



Covid-19 is just another challenge to overcome...

Pamoja Inawezekana (together it is possible)

The ARC team was going on the ground with the provincial authorities to support the Chiefdom of Buhavu and the Kalehe Territory in the fight against Covid-19. The Local Development Committee (CLD) and the Local Security Committee (CLS) are on the front line of raising awareness among the population.

A convoy of 4 vehicles left Bukavu to the three distribution sites chosen for this: Kalehe Centre, Nyabibwe and Minova.

VNG International in the ARC – Inawezekana Program is supporting the Chiefdom of Buhavu, the Territory of Kalehe and the respective CLD and CLS to increase the trust between the population and the local authorities.

In times of crisis, be it health or armed conflict, local authorities are at the forefront of the response and have a duty to their communities: an appropriate response accompanied by transparent communication.



Last week April 13: getting prepared, there is a long road ahead

April 20: our team was there

The road to get here was bumpy but we made it!



We installed part of these water tanks and disseminated another part in the area for the citizens to be able to wash their hands properly and at the same time being sensitized about Covid-19 by the local authorities and committees so that these people can spread the word in their neighbourhood and communities. This way we hope to prevent an outbreak of the virus, which would cost many lives in a context where intensive care beds and respirators are simply not available.

The local development committee is playing a major role in the awareness campaign and the implementation of the needed measures. They are ready and know how essential their role is!

In anticipation of this campaign against Covid-19, the CLD has been trained by our VNG International team in DRC on how to respond to Covid-19.



And here they are trying out a temperature testing instrument and procedure which will be implemented in the Chiefdom in the coming weeks and months.

An important component of this campaign is the part where political and administrative leaders show the right example:



The Territorial Administrator, Mr. Mwamba (left) and the Honorable Provincial MP, Mr. Cirimwami (right) washing their hands

As it is very often the case, the local population and our team in DRC are very pragmatic and find the solutions that fit. The Chiefdom called upon local sewers to produce alternative masks to wear on the streets. Social distancing is practically impossible in a place like the Territory of Kalehe where people come together and trade has still human interaction at its heart. Asking people to stay home is asking them to choose between poverty, hunger and getting sick. This is in no way a choice you can ask people to make whose survival depend on daily wages or work in the fields.



The Chief of the Chiefdom of Buhavu (standing in the picture on the right) is there taking up his role and raising awareness of the public on covid-19, its symptoms and the behaviour to adopt to prevent contamination.

These efforts also received technical and political support from the Provincial Ministry of the Interior and the Provincial Assembly. The Chief of Chiefdom in person took part in all the activities as well as the Administrator of Kalehe. Wherever the team went, it raised awareness among the population, checking local control mechanisms, holding security meetings extended to civil society. Work continues for very remote areas like Numbi and Ziralo.



Are we going to reach the highlands with the weather deteriorating? To be continued...

This is all made possible thanks to the great work of Solange Nabintu Kahasha, Albert Kitenge Ilosyo, Darcin Kabwanda Mubeza and Loochi Muzaliwa, our wonderful team in Eastern DRC.



Solange



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