



TUSHINDE UJEURI — COUNTER GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE PROGRAM

USAID | IMA WORLD HEALTH | DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO (DRC)

PROGRAM OVERVIEW

The USAID-IMA World Health Counter-Gender Based Violence Program (known locally in Swahili as “Tushinde Ujeuri”) establishes community-based social centers and supports community groups in eastern DRC to prevent and respond to sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV) with the goal of reducing violence, resolving stigma and improving holistic care for survivors. Building on the highly successful USAID Ushindi program IMA managed from 2010-2017, Tushinde uses a holistic approach to meet survivors’ basic health needs, including urgent medical care and psychosocial counseling; legal support; and socioeconomic and livelihood activities such as village savings and loan associations, literacy circles, women’s empowerment groups and more to help survivors gain financial independence and social support. Together, these activities restore health, dignity, justice and opportunity to survivors and those affected by SGBV.

ENGAGING RELIGIOUS LEADERS AND FAITH-BASED ORGANIZATIONS

IMA World Health recognizes that working with religious leaders leads to more robust acceptance and engagement by the community at large. In partnership with Tushinde’s two strong, local faith-based implementing organizations (HEAL Africa and Panzi Foundation), IMA works to instill or strengthen gender positive roles in all its activities and to increase equitable access to local opportunities for both men and women. Those in need of healing from SGBV trauma receive effective support from community-based volunteers, often religious leader themselves, who have been trained in active listening as well as social change techniques. These local volunteers not only support recovery for survivors but motivate behavior change by perpetrators. Professional therapists are also available to provide more intensive interventions for survivors as needed. Tushinde’s holistic approach - the foundation of its success - would not be possible without the help of all its partners.

PROJECT BY THE NUMBERS

- **721 community-based groups** and **86 health facilities** strengthened to initiate and lead activities to prevent and respond to SGBV
- More than **18,000** (64% female) **community volunteers** trained to promote behavior change communications and provide social services (health care, legal assistance, psychosocial support, socioeconomic reintegration) to survivors
- More than **350,000 community members** and local leaders received tailored information about SGBV prevention and response and access to SGBV-related social services and family planning
- **14,694 targeted community members** (70% female and 30% males) actively engaged in project-promoted socioeconomic activities
- **432 survivors** of sexual violence enrolled in socioeconomic reintegration activities and 48 in literacy circles

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