

2024



NORWEGIAN CHURCH AID
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DRC ANNUAL REPORT





Message from the Country Director

The year 2024 was marked by continued humanitarian crises in the Democratic Republic of Congo (“DRC”), yet also by remarkable determination from communities, partners, and Norwegian Church Aid (“NCA”) staff to advance dignity, justice, and resilience.

Across North and South Kivu, our interventions—fueled by the trust and support of our donors—reached thousands of individuals with life-saving services in WASH, prevention and response to gender-based violence, and sexual and reproductive health.

With five major grants under management, including from United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (**OCHA**), Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (**SDC**), Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs (**MFA**), **NICFI** and Norway’s International Climate and Forest Initiative (**NORAD**), as well as NCA’s own emergency funds, we successfully implemented over 18 projects and continued to strengthen our partnerships with 11 committed civil society organizations.

In addition to emergency response, NCA DRC supported national policy reforms, promoted sustainable agriculture, protected community forest rights, and empowered women and youth. Through advocacy, technical support, and a shared vision with our partners, we have contributed to building more inclusive, rights-based systems.

As we look ahead to 2025, we remain grounded in our values and committed to serving the most vulnerable, while working toward a more just and sustainable future for all communities in the DRC.

Diana Mangeli
Country Director, NCA DRC

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Introduction

In a complex context, NCA in the DRC resolutely pursued our mission, working closely with our partners and donors, to meet the urgent needs of populations affected by conflict, epidemics, and forced displacement.

This annual report reflects these joint efforts. It highlights the results achieved, lessons learned, and opportunities to further strengthen our impact in serving the most vulnerable communities.

We would like to express our deep gratitude to our 11 civil society partners, without whom the implementation of our interventions would not have been possible. These are: **CBCA, AFEM, Panzi Foundation, LDF, ASPLC, ECC, REJADH, YME Grands Lacs, SOPROP, Caritas Uvira, and the Red Cross of South Kivu.**

Their commitment on the ground, expertise in working with communities, and adaptability were essential to achieving the results presented in this report.



In 2024, NCA DRC managed six main grants:

- The United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA),
- Swiss Cooperation (SDC),
- The Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MFA),
- Norwegian Agency for Development Cooperation (NORAD)
- NICFI Funds
- NCA own emergency funds

Thanks to this funding, more than 18 projects were implemented, reaching thousands of beneficiaries in the provinces of North and South Kivu.

NCA's interventions focused on three key themes:

- WASH (Water, Sanitation and Hygiene),
- Gender-Based Violence (GBV),
- The fight against social and economic inequalities.

The NCA DRC team, composed of 36 members, including three expatriates and 11 women, operated from its national office in Bukavu and its two field offices in Baraka and Goma.



Context

In 2024, the DRC experienced a worsening humanitarian crisis, marked by massive displacement due to clashes between the FARDC and armed groups, particularly in the territories of Saké, Masisi, and Rutshuru.

More than 80,000 people were displaced to Goma and its surrounding areas. At the same time, a cholera outbreak and a monkeypox epidemic hit the Nyiragongo and Kimbi-Lulenge health zones.

In response to these emergencies, NCA mobilized MFA funds to address urgent humanitarian needs, particularly in WASH, the fight against GBV, and reproductive health.



Areas of Intervention



The activities were implemented in the following health zones:

- North-Kivu : Nyiragongo (Kanyaruchinya, Rusayo), Goma (Buhimba), Karisimbi (Mugunga)
- South-Kivu : Kalonge (Chaminunu, Chifunzi, Mule, Rambo), Kimbi-Lulenge (Misisi 1, 2, 3), Fizi (Kafulo, Simbi, Kazimiya et Kilicha), Mushinga et Luhwindja
- Maniema: Kailo territory (Balanga)

2024 MAIN RESULTS

1. The Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MFA) Grant,

In 2024, the emergency grant from the Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MFA) in the DRC focused on three key objectives: improving access to WASH services, strengthening the response to gender-based violence (GBV), and promoting adolescent sexual and reproductive health.

The results achieved reflect effective implementation, with performance levels exceeding expectations in each area.

Access to GBV services



- **5,014** survivors accessed GBV services (target: 1,040)
- **2,151** people received psychosocial support
- **53** people trained in GBV case management
- **2,036** women and girls attended safe spaces
- **824** survivors received dignity kits and /or cash support

Access to WASH services



- **23,601** people accessed WASH services (target: 22,158)
- **35,681** people received hygiene awareness training (target: 22,158)
- **77.5%** of households had access to soap and water for handwashing
- **11,600** people gained access to safe sanitation facilities
- **23,647** people gained access to safe drinking water
- **200** women and girls received personal hygiene kits



Adolescent sexual and reproductive health

- **5,213** adolescents benefited from SRH services (target: 332)
- **665** safe deliveries, **1,415** young people accessed family planning
- **10** teen-friendly spaces supported
- **238** parents involved in sex education activities



2. Civil Society Grant from the Norwegian Agency for Development (NORAD),

Implemented in relatively stable areas of Walungu, Mwenga, and Kalehe territories, these projects have supported the transition from emergency to development.

They led to significant progress in combating gender-based violence (support zero tolerance), improving access to specialized services, and empowering women (improved social status).

Additionally, key gains were made in reducing inequalities (increased access to mining sites) and strengthening civil society

Fighting Inequality

Influence on decision-makers (FI 1):

- Level of influence increased from 1 to 4 (out of 5).
- Successful advocacy for women's access to mining sites, strengthening of legal capacity.

Authorities' responses to demands (FI 2):

- Limited results due to the closure of mining companies and the M23 conflict. – Dependence on the activity of mining companies.

Adolescent sexual and reproductive health

- 77% of the target population supports zero tolerance for violence and harmful practices.
- Engagement of traditional and religious authorities, signing of community commitments.

Access to specialized services (GBV 2):

- 680 women and 176 girls accessed specialized services.
- Integration of safe spaces into health facilities, staff training.

Empowerment of women and girls (GBV 3):

- 90% of women and girls reported an improvement in their social status.
- Community-based approaches (Reflect, mutual solidarity organizations, AGR).

Sex education and family planning (GBV 4):

- 4,426 women and girls benefited from sex education and family planning.
- Activities limited to trained health centers.



3. Strengthening Civil Society (SCS)

In 2024:

- 28,417 people mobilized through SASA!, Reflect, and TAMAR.
- Community-based approaches and strengthened local leadership.
- 26 initiatives leading to changes in policies or practices.
- Concrete commitments from authorities (e.g., appointment of female village chiefs).
- 48 women have accessed decision-making positions.
- Requires follow-up to sustain gains.
- 6 collaborative spaces established (e.g., AMI).
- Sustainability: High – Local ownership and continuity of dialogue.
- 8 partners trained in emergency preparedness.



3. Grant from the DRC Humanitarian Fund (UNOCHA),

In 2024, NCA DRC implemented two Humanitarian Fund grants in the Fizi health zone. The first grant, focused exclusively on WASH, was carried out from March to September 2024 in the health areas of Kafulo, Simbi, Kitshula, and Kazimiya.

The second grant, which began in August 2024 and is still ongoing, targets the health areas of Mushimbake, Malinde, Baraka, and Kazimiya. It combines WASH activities with Gender-Based Violence (GBV) response, applying a multisectoral approach to address the urgent needs of affected communities.



Water, Hygiene and Sanitation (WASH)

- Construction of **10** latrine and shower doors is underway in the CTC/UTC.
- **6** latrine doors are under construction in the Child-Friendly Spaces (CFS).
- **8** boreholes with solar pumps are underway in Katanga and Malinde, Kafulo and Simbi.
- **2** health centers in Kafulo and Simbi benefited from the complete minimum WASH packages
- **24** chlorination points installed (42 sites operational).
- **3** CATI teams are established and active (1,911 households have been disinfected, 1.5 million liters of water has been chlorinated).

Hygiene and awareness:

- **7,372** people have been educated on good hygiene practices.
- **100** RECOs have been trained on cholera prevention.
- **30** pre-CATI kits have been distributed (out of a planned 200).
- 5 radio programs have been broadcast on waterborne diseases.
- Ecological innovation: Establishment of a unit to transform waste into ecological briquettes (in progress with Briquette du Kivu).

Protection / GBV

Medical and psychosocial support:

- 74 GBV survivors treated in 4 health centers.
- 4 safe spaces under construction (Kazimiya, Malinde, Mshimbakye, Mwangaza).
- Training of 15 providers and 10 APS/psychologists in November.

Survivor empowerment:

- **200** survivors identified for MUSO and AGR training.
- Cash distribution (USD 250/person) and dignity kits planned for November.

Community awareness:

- Awareness-raising activities on GBV, PSEA, and women's rights through RECO, town criers, and local radio stations.
- Training of 100 RECO and community leaders planned.



4. The Grant Swiss Cooperation Grant (SDC) as of June 30, 2024

The grant from the Swiss Cooperation, implemented by NCA, began on July 1, 2023, for an initial phase ending on June 30, 2024.

Following positive results, a second phase was approved for the period from July 2024 to June 2025. This grant focuses on addressing Gender-Based Violence (GBV) and promoting Sexual and Reproductive Health (SRH) in the areas of Kalehe, Kalonge, Nundu, and Bambo.

However, due to increased insecurity in North Kivu during the second half of 2024, several planned activities were relocated to internally displaced persons (IDP) camps around Goma to continue meeting the urgent needs of affected populations.

The results achieved under this grant were made possible through co-funding from NORAD and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MFA) of Norway.

Outcome 1: Access to specialized services for GBV survivors

- **3,278** survivors (including 1,566 women) received psychosocial, medical, and/or legal assistance
- **3,384** people received psychosocial support
- **1,098** women and girls attended safe spaces.
- **1,089** women and girls received dignity kits and/or cash.
- **178** people accessed legal assistance
- **15** providers trained in the clinical management of rape.
- **33%** of health facilities meet the minimum criteria .

Outcome 2: Change in social norms

- **71.7%** of the target population supports zero tolerance for GBV.
- **19,912** people reached through SASA!, Reflect circles, and Tamar circles.
- **393** people participated in Bible/Quranic study circles.
- **4** communities implemented SASA!Together.
- **80** community activists trained.
- **2** institutions adopted gender and PSEA policies.

Outcome 3: Empowerment of Women and Adolescent Girls

- **96%** of women and girls reported an improvement in their social status.
- **25** women appointed as village chiefs (target: 6).
- **536** women and girls learned to read, write, and calculate.
- **555** women and girls trained in civil rights.
- **113** open circles organized (target: 200).
- **440** women and girls accessed IGAs/microcredit.
- **91.3%** increased their capital after 6 months.

Outcome 4: Adolescent Access to SRH Services

- **1,042** adolescents accessed SRH services (target: 500).
- **106** adolescent girls gave birth safely.
- **636** adolescents received comprehensive sexuality education.
- **15** health structures hosted SSR activities.

5. NCA own funds grant for Humanitarian Emergencies (HF)

Rights holders reached:

- **14,400** people (3,888 women, 4,608 girls, 2,448 men, 3,456 boys)

WASH infrastructure built:

- **288** latrine doors and 142 emergency shower doors
- **15** waste pits
- **86** handwashing facilities installed
- **24,716** people trained on hygiene (including 7,129 girls and 6,224 women)

Performance indicators:

- **98%** of handwashing facilities with soap and water are functional (target: 75%)
- **24%** of people wash their hands at the three critical moments (target not met due to a targeting error in the survey)
- **77%** satisfaction with the hygiene kits distributed (target: 75%)





6. REDD + GRANT

Since 2021, the "Sustainable Agriculture and Better Protection of the Rain Forest in the Congo Basin" project has been implemented through a consortium led by Norwegian Church Aid (NCA), in partnership with the Church of Christ in Congo (ECC), Caritas Norway, and Caritas Congo. The project, which runs until 2025, aims to sustainably improve food security, livelihoods, and community resilience while strengthening the protection of vulnerable populations.

It is being implemented in two main areas: Kalehe territory (Kalonge) in South Kivu and Kailo territory (Balanga) in Maniema province. As part of the consortium, NCA is responsible for the monitoring and evaluation of the project and, together with ECC, for the implementation of Results 3 to 5, which focus in particular on protection, local governance, and the sustainability of agricultural practices.

Outcome 1: Approved and implemented policies for sustainable forests and land use in DRC

- The project contributed to national policy dialogues, including the land tenure reform (CONAREF), revision of the Nature Conservation Law, and drafting of the National Forest Policy.
- Participated in parliamentary monitoring of draft laws on land use, agriculture, and land tenure, offering input to newly elected members.
- Supported inclusive advocacy around the 30x30 biodiversity commitment, promoting community-based conservation involving Indigenous Peoples and local communities.
- Engaged in the national workshop on the National Forest Policy draft and in meetings to establish land-use governance bodies.
- Contributed to international advocacy by participating in the International Water Forum (France) and the Congo Basin Civil Society Forum (Yaoundé), sharing insights from NICFI work.



Outcome 1: Approved and implemented policies for sustainable forests and land use in DRC

- In Balanga (Maniema), ECC sensitized 300 community members (126 men, 174 women) on CFCL responsibilities and legal recognition.
- Participated in multiple environmental civil society workshops with national institutions (ICCN, PPEFEB, DGPAs).
- Delivered capacity-building workshops for faith-based actors and local monitoring committees in Kalonge and Bukavu on environmental governance, reforms, and CLIP.
- Co-facilitated an interfaith dialogue on sustainable resource management under IRI/DRC in Bukavu.



Outcome 3: Forest rights secured for Community Forest Concessions (CFCLs)

- Project established CFCL governance structures in Basilwamba, including:
- A local management committee (9 members),
- A monitoring and evaluation committee (6 members),
- A council of elders (9 members), ensuring community ownership and transparency.

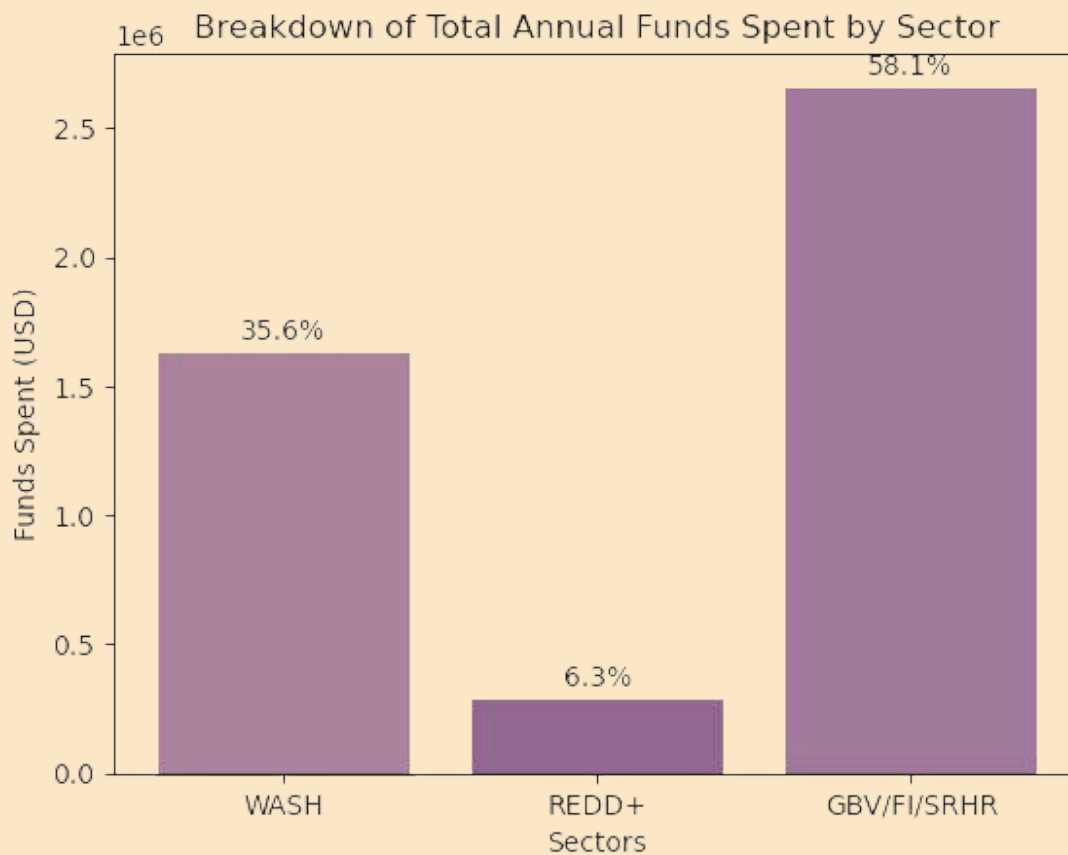


Finance/Funds spent in 2024

Total Annual funds spent was : 4,571,726 USD

Breakdown by sector:

- WASH (Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene): 1,628,431 USD (35.6% of the total funds spent)
- REDD+ (Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation): 286,481 USD (6.3% of the total funds spent)
- GBV, FI, and SRHR (Gender-Based Violence, Women and Girls, Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights): 2,656,814 USD (58.1% of the total funds spent)





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