



PANZI

**ANNUAL
REPORT
2022**

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WHERE VICTIMS TRANSFORM INTO SURVIVORS.

Our Vision

A world free from sexual
and gender-based violence

Our Mission

To reduce the prevalence and impact
of sexual and gender-based violence
through holistic care and community
outreach, in order to promote a more
equitable and dignified future for all.

LETTER FROM DR. MUKWEGE

Dear partners,

As we reflect upon the past year's achievements and challenges, we cannot help but express our deepest gratitude for the invaluable support your organization has provided to us. On behalf of the entire team at the Panzi Foundation, I am delighted to present to you our 2022 Annual Report.

At Panzi, our mission is to serve and empower survivors of sexual violence in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC). Our work aims to heal the wounds, restore dignity, and rebuild lives shattered by unimaginable trauma. With the unwavering support of partners like you, we have been able to make significant strides towards achieving this mission.

Thanks to the collective efforts of our dedicated team, compassionate volunteers, and generous partners, we have been able to provide essential services to countless survivors throughout DRC. Through our comprehensive programs and our innovative holistic healing model, we have expanded access to medical care, psychological support, legal assistance, and socio-economic empowerment opportunities to those in need.

We are particularly pleased with the extension of our holistic care

model into a dozen new health zones across 4 provinces in 2022. This included partner "One Stop Centers," medical mobile clinics, and emergency missions. Through these programs and our other continued efforts through South Kivu, we are proud to say that this year, we provided more survivors with medical care than any previous year on record.

2022 was also not without its challenges. Renewed violence and militia activity in the East has correlated with an increase in cases of sexual violence – and therefore, an increase in demand for our services. Reports of massacres, the use of child soldiers, and massive displacements of the population have demonstrated that, once again, the country is in need of justice in order to achieve lasting peace. Throughout the year, we complemented our programmatic efforts with advocacy initiatives at the community, national, and international level – all with the ultimate goal in mind: ending sexual violence as a weapon of war and restoring peace in the DRC.

In our Annual Report, you will find a detailed account of the impact we have made together. We highlight the stories of resilience and hope from survivors who have found solace and strength through our programs. Their journeys serve as a testament to the transformative power of compassion and solidarity.

None of this would have been possible without your steadfast support. Your contributions, whether financial, in-kind, or through valuable expertise, have played a pivotal role in enabling us to expand our reach and enhance the quality of our services. You have stood beside us as partners, allies, and advocates, championing the cause of survivors and working towards a future free from sexual violence.

As we navigate the challenges ahead, we remain committed to our mission and look forward to continuing this collaborative journey with you. Your ongoing support and partnership will be crucial in furthering our impact and making a lasting difference in the lives of survivors in the DRC.

We invite you to peruse our Annual Report, to delve deeper into the impact we have made together

Once again, we express our sincerest appreciation for your partnership, generosity, and commitment to our shared mission. Together, we can create a world where survivors of sexual violence can heal, thrive, and reclaim their lives.

With warm regards,

Dr. Denis Mukwege
President and Founder,
Panzi Foundation

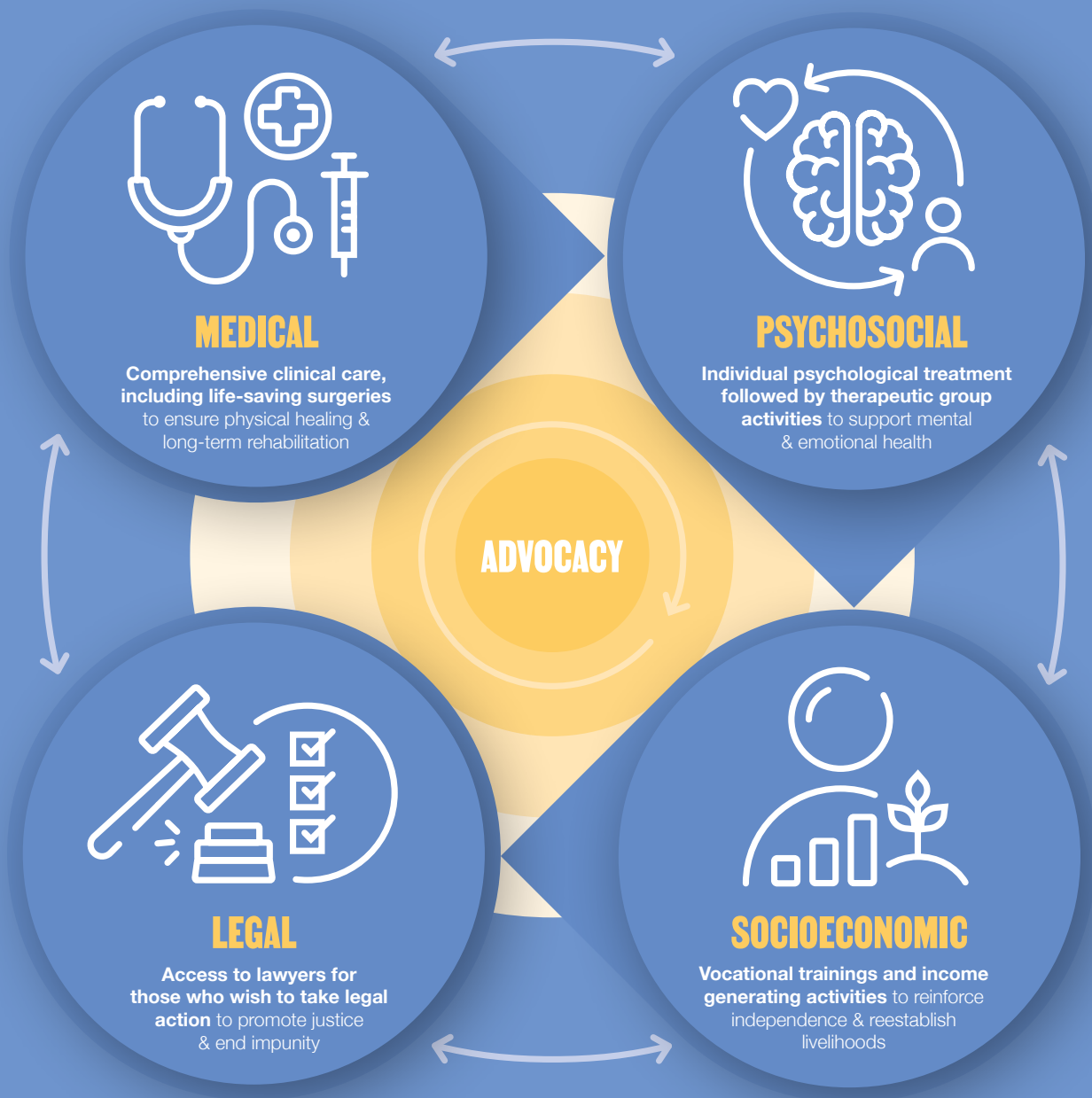
2018 Nobel Peace Prize Laureate



**AS WE NAVIGATE THE CHALLENGES
AHEAD, WE REMAIN COMMITTED
TO OUR MISSION AND LOOK
FORWARD TO CONTINUING THIS
COLLABORATIVE JOURNEY WITH YOU**

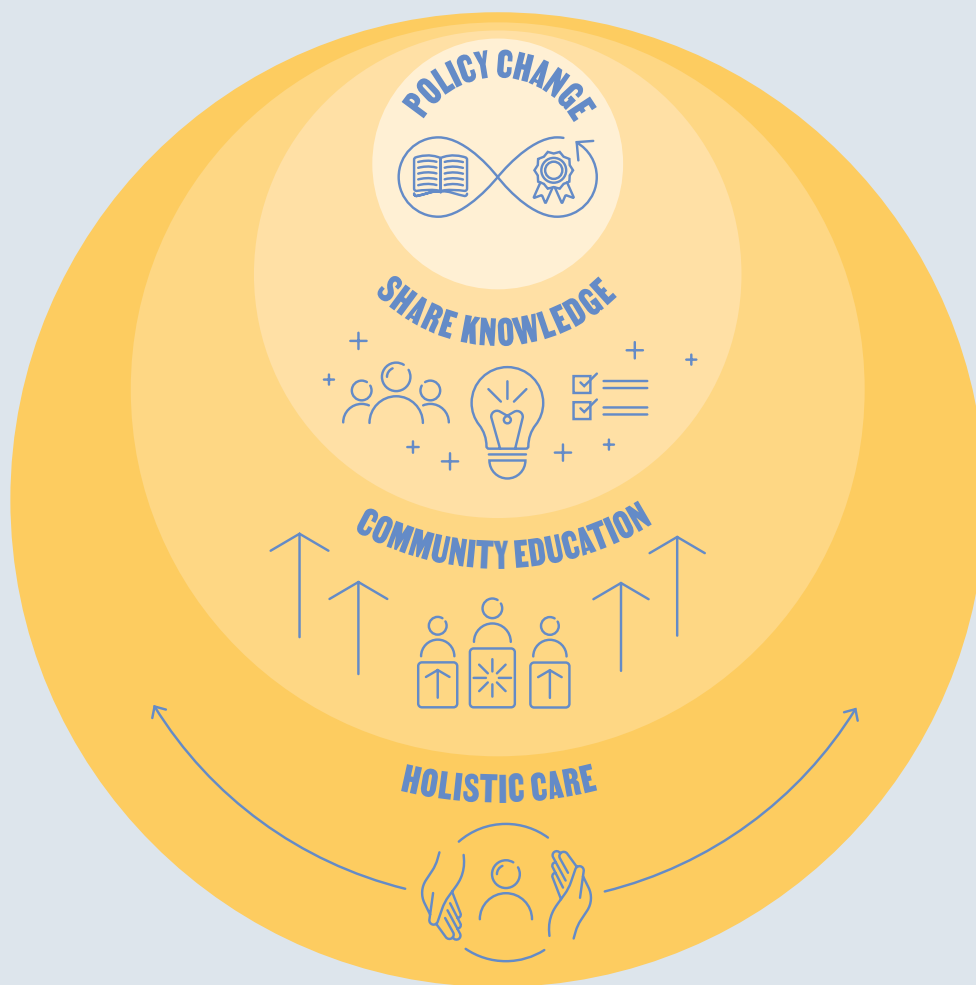
OUR MODEL

The Panzi model, now world-renowned, is a four-pillar holistic healing model that aims to address the full range of needs of victims of sexual violence:



THEORY OF CHANGE

Providing holistic care to victims of sexual and gender-based violence and education to the communities from which they come will transform society, largely through knowledge dissemination and policy change.



POLICY CHANGE

Advocacy for institutional and/or societal reform

SHARE KNOWLEDGE

Training and distribution of knowledge, tools, and resources

COMMUNITY EDUCATION

Activities that promote a just, fair, and inclusive society that is free from violence

HOLISTIC CARE

Provision of medical, psychosocial, legal and socioeconomic support to survivors

ABOUT THE PANZI HOSPITAL AND FOUNDATION

The Panzi Hospital and Foundation were created by Dr. Denis Mukwege to provide survivors of sexual and gender-based violence with medical, psychological, legal and socio-economic care. To date, we have cared for over **80,000** survivors.

Panzi Hospital was founded in 1999 by Dr Denis Mukwege in Bukavu, South Kivu province, Democratic Republic of Congo, with the intention of becoming a center of excellence for maternal health.

The first patients were not women in childbirth, but women who had been brutally raped during the Second Congo War, when sexual violence was used as a

weapon of war. Dr. Mukwege and his team were thus forced to become experts in severe gynecological trauma, and gained international renown in the field.

Aware that medical and psychosocial treatments were not enough to help these women and girls rebuild their lives, Dr. Mukwege created the Panzi Foundation in 2008 to offer survivors

comprehensive care: access to psychosocial support, access to legal services, opportunities for socio-economic reintegration and medical care outside Bukavu.

Today, the Panzi Foundation has two offices: the headquarters in Bukavu and an office in Washington, DC, which supports fundraising and international advocacy efforts.



2022 IN BRIEF



6,619

survivors of sexual violence received medical treatment across all projects



24,456

people received psychosocial support through our varied programmes



0.13%

maternal mortality rate



1,545

women and girls trained in an income-generating skill



1,892

requests for legal assistance



4,452

live births recorded



4

PANZI ONE STOP CENTERS



74

PARTNER ONE STOP CENTERS



96

MOBILE CLINIC MISSIONS



48

REFERRAL CENTERS

OUR GEOGRAPHIC REACH IN 2022



Panzi Hospital and Foundation



ONE STOP CENTER



PANZI PRESENCE



KIVU REGION



1. MEDICAL PILLAR

The medical pillar is often the first point of entry for survivors into Panzi's holistic healing model. Many survivors of sexual violence require complex emergency medical treatment, such as surgery to repair fistulas. Others need treatment for sexually transmitted infections (STIs) or non-gynecological injuries.

Many victims have ignored or hidden their physical problems for a long time because of the shame and stigma associated with sexual violence. The medical pillar provides quality medical care to victims of sexual violence and other vulnerable populations, including HIV post-exposure prophylaxis kits for survivors arriving within 72 hours, fistula and prolapse repair operations, and specialized maternal and child health care (deliveries, caesarean sections, etc.). In the case of sexual violence, in addition to HIV prevention, the PEP kit also helps prevent unwanted pregnancies and other sexually transmitted diseases such as hepatitis B and C.

In addition to general medical information, medico-legal certificates are issued for the legal support of survivors.

This year, the Panzi Foundation provided medical care and training by supporting the Panzi Hospital, two hospitals built by Doctor Mukwege in Mulamba (2011) and Bulenga (2015), a clinic in Kinshasa, forty-eight referral centers, seventy-four partner hospitals and ninety-six mobile clinics.



KEY STATISTICS

19,849 PEOPLE WERE CARED FOR BY THE MEDICAL PILLAR IN 2022:



6,619 survivors of sexual violence received medical treatment across all projects



1,522 pre-exposure prophylaxis kits administered



10,372 people treated for other medical issues, including gender-based violence

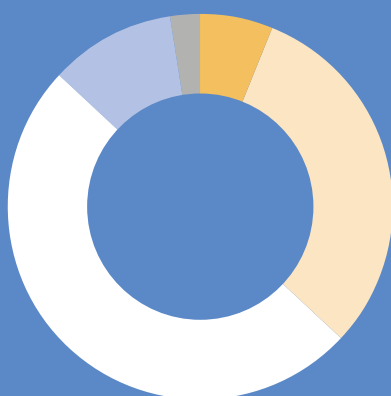
521 fistula patients treated

815 patients with organ prolapse treated

4452 live births

6 maternal deaths (0,13%) vs. DRC rates in 2020 (0.69%)

Perpetrator and Survivor Demographics



Age breakdown for 6,619 survivors of sexual violence treated in the medical pillar:

- 0–9 years old (6.3%)
- 10–17 years (30.9%)
- 18–45 years (49.81%)
- 45–60 years (10.61%)
- > 60 years (2.39%)

Of survivors:

- Almost 8,69% were under 10 years old or over 60 years old,
- 50% were of reproductive age,
- 2411 in 6483 were minors (< 18 years old)

Of known perpetrators:

34.17% were identified as militia/rebels, members of an armed group, and/or military

2. PSYCHOSOCIAL PILLAR

Sexual and gender-based violence is associated with serious short- and long-term psychological consequences. The psychosocial pillar provides care for people suffering psychological distress in response to traumatic events, including cases of sexual and gender-based violence, as well as serious gynecological pathologies.

To this end, the psychosocial pillar provides initial and ongoing evidence-based psychosocial support to survivors of sexual violence through individual and group psychotherapy, cognitive-behavioral therapy, recreational outings and resilience training, psychosocial follow-up home visits, care for basic needs

(e.g. childcare, housing, food), and more. In addition to direct psychosocial support, the psychosocial pillar organizes awareness-raising efforts to increase community awareness of mental health and the psychological effects of sexual and gender-based violence, promote the integration of mental health into

primary care, and train healthcare providers in psychosocial care. This year, the Panzi Foundation offered psychosocial services, training sessions and formative supervision throughout the Panzi Hospital, the Mulamba and Bulenga hospital centers, and the Panzi Clinic in Kinshasa, as well as in the various areas where our projects operate.



KEY STATISTICS



24,456 new cases admitted (94% women, 6% men). 2657 (11%) of these new cases were minors (<18 years old)



16,513 patients discharged and reintegrated into their respective families/communities

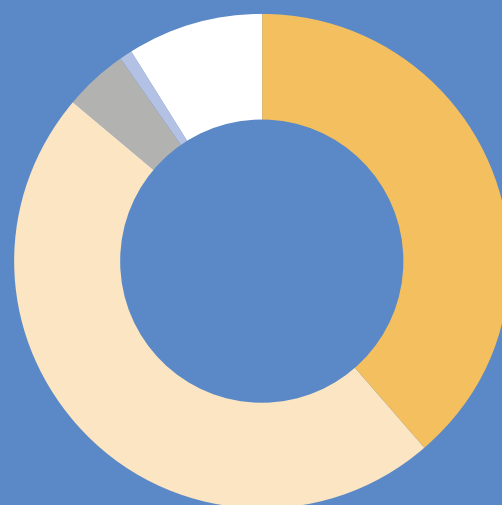


853 patients attended follow-up visits and received psychological follow-up care

6 psychosocial mobile clinic missions for 130 victims of sexual violence

36 home psychosocial follow-up missions were carried out by psychologists and psychosocial assistants, reaching 853 survivors of sexual violence, gender-based violence and other patients suffering from disabling gynecological pathologies.

Breakdown of 25,266 new cases by experience:



21,086

patients experienced sexual and/or gender-based violence:

- 9,444 survivors of sexual violence
- 11,642 patients experienced gender-based violence

3,370

patients experienced gynecological traumas and other pathologies (e.g., fistula, prolapse, etc.)

- 1,027 patients experienced organ prolapse
- 213 patients experienced fistula
- 2,130 patients experienced other pathologies

3. LEGAL PILLAR

The legal pillar provides free legal and judicial assistance to survivors of sexual and gender-based violence. The legal pillar also facilitates mediation and conciliation efforts between willing parties in cases of SGBV that are not punishable by law, as well as registration of children in the civil registry (e.g., birth certificates and citizenship).

In addition to legal aid, Panzi's legal pillar orchestrates mass community awareness-raising efforts to educate the population about their rights, works to build stakeholder capacity through training on legal topics, and community popularization of

national and international legal instruments.

In 2022, the Panzi Foundation ran 38 legal clinics across South Kivu and the DRC, and completed 7 mobile court hearings.

KEY STATISTICS



1,892 requests for legal assistance, 21% of which were rape cases



813 cases were closed by conciliation of the parties in dispute

383 cases went to trial

320 cases resulted in convictions

2,241 awareness-raising sessions reached a total of 98,625 people including 60,193 women

504 programs were produced, broadcast and/or rebroadcast by partner radio stations



SURVIVORS DESERVE HOLISTIC CARE

4. SOCIOECONOMIC REINTEGRATION PILLAR

Gender-based cultural norms and the stigma associated with rape make it difficult for survivors to access the socio-economic opportunities needed to regain their independence and support themselves and their families following their assault.

This reinforces gender stereotypes and a cycle of poverty that perpetuates the inequalities underlying sexual violence in the DRC. To break this cycle, Panzi's socio-economic pillar provides socio-economic reintegration programs for survivors of sexual violence and other vulnerable populations. The socio-economic reintegration pillar supports survivors through vocational and literacy training, training in income-generating activities, including agriculture and livestock, and the organization of economic networks at community level, including micro-selling centers, micro-credits and village savings and credit groups (called "MUSO" and "AVEC" groups).

In 2022, the Panzi Foundation supported the socio-economic reintegration of beneficiaries through trade apprenticeship programs, mentoring of economic interest groups and support for income-generating activities, in the 8 territories that make up the province of South Kivu, in the province of Tanganyika, in Kasai-Central, in the city-province of Kinshasa, at Maison Dorcas, as well as in the 4 One Stop Centers, through 16 projects.



KEY STATISTICS



1,545 women and girls trained in an income-generating skill



155 women received literacy training



987 beneficiaries received agricultural and livestock training



48 hectares sowed and 15 tonnes of crops harvested



505 MUSOs reaching 14,600 people



703 village savings and credits groups, granting a total of 408.5 million FC in loans



500 million Congolese Francs saved in MUSO groups

OUR PROGRAMS



HOLISTIC MODEL

Most of Panzi Foundation’s programs focus on providing holistic care to survivors of sexual and gender-based violence, which encompasses four essential pillars: medical care, psychosocial support, legal assistance, and socioeconomic reintegration. These services are offered by Panzi through a network of one-stop centers, mobile clinics, and transit centers, ensuring survivors receive comprehensive care.

Through Panzi’s holistic care programs, victims transform into survivors.

ONE STOP CENTERS

One of the main missions of the Panzi Foundation is to respond to the need for care for survivors throughout the Congo, and to extend the Panzi Hospital holistic model of care wherever it is needed.

We believe that no survivor should have to travel to multiple organizations, aid agencies, or health facilities to receive the comprehensive care he or she deserves, and instead should be able to access all four pillars of holistic care under one roof – a “One Stop Center.”

In 2022, Panzi managed four such facilities:

- Panzi Hospital, located in the Ibanda health zone in Bukavu – the original Panzi “One Stop Center”



- Mulamba Hospital, located in the Walungu rural health zone, 70 km west of Bukavu.
- Bulenga Hospital, located in the Minova health zone in the north of South Kivu province.

- The Panzi Clinic in Kinshasa, open since 2022

Throughout the year, we also supported 74 One Stop Center partners to improve the quality and accessibility of care.

MOBILE CLINICS

Since 2012, Panzi's Mobile Clinics have been expanding access to holistic care to people living in rural, remote, and last-mile communities.

This proximity approach improves accessibility to badly-needed care for populations made vulnerable by security risks, geographical isolation, and poverty. Mobile Clinic missions are run from Panzi's One Stop Centers in Bukavu, Mulamba and Bulenga, in South Kivu. In 2022, 29 missions were carried out in various rural health zones.

Mobile clinic statistics in 2022:

- 5,520 beneficiaries treated, including 4,513 women and girls, and 1,007 men and boys.
- 256 survivors of sexual violence treated.
- 1 survivor received a post-exposure prophylaxis kit within 72 hours.
- 31 patients suffering from gynaecological pathologies (27 cases of prolapse, 4 cases of fistula) received specialized medical and surgical care at the Mulamba and Bulenga Hospitals.



MAISON DORCAS

Maison Dorcas is Panzi's aftercare, transit, and community center, where many survivors stay after being discharged from Panzi Hospital.

Maison Dorcas offers survivors post-medical care and socio-economic reintegration programs such as vocational training in carpentry, leatherwork, IT, entrepreneurship and finance, as well as childcare and education for their children. Maison Dorcas also enables its residents, once reintegrated into their communities, to access community networks and resources run by survivors, such as village savings and credit associations, and production and sales outlets.

Maison Dorcas has worked with thousands of survivors and other vulnerable women to restore the balance of power by promoting women's leadership and entrepreneurship.

Maison Dorcas in 2022:

- 204 women and girls have completed trade training
- 187 children were cared for
- 60 children, including 41 girls, attended school
- 90% of former beneficiaries earn their living from the trades they learned at Maison Dorcas.



TRANSFORMATIVE PROGRAMMING

Panzi Foundation's transformative programs represent a visionary approach to healing and empowerment, transcending the confines of individual well-being. These initiatives are meticulously designed to act as catalysts for societal change, aiming to dismantle systemic barriers and prejudices that perpetuate cycles of violence and inequality by igniting a larger movement toward justice and equity for all. **Through Panzi's transformative programs, survivors become agents of change.**

BADILIKA

The Badilika Program aims to address root causes of sexual- and gender-based violence (SGBV) by inspiring systemic behaviour change through the promotion of gender equity and women's rights in South Kivu.

This work is done in collaboration with local civil society organizations via mass community awareness campaigns/education efforts; advocacy, mobilization, and capacity building efforts for local, national, and international partners in the fight against SGBV; and youth empowerment in secondary schools/universities.

ACHIEVEMENTS

- 3 interactive seminars with 159 religious couples in Idjwi Nord, Kamituga and Uvira.
- Training of human rights defenders on security and integrated protection of human rights defenders.
- Awareness-raising cafés on peace actions by popularizing the Mapping Report and Resolution 2467, with several social strata.
- Accompaniment of awareness-raising actions for behavioural change organized by partner organizations (Sajecek, Initiative des Femmes pour le Développement et la Paix, Association des Femmes pour le Développement et l'Environnement, Union des Femmes Insulaires).
- Organization of a series of awareness-raising events in schools and for parents in Katogota and Kaziba.
- 3 information and discussion panels on preventing and combating sexual exploitation, abuse and harassment for Panzi staff



**TO REDUCE SEXUAL VIOLENCE, WE
NEED TO ACT AND GET INVOLVED
AT EVERY LEVEL OF THE POWER
PYRAMID IN OUR SOCIETIES,
FROM TOP TO BOTTOM.**

CITY OF JOY

City of Joy is a Panzi Foundation institution that promotes transformational leadership in the fight against violence against women and girls aged 18 to 29. City of Joy is founded on the conviction that there is a profound link between emotional healing and leadership, women's empowerment and community service. It is funded exclusively by V-Day.

This work is done in collaboration with local civil society organizations via mass community awareness campaigns/education efforts; advocacy, mobilization, and capacity building efforts for local, national, and international partners in the fight against SGBV; and youth empowerment in secondary schools/universities.

As a care center for survivors of violence against women, City of Joy houses 90 women for six months to help them become future community leaders.

Operational since June 2011, following a meeting between American playwright and feminist Eve Ensler, Ms. Christine Schuler Deschryver, Dr. Denis Mukwege, and a number of women survivors of rape committed in the DRC, City of Joy has already supported 1,902 women through 22 training sessions.

Since its inception, City of Joy has presented itself as a revolutionary community where pain is transformed into power. During their emotional healing stay, City of Joy residents participate in therapy sessions that help them overcome their traumas through psychotherapy, life skills programs and women's empowerment courses. It offers women the opportunity to activate their own capacity to become "self-reliant leaders."

ACHIEVEMENTS

- Shelter and emotional healing for 168 women and girls from over 60 villages in the provinces of South and North Kivu in the Democratic Republic of Congo.
- This achievement was only possible thanks to collaboration with partner organizations at grassroots level and a number of City of Joy reintegrated women's collectives in over 30 villages in South and North Kivu.
- Organization of therapeutic/emotional care activities to treat the post-traumatic stress disorders that characterize every woman after the unfortunate incident or event that separated her from her body.
- Capacity-building and women's leadership, based on rights education, civic, political and electoral education, literacy, artistic sewing, knitting and embroidery, agriculture, animal husbandry and ecology, computer skills, bread-making, comprehensive sex education, nutrition, introduction to entrepreneurship, organization, legal skills and procedures, social communication, self-defense and culinary arts.
- Reintegration of the 168 women into their respective communities, recognizing their leadership potential and exercising it in the context of their communities to achieve economic independence; a guarantee of community development.
- The "One Billion Rising" campaign (VDAY's own) and other awareness-raising activities have enabled City of Joy to raise public awareness and orbit around the fight against violence against women and girls in communities.
- With the requests that City of Joy receives from Congolese communities, the 168 women and girls taken into care in 2022 are far from representing the true scale of violence suffered by women in the Democratic Republic of Congo.

SURVIVOR MOVEMENT

Created in 2017, the **National Movement for Survivors of Sexual Violence in DRC (MNSVS-DRC)** aims to empower survivors to break the silence and participate directly in the fight against sexual violence in the DRC.

MNSVS-DRC creates a space for exchange and solidarity amongst survivors, and enables them to carry out awareness-raising, national and international advocacy, and mutual learning/aid sessions with a long-term vision: a DRC without rape and sexual violence, where women's rights are protected and guaranteed. The MNSVS-DRC is currently active in 6 provinces – North Kivu, South Kivu, Ituri, Haut Katanga, Tshopo, Tanganyika, and Kasai Central

ACHIEVEMENTS

- Screening of the film SEMA in several towns in the provinces of Nord-Kivu, Sud-Kivu, Tshopo and Haut-Katanga,
- Organization of holistic care for victims of mass rape in Kasapa prison, Haut-Katanga. Approximately 20 survivors were consulted by teams from the Beniker Clinic in Lubumbashi, and an appeal trial was also organized.
- Contribution to the creation of an ad-hoc commission, within the Presidency of the Republic, tasked with reflecting on the implementation of mechanisms aimed at providing reparations to victims of sexual violence and other crimes against peace and the security of humanity. This work led to the drafting of law N°22/065 of December 26, 2022, enshrining the creation of a national fund responsible for giving reparations to victims of sexual violence and other crimes against peace, and recognizing August 2 as a day of commemoration for victims of the wars raging in the DRC, etc.

- Members of the Movement met with a number of personalities (King Philippe of Belgium, the Countess of Wessex of the UK, etc.) to advocate justice and reparations.
- Participation in the retreat of SEMA, the global network of survivors of sexual violence, and the Preventing Sexual Violence in Conflict Initiative (PSVI) conference.
- Community awareness-raising sessions in the provinces of Nord-Kivu, Sud-Kivu, Tshopo, Kasai-Central, Haut-Katanga, Ituri and Tanganyika on themes such as the fight against sexual and gender-based violence, non-discrimination of victims and children born of rape, the disadvantages of amicable settlements in cases of rape, the need to provide psychosocial support to victims of sexual violence, the role of communities in the fight for justice and reparations, the importance of psycho-medical care before 72 hours, etc. Awareness-raising activities were accompanied by referrals of victims of sexual violence for medical and psychosocial care, as well as support for their socio-economic reintegration.
- Support for members living in Kavumu in setting up solidarity mutuals and income-generating activities, thanks to microcredits granted to them.



RESPONSIBLE SOURCING AND JEWELRY-MAKING

Sexual violence is closely linked to the struggle for control of mining wealth in the DRC. Rape, assault and other forms of sexual and gender-based violence are used as tactics of war to control mines and smuggling routes. Panzi addresses these issues by tackling existing obstacles to good governance in the mining sector and the societal roots of sexual and gender-based violence in the wider community.

In addition, with this project, Panzi is improving the relationship between mining and women by working on

the development of business models in the artisanal and small-scale mining sector that facilitate the integration of vulnerable women and survivors of sexual violence.

In 2022, the Panzi jewelry workshop expanded its processing capabilities by obtaining machinery and tools for metal smelting and processing. In December 2022, nine beneficiaries received certificates for jewelry and lapidary (stone-faceting) training at the workshop. In addition to our training sessions at Maison Dorcas, two beneficiaries attended the training for trainers in Dar Es Salam. As of September 2022, we have four trainers in our program.



ICART

The International Center for Advanced Research and Training (ICART) was created in 2013 through a joint initiative between the Panzi Foundation, Panzi Hospital, and the Evangelical University in Africa (UEA).

ICART's mission includes building local research capacity, facilitating collaboration between local and international researchers, and ensuring that research projects carried out at Panzi comply with ethical standards.

ACHIEVEMENTS

- A new ICART's Scientific Committee was instituted, consisting of 9 researchers from international and local universities
- 15 junior principal investigators trained in conceptual, empirical, analytical, scientific writing and knowledge transfer skills.
- An article on the difficulty for male victims of sexual violence to access holistic care was published.
- Participation in the second International Mukwege Chair Congress (Nov. 2022 – Evangelical University of Africa).
- Baseline study conducted in South Kivu to map the state of use of health services and sexual and reproductive rights in the Nundu, Mwenga, Kaziba and Ibanda health zones.
- Collaboration of local researchers in the research project "Traumatic exposure and psycho-cognitive functioning in the context of armed conflict: the case of women survivors of sexual violence in eastern DRC," by Mr. Nyandu Kasali Honnête, PhD candidate at Université Laval.



A woman with short, curly hair is standing in a rural, outdoor setting. She is wearing a vibrant blue dress with a bold orange and black pattern. Her right hand is on her hip, and she is looking off to the side with a thoughtful expression. The background is filled with lush greenery, including large banana leaves and a weathered tire lying on the ground. The overall atmosphere is one of quiet strength and resilience.

SUCCESS STORIES



MWAMINI

National Movement of Survivors
of Sexual Violence in the
Democratic Republic of Congo.

Abducted by members of the armed group that had destroyed her village, she was held in the bush and used as a sex slave for over a year. She experienced her first pregnancy and gave birth to a baby girl under these conditions.

Pregnant again, she finally managed to escape to the city. Physically and psychologically destroyed, she had to face scorn and discrimination in her community. “My health had deteriorated a lot, my feet had swollen, and people laughed at me, saying I was the rebels’ wife”.

When she arrived at Panzi, Mwamini was a shadow of her former self. She was immediately given medical care and psychological support.

“I remember being consulted by Dr. Néné for the first time, and then by Dr. Mukwege,” Mwamini says.

“Dr. Mukwege diagnosed a fistula and treated me. After treatment, he transferred me to Maison Dorcas.

Mwamini was 10 years old when her village was attacked by an armed group.

“They killed my parents, my older brother and sister. Before killing them, they raped my mother in front of me. Then they wanted to force my brother to rape my mother, but my father wouldn’t agree, so they shot him twice, and he died straight away,” Mwamini recounts. “My mother also refused. They hit her on the head with a machete and she died. They also killed my brother at the same time; and my older sister, who had fainted at the scene, they killed her too. Afterwards, they raped me, and left me, my little sister, my little brother and my two older brothers”.

Forced to leave her village after these tragic killings and assaults, Mwamini took refuge with her brothers and sisters in the suburbs of Bukavu. She survived there for two years, in the most precarious conditions, before being targeted once again.

I stayed there and Dr. Mukwege brought us psychologists.”

With the support of Panzi, and an incredible zest for life, Mwamini gradually resumed her small business activities, then school and studies.

She was later invited to join the Panzi team to mentor other survivors involved in socioeconomic reintegration programs.

“I showed them that being a survivor of sexual violence is not the end of life. You can be a victim of sexual violence and still lead a normal life like other people. It gave me a lot of strength and courage. I feel proud when I tell myself that being a survivor of sexual violence isn’t really the end of the world. I started to get out of it and over time I got used to it and people started inviting me to women’s associations”.

In 2017, Mwamini took part in the first global retreat for survivors of

conflict-related sexual violence in Geneva, which gave rise to the creation of the SEMA Global Survivors Network.

“Attending this conference helped me understand that I was still important in society. I met survivors from other countries who were telling their stories of transformation. So I said to myself, why not me?”

From that day on, Mwamini has dedicated herself to the fight against sexual violence, demanding reparation and justice for survivors.

Respected within her community, she is now deputy national coordinator of the National Movement of Survivors of Sexual Violence in the Democratic Republic of Congo, a movement she co-created with other survivors in the country.

“All those who used to laugh at me are starting to respect me, because I’ve regained my self-confidence.”



JULIENNE

Survivor, and Trainer for the Panzi Foundation jewelry program

"I came home with my clothes torn, and my underwear torn too. At home I told my mother about it. She told me not to tell anyone and that was that. Two months later, I noticed I was pregnant," Julienne states. "When Dad found out, he kicked me out of the house, saying he couldn't live with a girl who was pregnant by an unknown father, and my mother told me to go to my uncle's."

Pregnant with a child whose father was unknown, Julienne had become a source of shame for her family. She found herself condemned to isolation and disarray, confined to her uncle's house, deprived of freedom and shattered in her self-esteem. It was in these conditions that she gave birth to her daughter, isolated and alone, and with no hope for the future.

In the months that followed, Julienne was approached by someone from the Panzi Foundation and invited to join the City of Joy program.

"When I arrived at the City of Joy, I finally received some love. I was welcomed. I met Papa

Julienne grew up surrounded by her family in a small village south of Bukavu. A studious teenager full of dreams, her life was turned upside down when she was brutally raped on her way home from school.

"After classes, I used to stay and study with the others. But that day I was alone; the classmates had left me because it had rained and I hadn't noticed. I had to go home. I had to walk for an hour. On the way, I met a man coming back from the field," Julienne explains.

After raping her, the man threatened her with death and she fled. She managed to return to her village, but the story of her ordeal was just beginning. Initially humiliated in her private life, Julienne was to experience the social stigma often attached to victims of sexual and gender-based violence.

Mukwege, who gave us a course in reproductive health... I told myself that maybe, one day, I too would be an important person," Julienne says.

At Panzi, Julienne attended several professional training courses and learned how to become a woman leader. By the end of her stay, Julienne had regained her confidence. She returned to her family, where she re-established her dignity, and undertook income-generating activities.

"I didn't go back to my uncle. As I was already a woman leader, if my father kicked me out of the house, I'd know how to claim my rights. Because I'm a child of the family I started applying the trades we'd been taught: knitting and agro-pastoral work. I also raised pigs."

After her reintegration, Julienne was invited by Panzi to attend a jewelry and gemmology training course in Dar Es Salaam, Tanzania. On her return, she was hired as an assistant, then as a trainer in the Panzi Foundation jewelry shop,

where she uses her experience to help other survivors.

"The women I now train in jewelry are used to sharing with me everything they've been through in life. To reassure them, I show them my experience, telling them that it's not the end of life, that you still need to have courage, and that helps them."

Today, Julienne has regained hope and become a woman leader. She has made several trips out of the country for various work-related events and professional development, where her extraordinary courage has been noticed. Recognized within her community, she has a stable job that enables her to care for her daughter and better prepare for the future.

She credits Panzi and Dr. Mukwege for her reconstruction, but it is above all to herself and her inner strength that she owes the achievement of her transformation. Today, she uses this strength to accompany other survivors and encourage them to rediscover their dreams.





FROM OUR TEAM

NEEMA RUKUNGHU

“Dr. Nene”, Gynaecologist and holistic care expert, SVS Unit – Panzi Hospital

Known to her patients and colleagues as “Dr. Nene,” she maintains a positive and comforting presence in difficult and seemingly impossible situations as a doctor at Panzi Hospital.

Dr. Nene is an integral part of the Panzi community. From her beginnings as an intern in the hospital’s maternity ward in 2003 to leading the Sexual Violence Survivors (SSV) team for almost a decade, Dr. Nene has played a key role in the development and expansion of the holistic model, both in the DRC and abroad.

Over the past 15 years, she has sought to establish a personal bond with each patient. She notes that this bond is often difficult to create - while survivors may share information about their physical injuries during medical treatment, it takes much more trust to share pain that is not visible. She works tirelessly to ensure that survivors understand their dignity, despite the trauma they’ve endured, and advocates the importance of self-care. Below, Dr. Nene shares a survivor’s story that particularly impacted her.

Nina’s journey

Nina arrived at Panzi Hospital when she was just 13 years old. Orphaned, she and her two younger brothers had been taken in by their uncle. Shortly after moving in with him, he took Nina to an empty field and raped her. They were

discovered by other members of the community, and the uncle accused the girl of witchcraft in an unconscionable attempt to justify the rape. Community members then turned against her.

A group of nuns found Nina and took her to a health center that was unable to provide full post-rape care or treat the serious infection she had contracted. She was sent to Panzi, where she was treated for over three months.

Despite our efforts, Nina’s condition continued to deteriorate. She asked to speak to her little brothers one last time, to make sure they would be all right, and after their conversation, she passed away. During her stay at Panzi, she made silk flowers, a common activity among survivors. She gave these flowers to Dr. Nene, which she still has today. The flowers and Nina’s story are both

a painful reminder of the brutality - and sometimes inevitability - of sexual violence, and a source of inspiration to continue providing compassionate care to all survivors.

A demanding but fulfilling job

As sexual violence continues and increases in the DRC, there are always survivors who come through the doors of Panzi. As a doctor, this is an incredibly difficult situation, which can sometimes seem impossible and helpless. But Dr. Nene is constantly inspired by the women who arrive at Panzi completely broken and who transform into someone who has healed and is happy, laughing and smiling again.

Jane’s story, which Dr. Nene told us, is a good example. Jane suffered the unimaginable. She arrived at Panzi with visible and invisible wounds that seemed



impossible to heal. Today, she has transformed herself into a beacon of joy and light. She has her own home and is an essential part of our sister organization, the City of Joy. She is an inspiration to all survivors who meet her.

Moments like this give her the energy and strength to carry on, and demonstrate the power and importance of our holistic healing model.

A change of perspective is needed to put an end to sexual violence in conflicts

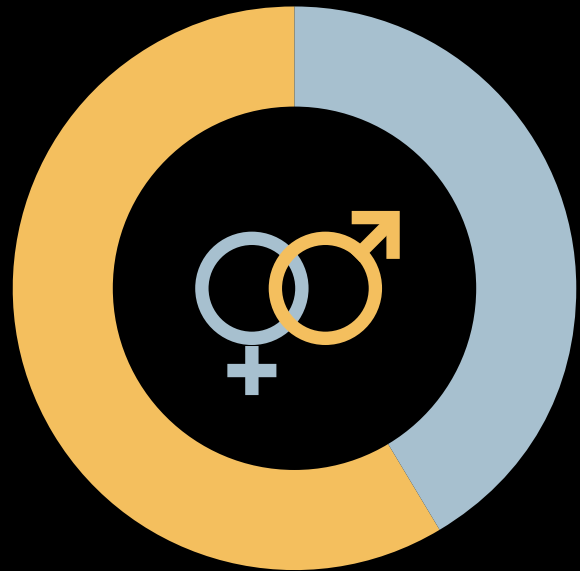
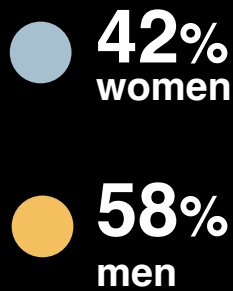
Dr. Nene is convinced that sexual violence occurs when one human being stops seeing another as a human being. She argues that we need to see the humanity of others - and of women in particular. She notes that we need to see ourselves in others, which helps us to care for each other.



PANZI IN NUMBERS

OUR TEAM

In 2022, our team consisted of 592 employees, including 582 Congolese nationals



FINANCES

In 2022, the Panzi Foundation received **\$16.4m** revenue in total.

REVENUES



EXPENSES



DONORS

In 2022, we received funding from 48 donors:

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Weeshuis der doopsgezinden

**HEALING SURVIVORS
AND COMMUNITIES.
WHENEVER,
WHEREVER, AND
HOWEVER THEY NEED.**



PANZI

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