IMPACT REPORT 2024



VIJANA AFRICA

Learning. Dignity. Peace.

OUR VISION. A FUTURE BEYOND CONFLICT.

Community peacebuilding, education, economic opportunity, conflict minerals, and ethical sourcing connect our local work with global supply-chain responsibility.

INTRODUCTION

In 2024, our work in Eastern DRC brought learning opportunities to displaced children, listened to families' recovery priorities, and created space for peace and community dialogue. Our international engagements connected these local realities with wider conversations about development and responsible mineral sourcing.



A FUTURE WORTH BUILDING



Dear friends and partners,

Education should never be a casualty of war. Even during war, children should be allowed to remain children, study, and keep learning. Their right to quality education must be protected.

In 2024, we reached 450 students through our Mobile School in Eastern DRC. We listened to displaced families through our household survey and brought our perspective into conversations about peace, development, and responsible mineral sourcing.

Our vision is of communities where young people can learn and lead, families can rebuild their livelihoods, and peace grows through dignity, opportunity, and participation.

PEACE GROWS THROUGH DIGNITY, OPPORTUNITY, AND PARTICIPATION.

Our work moves on three levels: evidence that explains the conflict, systemic change that addresses its causes, and community-led action that meets people where they are.

As we look ahead, we will strengthen learning continuity, turn household priorities into focused livelihood initiatives, and deepen the relationships that advance peace in Eastern DRC.

Thank you to our staff, educators, volunteers, donors, supporters, allies, and partners. Your trust and solidarity make this work possible.

Rodrigue Makelele

Founder & CEO

WE STRIVE FOR IMPACT

450

students reached through our Mobile School

957

household survey records analyzed

~5,100

people represented by surveyed households

4

major convening and engagement platforms

981 survey submissions collected

Estimated household coverage: 957 records × 5.3 members, rounded. Includes respondents; household size was not measured in this survey.



PEACE NEEDS MORE THAN ONE PATH.

We promote peace and conflict transformation through education, youth entrepreneurship, and civic engagement.



THREE STRATEGIC PILLARS

01

EDUCATION & YOUTH DEVELOPMENT

Expand educational opportunities for children and young people affected by conflict and displacement.

02

PEACEBUILDING, CIVILIAN PROTECTION & SOCIAL COHESION

Encourage dialogue, nonviolence, and locally led approaches to conflict transformation.

03

ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT & COMMUNITY RESILIENCE

Strengthen the knowledge, skills, leadership, and relationships that support livelihoods and economic resilience.

DIFFERENT PATHS. A SHARED FUTURE.

THREE PILLARS. FOUR CONNECTED AREAS OF WORK.

Community programs strengthen learning, protection, dialogue, and local capacity. Evidence and advocacy connect local priorities with global accountability.

01

EDUCATION FOR ALL

Through the Vijana Mobile School and community-based learning, we expand opportunities for children and young people affected by conflict, displacement, and limited access to digital resources.

02

NON-MILITARY PEACEBUILDING

We work with youth, faith leaders, educators, and communities to encourage dialogue, nonviolence, social cohesion, and locally led conflict transformation.

03

ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT

We support knowledge, skills, leadership, and community relationships that help young people pursue entrepreneurship, livelihoods, and economic resilience.

04

CONFLICT MINERALS & ETHICAL SOURCING

We connect conflict-minerals awareness and responsible supply chains with peacebuilding, advocating for accountability and greater benefits for Congolese communities.

Conflict minerals, supply chains, and ethical sourcing connect research, policy, and advocacy across all three pillars.

LOCAL ACTION. GLOBAL GOALS.



OUR SDG FOCUS

Our programs and advocacy connect community priorities with sustainable development.



THE GOAL

Inclusive, equitable education and lifelong learning.

OUR WORK

Mobile School and community-based learning expand educational opportunities. We reached 450 students in 2024.



THE GOAL

Peaceful societies and inclusive participation.

OUR WORK

Non-military peacebuilding engages youth, faith, community, and traditional leaders in dialogue and social cohesion.



THE GOAL

Responsible production and use of natural resources.

OUR WORK

Public education and institutional dialogue connect conflict minerals, ethical sourcing, human rights, and mining-community priorities.



THE GOAL

Collaboration for sustainable development.

OUR WORK

Horizon and international engagement connect communities, universities, civil society, and responsible-sourcing networks.

Our contribution aligns with these goals. Official SDG icons: United Nations. Goal descriptions: UN DESA, sdgs.un.org/goals. No UN endorsement is implied.

WHERE WE WORK



ROOTED IN GOMA. CONNECTED ACROSS BORDERS.

DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO

We work in the DRC, with a focus on Eastern Congo because of the war and its consequences for children, families, and communities. In 2024, our Mobile School and household research focused on displaced communities in Goma and Nyiragongo, North Kivu.

MALAWI

We work with refugee youth on peace, education, and economic resilience, supporting learning, leadership, and opportunities to build a more secure future.

UNITED STATES

Our advocacy engages communities and policymakers to explain our work, share Congolese community priorities, and connect peacebuilding with conflict minerals, ethical sourcing, and global supply-chain responsibility.

GOMA IN 2024: LEARNING AMID DISPLACEMENT



In 2024, renewed fighting in North Kivu forced families to seek safety around Goma. Displacement disrupted schooling and livelihoods while increasing pressure on shelter, health care, and other essential services.

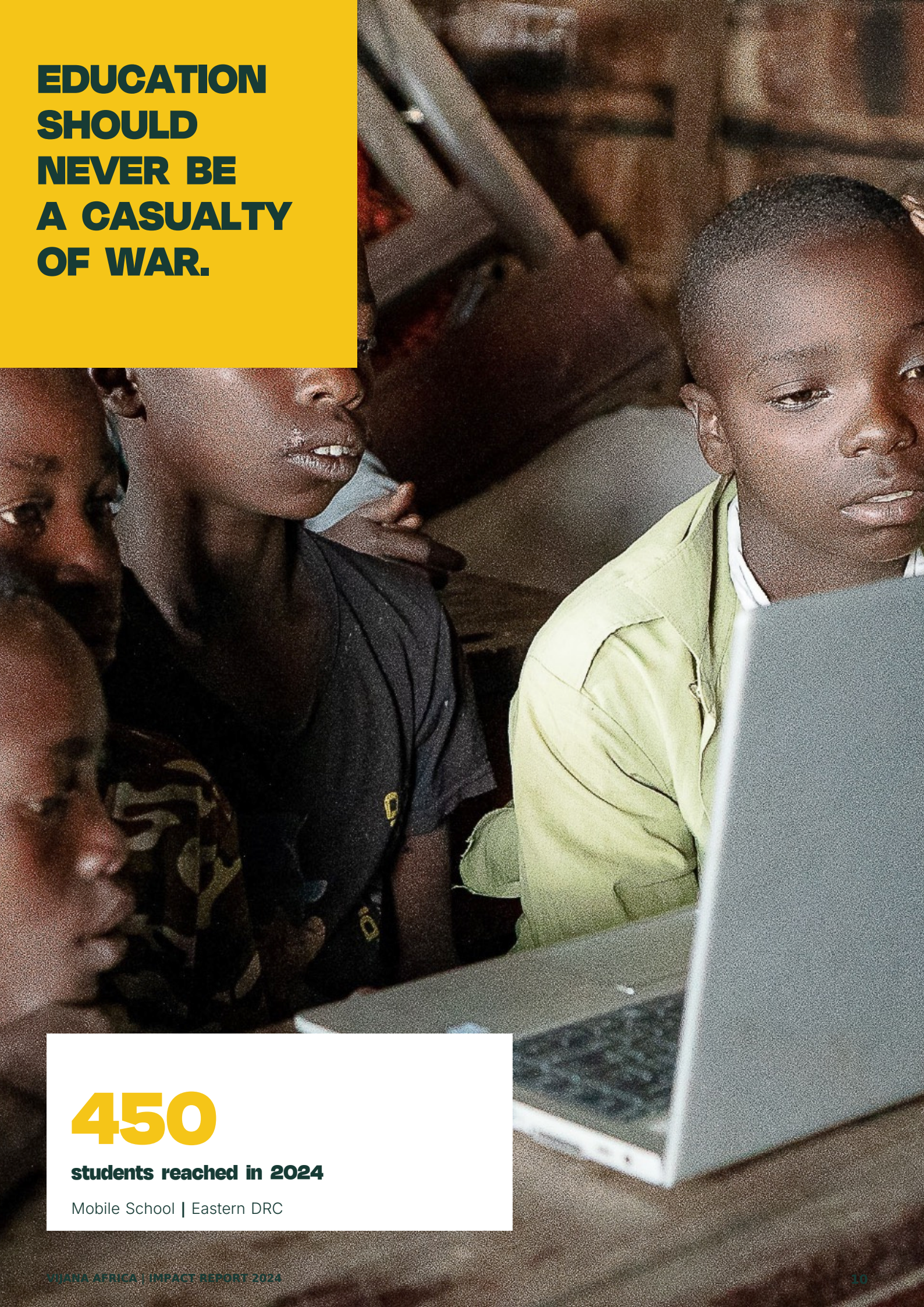
Even displacement sites were exposed to violence. On May 3, UNHCR and UNICEF condemned the bombardment of three sites in the Lac Vert, Lushagala, and Mugunga neighbourhoods. The attacks killed and injured civilians and interrupted humanitarian assistance.

> **"Education should never be a casualty of war."**
> Rodrigue Makelele, Founder & CEO

Our response connects learning, community dialogue, and evidence for recovery with the realities families face.

Context source: UNHCR / UNICEF joint statement, May 3, 2024. Figures and events on this page refer to 2024.

EDUCATION SHOULD NEVER BE A CASUALTY OF WAR.



450

students reached in 2024

Mobile School | Eastern DRC

KEEPING CHILDREN CONNECTED TO LEARNING

Conflict and displacement interrupt more than lessons. They disrupt routines, relationships, and children's sense of possibility. Our Mobile School brings learning opportunities closer to children whose education has been disrupted.







OUR APPROACH

Our educators guide literacy and computer learning, introduce digital tools, and encourage participation. The laptops in these photographs form part of our 2024 learning activities.

Education creates space for children to practice, participate, and look forward.

LOCAL EDUCATORS. SHARED COMMITMENT.



THE PEOPLE BEHIND THE LEARNING

Our field team makes digital learning accessible through explanation, encouragement, and guided practice. Their relationships with children and families connect the program to the communities it serves.

We invest in the people who turn equipment into learning opportunities.

PARTNERSHIPS MAKE DELIVERY POSSIBLE



5

equipped classrooms

made available by Focus Congo

Local partnerships supported our August–December intervention in Nyiragongo. Focus Congo provided equipped classrooms, while the Division of Social Affairs supported institutional coordination.

Our educators and partners helped create the conditions for delivery in a difficult context. This shared effort is central to how we work.

OUR NEXT PRIORITY

Strengthen educator support, attendance records, and the measurement of learning progress as the program develops.

WE LISTEN.
WE LEARN.
WE ACT.



981

survey submissions

957

records retained for analysis

Bujari displacement camp near Goma
December 5–11, 2024

We asked families about lost livelihoods, retained skills, financial practices, and the support they considered useful for rebuilding stability.

LIVELIHOODS WERE CONNECTED

Previous-livelihood answers | 957 records

Agriculture-related mentions

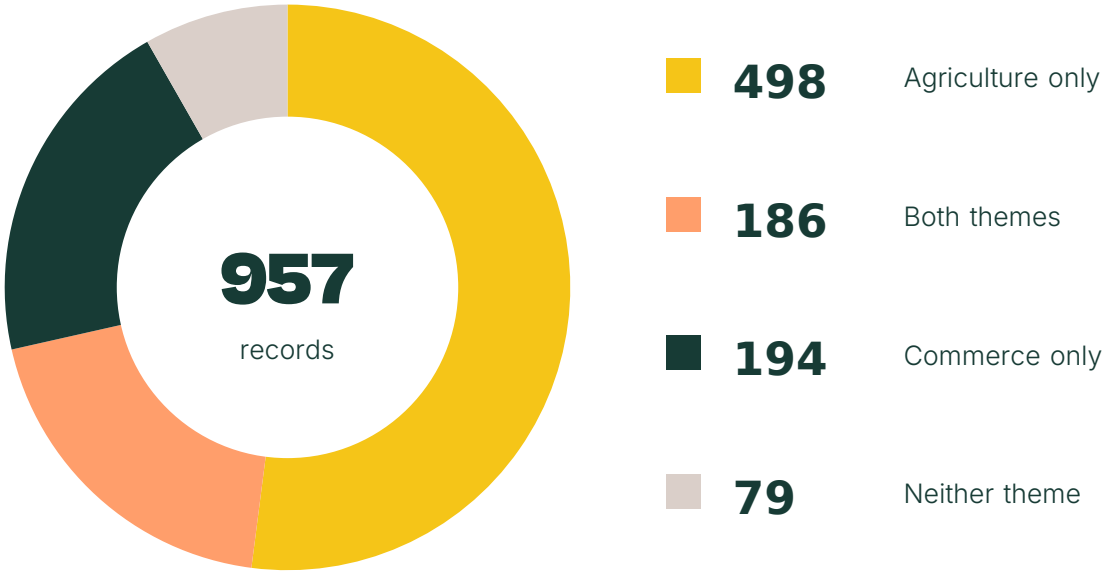
71.5%

684 of 957 answers

Commerce-related mentions

39.7%

380 of 957 answers



Source: December 2024 household survey. Upper bars overlap. Donut categories partition all 957 records. “Only” concerns these two word-match themes, not a complete occupational classification.

RECOVERY STARTS WITH PEOPLE.



79.9%

of nonblank desired-work answers contained commerce-related terms

761 of 953 answers

An aspiration points to possibility. A market check helps determine which opportunities can work.

UNDERSTAND THE ACTIVITY

Start with what a household wants to do and what experience or skills it already has.

IDENTIFY THE CONSTRAINT

Check whether the immediate barrier is capital, equipment, land, customers, health, or safe access to work.

TEST AND LEARN

Develop focused livelihood pilots and track earnings, activity continuity, and safety before expanding.

Survey indicator: commerce-related wording in desired-work answers. It does not establish viable market demand.

PEACE IS PRACTICED IN CONVERSATION



GOMA | SEPTEMBER–DECEMBER 2024

We brought faith and community leaders together in Goma for peace and community dialogue. Our approach engages faith-based groups, young leaders, and traditional leaders, including local chiefs, to build space for listening and conversation in pursuit of lasting peace.

These leaders help shape everyday relationships within their communities. We convene dialogue across different perspectives, encourage mutual respect, and strengthen local participation in conversations about peaceful coexistence.

“Peace grows through dignity, opportunity, and participation.”

Rodrigue Makelele, Founder & CEO

LISTENING.
REFLECTING.
BUILDING TOGETHER.









FAITH & COMMUNITY LEADERS IN DIALOGUE

We engage faith-based groups and community leaders alongside young and traditional leaders, including local chiefs. Facilitated exchanges and small-group discussions create space to listen, build relationships, and work toward lasting peace.



LOCAL LEADERSHIP. A SHARED FUTURE.

We work alongside faith, community, young, and traditional leaders, including local chiefs. Peacebuilding depends on the people who shape local relationships. Dialogue creates space to listen and pursue lasting peace together.

Goma community dialogues | September–December 2024

HORIZON CONFERENCE 2024







NOVEMBER 2 | JAMES MADISON UNIVERSITY

We brought students, civic leaders, practitioners, and community members together to connect global challenges with shared action.

DIALOGUE. RESPONSIBILITY. CONNECTION.





With Kiota Global and JMU collaborators, we convened conversations on peacebuilding, conflict minerals, technology, climate action, and economic opportunity.

Horizon placed ethical sourcing and the human consequences of mineral supply chains alongside wider questions about development and participation. It made space for learning across disciplines and lived experiences.



OUR ROLE AS A CONVENER

Build understanding, create relationships, and invite sustained engagement with Eastern DRC.

COMMUNITY REALITIES. GLOBAL CONVERSATIONS.







UNITED NATIONS | NEW YORK | JULY 2024

We engaged at the High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development, connecting concerns about Eastern DRC and conflict minerals with a wider agenda that included peace, justice, and strong institutions.

BUILDING CONNECTIONS FOR PEACE







STATUS QUO NO MORE

At the PeaceCon setting in Washington, DC, we connected with the international peacebuilding community. Learning and relationship building strengthen our commitment to practical, sustained action for Eastern DRC.

THE HUMAN STORY BEHIND MINERALS







RBA / RMI | SAN JOSE | NOVEMBER 18–21

We participated in the combined Responsible Business Alliance and Responsible Minerals Initiative annual conference under the theme “Impact. Together.”

Minerals connect communities in the DRC with global technology and energy supply chains. We work with mining communities and ask how responsible supply chains can support peace, respect human rights, and bring greater benefits to people living in mining regions.

In 2024, we continued building our understanding of the connections between the DRC’s minerals, peace, security, and prosperity. Community dialogue and international engagement helped shape the questions guiding our work and our developing approach.

RESPONSIBLE SUPPLY CHAINS. PEACEFUL COMMUNITIES.

CONNECTING OUR 2024 LEARNING WITH OUR WORK TODAY

Our work moves on three levels: evidence that eXplains the conflict, systemic chanGe that addresses its causes, and community-led action that meets people where they are.

EVIDENCE

Congo Evidence Observatory complements our work with source-linked documentation of conflict. Evidence helps explain the connections among minerals, peace, security, and prosperity.

SYSTEMIC CHANGE

Through public education, institutional dialogue, and Tech Peace for Congo, we connect supply-chain responsibility with community priorities and advocate for accountability.

COMMUNITY-LED ACTION

Vijana Mobile School, Gender-Based Violence Prevention, community peacebuilding, and Msingi wa Maendeleo strengthen learning, protection, dialogue, and local capacity. These programs sit alongside our work on evidence and global accountability.

EXPLORE TECH PEACE FOR CONGO

EXPLORE CONGO EVIDENCE OBSERVATORY

BUILD WITH US.





SUSTAIN LEARNING

Support educators, learning equipment, and continuity for children affected by conflict.

PARTNER IN RECOVERY

Bring expertise and resources to livelihood initiatives shaped by household priorities.

STAND WITH PEACEBUILDERS

Connect with our advocacy and help build lasting partnerships.

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OUR DATA.
OUR ACCOUNTABILITY.

EDUCATION

We reached 450 students through the Mobile School in 2024. This is our annual reach figure. Completion and learning indicators are tracked at cohort level and are not presented here as annual results.

HOUSEHOLD RESEARCH

We collected 981 submissions from December 5–11, 2024 and retained 957 records for analysis. Charts use the revised analysis of our December household survey. Text indicators describe themes in answers and may overlap. Estimated household coverage is approximately 5,100 people: 957 retained records multiplied by the DRC national mean of 5.3 household members, rounded. This estimate assumes distinct households and includes respondents**;** household size was not measured. It is not a count of individual interviews or people directly assisted.

INTERNATIONAL ENGAGEMENT

Event names and dates follow organizer records, our correspondence, and our photographs. Participation supports learning, dialogue, and relationships. It does not imply formal institutional endorsement or partnership.

FINANCIAL SCOPE

This report presents program reach, community research, and engagement. It does not include an annual financial statement.

SOURCES

Vijana Africa, Rebuilding livelihoods after displacement: analysis of the December 2024 household survey. Context: UNHCR / UNICEF joint statement of May 3, 2024 on attacks on displacement sites around Goma. Official event information: UN DESA, 2024 HLPF**;** RBA Annual Conference 2024 agenda**;** Alliance for Peacebuilding, PeaceCon 2024 agenda.

THANK YOU

To our communities, staff, educators, volunteers, supporters, allies, and partners: your commitment makes this work possible.

VIJANA AFRICA

DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO

BUILDING PEACE. EXPANDING OPPORTUNITY.

We promote peace and conflict transformation through youth entrepreneurship, education, and civic engagement. Rooted in community relationships, we connect local action with international advocacy for a more peaceful and prosperous DRC.

OUR COMMITMENT

Education should never be a casualty of war. Every child deserves the chance to keep learning.

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WATCH OUR WORK IN GOMA

SCAN TO VISIT OUR WEBSITE

WATCH OUR MOBILE SCHOOL WORK IN 2024