




Healing Hearts,
Building Futures



ANNUAL REPORT 2023



CONTACT

-  www.csc-asbl.org
-  info@csc-asbl.org
-  Uvira, South Kivu, DR Congo

ABOUT 2023 WORK

With the generous support of our donors, we successfully implemented various projects



ABOUT US

In 2016, Community Support Center / CSC-Asbl was created to improve life condition for women and children who have survived war, ethnic conflicts, violence, poverty, and natural disasters in the Eastern Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) who have been affected by conflicts and who live under conditions that are insecure.



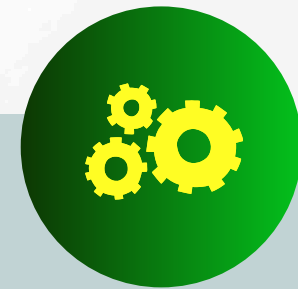
VISION

We promote the human rights of women and children through fellowship and empowerment. We bring joy and hope for a better future to survivors of conflict, so they can become productive members of society



MISSION

We provide psycho-social support and comprehensive assistance to the most vulnerable members of society, particularly women and children who have endured the horrors of war, ethnic conflict, and natural disasters. Our commitment is rooted in our slogan, "Healing Hearts, Building Futures", encapsulating our dedication to nurturing emotional well-being and fostering sustainable pathways to empowerment.



VALUES

Dignity
Humanity
Sharing

INTRODUCTION

In 2023, Community Support Center (CSC-Asbl) continued its mission to support women and children affected by conflict, violence, discrimination, and natural disasters in the Eastern region of the DR Congo.

Despite facing numerous challenges, CSC-Asbl remained dedicated to promoting peace, empowerment, and resilience within the community.

With the generous support of our donors, we successfully implemented a range of projects and initiatives aimed at healing trauma, promoting peace, mitigating global warming through agriculture projects, and providing essential support to those in need.

This annual report aims to provide an overview of the activities undertaken by CSC-Asbl throughout the year, highlighting our achievements, partnerships, and future endeavors.



Activities



Sexual and Reproductive Health Education

In collaboration with Alliance Féminine Bagwanza, CSC-Asbl implemented activities targeting the sexual and reproductive health education of young girls in schools, and in workshops for young people. This activity reached a total of 135 participants. **It was aimed at raising awareness and promoting healthy behaviors.**



Educational Programs for Children

CSC-Asbl conducted a partial educational support program for 50 children across five villages in the territories of Mwenga and Fizi. **These programs aimed to provide educational support and opportunities for children in remote areas, enhancing their access to learning.**



Therapeutic Assistance for War-Affected Children

Our facilitators provided therapeutic assistance to 85 children who have been affected by wars, offering support and counseling to **help them cope with trauma and rebuild their lives.**



Safeguarding Policy Update

In alignment with international standards and best practices outlined by [The UN Convention on the Rights of the Child](#) and Keeping Children Safe (KCS), Community Support Center (CSC-Asbl) successfully updated its child safeguarding policy. This critical initiative ensures the safety and protection of all beneficiaries, especially vulnerable children. We extend our heartfelt appreciation to the KCS team, notably **Valentina** and **Sam**, for their dedicated collaboration with the CSC-Asbl team, resulting in the successful implementation of this essential policy update.

[Find here our child safeguarding policy.](#)



Support for Women Farmers

Recognizing the challenges posed by food insecurity and climate change, CSC-Asbl, in collaboration with the British organization **Wood U Waste**, launched the Support Project for Women Farmers (PAFA). **This project aims to equip women farmers with essential agricultural skills and knowledge to improve food production and sustainability.**

Activities under PAFA will include training on compost manufacturing, biopesticide production, drip irrigation, and soil fertility management. In 2023 this project resulted in increased agricultural productivity and enhanced food security for more than 53 women farmers in the South Kivu region.



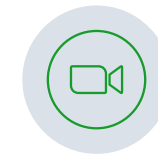


Art therapy

In 2023, Community Support Center (CSC-Asbl) facilitated art therapy sessions for 49 children enrolled in our Kilibula Play 4 Peace and Mental Health (P4PM) Club.

These sessions, conducted in seven groups with seven children each, fostered a collaborative environment where children could freely express their thoughts and emotions through drawing.

Witnessing the children's enjoyment and engagement in the creative process was truly inspiring. This initiative reflects our commitment to promoting mental well-being and providing innovative therapeutic interventions for vulnerable children and young people in our community.



Collaborative meeting

In a collaborative effort between Community Support Center (CSC-Asbl) in DR Congo, and Grupo Internacional de Paz (GIP) in Colombia, led by Beatriz Mejía, a leadership training session was conducted. Children from Junín, Colombia, and Uvira, DR Congo, engaged in a shared dialogue, expressing their community visions and challenges through art.

This initiative aims to foster cross-cultural exchange and innovative problem-solving approaches between the two communities, paving the way for future collaborative efforts.

Approximately 40 children participated in this event.



Play 4 Peace and Mental Health Support Activities

We conducted Play 4 Peace and Mental Health Support (P4PM) activities at Kitundu (camp for people displaced by flooding) in Uvira, Eastern DR Congo. These activities aimed to provide trauma-informed care and psychosocial support to children, young people and families affected by conflict and natural disasters. **The celebration day, held on November 26th, 2023, served as a pivotal event in promoting peace, social inclusion, gender equality, and healing within the community.**

This initiative positively impacted 450 young people, reaffirming our commitment to fostering resilience and well-being among vulnerable populations in the region. Find out more [here](#)



KOMET



Y2Y | YOUTH TO YOUTH COMMUNITY
engage, inspire, empower

WOOD U WASTE



Partnerships

In 2023, CSC-Asbl started collaborating with more than five organizations including Wood U Waste, Let's Talk Learship, Finswimming, Youth to Youth, Soccer Without Borders, Grupo Internacional de Paz and Supporting Girls Football.

These partnerships/collaborations aim to strengthen our efforts in community development, empowerment and sharing the best practices.



Challenges and Future Directions

In 2023, CSC-Asbl faced several challenges while striving to support survivors and victims of conflict in Eastern DR Congo. These challenges included:

- 1. Resource Constraints:** Limited financial resources posed challenges in scaling up our programs and reaching more beneficiaries in need.
- 2. Infrastructure Limitations:** Inadequate infrastructure in conflict-affected areas hindered the delivery of services and support to vulnerable populations.
- 3. Security Concerns:** Ongoing insecurity and violence in the region posed risks to both staff and beneficiaries, impacting the implementation of our programs.
- 4. Socio-Cultural Barriers:** Deep-rooted socio-cultural norms and practices sometimes posed obstacles to our efforts to promote gender equality and social inclusion.

Looking ahead to 2024, CSC-Asbl is committed to addressing these challenges and advancing its mission of supporting survivors and victims of conflict. Our future directions for 2024 include:

- **Capacity Building:** Investing in capacity-building initiatives to strengthen our team's skills and expertise in trauma-informed care, psychosocial support, and conflict resolution.
- **Diversification of Funding:** Exploring diverse funding sources and partnerships to mitigate resource constraints and expand the reach of our programs.
- **Community Engagement:** Enhancing community engagement strategies to foster greater participation, ownership, and sustainability of our initiatives at the grassroots level.
- **Advocacy and Awareness:** Advocating for policy changes and raising awareness of the needs of conflict-affected communities in order to garner greater support and resources.
- **Collaboration and Partnerships:** Strengthening collaborations and partnerships with local organizations, government agencies, and international NGOs to leverage resources and maximize impact.

By addressing these challenges and pursuing these future directions, CSC-Asbl aims to continue making meaningful contributions to the well-being and resilience of conflict-affected communities in Eastern DR Congo.

Testimonials



JOHARI BARUAHANI

"As a mother living in the Kitundu displaced camp, I have witnessed firsthand the transformative impact of CSC-Asbl's Play 4 Peace and Mental Health Support program on my children.

Before participating, they struggled with the trauma of displacement and conflict. However, through engaging in these activities, I've seen them become more resilient, confident, and hopeful for the future. The program not only provided them with a safe space to express themselves but also equipped them with essential coping skills. I am immensely grateful to CSC-Asbl for bringing joy and healing to our community."



BITISHO ANGE

"Thanks to CSC-Asbl's agriculture project, I've learned sustainable farming techniques that have transformed my small plot of land into a thriving source of food for my family. I am grateful for their unwavering support and commitment to improving our livelihoods." Farmer Beneficiary of our PAFA project



GEORGE

"My name is George, and since arriving in Kitundu, joy has been scarce. But thanks to CSC-Asbl's P4PM activities, our spirits soared. To see our children and mothers uplifted by this support is beyond words. We pray that God continues to bless CSC-Asbl's endeavors, not just for us here in the East of DR Congo, but for all vulnerable people." (President of CSC-Asbl's Kitundu Displaced camp P4PM club)

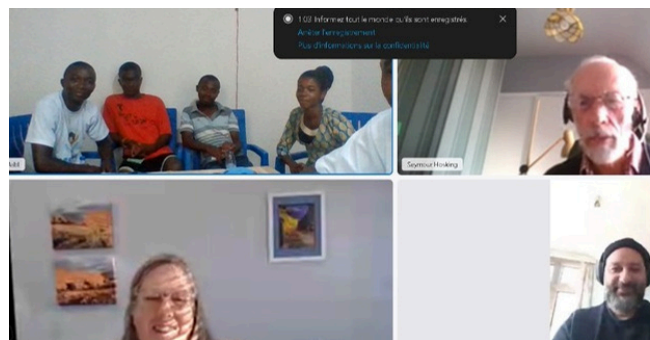
Impact

In 2023, Community Support Center / CSC-Asbl's impactful work significantly contributed to the well-being and empowerment of vulnerable communities in Eastern DR Congo. Here are some key highlights of our impact: Trauma-Informed Care, Mental Health Support, Art Therapy Service, Child Safeguarding, and Community Engagement: Facilitated meetings and exchanges between children from different continents, promoting cross-cultural understanding and creative problem-solving.

Our work in 2023 has reached over 700 vulnerable women and children, illustrating our commitment to promoting peace, social inclusion, gender equality and healing within conflict-affected communities, thereby laying the foundations of a better future for all.

Future Directions

In our 2024-2025 strategic plan meeting, we reflected on our successes and challenges in 2023, reaffirming our commitment to supporting survivors and victims, particularly women and children, in Eastern DR Congo. We discussed strategies to build upon our achievements and address ongoing needs, ensuring our programs continue to make a meaningful impact in the community.



Our strategic plan mind map





Donor Acknowledgment

We extend our heartfelt gratitude to our generous donors who have been instrumental in enabling our work. Special thanks to Amicale Caritative des Quakers de Nouvelle Aquitaine, Wood U Waste, Friends Quaker Meeting in Huntsville; Nouvelle Aquitaine Quaker Meeting in France; French Quaker Yearly Meeting; and our individual donors: Linda Bayer, Maria, Helen Bayer, Sherri, Micha, Miguel, Cédric Levy... Your unwavering support has empowered us to make a meaningful difference in the lives of those we serve.

We express our deepest appreciation to your continued support and generosity. Your contributions have enabled us to create positive change and provide essential services to those in need. We look forward to further collaboration and partnership in the future.

In solidarity

Team
Community Support Center / CSC-Asbl



A message from our CEO

As the CEO and Founder of Community Support Center / CSC-Asbl, I am immensely grateful for the dedication and hard work of our entire team, whose collective efforts have propelled us towards achieving our goals in 2023.

I would like to welcome and extend a special acknowledgment to our Communications Director, Linda Bayer, whose unwavering commitment to CSC-Asbl's mission has been instrumental in effectively communicating our initiatives and impact to the wider community. Linda's dedication to her role has significantly contributed to raising awareness about the work we do and garnering support for our cause.

Together, with the unwavering support of our team and donors, we have made significant progress in improving the lives of the people we serve. Your contributions and commitment are deeply appreciated. We look forward to continuing this journey together in the years to come, creating new partnerships and collaborations with non-profit organizations, donors, foundations and enterprises ready to connect with us.

In Peace and Solidarity,

Byolenganya Olo Bernoulli
CEO and Founder

[Community Support Center / CSC-Asbl](http://CommunitySupportCenter.org)

Meet Our Team



We are a team of empathetic and sympathetic people, committed to one goal, improving the life conditions of the most vulnerable women and children in Eastern DR Congo.

We are Healing Hearts and Building Futures, by giving joy and hope so that the most vulnerable can become productive members of society.

