



**2022 - 2023**

**ANNUAL**

**REPORT**

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## Our Vision

The vision of Blessed Aid is to live in a world without discrimination, without violence, without poverty and tears and where all the nations adopt a culture of peace with a spirit of mutual understanding.

## Our Mission

The mission statement of Blessed Aid is to advocate for the consolidation of peace in the world, global protection and sustainable development for the benefit of all the communities through a culture of dialogue, peaceful cohabitation where everyone fights against poverty, injustice, illiteracy and social inequality.

## Blessed Aid Profile

Blessed Aid is a Non-Governmental Organization engaging in humanitarian and development actions in Democratic Republic of Congo. Since 2002, the organization has been advocating for peaceful and sustainable development through collaboration in the fight against poverty, injustice, illiteracy and social inequality. Blessed Aid envisions a world left free of discrimination, violence, poverty and tears, in which the international community collaborates for peace and mutual understanding. The organization's work revolves around the 7 pillars of (1) **Protection & Empowerment of vulnerable people** (2) **Human Rights, Peace & Democracy**, (3) **Health & Nutrition**, (4) **Education & Entrepreneurship**, (5) **Food Security & Livelihoods**, (6) **Environment & Climate Justice**, (7) **Emergency Humanitarian Aid**. Over the years, Blessed Aid has conducted several projects in collaboration with the Congolese Government, United Nations agencies, local and international NGOs, and global health funds. As such, the **Gender Protect** program established in 2020 was successful in building socio-economic capacities for women and youth affected by Covid 19 and the conflict in Eastern Democratic Republic of Congo. This project, funded by Wilde Ganzen and Mondiaal Maastricht, shows Blessed Aid's commitment and suitability in furthering the fight for a peaceful and equal tomorrow.



## 2022 – 2023 ACHIEVEMENT

Blessed Aid with its local staff members' commitment, has worked hard to reach the beneficiaries' needs. Despite challenges, the two years of have reached significant achievement across our organization. We were equipped and guided to effectively collaborate and make an impact in the lives of vulnerable women, girls and children in conflict-affected communities. The two years among others, were marked by strong activities performance, excellent operating results, greater collaboration across our teams, beneficiaries and partners who are committed to saving the communities in which we live and work.



Women attending a training workshop on Village Savings and Loans Association approach. Goma, 2021

**PROTECTION & EMPOWERMENT OF  
VULNERABLE PEOPLE**

**GENDER EQUALITY &  
ECONOMIC RESILIENCE**

As for the program “Protection & Empowerment of vulnerable people”, Blessed Aid ended in February 2022, the project “Socio-economic recovery of women and young people (girls & boys) affected by conflicts in the east of the Democratic Republic of Congo” that was funded by Wilde Ganzen and Mondiaal Maastricht from The Netherlands. Lunched in September 2021, this project focused mainly on gender equality and economic resilience through income-generating activities. During the implementation, 120 women and girls as members of Blessed Aid’s Village Savings and Loans Association (VSLA) program, were selected and received funds to enhance their income-generating activities (IGA). Apart from the tool kits 4 VSLA received, 32 women and girls as members of the 4 VSLA Committee received a 3-day training workshop on the VSLA approach.



A beneficiary of the project at Shasha village, Masisi territory. January 2022



One hundred and twenty (120) women and girls were selected among the 600 members of the Village Savings and Loans Association (VSLA) which are under control of Blessed Aid in Goma and in Masisi territory. They received funds in terms of rotative credits for their income-generating activities (IGA).



One of the beneficiaries of the project funded by Wilde Ganzen & Mondiaal Maastricht Netherlands. Goma, Feb 2022

## HUMAN RIGHTS, PEACE & DEMOCRACY

Through Human Rights, Peace & Democracy program, Blessed Aid in collaboration with the Coalition des Volontaires pour la Paix et le Développement (CVPD), received funds from the Global Action Against Mass Atrocity Crimes (GAAMAC) to implement a project intending to address the issue of Hate Speech and to prevent mass atrocity crimes in North Kivu province.



A photo taken after an awareness workshop organized by Blessed Aid & CVPD with representatives of civil society organizations, members from communities in North Kivu, members of the Goma municipality. Goma, Dec 2022.



The message about peacebuilding, peaceful cohabitation among the North Kivu community members, hate speech, etc, was spread in a wide audience in Goma and Masisi via workshops, media, folkloric dance.

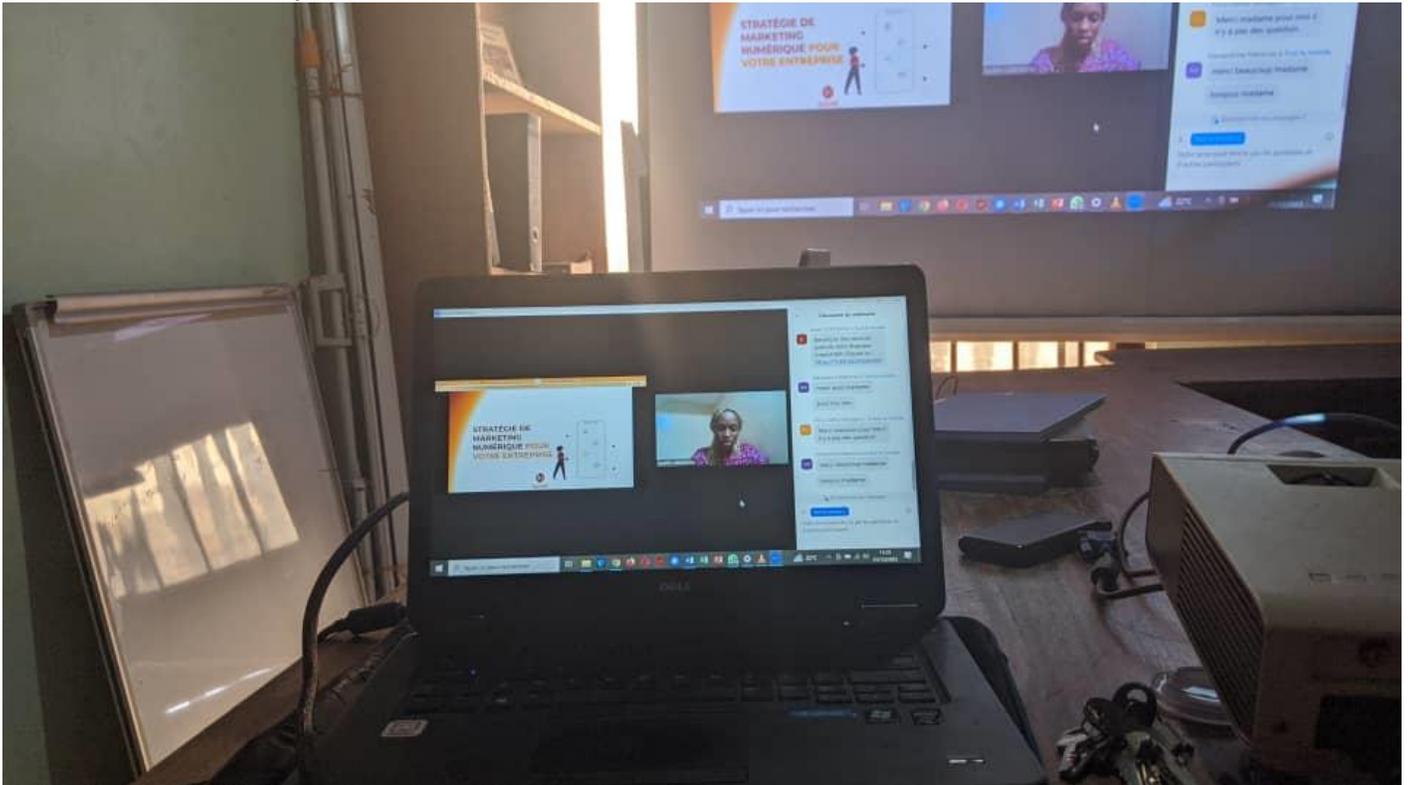


A photo taken during an awareness workshop with university students . Goma, April 2024



## EDUCATION & ENTREPRENEURSHIP

Due to armed conflicts in the Democratic Republic of Congo, women are victims of sexual and gender-based violence. Additionally, as a consequence of the total or partial loss of small businesses through displacement, these women are deprived of economic agency. In November 2023, Blessed Aid complemented an online training on digital and entrepreneurship skills. This online training was coached by teachers from ImpactHER Nigeria, Cameroon and Kenya and the team of Blessed Aid in Goma for a duration of one months.



A trainer from ImpactHER during the online training on Digital and entrepreneurial skills. Goma, November 2023

ImpactHER is an impact-driven nonprofit organization that seeks to empower African female entrepreneurs by bridging the gender business financing gap to help them realize their full economic potential. Blessed Aid collaborated with ImpactHER to train women-led businesses or entrepreneurs on digital and entrepreneurial skills to scale their businesses.



## Why Blessed Aid and ImpactHER offered this online Training Program to women and girls entrepreneurs from Goma?

According to **UN WOMEN**, Empowering women in the economy and closing gender gaps in the world of work is key to achieving the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and achieving the Sustainable Development Goals, particularly Goal 5, to achieve gender equality and Goal 8 to promote full and productive employment and decent work for all; also Goal 1 on ending poverty, Goal 2 on food security, Goal 3 on ensuring health and Goal 10 on reducing inequalities.

The online training overarching goal was to address the poverty and lack of economic activities caused by the conflicts in eastern Democratic Republic of Congo. Specifically, it had the objectives as follows:

- Contributing to a more equitable business environment for women entrepreneurs and enhancing their contribution to economic development.
- Developing SMB financing mechanisms to assist successful women-led SMBs in scaling their enterprises and building best-in-class businesses.





## Training Benefits

1. **Economic Empowerment:** Equip participants with requisite skills to expose them to new economic opportunities in a viciously competitive society while also positioning them to build a scalable business in the digital space.
2. **Investor ready:** Equip the women with entrepreneurial skills and knowledge on business strategies and/or plans that will help them increase the valuation of their businesses in the practical sense and position themselves for possible investor opportunities.

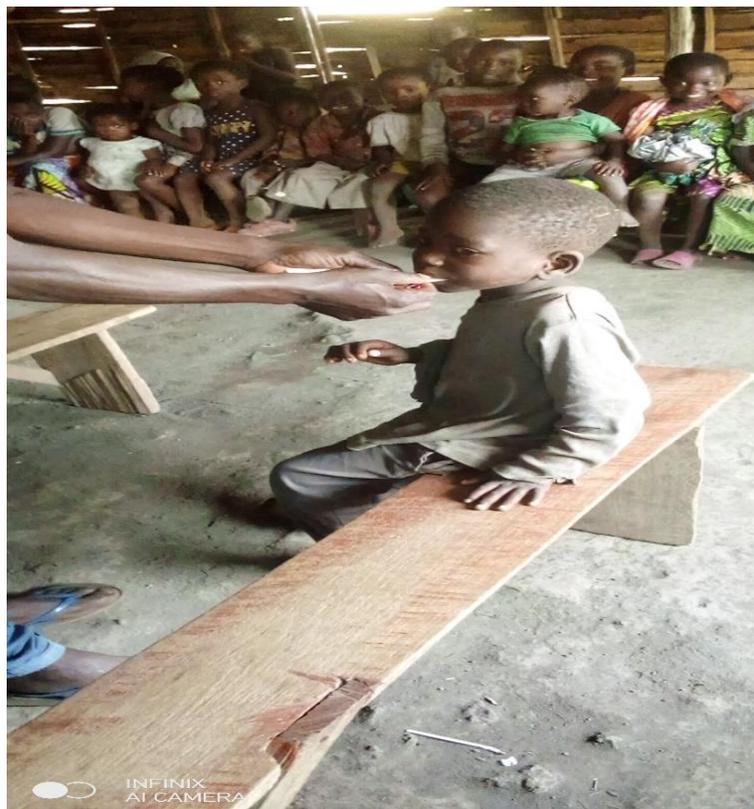
## Post Training Benefits

1. **Follow-up Training:** Monthly follow-up training for participants on essential entrepreneurial topics.
2. **Post Training Business Support:** Business advisory and exposure to several opportunities to enable participants to scale their businesses.



## HEALTH & NUTRITION

As part of Health & Nutrition program's activities, Blessed Aid provided in 2023 a medical care to 50 orphaned children at Nzulo village (20kms from Goma), Masisi territory. Through a child health assessment, 50 malnourished children received first aid medical treatment to specifically cure headache, malaria, worms, etc.







**OUR PARTNERS**



**Hands at Work**  
AFRICA

Goma, 15 January 2023

**Josselin Bandu Mikindo**  
Executive Director, Blessed Aid

