



Fund for Innovation and Transformation

Fonds pour l'innovation et la transformation



MAKE MUSIC MATTER

It Takes a Village: Integration of Men and Boys into Healing in Harmony in Mulamba

Context

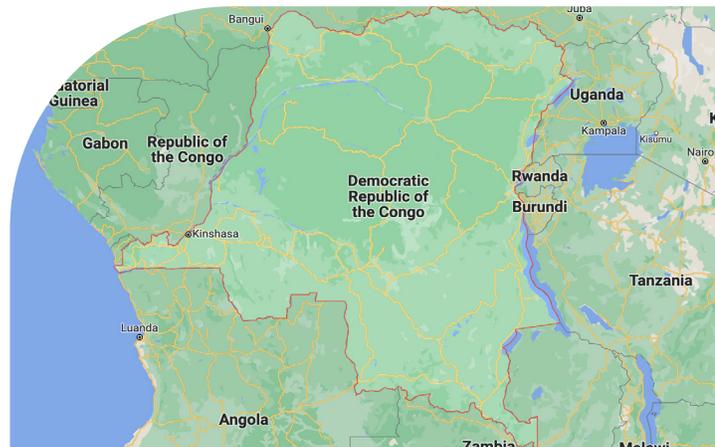
Conflict plagues Mulamba, DRC, with at least 3 militia groups actively operating in the area. Raids on the town are frequent and destabilizing. Sexual gender-based violence has been one of the most brutal weapons used during these conflicts and subsequently by rebel militias to destabilize communities. Estimates suggest 40% of women in the region have experienced sexual violence.

The Innovative Solution

Make Music Matter, in partnership with the Panzi Hospital and Foundation, tested the expansion of their innovative 'Healing in Harmony' music therapy program, which historically focused on helping women and girl survivors of sexual violence recover from their traumas and reintegrate back into the community. This project included men and boys by addressing their unique trauma from violence and conflict, developing nonviolent coping skills, discussing positive models of masculinity, understanding gender equality, and learning tools to support and empower their family and community members.

Advancing Gender Equality

The inclusion of both females and males in the program helps participants practically envision how the equitable sharing of work and resources could take place. Graduates from the program become role models in the community for positive masculinity and demonstrate how gender equality can improve life at a family level. Program staff worked with a Gender Specialist to develop messaging and sensitization materials.



COUNTRY	AMOUNT
Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC)	\$224,660

TESTING PERIOD
15 months
Ended Dec 2021



SDG 5: GENDER EQUALITY



GENDER TRANSFORMATIVE (GE3)



THEME: GENDER EQUALITY

Testing Framework

The original Healing in Harmony approach served as a baseline, with added gender transformative indicators and increased community sensitization activities. The purpose for replicating the design of the original study was to compare the effectiveness of female-only against gender inclusive approaches.

Results and Impact

Data clearly indicated that the music therapy programme is associated with significant improvements in mental health for participants. At baseline, artists screened positive for anxiety (88%), depression (88%) and PTSD (40%). **At endline trauma indicators reduced significantly to 8% anxiety, 11% depression and 2% PTSD.**

The innovation also created 11 MUSO groups (the mutuels de solidarité) typically used for economic supports had their scope expanded to include social support for the artists to ensure post testing sustainability.

Awareness-raising activities led by the Panzi Gender Specialist had a total of 250 attendees (45% female attendance). A concert was held in December 2021 where for the first time a group of men sang about positive masculinity, equality, and human rights.

Key Lessons

1. Although the programme reported changes in gender and masculinity perceptions for artists, some perceptions are firmly anchored in the local culture and traditions. More sensitization campaigns and gender education are needed at various levels of the society.
2. Previously the Panzi Gender Specialist was included in more of a consulting role for the project. Given both the severe effects of COVID-related restrictions, in particular for women and girls, and the hesitancy of males to participate in the program, the role of the Gender Specialist has been changed to be more of a member of the training/monitoring/mentoring team.
3. There was a need to assess not only the individual risks, but also what results from the interaction of multiple risks within a given context. It was not fully appreciated how much the testing context would magnify the secondary effects of the COVID lockdown.

“The songs and lyrics do have a powerful effect on changing perceptions, both on the individual and community levels. Once the music is created and disseminated in the community, the listeners and even the participants themselves begin to see the situation differently, with a more positive and supportive mind set towards survivors. Rather than blame and rejection, there is acceptance and even a new respect for the artists who have emerged from the program.” - Lead Therapist and Producer.

PARTNER ORGANIZATION

- Panzi Hospital and Foundation

TARGET PARTICIPANTS

146 women and 125 men completed the program

FOR MORE INFORMATION

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ABOUT FIT

The Fund for Innovation and Transformation supports Canadian small and medium-sized organizations (SMOs) testing innovative solutions that advance gender equality in the Global South.

