

LEVERAGING FAITH-BASED NATIONAL NGOS IN CRISIS SITUATIONS CONFLICT AND WAR IN DRC

WHY FAITH-BASED ORGANIZATIONS MATTER IN CONFLICT

Faith-Based Organizations Are Often First on the Ground – and Last to Leave

Faith-based organizations (FBOs) play a critical role in conflict zones by leveraging deep community trust, existing infrastructure, and strong local networks. In times of war, they provide immediate lifesaving aid while also supporting long-term recovery, healing, and reconciliation.

Key Roles



Emergency Response

Among the first responders in crises



Direct Aid

Food, water, shelter, and medical care



Logistics & Access

Reach remote or cut-off communities



Psychosocial Support

Trauma counseling and healing



Peacebuilding

Promote dialogue and reconciliation



Trust & Access

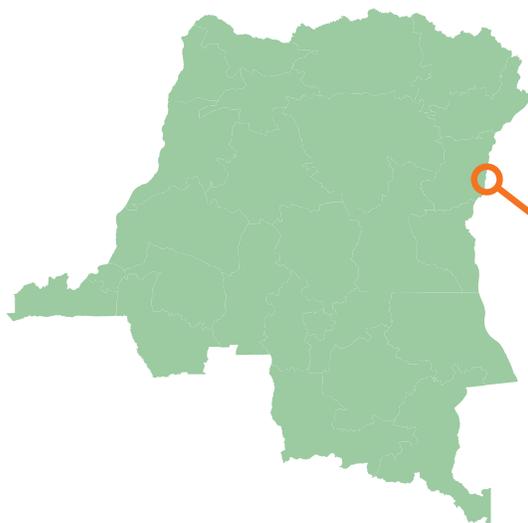
Enable entry for other humanitarian actors



Partnerships

Collaborate with NGOs, governments, and donors

THE CRISIS IN GOMA, DRC



In January 2025, Rwandan-backed M23 rebels entered Goma, triggering mass displacement, civilian casualties, sexual violence, and the collapse of essential services. Families fled by land and across Lake Kivu in makeshift boats as the city descended into chaos.

Key Data Points

- **2 million residents** affected in Goma
- **7,000+ deaths** reported
- **Hospitals overwhelmed**
- Electricity, water, and internet cut
- Airport, roads, and ports shut down
- Humanitarian aid blocked



IMA WORLD HEALTH

A Corus International organization

RAPID FAITH-BASED RESPONSE NETWORK

A Trusted Network Mobilized and Delivered Care – Fast

IMA World Health activated its long-standing faith-based network to respond immediately. Local partners identified urgent needs while international partners mobilized resources within days. Over four months, faith-based partners delivered integrated trauma care addressing both physical injuries and long-term recovery needs for conflict-affected populations.

KEY DATA POINTS

Partners: **IMA World Health, HEAL Africa Hospital, Panzi Foundation**

Supporter: **Gates Foundation**

Coverage:

- **2 reference hospitals** for inpatient trauma care
- **12 community health facilities** for outpatient services
- **14,676 patients** with health services and community health workers (CHWs) with service delivery training (153% above initial target)
- **26,918 people** reached through community-based awareness efforts on WASH and prevention of sexual violence (125% about initial target)

Services Provided

- Emergency trauma and surgical care
- Treatment of burns, shrapnel, and gunshot wounds
- Care for survivors of sexual violence
- Community-based outpatient services
- Psychosocial and trauma recovery support

WHY FAITH-BASED HEALTH PROVIDERS ARE ESSENTIAL

First Responders. Trusted Providers. Long-Term Partners.

Faith-based health providers are often the **“first and last” responders** in crises — present before, during, and long after conflict.

IMA World Health has partnered with HEAL Africa Hospital and Panzi Foundation for over **20 years**, supporting integrated health care, response to and prevention of violence against women and girls, infectious disease outbreaks, and humanitarian emergencies across the DRC.

The future of humanitarian response depends on **locally led solutions**, with national faith-based organizations increasingly serving as prime implementers, and international NGOs providing technical, financial, and capacity-strengthening support.



IMA WORLD HEALTH
A Corus International organization