IMPACT REPORT

2025



OUR MISSION.
PEACE LED BY COMMUNITIES.

OUR MISSION

Vijana Africa advances peace and conflict transformation by equipping young people and their communities with the knowledge, skills, and opportunities to address community needs through education, entrepreneurship, and civic engagement. We support youth-led ideas and initiatives that build peaceful, inclusive societies.

OUR MISSION IN ACTION

01

EDUCATION

Knowledge and learning opportunities that support participation and community capacity.

02

ENTREPRENEURSHIP

Skills and opportunities linked to livelihoods, initiative and responsible practice.

03

CIVIC ENGAGEMENT

Youth leadership, dialogue and advocacy rooted in community needs and priorities.

Education, entrepreneurship and civic engagement are complementary pathways. We combine community-led action with dialogue and advocacy to address immediate needs and the wider conditions shaping peace, safety and opportunity.

REPORTING PERIOD: JANUARY 1-DECEMBER 31, 2025

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THANK YOU FOR STANDING WITH US.



Dear friends and partners,

Our purpose is to help build safer, more inclusive communities where peace can grow. In 2025, conflict in Eastern Congo deepened the need for this work. Your solidarity helped us sustain spaces for dialogue, learning and participation.

PEACE BEGINS WITH COMMUNITY.

Education, dialogue and responsible livelihoods are connected tools for building communities where everyone can live with dignity and participate.

We engaged religious and young leaders in dialogue and training, worked with artisanal miners on responsible practices, and supported children through Mobile School. These activities formed part of a wider commitment to nonviolence, participation and community well-being.

Education is one pathway within this mission. Our advocacy also connected ethical mineral sourcing with peace, justice and accountability, bringing community priorities into conversations with government, business and supply chain leaders.

Thank you to our staff, community leaders, educators, volunteers, donors and partners for standing with us. Our shared ambition is a community in which children and adults are safe, included and able to shape their future.

Rodrigue Makelele
Founder and CEO

GOMA AND EASTERN DRC. THE HUMAN CONTEXT.



Peace takes root when communities can live with dignity and safety.
Archival field photograph supplied by Vijana Africa.

CONFLICT CHANGED DAILY LIFE. COMMUNITIES KEPT GOING.

THE CONTEXT FOR OUR WORK IN 2025

The beginning of 2025 brought a sharp escalation of conflict in Eastern DRC. M23 forces, supported by the Rwanda Defence Forces as documented by the United Nations, advanced across North and South Kivu. They entered Goma in late January amid intense fighting and took control of Bukavu in February. Other localities were affected as the offensive expanded. [1]

Families already living through prolonged insecurity faced renewed danger, displacement, and interrupted livelihoods. Schools closed. The rapid closure of displacement sites around Goma left some learning spaces deserted. In late February, UNICEF reported that schools in Bukavu and other affected communities remained closed even as some children returned to classes in Goma. [2]

01

DISPLACEMENT

Families faced renewed danger, interrupted livelihoods and the loss of familiar support networks.

02

LEARNING

School closures and the dismantling of displacement sites put the continuity of children's education at risk.

03

CONNECTION

Movement restrictions, banking disruptions and limited resources complicated delivery and community gatherings.

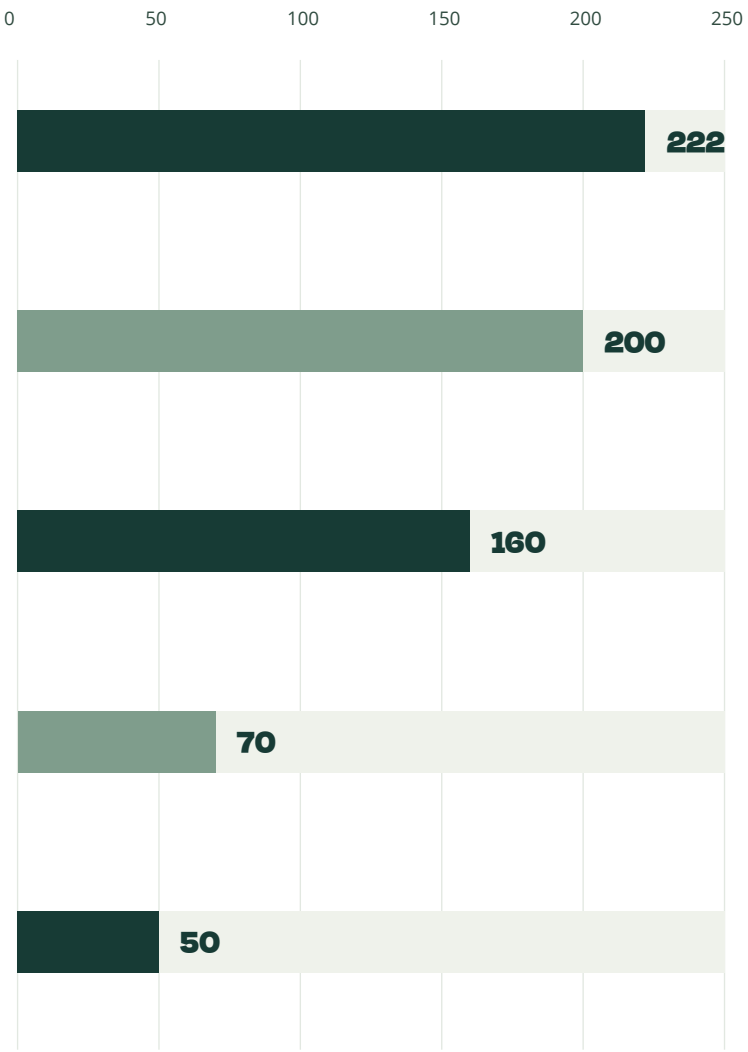
PEACEBUILDING THROUGH EVERYDAY COMMUNITY LIFE.

With its DRC office based in Goma, Vijana Africa adapted its calendar and resources around community dialogue, education, practical training and awareness raising. Some planned activities, including the strategy retreat, could not proceed because of funding constraints.

Context sources: UN Secretary-General, S/2025/202; UNICEF, February 27, 2025. References: page 27.

PARTICIPATION, PROGRAM BY PROGRAM.

Different activities. One peacebuilding purpose.



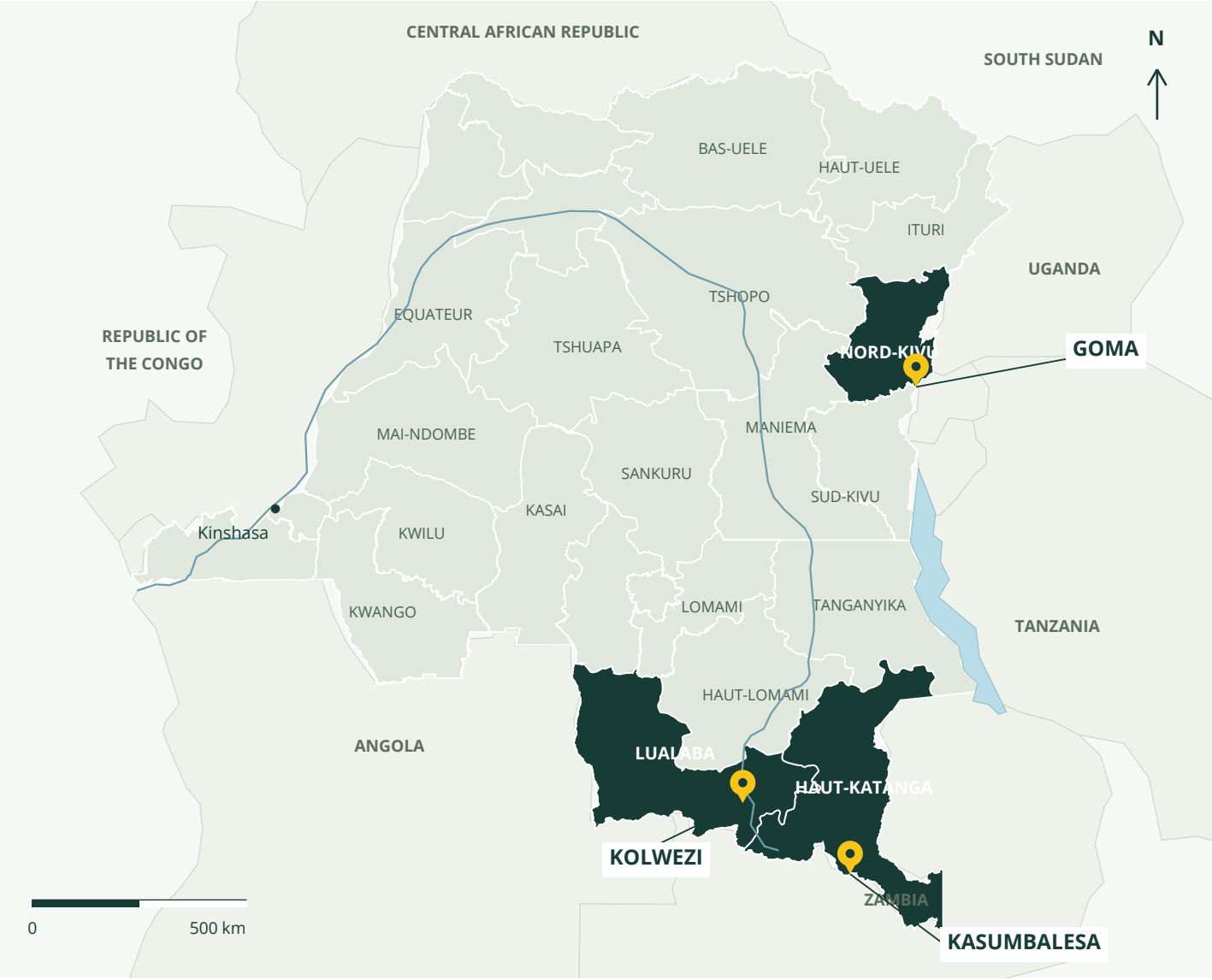
250

WEBINAR ATTENDANCES

Five Conflict Minerals and Peace webinars, October-December 2025.

Participation measures are reported by program. Webinar figures count attendances, which can include repeat participants. These figures are not added into a single total of unique people.

ROOTED IN COMMUNITIES. CONNECTED ACROSS BORDERS.



Highlighted provinces contain our documented program locations; pins mark the cities.

01 **Goma / Nord Kivu 1**

Community peacebuilding and dialogue; Mobile School in eight local schools.

02 **Kolwezi / Lualaba**

200 artisanal miners engaged on responsible finances and mining practices.

03 **Kasumbalesa / Haut-Katanga**

Religious-leader engagement on peace and community dialogue.

LOCAL ACTION. GLOBAL GOALS.

Peace is our organizing purpose. SDG 16 provides the central framework; Goals 4, 12 and 17 describe complementary pathways we used in 2025.



PEACE, JUSTICE AND STRONG INSTITUTIONS

222 religious leaders / 70 young leaders

Dialogue, nonviolent conflict resolution, trauma-healing sessions and community participation supported our peacebuilding work.

16.1 and 16.7 / peace and inclusive participation



QUALITY EDUCATION

160 students / 8 local schools

Mobile School supported continued learning with tablets and educator guidance in Nord Kivu 1.

4.1 / access to primary and secondary education



RESPONSIBLE CONSUMPTION AND PRODUCTION

200 artisanal miners / 5 webinars

Training and public dialogue connected responsible mining and finance with ethical sourcing and community priorities.

12.2 and 12.8 / natural resources and awareness



PARTNERSHIPS FOR THE GOALS

Schools, communities and advocacy networks

Relationships with educators, community actors and wider networks supported delivery and brought local priorities into international conversations.

17.16 and 17.17 / collaboration across sectors

These are activity-level alignments, not measured changes in official SDG indicators. Official SDG icons: United Nations. Goal and target framework: UN DESA, sdgs.un.org/goals.

OUR APPROACH TO PEACE. LOCAL ACTION. SYSTEMIC PURPOSE.

Peacebuilding requires both community capacity and attention to the conditions shaping everyday life. Our approach connects people, relationships and systems: we support locally led action while bringing community priorities into wider conversations about rights, accountability and responsible development.

01

COMMUNITY-LED ACTION

We equip young people and communities with knowledge, skills and opportunities to respond to local needs. Mobile School, practical training and community activities make this commitment concrete.

02

RELATIONSHIPS AND LOCAL LEADERSHIP

Religious and youth leaders, educators and community actors bring trust, experience and local knowledge. Dialogue and training create opportunities to listen, examine conflict and practice nonviolent responses.

03

ADDRESSING SYSTEMIC CONDITIONS

Our minerals-related work connects community livelihoods with wider questions of ethical sourcing, rights and accountability. Public dialogue and engagement with officials and industry seek to place community priorities within decisions that shape development.

ONE MISSION. COMMUNITY AGENCY. PEACEFUL, INCLUSIVE SOCIETIES.



BUILDING PEACE. SAFER COMMUNITIES FOR ALL.

Our aim is a community where people can live safely, participate in decisions and pursue opportunity with dignity. Dialogue, education, livelihoods and civic engagement serve that shared purpose.

01 DIALOGUE

Nonviolent skills, listening and inclusive participation.

02 EDUCATION

Learning and knowledge as tools for community development.

03 LIVELIHOODS

Practical skills and responsible economic participation.

04 CIVIC ENGAGEMENT

Local leadership and community priorities in public dialogue.

LOCAL LEADERSHIP. PEACEFUL COMMUNITIES.



Participants gathered for a Vijana Africa dialogue activity.

222

religious leaders

70

young leaders

We trained and continuously engaged 222 religious leaders in Goma, North Kivu, and Kasumbalesa, Haut-Katanga, on peace and community dialogue. Seventy young leaders were also engaged and trained.

These relationships create opportunities for listening, reflection, and participation in nonviolent approaches to conflict.

PRACTICAL SKILLS. COMMUNITY PEACE.



Peace Starts Here brought community actors together for training.

50

PEOPLE

3 SESSIONS

50 people attended three sessions on peaceful conflict resolution and nonviolent communication, digital security in a context of repression, and psychological resilience and trauma healing.

1. Conflict resolution
2. Digital security
3. Trauma healing

Participants included religious leaders, representatives of youth and women's associations, and persons with disabilities. The project concluded on September 26, 2025. Participants expressed their commitment to inclusive, nonviolent approaches within their communities.

NONVIOLENCE. DIGITAL SAFETY. RESILIENCE.

The participant count remains 50 across the three sessions. Further follow-up will help document how skills are applied.

PARTICIPATION TAKES MANY FORMS.



Community participation and solidarity during a Vijana Africa activity.

MANDELA DAY

Our Mandela Day activities brought a spirit of service and solidarity to engagement with children, including clothing distribution and time together.

YOUNG PEOPLE AND MINERAL RESPONSIBILITY

A youth minerals conference opened discussion about the impact of conflict minerals and the role young leaders can play in promoting ethical practices.

ARTS AND CREATIVITY

Arts activities gave children opportunities for expression and participation. Together, these activities complemented our wider peace and community engagement work.

PEACE IS PRACTICED THROUGH PARTICIPATION.

EDUCATION AS A PATHWAY TO COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT.





Educator guidance and an active Mobile School classroom.

160

Students in Nord Kivu 1 Educational District.

8 LOCAL SCHOOLS

Mobile School served 160 students in Nord Kivu 1 Educational District through eight local schools. Educators guided tablet-based activities, helping children practice skills and learn alongside peers. Education was one way we supported community capacity and participation within our wider peacebuilding mission.

Education should never be a casualty of war. Children should be allowed to remain children, study and keep learning. This commitment forms part of our wider work for peaceful, inclusive communities. The 2025 count excludes the cohort that began in 2024.



200

RESPONSIBLE LIVELIHOODS. PEACEFUL COMMUNITIES.

ARTISANAL MINERS / KOLWEZI, LUALABA

Financial knowledge and responsible mining practices form part of our wider commitment to dignity, safety and community resilience.

LOCAL PRACTICE. WIDER UNDERSTANDING.



Community exchange in Kolwezi, Lualaba.

In Kolwezi, we trained and engaged 200 artisanal miners on responsible finances and mining practices. The work addressed practical concerns around financial management, workplace safety, and responsible extraction.

CONFLICT MINERALS AND PEACE

5
WEBINARS

250
ATTENDANCES

Five webinars recorded 250 attendances between October and December 2025. The series broadened opportunities to discuss conflict minerals and peace. The final webinar took place on December 19.

Webinar attendances may include people who joined multiple sessions.

PUTTING CIVILIANS WITHIN THE INVESTMENT AGENDA.



Invest in the D.R. Congo Forum at George Washington University.

WASHINGTON, D.C. / APRIL 22-23, 2025

Vijana Africa engaged Congolese embassy representatives, parliamentarians, and government officials on prioritizing civilians in Eastern Congo.

Our discussions connected ethical critical mineral sourcing and responsible business practices with economic resilience in mining communities, particularly for women, girls, and children. We emphasized that development should protect people and deliver meaningful community benefits.

CIVILIANS AT THE CENTER. RESPONSIBLE INVESTMENT.

POWER THE WORLD. EMPOWER COMMUNITIES.





U.S. Chamber of Commerce Global Summit, Washington, D.C.

APRIL 22-23, 2025

At the U.S. Chamber of Commerce Global Summit, Vijana Africa interacted with U.S. business leaders and government officials on ethical investment and partnerships in critical minerals.

We brought a clear message: critical minerals should both power the world and empower the communities behind their supply chains. Community well-being and shared benefits must remain central to investment decisions.

CONNECTING HARRISONBURG WITH GIRLS IN GOMA.





International Women's Day celebration at James Madison University.

At the 2025 International Women's Day celebration at James Madison University in Harrisonburg, Virginia, we presented Vijana Africa's work with displaced girls in Goma and surrounding communities.

The celebration created a local opportunity to share our work and connect people in Harrisonburg with the experiences and educational opportunities of girls affected by conflict in the DRC.

LOCAL SOLIDARITY.
PEACE AND SHARED OPPORTUNITY.

RECOGNITION. JUSTICE. RESPONSIBLE DEVELOPMENT.





GENOCOST gathering in New York City, September 22, 2025.

GENOCOST / SEPTEMBER 22, 2025

Vijana Africa participated in the event organized by FONAREV and the DRC government, focused on recognition, truth, and justice for victims of conflict. Our presence formed part of our engagement with the human consequences of violence.

INVEST IN DRC / SEPTEMBER 23, 2025

We also attended Invest in DRC in New York. This separate engagement continued our participation in conversations connecting investment with responsible development and the interests of Congolese communities.

COMMUNITY PRIORITIES. GLOBAL SUPPLY CHAINS.

RESPONSIBLE BUSINESS 2025

Combined RBA and RMI annual conference

NATIONAL HARBOR, MARYLAND / NOVEMBER 11-14, 2025

At the combined Responsible Business Alliance and Responsible Minerals Initiative annual conference, we engaged technology, mining, electric vehicle, and supply chain industry leaders on critical mineral demand and ethical supply chains in Congo.

OUR MESSAGE TO INDUSTRY

Responsible sourcing needs to connect commercial decisions with the people who live and work in producing communities. For Vijana Africa, that connection means keeping safety, human rights, accountability and local benefit within the discussion.

- **TECHNOLOGY**
- **MINING**
- **ELECTRIC VEHICLES**
- **SUPPLY CHAINS**

PEOPLE AT THE CENTER.

We connected these discussions with peace, justice, accountability, and development in Eastern DRC. Congolese people should benefit from their natural wealth while their safety, human rights, dignity, and environment are preserved.

PEACE. JUSTICE. ACCOUNTABILITY. DEVELOPMENT.

A MOMENT FOR PEACE. A COMMITMENT TO PEOPLE.



Washington Accords for Peace and Prosperity, December 4, 2025. Photograph supplied by Vijana Africa.

WASHINGTON, D.C. / DECEMBER 4, 2025

Vijana Africa witnessed the signing of the U.S.-facilitated Washington Accords for Peace and Prosperity between the DRC and Rwanda in Washington, D.C. Our commitment remains peace that translates into safety and opportunity for communities.



PEACE MUST REACH COMMUNITIES.

Safety, dignity and opportunity remain the test of progress.

CONNECTIONS IN PURSUIT OF PEACE.

Vijana Africa at the Washington Accords gathering.





Conversations and encounters alongside the Washington Accords gathering.



OUR FOCUS

SAFETY. DIGNITY. OPPORTUNITY.

Continuing to bring community priorities into conversations about peace and responsible development.

WHAT THE YEAR TAUGHT US.



Staff participation in a child protection reflection day, November 20, 2025.

PARTICIPATION STRENGTHENS RELEVANCE

Our team observed stronger interest in natural resource issues when young people were directly involved. Discussions and workshops created space to ask questions and exchange perspectives.

LOCAL RELATIONSHIPS SUPPORT CONTINUITY

Schools, educators, parents, and community actors help connect delivery with local conditions. These relationships remain important as circumstances change.

STAFF LEARNING SUPPORTS THE WORK

Internal capacity building covered computer tools, economic resilience, and work planning. Staff also joined a child protection reflection day organized by MONUSCO with BVES.

PRIORITIES EMERGING FROM 2025.



Students and educators connected through Mobile School.

At the close of the year, our team identified priorities for the next phase:

01 Deepen community dialogue, nonviolent skills and peace awareness.

02 Strengthen local leadership and relationships with schools, parents and community actors.

03 Extend Mobile School within our wider peacebuilding work, as resources permit.

04 Advance responsible-minerals engagement and formalize the three-year strategy.

Stronger attendance, completion, and follow-up records will help explain both who participates and what changes over time.

WITH THANKS.
OUR WORK IS A SHARED EFFORT.

Our work in 2025 was sustained by people and organizations who shared their time, knowledge, resources and trust. We thank our supporters and partners for standing alongside communities working towards peace, dignity and opportunity.

Peace Direct

MONUSCO Child Protection

DRC Ministry of Education

TeachMeTV

Mashindano

SUM ASBL

Umoja in Action

Creative Humanity

International Women's Day / Harrisonburg

To our community leaders, families, schools, staff, volunteers and individual donors: your commitment sustained the work of building peace from the ground up. Thank you for connecting learning, dialogue and livelihoods with safer, more inclusive community life.

CLEAR FIGURES. RESPONSIBLE REPORTING.

This report covers Vijana Africa's activities and reported participation from January through December 2025. Figures draw on program records and consolidated activity reporting. Where learning cohorts span two years, the reporting period is identified so that readers can understand who is included.

Participation is presented by program. A person who joined more than one activity may appear in more than one program count. Webinar figures record attendances, including returning participants. These measures are not combined into a single total of unique beneficiaries.

This report records how our peacebuilding tools were used. Longer-term changes in safety, relationships and conflict resolution require follow-up. Improving program records and participant feedback remains a priority for explaining both the reach and the results of this work.

SELECTED REFERENCES

1. United Nations, Secretary-General report S/2025/202.

2. UNICEF, school resumption in Eastern DRC, February 27, 2025.

3. Invest in the D.R. Congo Forum, organizer event listing.

4. U.S. Chamber of Commerce, Global Summit 2025.

5. DRC Ministry of Planning, publication on GENOCOST engagement.

6. Responsible Business 2025, official conference agenda.

7. UN Secretary-General, statement on the Washington Accords, December 5, 2025.

Additional records: Vijana Africa's French 2025 activity report, program documentation, leadership confirmations and supplied photographs. Organization logos are reproduced from the French report; the Harrisonburg International Women's Day logo is reproduced from its public community-event listing.

SDG framework: UN DESA, sdgs.un.org/goals. Province boundaries: geoBoundaries gbOpen COD ADM1 (2017), ODbL 1.0; surrounding geography: Natural Earth. Photographs: Vijana Africa and contributors, including archival field images.

BUILDING PEACE. WITH OUR COMMUNITIES.

Vijana Africa advances peace and conflict transformation by equipping young people and their communities with the knowledge, skills, and opportunities to address community needs through education, entrepreneurship, and civic engagement. We support youth-led ideas and initiatives that build peaceful, inclusive societies.

OUR SHARED PURPOSE

BUILDING PEACE. SAFER COMMUNITIES FOR ALL.

Learning, dialogue, responsible livelihoods and participation serve this shared purpose.

US HEADQUARTERS

3211 Charleston Blvd
Rockingham, VA 22801
United States

DRC OFFICE

Galerie Umoja, Suite 5
Boulevard Kanyamuhanga
Goma, Nord Kivu, RDC

info@vijanafrica.org

+1 (540) 575-3107

www.vijanafrica.org

WATCH OUR WORK IN GOMA

SCAN TO VISIT OUR WEBSITE

WATCH MOBILE SCHOOL OUR WORK IN 2024