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AFRICAN DEVELOPMENT BANK GROUP

PROJECT APPRAISAL REPORT

CRISIS RESPONSE PROJECT TO SUPPORT AFFECTED POPULATIONS IN EASTERN DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO (PRECAPE)

DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO

Public Disclosure Authorized

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(PRECAPE)

DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO

AHVP/RDGC/AHHD/RDTS

April 2026

Translated Document

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CURRENCY EQUIVALENTS

Exchange rate effective as of February 2026

UA	CDF 3,898.82
UA 1	USD 1.38
USD 1	CDF 2,138.93

FINANCIAL YEAR

DRC: 1 January to 31 December

WEIGHTS AND MEASURES

1 metric tonne	2204.62 pounds (lbs)
1 kilogramme (kg)	2.20462 lb
1 metre (m)	3.28 feet (ft)
1 millimetre (mm)	0.03937 inch (“)
1 kilometre (km)	0.62 thousand
1 hectare (ha)	2.471 acres

ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS

ADF	African Development Fund
AfDB	African Development Bank
ANADEC	National Agency for the Development of Congolese Entrepreneurship
ARMCA	Carbon Market Regulatory Authority
BMWMP	Biomedical Wastes Management Plan
CDF	Franc of the Democratic Republic of Congo
CNJ	National Youth Council
CONAPAC	National Confederation of Agricultural Producers
COPEMECO	Confederation of Small and Medium-sized Enterprises of the Congo
CRFA	Country Resilience and Fragility Assessment
CSP	Country Strategy Paper
CSPP	Projects and Programmes Monitoring Unit
DHS	Demographic and Health Survey
DPRH	Directorate of Population and Human Resources
DRC	Democratic Republic of the Congo
EIRR	economic internal rate of return
ESCON	Environmental and Social Compliance Note
ESIA	Environmental and Social Impact Assessment
ESMP	Environmental and Social Management Plan
FCS	DRC Stabilisation Coherence Fund
FEC	Federation of Enterprises of Congo
FIPE	Intervention Fund for the Environment
FONAREV	National Fund for Reparations for Victims of Conflict-Related Sexual Violence and Victims of Crimes against the Peace and Security of Humanity
FSRDC	Social Fund of the Democratic Republic of Congo
GBV	Gender-based violence
GHG	greenhouse gases
HDP	Humanitarian, Development and Peace Nexus
ICCN	Congolese Institute for Nature Conservation
IDP	Internally displaced persons
INPP	National Institute for Professional Preparation
IOM	International Organization for Migration
LC	Local currency
NPV	Net present value
PAGDC-PTA	Governance and Skills Development Support Project for the Agricultural Transformation Programme
PAR	Project Appraisal Report
PASU	Emergency Social Action Project
PBF	United Nations Peace-Building Fund
PCMU	Project Coordination and Management Unit
PCN	Project Concept Note
PCR	Project Completion Report
PIU	Project Implementation Unit
PNSD	National Strategic Development Plan
PRECAPE	Crisis Response Project to Support Affected Populations in Eastern Democratic Republic of the Congo
PVBG	Gender-Based Violence Prevention and Response Project
RDTS	Transition States Coordination Office
RGPHAE	General Population, Housing, Agriculture and Livestock Census
SDG	Sustainable Development Goals
SEAH	sexual exploitation and harassment
SEP	Stakeholder Engagement Plan
STAR-EST	Eastern DRC Stabilisation and Recovery Project
STEP	Project to Stabilise the Eastern Democratic Republic of Congo for Peace
TSF	Transition Support Facility

UA	Unit of Account
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
USD	United States dollar
VGMP	Vulnerable Groups Management Plan

PROJECT INFORMATION SHEET

CLIENT INFORMATION

Project Name:	Crisis Response Project to Support Affected Populations in Eastern Democratic Republic of the Congo
Sector:	Social/Human capital development
Borrower/Grant Recipient	Democratic Republic of the Congo
Project Instrument(s):	Sovereign Investment Project, Loan TSF Loan, Pillar I (Crisis Response Envelope) and ADF Grant
Executing Agency:	Social Fund for the Democratic Republic of Congo (FSRDC)

COUNTRY AND STRATEGIC CONTEXT

Period covered by the Country Strategy Paper:	2023-2028
Country Strategy Paper priorities supported by the project:	**Priority Area 2:** Improve human capital and the business climate to support social inclusion and private sector development- **Strategic Outcome 4:** Improve the qualifications and employability of young people to facilitate their professional integration.
Government programme (PRSP, NDP or equivalent):	National Strategic Development Plan (PNSD), 2024–2028
Project classification:	**Contribution to the 2nd and 5th development priorities of the Bank's Ten-Year Strategy's (2024-2033).** **Contribution to the 3rd and 4th Cardinal Points:** "Transform the demographic boom into economic power by empowering youth and women through finance, mentorship and access to technology" and "Build climate-resilient infrastructure and robust value addition".
	SDG1: No poverty; **SDG2:** Zero hunger; **SDG3:** Good health and well-being; **SDG4:** Quality education; **SDG5:** Gender equality; **SDG6**: Clean water and sanitation; **SDG8:** Decent work and economic growth; **SDG13:** Climate action.
Selectivity priority(ies) [1]:	**Contribution to the third and fourth Cardinal Points:** "Transform the demographic boom into economic power by viewing young people and women as the driving force of development" and "Build climate-resilient infrastructures and add real value". **Contribution to cross-cutting themes:** Mainstreaming of the Bank's cross-cutting priorities: climate change and green growth, gender equality and women's empowerment, resilience to shocks, conflicts and fragility, poverty reduction and knowledge-building.
Country Policy and Institutional Assessment:	3.25 (2023)
Projects at risk in the country portfolio:	31% of DRC operations red flagged as of 2 March 2026

[1] Click here - Fine-tuning the Bank's strategic direction - A proposal to strengthen the Bank's selectivity

PROJECT CATEGORISATION

Environmental and social risk categorization	2 (Approved on 24/10/2025 in ISTS and SAP, then confirmed on 31/10/2025)
Does the project involve involuntary resettlement?	No. The investments are for the rehabilitation of existing socio-community infrastructure.
Climate safeguards categorization:	2
Fragility and Resilience Lens Assessment:	Yes
Gender Marker System categorization:	2

ADF/ADB KEY FINANCING INFORMATION[2]

Service fee:	1% per annum on the amount of the disbursed loan not yet repaid
Commitment fee:	0.75% of the undisbursed loan amount 120 days after signature of the loan agreement
Tenor	50 years including grace period
Grace Period	10 years

Source	**Amount (in million)**		**Instrument**
	UA	USD	
Crisis response envelope TSF for the DRC	25	34.5	TSF Loan (TSF, Pillar I)
ADF Grant	11	15.18	ADF Grant
DRC Government's counterpart contribution	3.91	5.4	In-kind and in cash
Total project cost:	39.91	55.08	

DEVELOPMENT OBJECTIVE AND COMPONENTS

Project Development Objective:	The project's development objective is to improve the living conditions of populations affected by the crisis (young people, women and children, including internally displaced people and host communities) by providing a response based on a holistic long-term approach and the triple humanitarian-development-peace nexus.
Project Components	**Component 1:** Reconstruction of socio-economic infrastructure and productive climate-resilient assets to build inclusive community resilience (UA 18.47 million)
	Component 2: Strengthening of operational and institutional capacities to support the crisis response and resource mobilisation (UA 15.01 million)
	Component 3: Coordination, Management, Monitoring & Evaluation, Accountability and Communication (UA 5.48 million)

[2] The amortisation rate is not an interest rate, but simply the way the loan principal is repaid over time each year after the grace period.
The service fee is an annual rate applied and paid every six months, calculated using the formula 'actual number of days/365 days';
The commitment fee becomes payable 120 days after the date of signature *and* is payable on the same dates as the service fees and reimbursements.

PROJECT PROCESSING MILESTONES TO BOARD APPROVAL

PCN approval	No PCN (given the nature of the crisis response, as per the 2024 Operational Guidelines of TSF)
Appraisal mission	Pre-appraisal from 22 June to 8 July 2025, then appraisal from 22 to 26 September 2025
Expected date of Board presentation	29 April 2026
Effectiveness	June 2026
Project implementation period	June 2026 – June 2031
Mid-term review planned	June 2028
Project closing date	31 December 2031

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1 STRATEGIC CONTEXT

A. Country Context, Strategy and Objectives

1. **The eastern Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) is the scene of conflicts fuelled by armed groups**. Since the 1990s, the Provinces of South Kivu and North Kivu have registered cyclical crises and many episodes of instability. The security situation in eastern DRC gradually began to seriously deteriorate in January 2025 and has now reached unprecedented levels of severity, with armed groups taking control of urban centres and strategic locations, resulting in a profound shift in the local security and institutional balance. According to data from the High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), in January 2025, the DRC had around 5.34 million internally displaced people, 42% of them allegedly in the two eastern provinces. The crisis hurts the country's development efforts, and its repercussions exacerbate the vulnerability of the population. With the support of the African Development Bank, the Government has decided to mitigate the impact of the crisis by putting together the Crisis Response Project to Support Affected Populations in Eastern DRC (PRECAPE).

2. **The project aligns with the Bank's development priorities. It will contribute to the five pillars of the National Strategic Development Plan (PNSD 2024 - 2028)**: Pillar I, devoted to human capital development by targeting the health, education and social protection sectors; Pillar II, focused on improving governance by promoting good governance, peace and stable institutions for sustainable development; Pillar III, aimed at diversifying the economy through agricultural and industrial development to ensure the structural transformation of the economy and create decent, well-paid jobs; Pillar IV, dedicated to the development of energy, water, transport and digital infrastructures, as well as land-use planning to support growth; and Pillar V, on the sustainable and balanced development of the provinces through climate action and the restoration of terrestrial and maritime ecosystems.

3. **The project will also contribute to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) namely**: SDG1: No poverty; SDG2: Zero hunger; SDG3: Good health and well-being; SDG4: Quality education; SDG5: Gender equality; SDG6 Clean water and sanitation; SDG8: Decent work and economic growth; and SDG13: Climate action.

4. **The project contributes to the Bank's Ten-Year Strategy (2024-2033) which considers Africa's youth as its greatest asset, and in whom investment is needed to create a prosperous, resilient, inclusive and integrated continent**. The project aligns particularly with Priority Area 2 of the Bank's Country Strategy Paper (2023-2028) for the DRC, which aims to improve human capital and the business climate to support social inclusion and private sector development, and Strategic Outcome 4: "Improvement of youth skills and employability to ease their labour market integration". Given the complexity of the country's context, PRECAPE aligns with the CSP clause that encourages the adoption of a flexible lending programme, as this permits exploring alternative operations that are consistent with the initial strategic guidelines. The project remains aligned with cross-cutting themes: gender promotion, reduction of fragility, resilience of the economy to climate change and transition to green growth. It contributes to the third and fourth Cardinal Points: "Transform the demographic boom into economic power by considering young people and women as drivers of development" and "Build resilient infrastructure and add real value". The project also aligns with other Bank sector strategies, including: the 2022-2026 Strategy for Addressing Fragility and Building Resilience in Africa, by contributing to its three pillars: (i) strengthening institutional capacities, (ii) building resilient societies and (iii) catalysing private investment; the Bank's Jobs for Youth in Africa Strategy (2016-2025), extended to 2026, which aims to create 25 million jobs; the Bank's 2021-2030 Climate Change and Green Growth Strategy through biodiversity protection; the 2021-2025 Gender Strategy, aimed at investing in African women to accelerate inclusive growth; and the Skills for Employability and Productivity in Africa (2022-2025) Action Plan, extended to 2026.

B. Sector and Institutional Context

5. **The DRC has a population of 112,800,000 people in 2025, over a quarter of whom are young people aged 15-35 years3, and over 60% of whom are aged under 20 years[4].** According to the World Bank, about 73.5% of the DRC population live below the poverty threshold (with less than USD 2.15 a day in 2024). Nearly one in six persons living in extreme poverty in sub-Saharan Africa lives in the DRC. The DRC was ranked 164th out of 173 countries on the 2020 Human Capital Index with a score of 0.37, below the regional average. This means that a Congolese child born today will be able to achieve only 37% of its potential, due to the lack of widespread access to quality education and adequate healthcare. The

[3] UNFPA, 2025: https://www.unfpa.org/fr/data/world-population/CD
[4] World Bank, 2024, https://www.banquemondiale.org/fr/country/drc/overview#2

DRC is classified in the category of countries with low human development with a Human Development Index (HDI) score of 0.552 in 2025, compared with 0.481 in 2023/2024, placing the country 172nd out of 193 countries worldwide.

6. **Communities in North Kivu and South Kivu – the DRC's two eastern provinces – are facing increasing difficulties but continue to demonstrate strong resilience**. The presence of the M23 group in Goma and Bukavu since January 2025 has forced millions of people to flee, but two million more have returned home under disastrous conditions. The human toll is heavy: over 7,000 deaths, over 60 cases of sexual violence reported every day and 375,000 children who are out of school and at risk of being recruited by armed groups. Women and girls are at greater risk of abuse and exploitation. The economic collapse has worsened: banks have closed, critical infrastructure has been damaged, and the airports in Goma and Bukavu remain out of service[5].

7. **In March 2025, UNICEF's Humanitarian Emergency Report indicated that 5,927 schools in North and South Kivu remained closed, depriving nearly 2 million children of access to education**. According to the Commission on Population Movements, there are close to 4.8 million internally displaced persons in North and South Kivu, including 1,365,000 children. Some 33 health facilities in North Kivu and 15 in South Kivu **have been destroyed**. In both provinces, the wounded continue to flock to health facilities, 85% of which have, based on an International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) survey carried out in September 2025, run out of stocks of medicines while the health personnel of close of 40% of them have fled. Conditions have deteriorated so badly not only due to the armed violence but also because many humanitarian organizations have ceased their activities for lack of funding. In addition, North Kivu and South Kivu have the highest numbers of people facing acute food insecurity, with 24.6 million people classified as being in the crisis phase (IPC3) and 1.1 million in the emergency phase (IPC4) in North Kivu. Furthermore, 2 million people are classified as being in IPC3 and 800,000 in IPC 4 in South Kivu[6].

8. **Situated at the border with Burundi, Uvira territory in South Kivu occupies a strategic position in both economic and security terms**. It stands at the crossroads for cross-border trade, being a major transit point for population movements between the Democratic Republic of Congo, Rwanda, Burundi and Tanzania. The Uvira health area receives around 3,500 returnees and almost 37,500 internally displaced persons in a context of high population density, sustained regional mobility and persistent institutional fragility. Administrative and financial capacities remain limited, restricting access to quality public services and responsiveness to humanitarian and health crises. Social infrastructure – particularly health facilities, schools and water supply systems – are dilapidated, unevenly distributed and often inadequate to meet the needs of a rapidly growing population. In addition, recurrent natural disasters (floods, landslides), the poor road network and epidemics (cholera, measles) increase the vulnerability of households, particularly in the isolated areas of *Plateau* and along the coast of Lake Tanganyika. The main risks identified include: (i) pervasive gender-based violence (GBV): made worse by poverty, insecurity and impunity as well as the lack of adequate prevention and care mechanisms; (ii) recurrent epidemics (cholera, measles), exacerbated by poor health coverage; (iii) the increased vulnerability of displaced and returnee households, faced with limited access to drinking water, social infrastructure and essential services; and (iv) intercommunity and especially land conflicts.

9. **Walikale territory in North Kivu Province is in the grips of an ever-worsening humanitarian crisis**. By end-2024, most international organizations had withdrawn from the territory due to a lack of funding, making it more difficult to support an overburdened and under-equipped health system, although some national NGOs are still active there. Due to the crisis, many agricultural workers have been forced to look for work in the mines around the town, leading to a sharp drop in local food production and exacerbating food insecurity and malnutrition. In the first half of 2025, malnutrition-related deaths occurring within the first 24 hours of admission to the Walikale Intensive Therapeutic Nutrition Unit (ITNU) increased by 88.9% and those occurring within 24 and 48 hours of admission rose by an astounding 309% compared to 2024[7].

10. **Beni territory in North Kivu is strategically located at the crossroads of the major trade routes linking Congo, Uganda and Ituri**. It is home to around 176,700 returnees and nearly 198,000 internally displaced persons. The main risks identified in Beni territory include: (i) gender-based violence (GBV): persistent insecurity, lack of legal remedies and widespread impunity fuel violence against women and girls; (ii) restricted access to healthcare, due to broken infrastructure and staff shortages; and (iii) chronic economic insecurity, due to precarious livelihoods and poor access to financial services. Despite these challenges, potential for stabilisation is high, provided local governance improves, fair access to essential services is guaranteed and community prevention mechanisms are supported.

[5] UNDP in DRC: Crisis response. Building resilience in eastern Democratic Republic of Congo: a pathway to recovery and hope. 2025
[6] IPC-Integrated Food Security Classification Framework. Analysis of acute food insecurity. January-June 2025. March 2025

[7] https://www.msf.fr/actualites/rdc-dans-le-nord-kivu-la-crise-humanitaire-s-aggrave-a-walikale-touchee-par-le-conflit

C. Rationale for the Bank's Involvement

11. **PRECAPE is a response to the appeal made by the Government of DR Congo to help the crisis-affected populations in the eastern region of the country**. The project is a targeted response to the most pressing needs but also helps to provide lasting solutions to combat fragility and alleviate the sufferings of vulnerable populations. The project aims to restore economic assets conducive to the social inclusion of young people and women, reduce economic, social and climatic marginalization, whilst building peace and community resilience, the foundation of sustainable development. The project is also part of the broader, multi-sector response of the protection, assistance and resilience strategy supported by the United Nations. This Project is therefore based on a nexus approach, helping to consolidate the actions carried out by humanitarian and peacebuilding actors in the territories covered by the project.

12. **The rationale for the Bank support is its complementarity with other projects financed by the Bank and other development partners aimed at supporting DRC's stabilisation and recovery efforts**. The choice of intervention through PRECAPE stems from a desire to provide a long-term response to the crisis and improve the living conditions of young people, women and internally displaced persons. This choice is based on two guiding principles set forth in the Bank Group's Strategy for Addressing Fragility and Building Resilience in Africa (2022-2026):

- **Patience,** which requires the Bank to provide patient and long-term support for regional member countries, while remaining engaged through periods of instability;
- **Partnership,** which requires the Bank to build synergies with other development partners and strengthen complementarity between humanitarian, development, and peace-building activities (the triple nexus).

13. **The Bank has a wealth of experience in crisis response and emergency projects under the Transition Support Facility window which gives it comparative advantage for this intervention.** Further, actions undertaken by the Bank in the form of project/programme financing have helped to address fragility and build resilience in Africa. The Bank has also implemented similar projects, such as the Emergency Aid Project for victims of landslides and flooding in KALEHE territory in South Kivu province in DRC in 2023, and the Emergency Project to Support the Stabilisation and Recovery of Refugees and Host Communities in the Lake Chad Basin in Chad and the Central African Republic. Since 2024, the Bank has also boosted its comparative advantage in human capital development, the promotion of the local private sector and youth employability to support resilience-building. This Bank intervention will also help to build resilience and roll back fragility in the DRC. Being a powerful response to the DRC Government's appeal, it is a factor that strengthens dialogue between the Bank and the country.

D. Donor Coordination

14. **Partners' activities are coordinated through thematic and sector working groups.** In the DRC, the Ministry of Planning coordinates the Aid and Investment Management Platform (PGAI) while the performance of donor-funded projects and programmes is monitored and coordinated by the Ministry of Finance through the Projects/Programmes Monitoring Unit (CSPP). The Bank's participation in the TFP consultation framework and thematic groups has helped to forge close relations with development partners that are active in the country**.**

15. **After Goma was captured by the AFC/M23, the United Nations system, under the leadership of the Resident Coordinator, began coordinating the efforts of actors on the ground in order to respond effectively to the needs of populations affected by the crisis, particularly internally displaced persons and returnees.** Through a humanitarian protection and development (HDP) approach, a strategy for protection, assistance and resilience was formulated jointly with the North and South Kivu provincial governments, national/international non-governmental organisations, and United Nations agencies, funds and programmes. AfDB teams took part in the consultations to ensure the complementarity of ongoing efforts. Two geographical areas were targeted to differentiate possible activities: territories under the de facto authority's control and territories under government control. The operational plan comprises five pillars, including core services (health, education, water and sanitation), livelihoods and economic recovery (see Technical Annex 4-12). The sequencing of activities makes it possible to launch recovery initiatives and conflict prevention and peacebuilding measures. Certain territories have been prioritised, especially Béni and Uvira, which fall within the scope of PRECAPE.

16. **PRECAPE aligns with this joint planning effort**. **Thanks to the collaboration between the teams of AfDB and the Resident Coordinator's Office, AfDB was able to fine-tune its support, particularly to implement Pillars 3, 4 and 5 of the strategy in government-controlled areas, mostly in Béni and Uvira**. To ensure the success of these activities, two United Nations funds will carry out peacebuilding activities, while PRECAPE will focus on economic recovery and the restoration of essential services (estimated budget USD 10 million). In this regard, the Peacebuilding Fund (PBF) will launch a project entitled 'Building Resilience and Social Cohesion in the context of Reintegration of Returnees in

Conflict Zones in North and South Kivu' while the DRC Stabilisation Coherence Fund (FCS) will support interventions by national and international NGOs and AFPs aimed at restoring state authority in Uvira (in line with Government's roadmap). So, PRECAPE will play a role in consolidating these efforts through development activities.

17. **PRECAPE will be implemented in a complementary manner and in synergy with the World Bank's Stabilization and Recovery Project for Eastern DRC (STAR-Est) in the target territories especially Beni, where PRECAPE and STAR-EST could work complementarily to revive the local economy.** PRECAPE's implementation will be closely coordinated with the humanitarian operations of the European Union and JICA that are being formulated and due to start in early 2026 (in line with the PAR strategy). PRECAPE will also work with both partners, targeting common communities in line with the PAR operational plan.

18. **The Bank is also part of the Resilience Compact – a government programme launched in July 2025 to translate the good economic results into concrete improvements in the daily life of Congolese**. The aim is to render the impact of economic stability more visible through targeted actions on food security, urban sanitation and rural accessibility.

19. **A number of working sessions were held with development partners during the pre-appraisal and appraisal phases of PRECAPE**. Under the leadership of the United Nations Resident Coordinator's Office, the mission team talked with a number of UN agencies including UNDP, IOM, UNHCR, WFP, UNICEF, FAO, UNFPA, OCHA, UNS Coordination, as well as with the World Bank, JICA and the European Union. These discussions with various partners revealed opportunities for complementarity and synergy in the water and sanitation, education and vocational training, and health interventions. The project will support the DRC Delivery Unit, a government support unit that coordinates and monitors the structural priorities of the DRC government's action programme, created by Decree No. 25/10 of 4 March 2025. Technical Annexes 1-8: Development partners matrix, provides details on the development partners' interventions.

2 PROJECT DESCRIPTION

A. Project Development Objective

20. **The project development objective is to improve the living conditions of people affected by the crises (young people, women and children, including internally displaced people and host communities) by providing a response based on a holistic long-term approach and the triple nexus involving humanitarian, development and peace-building activities.** The project's specific objectives are to: (i) strengthen climate-resilient socio-economic infrastructures to ease access to basic social services and resumption of economic activities; (ii) build stronger social cohesion and community resilience; (iii) promote sustainable solutions for local economic development and the socio-economic inclusion of vulnerable groups; and (iv) build institutional and operational capacity for a coordinated crisis response.

21. **The integrated multi-sector approach aims to simultaneously tackle multiple challenges in a coordinated manner in order to address complex needs created by crises, primarily the delivery of a package of social services.** Service integration entails a coordinated effort that reflects community priorities, where different sectors work towards a common goal, making it possible to measure overall impact on affected communities. Based on the "do no harm" principle, special attention goes into preparing and implementing activities so that project outcomes do not have any secondary negative impacts on the target or other populations.

B. Theory of Change

22. **Crisis response in the DRC due to escalating violence in the eastern regions has so far focused on humanitarian aspects,** without really developing a long-term approach, far from the triple nexus involving humanitarian, development and peace-building activities. Basic social service delivery is not always guaranteed after the destruction of basic infrastructure and means of production and livelihoods. PRECAPE adopts a joint multi-stakeholder approach and is part of a more holistic and systemic collective action aimed at tackling the causes and effects of the crisis through lasting solutions. Working in tandem with the Peacebuilding Fund (PBF) and the Stabilisation Coherence Fund (FCS), PRECAPE will provide a lasting response to the crisis. The project contributes to the Protection, Assistance and Resilience Strategy in Eastern DRC (PAR), making it possible to focus on a series of high-impact investments in stabilisation, recovery and community resilience. Therefore, it marks a major paradigm shift in crises responses in the country that goes beyond the purely humanitarian dimension. The project is based on an integrated approach that combines development actions with sustainable climate-resilient solutions and emergency humanitarian peace-building actions, harnessing complementary expertise from organizations whose core business is humanitarian action.

23. To this end, project interventions will focus on: (i) strengthening climate-resilient socio-economic infrastructures to ease access to basic social services and resumption of economic activities; (ii) strengthening social cohesion and building community resilience; (iii) promoting sustainable solutions for local economic development and the socio-economic inclusion of vulnerable groups, in particular displaced populations an returnees; and (iv) building institutional and operational capacity for a coordinated crisis response. They will help to achieve two major medium- and long-term outcomes: (a) access to and delivery of basic social services are strengthened for better community resilience through the reconstruction of social infrastructure; and (b) community resilience and the socio-economic inclusion of youths and women are strengthened through the reconstruction of economic infrastructure and productive assets.

24. However, the project's success depends on five key assumptions: (i) peace returns and minimum security is maintained in the project areas; (ii) the authorities are committed to improve coordination and management of crisis response strategies and actions, and support project implementation; (iii) beneficiary populations use the rehabilitated and functional social facilities; (iv) the training offered matches the aspirations of young people and women; and (v) the effectiveness of institutional arrangements make it easier to manage and monitor crisis response, and the issues of fragility and resilience. Technical Annex 2-1 provides more details on the theory of change.

C. Project Components

25. PRECAPE is structured around three main components: (i) Component 1: Strengthening of socio-economic infrastructure and productive climate-resilient assets to build inclusive community resilience; Strengthening of operational and institutional capacities to support crisis response and Coordination, management, monitoring & evaluation, accountability and communication.

Component 1: Reconstruction of socio-economic infrastructure and productive climate-resilient assets to build inclusive community resilience (UA 18.47 million)

26. The objective of the first component is to ensure continuity and strengthen access to quality basic social services to improve community resilience. This component concerns the implementation of fit-for-purpose solutions that will help to restore and provide more and better quality basic social services interrupted or disrupted by the crisis. It comprises two sub-components.

Sub-component 1.1: Rehabilitation and equipping of social infrastructure to ensure continuity in basic social service delivery (UA 9.99 million)

27. This sub-component is dedicated to the rehabilitation and equipping of climate-resilient social infrastructure to ensure the resumption and continuity of basic social services, including health, education and vocational training, water, sanitation and hygiene facilities. It will mainly cover the following activities: (i) finalisation of preliminary technical studies before works starts; (ii) the rehabilitation and equipment of social infrastructure in the project area, including 5 vocational training centres, 7 schools, 7 health centres; (iii) construction of 5 climate-resilient water and sanitation facilities; and (iv) recruitment of beneficiary populations for labour-intensive works to rehabilitate the destroyed facilities.

Sub-component 1.2: Reconstruction of productive assets for community resilience and socio-economic inclusion (UA 8.48 million)

28. This sub-component will support the reconstruction of production facilities to promote the socio-economic inclusion of young people and women through economic activities and contribute to nutrition and food security. The following activities will be covered: (i) develop and especially asphalt access roads and alleyways, using the LI approach to benefit 5,000 young people (50% young women) and women, including internally displaced persons (IDP); (ii) rehabilitate and equip markets and ancillary structures for businesses to resume for the collective good; (iii) procure and distribute climate resilient livestock-agriculture-fish farming inputs and small processing equipment to enable15,000 persons, including IDPs, in 3,000 households to revive their production activities; (iv) install and equip one community canteens to promote access to healthy food and fair/safe cross-border trade; (v) offer certified vocational training in promising trades8 (including green trades) for 1,500 young people (50% females); (vi) build the entrepreneurship capacities and provide financial education to 2,000 young people (50% females) and women; (vii) offer psychosocial and medical care to 4,500 women victims of gender-based violence; and (viii) organize communication and awareness-raising activities and community initiatives to support social cohesion.

[8] Fish farmer, poultry farmer, nurseryman, seed producer, grower, solar system installer, welder, electrician, tiler, tailor, mason, organic fertiliser producer, etc.

Component 2: Strengthening of operational and institutional capacities to support the crisis response and resource mobilisation (UA 15.01 million)

29. The aim of the second component is to enhance crisis response coordination which is crucial for building resilience in the DRC. It comprises two sub-components.

Sub-component 2.1: Institutional support to coordinate and manage crisis response in the DRC (UA 7.87 million)

30. Given the institutional fragmentation, this sub-component will strengthen the institutional and operational coordination of crisis response activities and promote the production of a knowledge corpus on the dynamics of resilience to facilitate crisis response decision-making. To this end, the selected actions are: (i) support for the Prime Minister's Delivery Unit, the national mechanism set up to manage special operations including crisis response coordination. The activities include the establishment of a digital system for monitoring programmes, projects and special operations, the training of sector ministries' employees in how to structure and implement critical projects and reforms; (ii) the recruitment of an international fragility and resilience consultant to support national strategies aimed at reducing fragility and building resilience and ensure that activities are aligned with Government's roadmap for the eastern DRC; (iii) the recruitment of an international expert in conflict and security to advise on the sequencing of operations under the security management plan (Technical Annexes 4–9, 4–12); (iv) strengthening of the FSRDC technical unit's capacity in fragility and resilience (staff training, design of analytical and monitoring tools, and accreditation of FSRDC as a fragility and resilience assessment agency); (v) strengthening of health security and community resilience at DRC's borders as part of an integrated humanitarian response; (vi) capacity building for the project/programme monitoring unit (CSPP); (vii) support for governorates in the project areas to ensure the continuity of administrative services; (viii) implementation of a staff training plan; and (ix) mapping of basic socio-economic infrastructure and preparation of a human resource training plan.

Sub-component 2.2: Institutional support for climate resilience - Protection of biodiversity and management of community assets (UA 7.14 million)

31. This sub-component comprises four main activities: (i) in collaboration with the Congolese Institute for Nature Conservation (ICCN), organization of workshops for the exchange of`` best practice, training in biodiversity protection and agroforestry activities (reforestation) in the Kivu-Kinshasa Green Corridor9; (ii) promotion of sustainable and equitable management of community assets as part of the AXIS10 programme that works closely with the Environmental Intervention Fund (FIPE) and the Carbon Market Regulatory Authority (ARMCA) to mobilise resources. These initiatives aim to create platforms to facilitate value exchange and development of community assets, and to install a resource management and equitable trade system through blockchain-tokenisation of resources; (iii) the recruitment of an international communications and advocacy consultant to support advocacy efforts for fair trade in resources (community assets); (iv) conduct of environmental and social impact assessments as well as implementation of the environmental and social management plan.

[9] The Kivu-Kinshasa Green Corridor project aims to safeguard the future of the Congo Basin, the largest carbon sink in the world's tropical forests. Deforestation of the Congo Basin endangers humanity as a whole. Preserving it will ensure that the objectives of the Paris Agreement remain within reach, while laying the foundations for a new future for the Congolese people characterised by unity, stability and prosperity. It is a commitment by the country's highest authorities to support the link between peace, sustainable development and nature conservation.

[10] The AXIS Programme is an initiative launched in the DRC by the DRC Social Fund (FSRDC) in partnership with Phoenix Capital B.V to tokenize natural and community assets. It uses blockchain and other technologies to ensure traceability, transparency and a more equitable sharing of wealth, particularly in the gold, cocoa and carbon sectors. It aims to support local economic development, create crypto-assets backed by real resources, and combat informal exploitation, which is a source of community conflict.

Component 3: Coordination, management, monitoring & evaluation, accountability and communication (UA 5.48 million)

32. The third component ensures effective project coordination, implementation and institutional support as set out in the Appraisal Report and the Project Loan Agreement. The main activities under this component are: (i) recruitment of an individual consultant to prepare a procedures manual; (ii) setting up of a coordination and management unit with sufficient means to implement activities within the set timeframes; (iii) preparation of annual work programmes and budgets; (iv) preparation of documents and conduct of procurement audits; (v) conduct of project annual environmental and social performance audits; (vi) audit of the project's financial statements and accounts; (vii) establishment of agreements with third-party structures to implement certain activities mindful of their comparative advantage; (viii) supervision of the project and production of quarterly environmental and social safeguards performance monitoring and project progress reports; (ix) implementation of the project communication plan; and (x) organization of project steering committee meetings. Technical Annex 2-2.2 provides details on activities by project component.

E. Project Area, Beneficiaries, and other Stakeholders

34. PRECAPE will cover Uvira in South Kivu Province, as well as in Beni and Walikale in North Kivu Province. The project will enable over 800,000 people, including returnees, internally displaced persons and host communities, to have access to quality social services (health, education, water and sanitation). At least 5,000 people, 60% of them youths, will also engage in biodiversity protection activities conducive to social cohesion and community conflict prevention. A total of 1,500 young people[11] will be trained in promising sectors and provide with start-up kits to promote their social inclusion.

[11] 50% young men and 50% young women

PRECAPE will build the entrepreneurial and financial education capacities of 2,000 young people (50% of them females); and support 15,000 people including internally displaced people, across 3,000 farmer/herder households with productive inputs. The project will provide psychosocial and medical care for 4,500 female victims of gender-based violence. At least 2,000 jobs will be created, 60% of them for young people and 50% for women. The project's positive outcomes will benefit the residents of the three target localities in eastern DRC. It will reach around 4,100 children and young people (51% of them girls) in the formal education and vocational training sector. Several stakeholders were consulted during the pre-appraisal and appraisal phases, including the National Youth Council and Provincial Youth Councils, the Provincial Confederation of Enterprises of Congo (FEC), the Collective of Women's Associations for Development, Office of the Coordinator of the UN system and several United Nations agencies (UNDP, FAO, WFP, UNHCR, UNICEF, IOM). These consultations reveal that the project is complementary and synergies with ongoing community initiatives and development projects being implemented.

F. Bank Group Experience and Lessons Reflected in Project Design

35. **The latest portfolio performance review in the DRC highlighted the lessons that guided the design of this Project**. The design also draws on the Bank's experience in implementing operations in emergency contexts, including the Emergency Aid to the victims of landslides and flooding in KALEHE territory in South Kivu province. The weaknesses identified mostly relate to: (i) the multitude of contracts awarded, attracting enormous transaction costs for the Bank and the country; (ii) the late fulfilment of conditions precedent to first disbursement; (iii) the slowness in procurement procedures; (iv) the beneficiary structures' inability to express their needs; (v) the lack of technical studies which causes significant delays in project implementation; and (vi) delays in setting up project coordination and management units.

36. **PRECAPE's design was informed by a number of lessons**: (i) the drivers of fragility and sources of resilience were duly considered to ensure better alignment with national priorities and proper targeting of intervention areas, particularly those linked to job creation in the most productive sectors; (ii) stakeholders were consulted and beneficiary institutions further involved in the choice of project activities to facilitate ownership; (iii) the implementation partners were chosen based on their presence on the ground and their operational capacity in fragile situations to facilitate the timely implementation of urgent projects; (iv) complementarity and synergy with ongoing Bank operations were considered to ensure the good performance of new operations; (v) the type of crisis response suggested by the Bank combining investments with humanitarian actions provides more sustainable solutions with rapid impact; (vi) procurement was streamlined with significantly fewer contracts; (vii) collaboration with third party agencies ensures speedy project implementation; and (viii) a programmatic design included technical feasibility studies for preparation of phase II of the project. Technical Annex 2-4 provides more details on the lessons learned.

3 PROJECT FEASIBILITY

A. Financial and Economic Analysis

37. **As a crisis response operation, PRECAPE does not aim to make a financial profit. This is why the emphasis is on economic analysis**. The economic analysis of PRECAPE is based on a cost-benefit approach. The underlying assumptions used to calculate its economic internal rates of return (EIRR) and economic net present value (ENPV) are described in Technical Annex 3-1. There are seven key assumptions: (i) The key benefits of the project stem from its knock-on effects, notably increased income for the 3,000 households supported with income-generating activities (IGAs) in agricultural production and processing; (ii) The income of supported households increases to USD 150 on average per household as from the first year of project implementation. (iii) The net income of 2,000 young people and women trained and supported in entrepreneurship increases to an estimated USD 500 on average per person per year. (iv) The income of the 5,000 youths and women targeted and employed in biodiversity protection activities increases to an estimated USD 350 on average per person per year during the project's three-year span; (v) The 2,000 direct and indirect jobs (temporary and permanent) created as part of the project (construction sites and rehabilitation of socio-economic infrastructure, LI, management of economic infrastructure (markets), waste recycling, etc.) lead to a USD 50 increase in the targeted individuals' productivity per month per employee; (vi) The net income of 500 young people trained in promising semi-skilled sectors increases to an estimated USD 100 per month; and (vii) The net income of 1,000 young people trained in promising unskilled sectors increases to an estimated USD 50 per month. The project's IRR is estimated at 21%. As this value is higher than the opportunity cost of capital of 12%, the project is considered economically viable.

38. **Sensitivity Analysis**. A sensitivity analysis aimed at testing the EIRR robustness was carried out to determine the impact of any adverse change. The EIRR falls to 18%, in case of a 10% increase in costs and a 10% reduction in economic benefits. It rises to 25% if the number of beneficiaries increases by 5%. The analyses show that the project is economically viable and socially beneficial for the Democratic Republic of Congo. Details of the calculations are given in Technical Annex 3.1.

Additional Positive Outcomes:

The project will have additional positive outcomes. (i) The project proposes a sustainable natural resource management strategy to support local communities in the preservation of biodiversity, sustainable use and equitable access to natural resources. (ii) Overall, the project will help to strengthen national capacity to respond to the security crisis in eastern DRC. (iii) Psychosocial and medical care will be provided to 4,500 women who are victims of gender-based violence, which will improve their economic productivity in the short and medium term thanks to the self-confidence gained by these women. (iv) The project will have a positive impact on around 4,100 children in the formal education sector, helping to guarantee their medium- and long-term economic productivity. (v) In the long term, the project will help to improve the tax base through market tax levies, including the provincial "market tax", which is specific to each province, and other local or para-fiscal taxes managed by public bodies for their own financing. These will also help to boost revenue needed to finance development programmes, while building peace and consolidating stability in the targeted localities.

B. Environmental and Social Safeguards

Environmental and Social

39. **The project has been confirmed in Category 2 (Moderate Risk) under the DRC national legislation and the Bank's Integrated Safeguards System (ISS), as of 31 October 2025).** This classification is confirmed although the biophysical and social impacts caused by infrastructure rehabilitation (schools, health centres, markets, prisons) are deemed very moderate, localised and reversible as the context is characterised by persistent insecurity, a high concentration of internally displaced persons (IDPs), the presence of vulnerable groups.

40. **E&S Safeguard Instruments and Publication:** To comply with the ISS requirements, six instruments are required. To date, the three Environmental and Social Impact Assessments (ESIA), the Vulnerable Groups Management Plan (VGMP), the Stakeholder Engagement Plan (SEP) and the Biomedical Waste Management Plan (BWMP) have been prepared and published by the borrower and the Bank on 5th April 2026 through the following links:

https://fondsocial.cd/actualites/journals?view=27079b3a-71c3-4d74-ab5f-73558da9a833 for the country and:https://www.afdb.org/en/documents/rdc-projet-de-reponse-la-crise-en-appui-aux-populations-affectees-dans-lest-de-la-republique-democratique-du-congo-precape-p-cd-i00-024 for the Bank.

41. **Public Consultation:** The Borrower organised consultations involving the Social Fund Coordination Unit, the Congolese Environment Agency (ACE), humanitarian agencies (UNICEF, OCHA), local authorities (Mayor of Beni, local mayors) and direct beneficiaries via focus groups. A total of 767 persons were consulted including 537 men, 230 women and 117 displaced populations. For subsequent phases, particularly in areas of insecurity, the SEP envisages adapted and secure engagement methods (community visits, local radio) to guarantee the physical safety of participants whilst ensuring free, prior and informed participation.

42. **Key Risks and Impacts: The environmental risks are:** deforestation for firewood, soil degradation, water and soil pollution from poor waste management/lack of adequate sanitation facilities, risk of air quality degradation, risk of increased pressure on natural resources. **The social risks are :** Risk of conflict with host communities, risk of gender-based violence (sexual exploitation and abuse, sexual harassment, violence against children), risk of social isolation, risk of community insecurity, risk of conflict (related to labor recruitment, inadequate information provided to beneficiaries regarding support and training for vulnerable groups, and erosion of local morals and customs), risk of occupational health and safety (OHS) (THIMO and infrastructure construction/rehabilitation can lead to workplace accidents for workers and communities), risk of the spread of vector-borne and infectious diseases due to waste**. The negative environmental impacts are:** The disappearance of local species and disruption of ecological corridors, decreased yields of subsistence crops due to soil degradation, and chemical and bacteriological degradation of Lake Tanganyika, affecting fishing and access to drinking water due to water pollution from waste and the lack of sanitation, are all potential consequences. The degradation of air quality (construction dust, fumes) could directly impact the health of vulnerable populations and workers. **The negative social impacts are:** Conflicts with host communities and those related to recruitment (real or perceived favoritism) can escalate into demonstrations, construction site blockades, or intercommunal violence. The spread of vector-borne diseases (malaria) and infectious diseases (cholera, typhoid) linked to waste overwhelms already strained health zones. **The positive environmental and social impacts are:**

Improving healthcare services and living conditions will allow for better management of the health needs of the 1.2 million people requiring assistance. Access to community facilities and securing land tenure (draining flooded areas) will contribute to the fight against poverty. Finally, support in the form of agricultural inputs will stimulate community gardening, strengthening food security and household incomes in the Ruzizi Plain.

43. **Environmental and social management measures:** The various management plans (ESMP, VGMP, BMWMP, SEP) set out a coherent set of mitigation and remediation measures to address the identified risks. **For the management of GBV and social risks**, the project will enforce a code of conduct for all workers, accompanied by sanctions (zero tolerance). A specialist NGO will be recruited to provide holistic support (medical, psychosocial, legal) for the 4,500 target women and to monitor gender-sensitive complaint mechanisms. The VGMP contains specific inclusion measures, such as securing civil registration for children, employment quotas for people living with HIV and women in labour intensive works, and targeted actions to promote the knowledge of the Batwa indigenous peoples. **With regard to environmental and health management**, the BMWMP imposes that improved incinerators and placenta pits should be constructed in the targeted health centres, and medical staff provided with personal protective equipment (PPE) and waste sorting materials (coloured bins). The worksite ESMP provides for the construction of a 31,200-metre perimeter fence around schools to ensure pupils' safety, the development of water points to reduce conflicts over water use, compensatory reforestation, and strict management of construction waste. Site safety will be ensured through appropriate signage and the provision of full PPE to workers.

44. **Cost of E&S measures:** The total cost of the environmental and social safeguard measures amounts to **USD 7,606,767** for the instruments. This amount covers the conduct of studies, broken down as follows: USD 4,109,800 for the ESMP of the 3 ESIA, USD 628,000 for the SEP, USD 1,819,427 for the VGMP (including audits and monitoring), and USD 1,049,540 for the BMWMP. These costs are included in the Loan and detailed in the technical annex of the Appraisal Report.

45. **Institutional Arrangements:** The operation will be implemented by DRC Social Fund (FSRDC), which has qualified E&S experts. The Congolese Environment Agency (ACE) will perform its statutory role of external oversight and compliance monitoring. Provincial divisions of health (DPS) will be involved specifically in monitoring the BMWMP.

Involuntary relocation

46. The work is taking place on existing socio-community infrastructure and the work areas are free of any occupation. The project does not involve any involuntary relocation.

47. **E&S Compliance: In addition to the full, proper implementation of all published E&S plans, including measures to address unanticipated risks and impacts arising during project implementation, the Borrower will prepare quarterly reports on the implementation of E&S measures.** An annual E&S performance audit conducted by an independent E&S safeguards expert will also be submitted each year, no later than the end of the first quarter of the following year. All these reports will be shared with the Bank and made available to stakeholders. Moreover, the Borrower undertakes to establish a project-level grievance redress mechanism (GRM) as soon as implementation begins, to make it known to all stakeholders and to keep it operational throughout the project life cycle. Furthermore, in the event of an occupational health and safety (OHS) incident on a project site, the Borrower undertakes to inform the Bank immediately, no later than 48 hours after the event, to share the investigation report of the competent national authority and, where deemed necessary by the Bank, to have a root cause analysis (RCA) prepared by an independent OHS expert. The RCA report must be approved by the Bank for implementation of the corrective action plan (CAP) by the Borrower. These obligations will be reflected in the ESMP of the Financing Agreement. Based on the above, the project is deemed compliant for submission to the Board of Directors as attested by the ESCON attached.

Climate Change and Green Growth

48. **Climate Resilience and Vulnerability: The PRECAPE project is classified in Category 2 under the Bank's Climate Safeguard System as its activities are deemed moderately vulnerable to climate change.** The Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) is highly vulnerable to climate change. According to the 2024 Notre Dame Global Adaptation Initiative (ND-GAIN) index, the DRC ranked 182nd with a score of 32.7, placing it among the most vulnerable countries in the world. Climate change in eastern DRC is marked by increasing rainfall variability, extreme phenomena (flooding, landslides), soil degradation and natural resource depletion. This exacerbates the vulnerability of communities already affected by crises and undermines the sustainability of recovery efforts. Component 1 covers the rehabilitation of essential social infrastructure, in particular schools and health centres, and the development of water supply systems. The project area is quite exposed to current and future climate hazards, as characterised by CMIP6 climate model projections.

49. In the context of the project, the underlying vision for the reconstruction of social and economic infrastructure, the resumption of productive activities and strengthening of social cohesion will be to build climate resilience. PRECAPE mainstreams climate into each of its components: in Component 1, by factoring in adaptation to climate hazards (floods, landslides, seasonal changes, etc.) through resilient infrastructures; in Component 2, by strengthening institutional capacities; and in Component 3, by supporting social cohesion. The project includes biodiversity protection activities. It does not merely respond to immediate needs; it also aims to reduce the future vulnerability of populations, promote sustainable infrastructure and livelihoods, and strengthen local shock absorption systems.

50. Contribution to Climate Change Mitigation: The project contributes indirectly to reducing greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions by promoting climate-resilient socio-economic infrastructures (reduced need to destroy or rebuilt infrastructure in future, improved service efficiency, the use of renewable energy sources (solar) with reforestation and sustainable livelihood options (including agro-forestry and sustainable stockbreeding techniques).

51. Alignment: The project aligns with the DRC's Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC, 2021), the National Climate Adaptation Plan (PNA 2022-2026), and the Bank's Strategic Framework for Climate Change and Green Growth (2021-2030). The project has been assessed as compliant with the Joint MDB Methodological Principles for Paris Agreement Alignment for direct investment projects, with no elements of non-alignment identified, and contributes to climate finance as a type 2 adaptation project, with activities promoting climate change mitigation.

C. Other Cross-Cutting Priorities

Poverty Reduction, Inclusion and Job Creation

52. Investing in the construction and rehabilitation of social infrastructure will encourage health, education, and water/sanitation sector professionals to resume their activities. This approach will help to offset the loss of experienced staff due to conflict and displacement, thereby filling critical human resource gaps.

53. The training and start-up kits offered to 1,500 young people in promising sectors will increase the number of qualified young people and help them better integrate economically and socially, and to have a legal source of income. The support provided to farmers and livestock breeders in the form of equipment and inputs will contribute to reviving business activities in these sectors and generate higher income for households. Investing in economic infrastructure like markets, food procurement centres and access roads will also facilitate the resumption of business and marketing of products. Labour-intensive works will provide a source of income for the 5,000 young people involved and the 3,000 households receiving support in the form of inputs and light agricultural/livestock equipment will be able to start income-generating activities. Thanks to such support, key sectors such as agriculture, stockbreeding and fishing, will have better-trained young workers, leading to the creation of 2,000 direct and indirect jobs, which will ultimately help to reduce poverty in the project area. All these initiatives will contribute to the social inclusion of thousands of people in precarious circumstances in the project areas and help to reduce the incidence of poverty therein.

Resilience-Building Opportunities:

54. The eastern provinces of the DRC have long faced complex security and humanitarian crises, as a result of the armed conflicts caused by the presence of multiple non-state armed groups. These groups finance themselves by exploiting natural resources and engaging in recurrent food-related violence. Since January 2025, the security situation in eastern DRC has steadily deteriorated sharply, reaching unprecedented levels of severity, with armed groups taking control of strategic urban centres and localities, and local security and institutional balances being radically reconfigured. This has triggered a chain effect, resulting in massive population displacements and returnee inflows into the country and towards neighbouring states, increasing pressure on host communities and already weakened resilience mechanisms. This situation severely disrupts local economies through interruption of trade routes, restrictions on mobility and the disruption of markets. At the same time, the destruction or closure of core social infrastructure, including schools and health facilities, undermined access to basic social services. With the collapse of livelihoods, particularly in the agriculture sector, food insecurity has worsened, along with household socio-economic vulnerability and community tensions. The ensuing humanitarian and socio-economic pressures have gradually spread to fairly safer neighbouring areas like Uvira (South Kivu) and Walikale and Beni (North Kivu), overstretching local capacities while exacerbating pre-existing fragilities.

55. In line with the Bank's TSF mechanism, particularly Pillar I dedicated to crisis response in conflict-affected contexts, the project aims to improve and sustainably support the living conditions of communities affected by the renewed insecurity in eastern DRC. In this regard, project activities mostly target youth, women and children, including internally displaced persons and host communities, to ensure inclusive and equitable support. The project will help to scale back fragilities by restoring essential services and livelihoods and building local capacity. It will help to rehabilitate school equipment, health centres, vocational training centres and water and sanitation facilities, thus ensuring continuous basic service delivery, disrupted by conflict, and strengthening social cohesion. In addition, the support extended to small-scale agricultural, pastoral and economic activities, combined with vocational training for youth and women, will strengthen food security, promote socio-economic inclusion and reduce vulnerabilities that cause the instability observed on the ground.

56. **In parallel, the project builds local crisis response capacities, encourages evidence-based decision-making and promotes sustainable and equitable natural resource management, thereby helping to mitigate resource-related conflicts**. In view of the changing security dynamics and the many peace and dialogue initiatives underway, it is strongly recommended that an in-depth security threat assessment be carried out, together with a conflict sensitivity analysis, and that a robust, adaptive and context-based risk management strategy be developed. Thanks to these mechanisms, risks that could compromise effective, efficient and sustainable project implementation will be anticipated, mitigated and managed proactively. It is also imperative to include a conflict and security expert in the project team to ensure ongoing monitoring of the dynamics of fragility, produce updated real-time analyses and adjust interventions to contextual changes. This approach aims to guarantee action that is conflict-sensitive, adaptive and resilient against emerging risks. Technical Annex 3-2 on Fragility and Resilience Assessment provides additional analytical elements.

Promotion of Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment

57. **PRECAPE, classified in Category 2 (GEN II) under the Bank's Gender Marker System**. It adopts a transformative gender approach to meet the immediate needs of people affected by the crisis in eastern DRC, while addressing structural gender inequalities. Gender will be systematically mainstreamed into the project's governance and coordination mechanisms. A dedicated Gender/GBV expert will be recruited to support the gender action plan as well as ensure the regular collection and use of gender-disaggregated data and the effective monitoring of gender equality outcomes.

58. **Component 1 of the project will strengthen women's access to basic social services (health, education, water and sanitation) and the economic/commercial infrastructure required for income-generating activities.** Under Component I, project beneficiaries, at least 50% of them women, will receive entrepreneurial support and training in financial literacy. The women will receive primarily livestock-agriculture-fish farming inputs and light processing equipment to help them resume their productive activities. The selected investments are intended to strengthen the economic empowerment of women who will benefit from skills development initiatives in promising trades and to set up small food processing units. Of the nearly 2,000 jobs created, 50% will be for women. Other beneficial actions planned for women include (i) the setting up of community canteens to increase women's access to food and other food products necessary for their nutrition and that of their children; (ii) provision of psychosocial, medical and legal support to victims of gender-based violence; (iii) supply of dignity kits including customised menstrual hygiene products for women and girls.

59. **In order to prevent and reduce repeat offences, community awareness campaigns will address stigma, early marriages, sexual exploitation and abuse (SEA) and gender-based violence, while promoting safe inclusive spaces, particularly in schools, vocational training centres, health centres and economic infrastructure such as markets**. Frontline service providers—including health workers, social workers, legal actors, and community leaders—will be trained in respectful care for survivors, case management, and the 'do-no-harm' approach. The project will establish robust mechanisms to prevent and respond to SEA, including context-specific risk reduction strategies, confidential reporting channels, and capacity-building for stakeholders including the project management and coordination unit. Technical Annex 3-3 – Promoting gender equality and empowering women provides more details.

Investing in Youth

60. **Young people are the prime targets of recruitment into armed groups and a main social category affected by the crisis**. For that reason, PRECAPE invests in youth through several initiatives that promote skills development, social inclusion and position them as agents of transformational change. The project will train 1,500 young people[12] in promising trades, and hire 3,000 others, including IDPs, for agro-forestry protection activities, and 1,200 (50% of them young females) in labour-intensive works during the rehabilitation of rural tracks and other access roads, and the construction/rehabilitation of socio-economic infrastructure. It will create 2,000 jobs (50% for young women). In addition, the project will invest in the psychosocial and medical care of 4,500 female victims of GBV, 70% of them aged under 35 years, and

[12] La cible jeune tient compte de la répartition 50% de jeunes hommes et 50% de jeunes femmes y compris les PDI.

involve them in activities intended to strengthen health security and community resilience at the borders, which should considerably reduce communicable diseases and other epidemics. As a result, PRECAPE will contribute to the employment and technical/vocational training related alignment indicators of the Results Framework of the Bank's Ten-Year Strategy, as portrayed by the project's results framework captured in outcome and output indicators. For this reason, PRECAPE is classified in Category 2 of the "Youth, Employment, Skills" Marker System.

4 IMPLEMENTATION

A. Institutional and Implementation Arrangements

61. **The project's executing agency is the Social Fund of the Democratic Republic of Congo (FSRDC).** FSRDC is one of the most operational public institutions in North and South Kivu, as it has provincial agencies and local branches in both provinces. FSRDC has proven experience in implementing projects financed by AfDB, the World Bank and other partners in these two provinces. FSRDC also manages projects currently funded by the AfDB, including the Governance and Skills Development Support Project of the Agricultural Transformation Programme (PAGDC-PTA); and the Value Chains Development Support Project of the Agricultural Transformation Programme (PADCV-PTA). PRECAPE will be managed by the National Coordination of FSRDC through a Project Coordination and Management Unit (PCMU). The PCMU will be established by the national coordination of FSRDC and report to the latter. It will comprise a team made up of experts available at FSRDC and who, based on their technical profile, will be appointed and assigned to the following positions: at national coordination level (i) 01 project manager; (ii) 01 procurement expert; (iii) 01 administrative and financial officer and 02 administrative assistants; (iv) 01 accountant; (v) 01 civil engineer; (vi) 01 environmental and climate safeguards specialist; (vii) 01 monitoring and evaluation assistant; (viii) 01 social safeguards, gender and GBV specialist; (ix) 01 procurement assistant; (x) 01 environmental safeguards assistant; (xi) 01 driver; (xii) 01 international fragility and resilience expert; (xiii) 01 conflict and security expert (consultant); (xiv) 01 international expert in communication and advocacy; at branch level: (xv) 02 branch managers; (xvi) 02 monitoring and evaluation assistants, (xvii) 03 environmental, climate and social safeguards assistants; (xviii) 03 assistant civil engineers; (xix) 03 administrative and logistics assistants; (xx) 03 procurement assistants; and (xix) 03 drivers. If necessary, FSRDC will use third-party agencies through agreements to implement project activities.

62. **A Steering Committee (COPIL), chaired by the Secretariat General (SG) of the Prime Minister's Office, will be established by decision of the Secretariat General**. This COPIL will be extended to the Secretaries-General of the following ministries or their representatives: (i) rural development; (ii) agriculture; (iii) vocational training and trades; (iii) education; (iv) health; (vi) agriculture; (vii) livestock and fisheries; (viii) entrepreneurship and SMEs; (ix) youth; (x) employment; (xi) gender and the family; (xii) social affairs; and (xiii) finance as well as other stakeholders, including (a) the private sector (Federation of Enterprises of Congo-FEC, Confederation of Small and Medium Sized Enterprises of Congo-COPEMECO); (b) the National Coordination of FSRDC; (c) the Project/Programmes Monitoring Unit (CSPP) and (d) civil society organizations (CSOs) such as the National Youth Council and the National Confederation of Agricultural Producers (CONAPAC); (e) representatives of beneficiaries. Technical Annex 4-3 provides a project implementation plan and Technical Annex 4-4 sets out the detailed implementation arrangements.

B. Procurement Arrangements

63. **Applicable Procurement System and Procedures**. All goods (including non-consulting services), works and consulting services financed in part or in whole by Bank resources will be procured in accordance with the Procurement Policy for Bank Group Financed Operations approved in October 2015. Pursuant to this Policy and based on the various assessments conducted, it has been agreed that **all project procurement as listed in paragraph B.4-5.2.1(A), (B), (C) of Technical Annex 4.5 will be carried out in accordance with the Bank's Procurement System (Bank System) characterized by the Procurement Methods and Procedures (PMP) described by the Bank Group Procurement Framework**.

64. **Procurement Capacity and Risk Assessment (PCRA).** In a bid to consider the specificities of the project, the Bank assessed: (i) the risks at the national, sectoral and project levels; and (ii) the capacity of the executing agency. The assessments concluded that the procurement risk was deemed "**High**" and identified the mitigation measures proposed in paragraph B.4-5.9.

65. **Procurement Arrangements.** Procurement arrangements were examined, considering the nature, value and complexity of each purchase, the market situation, stakeholders' capacities and the risks involved. Details concerning the various categories of procurement, the applicable procurement system,

cost estimates, procurement methods, the type of Bank control/review and the provisional procurement schedule agreed with the Borrower, are described in Technical Annex 4-5 attached to this Project Appraisal Report.

C. Financial Management and Disbursement

66. **The Executing Agency's financial management capacities were assessed based on information gathered through an evaluation questionnaire, interviews with the FSRDC National Coordination, and dialogue between the Bank and the internal and external public finance audit institutions**. The Country Fiduciary Risk Assessment carried out as part of the 2023-2028 CSP deemed the financial management risk to be high, which translates into an inherent risk for the project. The national financial management system will be used only for a few components notably: (i) FSRDC, an entity placed under the Presidency of the Republic; and (ii) the internal and external audit interventions of IGF and the Court of Auditors.

67. **The National Coordination of FSRDC will be responsible for the administrative, accounting and financial management of all components of PRECAPE, but delegate day-to-day implementation to PMCU to be set up in line with the organic framework in force**. FSRDC, whose three agencies are involved in the current project, has executed World Bank-funded projects worth a total of over USD 1.4 billion: PASU, STEP, PRVBG. These projects covered South Kivu and North Kivu Provinces. FSRDC also managed the KALEHE Emergency Aid Project (South Kivu) funded by AfDB to the tune of USD 1 million. The FY 2024 audit report of the Emergency Assistance Project for the Victims of Landslides and Floods in KALEHE territory, finalised on 31 December 2024, was submitted to the Bank on 13 February 2026. The financial performance of PAGDC-PTA is deemed satisfactory after the last supervision reports, while that of PADCV-PTA shows some weaknesses which should be addressed to guarantee a conducive environment for rolling out an effective internal control system that is compliant with acceptable standards. These measures include, in particular: (i) the recruitment of an administrative and financial officer and an accountant to be appointed competitively from among FSRDC staff based on three CVs and terms of reference approved by the Bank; (ii) the introduction of standard operating procedures supplementing the administrative, financial and accounting procedures manual, describing the roles of stakeholders and modalities for their involvement in project implementation; (iii) the use of TOMPRO software web version (multi-project) with its TOMETAFIN module for presenting project financial statements. FSRDC will ensure internal control through its internal audit department, which is currently being strengthened.

68. **FSRDC has several operational bank accounts, including the two special accounts opened for PAGDC-PTA and PADCV-PTA funded by the Bank.** Bank resources will be disbursed in accordance with the provisions of the Disbursement Handbook in force, using the four applicable disbursement methods. Disbursement modalities to local implementing agencies/NGOs working in the areas will be examined during preparation of contracts and agreements that must be submitted to the Bank for approval. To the extent possible, FSRDC must ensure that each entity has an internal control or internal/external audit system and an accounting system that complies with acceptable standards at the local level, enabling the authorization of fund flows through secure financial channels considering the security context of the project area. Through the Ministry of Finance's Projects/Programmes Monitoring Unit, the Government will make all necessary arrangements to monitor and oversee the repayment of sums payable under the special account for closed projects. The operating budget must be presented in such detail as to ensure that costs are distributed across the various projects carried out by FSRDC, so as to avoid duplication and limit transaction costs.

69. **Government resources (counterpart contribution) will be disbursed as planned to finance project activities in accordance with the provisions of national laws on public finance**. The agreed cash contributions must be included in the finance laws adopted during the project period and disbursed in a timely manner for project needs. Contributions in kind will be made in such a way as to provide adequate basis for their assessment for inclusion of information regarding the project financing plan, expenditure category (table of costs) and financial statements.

70. **PRECAPE's external audit will be performed by the Court of Auditors (CoA) based on an agreement between the CoA and FSRDC and financed from the Bank's resources to strengthen the CoA's independence**. If the Bank identifies shortcomings and/or risks relating to delays in the transmission of audit reports, the PCMU may, after consulting the Bank, proceed to recruit, in accordance with the Bank's rules and procedures, a private audit firm approved by an international, national or regional body of chartered accountants.

71. **The audit missions will be carried out based on terms of reference approved by the Bank and will cover all project activities**. The audit reports for each financial year shall be submitted to the Bank within six (6) months of the end of the financial year concerned. FSRDC and CSPP undertake to monitor audits still due for FY 2024 and earlier, in line with the last notification letter relating to audits not

submitted through a schedule agreed with each PIU to be sent to the Bank. Details on this section are provided in Technical Annexes 4 to 6 - Detailed FM and disbursement arrangements and Technical Annex 4-7 - Detailed audit arrangements.

D. Monitoring and Evaluation

72. **The project's monitoring and evaluation arrangement will operate at two levels. The monitoring/evaluation expert in the Project Coordination and Management Unit will regularly monitor project implementation and the related outcome and output indicators**. He or she will use monitoring/evaluation tools including the project results framework, and quarterly progress reports. A multi-disciplinary team from the Bank will organize at least two supervision missions per year and produce implementation progress reports (IPR). In addition, the monitoring and evaluation team will receive training on the Kobo Toolbox for questionnaire design and data collection, and on RASME. A mid-term review report will be produced at the end of the first half of the project life cycle. A completion report will be produced within six months of the close of the project. An impact assessment will be conducted at least six months before the physical closure of the first phase of the project. A field mission was conducted by the FSDRC team and helps to characterize the baseline situation necessary for impact assessment. The United Nations System Coordination Office will participate in the monitoring mechanism in order to facilitate and ensure that PRECAPE complements the activities funded by the PBF. Technical Annex 4-1 – Monitoring plan, provides ample information on the description of indicators, the planning of targets over the period 2026-2029, means of monitoring and the methods of information gathering and processing.

E. Governance

73. **Ranked 48th out of 54 African countries on the Ibrahim Index on African Governance (IIAG) in 2024**, the DRC places digital technology at the heart of its strategy to improve public finance management. The aim is to strengthen the transparency and effectiveness of institutions and fight corruption. This shows the country's resolve to better manage its resources. The Bank's experience in the DRC shows that governance practices during project implementation and current audit systems and practices are deemed satisfactory overall. The positive changes observed during portfolio reviews are testament to the quality of efforts made in this area. In addition, the Congolese authorities are working to consolidate governance in the country.

74. **The Bank will continue to provide the necessary training in procurement and financial management to build capacity accordingly**. The Bank's procurement rules and procedures will be used for the bulk of procurements. Apart from annual financial audits, technical audits must be carried out to determine any corrective measures that might be needed in due course.

F. Sustainability

75. **The project was requested by the government to respond to the crisis and bring relief to affected communities**. The project aligns with the country's national development priorities, in particular the DRC's National Strategic Development Plan (PNSD, 2024-2028), and its Vision until 2050 by which time the potentials of its extractive and agricultural sectors will have been developed to build a diversified middle-income economy with inclusive growth, overcome poverty and establish lasting peace across the whole country".

76. **The design phase focused on factors essential to sustainability**: (i) the mobilization and involvement of the local private sector in training and coaching young people, IDPs and women through the Federation of Enterprises of Congo (FEC) and the Confederation of Small and Medium-sized Enterprises of Congo (COPEMECO); (ii) institutional capacity-building; (iii) the involvement of local communities in the management of climate-resilient socio-economic infrastructure; (iv) investment in the promotion of social cohesion and community resilience; and (v) programmatic planning which offers local actors the opportunity to get ready for eligibility for the regional envelope or a possible second phase; and (vi) the involvement of decentralized public services in the management of rehabilitated and equipped infrastructure. The project will also contribute to operationalise the Prime Minister's Delivery Unit in a bid to strengthen the national crisis response coordination mechanism.

G. Risk Management

77. **Project implementation will factor in different risks and propose realistic and feasible mitigation measures in consultation with other stakeholders**. The key risks identified include: (i) security risk; (ii) the risk of inter-community conflict between host populations, IDPs and returnees; and (iii) fiduciary risks, especially the slowness in procurement procedures caused by operational difficulties during armed clashes and financial management.

78. **The mitigation measures envisaged are:** (i) regularly monitor the security situation and conflict sensitivity, with a dynamic mapping of armed actors, impact areas and risk corridors, in order to

continuously adjust implementation arrangements; (ii) tailor project implementation to a logic of *phasing* and operational flexibility (geographical and temporal sequencing), making it possible to suspend, relocate or rapidly reprogramme activities based on changes in the security context; (iii) mainstream social cohesion and inclusive resource management arrangements in the implementation of activities, ensuring balanced targeting perceived as fair by all the groups concerned; (iv) implement activities generating *shared benefits*, particularly in the areas of livelihoods, community infrastructure and access to basic services, in order to reduce perceptions of competition and latent grievances; (v) use neutral local organizations and/or institutions to carry out certain project activities; (vi) organize communication and awareness-raising campaigns targeting local communities, traditional leaders and local authorities; and (vii) build the capacity of implementation team members during Bank fiduciary clinics; and (viii) have external audits performed by the Court of Auditors and internal audits by the General Inspectorate of Finance. Annex 4-2 – Risk matrix, provides more information on risks and mitigation measures.

H. Knowledge-Building

79. Implementation of the project will require leveraging lessons learned from other projects carried out in the country and sharing with stakeholders good project management practices based on a holistic approach and the triple nexus involving humanitarian, development and peace-building activities. Collaboration with the UN System agencies and national/international NGOs will provide valuable insights in conflict sensitivity, as well as opportunities and constraints in crisis response coordination, fragility factors management and resilience-building. The project will also build the capacities of institutional and operational players involved, and carry out Economic Sector Work to produce knowledge on topics of interest. Young people's skills will also be developed in promising trades and training offered to staff deployed in the social infrastructure constructed, rehabilitated and equipped by the project.

5 LEGAL INSTRUMENTS AND AUTHORITY

A. Legal Instrument

80. The legal instruments under this Project are: (i) a loan agreement (the "Loan Agreement"), to be entered into between the Democratic Republic of Congo (the "Borrower") on one hand, and the African Development Bank (the "Bank") and the African Development Fund (the "Fund") (hereinafter collectively referred to as the "Fund", unless the context otherwise requires) acting as administrators of the Transition Support Facility (TSF), on the other hand, for the TSF loan (the "TSF Loan") and (ii) a protocol of agreement (the "Protocol of Agreement") to be entered into between the Democratic Republic of Congo (the "Recipient") and the Fund for the ADF grant (the "ADF Grant").

B. Conditions Associated with the Bank Intervention

81. Entry into force of the Agreements: (i) entry into force of the Loan Agreement shall be subject to the Borrower fulfilling the conditions set out in Section 12.01 of the General Conditions; (ii) the Protocol of Agreement shall enter into force upon signature by the Recipient and the Fund.

82. Conditions Precedent to First Disbursement. In addition to entry into force, the obligations of the Fund to make the first disbursement of the TSF Loan or ADF Grant, as applicable, shall be subject to satisfaction of the following conditions by the Borrower or the Recipient, as applicable: (i) the execution and delivery of the Subsidiary Agreement between the Executing Agency and the Borrower or Recipient, in form and substance satisfactory to the Fund; (ii) submission to the Fund of evidence of the establishment of a Project Coordination and Management Unit (PCMU) within the Executing Agency (FSRDC) dedicated to project implementation, composed of the following key members: (a) 01 project manager; (b) 01 procurement officer; (c) 01 administrative and financial officer; (d) 01 accountant.

83. Conditions Precedent to Works-Related Disbursements. The obligation of the Fund to disburse the TSF Loan or ADF Grant, as applicable, for works that involve resettlement shall be subject to satisfaction by the Borrower or Recipient of the following additional conditions: (i) submission of a site-specific Environmental and Social Impact Assessment (ESIA) and Environmental and Social Management Plan (ESMP) for the works, prepared in accordance with the Bank's Safeguards Policies and in form and substance satisfactory to the Fund; (ii) submission of satisfactory evidence of approval of the site-specific ESIA and ESMP by the Borrower's or Recipient's competent national authority; (iii) submission to the Fund of land titles to all land designated for the implementation of the project's infrastructure; (iv) with respect to the ADF Grant only, the recruitment within six months after the first disbursement of one (01) expert in environmental and climate safeguards and one (01) expert in social safeguards, gender and gender-based violence (GBV).

84. Other Commitments. The Borrower or Recipient, as applicable, shall provide a detailed plan for publication of the environmental and social safeguard instruments no later than 29 April 2026.

85. **Counterpart contribution**: The Borrower or Recipient, as applicable, shall, within six (6) months of the first disbursement of the TSF Loan or ADF Grant resources, or at any other later date acceptable to the Fund, make available to the project the registration certificates (land titles) for the land allocated for the construction of the project infrastructure, as its contribution in kind (the "Counterpart Contribution") towards the costs of the Project.

C. Compliance with Bank Policies

☒ This Project complies with all applicable Bank policies.

Independent Recourse Mechanism of the African Development Bank Group

86. Communities and individuals who believe they have been harmed by a project supported by the African Development Bank (AfDB) Group can file complaints with existing grievance mechanisms at the project level or with the AfDB's Independent Recourse Mechanism (IRM). The IRM ensures that communities and individuals affected by the project can submit their complaints to the AfDB's Independent Recourse Mechanism, which determines whether harm has occurred or may occur as a result of the AfDB's failure to comply with its policies and procedures. To submit a complaint or request further information, please contact: IRM@afdb.org or visit the MRI website www.irm.afdb.org. Complaints can be made at any time after concerns have been brought directly to the attention of the AfDB, and Bank management has been given the opportunity to respond before contacting the MRI.

6 RECOMMENDATION

87. Management hereby recommends that the Boards of Directors approve the proposal to award a TSF Loan of twenty-five million Unit of Accounts (UA 25,000,000) and a ADF Grant of eleven million six hundred and eighty-two thousand Unit of Accounts (UA 11,000,000) to the Democratic Republic of the Congo to contribute to financing the Crisis Response Project to Support Affected Populations in Eastern Democratic Republic of the Congo (PRECAPE) for the purposes and subject to the conditions set out in this report.

7 RESULTS FRAMEWORK

RESULTS FRAMEWORK					
A	**PROJECT INFORMATION SHEET**				
PROJECT NAME AND SAP CODE: Crisis Response Project to Support Affected Populations in Eastern Democratic Republic of the Congo (PRECAPE)-P-CD-I00-024			**COUNTRY/REGION:** Democratic Republic of Congo (Central Africa)		
PROJECT DEVELOPMENT OBJECTIVE: Improve the living conditions of populations affected by the crisis (young people, women and children, including internally displaced people and host communities) by providing a response based on a holistic long-term approach and the triple nexus involving humanitarian, development and peace-building activities.					
ALIGNMENT INDICATOR(S): (i) Employment in relation to population (% population); (ii) Access to basic drinking water services (% population); (iii) Coverage of essential health services (index: Low = 0/ High = 100).					
B	**RESULTS MATRIX**				
RESULTS CHAIN AND DESCRIPTION OF INDICATORS	**RMF INDICATOR**	**UNIT OF MEASUREMENT**	**BASELINE**	**TARGET AT COMPLETION (2031)**	**MEANS OF VERIFICATION**
Outcome 1: Supply and access to basic social services have increased, enhancing community resilience, through the reconstruction of social facilities					
Outcome indicator 1.1: People with access to better health services (including women).	☒	No.	322,507[13] (2025)	At least 482,507 (241,253 women)	Socio-economic impact assessment report
Outcome indicator 1.2: People with access to drinking water (including women).	☒	No.	135,000 (2024)	At least 262,000 (131,000 women)	Socio-economic impact assessment report
Outcome 2: Community resilience and the socio-economic inclusion of young people and women are strengthened through the reconstruction of economic infrastructure and productive assets					
Outcome indicator 2.1: People with access to markets rehabilitated by the project.	☒	No.	5,000 (2024)	13,000 (7,800 young people[14] and 6,500 women)	Social Fund quarterly monitoring report
Outcome Indicator 2.2: Direct jobs supported by the project (women/young people)	☒	No.	0	2,000 (1,200 for young people and 800 for women)	Socio-economic impact assessment report
Outcome Indicator 2.3: Households supported by the project to develop income-generating activities (including female-led households).	☒	No.	0	3,000 (1,350 women-led households)	Report on social inclusion of Ministry of Social Affairs, Humanitarian Action and National Solidarity

13 International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC). September 2025.
14 Youth targets are disaggregated: 50% males and 50% females

Component 1: Reconstruction of socio-economic infrastructure and productive climate-resilient assets to build inclusive community resilience					
Output 1: Climate-resilient socio-economic infrastructure strengthened for the provision of social services necessary for community resilience					
Output indicator 1.1: Schools and vocational training centres rehabilitated, equipped and operational.	☐	No.	0	12	School and training centre acceptance reports and works control/supervision mission reports
Output indicator 1.2: Health centres rehabilitated, equipped and operational	☐	No.	0	7	Health centre acceptance reports and works control/supervision mission reports
Output indicator 1. 3: Commercial infrastructure built/rehabilitated and operational	☐	No.	0	3	Commercial infrastructure acceptance reports and works control/supervision mission reports
Output Indicator 1.4: Drinking water supply structures rehabilitated	☐	No.	0	5	Acceptance reports and works control/supervision mission reports
Output 2: Access to social services and support for inclusive community initiatives are strengthened to support social inclusion and cohesion.					
Output Indicator 2.1: People trained and given startup kits in trades (including green trades) supported by the project (young people/women)	☐	No.	0	5,160 (900 young people and 750 women)	Training report and list of kit recipients
Output Indicator 2.2: Women victims of GBV receiving psychosocial and medical care through the project.	☐	No.	0	4,500 (3,150 women)	Report on psychosocial and medical care for women
Output Indicator 2.3: Community initiatives to promote social cohesion supported by the project.	☐	No.	0	8	Progress report on the promotion of social cohesion
Component 2: Strengthening of operational and institutional capacities to support the crisis response					
Output 3: Institutional and operational capacities are strengthened for better crisis response management and coordination					
Output indicator 3.1: Delivery Unit operational to coordinate and monitor Government's transformative priorities	☐	Yes/No	No	Yes	Agreement document
Output Indicator 3.2: Institutions having benefited from capacity-building on fragility and resilience.	☐	No.	0	5	Capacity-building sessions report
Output Indicator 3.3: Support for the national mechanism for managing health security and community resilience at the borders.	☐	Yes/No	No	Yes	Agreement with National Border Hygiene Programme (PNHF)

8 ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL COMPLIANCE NOTE (ESCON)

ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL COMPLIANCE NOTE (ESCON)

AFRICAN DEVELOPMENT BANK GROUP
2023 ISS Update v01

A. Basic Information[15]		
Project Title: **Crisis Response Project in Support of Affected Populations in the East of the Democratic Republic of Congo (PRECAPE)**		**Project SAP or TFMS Code:** **P-CD-I00-024**
Region: RDGC	**Country:** Democratic Republic of the Congo	
Project Sector Unit: Social	**Lending Instrument:** Sovereign Loan	
Appraisal dates: 22-Sep-25 **to** 26-Sep-25	**Estimated Approval Date:** 29-Apr-26	
Task Team Leader: **MOUMINE SISSAO**	**Alternate Task Team Leader:** **RAYMOND BESONG**	
Environmental Safeguards Officer(s): **MOUPIGA NGOMA Hornella Carenne** | **xxxxxx**		
Social Safeguards Officer(s): **xxxxxxx** | **xxxxxxxxxxx**		
E&S Category: Category 2 (Moderate Risk)	**Operation Type:** Sovereign Operation / Public Sector Operation	**Financial Intermediary:** No
Categorization Date: 23-Oct-25	**Categorization Date in ISTS:** 31-Oct-25	**Categorization Date in SAP:** 31-Oct-25
Is this project processed under rapid responses to crises and emergencies?		No
Is this project processed under a waiver to ISS requirement(s) requested by the Borrower/Client and granted by the Board?		No
B. Disclosure and Compliance Monitoring		
B.1 Mandatory disclosure[16]		
Environmental and Social Assessment/Audit/System/Others: **Environmental and Social Impact Assessment (3)**		
Was/Were the document (s) disclosed ***prior to appraisal?***		**Yes**
Date of "in-country" disclosure by the borrower/client		5-Apr-26
Date of receipt, by the Bank, of the authorization to disclose		*6-Apr-26*
Date of disclosure by the Bank		8-Apr-26
Resettlement Action Plan (RAP)[17]: *Not Applicable*		
Was/Were the document (s) disclosed ***prior to appraisal?***		**Not Applicable**
Date of "in-country" disclosure by the borrower/client		Click to select the date
Date of receipt, by the Bank, of the authorization to disclose		Click to select the date
Date of disclosure by the Bank		Click to select the date

[15] ***Note**: This ESCON shall be appended to project appraisal reports/documents before Senior Management and/or Board approvals.*

[16] *For multiple disclosure dates of the same type of document/instrument (ESIAs, RAPs, etc), please indicate the date of the last disclosure that meets the 50%+1 disclosure requirement.*

[17] *Including Livelihood Restoration Plan (LRP)*

Stakeholder Engagement Plan (SEP)[18]: *1*	
Was/Were the document (s) disclosed ***prior to appraisal?***	Yes
Date of "in-country" disclosure by the borrower/client	23-Feb-26
Date of receipt, by the Bank, of the authorization to disclose	25-Feb-26
Date of disclosure by the Bank	8-Apr-26
Pest or Vector Management Plan (PMP/VMP): *Not Applicable*	
Was/Were the document (s) disclosed ***prior to appraisal?***	Not Applicable
Date of "in-country" disclosure by the borrower/client	Click to select the date
Date of receipt, by the Bank, of the authorization to disclose	Click to select the date
Date of disclosure by the Bank	Click to select the date
Vulnerable Peoples Plan (VPP): *1*	
Was the document disclosed ***prior to appraisal?***	Yes
Date of "in-country" disclosure by the borrower/client	24-Feb-26
Date of receipt, by the Bank, of the authorization to disclose	25-Feb-26
Date of disclosure by the Bank	8-Apr-26
Biodiversity Management Plan (BMP)[19]: *Not Applicable*	
Was the document disclosed ***prior to appraisal?***	Not Applicable
Date of "in-country" disclosure by the borrower/client	Click to select the date
Date of receipt, by the Bank, of the authorization to disclose	Click to select the date
Date of disclosure by the Bank	Click to select the date
Livelihood Restoration Plan (LRP)[20]: *Not Applicable*	
Was the document disclosed ***prior to appraisal?***	Not Applicable
Date of "in-country" disclosure by the borrower/client	Click to select the date
Date of receipt, by the Bank, of the authorization to disclose	Click to select the date
Date of disclosure by the Bank	Click to select the date
Riparian Communities Participation Plan (RCPP): *Not Applicable*	
Was the document disclosed ***prior to appraisal?***	Not Applicable
Date of "in-country" disclosure by the borrower/client	Click to select the date
Date of receipt, by the Bank, of the authorization to disclose	Click to select the date
Date of disclosure by the Bank	Click to select the date
Emergency Preparedness & Response Plan (EPRP): *Not Applicable*	
Was the document disclosed ***prior to appraisal?***	Not Applicable

[18] *Including Grievance Redress Mechanism (GRM)*

[19] *Refer to footnote 212 of the ISS: Depending on the nature and the scale of the risks and impacts of the project, the Biodiversity Management Plan (BMP) may be a stand-alone document, or it may be included as part of the ESMP prepared under OS1. Select this if a standalone BMP is required.*

[20] *Refer to footnote 190 of the ISS: The Livelihood Restoration Plan (LRP) is normally part of the Resettlement Action Plan (RAP). However, for complex livelihood restoration, a stand-alone LRP can be prepared as part of the ESMP. Select this if a standalone LRP is required.*

Date of "in-country" disclosure by the borrower/client	Click to select the date
Date of receipt, by the Bank, of the authorization to disclose	Click to select the date
Date of disclosure by the Bank	Click to select the date
Hazardous/Medical Waste Management Plan (HWMP): *1*	
Was the document disclosed ***prior to appraisal?***	Yes
Date of "in-country" disclosure by the borrower/client	25-Feb-26
Date of receipt, by the Bank, of the authorization to disclose	25-Feb-26
Date of disclosure by the Bank	8-Apr-26
Riparian Notification (RN): *Not Applicable*	
Was the document disclosed ***prior to appraisal?***	Not Applicable
Date of "in-country" disclosure by the borrower/client	Click to select the date
Date of receipt, by the Bank, of the authorization to disclose	Click to select the date
Date of disclosure by the Bank	Click to select the date
Environmental and Social Management Plan of the Financing Agreement (FA-ESMP) [21]	
Was the document disclosed ***prior to appraisal?***	*Yes*
Date of "in-country" disclosure by the borrower/client	*5-Apr-26*
Date of receipt, by the Bank, of the authorization to disclose	***7-Apr-26***
Date of disclosure by the Bank	**8-Apr-26**
Is in-country disclosure of any of the above required documents not allowed as per the country's legislation or not expected because of crises/emergencies: Not Applicable **If applicable, please explain below:**	
Not applicable.	
B.2. Compliance monitoring indicators	
Has satisfactory calendar, budget and clear institutional responsibilities been prepared for the implementation of measures related to safeguard policies?	**Yes**
Has costs related to environmental and social measures, including for the running of the grievance redress mechanism, been included in the project cost?	**Yes**
Is the total amount for the full implementation for the Resettlement of affected people, as integrated in the project costs, effectively mobilized, and secured?[22]	**Not Applicable**
Does the Monitoring and Evaluation system of the project include the monitoring of safeguard impacts and measures related to safeguard policies?	**Yes**
Have satisfactory implementation arrangements been agreed with the borrower and the same been adequately reflected in the project legal documents?	**Yes**
C. Clearance	
Is the project compliant with the Bank's environmental and social safeguards requirements, and can be submitted to Approval?	**Yes**

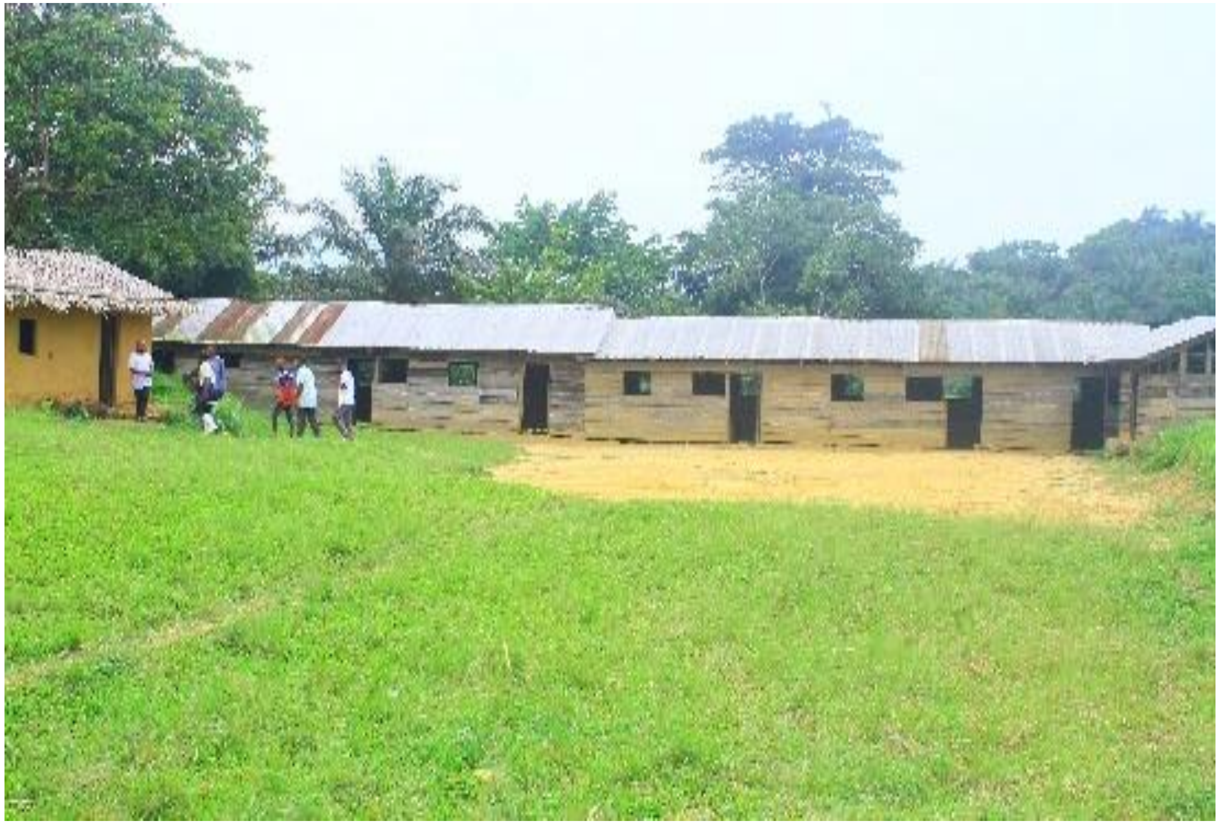
[21] *As referred to in section III.2.3 of the Bank's Environmental and Social Policy (ESP)*

[22] *In case a Resettlement Action Plan (RAP) is/are not required although the Environmental and Social Impact Assessment (ESIA) is/are disclosed, attached the image/picture/photo of the area/site/landscape to evidence that it is free of any encumbrance (simple statement or letter from the borrower does not suffice), in addition to the statement by the Borrower that it is a public-owned land.*

Prepared by	***Name***	***Signature***	***Date***
Environmental Safeguards Officer(s):	**Hornella Carenne, MOUPIGA NGOMA xxxxxxxxx**		8-Apr-26
Social Safeguards Officer(s):	**xxxxxxx xxxxxxxx**		Click to select the date
Task Team Leader:	MOUMINE SISSAO		8-Apr-26
Submitted by			
Sector Director:	**Mrs. Martha T. M. PHIRI**		10-Apr-26
Cleared by			
Director SNSC:	**Mr. Maman-Sani ISSA**		14-Apr-26

ANNEX: KNOWN PROJECT SITES – PRECAPE

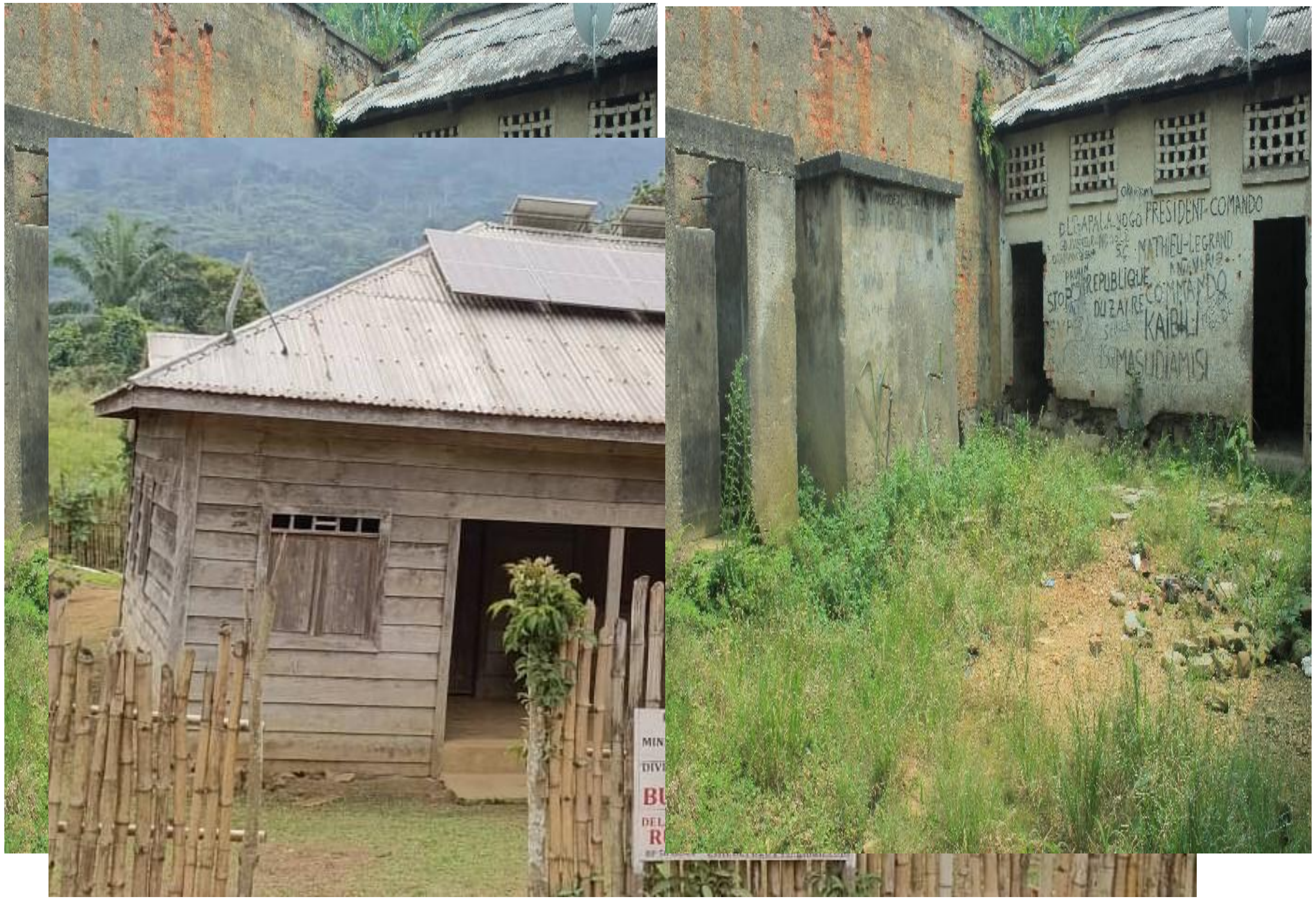
Public school of UTUNDA



Public school KASINDI

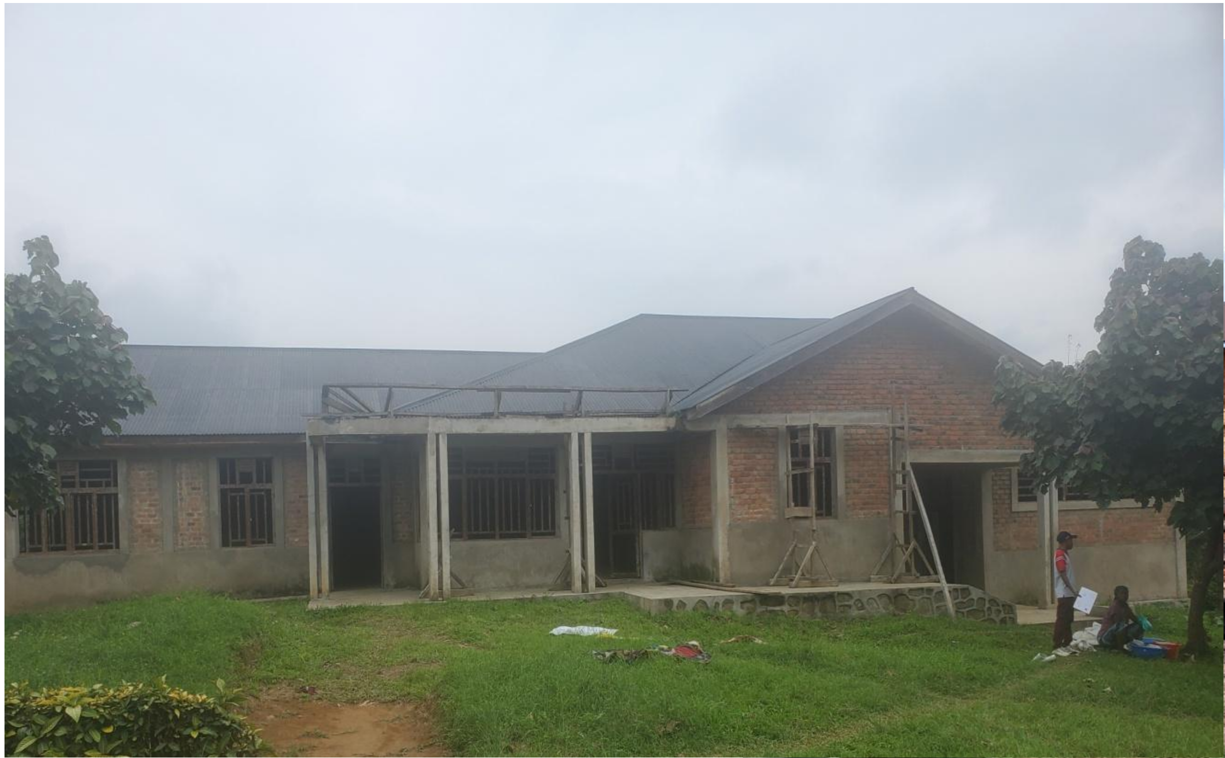
MUTAKATO INSTITUT

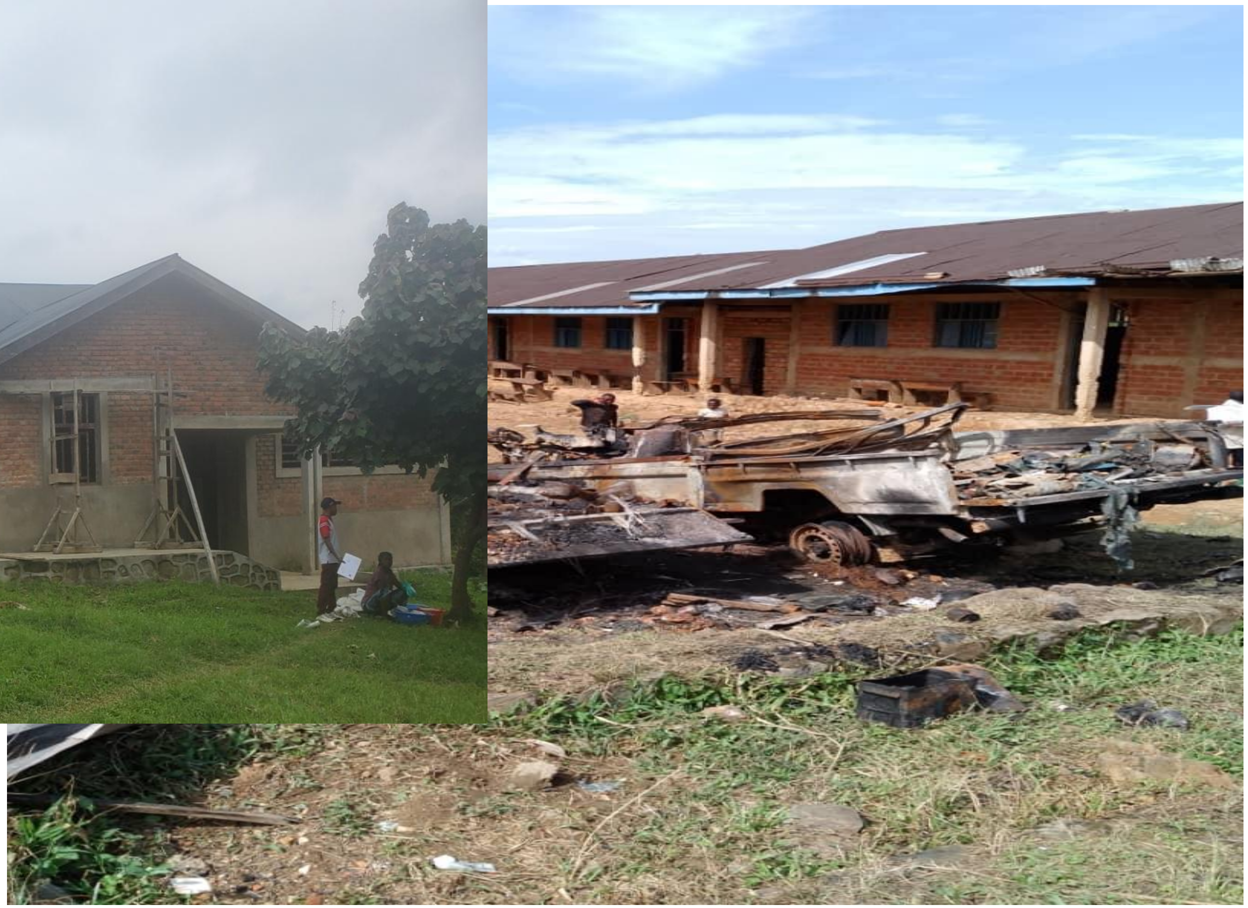
Prison centrale de Walikale



Bureau Central Zone de la zone de Santé de ITEBRO
(BCZS Itebero)

Hôpital Général de Référence de ITEBERO (HGR Itebero dont les travaux sont aux arrêts et le dépôt des matériaux pour sa construction pillés à Walikale Centre)





Regional Hospital


HOPITAL GENERAL DE
CAMON 40 Pro
23mm f/1.8 1/321s ISO50