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action

L

leadership
development

Community-based prevention of fistula

North Kivu
Democratic Republic of Congo

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Study of 63 vvf patients at HEAL Africa in March:

 43 obstructed labour

 13 gang rape and torture

 7 surgical errors

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Surgical errors (11%)

Don't laugh at them -
Go out and help them

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Sexual violence 20%

Community of zero-tolerance of
sexual violence

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Obstetrical fistula 68%

You say:

All the medical stuff – facilities, personnel,
equipment, partographs

She says:

Who will look after my field? My husband? My
children?

My mother delivered at home – she cost my father
nothing

How can I get there?

How will I pay?

I trust our local midwife – no one has ever died in
her hands

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Our Safe Motherhood programs

Masisi Territory, Masisi Health zone with 16 health centres

Started in April 2006

Rutshuru Territory, Birambizo Health zone with 31 health centres

Started in May 2007

Lubero Territory, Kayna Health Zone, with 19 Health centres.

Started in Octobre, 2007

Walikale Territory, Walikale Health Zone, with 14 health zone

Started in November 2007.

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What we do

Training sessions

- 📖 Training health workers
 - Nurses and surgeons
 - Midwives
- 📖 Training traditional helpers,
- 📖 Training Nehemiah committees and local leaders to raise awareness in the community
- 📖 Maternity insurance: training women of motherhood age in solidarity groups for Income Generating Activities

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1. Training of health workers in the Health zones

A HEAL Africa and
IPS/PNSR team
training the Health
Workers



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**The training of
traditional helpers,
reconciling them with
workers in health
centers**



**As a result, traditional
helpers refer deliveries
to health centres.**



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**Local leaders and
the Nehemiah
committees
trained to
reinforce the
message**

- Zero-tolerance of
sexual violence**
- Safe motherhood**
- Family planning**



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Getting the
message to the
community

Reinforcing the
message on Safe
Motherhood,

and

Showing how to
access quality care
through solidarity
groups, a kind of
maternity medical
insurance.



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**Mothers of childbearing age are formed into
maternity insurance groups.
Elected leaders of these solidarity groups
receive funds for collective Income
Generating Activities.**



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It is crucial to follow these groups closely to ensure their success, so that mothers can afford better obstetrical care.

Men help.

This reinforces social cohesion



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Delivery rooms
receive
equipment

More appropriate
delivery tables
were provided to
health centres.



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After the training midwives received equipment for delivery rooms.



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The post partum
rooms needed
basic equipment

They are
receiving
mattresses given
by the safe
motherhood
program



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Surgical room without electricity



Caesarean operation conducted at 7pm at Katwe
(reference health centre)
by Dr Kambale Katsuva John

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Six health centres received Caesarian kits and one received a generator for their surgical room through the Safe Motherhood program.



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Because of the poverty, newborns do not have clothes



Synergy of programs: women fistula patients are sewing baby layettes for these newborn children.



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Solidarity groups: Foster mothers take care of children orphaned by their mother's death and abandoned by their family members.



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The traditional helpers receive kits after training and completing a test of their skills



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Trust



The traditional helpers in uniforms after the proclamation of their examination results

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After being trained, traditional helpers sensitize others from different villages to come for training too.



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4. Comments

- **Data collection is delayed by:**
 1. **The general nurses' strike in the DRC in November and December 2007, April 2008**
 2. **The war in 3 of 4 territories 2007, 2008**

Business monitoring of solidarity groups shows:

- **Capital intact**
- **Use of funds to pay CPN, deliveries, evacuations and C-sections**
- **Assistance to orphans, fostering**

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4. Comments cont.

Trained 240 Traditional helpers, (100%)

120 nurses in clinics, (100%)

**480 leaders of self-help medical
insurance groups. (100%)**

**2031 women members in 78 maternity
insurance groups in Kayna**

**2000 women members in 56 maternity
insurance groups in Birambizo**

There are 5 groups in Walikale

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Don't get bogged down!

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