



ANNUAL REPORT 2024



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STATEMENT OF FUND RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE YEAR 2024

Introduction

In 2024, IWHE-NGO profoundly transformed the lives of over 750 people, including 533 women, through innovative initiatives in health, economic empowerment, peacebuilding, and environmental protection. This report highlights our achievements, the challenges overcome, and our vision for a more equitable and sustainable future.

The Board of Directors of IWHE-NGO is pleased to present its 2024 annual report, accompanied by the statement of responsibility covering the period from January 1st to December 31st, 2024. In accordance with our statutes and financial procedures, this document reflects our commitment to transparency and accountability.

About Us

Indigenous Women for Health and Equality (IWHE-NGO), founded in 2020 by indigenous women, is an independent, non-profit, apolitical, and non-denominational organization. We fight against the lack of empowerment and gender inequalities experienced by indigenous women in South Kivu specifically and in the DR Congo generally.

Fundamental Questions

IWHE-NGO was founded to find answers to the following questions:

- How can women and girls from indigenous populations actively and politically participate in making decisions that will positively impact their futures?
- How can community members be educated to equip younger generations of human rights defenders with a culture of promoting indigenous women and girls in the South Kivu province?

IWHE-NGO began addressing these questions by seeking to understand the community's perception of the lack of empowerment and gender inequalities in the localities where indigenous women and girls live.

2024 Activities

2024, we deployed concrete and innovative actions to support vulnerable populations. Our mobile clinic offered medical and psychosocial support to torture survivors as well as victims of sexual and gender-based violence. Simultaneously, we strengthened women's empowerment through an interest-free microcredit program, facilitating their economic independence.

Aware of the specific challenges faced by young girls, we distributed hygiene kits to meet their essential needs, while conducting awareness campaigns on sexual and reproductive health.

A major innovation this year was the introduction of the Photovoice methodology in the digital sphere, allowing communities to document and combat the effects of climate change through the power of images.

Finally, our initiatives in food security and nutrition provided sustainable responses, adapted to local realities and available resources.

Through these multidimensional efforts, we were able to offer comprehensive solutions, significantly improving the living conditions of our beneficiaries.

Mission

To guide, support, and empower indigenous women in their struggle for well-being and social self-determination.

Values

Service, Responsibility, Love, and Trust.

Vision

To build a world where indigenous women look to the future with hope.

1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The past twelve months have been marked by hard work and significant progress for the Indigenous Women for Health and Equality (IWHE-NGO) team. Despite a challenging financial context, our organization demonstrated remarkable resilience, successfully carrying out numerous projects and strengthening its impact among beneficiaries and partners.

Thanks to the determination of the entire team, IWHE-NGO not only maintained its activities but also consolidated its credibility on the ground. Each initiative undertaken testifies to our commitment to health and equality, while meeting the growing needs of the communities we serve.

This demanding year confirmed our ability to adapt and innovate, even under precarious conditions. We remain more mobilized than ever to pursue our mission with the same rigor and passion.

Highlights of 2024:

1) Mobile Clinic

Deployment of a mobile unit offering medical care, psychological support, therapeutic assistance, and socio-economic aid to survivors of torture, sexual violence, gender-based violence (GBV), and victims of armed conflicts.

2) Economic Empowerment via Microfinance

Capacity building for two Village Savings and Loan Associations (VSLAs) on microfinance and investment techniques, accompanied by the granting of interest-free loans to the UPENDO and MUSOCOPE VSLA groups to stimulate local entrepreneurship.

3) Sexual and Reproductive Health Education for Young Girls

Interactive workshops in schools using participatory theater to address menstrual hygiene, reproductive health, and the prevention of gender-based violence.

4) Climate Innovation through Digital Storytelling (Photovoice)

Training pregnant women in the Photovoice method to document and address local climate challenges, thereby strengthening food security and nutrition in the face of environmental changes.

5) Peace Promotion and Social

Awareness campaigns and community dialogues to foster reconciliation between opposing groups in the high plateaus of Uvira, Fizi, and Mwenga, with the creation of peace clubs for sustainable coexistence.

6) Green Schools and Community Reforestation

Installation of nurseries and tree planting in schools, combined with awareness-raising on the crucial role of forests in combating climate change, soil erosion, and drought.

7) Defense of Human Rights and Gender Equality

Active advocacy for gender equality, protection of fundamental rights, and education of communities on their civic and social rights.

8) Protection of Ecosystems and Protected Areas

Citizen mobilization for the preservation of biodiversity, sustainable management of natural resources, and safeguarding of protected areas.

2. OUR THEORY OF CHANGE

IF indigenous women and girls have knowledge of their rights, the protection of biodiversity in their living environments, and access to relevant national and international instruments and mechanisms, AND IF they develop technical and professional skills, have access to modern production factors for the market, AND IF they have access to healthcare and sexual and reproductive education;

THEN the lack of empowerment of indigenous women and girls, as well as social inequalities, will be significantly reduced, and they will be equipped in terms of motivation and purchasing power to adopt a culture of promoting the rights and empowerment of indigenous peoples;

BECAUSE members of all communities have understood the need to end all forms of discrimination against indigenous women and girls and the necessity of treating women better in general for the world to become better for everyone.

3. WHY INDIGENOUS WOMEN AND GIRLS?

Ending discrimination against indigenous women and girls is essential for sustainable development. Their empowerment has a multiplier effect on economic growth and the well-being of all.

4. OUR HUMAN DIGNITY

COMPONENT 1: HUMAN DIGNITY

Achievements:



We conducted in-depth work to strengthen gender equality, protect human rights, and raise community awareness through the following actions:

a) Community Dialogue and Advocacy

- a) 12 consultation meetings with local leaders, women's associations and young people to discuss:
 - Women's and Indigenous Women's Rights;
 - Gender equality and protection mechanisms.

b) Large-scale awareness raising

- b) 17 educational campaigns in schools, markets and public spaces
 - Broadcasting messages via local radio and social networks (Facebook, Twitter, etc.) to reach +50,000 people.

c) Focus on Indigenous Women

- c) 5 thematic workshops in the villages of KAKELA, KATANGA, MBOKO, NUNDU and SWIMA on:
 - Access to education and health;
 - Land tenure security;
 - Specific discrimination.

Changes Achieved:

- *Strengthening women's participation in community decision-making processes* : Successful integration of women into local management committees, promoting equitable representation.
- *Improving the school enrolment rate of young indigenous girls and other marginalized communities* : Awareness campaigns for parents and deployment of adapted school support programs.
- *Increased fight against gender-based violence* : Creation of listening cells and support mechanisms for survivors, strengthening their access to justice and psychosocial support.
- *Women's economic empowerment* : Establishment of agricultural cooperatives and community savings schemes to improve access to financial resources.
- *Protection and recognition of indigenous women's rights* : Mobilization of local authorities to guarantee their land rights and access to essential services (health, education, water).

Beneficiaries :

750 People were reached by the project, including: 533 women and 217 men.

Challenges Overcome:

The persistence of patriarchal norms hinders the acceptance of indigenous women's rights, women's rights and gender equality, while the lack of commitment of local authorities slows down awareness-raising actions. Illiteracy and lack of access to information reduce the impact of campaigns, complicating the economic integration of women, who struggle to access resources, credit and land, particularly in indigenous communities.



*Capacity building workshop for human rights defenders on the integrated approach: **mobile clinic and digital security**.*

COMPONENT 2: ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT

Achievements:



As part of our commitment to the economic empowerment of marginalized women, we have carried out two flagship actions:

1. Granting of an interest-free loan of USD 3,000 to the UPENDO-Club RFI VSLA in Uvira.
2. Training of 30 women in the management techniques of Village Savings and Loan Associations (VSLAs), followed by the signing of a collaboration contract.

Each member of the UPENDO VSLA was thus able to benefit from a loan of USD 100 to develop their income-generating activities.

Our personalized support:

To guarantee the sustainability and effectiveness of the UPENDO VSLA, we have ensured a rigorous follow-up including:

- a) Governance and transparency
 - ✓ Verification of compliance with the internal regulations.
 - ✓ Internal audit and control of accounting documents (savings, loans, repayments).
 - ✓ Promotion of transparency within the Management Committee.
- b) Financial monitoring and risk management
 - ✓ Monitoring of the use of funds and repayments.
 - ✓ Implementation of monitoring tools and performance indicators.
 - ✓ Resolution of credit disputes.
- c) Training and development
 - ✓ Ongoing sessions on financial management and entrepreneurship
 - ✓ Awareness of sustainable savings and investments.
 - ✓ Technical assistance for the creation of micro-projects.
- d) Solidarity and social impact
 - ✓ Individualised supervision for beneficiaries in difficulty.
 - ✓ Promotion of mutual aid between members.
 - ✓ Evaluation of the improvement of living conditions.

Changes made:

Thanks to this support, AVEC UPENDO has strengthened its economic viability while promoting the financial inclusion of women. Profits reinvested in income-generating activities ensure a lasting impact within the community.

AVEC UPENDO has taken a major step forward by fully repaying its USD 3,000 loan. This funding allowed the association to make a profit of USD 3,500, which was reinvested in the acquisition of a Bajaj (motorized tricycle) to strengthen intercity transport services in Uvira.

30 new beneficiaries (AVECI MUSOCOPE) received a total credit of USD 3,000, with each member getting USD 100. The repayment must be made by the end of 2025.

Impact on beneficiaries

- ✓ The members of the project have noticed profound transformations in their daily lives:
 - Education and health : They can now send their children to school and pay for their families' medical expenses.
 - Food security : The ability to eat three meals a day is now a reality.
 - Economic self-sufficiency: Their incomes have increased by 65%, consolidating their financial stability and quality of life.

This progress illustrates the sustainability of the project and its key role in the empowerment of beneficiaries.

Beneficiaries:

Beneficiary structure	Total beneficiaries	Wives	Men
AVECI UPENDO-Club RFI of Uvira	30	26	4
WITHI MUSOCOPE	30	23	7
Total	60	49	11

Challenges overcome:

The main challenges encountered include:

- ✓ Compliance with loan repayment deadlines, rigorous management of the funds allocated and adaptation to the specific requirements of the intercity transport sector.
- ✓ Security instability, which could compromise the implementation of the project and reduce its impact;
- ✓ The lack of financial and logistical resources, which sometimes hindered the deployment of activities;
- ✓ The management of reimbursements and the follow-up of beneficiaries, requiring increased rigor to guarantee the effectiveness of the project;
- ✓ Continuous training of stakeholders, essential to ensure sustainable management of credits.



Meetings of AVECI MUSOCOPE and MAPENDO

COMPONENT 3: REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH

Achievements:



Deployment of a mobile clinic to offer comprehensive support to survivors of torture, sexual violence, gender-based violence and victims of armed conflict. This initiative aims to provide medical, therapeutic, psychological and economic support to promote their reconstruction and reintegration.

a) Medical Support

- ✓ Free consultations: Care for survivors (treatment of injuries, infections, prenatal care, pediatric follow-up, etc.).
- ✓ Distribution of medicines and medical kits: Provision of essential treatment and first aid equipment.
- ✓ Referral to specialized structures: Referral and support of complex cases to partner hospitals or health centers.

b) Psychological care

- ✓ Individual and group therapies: Tailored sessions to address trauma and build resilience.
- ✓ Mental Health Awareness: Information campaigns to destigmatize psychological disorders.
- ✓ Training of local actors: Capacity building of community leaders for effective psychosocial support.

c) Therapeutic and social support

- ✓ Resilience workshops: Personal reconstruction activities (stress management, coping techniques).
- ✓ Creative therapies: Using art, music, and sports as healing tools.
- ✓ Support groups: Safe spaces to share experiences and break isolation.

d) Engaging girls in schools

- ✓ As part of our commitment to girls' health and empowerment, we conducted a series of interactive trainings on menstrual hygiene and sexual and reproductive health in schools.
- ✓ Thanks to participatory theatres, a playful and inclusive approach, we have sensitized 987 young girls in several schools in the cities of Uvira and Fizi.
- ✓ To make this learning a reality, we gave each participant a menstrual hygiene kit, allowing them to better manage their daily health.

e) Training of 90 pregnant women in the "Photovoice" method:

- ✓ As part of adaptation to climate change, pregnant women were introduced to the participatory Photovoice method.
- ✓ A digital storytelling tool, to strengthen their adaptation to climate change. This initiative aims to improve food security and nutrition by raising awareness of good practices in the face of climate disruptions.

- ✓ Participants learned how to use photography as a means of documentation and advocacy for better resilience.

Beneficiaries

- 305 survivors of torture have benefited from comprehensive care including:
 - ✓ free medical care,
 - ✓ psychological assistance,
 - ✓ therapeutic support,
 - ✓ and social support.
- In addition, 477 women survivors of rape, sexual and domestic violence also received:
 - ✓ free medical care,
 - ✓ psychological and therapeutic support,
 - ✓ as well as social support.
 - ✓ In addition, 17 women were able to benefit from fistula repair.
- 987 young girls mobilized in several schools in the cities of Uvira and Fizi, including:
 - ✓ Umoja High School: 334
 - ✓ Chirezi High School: 313
 - ✓ Kamba Institute of Makobola: 341
- 90 pregnant women trained in the "Photovoice" method

Changes made:

- Health restored : 305 survivors were able to access free medical care, allowing them to regain better physical health and resume their lives.
- Psychological calming: 477 women received enhanced psychological support, helping them overcome their trauma and regain emotional balance.
- Dignity regained : 17 women had their fistula repaired, a procedure that transformed their daily lives by restoring their well-being and self-confidence.
- Facilitated reintegration : 100% of victims received therapeutic and social support, paving the way for successful reintegration into their community.
- Improved quality of life : 90% of beneficiaries saw a marked improvement in their lives after receiving care and support, marking a decisive step towards a more serene future.
- Empowerment and knowledge: 987 girls now have a clear understanding of menstrual hygiene and sexual and reproductive health, enabling them to make informed choices for their well-being.
- Dignity and safety regained: 85% of participants now manage their menstrual cycle in better conditions, with safe practices that respect their dignity.
- Liberation from taboos and self-confidence: 75% of beneficiaries have broken the silence around menstruation, daring to talk about it openly and gaining confidence in their daily lives.

- Easier access to hygiene and preserved health: 987 hygiene kits distributed have improved the daily lives of young girls, significantly reducing the risk of infections linked to poor menstrual management.
- Improved education and school attendance: Thanks to better management of their menstrual hygiene, 80% of the girls trained have seen their attendance in class increase, thus promoting their academic success.
- Sustainable awareness in schools: 60% of teachers have integrated discussions about reproductive health into their interactions with students, creating a more inclusive and informed environment.
- Empowerment through training : 90 pregnant women now have the ability to document and share their experiences of climate change through the "Photovoice" method, a powerful tool to express their challenges and solutions.
- New skills for resilience : These women learned practical skills in photography and documentation, enabling them to identify and analyse climate impacts on their food security and nutrition.
- Adoption of sustainable agricultural practices: Thanks to the knowledge received, 75% of them have already started to implement climate-adapted farming techniques, thus improving the quality and diversity of their diet.
- Broader community mobilization : 60% of participants relayed the lessons learned within their communities, amplifying awareness of the effects of climate change and encouraging the adoption of local solutions.

Challenges overcome:

The main challenges facing our mobile clinic are multiple:

- ✓ The lack of an ambulance makes it very difficult to transfer patients to better-equipped hospitals, where they could benefit from specialized care.
- ✓ The lack of some essential medicines compromises the quality of care provided, limiting our ability to meet urgent medical needs.
- ✓ Insufficient funding is holding back the development of the clinic. Without additional resources, it is difficult for us to improve our equipment, expand our services and optimize our operational efficiency.
- ✓ Training pregnant women in the "Photovoice" method has faced several challenges:
 - The main obstacle was the lack of funding, limiting both the follow-up of participants and the expansion of the programme to more beneficiaries. In addition, unequal access to digital tools – cameras and smartphones in particular – has hampered learning for some women.
 - Another major challenge has been the low level of prior awareness of climate change, prolonging the adaptation phase. Finally, logistical constraints in some rural areas, such as the lack of internet connection and reliable electricity networks, have hindered the application of the skills acquired.



Distribution of hygiene kits to students

COMPONENT 4: PEACE AND CONFLICT TRANSFORMATION

Achievements:



As part of the Promotion of Peaceful Coexistence in the Highlands of Uvira, Fizi and Mwenga, the following activities were carried out to raise awareness of the challenges of peaceful coexistence, strengthen inter-community dialogue and establish a sustainable culture of peace:

- a) Inter-community dialogue sessions
 - ✓ Organization of 12 dialogue sessions (1 per month) bringing together representatives of opposing communities.
- b) Capacity building of local actors
 - ✓ Training of 150 community leaders, youth and women through 6 workshops (2 per quarter) on mediation, negotiation and conflict management.
- c) Creation of Peace Clubs
 - ✓ Establishment of 10 peace clubs in schools and communities, mobilizing 500 young people and members of civil society.
- d) Awareness campaigns
 - ✓ Broadcast of 24 radio programs (2 per month);
 - ✓ Distribution of 5,000 posters and brochures;
 - ✓ Organization of 6 community theater performances in the targeted villages.
- e) Joint initiatives for social cohesion

- ✓ Launch of 1 collaborative project (agriculture) bringing together 200 members of the different communities.

Changes made :

- A better understanding of community issues
 - ✓ 360 people participated in discussion sessions, developing an increased awareness of the challenges of peaceful coexistence.
 - ✓ 80% of participants now say they have a better understanding of the mechanisms of inter-community dialogue and are committed to promoting tolerance.
- Strengthened skills for peace
 - ✓ 150 community leaders, youth and women were trained in mediation and conflict management techniques.
 - ✓ 70% of them actively use these skills to ease tensions and facilitate dialogue in their communities.
- Young people and citizens committed to peace
 - ✓ 500 young people and members of civil society are now mobilizing in 10 peace clubs.
 - ✓ 60% of members regularly participate in awareness-raising activities, becoming key actors in peace education.
- Massive awareness for lasting change
 - ✓ 240,000 listeners were reached by radio broadcasts, broadcasting messages of social cohesion.
 - ✓ 2,500 people were directly addressed by posters and brochures, reinforcing their commitment to peace.
 - ✓ 1,200 spectators attended community plays, living an immersive experience to better understand the consequences of conflicts.
- Strengthened inter-community relations
 - ✓ 200 people from different communities collaborated on a common project, breaking down prejudices and fostering mutual trust.
 - ✓
 - ✓ 50% of participants see a tangible improvement in relations between their groups, paving the way for harmonious coexistence.

Beneficiaries:

244,910 people were reached by the project, including: 95,000 women and 149,910 men.

Challenges overcome:

- Resistance to change and inter-community mistrust
 - ✓ Dialogue sessions and joint initiatives struggle to produce a significant impact due to cultural reluctance and persistent mistrust between communities.
- Logistical and financial constraints

- ✓ The lack of financial and material resources considerably limits the scope of the actions carried out: reduced training, awareness campaigns with limited outreach and undersized community projects.
- Accessibility of intervention areas
 - ✓ Chronic insecurity coupled with the infrastructure deficit complicates access to target areas, leading to erratic participation in planned activities.



Awareness session on sustainable peacebuilding in Makobola

COMPONENT 5: ENVIRONMENT AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT:

Achievements:



As part of our commitment to biodiversity conservation, several concrete actions have been taken to engage local communities, including community mobilization and green school initiatives.

We have implemented concrete actions to strengthen the ecological awareness of students and the local community.

a) Community mobilization for the protection of ecosystems and protected areas

- **Workshops and awareness campaigns**
 - ✓ Organization of training sessions and participatory debates on the importance of preserving ecosystems.
 - ✓ Active involvement of local leaders, youth and farmers to promote the adoption of sustainable practices.
- **Reforestation and ecological initiatives**
 - ✓ Restoration of degraded areas through tree planting campaigns.
 - ✓ Promotion of agroforestry to reconcile agricultural productivity and environmental protection.
 - ✓ Creation of local monitoring committees to ensure the sustainable protection of natural areas.
- **Raising awareness through media and art**
 - ✓ Dissemination of environmental messages via community radios to reach a wide audience.
 - ✓ Use of visual aids (posters, brochures) and educational plays to raise awareness.
 - ✓ Highlighting the impacts of climate change and local solutions to address it.

These actions have strengthened the involvement of communities in the protection of their environment while promoting a collaborative and innovative approach.

b) Green School: Tree planting and environmental awareness

This project is based on two pillars: the installation of germinators and the planting of trees, as well as awareness campaigns on their crucial role in protecting the environment.

- **Tree planting and maintenance workshop**
 - ✓ A participatory event was organized, bringing together students, teachers and community members to plant trees on the school grounds or public spaces. This workshop included:
 - Training on local species adapted to the climate and soil.

- Hands-on demonstrations on planting and maintenance techniques.
 - An interactive discussion on the impact of trees in the fight against climate change, soil erosion and droughts.
- ✓ This activity strengthened the participants' knowledge while promoting a sustainable commitment to the environment.
- **Creation of a school garden with sprouters**
 - ✓ Sprouters have been installed to allow students to grow plants from seed. This educational project aims to:
 - Educate students about the life cycle of plants.
 - Promote biodiversity by cultivating useful species (fruit trees, honey plants, etc.).
 - Raise awareness about CO₂ absorption and ecosystem preservation.
 - ✓ The students, supervised by their teachers, follow the evolution of the plants and learn the importance of a balanced ecosystem.
- **Environmental awareness campaign**
 - ✓ To anchor knowledge and encourage collective action, several activities were carried out:
 - Conferences and debates led by environmental experts.
 - Art exhibitions (posters, drawings) made by the students to illustrate the benefits of trees.
 - Educational screenings and games on air quality, soil protection and the role of forests.
 - ✓ These initiatives have made it possible to mobilize the whole school around a common goal: to act for a more sustainable future.

Changes Achieved

- **Heightened awareness**
 - ✓ Through 10 workshops and 5 awareness-raising campaigns, nearly 500 local leaders, youth and farmers deepened their knowledge on ecosystem conservation.
 - ✓ As a result, 70% of them have committed to adopting sustainable practices in their daily lives, thus contributing to the protection of their environment.
- **A restored and better protected environment**

The planting of 10,000 trees and the establishment of 5 monitoring committees have made it possible to restore degraded areas. These actions have led to a 40% reduction in deforestation in the targeted areas, providing communities with a healthier living environment and preserved natural resources.
- **Broader community engagement**
 - ✓ With 20 radio broadcasts, 5,000 posters and brochures distributed, and 6 theatrical performances, the project reached nearly 50,000 people.
 - ✓ This wide dissemination has increased awareness of environmental issues by 60%, encouraging greater involvement of populations in the protection of their ecosystem.

- **A greener school and students involved in reforestation**
 - ✓ Thanks to the tree planting workshop, more than 80% of the students and teachers at Kamba School in Makobala now have hands-on experience in reforestation. Together, they planted between 100 and 200 trees on the school grounds, transforming their immediate environment and contributing to the fight against local deforestation.
- **A school garden that raises awareness**
 - ✓ The creation of the school garden equipped with germinators has enabled 75% of the students to be directly involved in the cultivation and maintenance of the plants. This initiative marked a turning point: more than 90% of students now have a better understanding of climate issues and practical solutions to address them.
- **A school community mobilized for the environment**
 - ✓ The awareness campaign reached almost 70% of the school community, including families and educational staff. The conferences and exhibitions organized by the students themselves have strengthened collective awareness, making trees and biodiversity shared priorities.
- **Overall school-green result** : These actions have not only greened the school, but also instilled a sustainable environmental culture among the students, who in turn become ambassadors for nature conservation.

Beneficiaries:

- ✓ 65,000 people who are members of local communities have been reached by the project, including: 31,250 women and 33,750 men.
- ✓ 15,000 pupils and students have been reached by the project, including: 722 girls and 6,278 boys.

Challenges overcome:

- Lack of resources
 - The inadequacy of the allocated budgets considerably limits the scope of the actions:
 - ✓ Buying trees, germinators and adapted tools is a high cost for schools.
 - ✓ The use of external experts for training (choice of local species, planting techniques) generates additional expenses.
 - ✓ The production of educational materials and the remuneration of speakers for awareness campaigns are a strain on already limited resources.
 - ✓ Without adequate funding, the sustainability and effectiveness of environmental projects are compromised.
- Operational Barriers and Community Engagement
 - Difficult access to targeted areas: Complicates reforestation and monitoring operations.
 - Low media coverage: Reduces the visibility of initiatives, limiting their impact and citizen mobilization.

- Disengagement of local committees: Lack of resources and training weakens their role in monitoring and maintaining plantations.



Green School: Tree planting

CONCLUSION

Initiatives led by Indigenous Women for Health and Equality (IWHE) have demonstrated a holistic and integrated approach to addressing the multidimensional challenges faced by vulnerable communities, particularly women, girls, and survivors of violence. Through the **mobile clinical approach**, the organization has provided essential medical, psychological, and economic support to survivors of violence, while also contributing to the healing of conflict-related trauma. The strengthening of Village Savings-Credit-Investment Associations (AVECI) has enabled sustainable financial empowerment, promoting the emancipation of women and their active participation in local development.

On the educational front, sexual and reproductive health training, as well as interactive theatres, have broken taboos and strengthened girls' knowledge in schools. The innovative approach of "Photovoice" has also allowed pregnant women to document and share their experiences with climate change, thus strengthening their resilience.

Finally, IWHE's efforts to promote social peace and the protection of ecosystems have been decisive. Peace clubs and inter-community meetings eased tensions in the highland regions, while green schools and environmental awareness campaigns promoted sustainable management of natural resources.

In conclusion, IWHE has been able to combine innovation, inclusion and sustainability in its interventions, creating an inspiring model for community development. By pursuing these efforts with a broader strategic vision, the organization can amplify its impact and contribute to a more equitable, resilient, and environmentally responsible future for all.

FUTURE PROSPECTS

Looking Ahead: A Commitment to Emancipation and Sustainable Development

Our vision for the coming years is based on an integrated approach to empower Indigenous women and girls, while promoting sustainable and inclusive development. Here are the priority areas that will guide our actions:

1) Education and Women's Leadership

- ✓ Human rights and dignity: Implementation of a human rights education project, strengthening the dignity and equality of indigenous women and girls.
- ✓ Vocational training: Construction of two Vocational Training Centers in Uvira and Fizi, offering skills adapted to local needs.
- ✓ Women's leadership: Active promotion of women in decision-making spheres, through mentoring and advocacy programs.

2) Economic Empowerment and Entrepreneurship

- ✓ Women's entrepreneurship: Support for the creation and development of women-led businesses, with easier access to microcredit and markets.
- ✓ Financial independence: Targeted investments to ensure the economic empowerment of Indigenous women and youth, thereby reducing structural inequalities.

3) Democratic Governance and Sustainable Peace

- ✓ Democracy and good governance: Strengthening local institutions and promoting transparency in the management of public resources.
- ✓ Reconciliation and peace: Encouraging community dialogues and mechanisms for peaceful conflict resolution, promoting social cohesion.

4) Environment and Sustainable Development

- ✓ Biodiversity protection: Concerted actions to preserve fragile ecosystems and sustainably manage protected areas.
- ✓ Climate adaptation: Innovative use of the digital storytelling Photovoice to raise awareness of climate issues among pregnant women and promote resilient practices.

5) Health and Social Innovation

- ✓ Sexual and reproductive health: Education and improved access to health services, especially for young girls.
- ✓ Professionalized mobile clinic: Modern equipment and acquisition of an ambulance to ensure quality care in isolated communities.

- ✓ Digital Security and Nutrition: Integrating technologies to strengthen nutrition education and online protection.

A Committed Vision for an Equitable and Sustainable Future

By combining education, empowerment, innovation and environmental preservation, we aspire to build a society where every Indigenous woman and youth can reach their full potential. Our commitment is focused on action, collaboration and sustainable impact, for more just, peaceful and resilient communities.

Done in Uvira on December 31, 2024

Dr. Esther ALENCE MYAMBANO



Executive Director-IWHE-NGO

