# 2017

EASTERN DR.Congo- KIVU FORSAKEN AND A FORGOTTEN WORLD VIS-A-VIS HIV/AIDS, TB, MALARIA AND MAL NUTRUTION?

JOIN US TODAY AND IMPACT THIS COMMUNITY

info@pepahumandignity.org, info.pepaorg@gmail.com

Pleaders of children and Elderly People at risk/ Plaideurs des Enfants et des Personnes Agées à risque





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The Eastern Congo, DRC is a region which known decades of civil wars and mass human rights violations. The country has made a record on the negative aspect to be known and called as the world capital of rape/sexual violence where women and children are the most victims including the death of more than 6 million of civilians.



This situation has generated a high rate of HIV/AIDS as consequence of rape, TB infection among women and children and thousands of orphaned children due either to civil war or to HIV/AIDS and malnutrition of children and human rights issues.

PEPA /Organization (Pleaders of children and Elderly People at risk) is working hard in Eastern Congo to advocate for the respect of human

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health rights. services. access to humanitarian and medical assistance to women and children living with HIV/AIDS and other diseases, for this, the North Kivu province is considered as a region with the highest rate of HIV/AIDS cases, TB, and malnutrition of children because of lack of adequate support. Thousands of women in Kivu are abandoned on their own risks and exposed to death because of lack of HIV/AIDS treatment, lack of economic support to the level of not having food, water, no homes, lack of care, psychological support and children cannot access to education because no one to cover for them the school expenses or paying the school fee.

Through the Services offered by PEPA to the local communities which are still much limited, the

children are founding hope through the efforts done by Mr. Zagabe, the founder of PEPA and considered as the father of every hopeless child in Kivu due to his compassion and love to the children without discrimination.

For this on the birthday of Mr. Zagabe Appolinaire and other staff of PEPA, He said the best celebration is when having time with the hopeless people by encouraging them and for this he decided to celebrate his birthday with Women and girls living with HIV, Orphans, children living with HIV/AIDS and malnourished children of Mugunga, 27km from Goma, in North Kivu, The aim to



celebrate with the children was to show them love and support and let the children and women know that their concern is everyone's concern. Mr Zagabe with the great support of PEPA team organized a Birthday party celebration in Mugunga where he shared food with about 400 children in difficult situation including women victims of rape and living with HIV/AIDS.

2017

Would like to work in partnership with or volunteer with us, contact us today. We thank you for your determination and decision of being part of the solution of ending HIV, AIDS, TB, Malaria and Malnutrition and promotion of Human rights in the KIVUs (North kivu, South Kivu, Province Orientale and Maniema),

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#### CHALLENGES FACED BY WOMEN AND THE CHILDREN

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During the party, beautiful messages were written for Appolinaire Zagabe 's birthday, and the major message from children was to request for educational support, food for nutrition problem, and



counseling in order to better integrate the communities.

Women requesting for food support, medical support,...

### HIV, AIDS, TB - MALARIA URGENT CONCERN IN EASTERN DR.CONGO

Several people living with HIV / AIDS in Kivu, specifically in North and South Kivu Provinces, Maniema province, Oriental province, are abandoned to their sad fate.

In North Kivu, some of them not registered at the health center near their homes; do not have access to treatment because of long distances (high transport costs) to take medicines and other Fees charged upon receipt of medication at some few clinics. Others, on the other hand, receive their



medicines but do not use them regularly because of lack of food (food inadequacy). In these two cases, the problem arises acutely because they live in poverty, that is to say they do not have an income allowing them to have a healthy diet and to cover the costs of transport or Withdrawal of drugs.

Most often, women are more screened than their male spouses or sexual partners and accept their HIV status more than men. As a result, some

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women share their medications with their spouses or sexual partners because they dissimilate themselves for fear of being stigmatized or discriminated against in society. This leads to ineffective treatment because the couple consumes less medication than due (under medication).

Other people living with HIV / AIDS conceal themselves the more because those who recognize their HIV status do not receive adequate medical or nutritional assistance. Young people infected with HIV / AIDS, aged between 18 and 28, conceal themselves and engage in sex work for fear of being stigmatized. This increases the risk of spreading HIV / AIDS.

In Masisi, more precisely at ....., returning camps of the displaced people of Mugunga ... do not know which saint to vow in the sense that there is neither medical assistance nor food assistance. This accelerates the negative impact of HIV / AIDS in their bodies more precisely the deterioration of their state of health. Since the closure of displaced persons camps ... ... many people living with HIV / AIDS do not know where to sleep, do not have to eat, do not have access to Anti Retro Viraux and are unable to educate their children. This situation highlights vulnerability of People Living with HIV / AIDS and their children. As a result, they are traumatized by the supposed reduction in



their longevity, the inability to take care of their children whom they assume to be orphaned, the



self-guilt of not being careful to avoid infection HIV / AIDS, etc.

These problems require an **urgent** and lasting intervention to remedy the ordeal of people living with HIV / AIDS in Goma, Rutshuru and Masisi and The Kivu in general,

Some survivors of rape hide to take advantage of medications received by their spouses or sexual partners, medical care will be provided by couples, for those living in a formal or informal couple, in order to

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avoid sharing Anti Retro Viraux (individual dose ) Between two sexual partners or spouses to ensure the effectiveness of each person's treatment. They will benefit from food assistance, As the problems they face have resulted in trauma, psychosocial support centers will ensure their skills and awareness to enable them to have hope and a better life.

ONGOING CAMPAIGN UNJUST & UNHELTHY CAMPAIGN for prisoners in DR.Congo



Prisons in the DRC for most dated and backed to colonial times and some have been not really renovated, they are characterized by a large dilapidation with consequences on respect for basic rights and dignity of prisoners, the ability of the current prisons is generally reduced, while the population grew. The situation is particularly difficult for women and minor children, marked in particular by the lack of characteristics for which were designed to meet its objectives. During PEPA team visits in prisons we regrettably saw the poor living conditions of prisoners and found out that woman and children are most vulnerable and highly exposed to risks. The fact is, many women and children are exposed to HIV/AIDS, TB, Malaria and those living with AIDs have almost no access to health facilities, etc.

Over a third of women and minor children in prisons in the DRC are for minor offenses and non-violent and other arrests for arbitrary of the detainees we interviewed had committed offenses related to the economic situation. Women and minors in detention face serious hygiene problems, exacerbated by overcrowding and insufficient and inadequate health infrastructure. The physiology of women and children require specific measures for care of health and hygiene rules particularly women during menstruation periods, during pregnancy and after childbirth must be closely

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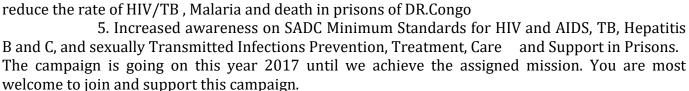
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monitored and children who need growth have only one meal a day. Insufficient and inadequate prison conditions affect the entire prison population but have a more severe impact on women and minor children to such an extent that they are often doing very shocked and have no fear of prison or even commit crimes. Thus, after conducting investigations in prison settings immersing himself in this situation, PEPA / NGO is an organization with a vision to safeguard human dignity, launched the campaign "Unjust and Unhealthy" in French "Injuste & Malsain".

With the financial support of Aids and Rights for Southern Alliance (ARASA), a strong partner alliance of PEPA/Organization, the campaign was launched in Goma by Minister of Justice on 23rd September, 2016 at La Joie Plazza Hotel, Goma,

#### **EXPECTED OUTCOMES:**

- **1.** Increased Budget allocation on Prison and access to Health facilities and improve the living conditions of prisoners,
- **2.** Influenced duty bearers to take action on Prison Health budget and the living condition of children and women in prisons
- Increased awareness Prisoners Health Rights among Prisoners and all stake holders
- **4.** Improvement of the living conditions of the prisoners, access to justice,





**GENDER AND EQUITY, Women Thrive Alliance** 

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PEPA team has been working hard in the Democratic Republic of Congo through various compaign



ensure gender issue is taken into consideration, with the collaboration of the Women Thrive Alliance, a Network of organizations promoting gender and equity in the world and in which PEPA/Organization is part. Various campaign are going on and reaching out in various schools, Churches, public places, and advocating and lobbying for strong institutions taking into account



promotion and respect of gender as a Human rights concern. Promoting the SDGS (ODDs) in French.

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#### YOUTH EMPOWENMENT PROGRAM

At PEPA/Organization, we agreed there are many ways you can empower young people, and one of these ways, we decided to start a soccer team of young people in the name of the organization.



• We are happy to share with you the development of our Soccer team of refugees in Uganda, and the Democratic Republic of Congo with the aim of empowering young people, refugees from different countries in Africa: We initiated this teams in March 2016.

It is a brave and champion team due to its multicultural background, the team is made of refugees from 8 countries and Uganda makes the 9th nationality.

Many young people picked interest in the team in the way to be entertained in the football instead of surrounding in streets developing risky behaviors.

So far we have refugees from Congo DR, Burundi, Rwanda, Somalia, Sudan, Ugandan, Kenyans and the coach from Nigeria.

### Why we need you?

 We are calling for you to join and support in raising the funds to enables us to sustain our refugee players, disadvantaged in assisting their basic needs such as food, clothing, buying

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soccer equipment, and supporting in emergency medical aid and getting some support when practicing with various football clubs.

#### How we got there

- We started this team in march 2016 in Kampala and the one in Congo, Goma in June 2016, the
  most interesting and challenging is when bringing youth who fled their home countries to seek
  for asylum and when not speaking the same language, it was not an easy task, but it turned to a
  success to bring together a young generation of youth from 6 countries together to share and
  decide on their destiny to become the global champions, it is surely exciting.
- Our teams are experiencing challenges, first of all raising the full equipment for both Congo and Uganda team, assisting their basic needs in terms of food, clothing, accommodation, medical assistance.

### **Recognition and Acknowledgement**

 We first of all thank the Governments of DR.Congo, Uganda and the United States for allowing PEPA/Organization to empower the Young generation in sports, much thanks to the existing families of refugees that are encouraging them to join the team and to the PEPA staff for their devotion and determination to have and make strong the PEPA. FC team and to you who is reading and watching us.



## Join My Team and Spread the Word!

- Our thanks go to everyone for accepting and giving the opportunity to raise the voice for these community young teams and calling for support and involvement to our young team, for we believe together we can change the world and bring hope to the hopeless.
- Follow our Soccer team facebook
   page at:

https://www.facebook.com/PEPAFC1/

• Watch the player's interviews: <a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=APtCaSgFDUQ">https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=APtCaSgFDUQ</a>

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- sports@pepahumandignity.org
- Thank you to everyone reading us and accepting to support and joining PEPA/Organization to make strong this team.

#### MEET PEPA- TEAM TODAY IN DR.CONGO OR OTHER REPRESENTATION



You can join us by sending an email to: info.pepaorg@gmail.com, info@pepahumandignity.org

**If you are in the United States**, We are located at the address 538, Grace Street, Excelsior, Minnesota 55331, United States, or send an email to our US Chairperson **Ms. Jennifer Valentine** at: <a href="mailto:jennifervalentine@pepahumandignity.org">jennifervalentine@pepahumandignity.org</a> or <a href="mailto:rebeccaJASPER@pepahumandignity.org">rebeccaJASPER@pepahumandignity.org</a>

**In case you are in Europe**, you can mail our representation, Freibrechts 3, 87509 Immenstadt, Germany or email to <a href="mailto:zagabe@pepahumandignity.org">zagabe@pepahumandignity.org</a>

We thank you for your collaboration and support PEPA/Organization

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