



Trauma Healing

DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO



Quick Facts

Potential population impacted:

More than two million

Number of languages served:

The workbook is available in 5 languages.

Geographic area:

Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC)

Timeline: 2012-2021



Focus:

- Trauma healing courses for pastors and laymen
- Translation and distribution of trauma healing books.



Goals:

- Train new trauma healing seminar facilitators
- Train new caregivers (mentors) to come alongside traumatized people
- Print and distribute trauma healing manuals to facilitator trainees
- Print and distribute booklets of The Kande Story, a book which helps the church minister to AIDS patients and their families

Snapshot:

The Democratic Republic of the Congo is a country containing nearly every valuable natural resource. Unfortunately, this natural wealth has helped keep this country in conflict and civil war for decades.

Trauma healing provides comfort and hope to people who have experienced violence, sexual assault, disease, death, and the destruction of their homes. This initiative is taking place in the Isiro region of the northeastern part of the Democratic Republic of the Congo, where Bible translation and literacy work are being carried out.

Challenges:

Wycliffe staff saw the need for the trauma healing initiative when translation staff in Eastern Congo were too traumatized to continue their work.

The Democratic Republic of the Congo is the poorest country in the world. Most Congolese still live below the poverty line of \$1.25 a day.

A civil war ignited unspeakable violence and brutality over the past 20+ years. As a result, many Congolese, particularly those living in eastern DRC, have been traumatized, live in poverty or have been displaced.

The relevance of these workshops is triggering a constant stream of new requests for training. The need is tremendous and the resources are limited. Most pastors and church leaders lack the training, resources, and capacity to address the trauma they encounter. In most cases, victims are left with little or no moral, spiritual, and physical assistance.

The Plan:

Train and equip church leaders and peer counsellors to help victims of trauma: The goal is for every town in the Isiro region to have at least one trauma healing trainer available. Every local church body will also have at least one trained mentor/counsellor. This will happen through workshops and a book called *Healing the Wounds of Trauma*. Though the book was initially written to minister in the Congolese context, this resource has since been translated and used in 200+ languages worldwide.

Minister directly to traumatized people: Peer counsellors and support groups are in place. Leaders also advocate for trauma victims with local and national authorities.

Enable Bible translation and literacy teaching to take place: The trauma healing program also ministers to local believers involved in Bible translation, freeing them to continue translating the Scriptures. Additionally, trauma healing lessons are translated into the local languages, ensuring that thousands more experience emotional freedom.

The Impact:

Healing brings peace and transformation. In the words of one participant, "This workshop has really been like medicine for us. We are seeing Congolese gain inner peace as they come to terms with their past and forgive their oppressors."

Thousands have been reached through these workshops and booklets. Jeanne is one of them. She says, "Before I had a chance to take this training, I suffered tremendously. I held grudges; I didn't forgive those who hurt me; I was a slanderer, quarrelled with members of my family and I was often sick... Since I've put into practice the decisions I made during the trauma healing course, I am living in joy with my husband and children... I no longer have the desire to return evil for evil... The new collaboration in my family has permitted us to achieve important goals; we have planted a rice crop, bought a piece of land, and many other things."

In the words of Uyama, a trauma healing participant who has gone from being a prostitute to a Bible college student, "**Thank you to those who support this program that has come to recover many souls in our land. May the Lord reward them a hundredfold for what they have given.**"



Your financial gifts and prayer can help bring the Bible to thousands of people in DRC who have never heard the Good News.



...so is my word that goes out from my mouth: It will not return to me empty, but will accomplish what I desire and achieve the purpose for which I sent it.

Isaiah 55:11 (NIV)

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