



Femmes Africa Solidarité

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PROJECT: Women's Advocacy On Human Rights And Fundamental Freedoms In Eastern Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC)

PERIOD: 2009 - 2012

AMOUNT: 1'014'974 EURO (80% EU / 20% UNIFEM)

DONORS: EIDHR (European Initiative for Democracy and Human Rights of the European Union) and UNIFEM (United Nations Development Fund for Women)

PARTNERS: *Cadre Permanent de Concentration des Femmes Congolese (CAFCO)*, the Government of the DRC, Association of Women's Journalists , radio OKAPI, MONUC, UNFPA, UNDP, UNIFEM, UNICEF, ICRC, local NGOs, and organizations in the "Gender is my Agenda" pan African campaign.

DESCRIPTION

In the DRC, fundamental freedoms and human rights are compromised and often abused. Human security is at risk and civil society operates with difficulty. Women, and particularly those at the community level, remain unaware of the rights granted to them by law due to traditional discriminatory values and lack of education. In November 2008, the *Special Rapporteur* on human's rights, labeled the situation in North and South Kivu, and parts of the Orientale province as the worst crisis of violence against women that she has so far encountered. This violence is causing complete physical and psychological destruction of women with implications for the entire society.

In this dramatic context, this EU funded Action will enable these women to advocate effectively to their peers, and key local, national, and regional stakeholders to mitigate the situation, and thereby directly contribute to the EU EIDHR's aim to assist civil society to become an effective force for political reform and defense of human rights in the DRC.

RESULTS

A large number of women in the DRC, Great Lakes region and Africa in general are sensitized on their human rights and fundamental freedom. The women targeted by the project will feel empowered and skilled to bring about a real positive change in their lives and communities. This will have a cascade effect and will contribute to behavioral changes locally, nationally, sub-regionally, regionally and internationally.

This project will capitalize on what Femmes Africa Solidarité (FAS) has already done in the DRC such as the creation of the national women's platform CAFCO, the Gender & Parity Network of Parliamentarians, strengthen overall CAFCO capacity to work as a democratic platform and add grassroots priorities to FAS overall national, sub-regional, regional and international advocacy programmes. The inclusion of women from grassroots communities into CAFCO will strengthen the organization and their women's advocacy efforts in the Great lakes region.

RELATED ACTIVITIES

This Action will be complementary to the different FAS projects currently being implemented in the DRC such as: Building Democratic Institutions through Gender Equality in the DRC, The Regional Project for the Establishment of the National Action Plans for the Implementation of UN Security Resolution 1325 in Burundi, Rwanda and DRC as well as FAS ongoing advocacy activities which are taking place at the regional and international levels with women from other African countries, one of the main one being the "Gender is my agenda" pan-African campaign gathering more than 40 African organizations.