

Opportunity for Partnership with Simba, Democratic Republic of the Congo

Ongoing war in this African nation—one of the poorest in the world—has displaced nearly 1.4 million and more than 5 million have been killed since 1996.

The community of Simba is home to almost 40,000 people, 24,000 of whom are children. Families often face natural disasters, including windstorms and heavy rains. Many homes and public buildings—including schools—are destroyed due to harsh weather and poor construction. Some areas of Simba also struggle with soil erosion, which damages crops and limits food production.

Most families here used to earn income at mining and brewery companies. When these closed, many in the community were left unemployed. Parents cannot afford to provide for their families' basic needs, and youth will often leave school to work as artisanal miners to support their families. Children's wellbeing is also threatened by issues including unsafe drinking water, unhygienic sanitation practices, and limited knowledge of their rights.



Community Need:

Economic Development

- Many caregivers suffer from unemployment from collapse of key mining and brewing companies and cannot afford basic care for their families.
- Community members lack training to successfully implement new income generating activities including growing crops and cultivating livestock.

Water

- Many families do not have access to safe drinking water forcing women to travel long distances robbing them of time at home and opportunities to generate income.
- There is no leadership or water management committee to improve conditions.

Child Protection

- Education costs force children out of school and into dangerous working conditions.
- Community members know little about child rights including essentials like birth registration that equip children to be full members of the community.

Community Plans:

Economic Development

- Empower parents to find alternative sources of income.
- Provide agricultural training and promote savings groups.

Water

- Increase access to clean and safe drinking water.
- Improve sanitation in homes and schools.
- Promote water management initiatives and advocate for governmental support.

Child Protection

- Disengage children from labour and support them through rehabilitation programs.
- Protect families from malnutrition and chronic illness.

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