



# NEW HOPE RECONCILIATION CENTER'S PRESENTATION



**DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO**

**DRC**



# WHO WE ARE?

New Hope Reconciliation Center (NHRC) have been founded in 2020 in South Kivu Province of DRC. It was established in response to recurring intercommunal conflicts and the multidimensional challenges faced by local populations. The region was plagued by severe violence, mass displacement, the destruction of social infrastructure, and numerous other human rights violations.

In the face of this humanitarian crisis, a native of the region, Alexis Ruhumuriza, supported by Joseph Harera both pastors and peacebuilders decided to take action. They founded NHRC with the mission of reconciling communities, restoring social cohesion, and rekindling hope for a peaceful future. The name "New Hope" itself embodies this vision.

NHRC adopted an inclusive approach to conflict transformation through dialogue, emphasizing collaboration between formerly opposing tribes. Funded by American partners such as Congo Peace and BelPres Church, NHRC is now seen as a seed of hope where everything once seemed lost. Its headquarters is located in Minembwe, with an administrative office in Bukavu, and a team of around fifteen permanent staff members works for the organization.

## VISION

NHRC's vision is to build a society in which Congolese citizens of different ethnicities unite and act together to bring about positive change in their lives.

## MISSION

The mission is to rebuild peace and promote sustainable development in the DRC, particularly in South Kivu.



## INTERVENTION SECTORS

- Peacebuilding and reconciliation
- Education,
- Health and nutrition,
- Women and youth Empowerment
- Child Protection
- Food security





## WHAT WE HAVE ACHIEVED

Since its founding in 2020, **New Hope Reconciliation Center (NHRC)** has become a catalyst for transformation in the conflict-affected communities of South Kivu, Democratic Republic of Congo.

In response to cycles of violence, displacement, and poverty, NHRC has implemented a holistic, community-centered approach aimed at restoring peace, dignity, and resilience.

### PEACEBUILDING

The peacebuilding has been at the heart of NHRC's mission. By constructing a community center and church, and conducting peace outreach in 47 villages and 22 churches, the organization has rebuilt spaces for healing and reconciliation.

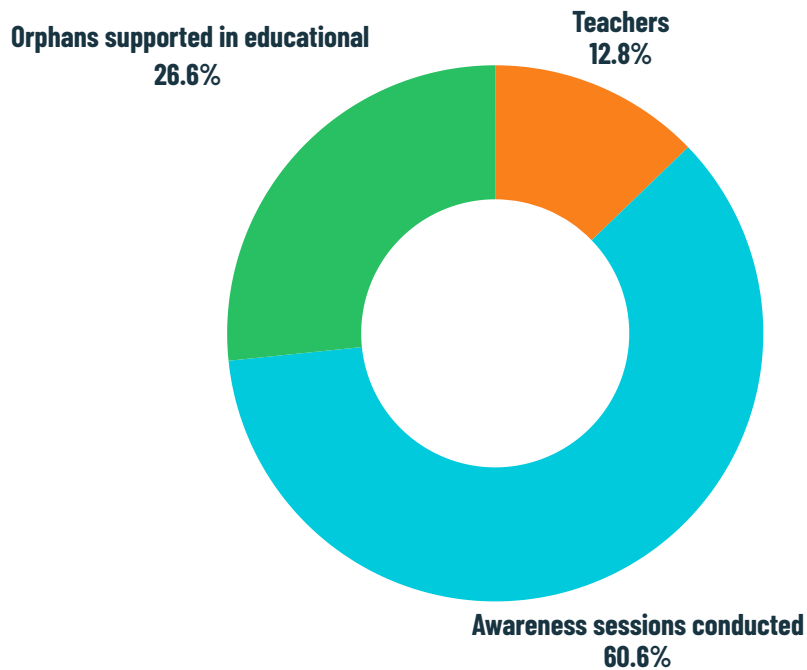
Campaigns through schools, radio broadcasts, crusades, and sports have engaged over 100,000 individuals. These efforts have not only reduced tensions among divided ethnic groups but also empowered local leaders, pastors, and youth to become active peacebuilders. Young people previously at risk of manipulation by armed groups now participate in sports and dialogue, fostering unity and resilience.



## EDUCATION

In the education sector, NHRC's construction of a vocational training school has opened life-changing opportunities for youth, equipping them with practical skills in tailoring and other trades. Supporting 50 orphans with school materials has further promoted access to education for the most vulnerable.

This investment in learning is restoring hope and dignity, breaking the cycle of poverty and dependence, and nurturing a new generation of skilled, independent citizens.





## CHILD PROTECTION

Understanding the profound impact of conflict on children, NHRC has placed a strong emphasis on **child protection** as a cornerstone of its work. By establishing child-friendly spaces, the organization has provided safe havens where children can regain a sense of normalcy through play, learning, and emotional support.

Weekly engagement activities have created consistent opportunities for healing and social interaction, especially for those who have endured displacement and trauma. War orphans, in particular, have received focused care and support, helping them rebuild trust and stability. In addition, NHRC's rights awareness campaigns have sensitized over 13,000 community members, promoting widespread understanding of child protection principles.

This has led to a growing culture of accountability within communities reducing the risk of violence, neglect, and exploitation, and ensuring that children are seen not just as victims of conflict, but as valued and protected members of society.





## WOMEN AND YOUTH EMPOWERMENT

Through its **women and youth empowerment** programs, NHRC has equipped over 1,300 individuals with practical skills in entrepreneurship and leadership. The creation of 12 local cooperatives has fostered economic collaboration and increased self-reliance, particularly among women who are now playing a more active role in generating household income and participating in community decision-making.

Young people, once sidelined or vulnerable to negative influences, are now stepping forward as innovators and change agents, leading grassroots initiatives that drive social and economic development in their communities.



### Which means:

1. Training for women and youth in entrepreneurship and cooperative management.
2. Creation of 8 women's cooperatives and 4 youth cooperatives, provided with start-up capital, with over 200 members in total.
3. Women (534) and 804 youth received training in leadership, human rights, gender promotion, and project management.





## HEALTH AND NUTRITION

In the area of **health and nutrition**, NHRC has tackled both immediate and long-term challenges. The distribution of SOSOMA (a locally known nutrient-rich flour), the deployment of trained nutrition staff, and widespread public health campaigns especially during the COVID-19 pandemic have improved access to life-saving nutrition and hygiene information.

Over 1,100 vulnerable children and women benefited from nutritional support, while more than 3,000 people were sensitized on hygiene practices and disease prevention. These efforts have not only strengthened individual well-being but also enhanced the community's capacity to prevent and respond to future health crises.



Taken together, these thematic interventions illustrate NHRC's unwavering commitment to integrated, sustainable, and community-driven development.

Each initiative is crafted to address both urgent humanitarian needs and deeper structural challenges laying the foundation for lasting peace, social equity, and human dignity.

In one of the most fragile regions of the DRC, NHRC continues to stand as a beacon of hope, accompanying communities on their journey from crisis toward resilience, reconciliation, and renewal.







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