



**SOLIDARITE DES FEMMES
POUR LE DEVELOPPEMENT,
ENVIRONNEMENT ET
DROIT DE L'ENFANT AU CONGO**

IAW / AIF Projet « Eau et serviettes pour les écolières »

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REPORT OF ACTIVITY ON MENSTRUAL HYGIENE AT THE BUNYAKIRI INSTITUTE DR CONGO

Bunyakiri is a village in the territory of Kalehe in South Kivu, located 70 km from the city of Bukavu. SOFEDEC's mission is to help women in general and girls in particular to promote their rights. It has never given up in its struggle to achieve its goal.

The road from Bukavu to Bunyakiri is really horrible, because it is often almost impassable and not safe. You must cross the Kahuzi Biega National Park to get to the villages near Bunyakiri. This poses great safety risks for travellers, but at the same time it is a very beautiful area.

We were thankful to God who led us from the 20th to the 26th of February through this very dangerous environment. We only stayed there for 3 days. However since our arrival there have been clashes between the RAIA MUTOMBOKI armed groups and the HUTU RWANDAIS group plus the MUBUKU group in KATASOMWA. We witnessed the displacement of the population and heard the sound of bullets from the place of the clashes at a distance of 40 km.

All activities were suspended for 3 days, and people tended to escape. It was very unfortunate for me! Only after the intermediation of the Minister of the Interior and the elected deputies of these two ethnic groups, the Batembo (Mutomboki armed group) and the HUTU (Randaïs), who were accompanied by some notables and provincial ministers, and after their dialogue that the clashes calmed down and the activities could get resumed.

We went to the school in Bunyakiri on 26 February 2021, and this is how the activities went:

1. Presentation and request for authorisation to carry out the activity. We were at the coordination office represented by the coordinator KITULI BWAMI. He signed the necessary documents
2. Arrival at the school
3. Presentation at the office of Mr ISSANDA PASCAL, the prefect of the school. He welcomed us and signed the papers.
4. 35 girls were present in the class-room at 8.30am

The teachers participated at the solemn opening of the activity, and gave us the opportunity to discuss with the girls and 3 female teachers of the primary school.

During our talks the girls were voicing strongly their problems regarding the lack of water and sanitary pads at school. There is water but not permanently and only available at a distance of 90m from the toilets. There are no buckets to carry the water to the toilets.

At the end of our activities we set up a toilet hygiene management committee where each class is represented from grade 1 to grade 6. They all chose a chairperson and a secretary. Their committee is composed of 7 people.

After creating this committee we called the person in charge of the maintenance and we briefed him. He might help us to have a strict follow-up by respecting the toilet maintenance programs of each group. That was the end of our activity.

We are very grateful to IAW in general and especially to our friends who commit themselves helping girls and women in various regions of Africa.

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