

Voices OF HOPE

Democratic Republic of the Congo

In the Democratic Republic of the Congo, PWRDF has partnered with the PANZI Foundation and Maison Dorcas in a new phase of a successful project which began in 2019. This second phase – which began in October 2023 and will run until September 2024 – places a heavy emphasis on working with victims of Sexual and Gender Based Violence (SGBV) to build agricultural skills and create economic independence.

Across the country, ongoing war has created a deeply unstable and unsafe environment for hundreds of thousands of women. Rape and sexual assault are often used by soldiers as a tactic of war. With nowhere to go, Maison Dorcas provides services and support to survivors of SGBV so they can heal and safely reintegrate into their communities.

Fields, agricultural implements, seed, goats, pigs and fishing equipment are being distributed during this phase of the project, which is operating primarily in Bukavu, the capital of the province of South Kivu. Agricultural success has been proven to boost survivors' self-esteem and facilitate their reintegration back into their families and communities, while the increase in financial autonomy mitigates the risk of becoming a victim to SGBV again.





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