

MAnU

Mwanamke, Amani na Usalama



Women, Peace and Security

“Towards equal rights and opportunities for women and men to fully participate in the reconstruction and strengthening of peace in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC)”



Context



As a consequence of more than 25 years of ongoing conflict, the social and economic structure of the DRC has weakened. The country has one of the highest levels of gender disparity in the region. In addition, gender norms, patriarchal hierarchies and access to economic resources give more value, rights and privileges to the male sex. This has shaped men and women socially by causing them to accept patriarchal domination and its principles and stereotypes as the norm. However, women and girls are most impacted by the effects of these discriminatory practices and social norms.

Because of the crucial role that women and girls play in maintaining the social fabric in a situation of continued conflict, the **MaNU** programme is essential to help rebuild a social structure where gender equality is recognised and the environment is conducive to the full participation of women and girls.

With the implementation of NAP III by the **Netherlands Ministry of Foreign Affairs**, which applies United Nations Resolution 1325, **MaNU** is committed to structurally improving the protection of women and girls, to the transformation of adverse gender norms and ensuring the effective participation of women in conflict transformation and peacebuilding in the DRC.

The programme is implemented by a consortium consisting of: **Mensen met een Missie, CARE Nederland and Tosangana.**

Partner organisations in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC):

- Le Directoire des Organisations Féminines pour les Actions de Paix (DIOFAP)
- Sautiya Mama Mukongomani (The Voice of Congolese Women, SMM)
- Synergie des Femmes contre les Violences Sexuelles (SFVS)
- Synergie des Femmes pour la Paix et la Réconciliation des Peuples des Grands Lacs (SPR)
- Youth organisation, le Parlement d'Enfants (PARDE)
- The Diocesan Commissions "Justice et Paix" (CDJP) of the Catholic Church in the dioceses of Butembo-Beni, Goma and Uvira and the archdiocese of Bukavu
- Two advocacy associations in Kinshasa: Femmes en Action and Voix des Faibles
- CARE International in DRC



Directoire des organisations
Féminines Pour les Actions de Paix



SAUTIYA MAMA MUKONGOMANI



SYNERGIE DES FEMMES
POUR LE VICTIMES DES
VIOLENCES SEXUELLES



E.A.TOSANGANA
JUSTICE-PAIX-PARTICIPATION



SYNERGIE DES FEMMES POUR LA PAIX ET LA
RECONCILIATION DES PEUPLES DES GRANDS-LACS
D'AFRIQUE
"SPR"



CDJP Goma



CDJP-BUTEMBO



CDJP-Uvira



Bukavu



LA VOIX DES FAIBLES



CARE

Theory of Change

The **Mwanamke, Amani na Usalama (MANU)** programme aims to contribute to equal rights and opportunities for women and men and allows women and girls to fully participate in the reconstruction and strengthening of peace in North and South Kivu provinces and Kinshasa in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC).

The programme aims to establish a conducive environment for structural changes promoting gender equality.

Our cross-cutting strategies:

Engagement of Men and Youth for positive masculinity:

A journey of capacity building under the heading **positive masculinity**, principally led by CARE, integrating the formation of committed men's groups who become role models to other men in their community, in raising awareness towards a supportive attitude for equal opportunities for men and women.

Lobby and Advocacy:

A Lobby and Advocacy strategy has been developed, including actions from the local level to the national level which make it possible to mainstream actions in favour of women's participation at both the family and in decision-making bodies at different levels.

The three results areas are:

Protection:

strengthening the protection of women and girls against gender-based violence and violations of their rights in North and South Kivu.

Norms:

The transformation of social norms that hinder gender equality and promote discriminatory practices.

Participation:

Strengthen the active participation and leadership of women in conflict prevention and mediation, peacebuilding and the reconstruction efforts in North and South Kivu and Kinshasa.

Trajectories of change:

Exercise of citizenship:

Human rights defenders (men, women, and youths) and civil society groups acting against violations of women's rights and gender-based violence (GBV), enabling human rights defenders and civil society groups to take measures against violations of women's rights and gender-based violence.

Reflection within communities:

Community actors (community leaders, officials and public figures) are open to discussions about gender norms and practices that constitute a barrier to gender equality.

A challenge for women:

Women challenge existing and harmful gender norms and take action against discriminatory practices.

Space in the decision-making process:

The authorities are opening up a space for the participation of women and include their priorities in decision-making processes regarding on conflict, peace and reconstruction.

Peace advocates:

Women are active advocates for the peace and serve as mediators in their communities.

Accountability:

the political-administrative and legal authorities (including the police) implement policies, enforce laws and strengthen the local structures related to the protection of women.

Support:

victims of women's rights' violations receive adequate support and are rehabilitated.

The engagement of men and young people:

Men and young people change their attitudes and take actions that promote gender equality and act against discriminatory norms and practices.

Women's voices:

Women's groups and their leaders speak about their vision for peace and communicate with the authorities, in this way advocating to improve their participation.

Key intervention strategies:

The **creation** and **strengthening** of community-level action groups for reporting, referring and denouncing violations of the rights of women and gender-based violence (GBV): Women's Rights Activists groups (WRA), the Dynamiques Femmes, the Noyaux de paix, Focus Groups, GBV monitoring committees, and advocacy groups.

Referral: local action groups ensure that survivors of GBV are referred to care services, including hospitals, health centres and health education centres, as well as psychosocial services who are able to provide a holistic approach to the population where there has been GBV.

Following an analysis of social behaviours and action, MANU has prioritised three discriminatory norms and practices:

1. It is socially expected that women will marry at an early age.
2. It is socially expected that women and girls will not have access to inheritance.
3. It is socially expected that women will not participate in decision-making bodies.

The programme uses various channels and forms of awareness-raising such as broadcast radio sketches containing educational messages, roundtable discussions that favour inclusive dialogues between communities and local authorities, forums and fairs around ideas of change for women and mixed observation committees.

Training in prevention, mediation and conflict transformation techniques and female leadership skills.

Dissemination of national, regional and international legal instruments for the promotion of women's rights to participate in decision-making bodies. Training and strengthening of administrative, traditional and civil society organisations regarding legal instruments on the rights of women and girls to participate in decision-making bodies.

Participation of women and young people in conflict transformation and peacebuilding: The organisation of a fair of ideas and a forum of female actors for peace and change, enabling women's groups to experience their visions of peace and to engage in peace and conflict transformation.



Stories of change:



When I discovered my rights, I became a leader in my community:

"Before this programme, I was afraid to call or approach the police to report cases of women's rights violations. The MAnU programme has given me a lot of expertise in mediation, reconciliation and conflicts resolution. Now, I go to the authorities to report cases and to advocate for rights. As a result of this programme, I am now head of the avenue. When there are unsafe situations, I make a call to the police commander to intervene to restore peace and security to the neighbourhood. Every Friday I attend the Neighbourhood Security Council meeting and sometimes I am delegated by the warden of my neighbourhood to take part in the city-level security meetings for Uvira in South Kivu. Lots of people have confidence in me, I'm consulted for mediations and I can also give my point of view in different meetings."

Anne - *Dynamique des Femme, Uvira region, South Kivu.*

Change begins at home

"I got married knowing that a woman should obey her husband, but when I started learning through the MAnU programme, I understood that a woman can also take part in decision-making even in her own household. So, I started by explaining to my husband what I'd learned about managing our relationship and little by little my husband accepted it and began asking for my approval concerning decisions about our family. Currently in the WRA group I'm one of a number of women who are raising awareness in communities." Ms KAHASI Lucie de Kiwanja (*Women Rights Activist*), Rutshuru region, North Kivu.

Committed men, key allies in the drive for change

"At the start of the programme, partners were afraid of traditional authorities getting involved in activities that challenged discriminatory norms against women and girls. After following the training on the DRC's new 2016 family law which promotes, among other things, access to inheritance for girls, traditional leaders understood that they must no longer govern outside the law and that girls and boys could take on the same roles if they are educated in equality. M. NTAMBUKA, chief of the Idwji - South chiefdom, has only girls in his family and he wondered what would happen to the continuation of his chiefdom on his death. Because, according to custom, it would be one of his brothers' sons who would become chief. The chief therefore decided to appoint his daughter to replace him in his absence, for he himself had been elected deputy at the national level, something that could not have happened a few years ago. The elders of his chiefdom were very surprised because such a situation had never happened in the chiefdom of Idwji -South."

Chief NTAMBUKA of The chiefdom of Idwji-South, in South Kivu.

Know our rights to ensure meaningful participation

"In all the time we'd been there, our positions had never been considered by our male colleagues. There were neither offices nor desks for women, they had become simply companions to the men. After having taken part in the Resolution 1325 workshop, we learned about the new family law, women's rights and on the legal instruments that protect us. We were mentored in an advocacy process. We started to say "no" and gained the upper hand against all these discriminations. Today, I'm a woman with the rank of office manager and other women have been promised promotions. Many of our colleagues have made their husbands register their marriages in the civil registry. The men respect us. I also know how to see different forms of gender-based violence that we used to think of as normal. In all our meetings, we always address an aspect of gender-based violence and seek solutions."

Micheline Mukose, *General Services official at the Ministry of Social Affairs - Kinshasa, DRC.*

Lessons learned

- The three areas: Norms; Protection and Participation, are indivisible, interdependent and deserve to be reinforced simultaneously in a community for as long as they concern and are aimed at the realisation of human rights.
- The participation of local authorities in training, exchanges and discussions on social norms, protection and participation, improves their understanding of the laws and capacity for public action in favour of gender equality. Indeed, one of the main reasons for the authorities' discriminatory behaviour is their lack of control of the national laws and/or international laws promoting women's rights.
- When in a community, the capabilities of men and women are strengthened, and action groups promote a perspective of social analysis and action, a critical mass commits itself to challenge negative social norms and to promote positive and supportive practices for women's leadership and participation. The more discriminatory norms are challenged, the more women speak out, report violations and actively take part, including in decision-making bodies. This is evident during public dialogue between citizens and government (people in power), for example, when traditional leaders give people an opportunity to express their views about their daily lives based on a social analysis of norms.
- Men and boys engaged in positive masculinity and the fight against GBV can actively leverage change for the protection and participation of women, so they are also more enthusiastic about supporting women in positions of responsibility. They recognise the qualities of honesty and skills in both women and men, something that is essential for equitable socio political participation among leaders regardless of their gender.



Data illustrating the progress MAnU has made up to 2019:

- In the territories of Uvira and Rutshuru, the participation of women in decision-making positions such as heads of neighbourhoods and streets increased from 1.5% to 5%.
- The civil society and action groups have been monitoring and reporting cases of violations against the rights of women and GBV.
- Rutshuru - 200 cases have been monitored and reported by the WRA.
- Masisi - 61 cases reported; 1 case of sexual harassment reported to the national police, Uvira - 23 cases in the territory of Uvira, Lubero, 52% of cases of GBV were reported by action groups.
- Men Engage: In 2018, focus group facilitators chose 223 engaged men to be members. On that day, the chosen men, in turn, mobilised and raised awareness among 13,340 people, of whom 50.34% were men, to take part in promoting the rights of women, the fight against GBV and the transformation of discriminatory social gender norms.