

PROFIL BOOK

# SOFEPADI

Together, let's protect  
and defend the rights of  
women and girls in the  
Democratic Republic of  
Congo (DRC).



# PRESENTATION OF SOFEPADI

SOFEPADI (Solidarity of Women for Peace and Integral Development) is an organization committed to the empowerment of women and the promotion of peace in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC). Since our establishment in April 2000, we have been dedicated to addressing the urgent needs in conflict-affected areas and supporting survivors of sexual and gender-based violence.

SOFEPADI operates in accordance with the law number 004/2001, which regulates non-profit organizations and establishments of public utility in DRC. We have legal personality as published under ministerial order number 201/CAB/MINJ/2006 on June 23, 2006.

## VISION



SOFEPADI aims for a Congo where mothers and daughters have equal opportunities or chances to access basic rights as men in society.

## MISSION



SOFEPADI works towards the promotion and defense of the specific rights of women and girls.

## OUR VALUES



The values of SOFEPADI are neutrality and tolerance towards the cultural and ethnic diversity of our country. We contribute to the promotion of gender respect. We are characterized by helpfulness, humility, availability, and response to demands.



# SOFEPADI AND DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO HAVE A HISTORY OF OVER **24 YEARS.**

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**2000**

SOFEPADI officially began its activities in the Democratic Republic of Congo. The organization conduct sensitization campaigns among people displaced following the war in Ituri. These campaigns focus on the importance of hygiene, access to vaccines and nutrition.

**2003**

SOFEPADI focuses on the fight against sexual violence in the provinces of North Kivu and the former Orientale province. The organization also works towards peacebuilding, women's political participation, building a strong women's movement, providing humanitarian assistance, and advocating with local and international decision-makers.

**2005**

SOFEPADI has started providing legal support to victims of sexual violence, directing them to medical facilities in North Kivu and to Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF) in the Bunia regions.

**2010**

Following a fruitful collaboration in the fight against sexual violence and impunity, MSF/SUISSE has handed over or bequeathed the medical center to SOFEPADI in order to continue to welcome victims of sexual violence for holistic care. The center was re-named "Karibuni Wa Mama", which means "welcome mothers".

**2013**

Start of humanitarian interventions for displaced people in Bunia and Beni. Extension of advocacy activities in Kinshasa

Start of humanitarian interventions for internally displaced people in Bunia and Beni. Additionally, advocacy activities have been extended to Kinshasa.

**2017**

Following successful fundraising and construction efforts, SOFEPADI celebrated the inauguration of its new medical center, named "Karibuni Wa Mama," which warmly translates to "Welcome to Mothers." This milestone achievement for the organization signifies a major breakthrough. The center now offers a complete range of healthcare services, with a strong emphasis on combating stigma and safeguarding the confidentiality of sexual assault survivors.

## SOFEPADI AND DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO HAVE A HISTORY OF OVER **24 YEARS.**

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**2018**

The medical center offers services through mobile clinics to bring medical care, maternal services, and post-violence services closer to the communities affected by the war. This approach ensures access to care in conflict-affected areas where people cannot reach the medical center due to insecurity.

**2024**

SOFEPADI is expanding its activities to 10 provinces in the DRC: Ituri, North Kivu, Tanganyika, Kasai, Haut Uélé, Haut Katanga, Mairi, Kongo central, Tshopo and Kinshasa, in response to humanitarian crises.

**2023**

SOFEPADI built, equipped and inaugurated the surgery room for the reparation of fistulas and other surgical cases in Ituri.

## RECENT SOFEPADI RESULTS (2023)

**13 558**

Survivors of gender-based violence were supported, including 368 men and boys and 13,190 women and girls

**7 172**

Survivors of gender-based violence have received psychological support

**2 218**

Cases of survivors were accompanied within 72 hours.

**798**

Survivors and vulnerable individuals have been re-integrated into socio-economic life.

**252**

Survivors benefited from school reintegration.



## RÉSULTATS RÉCENTS DE LA SOFEPADI (2023)

**244 629**

A total of 244,629 individuals have been sensitized to the prevention of gender-based violence, case referral, and peaceful cohabitation. This includes 102,907 women, 50,092 men, 55,857 girls, and 35,773 boys.

**1 338**

Beneficiaries, including farmers, livestock keepers, and youth with specific needs, have improved their incomes after participating in agricultural associations, market support programs (AVEC), and learning trades.

**20 624**

A total of 20,624 individuals have been sensitized to sexual and reproductive health (SRH) topics, out of which 1,829 have gained access to care, including 428 men.



## OUR INTERVENTIONS

### 1. HOLISTIC SUPPORT FOR SURVIVORS

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We provide comprehensive and holistic support to survivors of sexual and gender-based violence, offering them psychosocial counseling, healthcare services, legal and judicial assistance, as well as opportunities for economic and educational reintegration.

We prioritize the restoration of their dignity and overall well-being.







## MEDICAL CARE

SOFEPADI offers complete medical care to victims of sexual violence. The organization provides transport for victims to medical centers and covers their accommodation and meals during their stay.

SOFEPADI also provides the necessary medications and vaccines based on the needs of each victim. Additionally, the organization conducts campaigns through a mobile clinic for vulnerable people in villages, offering care for sexually transmitted infections (STIs) and family planning services.



A woman in profile, looking out a window. She is wearing a white jacket over a patterned top and a beaded necklace. The background shows a bright outdoor scene with greenery and a blue sky with clouds. The image is partially obscured by a dark overlay on the left side where the text is located.

## PSYCHOLOGICAL SUPPORT

SOFEPADI offers close and continuous psychological monitoring for victims upon their arrival.

Victims benefit from de-traumatization and active listening sessions organized by the organization's psychologists.

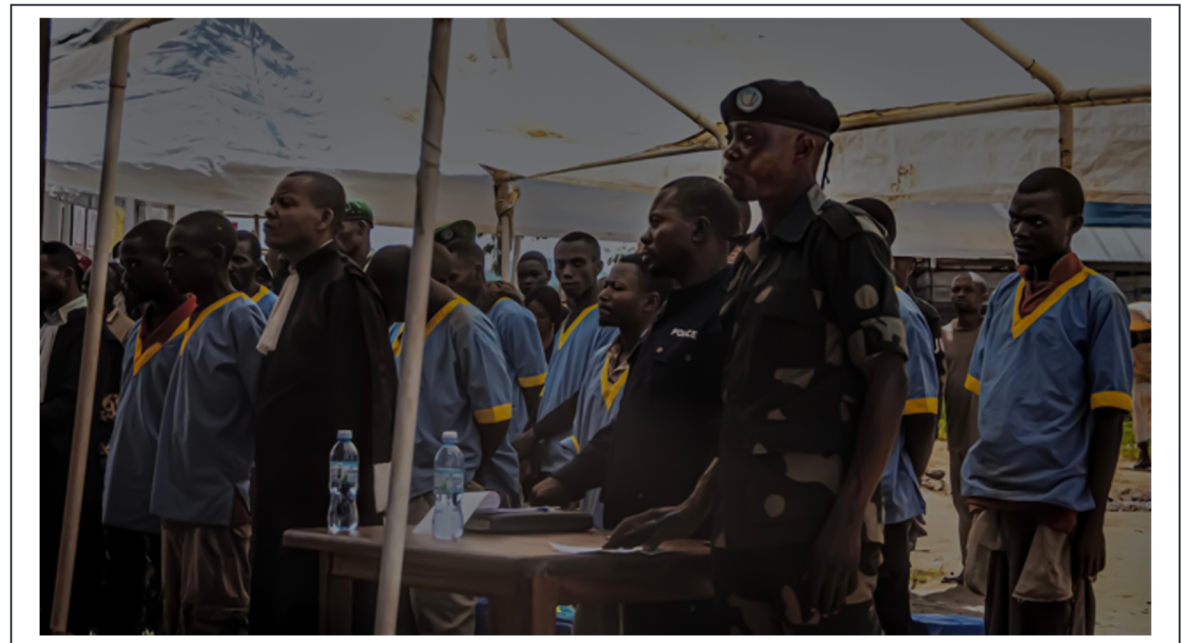
Healing and mutual support sessions are organized for counselors in the field and those accompanying victims, fostering the exchange of experiences between new victims and those who have overcome such experiences.



## LEGAL AND JUDICIAL SUPPORT

The organization covers legal expenses related to legal proceedings and organizes mobile courts in villages where the offenses have been committed, covering the accommodation costs of the victims and witnesses. SOFEPADI also provides follow-up on trials, manages case files, and maintains contact with the courts.

The organization trains and strengthens the capacity of victim groups on legislation and women's rights, and documents serious violations of women's rights, such as forced marriages and domestic violence. SOFEPADI also provides support for the implementation of judgments and promotes the establishment of a framework for dialogue and cooperation.





## SCHOOL REINTEGRATION

SOFEPADI ensures the schooling of children born from rape or victims of rape.

The victims receive active and continuous psychological support, and meetings are organized with parents and family members to assess their situation and promote their integration. If necessary, home visits are conducted to facilitate their recovery.



## ECONOMIC REINTEGRATION

To promote the economic reintegration of victims, SOFEPADI establishes Vocational Skills Learning Centers (CAM) equipped to provide high-quality vocational training. Some victims learn trade, while others engage in income-generating activities, thereby offering services within their community and achieving social integration.

The organization organizes training in income-generating activity management and provides startup kits for the activities. SOFEPADI supports the CAMs by covering rental costs, constructing centers, providing equipment, and offering incentives to trainers. Exit kits are provided to facilitate the social integration of survivors after their training. The organization also ensures the follow-up of socio-economic activities and organizes reflection days among the victims.





## 2. PROMOTION OF GENDER, EQUALITY, AND FEMALE LEADERSHIP FÉMININ

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Sofepadi works towards the promotion of gender equality and female leadership. We encourage women to take on decision-making roles and actively engage in public, political, and economic life. We organize trainings and strengthening skills programs to develop their leadership potential.





# 3. PEACE PROMOTION, PEACE EDUCATION AND PEACEFUL CONFLICT RESOLUTION

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We believe in building sustainable peace by fostering reconciliation, mediation, and peaceful resolution of conflicts.

We work with communities to promote tolerance, dialogue, and mutual understanding while raising awareness about conflict prevention and peacebuilding





# 4. POLITICAL PARTICIPATION OF WOMEN.

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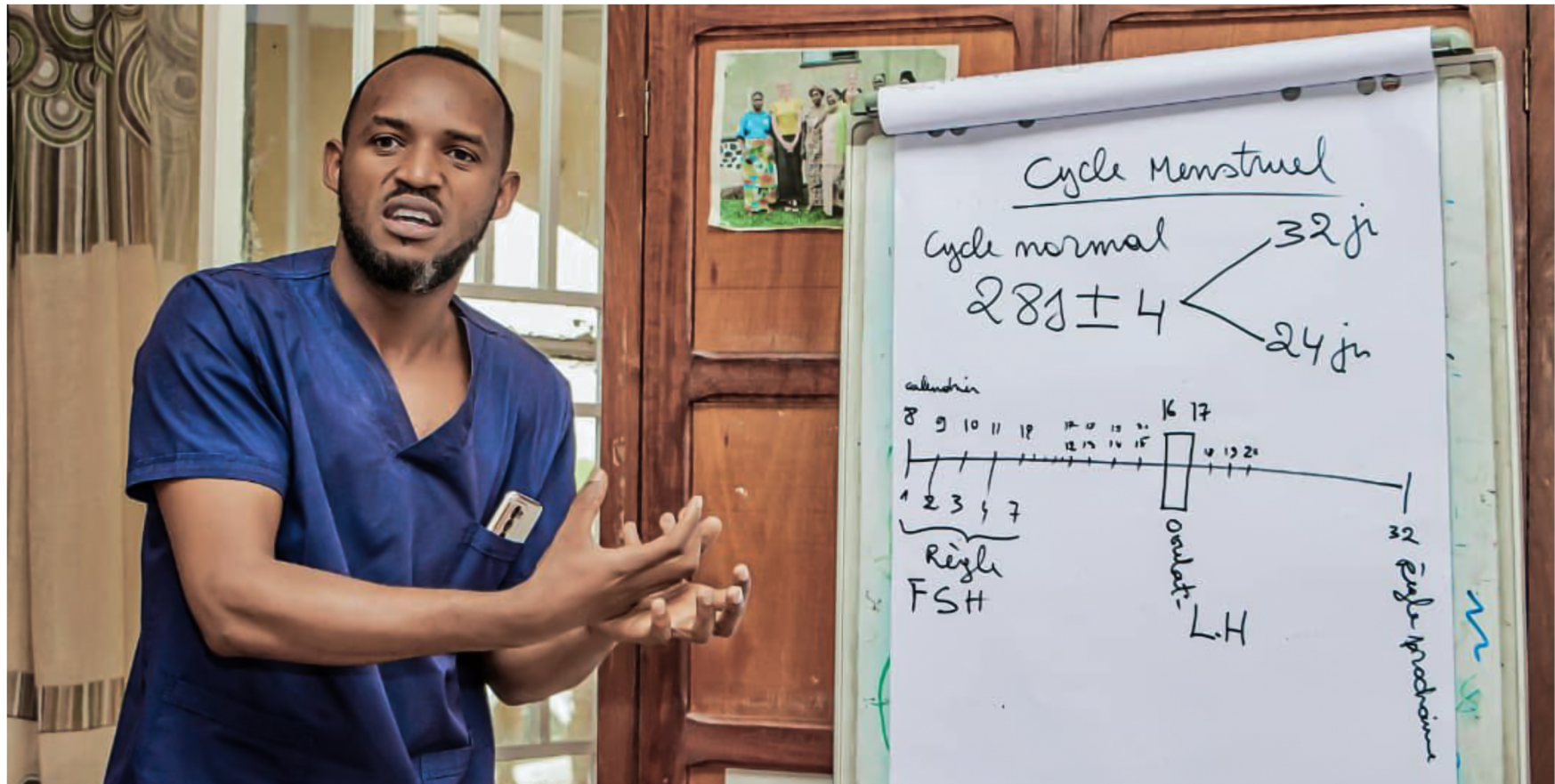
Sofepadi encourages women's political participation by raising sensitization about their rights, training them in political skills and creating inclusive spaces for their active participation in decision-making processes and local governance.



# 5. RIGHT TO SEXUAL AND REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH

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We defend women's right to sexual and reproductive health by providing information, appropriate health services and promoting access to quality maternal and child health care





# 6. SOCIO-ECONOMIC RIGHTS OF WOMEN

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Sofepadi works to ensure economic equality for women by promoting economic empowerment, providing vocational training, facilitating access to resources and economic opportunities, and as well as fighting workplace discrimination





# 7. RAISING SENSITIZATION ON LAWS AND LEGAL PROVISIONS

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We conduct sensitization campaigns to inform communities about laws and legal provisions that protect women's rights.

We also encourage compliance with these laws and work to eliminate discriminatory practices and gender stereotypes.





# 8. ADVOCACY FOR WOMEN'S RIGHTS

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Sofepadi mène des actions de plaidoyer pour défendre les droits des femmes, en collaborant avec les décideurs politiques, les institutions nationales et internationales, et les organisations de la société civile.

Nous cherchons à influencer les politiques et les pratiques en faveur de l'égalité des sexes et de l'autonomisation des femmes.





# INTERVENTION ZONES



**SOFEPAI OPERATES  
IN 10 PROVINCES  
IN THE DEMOCRATIC  
REPUBLIC OF CONGO,  
PROVINCES OF**

- **NORD-KIVU,**
- **ITURI,**
- **TSHOPO,**
- **KINSHASA,**
- **HAUT KATANGA,**
- **HAUT UÉLÉ,**
- **MAINDOMBE**
- **KONGO CENTRAL,**
- **TANGANYIKA,**
- **KASAI.**



## Our reports

**Join us in our mission for women's empowerment, gender justice, and building sustainable peace in DRC. Together, we can make a difference!**



74, Colonel Ebeya, Gombe, Kinshasa, DRC  
40, la Frontière, Katindo, Goma, DRC  
22, Mbene, Kalinda, Beni, Nord Kivu, DRC  
8, Mputu, Bangoko, Bunia, Ituri, DRC



**SOFEPADI**

*Solidarité Féminine pour la paix et le Développement intégral*



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