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to the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly
entitled “Women 2000: gender equality, development and peace
for the twenty-first century”**

Statement submitted by Compagnons d’action pour le développement familial, a non-governmental organization in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council*

The Secretary-General has received the following statement, which is being circulated in accordance with paragraphs 36 and 37 of Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31.

* The present statement is issued without formal editing.



Statement

History and Creation

The non-profit association *Compagnons d'action pour le développement familial* [roughly “Partners in action for family development”] was established in 15 August 1993 at Kinshasa, at the initiative of a group of young men and women in the wake of the hideous and shameful events that were sparked by divergent opinions and political intolerance and that put their stamp on all of the country’s economic and social systems and plunged all social classes into a crisis unprecedented in the history of the Democratic Republic of Congo.

Legal status

Compagnons d'action pour le développement familial is recognized as an NGO under N° F. 92/4109 by letter n° JUST.G.S. 20/554/1996 of the Ministry of Justice and Garde des Sceaux [Keeper of the Seals] of the DRC. It is a partner of the Government of the DRC, with which it has signed an agreement through the good offices of the Ministry of Social Affairs. It is recognized by the Ministry of Rural Development, the Ministry of Planning, the Ministry of Health, the Ministry of Agriculture, and the Ministry of the Environment and Tourism. *Compagnons d'action pour le développement familial* has consultative status with the United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC). It is a signatory to the United Nations Global Compact on corporate social responsibility.

Vision:

A responsible world without extreme poverty, a world where women and men live in dignity, equity and equality.

Main mission:

To promote the development of poor families living in peri-urban neighbourhoods and villages of our country, through concrete actions for development, initiated by members of those same families, with a view to easing the burdens and the abject poverty of which they are the constant victims.

Target groups: children, women, young parents without work

Fields of intervention: primary health and HIV/AIDS, food security, basic education, protection of women’s and children’s rights, environment

Achievements

Primary health and HIV/AIDS:

In Nord-Kivu: establishment of a medical centre and six first-aid stations; medical care for 1556 women victims of rape and 890 under-nourished children; specialized surgery with perineal sutures for 867 female rape victims and 69 cases of fistulas; 12 cases of total hysterectomy following savage rapes; assisted childbirth for 76 female rape victims and persons living with HIV/AIDS; one operation to replace a severed penis; two cases involving men raped by other men, treatment of 1436 malaria cases and 1278 cases of severe anaemia in children, of

which 1167 were girls and 111 boys; four emergency health stations rehabilitated in order to serve rape victims and children suffering from malnutrition.

In Kinshasa: 1358 malaria cases, including 703 involving children and 485 involving adult women and 170 adult men in Mpassa; care for 689 new mothers, 24% of whom were under 18 years in Mpassa; 475 cases of anaemia, including 243 cases of severe anaemia; 689 prenatal consultations, 549 Jadelle implants (5 year spacing) and 240 IUD insertions (12 year spacing); participation in the campaign to vaccinate 5847 children under five years; participation in the campaign to distribute impregnated mosquito nets (17,000); 689 cases of voluntary screening for HIV/AIDS, 12 positive; 146 surgical operations, including 24 hernia cases involving fishermen living on islands in the Congo River; networking of 27 local medical centres.

Food security:

Counselling and operational support for community and individual rice-growing plots and organic bean production (5.5 tonnes) on islands in the Congo River at Kingabwa (≥ 113 tonnes of rice on < 200 hectares for 110 women farmers); production of manioc on the Bateke Plateau (35.8 tonnes of manioc root) and 15 tonnes at Tshumbiri; production of organic vegetables at Mpassa and Bibwa; small domestic animal and poultry rearing (2968 ducks for 65 breeders, 3950 hens for 73 breeders); production of maize and beans at Bweremana, Walikale and Nyamitaba as a contribution to the feeding of under-nourished children (400 ha of land available with support from the customary authorities); basic education.

Formal and informal instruction (collaboration with 18 schools); advocacy for registering and keeping destitute children (orphans) in primary school; registration of 2865 pupils in primary school (1567 girls and 1298 boys); distribution of school supplies to 57 pupils in Bakongo; educational care for 134 orphans, including 68 girls and 62 boys; repair of 35 wooden school desks and six blackboards at Nyamitaba; awareness raising for parents about educating their children and participation in the school registration campaign; literacy training for 650 rural women.

Women's and children's rights:

Trades apprenticeships for 97 girl victims of rape and sexual violence; legal counselling for 25 rape victims and 3 arrested rapists; awareness raising for 20,000 women about women's rights and the gender approach; awareness raising for 486 children about children's rights (219 boys and 267 girls); organization of leisure and sporting activities and drawing competitions, poetry recitals to foster friendship among children on World Peace Day; counselling and shelter for 168 under-nourished orphans, 48 of whom were rape victims under 15 years of age and 57 were persons living with HIV (PLH); 5798 child workers in mines, 22% of whom were sexually exploited girls.

Environment:

Launch of alternative activities (farming and livestock) in order to protect the Bonobos chimpanzee sanctuary at Tshumbiri in collaboration with the NGO Mbou Mon Tour; reforestation with acacias on the Bateke Plateau and at Mpassa; study for the restoration of vegetation cover with banana plantations and management of the

Banali community forest in Ituri; installation of five hand pumps and upgrading of eight potable water sources in the villages; advocacy against destruction of the Kingabwa Ngwele market gardening site; advocacy for preserving the Kikindi-Mizulo forest which shelters mountain gorillas.

First priority:

- Institutional support (covering operating costs); specialized medical care for cases of fistulas due to rape; educational care for children living with HIV and orphans; capacity building for target members and beneficiaries (trades and independence for teenage mothers, female rape victims and PLH, agricultural inputs for women); food and medical care for raped women, under-nourished children, orphans and PLH; rehabilitation of health and school infrastructure for protecting children; reinforced awareness-raising and education on children's and women's rights, and gender issues; reinforced initiatives at job creation for young people and families in the farming and livestock sector.

Second priority:

- Upgrade of potable water sources in medical centres and villages;
- Reinforcement of ambulatory medical care and health education for residents along the Congo River and Lake Kivu (at high risk of HIV/AIDS).

Third priority:

- Supply medical, laboratory and imaging equipment and ambulances for rapid medical evacuation;
 - Agricultural infrastructure for drying, storage and processing;
 - Pursue advocacy work in favour of rehabilitation among rural people living near protected forests;
 - Develop North-South and South-South partnerships to expand intervention capacities.
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