PANZI

ANNUAL REPORT 2025

COURAGE IN ACTION

CONTENTS

LETTER FROM OUR FOUNDER

Dear friends and supporters of Panzi,

Last year was one of the most challenging in Panzi's history. Bukavu, the city in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) where I founded Panzi Hospital more than 26 years ago, has fallen under the occupation of M23, a rebel group backed by neighboring Rwanda. The ensuing violence has exceeded rates from prior years and surpassed my worst fears. Yet at every step of the way, the Panzi team has acted with unparalleled courage.

Against all odds, our team has kept the doors of Panzi Hospital, and our One Stop Centers, open, even when we feared we would be targeted. They deployed medical and surgical teams to remote communities to reach survivors who could not make it to Bukavu. They pioneered new strategies for responsible mineral supply chains and transitional justice. They still found moments to hug and laugh with women and children in our programs. Our team has carried the mission of Panzi with them through the most frightening circumstances, and I could not be more proud.

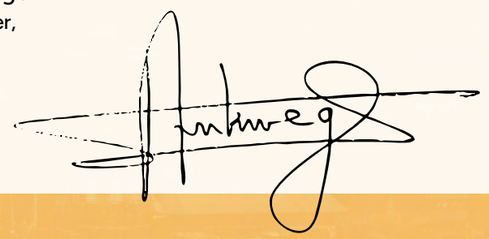
I have also been deeply heartened by the outpouring of support from our network of partners and friends like you. When the aid apparatus of the United States was abruptly dismantled in early 2025, the shock was felt across the global system. Nowhere more than in DRC, where in 2024 over 70% of humanitarian action was funded by the US government. Panic gripped the international community, and other governments looked to follow suit, reducing their budgets as economic and political crises pulled their attention away. Among many in the humanitarian world, there was doubt as to whether our work could continue. Whether all the progress we had fought for would be lost.

But at Panzi, we knew that our work has only ever been possible because of the generosity of you, our trusted supporters. The impact I have witnessed over 26 years at Panzi – the survivors I have seen healed and smiling, starting businesses and growing families – this is because tens of thousands of people around the world heard about what was happening in the DRC and said: I want to be a part of the solution. In 2025, more than 2,700 individuals and organizations from 39 countries contributed to our mission.

As the occupation of eastern DRC enters its second year, our team gathers courage for what lies ahead. We will restock supplies, upgrade our equipment, reinforce our clinical teams, and lead new outreach to connect remote communities with care. Our commitment to quality and compassion, to justice and accountability, has never been more necessary.

One of the most important lessons I have learned over the years from my patients is that we do not heal alone. We heal with others. We heal when we share our stories and call for change. Thank you for being part of this community, and for being part of the solution.

Dr. Denis Mukwege
President & Founder,
Panzi Foundation



THE CONFLICT ESCALATES

The conflict in eastern DRC, ongoing for nearly 30 years, escalated significantly in early 2025. M23 rebels captured the Congolese cities of Goma and Bukavu in late January and early February, with backing from neighboring Rwanda.

The first weeks were chaotic. Fighting in Goma led to more than 2,000 fatalities and the forced evacuation of nearby camps for displaced communities.[1] More than 100 women in a local prison were raped and burned alive when the facility caught fire.[2] In Bukavu, government officials and soldiers fled, emptying state buildings and halting much-needed public services.

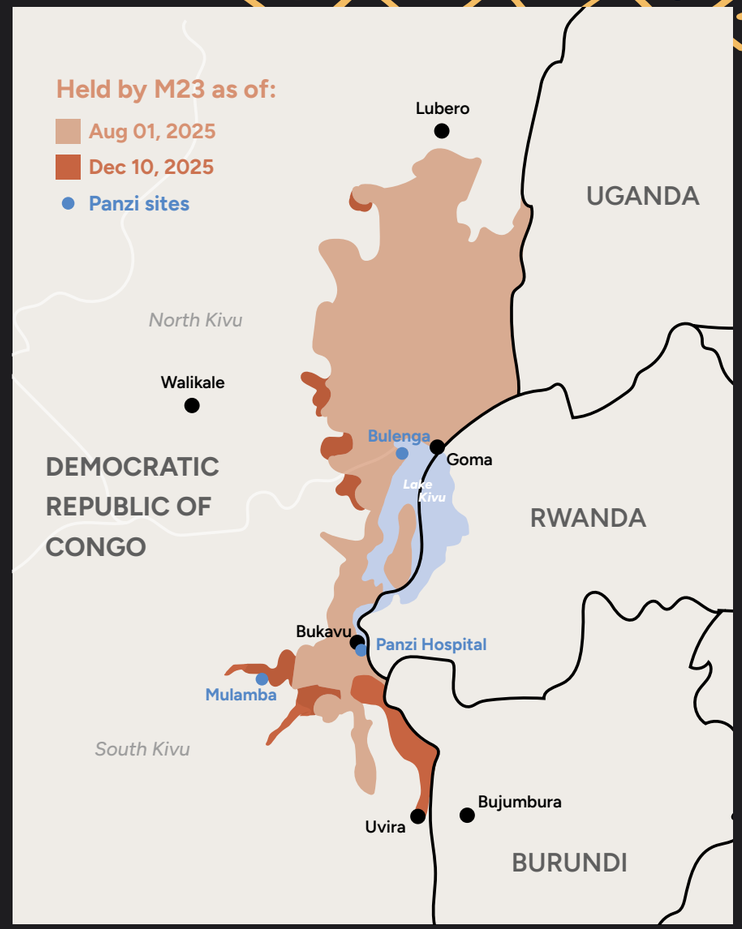
Today, fighting continues outside the cities between M23, national forces, and civilian militia. ACLED estimates that there have been more than 7,000 conflict-related deaths since the start of occupation, with another 24 million people exposed to violence.[3] OCHA reports that over 2 million people have been newly displaced and that there were 220,000 cases of sexual and gender-based violence recorded in 2025, a 69% increase compared to 2024.[4]

Over the last year, Panzi staff have lived and delivered services under rebel occupation. M23 has established its own parallel state structure[5] through which it controls urban infrastructure and administrative networks, cutting millions in North and South Kivu off from the rest of Congo. Both regional airports have been closed, along with commercial banks since last February, further reinforcing the isolation.

Ongoing fighting between armed groups continues to severely disrupt the movement of both people and essential humanitarian aid. The crisis has been further exacerbated by the cuts to U.S. government assistance, which forced many humanitarian and development agencies to quickly and drastically scale back operations in DRC.

State actors made several attempts at ceasefire agreements and peace negotiations throughout 2025. However, the security situation in eastern DRC has continued to deteriorate, and armed groups repeatedly violated the terms of these agreements. In December, less than a week after the DRC and Rwanda signed the Washington Accords in Washington, D.C., M23 took control of Uvira, south of Bukavu, a flagrant breach of the agreement terms.

Since 1999, Panzi has designed and adapted its holistic care model to respond with speed and quality to the needs of survivors and other vulnerable populations in the face of this escalating conflict. In every crisis, we have stood with our communities - delivering care, restoring dignity, and rebuilding hope. Today is no different. We are ready to stand up once again, mobilize our teams, and meet this moment with the same commitment and courage that have defined our work for over two decades.



1 UN News. "DR Congo: Rights chief warns crisis could worsen, without international action" (February 2025).
2 BBC. "More than 100 women raped and burned alive in DR Congo jailbreak, UN says" (February 2025).
3 ACLED Data Explorer. DRC Country Profile. (January 2026).
4 OCHA. DRC Key Humanitarian Data as of December 31, 2025. (January 2026)
5 Critical Threats. M23's State-Building Project: Africa File Special Edition (September 2025).

A ONE STOP CENTER FOR HOLISTIC CARE

A survivor's journey

When a survivor arrives at a Panzi One Stop Center (OSC), they are greeted by a psychosocial assistant, or *Maman Chérie*, who listens to their story and directs them to our four pillars of care - medical treatment, psychosocial support, socio-economic reintegration, and legal assistance.

Survivors are able to access all services free of charge, and also receive dignity kits, food, shelter, and transport. By offering all these services under one roof, the OSC reduces stigma and logistical burdens.

Each survivor chooses where to begin her healing journey.

Medical treatment:

Survivors receive comprehensive, life-saving medical care including surgeries for the repair of fistula and prolapse, care for non-gynecological injuries; and maternal and reproductive health services. Survivors seen within 72 hours of an assault receive Post-Exposure Prophylaxis (PEP) kits to prevent HIV, other STIs, and unwanted pregnancies.

Psychosocial care

Panzi offers survivors clinical mental health services from trained psychologists, both through individual sessions and group counseling. They are also able to join activities like dance and music therapy, as well as recreational outings.

Socio-Economic Reintegration:

Survivors have access to life-skills courses in literacy, numeracy and reproductive health, as well as vocational training in trades like tailoring, carpentry, and hairdressing. Survivors can also join community savings & loan groups, participate in agropastoral activities, or receive support to launch their own small business.

Legal Assistance:

Panzi facilitates access to legal services for survivors who are seeking justice, accountability, and reparations for the harm they have experienced. Support includes navigation of the legal system, forensic evidence collection, and legal representation.

> [At Panzi], the medical staff are taking care of me as if I were their own child.... even the psychologist is always by my side

Aline,* age 16

*Names have been changed

> We are now committed to work toward protecting other girls who are being exploited. We will be a voice bringing hope to all the other girls in the community who have lost hope

Marie,* age 22

> I am proud to be part of an institution sensitive to human suffering. I am proud to soothe troubled thoughts and bring a smile back to faces wrinkled by pain

Rhoda, Lead Psychologist at Survivors of Sexual Violence Unit, Panzi Hospital

OUR REACH

In addition to Panzi Hospital in Bukavu, Panzi has opened three other One Stop Centers (OSC) in DRC – in Mulamba in 2011, Bulenga in 2015, and Kinshasa in 2018, reaching survivors at the last mile across both remote rural areas and peri-urban communities. In addition to these core locations, Panzi supports dozens of partner OSCs operated by the public sector and other institutional partners across the DRC.

4 One Stop Centers

3 active legal clinics

21 partner OSCs

99 mobile clinics

317 Staff at Panzi Foundation

412 Staff at Panzi Hospital

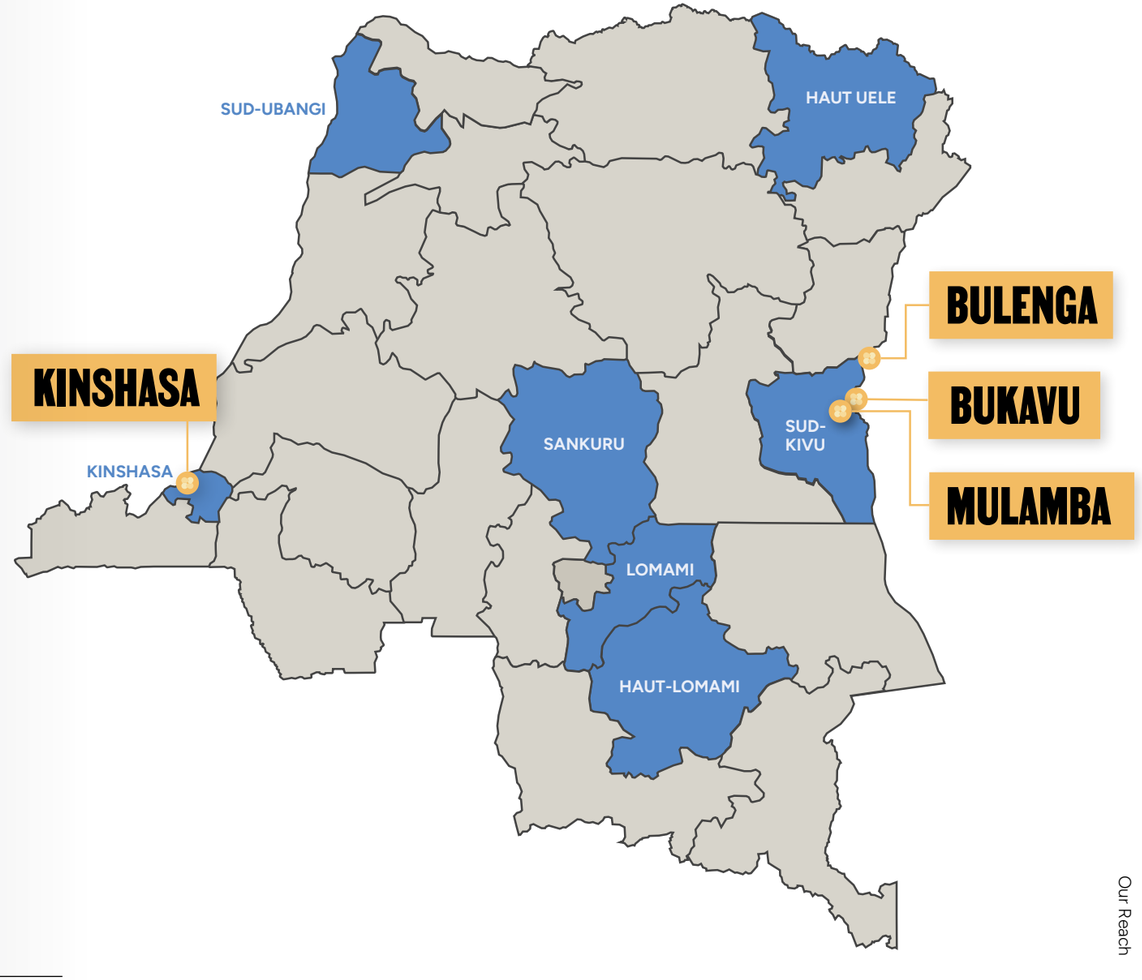
6 Lawyers

27 Psychologists

50 Doctors

Panzi programs

Panzi One Stop Centers



2025 IMPACT

Medical
Socio-economic
Legal
Psychosocial

3,857
Survivors received medical treatment

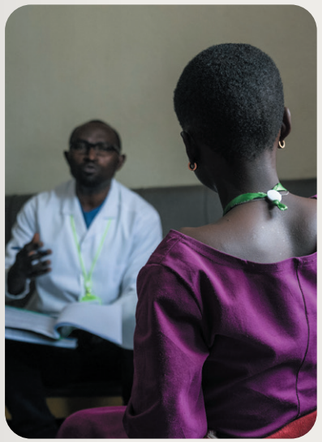
4,165
Babies delivered

1,450
Gynecological surgeries

85%
Fistula surgery success rate

97%
Prolapse surgery success rate

100
Birth certificates obtained for children born of rape



266
Graduates from Maison Dorcas

127
Women & girls in transitional housing

9,122
Patients received psycho-social support

HOLISTIC CARE IN ACTION

Connecting Survivors with PEP

An essential part of the medical care Panzi provides for survivors of sexual violence is post-exposure prophylaxis, or a PEP kit. This kit includes medications that can prevent HIV and other sexually transmitted infections, as well as emergency contraception to prevent pregnancy. To be effective, kits must be administered within 72 hours of the assault and stocked at all health facilities so that survivors anywhere can access them in time.

For many years, a single organization has compiled and distributed PEP Kits to hospitals and clinics across eastern DRC, including Panzi. More than 50,000 kits were distributed annually by this program, all funded by the US Agency for International Development (USAID). In early 2025, the US government cut funding to this program along with thousands of other humanitarian projects globally.[1]

In February many of the remaining kits were left sitting in warehouses, with no funds to distribute them or assemble more. To make matters worse, the US government had been the primary provider of HIV prophylaxis in DRC – now this medication was unavailable, even to purchase. Just as eastern Congo faced a massive increase in cases of sexual violence, providers across the region were suddenly without the tools they most needed to care for survivors.

By May, fewer than half of the health zones had a single PEP kit remaining. By October, just a few hundred kits were left in North Kivu province, where the estimated need was in the tens of thousands.[2] As South Kivu's Center of Excellence for the treatment of sexual violence, Panzi received a limited supply of PEP kits from institutional partners even as reserves dwindled, which we distributed across our network of One Stop Centers and partner hospitals. **Against the odds, 100% of survivors who reached Panzi Hospital or one of our One Stop Centers for treatment within 72 hours of an assault received a PEP Kit.**

Many key donors, including the World Bank, UNFPA, and GIZ have committed to mobilize new reserves of kits in 2026. However, without a systemic supply chain solution,[3] Panzi and health actors across eastern DRC will not be able to maintain this critical element of our care package.

1 Reuters. Exclusive: USAID Cancelled Rape Survivor Kits for Congo as Conflict Erupted (May 2025)
2 Human Rights Watch. DR Congo: Surge in Conflict-Related Sexual Violence (January 2026)
3 PHR, Abandoned in Crisis, The Impact of U.S. Global Health Funding Cuts in Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) (July 2025)

Safe Spaces for Healing

In Bukavu, survivors who have been discharged from medical treatment at Panzi Hospital can receive ongoing support and care at Maison Dorcas, our transitional housing and vocational training center.

In addition to safe housing, food, health services, and childcare, Maison Dorcas provides survivors and other vulnerable women from the local community with vocational training opportunities and life skills classes. In 2025, 162 women and children, over half of whom were survivors, participated in Maison Dorcas programs.
As part of our psychosocial support program at Maison Dorcas, women and girls are evaluated at both entry and exit for depression, anxiety, and post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) using tools developed by Harvard and Johns Hopkins.

These survey tools assess the three mental health conditions on a scale of 1 to 4, with 1 representing no symptoms, and 4 representing the most severe cases. For anxiety and depression, scores above 1.75 indicate clinically significant symptoms requiring prompt attention. For trauma, any score above 2.5 meets the clinical threshold.

Among the 119 women & adolescent girls assessed in our 2025 cohort, there were substantial reductions in average scores for anxiety, depression, and trauma between entry and exit.

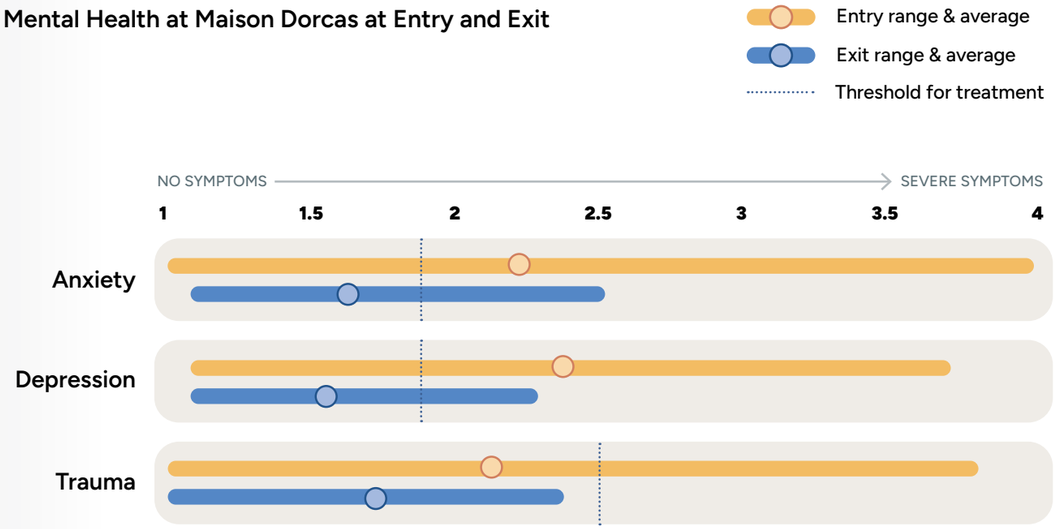
Many individuals arrived above the clinical thresholds, with some scoring 3.8 or 4 – a sign of acute distress. However, average scores upon exit were well below these thresholds. No individuals left with acute trauma symptoms. Some scores improved by as much as 1.3 points – a remarkable boost in well-being. These dramatic improvements demonstrate the meaningful impact of safe housing, psychosocial assistance, and community support.

Conflict outside the walls of Maison Dorcas continues to weigh heavily on the women and girls in Panzi's care, with many retraumatized by ongoing fighting and the presence of armed groups in Bukavu.

Just as important as connecting our survivors to supportive housing and care is bringing a just and peaceful end to the ongoing conflict.

You can learn more about Panzi's work to address the root causes of the war on page 27.

Mental Health at Maison Dorcas at Entry and Exit



*Data is descriptive and does not represent a formal statistical analysis.

Reaching Survivors Everywhere

Panzi's commitment to survivors goes beyond Bukavu - our work is to reach every survivor across South Kivu with holistic care.

In the immediate aftermath of M23's capture of Goma and Bukavu, data showed that rates of sexual violence in North and South Kivu were skyrocketing – one early report suggested by almost 270%.[1] Yet we did not initially see a corresponding increase in the survivors arriving at Panzi Hospital. In fact, in February and March of 2025, the patient numbers at Panzi Hospital's SVS Unit dropped by more than half compared to prior months with the majority coming from within Bukavu. Survivors from rural areas were trapped on the other side of the fighting, and unable to reach Panzi Hospital.

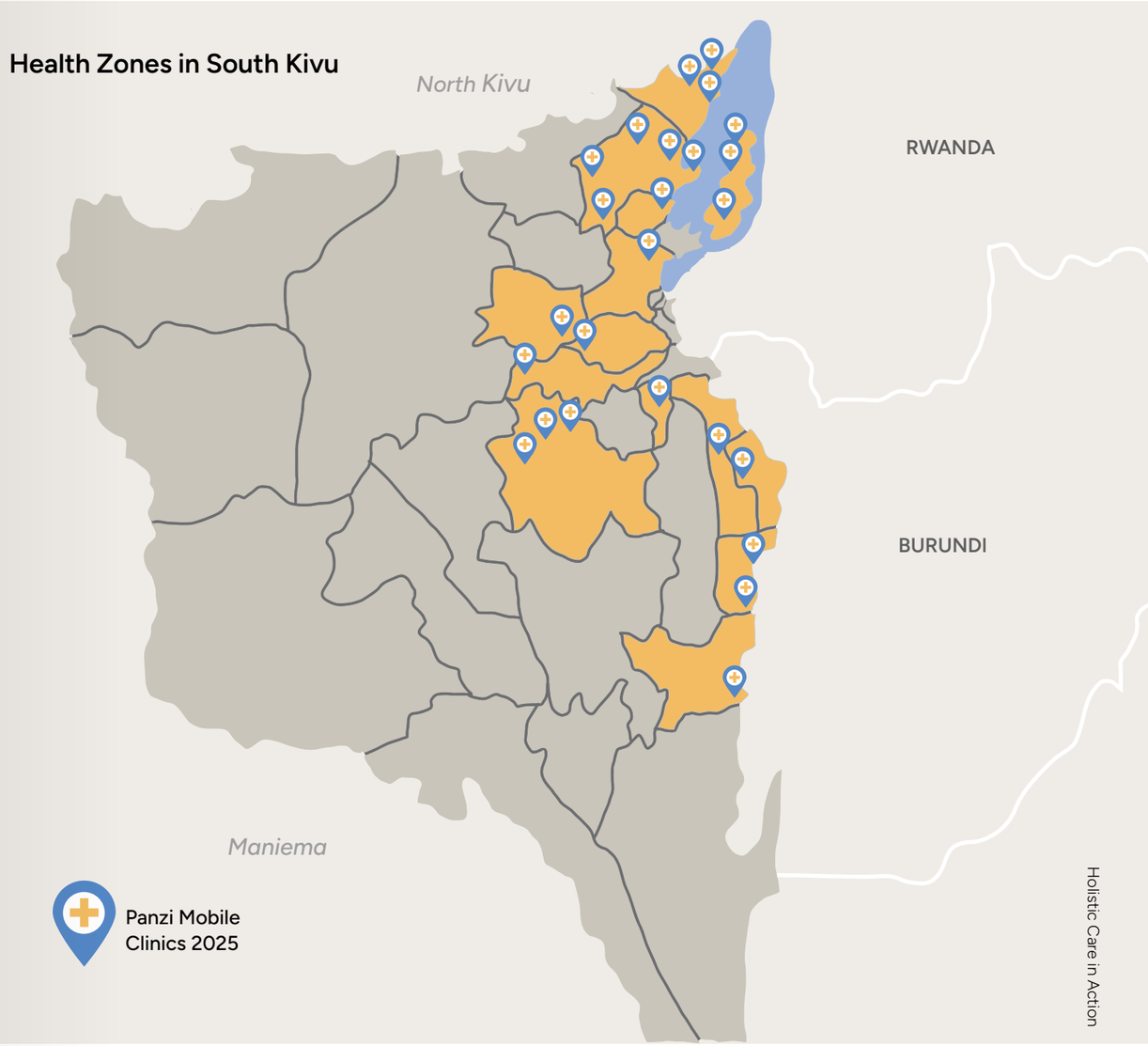
In response, Panzi redoubled focus on our rural networks of holistic care. We directed emergency funds and supplies towards our One Stop Centers in Mulamba and Bulenga and facilitated secure referrals for survivors who needed higher levels of care. Both facilities remained open all year, even when fighting nearly came to their doorstep. In total, the two OSCs saw 453 survivors and performed 277 gynecological surgeries.

Moreover, our network of 21 partner OSCs, whom we reinforce with staffing, supplies and technical assistance, have also stepped up to meet the need in remote communities – in total they treated 1,436 survivors in 2025.

We deployed additional mobile clinics targeting displaced communities with both essential medical services and holistic care. These mobile clinics provide essential services, including PEP kits, psychosocial counseling, dignity kits, wound care, and minor surgeries.

In total, our mobile clinics reached over 15,000 people across 10 health zones.

1 United Nations Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights. Deputy High Commissioner Updates Council on the Democratic Republic of the Congo (April 2025).



Cultivating Peace

The climate in eastern DRC, particularly around Lake Kivu, where Panzi is located, has long been ideal for coffee production.

National production topped 100,000 tons per year in the late 1980s, making it one of the largest suppliers in the world. 30 years of conflict has since sharply curtailed the industry, but investments over the last decade have succeeded in increasing production.[1]

Panzi's socio-economic reintegration programs seek to offer survivors a path toward economic independence and empowerment. Coffee is one industry where we are working to connect women and their families with new trainings and opportunities. Through our long-running collaboration with Equal Exchange, coffee from South Kivu is sold on the global market, with a portion of proceeds directed towards Panzi's programs.

In 2023, Panzi partnered with the Lavazza Foundation to deepen our engagement with all levels of the coffee supply chain. The project supports survivors of sexual violence and other vulnerable individuals in eastern DRC to cultivate, process, roast, and serve coffee. Through this, they will participate in each step of the value chain, ultimately improving their livelihoods over the long-term.

1 Reuters. "Congo coffee farmers fear war will undo recent gains" (September 2025)

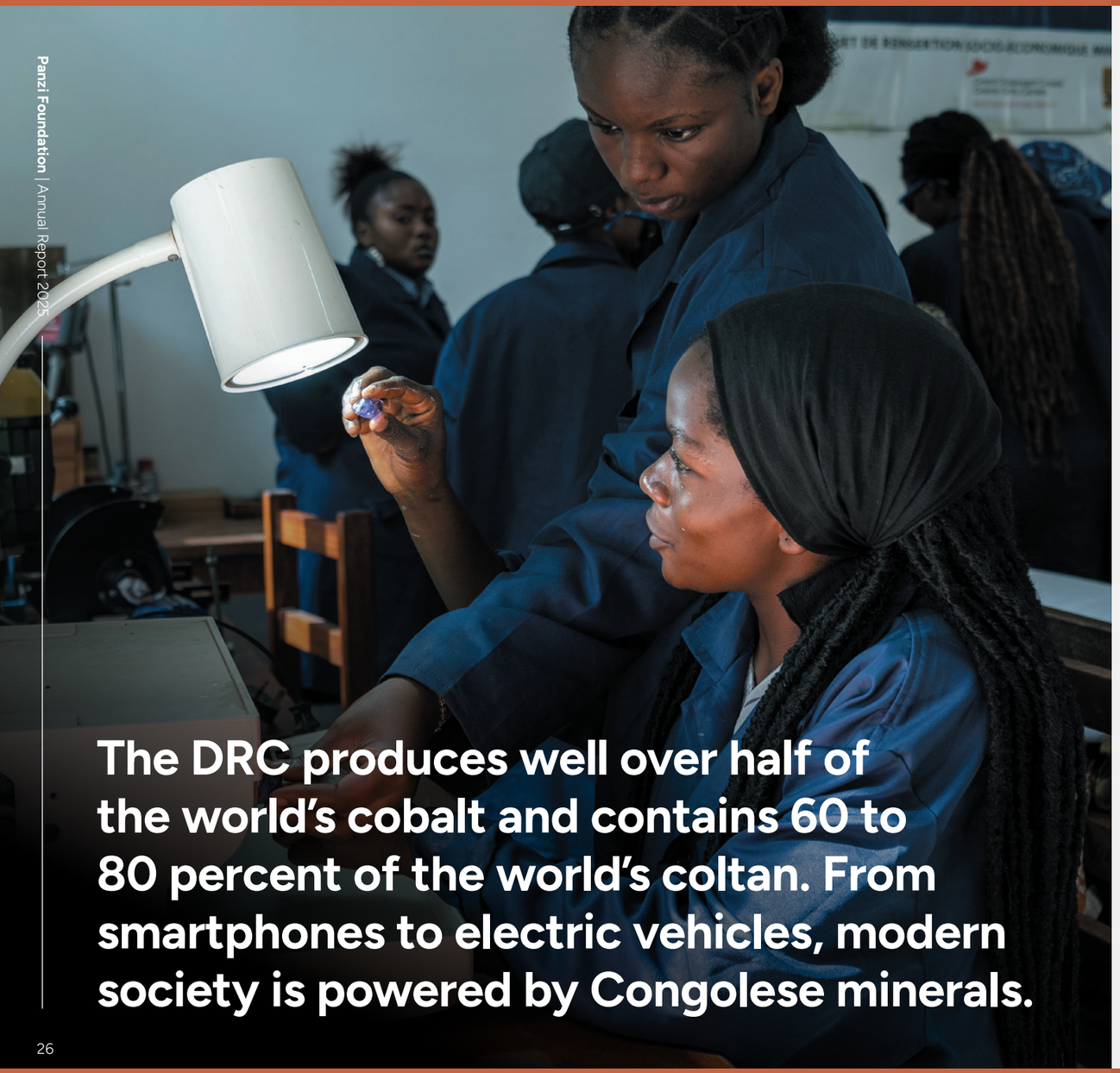
To date, Panzi and our beneficiaries have planted and cultivated more than 60,000 coffee trees and trained 300 women in crop maintenance and post-harvest processing. In July, we also held the first training on coffee roasting and barista techniques for six women and began the formation of a coffee cooperative. Even when the conflict threatens local economies, women at Panzi fight to gain new skills and create opportunities for their communities.

TRANSFORMATIVE PROGRAMMING

Addressing Gender Inequality at the Root

Panzi works to address the root causes of gender-based violence through our advocacy program Badilika. Meaning “change” or “to transform” in Swahili, Badilika seeks to drive systemic shifts in societal attitudes and behaviors around gender equality, women’s rights, and masculinity. In 2025, Panzi’s team engaged over local communities, leaders, schools, and grassroots organization through training, awareness-raising mobilizations, and radio transmissions, ultimately reaching more than 17,000 individuals with our messaging.

After a Badilika training, one participant remarked. “I grew up with the idea that a man shouldn’t flaunt his emotions. I kept everything to myself, which created a feeling of loneliness and distance from others.... I now realize that recognizing and expressing my emotions is not a weakness but rather a strength; that emotions are not only the prerogative of women.... I communicate better with my wife, we discuss everything and I feel more peaceful.”



The DRC produces well over half of the world's cobalt and contains 60 to 80 percent of the world's coltan. From smartphones to electric vehicles, modern society is powered by Congolese minerals.

Centering Communities in Mineral Supply Chains

The violence affecting Panzi communities is closely tied to the country's natural resources. DRC produces well over half of the world's cobalt and coltan – both essential minerals for the smartphones, electric vehicles, and data centers that power our modern lives.

Access to these minerals has long been a source of power struggles involving multinational corporations, neighboring countries, and local leaders. Armed groups often supported by these actors utilize brutal violence – including sexual violence – to gain control over the communities where these lucrative minerals are located. Panzi's global advocacy takes direct aim at this resource exploitation, envisioning a world where supply chains for these minerals are traceable, responsible, and keep the rights and well-being of Congolese communities at the center. We strategically engage global technology companies reliant on the DRC's resources to improve transparency, address community needs, and update their sourcing practices.

In 2025, our team launched a new pilot project to connect local artisanal mining communities in South Kivu with our jewelry training workshop at Maison Dorcas. At a local mining site in Idjwi, we engaged local cooperatives on responsible sourcing and human rights and established a monitoring mechanism to flag unsafe conditions. At Panzi, we trained survivors on lapidary and jewelry-making techniques and will connect them to opportunities to sell their products on the formal market. Together these investments lay the groundwork for a traceable gemstone supply chain at the local level and serve as the first step towards a mining system that will build communities, rather than tear them apart.

Panzi also complemented this pilot initiative with high-level policy engagement and thought leadership. Our team contributed to international discussions on responsible investment and US–DRC mineral partnerships, published analysis on emerging "minerals-for-peace" frameworks and convened a task force to advance more inclusive and sustainable approaches to mineral governance. Across these platforms, we consistently emphasized that lasting peace cannot be built on extractive models that exclude or harm local populations.

Mining site in Kolwezi, DRC

ALINE'S STORY

Finding Safety at Panzi Hospital

Aline* is 16 and from Kabare, a community north of Bukavu. Until last year, she had a quiet life – she went to school and helped her mother with chores in the afternoons. Last February, all that ended when she was attacked and assaulted by soldiers.

While out gathering vegetables from her family's plot of land, a group of armed men surrounded her, tied her to a tree and left. When they returned hours later, they each raped her until she lost consciousness. When Aline awoke, she was in a health center, surrounded by her mother and relatives. From there, she was transferred to Panzi Hospital for specialized care.

At Panzi, Aline received prompt medical treatment, psychological support, and a dignity kit. She and her mother received three meals a day while she underwent treatment. Almost immediately, she began to feel better, remarking that "the medical staff are taking care of me as if I were their own child.... even the psychologist is always by my side."

Aline later learned that she was pregnant, which has made her nervous about what comes next. But the compassion she received at Panzi will continue: she will have access to Panzi's specialized midwifery program for young survivors, helping them understand and process their pregnancies and initial months of motherhood.

Aline believes that returning home will be difficult – the soldiers who attacked her are still in the region. "Our village needs safety and peace," Aline says.

**Name has been changed and quotes lightly edited for translation and clarity. Photos are illustrative only and do not represent the individuals involved.*

PANZI ON THE GLOBAL STAGE

Seeds from Kivu, a film on survivors at Panzi Hospital, wins the 2025 Goya Award for Best Short Documentary

February

The New York Times

Congo is bleeding. Where is the outrage?

As M23 forces march on Bukavu, Dr. Muwekge publishes guest essay in The New York Times, calling for global action to protect civilians and hold perpetrators accountable

Atlantic Council

US Investors must lead on responsible sourcing in the DRC

Panzi's Policy Advocacy lead, Namwezi Nicole Batumike, co-authors the Atlantic Council's series Beyond Critical Minerals: Capitalizing on the DRC's Vast Opportunities

June

April

Panzi attends the Skoll World Forum and Dr. Mukwege is featured as a plenary speaker

May

Dr. Mukwege addresses the European Parliament in Strasbourg on the ongoing conflict in the DRC

Muganga: The One Who Treats, a feature film on Dr. Mukwege and the Panzi Hospital, is released in Beligum and France

Dr. Mukwege joined Armine Arfeyan of the Aurora Humanitarian Initiative and Chelsea Clinton on stage at the Clinton Global Initiative to discuss investing in local humanitarian action

September

Dr. Mukwege and fellow Nobel Peace Prize Laureate Nadia Murad meet with Pope Leo at the Vatican

October

Panzi Hospital's Survivors of Sexual Violence Unit was named one of Physicians for Human Rights' 2025 Honorees

December

Panzi Hospital and Dr. Mukwege are featured in Reuters longform piece on the sexual violence in eastern DRC under the M23 occupation

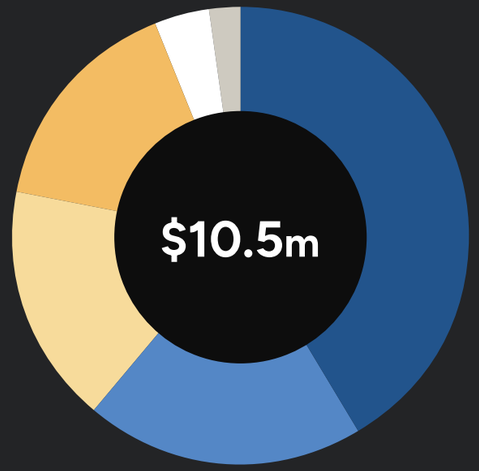
REUTERS

Congo's hidden victims: Child survivors recount gang rape, sexual slavery by M23 forces

FINANCES

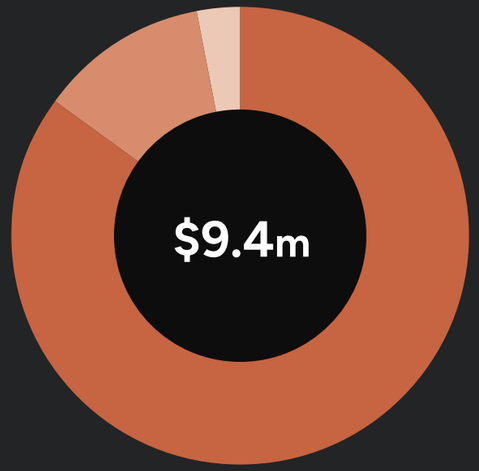
In 2025, Panzi raised $10.5 million in consolidated revenue across our US and DRC offices and had expenditures of $9.4 million.

Revenue



- Governments **42%**
- Foundations **20%**
- Organizations **17%**
- Individuals **16%**
- Corporates **4%**
- Other Income **2%**

Expenditures



- Programs **86%**
- Operations & Management **12%**
- Fundraising & Communications **2%**

These charts are a consolidated financial summary of the two distinct fiscal entities of Panzi Foundation in the US and DRC, using a cash basis. For further detail, please see our audits.

“The impact I have witnessed over 26 years at Panzi is possible because tens of thousands of people around the world heard about what was happening in the DRC and said: I want to be a part of the solution.

– DR. MUKWEGE

OUR PARTNERS

Panzi's work in 2025 was made possible thanks to the steadfast support of the following humanitarian, philanthropic, and in-kind partners, as well as a group of committed individual donors.

- Agence Française pour le Développement (AFD) in partnership with the French Red Cross
- Alongside Hope
- Aurora Humanitarian Initiative
- Avocats sans Frontières Belgique
- Four Pillars Fund at Bessemer Trust
- Italian Episcopal Conference
- Center for Disaster Philanthropy
- Center for International Reproductive Health Training
- Cultures of Resistance
- Dr Denis Mukwege Foundation
- Evangelical Church of Westphalia
- Equal Exchange
- European Union, in partnership with ENABEL
- Everyone Everywhere Foundation
- Fight for Dignity
- Fondation Pierre Fabre
- Fondation Roi Baudouin
- Friends of Panzi Hospital – Sweden
- Give Directly
- Give Power
- Global Affairs Canada in partnership with the University of Montreal
- Google
- Giuseppe and Pericle Lavazza Foundation
- L'Oréal Fund for Women
- Luxembourg Red Cross
- Make Music Matter
- Maillons de l'Espoir
- MCJ Amelior Foundation
- Mercy Child Sweden
- Monaco Red Cross
- Moseka Action Project
- No. Jewelry Company
- Norwegian Church Aid
- PMU Interlife
- Responsible Business Alliance
- Skoll Foundation
- Society of Gynecological Surgeons in partnership with SHE+ Foundation
- STAR RDC, in Partnership with the World Bank
- Stichting De Hoorn
- Stichting Vluchteling
- The Tolkien Trust
- UN Trust Fund to End Violence Against Women & Girls
- UNFPA
- UNHCR
- UNICEF
- Vitol Foundation
- World Central Kitchen
- World Bank
- World Food Program

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