



 Democratic Republic of Congo

Awareness-raising through theatre

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The context of the Lubero territory is characterised by troubles caused by conflicts over land and armed conflicts for more than 20 years. This has resulted in several protection problems arising from military attacks that have prompted internal displacements of victims of human rights violations. To that can be added military and police harassment of the population and kidnappings, with ransoms having become a source of income. This phenomenon impoverishes citizens and makes the region's economy very vulnerable. The population therefore needs to be supported, with knowledge of human rights and violations thereof, as well as of the concept of community protection, being reinforced. Such knowledge enables the population to identify their protection problems in terms of risks and threats, with a view to proposing mitigation measures, because troubles are ongoing in these areas, but resilience is a priority.

Theatre is an important tool in raising awareness among communities about priority protection issues in this area, such as referrals to care services and women's right to inheritance. Such awareness-raising activities take place after a community protection plan (CPP) or contingency plan has been drawn up, allowing for public debate about the protection problems identified.

For example, as regards referral in the event of the rape of a girl or woman, we describe a scenario involving a dangerous place that a girl has to pass through to get water from a well, and, on passing through, she is trapped by a policeman or soldier, and we indicate that she has been raped. We then show that she needs to go to the nearest health care centre to receive first aid and get a post-exposure prophylaxis (PEP) kit and, if the survivor wishes, go to the police station to report what has happened.

By way of another example, the theatre on inheritance produces a scenario in which a woman does not know where to go because her family is refusing to give her a plot on the land left by her parents. We then show her that Congolese law grants her part of her parents' inheritance and refer her to the justice authorities, with support.

We invite the population and the authorities to this session, then hold a public debate in order to spread the protection message to everyone. The scenario is portrayed in the local language, with help from a group of village griots, who pass on the message through local village songs. In this way, everyone, even those with no education, is capable of understanding the key messages.