



Strengthening the resilience of host communities affected by the conflict in Eastern DRC (RESICO)

The socio-economic resilience of internally displaced persons (IDPs) and host community members is strengthened, taking gender-specific needs into account.

Donor	Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ)	Area	North-Kivu
Partner	Ministry of Planning of the DRC	Duration	10/2023 – 09/2026

Situation in the intervention area

According to the April 2024 data from the International Organization for Migration, there are over 1.5 million internally displaced people in the province of North Kivu, which is in the east of the Democratic Republic of Congo.

Of the total number of internally displaced persons (IDPs), around 51% are women, and 59% are children and young people under 18.

During the early stages of the conflict, which evolved between the Congolese armed Forces and the M23 Militia in 2022, many IDPs were hosted by local communities and only a small percentage of IDPs resided in camps. Furthermore, many IDPs set up temporary shelters along roadsides or in unused fields, using tarpaulins and plastic bags.

For host communities and families, coping with this challenge is almost impossible. Scarce resources such as land, food, water, firewood, and housing are under tremendous pressure. There is also high competition for already scarce jobs. This causes frequent conflicts between IDPs) and residents of host communities.

Sexual and gender-based violence is widespread in Eastern D.R. Congo, occurring in both domestic and

Photo: Lushagala Extension site, North Kivu



marital contexts as well as in the context of conflict. The risks of sexual and gender-based violence are also heightened in Goma and Nyiragongo territory.

IDPs are particularly vulnerable, especially when collecting firewood, as they are often exposed due to the long walks, which they must make.

Gender inequalities persist, with women rarely involved in formal conflict resolution mechanisms, despite their active participation in local peace initiatives.

Objective

RESICO has the following objective: "The socio-economic resilience of internally displaced persons and residents of host communities is strengthened, taking gender-specific needs into account". The ability to secure one's livelihood and resolve conflicts

peacefully is a key element of social resilience. Long-term social cohesion requires the empowerment of women and harnessing their potential for peace and development, as well as addressing the specific needs of young people.

Strategy and components

The project intervenes through three components:

Component 1: Employment promotion

Economic vulnerability results from inadequate income and limited employment prospects. This vulnerability can be mitigated through vocational training and income-generating activities. Based on a labor market analysis, the project will offer beneficiaries on the one hand short-term vocational qualification measures tailored to market needs and on the other hand measures to promote business start-ups.

Component 2: Strengthening of resilience

Patriarchal social structures have led women to be excluded from local decision-making processes, resulting in insufficient participation and inadequate consideration of their needs. Similarly, the needs of internally displaced persons are not well considered by state actors. The project will therefore strengthen

women's leadership and the capacity of local authorities and non-state actors to design integration processes in a peaceful and participatory manner, taking gender equality into account.

Component 3: Strengthening of social cohesion

Experience in countries facing crisis has shown that increased involvement of women in social responsibility and conflict management leads to more effective conflict resolution and peacebuilding. To empower women and promote the prevention of sexual and gender-based violence, as well as peaceful coexistence among different population groups, the project will support the implementation of small-scale initiatives by women's groups. Additionally, the project will provide training on positive masculinity and the prevention of SGBV for men to address the existing sexist power structures and culture of violence, prevalent in Congolese society.

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Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale
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Company headquarters; Bonn and Eschborn, Germany
T +49 (0) 619679-11 75
I www.giz.de

Project « Strengthening the resilience of host communities
affected by the conflict in Eastern DRC»

Q. Les Volcans, C. Goma, Goma
Democratic Republic of the Congo
Senior Technical Advisor: Peter Neumann
E peter.neumann@giz.de

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On behalf of: Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and
Development (BMZ)

Addresses of the BMZ headquarters:

BMZ Bonn
Postfach 12 03 22
53045 Bonn
Germany
T +49 (0) 228 99 535-0

BMZ Berlin
Stresemannstraße 94
10963 Berlin
Germany
T +49 (0) 30 18 535-0