet vital needs, she managed to build a two-room house where she lives, after the destruction of her previous house.*

### **3. MARIE-CLAIRE KASHWANTALE**

*She says she is satisfied with the services she receives from the Centre KITUMAINI. Thanks to the goat she received from the CK, she managed to send her three children to secondary school, she paid for metal sheets to renovate her house; the sale of two goat-kids made it possible to pay for a sewing machine for her daughter to launch her own cutting and sewing business.*

*Unfortunately, the only goat she had died and she currently only relies on agricultural products to cope with her family's needs.*

## PHOTOS

















