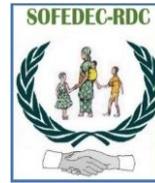




Deutscher Frauenring
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Swiss Women's Rights
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SOLIDARITE DES FEMMES
POUR LE DEVELOPPEMENT,
ENVIRONNEMENT ET DROIT
DE L'ENFANT AU CONGO
SOFEDEC

Emergency Help Fighting the Pandemic **A sensibilization campaign and a joint action against Covid-19**

Anuarite Siirewabo, Coordinator of SOFEDEC

ANALYSIS OF THE WOMEN'S CONTEXT AFTER COVID 19 IN THE CITY OF BUKAVU, KALONGE AND BUNYAKIRI

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The Covid-19 outbreak shocked the world despite of a different context in each country.

Certainly, a country affected in advance by conflict, violence, multiple and terrible crises and poor governance that does not provide access to appropriate health infrastructures, will be have difficulties to cope with this pandemic.

The DRC is a country where violence, conflict, economic and humanitarian crises are constantly at the doorstep of the people. To this general and permanent situation is added the deadly surprise of the Covid-19 pandemic which sows terror and whose consequences affect mostly women and the elderly.

The containment, although a measure to prevent the spread of Covid-19, restricts women's activities, and it jeopardizes the advancement of women's rights by degrading their potential which is based on agricultural production, which is the mainstay for rural and farming women.

Confinement has very negative consequences for women's lives and routine activities.

Usually women with small incomes in the city of Bukavu work with micro-credits that are granted to them in cooperatives facilitated by savings and credit solidarity groups. Otherwise they have no possibility to access to individual credits.

During the confinement instead of working to be able to repay, the women are locked up consuming without producing anything. This situation makes it difficult for them to repay their micro-credits.

In the city of Bukavu some women although they will be free after Covid-19 will risk a prison sentence, if there is no means to support them. This situation can block the promotion of women's rights, as it jeopardizes the potential of these women who are agricultural producers. As a result, they are no longer able to help with the daily drudgery.

SOFEDEC has designed an emergency plan to support women through capacity building by setting up a cereal bank in Kalonge and Bunyakiri. This will be distributed among women to enable them to continue their agricultural production. The plan also provides for the support of women working in the informal sector (low-income women) who have taken out microcredits for their usual activities (small business). We have planned to accompany these women to advocate in front of the cooperatives and to request the exemption from penalties resulting from non-repayment on time. But we also want to grant the women a small capital. This will allow them to work and also to pay back the credit little by little.