



Capacity-Sharing is Key: Women-Led Organization Advancement in DRC

Context and Rationale

This case study focuses on the organizations Women in Action for Human Dignity (WAHDI) and Promotion of Women for the Reconstruction of Ituri (PFRI). It aims to demonstrate the progress achieved through the implementation of the Women's Voice and Leadership in Humanitarian Settings (WHS) project, particularly through capacity-strengthening activities.

This case study provides information on learnings that can be leveraged to improve the performance of women-led organizations (WLOs). Thus, we will present the learning emerging from the experiences of two WLOs. WAHDI, which is based in North Kivu, advocates for the rights of young girls. It demonstrates how the WHS project has strengthened its potential in documentation and reporting through the institutional review carried out by the lead organizations Dynamique des Femmes Juristes (DFJ) and Sauti ya Mama Mkongomani (SMM). PFRI works in the field of peace, peaceful cohabitation, and the socio-economic reintegration of women and girls. It demonstrates the impact of project support regarding humanitarian

engagement, actively participating in local mechanisms.

Progress Made

Women in Action for Human Dignity (WAHDI) in the North Kivu province

70%

regularization of documents by WAHDI organization

WAHDI's capacity assessments strengthened their administrative and financial documentation. In completing the institutional review, WAHDI now has almost 70% of its administrative and financial documents including:

- Legal documents;
- Administrative and financial procedures manuals;
- Documents granting legal status (F92).

All collaboration with different public, private, or humanitarian partners requires the attainment of a minimum of administrative or financial criteria to initiate a partnership process, in particular, the official registration and legalization of

the organization's various documents. These documents allow it to ensure its visibility vis-à-vis internal and external partners, professionalizing its work.



Completion of this regularization will be essential to gain and restore the confidence of the various partners working with WAHDI, because WAHDI's various documents allow it to be accountable and establish transparent management. Thus, WAHDI is becoming more competitive in submitting to calls for proposals for humanitarian response projects. It will be able to increase funding allocated to women's priorities. WAHDI's formalized documentation allowed it to enter into a consortium with the SMM platform and was selected for a two-year project with the Women's Peace and Humanitarian Fund.

Promotion of Women for the Reconstruction of Ituri (PFRI)

Since 2017, PFRI has led the working group on the prevention of sexual exploitation and abuse, but has never participated in humanitarian coordination meetings. After trainings from DFJ, as part of the WHS project, PFRI became actively involved in different working groups to engage with different humanitarian actors in its locality. Thanks to the project, PFRI rediscovered its identity as an organization working to defend the rights of women and girls: developing strategies to expand the organization's activities and commitment, and strengthening its leadership and cohesion in interacting with different actors.



The WHS project greatly motivated PFRI to get involved in humanitarian activities. PFRI had understood its role as a front-line structure in the humanitarian response, but now it:

- Is included in the mailing list of humanitarian actors in the DRC;
- Has knowledge of humanitarian mechanisms;
- Has strengthened its capacity to be effective in humanitarian interventions;
- Shares activity reports monthly to the 6Ws;
- Participates in major conferences;
- Participates in weekly meetings of OCHA, the GBV Sub-Cluster, and the coordination for preventing sexual exploitation and abuse.

Marie Baguma , President of PFRI

"Our engagement within humanitarian coordination has improved, the organization actively participates by sharing necessary information, but also, it is invited to participate in presenting its activities and experiences in the humanitarian field."

Conclusion

The capacity building provided by the WHS project responds favorably to the needs expressed by the WLOs. Thus, they see a deeper commitment to humanitarian coordination. By scrupulously following the suggestions made by DFJ during organizational capacity assessments, WAHDI and PFRI will be able to play a more significant role in humanitarian response in the DRC.