

Update: DRC Trauma Healing

DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO



Summer 2019

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Progress

In the most recent quarter

- 482 traumatized people were helped through counselling.
- 25 leaders, and another 25 church leaders, are implementing the trauma healing program in their neighbourhoods or referring members of their congregations.
- 75 people were trained in trauma healing at level 1, and 50 were trained at level 2.
- 675 caregivers were trained in peer-mentorship.
- 19 facilitators were trained in facilitating trauma healing workshops for children.
- 100 more trauma healing guidebooks are available.

Stories of Impact

Incredible life transformation

A project leader reports, “As a result of the workshops, many people have adopted positive behaviours after receiving counselling. Broken marriages are restored, those despairing because of failure or grief are making a fresh start in their lives, and people are sincerely forgiving their enemies. People are revealing the secret things in their lives to unburden themselves and find relief.

“Some who were devoted to occult practices have become good counsellors, to turn others away from bad practices. A few leaders who combine occultism with faith in God now repent and pray for their own deliverance and that of their people!”

Freedom from panic

Trauma healing has helped Efe* find peace and calm, despite conflict. This is a great relief after a bout of panic nearly caused her to lose her baby.

“One day, the rebels entered our village and I saw people run in every direction. Suddenly, I saw the attackers coming into my yard. My baby and a little dog were beside me. Afraid, I grabbed my baby and tied him to my back while I was running. Once I was far into the bush, I heard a dog barking right behind me. It was then that I realized that, in rushing to save myself, I was carrying the little dog instead of my child.

“Without a moment of reflection, I tossed the dog down and ran back to the village where I found the militants in front of the door of my house. Without saying a word, I entered the house, found my baby, scooped him up, and ran back into the bush. Despite the shouts and threats of the militants, I did not stop.

“From that day on, I lived in great fear, preparing a travel bag each evening before going to bed, and ensuring my child was always at my side for fear that I might forget him if I needed to escape.

“The lessons I learned during the trauma healing workshops have helped me. I learned about the behavioural disturbances that affect people who are surprised by the attacks, how to prepare when you hear news of nearby attacks, and other lessons. These have allowed me to find calm and avoid panicking.”

Pray with us

- Jesus, we pray that you would continue to draw traumatized people to yourself. Please speak to people’s hearts as they learn about you and your mercy. We pray for your healing power to rain down on these communities.
- Thank you, Lord, that workshops have taken place in dangerous ‘no-go’ areas, and that some roads have been repaired. We pray for the restoration of the roads and agriculture in Haut-Uélé and for the reconstruction of the bridge, as these will improve lives and allow this trauma healing ministry to expand, and for more people to hear the words of the Prince of Peace.
- Jesus, we pray for peace in the DRC. End the conflict and heal the traumatized. We pray for relief from the Ebola disease, which is affecting many in the cities and spreading death, pain, grief, and fear throughout the country.

Quick facts

Potential population impacted
More than two million

Number of languages served
The workbook is available in five languages

Focus ministry
Trauma healing courses for pastors and laymen; translation and distribution of trauma healing books

Geographic area
Democratic Republic of the Congo

Timeline
2012-2021

Current Goals

- See all church communities in this region take on the ministry of trauma healing.
- Sustain and expand existing work into additional provinces of the DRC.
- See master facilitator Calliste Duabo go back to school and earn a master’s degree in transformative leadership.
- Offer more workshops within the villages.

You are helping traumatized people find healing in Christ. Thank you for supporting this important ministry in the Democratic Republic of the Congo. We hope you are encouraged by the tremendous impact of your gift.



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