

## Access to land

### Context

The Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) is Africa's second largest country, situated in the Great Lakes region. The United Nations Human Development Index ranks the DRC 176th out of 182 countries. Despite good conditions for agriculture, abundant mineral resources and the forgiveness of much of the national debt, about 58 per cent of the Congolese population lack food security. The genocide in Rwanda triggered a large influx of refugees into North Kivu province. Several ethnic wars were fought in Rwanda between 1991 and 2008, accompanied by looting and attacks by armed groups, rapes and massacres. Over 2.5 million people have died since 1997 as a result of the fighting and there are more than a million displaced people. Precarious living conditions and climate change are making it difficult for people to earn a living.

### Objectives, priorities, activities

This HEKS/EPER Country Programme aims to help improve social and economic conditions for rural communities in the areas of Rutshuru, Masisi, Lubero as well as Kalehe in North Kivu province and in South-Kivu. This is to be achieved through rural community development and conflict transformation projects.

### Target groups

- Victims of sexual violence (children and women)
- Households engaged in agriculture, half of which are headed by women.
- Especially vulnerable Pygmy households, half of which are headed by women
- Traditional, political, administrative and military authorities.





## Partnerships, networks, alliances, memberships

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The HEKS/EPER Country Programme in the DRC is being carried out in cooperation with six local partner organizations that work in the areas of land security (AAP), conflict transformation (CRONG-D), rural development and informal education (CEDERU and VIFEDE), as well as support for victims of sexual violence (AVREO and CACDI). A local team provides operational guidance for projects on the ground. The Coordination Office is located in Goma (North Kivu). HEKS/EPER is a member of the European network «Réseau européen pour l’Afrique centrale EURAC» and of the «Plateforme Grands Lacs» in Switzerland. HEKS/EPER participates in the task forces for multi-sectoral support and in the thematic groups led by the United Nations.

## Topics and working approach

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The working methodology is based on self-help, sustainability and capacity building and is executed in the framework of cooperation between HEKS/EPER, partner organizations and communities.

The programme’s cross-cutting themes include gender justice, building conflict awareness and protecting the most vulnerable.

The working approaches are based on human rights, peace-building, and the “Do no harm” principle. These approaches form the basis of project implementation. Environmental protection and conservation, disaster resilience and advocacy are considered in relation to each partner’s work themes.

### **Country:**

Democratic Republic of the Congo

### **Programme costs 2018:**

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### **Responsibility:**

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