



TRAUMA HEALING

Democratic Republic of the Congo

SPRING 2021 UPDATE



STORIES OF IMPACT

“Trauma healing saved me from suicide”

In the northeastern part of the Democratic Republic of Congo, thousands of people have experienced significant trauma from years of conflict and war, poverty, disease, and other incredibly challenging circumstances. In some cases, it leads individuals to consider putting an end to their lives. We at Wycliffe, like you, believe that God’s Word is redemptive and can bring true healing and hope to people’s lives when it seems like there is none. Through this trauma healing ministry, Kabou* has experienced this first-hand.

Kabou* suffered for many years as a result of her husband’s theft and fraud. Repeatedly, she found herself with nothing, and with many debts to repay. Her husband then stole from her while she was pregnant, leaving her with nothing. Kabou says, “That day, I wanted to drink poison and end my life but, thanks to the teachings I had received at trauma healing, I had already resolved not to harm myself.”

Later, after reconciling with her husband, he stole from her brother and fled. “The day we went looking for him, I thought about throwing myself into a river to drown myself. Thank God that the trauma healing training I received saved me from doing so.”

When Kabou’s husband returned, the elders and a trauma healing program facilitator counselled him. As a result, he returned the money to his brother-in-law and appears to have changed his ways. We pray that Biblical counseling and accompaniment will lead Kabou’s husband to true repentance and trust in Jesus as his saviour. And Kabou has a message for you. She says, “I praise God and am thankful for the people who support this project.”

A family begins to reconcile after a murder

Gali’s* wife was murdered by his mistress. His former mother-in-law was very angry and had a strong desire for revenge. The trauma healing facilitator managed to calm her fierce thoughts of vengeance. The facilitator also pushed Gali and his mother to take steps towards addressing this deep wound in the heart of Gali’s former mother-in-law. It has come to a stage where all have agreed to meet together, with the facilitator, for a dialogue. Now there is potential to move past living as enemies. You are supporting facilitators as they navigate these difficult situations and offer counsel rooted in God’s Word.



STORIES OF IMPACT (CONTINUED)

Positive testimonies are shared

People are spontaneously coming to the facilitators to talk about their problems and to seek spiritual or moral help. As they receive Scripture-based counsel, many are experiencing healing. As well, the widows who are ministering to prisoners have led several incarcerated people to Christ.

Many who received healing of their emotional wounds have shared testimonies of forgiveness of their enemies, restoration of broken relationships and growing inner peace.

One woman shared, "While I was refusing to forgive, I often wanted to kill myself. Since I chose to forgive, however, I feel peace in my heart and renewed strength and energy in my body."

Experiencing Christ's forgiveness can lead people to forgive others for the pain they have caused them. Thank you for supporting this important ministry. You are helping bring emotional and spiritual transformation to people's lives in the Congo.



Recent Highlights (In The Past Six Months)

- More than 2,000 people received trauma, grief or personal counselling over the past six months.
- Hundreds more received training as caregivers or facilitators in the past six months. Now, almost 5,000 people in the Isiro region have been trained to provide emotional and spiritual care to those suffering from trauma.
- 350 trauma healing facilitators provided training in their local churches and communities.



Upcoming Goals

- Add 350 new course facilitators this year. These new facilitators will join the effort to train at least 2,000 more trauma caregivers (peer mentors)!
- Continue to provide ever-increasing counsel and care to those in need. There are currently close to 1,000 people being ministered to every month.
- Translate the trauma healing manual into three more local languages: Budu, Mangbetu and Pazande.



Pray with us

Dear Lord, as this trauma healing initiative continues to grow, we pray that you would enable the teams to continue to thrive. May thousands more experience the healing and freedom from trauma that you offer in your Word.

We pray for your blessing on the congregations and their communities as they seek your healing.

God, we ask you to pave the way so that the trauma healing manual can be translated into Budu, Mangbetu and Pazande. We thank you for making yourself known in dark circumstances, and we pray for your kingdom to come into all wounded lives and communities in the Congo. In Jesus' name, Amen.

* pseudonyms