



## **CENTRE KITUMAINI, CK a.s.b.l**

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Together for tomorrow

# **ANNUAL REPORT OF ACTIVITIES**

**2024**

## **0. INTRODUCTION**

The Kitumaini Centre (CK), through its project to support vulnerable women through agriculture and livestock farming, organized several activities in 2024. The goal was to increase agricultural production in order to improve household living conditions and thus contribute to the development of the Kabare region. Several crops were grown: food crops (corn, beans, and cassava) and market garden crops (tomatoes, egg plant, cabbage, onions, amaranth, peppers, cucumber, and carrots). All were sold in the city of Bukavu. During both seasons this year, however, climate disruptions did not hinder production.

Several activities were carried out this year in the areas of agriculture, livestock farming, social work, health and nutrition, and education. These activities would not have been successful without the financial support of AFDI Pays de la Loire, of the Comitato IMOLA BUKAVU and of RIKOLTO, whom we sincerely thank.

### **1. AGRICULTURE :**

Several activities were carried out, including:

#### **1.1. Training on good agricultural practices (GAP):**

- Training on the production of organic fertilizers and pesticides
- Development of manure and compost pits
- Training on GAP for cassava production and management
- Training on GAP for corn and bean production and management
- Training on GAP for market gardening production and management
- Installation of demo fields (CEP) in the 7 Farmers' Organizations (POs – Professional Organizations), partnering with the CK
- Training on GAP for banana crop management
- Technical support to producers by agronomists, facilitators and the SOFEPAGRI team
- Zero-energy cold storage

#### **1.2. Distribution of seeds and farming tools to women in the 7 POs**

#### **1.3. Exchange of experiences between POs**

#### **1.4. Other agricultural activities**

### **2. CATTLE BREEDING: monitoring and treatment of goats in the various farmers' organizations**

### **3. EDUCATION: Schooling of orphaned children**

### **4. HEALTH - NUTRITION: The CK Nutritional Centre and care for vulnerable women**

### **5. FORMATIONS:**

- Literacy training
- Cutting and sewing training
- Soap making training

### **6. VISITES ET MISSIONS:**

- Visit to the CK by the Canadian Ambassador to the DRC
- Visit by the USAID delegation
- Visit by the French Institute delegation
- Visit by the FOPAC
- French North-South Mission
- Visit by the IITA (International Institute of Tropical Agriculture) and AALI delegation

# 1. AGRICULTURE

## 1.1. Training on good agricultural practices (GAP)

- **Training on the production of organic fertilizers and pesticides.**

Several training sessions were organized in various farmers' organizations on the production of organic fertilizers and pesticides. 220 bags of 100-liter - 22,000 litres - were produced throughout the year by producers.

- **Manure pit development and composting**

The dissemination of manure pit development and composting techniques continues in the POs: this year, 1,132 pits and 1,290 composters were developed and emptied into the fields.



- **Training on GAP for cassava production and management.**

A practical training course on good agronomic practices for cassava pest control was organized in the Kabare region, with 100 women participating.

- **Training on GAP for maize and bean production and management**

A training course was organized around August on good agronomic practices for maize and bean production, with 140 women trained.

- **Training on market gardening crop management and production**

Training was organized in the POs to strengthen their knowledge of market gardening crop production. 200 producers were trained.





➤ **Installation of Demo Fields (CEP) in the 7 professional organizations partnering with the CK**

The Kitumaini Centre has installed Farmer Field Schools for market gardening crops (cabbage, onion, tomato, eggplant, carrot, and amaranth) in the CK's partner organizations. These fields are intended to serve as learning sites for good agricultural practices in the POs.





➤ **Training on GAPs for banana crop management**

2,366 banana plants were distributed to the POs, and practical training sessions were organized for women in the demonstration field. 100 women participated.



➤ **Support for producers by agronomists, facilitators and the SOFEPAGRI team in various techniques**

Several field visits were conducted by facilitators and agronomists from the Kitumaini Centre to support women and popularize agro ecological techniques among producers. CK agronomists and facilitators conducted 3,165 field visits.





### ➤ Zero energy cold room and Kayanja market

A ZERO ENERGY CONSERVATION (ZEC) cold room was built in Kayanja to preserve vegetables produced by women members of Farmers' Organizations. This zero-energy cold room is built with local materials. A market was built in Kayanja to sell the POs' agricultural products.



### 1.2. Distribution of seeds and farming tools to women in the 7 POs

Thanks to its AFDI partners, the Kitumaini Centre distributes healthy seeds (maize and beans) to women members of POs once a year. This year, 140 women received seeds and tools.

900 kg of maize and 2,000 kg of beans were distributed, divided by variety as follows:

- Sam-vita maize variety: 400 kg
- WE5117 hybrid maize variety: 25 kg
- MK bean variety: 1,000 kg
- ZM625 maize variety: 475 kg
- HM21-7 bean variety: 1,000 kg







### **Distribution of Small Packets**

The seeds in small packets were distributed to members of the farmers' organizations, including:

- 800 small packets of beans
- 30 small packets of tomatoes
- 50 small packets of cabbage
- 26 small packets of carrots
- 25 small packets of onions
- 1200 small packets of corn
- 28 boxes of onions
- 60 small packets of amaranth
- 67 small packets of tomatoes
- 135 small packets of eggplant
- 70 small packets of cabbage
- 2 large packets of carrots

### **1.3. Exchanges of experience between Farmers' organizations**

An exchange of experiences was organized between Sofepagri and the new RHULANGANE Professional Organization (PO) on April 25, 2024: 61 members took part, in the women's community field of the RHULANGANE PO. These activities help to encourage and revitalize the organizations, consolidate relationships between them, build new relationships and foster team spirit among them.





#### **1.4. OTHER AGRICULTURAL ACTIVITIES**

- **Tree Distribution to Women**

To contribute to the fight against climate change, tree seedlings were distributed to PO members. 6,240 seedlings were distributed.

- **Row-planting Fields**

Members continue to adopt this row-planting technique: this year, 2,353 fields were row-planted.

- **Crop Rotation**

After popularizing this technique to maintain soil fertility and reduce the risk of disease and pests in the fields, women are already practicing crop rotation.





## 2. CATTLE BREEDING

Following the distribution of breeding stock in 2021, 2022, and 2023, the Kitumaini Centre currently has 888 goats distributed among the seven Farmers' Organizations. Goat rotations continue.

Thanks to an experienced veterinarian, treatments continue in the POs to reduce the number of cases of disease.



## 3. EDUCATION

The UMOJA (Unity) school group of the Kitumaini Centre welcomed more than 300 underprivileged and orphaned pupils this year. The goal is to teach knowledge and work methods as well as to prepare these children for their professional lives.



## 4. NUTRITION AND HEALTH

### ➤ Nutrition

The Kitumaini Centre assists orphaned children suffering from acute malnutrition in Miti. These children receive concentrated cereal porridge throughout the week. In 2024, the Kitumaini Centre assisted more than 40 children.

### ➤ HEALTH

The Kitumaini Centre also assisted women by providing them with medical care: 540 women received medication from the CK with the assistance of a doctor.



## 5. TRAININGS

### ➤ Literacy training

The Kitumaini Centre organized a 6-month literacy-training program for women members of the Kitumaini Centre's partner Farmer Organizations. This training allows women to learn basic reading, writing, and numeracy skills in Swahili and French, to become aware of certain discriminatory and power-related situations, and to free themselves from the status of raped women and those at the bottom of the social ladder. 28 women were trained in 2024.

### ➤ Training in cutting and sewing

The goal: to support vulnerable girls, a group considered abandoned by society and whose vulnerability exposes them to sexual exploitation with all its repercussions. This year, 35 girls completed the cutting and sewing training. The CK provided them with the necessary materials (machines, fabrics, and other materials) and two technicians – male and female - for their training.





### ➤ Training in saponification

In order to equip women from Farmers' Associations in various trades, the Kitumaini Centre organized a training session on soap-making techniques at the KAYANJA site, with the expertise of a trainer from a soap production factory. This allows them to create income-generating activities to increase the finances of their organizations, but also of their own households: it has been found that soap is one of the most reliable sources of income for those who can sustain production. 16 women ambassadors were trained on soap-making techniques.





## **6. VISITS AND MISSIONS : North-South AFDI mission**





➤ **Visit to the CK by the Canadian Ambassador to the DRC**



➤ **Visit of the USAID delegation**





➤ **Visit by the French Institute delegation**



➤ **Visit by the FOPAC**





➤ Visit by the IITA (International Institute of Tropical Agriculture) and AALI delegation



Done in Kavumu, December 20<sup>th</sup>, 2024

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are the result of the commitment and financial support  
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