



Radio Sensitisation

 Democratic Republic of Congo

Awareness-raising through radio broadcasts in North Kivu

By Jérémie Kasereka, Permanent Secretary of Groupe d'Associations de Défense des Droits de l'Homme et de la Paix (Group of Human Rights and Peace Defence Associations, or GADHOP)

In order to raise awareness among communities about pertinent protection issues, GADHOP's activity leaders develop key messages in three languages (French, Swahili and Nande) and pass them on through local community radio broadcasts, so as to reach a wider audience.

These broadcasts cover issues such as gender-based violence and sexual violence, child protection, land, housing and property, fighting against mines, inheritance according to Congolese law, community protection roles and structures, human rights, arbitrary arrests and care services.

The broadcasts go out three times a week, first thing in the morning before work (6.45am), and in the evening when families sit down to eat together (7.00pm). They reach around 12,000 people in four communes of Butembo and 10,000 people in 48 villages in the territory of Lubero. The population listens closely and enjoys GADHOP's radio broadcasts on community protection and the listeners give GADHOP feedback on the issues of inheritance, gender, marriage and human rights. Moreover, thanks to these broadcasts, the population and the local authorities at all levels can become more familiar with GADHOP's work, meaning that, when it comes to advocacy, they will remember that GADHOP carries out protection activities. Lastly, some people understand how care services work thanks to these radio broadcasts. The population therefore finds the broadcasts useful and would like them to continue once the project has been completed.