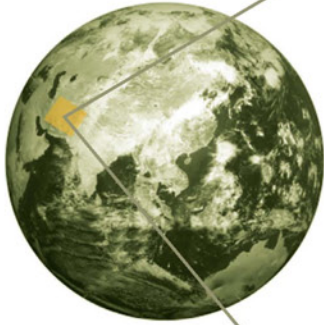


Democratic Republic of the Congo



Located in Central Africa
Democratic Republic of the Congo
is the 3rd largest country in Africa.



A message from Christine Karumba Country Director, Democratic Republic of the Congo

Amid widespread violence and massive human suffering, Women for Women International-DRC is responding to the needs of thousands of women who are threatened by war and in urgent need of assistance.

The women in our classrooms are poor and afraid. They don't want to lose the small gains they have made toward a stable life. Completing the Women for Women International program is a way to a self-sustaining life that will enable them to support their families with the skills they have learned.

With your help, we teach women to provide for themselves, to speak out against gender-based violence, to pass the lessons they've learned on to their communities. This program is often the last glimmer of hope for Congolese women, after all they've suffered.

Your support of women in the DRC is saving lives. I thank you.

Christine Karumba



Women waiting to fill out enrollment forms, DRC

IN BRIEF

The war in the Congo has been raging on and off since 1998. Years of conflict have profoundly affected the women in the Democratic Republic of the Congo. The country's economy has been decimated,

infrastructure has been destroyed and violence has driven out investment and business. Many women have also lost male relatives to the war and are now left to support their families.

In addition to the lack of basic necessities and humanitarian aid, women and girls have endured unspeakable horrors as a result of the conflict in the DRC. Women have been victims of war, murder, torture and mutilation, forced migration, starvation, rape and sexual violence.

In addition to regular job skills training, Women for Women International offers specialized stress management and trauma counseling to Congolese rape survivors.

Language: French, Lingala, Swahili

Life expectancy (female): 55.8 years

Life expectancy (male): 52.22 years

Population: 66,514,506

Per capita income: \$300

Unemployment: N/A

Literacy (female): 55.1%

- 37% of our program participants can read more than their name

- 36% of our program participants can write more than their name

Literacy (male): 76.2%

Access to safe drinking water: 45%

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A Day In the Life

A typical Congolese woman wakes up early to pray, prepares breakfast if there's food left over from the day before, sweeps her home, and heads out to work.

If she lives in a rural area, she'll spend her day fetching water, collecting firewood, tending to her farm, and trying to put food together for the evening meal, often the only meal of the day.

If she lives in the city, she might do petty trading for cash in the local market. In the evenings, she'll prepare dinner – usually cassava flour and beans – and keep tending to her home and children.

One Woman's Story: Honorata

Honorata Kizende's life story is marked by hardship, horrific violence, social isolation – and now hope.

Honorata was a sex slave, kidnapped and kept in captivity by armed militias in eastern Congo for almost a year. After she escaped, the stigma of rape made her family reject her.

Alone and destitute, she found refuge in a friend's house and was raped again when armed men looted the property.

Honorata went to Women for Women International for help rebuilding her life. After graduating from our Sponsorship program, Honorata now runs a small tie-dye business with a group of fellow graduates. She has pride in her work, and the stability of her life is helping to heal her trauma.

Honorata also advocates for an end to sexual violence, and calls on members of her community to restore the rights of women who have gone through rape and stigmatization.



HOW DO I SAY?

Hello	Jambo
How are you?	Habari gani?
How is your family?	Habari za jamaa lako
Please tell me about yourself	Tafazali unijulishe habari zako binafsi.
My name is . . .	Jina langu . . .
I am happy to write you	Nina furaha kubwa ya kukuandikia (barua).
I am thinking of you	Niko nawaza ju yako
Congratulations	Hongera!
Thank You	Aksanti
Goodbye	Kwa heri ya kuonana

