

ANNUAL REPORT

2023



RESTORATIVE
ACTIVISM IN A WAR
CONTEXT

MESSAGE FROM THE CEO

Dear Partners,

It is with mixed feelings that we present this note at the end of the year. On the one hand, we are delighted to see 2023 drawing to a close. It's a grace that the Lord has granted us! On the other hand, we are sad to see the humanitarian, security and socio-economic situation continue to deteriorate in the province of North Kivu, with thousands of people displaced and settled in camps around and in the city of Goma. Our deepest sympathy goes out to all these people!

Throughout 2023, our ability to intervene has been very negatively impacted by the continuing armed conflicts in the eastern part of the DRC. But we are heartened to see that the minimum has been achieved: maintaining HEAL Africa's capacity to assist vulnerable people, especially survivors of sexual violence, abuse and exploitation both in IDP camps and elsewhere. Despite the difficulties inherent in the war situation, HEAL Africa hospital offered its preventive and curative services for the benefit of the battered population. Displaced people had access to medical care in the medical units supported by HEAL Africa, and complicated cases were referred to and treated at the HEAL Africa hospital. Those living in other provinces have benefited from the specialized services of HEAL Africa's medical teams, particularly women with fistulas and children with congenital malformations such as cleft lip and cleft palate. It is thanks to your invaluable support, dear partners, that all this has been possible. May God continue to bless you!

Faced with growing challenges in the country, and to be able to pursue its vision and mission, HEAL Africa has been partially corporatized in the Hospital sector. This was not an easy decision for the General Assembly to take. But we believe it was the best decision in view of the socio-politico-economic development of the DRC. With this status, we hope that the hospital will be able to support, to some extent, some of HEAL Africa ASBL community projects. It's a new exercise that we hope to bring positive results.

Dear partners, with this new configuration of HEAL Africa, we will need your advice and support to move forward.

May the new year 2024 be for all of you the best year imaginable!



ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS

AC	: Old Case
AGR	: Revenue Generating Activity
APS	: Psycho-social assistant
ARV	: Antiretroviral
ASBL	: Association But Non Lucrative
BPC	: Building Peaceful Communities
CAC	: Community Animation Unit
CAP	: Children Aid Program
CH	: Health Committee
CN	: Nehemiah Committee
COSECSA	: College of Surgeons of East, Central and Southern Africa
CS	: Health Center
CPT	: Clinical Pastoral Care
DC	: Community Dialogue
EAS	: Sexual Abuse and Exploitation
ECODIM	: Sunday school
EOV (OEV)	: Vulnerable Orphaned Child
FHRDC	: Humanitarian Fund of the Democratic Republic of Congo
FSRDC	: Social Fund of the Democratic Republic of Congo
FSUC	: Clinical Emergency Care Training
GBV	: Gender-Based Violence
GSF	: Goma Student Fund
HATC	: HEAL Africa Training Center
HC	: Health Committees
HEAL	: Health, Education, Action and Leadership
HF	: Healthcare Facilities
HGR	: General Referral Hospital
ICMS	: Integrated Centre for Multisectoral Services
IDP	: Internally Displaced persons
IM	: International Ministries
IMAM	: Integrated Management of Acute Malnutrition
IMSC	: Integrated Multisectoral Service Centre

IST	: Sexually Transmitted Infection
KIT PEP	: Post-Exposure Prophylaxis Kit
LIA	: Love In Action
MCS	: Member of College of Surgery
NC	: New case
ODD	: Sustainable Development Goals
OSC	: One Stop Center
PC	: Prenatal consultation
PCIMA/IMAM: Integrated Management of Acute Malnutrition	
PFCGL	: Trade Facilitation Project in the Great Lakes Region
PMTCT	: Prevention of Mother-to-Child Transmission
PRGB	: Preventing and Responding to Gender-Based Violence
QC	: Quality Control
RHC	: Referral Health Center
S-3G	: Gender Stability Community Single Window Guarantee and Essential Medicines Supply Chain Management
SAM	: Severe Acute Malnutrition
SGBV	: Sexual Gender-Based Violence
SOTA	: Surgery, Obstetrics, Traumatology and Anesthesia
SVS	: Survivor of Sexual Violence
THP	: Total Hip Replacement
TKA	: Total Knee Replacement
UNS	: Nutritional Supplementation Unit
UNTA	: Outpatient Nutritional Unit
UNTI	: Internal Nutritional Unit
VSCA	: Village Savings and Credit Association
WASI	: Wamama Simameni (Women Stand Up)
ZS	: Health Zone

INTRODUCTION

HEAL Africa is a national organization working in the field of health/nutrition, protection and education/research. In 2023, it was active in North Kivu, North Ubungui, Kasai Central, Maniema, South Kivu, Tanganyika, Ituri, Kongo Central, Kwango, Kwilu, Lomami, Haut-Lomami, and Tshopo provinces.

It worked in a particularly difficult context marked by insecurity linked to the ongoing war in its areas of intervention located in the territories of Masisi, Nyiragongo, Rutshuru, Lubero, Beni and Bunia.

This situation has led to a massive displacement of populations to areas deemed safe, "To date, UNOCHA estimates that 576,205 people are displaced in North Kivu province, *see CCCM sub-cluster database November 2023 (Camp Coordination and Camp Management) North Kivu*". There has been a re-emergence of epidemics (cholera and measles), and an increase in cases of malnutrition among children aged 0-5 and pregnant women, an increase in cases of sexual and gender-based violence with its consequences (sexually transmitted diseases, unwanted pregnancies and stateless children).

The implemented interventions have faced challenges in planning: disruption of targets (beneficiaries), geographical inaccessibility, insufficient funds and flexible capacity (logistics, human resources and other unplanned needs).

Nevertheless, it continued to provide holistic care in the tertiary hospital, supported health facilities and camps for internally displaced persons.

This document summarizes HEAL Africa's achievements for the year 2023.

THE MAJOR ACHIEVEMENTS IN 2023

A. HOSPITAL

1. Acquisition of a building with 3 departments (paediatrics, internal medicine and training);
2. Acquisition and inauguration of a prosthesis manufacturing laboratory;
3. Extension of the hospital's dispensary, laboratory sampling unit and billing department;
4. Commissioning of the new medical imaging scanner.

B. TRAINING AND RESEARCH

Launch of two new training programs: training in Surgery, Obstetrics, Traumatology and Anaesthesia (SOTA) and training in Clinical Emergency Care (FSUC).

C. COMMUNITY PROJECTS

Nehemiah, Man and Church Sector:

19 Chaplains trained in the CPT session facilitation approach

Wamama sector:

Continued holistic management of problems related to the sexual and reproductive health of women, girls, men and boys.

Watoto sector:

1. Celebration of 10 years of existence of the Neonatology Unit (November 2023), which since its creation has strengthened the skills of 122 providers, now able to save the lives of newborns born asphyxiated and those born prematurely.
2. In the PMTCT program, 125 infants aged 18 months were screened, and all were HIV-negative.
3. 65 ECODIM teachers were trained in tools for teaching Sunday school classes.

THE GREAT CHALLENGES FACED IN 2023

The persistence and extension of the armed conflict as far as the gateway to Goma, in North Kivu is disrupting humanitarian operations, the movement of people and goods, and has led to massive displacement of populations, accentuating their vulnerability. This situation has led to a high demand for services and financial resources.

SUBJECTS OF PRAYER

- Pray for peace and stability in Eastern DRC
- Pray for the continuity of HEAL Africa's various projects
- Pray for HEAL Africa's partners and staff.

I. HEALTH CENTER AND HEAL AFRICA HOSPITAL

A. AMANI HEALTH CENTER

A.1. PREVENTIVE CONSULTATIONS

The Health Center offered the following preventive services:

- **6172** pregnant women received antenatal care (ANC) services.
- **906** women were seen at postnatal consultation (PNC) at HEAL Africa Hospital.
- **1313** children were seen for Preschool Consultation (PSC).
- **973** children were fully vaccinated (FVC).
- **169** patients were followed in the Nutritional Supplementation Unit (UNS) and in the Nutritional Outpatient Treatment Unit (UNTA).
- **814** women adhered to Family Planning (FP) methods, representing an increase of 16% compared to the previous year (617 in 2022).
- Of the **1836** samples taken at the laboratory, 1205 were for malaria testing, of which **473** were positive.
- **182** patients were identified with tuberculosis, of which **34** were pulmonary tuberculosis and **148** were extra pulmonary tuberculosis.
- **495** diabetic patients received health education, including **98** new cases and **397** old cases.

Table 1: Attendance at prevention services at AMANI Health Center from 2019 to 2023

	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Antenatal care (ANC)	5699	5799	6330	6302	6172
Preschool consultation (PSC)	15152	21241	28777	23415	1313
Family Planning (FP)	538	437	569	617	814
Nutrition	788	402	500	382	169
Postnatal Consultation (PNC)	2304	1696	1288	2272	906
Fully vaccinated child (FVC)	931	963	940	2546	973
Total	25412	30505	38404	35534	10347

B. HEAL AFRICA HOSPITAL

B.1. CONSULTATIONS

The hospital consultation is either outpatient (patients seen on an outpatient basis) or inpatient (inpatients and patients seen in an emergency).

During 2023, **49,135** patients were seen in consultations, including **43156** outpatients and **5979** in emergencies. Of these, **27,501 (56%)** were women (of which 6,003 (22%) were pregnant) and **24,092 (44%)** were men. Of the 49,135 patients consulted, 24,958 (**50.9%**) were new patients and 24,092 (**49.1%**) were old patients. Of the total patients received, **5,593 (11%)** were children under 5 years of age.

B.2. SURGERY

B.2.1. SURGERY PERFORMED IN GOMA

In 2023, **3974 patients** benefited from surgical procedures (general surgery, gynecology – obstetrics, orthopedics – traumatology) at the HEAL Africa hospital in Goma.

Table 2: Special surgical procedures performed in 2023 in Goma and Outreach

Services	Type of intervention	Goma	Outreach	total
General Surgery	Thyroidectomy	1	0	1
	Esophagoplasty	2	0	2
	Cholecystectomy	1	0	1
	Cleft Lip Repair	38	167	205
	Hydrocephalus drainage	13	0	13
	Spina Bifida Repair	12	0	12
	Craniotomy	9	0	9
	Hypospadias Repair	6	0	6
	Anal Imperforation Repair	3	0	3
	Mastectomy	1	0	1
	Abdominal Disaster	4	0	4
Total		90	167	257
Gynecology - Obstetrics	Vaginal hysterectomy	21	273	294
	Sacrospinal fixation of the vagina	3	6	9
	Lefort's Colpocleisis	2	3	5
	Uro/digesto-genital fistula repair	167	278	445
	Ureterovaginal re-implantation	5	0	5
	Pelvic floor repair	33	33	66
Total		231	593	824
Orthopaedics	Osteosynthesis / SIGN	88	0	88
	Osteosynthesis / Others	173	0	173
	PTH	14	0	14
	PTG	4	0	4
	Tenotomy	1	0	1
Total		280	0	280
TOTAL INTERVENTION		601	760	1361

Comment: more than half of the special operations were carried out in Outreach by HEAL Africa teams.

B.2.2. OUTREACH CLINIC

In 2023, a total of **10 mobile clinic missions** were organized: **7** missions in Uro-gynecology and **3** for general surgery (plastic surgery). Out of a total of **824 patients** repaired:

- **167 (20.3%)** had cleft lip and palate with 16 of them followed for language correction (11 for Orthodontic and 5 for Speech Therapy) and
- **657 (79.7%)** had urogenital fistulas, uterine prolapse and other gynecological-obstetric complications.

A total of **848** cases of **clubfoot** were corrected by the **PONSETI method** for children under 2 years of age in the 11 clinics supervised by HEAL Africa.

Table 3: Patients repaired in Uro-gynecology in Goma and Outreach

Pathology	Outreach	Goma	Total	Success Rate
Urogenital/digestogenital fistulas	278	167	445	88%
Genital prolapse	379	88	467	100%
Other	0	160	160	ND
Total	657	415	1072	

Table 4. Mobile Surgery Sites in 2023

Period	Province	Hospital (HGR)	FV V	LI F	VL F+L IF	Tear III	Tear IV	Prolapse and others	TOT	FINANCING
February 19 to 28, 2023	North Kivu	Beni	3	0	0	0	12	105	120	PRVBG/NK
		Lubero	8	0	0	0	3	77	88	PRVBG/NK
March 18 to April 6, 2023	Manie ma	Kasongo	1	0	0	0	14	175	190	PRVBG/M
		Kibombo	5	0	1	0	4	20	30	PRVBG/M
July-August 2023	Nord-Ubangi	Karawa	71	7	0	0	44	1	123	Fistula Foundation
December 2023	Kasai Central	Tshibala	28	5	0	0	19	0	54	Fistula Foundation
		Benaleka	23	3	0	0	27	1	52	Fistula Foundation
Total			139	15	1	0	123	379	657	

B.3. GYNECO OBSTETRICS

B.3.1 MATERNITY SERVICES

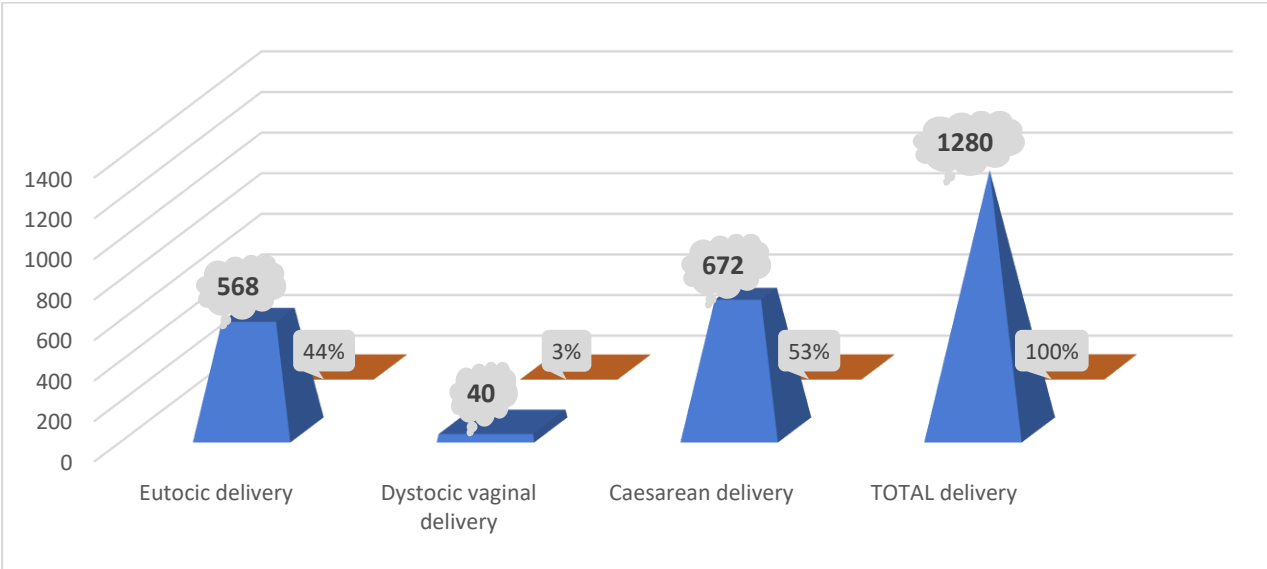


Figure 1: Deliveries performed

Comment: more than half of our customers gave birth by Caesarean section.

B.3.2. SURVIVORS OF SEXUAL VIOLENCE.

A total of **969 (939 women and 30 men) rape cases** were recorded in the hospital, of which **588 (61%)** were received within 72 hours post-rape and received PEP kits. All survivors were treated using a holistic approach. Of these survivors, **521 (53.8%)** were under the age of 18 years.

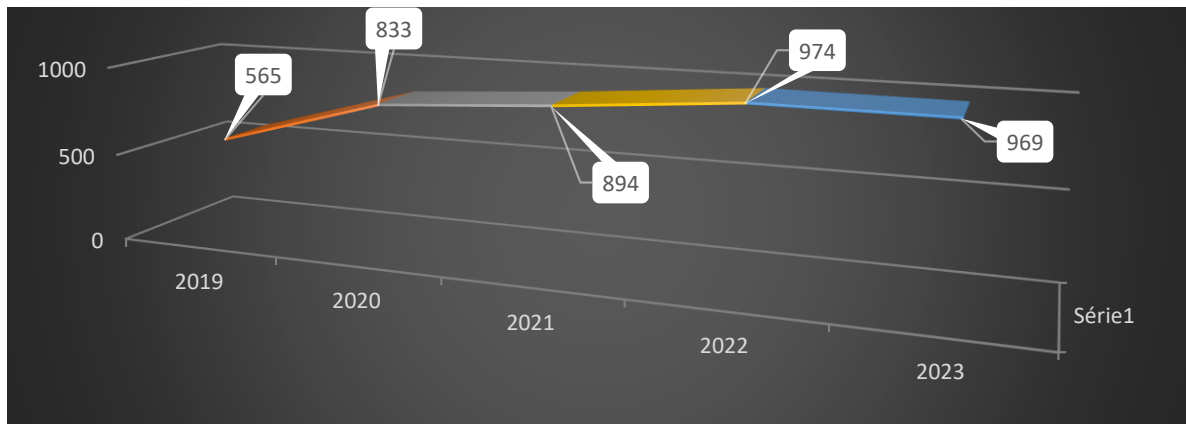


Figure 2: Evolution of rape attendance from 2019 to 2023

Comment: The last two years have shown an increase in rape cases.

B.4. PARAMEDICAL SERVICES

B.4.1. LABORATORY

A total of **298,207** samples were analyzed at the HEAL Africa Hospital laboratory.

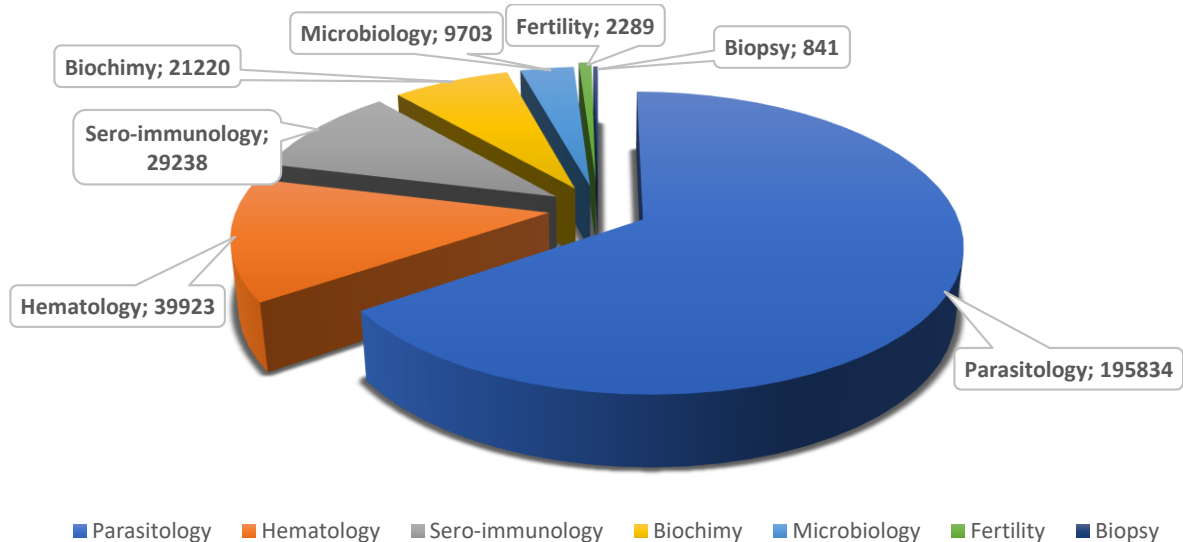


Figure 3: Laboratory tests performed at HEAL Africa Hospital

Comment: The majority (66%) of laboratory tests were for parasitology.

B.4.2. MEDICAL IMAGING EXAMINATIONS

In 2023, a total of **18,237** medical imaging examinations were performed.

Table 5: Medical imaging examinations performed from 2019 to 2023

	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Radiology	6772 (50, 4%)	7005 (47, 4%)	6926 (46%)	8845 (49, 1%)	9081 (49.79%)
Echography	5993 (44, 7%)	7043 (47, 6%)	7565 (50, 2%)	8210 (45, 6%)	8024 (43.99%)
ECG	579 (4, 3%)	728 (5%)	570 (3, 8%)	802 (4, 5%)	662 (3.63 %)
Cardiac ultrasound	-	-	-	142 (0, 8%)	283 (1.56%)
CT-scanner	81 (0, 6%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	187 (1.03%)
TOTAL	13425 (100%)	14776 (100%)	15061	17999 (100%)	18237(100%)

B.5. SPECIALIZED SERVICES OF THE HOSPITAL

a. Endoscopy

Table 6: Endoscopy examinations performed from 2019 to 2023

	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Esophago-gastroduodenoscopy	131	92	54	174	210
Colon-rectoscopy	46	5	12	56	46
TOTAL	177	97	66	230	256

b. Other Specialized Units :

Table 7: Number of patients treated in the hospital's specialized units from 2019 to 2023.

UNIT	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Ophthalmology	3332	1717	1473	1671	1567
Dentistry	1036	1089	869	1128	1197
Waterfall	3392	5852	6656	7319	7330
Physiotherapy	1012	1447	1303	1737	1640

B.6. SOME ELEMENTS ON THE QUALITY OF CARE

Table 8: Hospital Bed Occupancy

	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Number of beds set up	200	220	220	200	220
Bed occupancy rate	72%	57%	55%	65%	64%
Total Hospitalized Cases	6986	6956	7781	7735	7266

Comment: In 2023, the average bed occupancy rate was 64%.

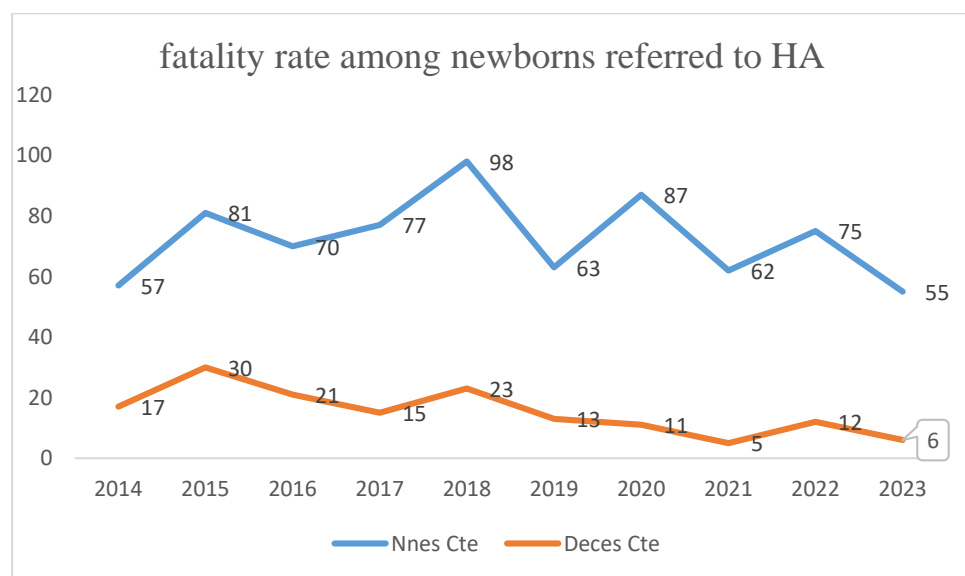
II. COMMUNITY PROJECTS

II.1. WATOTO SECTOR

II.1.1. HEALTH SECTOR

A. Care of newborns

The neonatal unit followed 340 newborns and trained 12 health care providers from 4 health zones (Karisimbi, Kamango, Mabalako and Butembo). Each provider received a newborn resuscitation kit (ambu balloon, oxygen scope, thermometer, hat, and slipper).



Comment: The 10-year evolution curve (2014-2023) shows a significant decrease in case fatality rate among newborns referred to HEAL Africa from 29.8% in 2014 to 10.9% in 2023.

Figure 4. Case fatality rate curve of newborns referred to HEAL Africa Hospital.

B. Paediatric HIV Management Children Aid Program (CAP):

The CAP program supported 585 children, adolescents, and young people, among them 504 HIV-positive, all on ARVs (100%). Of the 504 patients, 440 had their viral load monitored (87%) and 399 (91%) suppressed their viral load. A total of 396 (98.3%) out of 403 adolescents and young people over the age of 12 know their HIV status.

Table 9: CAP activities against WHO target 95/95/95

Indicators	Number	Rate	95/95/95	GAP
Patients followed	585			
HIV-positive patients	504			
Patients on ARVs	504	100%	100%	0%
Patients on ARVs with viral load	440	87%		
Patients on ARVs who have suppressed their viral load	399	91%	91%	4%
Patients on ARVs with non-suppressed viral load	41	9%		
Patients on ARVs who have not had the viral load	64	13%		
On ARVs aged > 12 years	403	79%		
On ARV > 12 years of age and older who know their status	396	98%	98%	0%

Comment: 100% patients receive ARVs, 91% suppressed their viral load, and 98% of patients aged 12 years know their HIV status (100/91/98).

C. Prevention of mother-to-child transmission of HIV (PMTCT):

In the 6 sites supported by HEAL Africa for PMTCT, 348 exposed children were identified (86 new cases and 262 old cases). A total of 138 infants reached 18 months of age, 125 were present for testing, and all were HIV-negative (100%).

- PMTCT: 266 exposed children were followed (86 NC and 180 OC). Of these, 157 reached 18 months, 141 were screened and 1 case was positive (0.7%); 121 exposed children were screened by PCR and 2 were positive (1.65%).
- CAP: 82 exposed children were followed, of whom 45 reached 18 months of age and 33 were all negative (100%). 28 children were tested by PCR and 4 came out positive (14.28%).

Note on Provider-Initiated Screening and Counselling (DCIP):

Among the children received in the paediatric department via DCIP, 24 children aged 0-9 years were screened among them 2 (7.14%) positive. 22 adolescents aged 10-19 years were screened, of whom 7 (31.81%) were positive.

D. Integrated Management of Acute Malnutrition (IMAM):

This year, we have adopted community- based IMAM (in Rusayo II camp, with culinary demonstrations) and the management of cases with medical complications in the hospital.

Table 10: Management of Severe Acute Malnutrition (SAM)

Sex	UNTI		UNTA		UNS				Total	
	Boy	Girl	Boy	Girl	boy	Girl	Pregnant women	Breast feeding women	Boy	Girl
# of SAM cases identified and screened	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	324	784
# MAS follow-up in outpatient settings (UNTA&UNS)	-	-	170	245	19	30	47	39	189	361
# of cases followed in hospital (UNTI)	52	51	-	-	-	-	-	-	52	51
# of Cases Released	51	48	121	182	11	13	41	31	183	315
# of cases cured	38	42	90	121	11	13	41	31	139	248
# of admitted cases tested HIV+	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
# of admitted cases tested HIV -	51	47	170	245	-	-	-	-	221	292
# Withdrawals	0	0	31	61					31	61
# death	13	6	0	0	0	0	0	0	13	6
Cure Rate	NA		NA						78%	
Drop-out rate	NA		NA						18%	
Death Rate	NA		NA						3,8%	

Comment: This table shows a cure rate of 78% above 75% (which is the average PRONANUT standard). The dropout rate is 18% higher than 15% (which is the standard rate). The death rate is 3.8% lower than 5% (which is the standard death rate).

II.1.2. PROTECTION AND RESPONSE TO GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE

HEAL Africa in the SGBV protection response has supported 1734 children through 8 projects in 17 health zones in North Kivu, South Kivu, Maniema and Ituri.

Table 11: Management of GBV cases among minors.

Sex	Boy	Girl	Total	
Identified cases	16	1718	1734	
# cases identified within 72 hours	0	962	962	55%
# cases that have received the PEP KIT	0	950	950	99%
Rape pregnancy	0	98	98	10%
Psychological care	16	1601	1617	93%
Legal support	0	292	292	17%

II.1.3 CHILD-FRIENDLY SPACE

A total of 273 child survivors of SGBV, orphans and other children in difficult situations were accompanied by clinical psychologists according to the different approaches (Capoeira, NET, dance). A total of 202 (73.9%) achieved a positive change of more than 90%.

Table 12: Some indicators related to the psychological support of children in the Safe Space of HEAL Africa

Changing attitudes among children accompanied in space							
Age range	0 to 5 years		6 to 12 years		13 to 17 years		
Sex	Girl	Boy	Girl	Boy	Girl	Boy	Total
Children who have achieved remarkable change > 90%	16	18	51	48	39	30	202
Remarkable change at 75-90%	5	2	14	3	23	6	53
Moderately remarkable between 50 and 75%	2	0	6	1	4	0	13
Quite noticeable change between 25-50%	0	0	2	0	3	0	5
TOTAL	23	20	73	52	69	36	273

II.1.4. EDUCATION

In 2023, a total of 327 children were educated/schooled according to the following models:

- **Supervision of children who have dropped out of school within the hospital (TUUNGANE School):** 47 children (25 girls and 22 boys) were supervised. **Among 47 schooled children, 44 children participated fully and 3 gave up a long the year. 9 of the 44 failed and 35 succeeded with a success rate of 79.5%.**

- **GSF (GOMA STUDENT FUND):** 264 **schoolchildren** finished the 2022-2023 school year. Their average pass rate was 82.6% (210 passes out of 264 students). All 23 (100%) finalist students obtained the **PRIMARY SCHOOL LEAVING CERTIFICATE**.
- **Support for the schooling of orphans affected and/or infected with HIV:** 16 children orphaned by HIV/AIDS under the guardianship of their grandparents benefited from the schooling program and all succeeded in school (100% success).

Success Story:

Triplets born at HEAL Africa Hospital:



At the age of 36, Mrs. Judith BAKUNZI gave birth to triplets at HEAL Africa Hospital. This rare gynecological event (0.03% of natural births) occurred on Friday 22/09/2023. Two boys and a girl, the newborns were admitted to the neonatal department of the hospital for proper care.

Their respiratory distress required the use of multiple devices and high oxygen consumption, which was too costly for their parents. *"I am unemployed, as is my husband. I gave birth by caesarean section and I can't*

produce enough breast milk for my three babies. Without help, I don't see how to get out of this", said Ms. Judith.

The three babies consumed one can of humanized milk a day (a box cost 12 US dollars in Goma). With the medication, the nursing care and all the tests done, it's an insurmountable burden for the family. Food is the main problem because, with the arrival of triplets, the family now has to feed 9 children. The hospital has covered much of the cost, but the need for help remains.

Despite the financial difficulties she faced during the premature birth of her triplets, Mrs. Judith BAKUNZI found the courage and determination to overcome these hardships. Thanks to the medical and nutritional support received, the triplets were finally able to return home to Bujovu district, where they are growing up healthy alongside their siblings.

"I know a lady who gave birth to quadruplets at HEAL Africa Hospital in 2019, and they are all doing very well. That's what motivated me to choose this hospital when I knew I was expecting triplets," she explained when she was discharged from the hospital.



Success Story (Esophagoplasty):



Ebonzo Léontine, a symbol of perseverance rewarded in Karawa

After several delicate surgeries, Ebonzo Léontine has become a symbol of hope in her community. It was in February 2023 that she was reunited with her family in Karawa in the province of Nord-Ubangi, after a successful esophagoplasty performed at the HA Hospital in Goma. Esophagoplasty is, in fact, an extremely delicate surgical procedure performed in several stages on the digestive system.

With her vitality, warm hugs and radiant smile, Léontine amazed a medical team from HA Hospital who were on a medical campaign mission in Karawa in August 2023. His strength and resilience are testament to this victory over the misfortune that nearly cost him his life after accidentally ingesting caustic soda. From Karawa, she was then referred to Goma for appropriate care.

Her poignant story was shared by her father:

"My daughter had swallowed caustic soda when she was three years old, thinking it was water after her meal. Unfortunately, despite our first recourse to the HGR in Karawa, the treatments failed. Doctors had to insert a feeding tube on her because she had trouble swallowing anything. It was heartbreaking to see her like that. That's when I gathered the necessary means to bring her here to Goma.

After a year and a half of waiting for her to grow enough, she was finally able to undergo a series of surgeries that resulted in her recovery. I am grateful to God for the success of these operations. While we were in Goma, I learned that two other children in Karawa had also ingested caustic soda and had not survived. It was then that I realized that it was divine providence that had brought my daughter back to me. Since our return to Karawa, she has been doing very well."

It's an inspiring story that demonstrates the power of perseverance and hope.

II.2. WAMAMA SECTOR

A. PREVENTION OF GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE

As part of SGBV prevention, HEAL Africa has already set up community-based structures for continuous communication with resilient people (WAMAMA SIMAMENI and NEHEMIAH Committee = protective community). The protective community has worked closely with the Health Committees (HC) and the Community Animation Units/Cells (CAC), to convey the awareness messages through the media.

Table 13: Community Engagement Results

COMMUNITY MOBILIZATION			
Who Is Affected by Awareness Messages	NORTH KIVU	ITURI	total
Men	99580	2067	101647
Women	133223	3875	137098
Boys	27050	1740	28790
Girls	41890	2537	44427
			311962

Comment: A total of 311962 people were reached by behavioural change awareness messages.

B. HOLISTIC RESPONSE TO SEXUAL AND GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE (SGBV).

In the holistic management of SGBV, the OSC/ICMS (Integrated Centre for Multisectoral Services) approach was used in 26 general hospitals, 2 Referral Health Centers and 69 Health Centers.

A total of **5,813** (182 men, **3,897** women, **16** boys <18 years and **1,718** girls <18 years) cases of sexual and gender-based violence accessed holistic care services.

Table 14: Distribution of SGBV cases handled in 2023

TAB, GBV, IN GENERAL						
Indicators	North Kivu	SOUTH KIVU	MANIEMA	ITURI	Total	%
# VSBG case	4307	973	254	279	5813	
Number of girls < 18 years of age	1062	432	122	102	1718	29,55%
Number of boys < 18 years old	14	1	1	0	16	0,28%
Number of women > 18 years of age	3069	524	127	177	3897	67,04%
Number of males > 18 years of age	162	16	4	0	182	3,13%
Rape	3828	543	205	208	4784	82,30%
Forced marriage	33	50	3	9	95	1,63%
Sexual assault	75	32	3	10	120	2,06%
Physical Aggression	141	194	30	17	382	6,57%
Denial of Resources	75	56	7	11	149	2,56%
Psychological/Emotive Violence	155	98	6	24	283	4,87%
Psychosocial support	3969	966	254	275	5464	94,00%
# Cases supported by clinical psychologists	1063	256	136	17	1472	25,32%
# of survivors admitted within 72 hours	2879	195	66	113	3253	68,00%
# of survivors who received PEP Kit	2873	171	66	102	3212	98,74%
# of Rape Cases Tested for STIs	3361	543	209	205	4318	95,74%
# of STI Cases Supported	2340	351	66	99	2856	66,14%
# of Pregnancies Resulting from Rape	203	87	34	9	333	7,38%
# of Pregnancy Births Resulting from Rape	82	0	0	0	82	24,62%
# Complaints received at the legal clinic level	896	71	0	21	988	17,00%
# Initiated cases	226	24	0	10	260	26,32%
# Judgment rendered	75	9	0	0	84	32,31%
# Intimate partner	102	320	72	38	532	12,66%
# Uniformed persons (police, military)	46	3	7	5	61	1,45%
Perpetrators Civilian / Other Unidentified	2314	914	126	263	3617	81,55%
Weapon Carrier	124	41	6	11	182	4,33%

Comments:

- A total of **5813** SGBV cases benefited from quality services with 98.74% of beneficiaries receiving a PEP Kit within 72 hours of the rape.

- 32.31% of the complaints lodged resulted in judgments.

Table 15: Management of Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (SEA) in 2023

Indicators	2023
Number of claims made	17
Number of EAS victims assisted by HEAL Africa	171
Number of girls under 18 years	13
Number of women+ 18 years	158
Number of Complaints Completed and Concluded	0
Number of investigators trained at HEAL Africa	4
Number of children born to SEA	121

Success Story:

"I love my child, despite the unfortunate circumstances of his conception." (Lucie)



With a radiant smile, 17-year-old Lucie left the HA Hospital transit center in March 2023 after giving birth. Her pregnancy was the result of a brutal attack by men she described as members of the M23 in the city of Bunagana, after they killed her parents. Ms. Lucie and her sister had taken refuge in a bush behind their house, and it was there that their tormentors found them and abused them.

Arriving at HEAL Africa Hospital in a state of unbearable distress, Lucie initially did not

want to keep the child she was carrying, as she felt a great deal of contempt for the father. *"The psychosocial workers at HEAL Africa have provided me with invaluable support. Thanks to their guidance, I chose to give birth and love my baby despite the circumstances of his conception. I had planned to abandon my daughter after she was born, but now I love her,"* she said.

Through its Gender-Based Violence Prevention and Response Project, HEAL Africa was able to provide appropriate care to Ms. Lucie. *"When I arrived at HEAL Africa Hospital, I was overwhelmed and felt hopeless. I had no family in Goma, but I was fed, clothed, housed and loved as if I were at home. My recovery is complete."*

In 2023, HEAL Africa welcomed many girls and women who experienced similar trauma to those Ms. Lucie survived, many of whom came from villages heavily affected by armed groups.

This adaptation shows Lucie's strength and the support she has received from HEAL Africa while highlighting the organization's vital role in helping survivors of gender-based violence find healing and hope.

B. PREVENTION AND RESPONSE TO MOTHER-TO-CHILD TRANSMISSION OF HIV (PMTCT)

In 2023, through this PMTCT program, a total of 9870 (9870/9904; 99.6%) women were screened, among whom, 42 (42/9870; 0.42%) tested positive for HIV, out of the 9904 pregnant women seen at the antenatal consultation (AC).

Table 16: Parameters for HEAL Africa's PMTCT interventions in 2023

Indicators	2023	%
Number of pregnant women seen at the AC	9904	
Number of pregnant women tested for HIV	9870	99,7%
Number of pregnant women tested HIV+ (New Case)	42	0,43%
Male partners tested for HIV	945	9,6%
HIV+ Male Partners	10	1,1%
Number of HIV+ (NC) pregnant women on ARVs	42	100%
HIV+ male partners on ARVs	10	100%
Number of women followed on ARVs (Option B+) old Case	1619	
Number of women followed on ARVs (option B+) old Case and New Case	1661	
Number of women who measured their viral load	779	47%
Number of women who suppressed their viral load	751	96.4%

Comment: *Of the 47% of women who had access to viral load control, 96.4% removed it.*

D. MANAGEMENT OF FISTULA AND OTHER GYNAECOLOGICAL COMPLICATIONS IN GOMA AND OUTREACH.

HEAL Africa carried out 7 mobile clinic missions (outreach) with the support of its financial partners (**FS-RDC, Fistula Foundation, Engender Health**) in the provinces: NORD-KIVU, MANIEMA, NORD-UBANGI and KASAÏ CENTRAL.

Success Story:

Recovered from a second fistula contracted during childbirth, Chantal REHEMA celebrates her relief:

Referred to the HA hospital from Busanza village in Rutshuru territory, Mrs. Chantal REHEMA was bending under the weight of a recidivist fistula contracted during childbirth. 8 years earlier, she had been cured of a first fistula that had developed under the same circumstances. Both of these painful experiences resulted in stillbirths, which earned Chantal her husband's rejection.

"I was 17 years old when I first developed postpartum urinary incontinence in 2015. Glory be to God my fistula was repaired the same year. Fearful of developing a second one, I adopted a contraceptive method that was supposed to prevent me from getting pregnant for three years. Only, it took me 8 years to conceive again.

Eventually, I lost the child in childbirth like the first time, and I ended up with a fistula again. Faced with his need to have offspring, my husband took a second wife. Having lost her two children in



childbirth, I proved her right. In her place, I might not have reacted differently to a woman who runs urine and gives birth to stillbirths every time.

My parents then took me back under their roof for fear that I would die alone, abandoned to my sad fate. I would have irretrievably sunk into unspeakable psychological distress if it had not been for the free care I received at the HEAL Africa Hospital, where I was referred from Rutshuru.”

This is how Ms. Chantal described this situation that made her doubly unhappy at only 25 years of age. She has become a brand new and hopeful person when discharged from the hospital. She braved insecurity to travel to Goma and have her fistula repaired.

E. CONGOLESE WOMEN'S EMPOWERMENT PROGRAMME

Village Savings and Credit Association (VSLA):

A total of 89 VSLAs brought together 470 resilient women and girls in the community who accessed the credits. A total of 1073 beneficiaries received socio-economic reintegration kits after having followed an apprenticeship training in trades in different sectors (cutting and sewing, pastry, culinary arts, banana leaf art, hairdressing and aesthetics).

Table 17: Number of vocational learners by organized stream.

HEALING ART	
Trade	Total
Pastry & Culinary Arts	103
Hairdressing & Aesthetics	170
Cutting & Sewing	521
Soap making	162
Basket weaving	117
Grand Total	1073

Table 18: Parameters related to VSLA in sites supported by HEAL Africa in 2023

Table of VSLAs at sites in NK		
Indicators	Total in CDF	Value in USD
Total VSLA		89
Average Share Value	2000	0,76
Total number of members		470
Number of units purchased	435789	167,61
Total Values of Units Purchased	37470600	14411,77
Number of Credits Awarded to Members		406
Values of credits granted	24069000	9257,31
Number of persons assisted		543
Solidarity Fund	1607400	618,23
Average value of units purchased per member	124300	47,81

Comment: *This table shows that each VSLA member saves an average value of 2,000 CF units (\$0.76).*

II.3. WABABA SECTOR: NEHEMIAH, MEN AND THE CHURCH

II.3.1. NEHEMIAH PROGRAM

Out of 128 existing Nehemiah Committees, 49 (38.3%) have been operational in the territories of Rutshuru, Lubero, Masisi, Idjwi and Nyiragongo.

In their community mobilization mission, the messages reached 18,162 people, on different themes:

- i) Conflict management techniques,
- ii) Peacebuilding,
- iii) SGBV/SEA prevention,
- iv) Forms of violence,
- v) Peaceful coexistence

With the help of the Nehemiah Committees, **504** conflicts (land conflicts, interests, conjugal/interest, power succession, debts, mismanagement of financial resources, herders and farmers, family, power, land limits, breach of trust, etc.) were identified and 412 of them were resolved using mediation, arbitration and confrontation techniques.

Table 19: Major achievements in conflict management and transformation.

Sites	Conflict identified	Resolved	Resolution in progress	Referred Conflicts	Mediation failure
Buhene	98	62	36	0	0
Idjwi	162	128	34	0	0
Masisi	199	177	19	8	1
Nyiragongo	19	19	0	0	0
Rutshuru	26	26	0	0	0
TOTAL	504	412	89	2	1

II.3.2. THE TRANSFORMATION OF MASCULINITY

The SPCA project in the 3 territories of Masisi, Nyiragongo and Rutshuru has implemented the masculinity transformation approach with 18 community dialogue groups.

Each group is made up of 10 participants, who take part in a 6-session process on different themes: from violence to peace, from male superiority to gender equality, from victimization to resilience, from stigmatization to survivor support, from silent witnesses to open witnesses, and from community justice to self-empowerment.

These different themes form the basis for the prevention of SGBV through conflict management, peaceful cohabitation, the promotion of female leadership, and the involvement of religious and community leaders. It is also a space for advocacy on behalf of survivors of sexual and gender-based violence.

II.3.3. SPIRITUAL MINISTRY

- In the year 2023, 6760 patients (2284 men, 3012 women and 1464 children) were spiritually accompanied by CPT Counsellors in the hospital and in the community. They testified that they received comfort and hope for healing.
- **900** children regularly attended their classes at Sunday School (ECODIM). Additionally, during the festive periods (Day of the African Child, Easter and Christmas) each saw an average participation of 1,600 children.
- **30** children at a time who live on the street have joined the "*Beloved Children*" program, which works towards social reintegration and psychological, socio-economic support and return to families. Out of 75 children during 2023, 40 (535) have returned to parental care.
- 200 parents of ECODIM children received training on the theme of "*malezi bora*" (good education of children) and entrepreneurship.
- 65 ECODIM instructors were trained on the use of pedagogical tools for teaching children the Bible.
- Fungua Maisha (Open Life) is an organization of the Tabernacle that in 2023 saw the participation of 66 women at HEAL Africa and 330 additional women in outlying quarters of the city (Ndosho, Bujovu, Katoyi and Turunga.) They also provided members of the group with vegetable seeds (25 women), goats (12 women) and baby layettes (56 women).
- As part of the framework for the supervision of idle people (UAMSHO), 94 young people were supervised in several trades and acquired skills for their autonomy: 84 were provided music therapy, 42 young people were trained in art and painting, 10 learned to speak English, 16 learned to read, 4 were trained in sound systems, 5 learned tannery and 10 learned to drive.

III. TRAINING AND RESEARCH (HEAL Africa Training Services)

III.1. COSECSA PROGRAM

In 2023, 2 Resident Doctors were recruited (Mr. **Héritier BARAKA and BARAKA Michael**). Two (2) residents successfully completed their MCS (Member of College of Surgery) training in December (Dr. **Meshak Barianga and Dr. Héritier Kavotha**) and are waiting to do their fellowship. Dr. **Justin Tsandiraki** has passed his examination to become a qualified specialist surgeon.

III.2. SOTA PROGRAM

It is a program that consists of strengthening the skills of doctors in rural health areas in the fields of General Surgery, Obstetrics, Traumatology and Anaesthesia. The training lasts 2 months and the training is documented with a certificate. This program is a partnership between **HEAL Africa** (Training Institution), **ECC and AusHEAL**. In 2023, **17 doctors** were trained (divided into 4 cohorts).

III.3. FAMILY MEDICINE

HEAL Africa in collaboration with the Protestant University of Congo (UPC) is organizing this specialization which, for the year 2023, had a cohort of 9 doctors who have all finished their first year.

III.4. UNIVERSITY CONSORTIUM FOR POSTGRADUATE MEDICINE (CUTCM)

Teaching for specialized doctors from the University of Goma (UNIGOM) continues. A total of 16 new residents were recruited in 2023: 4 in surgery, 5 in paediatrics, 3 in gynecology and obstetrics and 4 in internal medicine. During the same year 2023, 4 doctoral theses in Medicine and Public Health were defended at the HEAL Africa Hospital.

III.5. CLINICAL EMERGENCY CARE TRAINING

This is a training course that aims to strengthen the capacity of doctors and nurses in the management of medical and surgical emergencies. Launched in November 2023, 9 providers made up the first class (4 doctors and 5 nurses). In this promotion we had 1 HA doctor and 2 HA nurses. The minimum duration of this training is 2 months and it is sanctioned by a certification in Clinical Emergency Care.

III.6. SUPERVISION OF TRAINEE DOCTORS

A total of 35 trainee doctors were supervised in different departments of the hospital, including 12 from ULPGL and 23 from UNIGOM.

III.7. OTHER TRAINING OF HOSPITAL STAFF

A. Training of nurses and para clinicians:

Several HEAL Africa staff have been trained during the year 2023:

Hemodialysis training: 2 nurses were sent to Dar-es-Salaam for a 2-month, 3-week training,

Pharmacy training: A pharmacy assistant attended a 45 day refresher course in Dar-es-Salaam.

Master's Degree in Nursing, Critical Care and Traumatology: A nurse was trained in Tanzania.

B. Physician Training:

Short-term training: A doctor was trained in Hemodialysis for 3 months in Tanzania.

Long-term training (Specialization): In 2023 **Dr. Justin Tsandiraki** completed his specialization in General Surgery in Kilimanjaro/Tanzania. Two other doctors are pursuing specialization: one in paediatric surgery in Malawi (**Dr Bienvenue Mbida**) and one in internal medicine in Kilimanjaro/Tanzania (**Dr Eugénie Kamabu**).

C. Neonatal Clinical Mentoring:

Twelve (12) nurses from 4 health zones (Karisimbi, Kamango, Mabalako and Butembo) benefited from neonatology training. 12 other providers from 6 sites in the city of Goma were trained and supported in monitoring newborns using the NOVIGUIDE software. These sites were DOCS La Grace, Bethesda, Keshero, Virunga and Muungano La Résurrection.

D. Chaplaincy School Training:

In 2023, 19 chaplains were trained in clinical pastoral care (CPT).

III.8. RESEARCH, CONFERENCES AND PUBLICATIONS

A. Research:

1. Collaboration between HEAL Africa and University of Florida (USA):

Cholera research project is underway, and sample collection continues as requested by researchers. Images are also taken to determine if there are any major changes at the sample collection sites (number of toilets, etc.).

At the same time, the processes of data verification and phylodynamic analysis continue at the University of Florida. The project is theoretically scheduled to end on 30/03/2024.

2. Collaboration between HEAL Africa and Brown University (Rhode Island, USA):

The ongoing DRC ART Resistance **research project** is currently in the process of collecting samples from 10 sites across North Kivu province. The cards and samples are sent to the INES University in Rwengeri, Rwanda.

3. HA Hospital Data Collection:

In 2023, we hosted nine (9) academic researchers, including Master's and PhD students, who collected data at HEAL Africa Hospital for their research.

B. Participation in national and international conferences

1. Scientific presentations at conferences:

- Ureterovaginal fistula in sub-Saharan Africa, an avoidable cesarian section complication. Presented by **Dr. Jacques BAKE** at the 2023 COSECSA conference in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia.
- Pseudoaneurism of the brachial artery mimicking a soft tissue sarcoma: case report. Presented by **Dr. John MUSUBAO KATSUVA** at the SIGN International Orthopedics Conference in October 2023 in the United States.

2. Participation of HEAL Africa Staff in International Conferences:

- Drs. Neil WEITZIG, Médard KABUYAYA, Jacques BAKE, Meshak BARIANGA and Héritier KAVOTHA in the COSECSA participated in the annual conference held in Addis Ababa (Ethiopia) in December 2023.
- John Musubao Katsuva attended the 17th ICMDA World Congress from 22 to 25 June 2023 at the Arusha International Conference Centre in Arusha, Tanzania.
- Dr. Barthélemie AKSANTI participated in the FIGO WORLD CONGRESS in Paris from October 9th to 12th, 2023. He also intervened in the following debate: "Morcellation debate: hospital exchange." at the Pitié-Salpêtrière University Hospital in Paris from October 4th to 08th 2023.

- Dr Simplicie VUHAKA was the trainer of care providers on equine varus feet in the Basic Ponseti Method at HEAL AFRICA in May 2023. He also was a trainer of the workshop on non-surgical management of fractures in Lubumbashi, November 2023. He participated from 11 to 12 December 2023 in a presentation on clubfoot at CURE Ethiopia Children's Hospital, Addis Ababa.

C. Scientific publications :

1. **Paluku, Justin & Mpoy, Charles & Wembonyama, Okitotsho & Kibendelwa, Zacharie & Kamabu, Eugenie & Aksanti, Barthelemy & Jeannot, Juakali.** (2023). *Epidemiological, anatomoclinical, and therapeutic profile of obstetric fistulas in the Democratic Republic of Congo - seminar.* PAMJ Clinical Medicine. 12. 10.11604/pamj-cm.2023.12.22.39391.
2. James M, Kasereka JG, Kasiwa B, Kavunga-Membo H, **Kambale K**, Grais R, Muyembe-Tamfum JJ, Bausch DG, Watson-Jones D, Lees S. *Protection, health seeking, or a laissez-passer: Participants' decision-making in an EVD vaccine trial in the eastern Democratic Republic of the Congo.* Soc Sci Med. 2023 Apr; 323:115833. doi: 10.1016/j.socscimed.2023.115833. Epub 2023 Mar 15. PMID: 36934528.
3. **Stan Hangi**, Katungu Murotso, Vicky Madawa, Félicien Maisha, Pierre Gashema, Neeva Young, Fred Mwebemezi, Misago Maze. David Giesbrecht, Corine Karema, Edgar Mulago, Deus Ishengoma, Jean-Baptiste Mazarati, Jon Juliano, Jeff Bailey. *Partial artemisinin resistance in eastern DRC and neighbouring countries: monitoring and understanding the spread of resistance in the Great Lakes region.* HEAL Africa, INES-Ruhengeri, Brown University, NIMR Tanzania, Quality & Equity HealthCare, UNC-Chapel Hill.

IV. RESOURCES

IV.1. HUMAN RESOURCES:

In 2023, HEAL Africa operated with 430 agents of which 211 (49.1%) were men and 219 (50.9%) were women.

1. **HEAL Africa Tertiary Hospital** has **258 contracted staff** of whom 124 (48.1%) are men and 134 (51.9%) are women. The staff is distributed as follows: 30 doctors (20 specialists and 10 general practitioners), 19 administrative staff, 139 nurses, 22 laboratory and medical imaging technicians, 48 paramedical officers and support technicians.
2. **Community Projects** operates with a staff of **172 officers**, of whom 85 (49.4%) are women and 87 (50.6%) are men.
3. **The Department of Training and Research (HATS)** has always operated with staff who are included in the hospital's workforce.

IV.2. MATERIAL RESOURCES AND EQUIPMENT:

During the year 2023, HEAL Africa received the donations presented in the table below:

Table 20: Various donations received by HEAL Africa

N0	DATE	ARTICLES	DONORS OR PROVENENCE
01	20/01/2023	MEDICINES	F.S.DRC/WORLD BANK
02	26/01/2023	PCI HARDWARE	ZONE DE SANTE DE GOMA
03	08/03/2023	MACHINERY AND EQUIPMENT FOR THE MANUFACTURE OF PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT	ROTARY CLUB
04	30/03/2023	CLOCKS	SHALINA
05	20/03/2023	ICP MATERIALS	World Health Organization
06	14/04/2023	MEDICINES	MONUSCO CONTEGENT BANGLADESH
07	20/05/2023	MEDICAL DEVICES AND SURGICAL INSTRUMENTS	P.R.V.B.G. SOCIAL FUND
08	07/06/2023	CLOCKS	SHALINA
09	30/05/2023	RESUSCITATION EQUIPMENT AND ACCESSORIES	UNICEF
10	20/06/2023	COLGATE TRIPLE ACTION	UNICEF
11	13/07/2023	MEDICINES	NGO. ALIMA
12	15/05/2023	MEDICINES AND DELIVERY KIT	MED WIFE
13	23/08/2023	CHILDBIRTH EQUIPMENT/VATOUSES	AusHEAL
14	08/01/2023 to 28/12/2023	LABORATORY REAGENTS	SONIC/HEALTH CARE
15	28/11/2023	ICP EQUIPMENT	SMILE TRAIN
16	07/12/2023	FOOD/BOILED	W.F.P .ORG
17	13/12/2023	CONSUMABLE MATERIALS	O.M.S
18	15/12/2023	MEDICINES	BANGLADESH/MONUSCO/GOM A
19	26/12/2023	PCI MATERIALS	GOMA HEALTH ZONE

IV 3. FINANCIAL RESOURCES

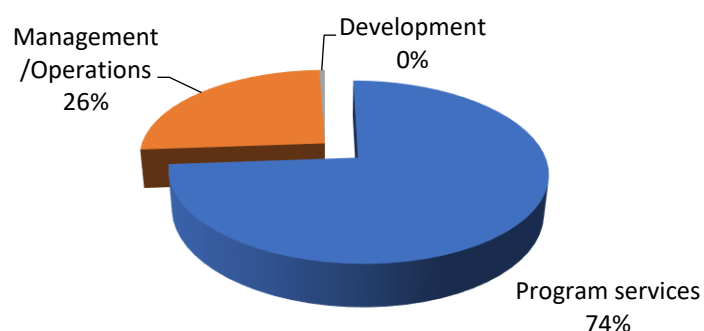


Figure 5: Distribution of HEAL Africa's financial resources in 2023

V. ACHIEVEMENTS OF SPECIFIC PROJECTS

V.1. WORLDSHARE-FUNDED PROJECTS

HEAL Africa, with the support of its traditional partner WorldShare Australia, has implemented several projects in favor of vulnerable populations in eastern Democratic Republic of Congo. These projects aim to ensure the well-being and schooling of vulnerable children and young people living in difficult conditions. In this report, we provide a brief overview of the major achievements of WorldShare projects at HEAL Africa.

In 2023, projects funded by WorldShare at HEAL Africa:

- 153 conflict cases identified and managed, 69% of which were resolved through mediation sessions conducted by leaders trained in the new SALT and MARC approaches by the ECCO (Equipping Churches for Counseling Outreach) project; 31% of conflicts are either mediated or referred to the courts.

- 40 local, religious and community leaders, including church leaders, pastors and chaplains, community and political leaders, local village chiefs and other IDP camp leaders trained on the new SALT and MARC approaches to conflict resolution and transformation through the ECCO project in Buhene communities.



- 62 vulnerable patients treated free of charge at HEAL Africa Hospital with the support of the Mercy Fund WorldShare project,

- 19 chaplains from hospitals, schools, prisons and some pastors trained in the Pastoral Clinic for the accompaniment of people in suffering through the CPT project – Chaplaincy in October – November 2023.



- 350 Back-to-school kits distributed to 339 vulnerable children and 11 teachers at GSF Mugunga Primary School at the start of the 2023-2024 school year.

- 339 vulnerable children receive porridge each week and a buffet each month through the school canteen program supported by the Mugunga and Sponsorship project funded by WorldShare Australia.



- 50 families of vulnerable children sponsored by the WorldShare funded Sponsorship Project who each received funding to strengthen their income-generating activities to meet the needs of the primary and school children of these sponsored children



- 5 state diplomas awarded to children sponsored and schooled by the Sponsorship project (Sponsor a Child)

- 5 members of the Uamusho group supervised by the Uamusho project
- 6 members of the Uamusho group have completed their professional training in auto mechanics and driving with the support of the Uamusho project during the year 2023.
- 5 university and graduate degrees earned by Uamusho members enrolled in the Uamusho – WorldShare project in 2023.

V.2.PROJECT FUNDED BY ENTRUST FOUNDATION

The Building Peaceful Communities project (BPC) is a continuation of the Village Justice & Empowerment project implemented by HEAL Africa with funding from Entrust Foundation Australia. This project aims to promote justice in conflict-torn communities of Idjwi and Masisi by training community and religious leaders on new approaches, including the SALT approach and the MARC approach that facilitate peaceful coexistence and peaceful conflict resolution through mediation.

During 2023, the BPC project achieved the following results:

- 162 community and religious leaders trained as community paralegals by the BPC project
- 9 Nehemiah Committees of paralegals based in Idjwi North, South Idjwi, Karuba and Bushuhe who raise awareness on peaceful coexistence and facilitate mediations for the management of conflict transformation in a peaceful manner between members of their respective communities
- 345 conflicts identified, managed and transformed by the 9 Nehemiah Committees of paralegals trained by the "Building Peaceful Communities" project in Idjwi North, South and Masisi (Karuba and Bushuhe).



V.3. PROJECT FUNDED BY AMERICAN BAPTIST CHURCHES (ABIM)

International Ministries of the American Baptist Churches (ABIM) entered into a formal partnership with HEAL Africa in March 2020 “as co-workers for the reign of God in the Democratic Republic of Congo, and in the United States and beyond.” The signed agreement affirmed the intention of ABIM to “engage with HEAL Africa in ministries centered around Education, Health & Wellness, and Evangelism.” With the support of ABIM missionaries **Ann** and **Bill Clemmer**, the following activities were supported and carried out in 2023:

- **Tuungane School:**
 - Support for daily bread, school supplies, backpacks, shirts
 - \$3,000 contribution to Tuungane account to assist with urgent need as requested by Dr Lusi
- **EcoDim (Sunday School: average attendance 900 children on Sundays):**
 - Training 65 Monitors x 2, Sunday school and office supplies, shirts, education materials, hand soap
 - Program: Easter program and radio visit
 - Program: International Day of the African Child and radio visit
 - Program: Christmas program + shoes for all of the children (1,648) and radio visit
 - Program: Vacation Bible School

- Procured 1,000+ Sunday school books from Vizazi Congo and Chapa Serve
- **EcoDim Day Programs: (average attendance 70 children per day)**
 - Daytime volunteer-taught classes in Art, Computers, English, Leadership, Bible, Music, Photography, Sonorization, Musical instruments, etc.
 - Total of 27 laptops procured for IT lab (cumulative)
 - AVEC programs for parents in small business development, VSLA, knitting groups
 - Alphabetization classes for parents
 - Parenting classes (2)
 - Gardening project with provision of seeds and watering cans
- **Dance Team**
 - T-shirts for dance team
- **EBA (Enfant Bien Aimé)**
 - Construction and furnishing of CTOT emergency night shelter
 - Support of EBA Program. A total of 75 children were enrolled in the program in 2023 with 45 children reintegrated into families (60%)
- **Fungua Maisha (women’s outreach program)**
 - Continued support of Goat program for widows
 - Provided emergency food supplies (rice, oil, beans) for IDPs (~ 8 tons)
 - Provided birthing kits for pregnant women in IDP camps
 - Gardening project with provision of seeds and watering cans
- **Infrastructure**
 - Paint and repairs to: Jubilee Building, Tuungane School, EcoDim Classrooms and baptismal area
 - Installment of a 5000-liter tank with gutters and water collection system
 - Rehabilitated a suite of offices for the orthopedic officer training program at HEAL Africa Hospital
 - Refurbish/repair of children and adult bathrooms on social ministry campus
- **Spiritual growth**
 - Many Sunday school parents have begun attending church
 - Many young people from Sunday School and EBA were baptized
 - Printing and distribution to pastors of Spiritual tracts.

VI. AUSHEAL ACTIVITIES AT HEAL AFRICA IN 2023

THE AUSHEAL CONGO PROJECT continued involvement at HEAL Africa in 2023 in its 5 strategic initiatives:

1. TEACHING AND TRAINING

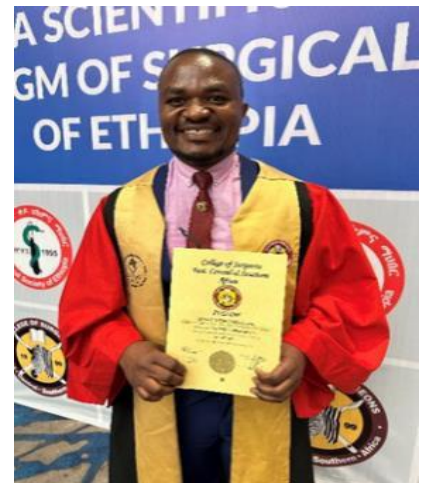
a. Diploma in SOTA Care (DISC) Course: A new and exciting initiative has been introduced into the training program, as a result of a partnership between AusHEAL, HEAL Africa, and ECC, with the aim of training and enhancing the skills of doctors from rural areas in surgery, obstetrics, traumatology, and anesthesia (SOTA). 17 participants across 4 cohorts have been trained, and the results of their assessment before and at the end of the course showed significant improvement in knowledge and competence – highlighting the crucial need for this course! A SOTA Alumni

WhatsApp group has been created to allow participants to seek advice from HEAL Africa specialists after their return to their health center or hospital.



b. SOTA Symposium: Nearly 100 Goma-based doctors participated in a SOTA Symposium held at ULPGL in July sponsored by AusHEAL. HEAL Africa specialists gave presentations on various topics and this was another great partnership between AusHEAL, HEAL Africa and ECC.

c. The HEAL Africa COSECSA Program (College of Surgeons of East, Central and Southern Africa) continued under Dr Neil Wetzig's supervision as Program Director, assisted in 2023 by Dr Jacques Bake as Assistant Program Director - teaching sessions occurred twice per week for 4 COSECSA Trainees and some MMed-Surgery Trainees from UniGom. In 2023 both trainees who sat the MCS Exam (Drs Mechak and Kavotha) passed - along with Dr Justin Tsandiraki (who had been working in Tanzania but returned to HEAL Africa for intensive exam preparation) passing his Fellowship exam to become a qualified specialist surgeon. 2 new trainees were appointed in October after exhaustive testing of knowledge and English skills. Both come from war-ravaged areas.



d. 8 Intensive 3-day courses – 4 in Basic Surgical Skills and 4 in Principles and Practices of Trauma Care were conducted for trainees in COSECSA, DISC Course, MMed-Surg UniGom and Family Medicine.

e. The AusHEAL Multi-disciplinary medical team visited in August and September with training conducted in very well attended specific teaching sessions for both doctors and nurses – the nursing sessions were particularly well attended with up to 170 nurses from HEAL Africa and other Goma Hospitals.



f. The visiting team conducted a staff workshop in September.

2. ANNUAL AUSHEAL MULTI-DISCIPLINARY MEDICAL TEAM



Four doctors, seven nurses and a cardiac sonographer spent between 2 and 3 weeks at HEAL Africa Hospital, training both doctors and nurses. Feedback from the nursing training was very positive. A specific focus was training in the use of a Ventouse in safe maternal delivery.

3. SCHOLARSHIPS FOR SPECIALIST TRAINING

a. Dr Justin Tsandiraki, completed his FCS (fully qualified surgeon) training with COSECSA at Kilimanjaro Christian Medical Centre (KCMC) in Moshi, Tanzania.

b. Mr Jonas Ngaruye, senior nurse in ICU, completed his final year of a scholarship with a Master of Science in Critical Care & Trauma Nursing (in Tanzania).

c. Dr Albin was awarded a part-scholarship to upskill in Cardiology in Nairobi for 2-3 years.

4.SHORT TERM DEVELOPMENT GRANTS:

Five grants were provided for nurses to travel to Tanzania to up skill. These grants are to the value of \$1,500 USD for a Congolese staff member to travel to a neighbouring African country to up skill in a particular area of medicine/nursing – this year included 2 in dialysis and 1 in pharmacy.

4. LOGISTICAL SUPPORT

- The ECHO cardiac machine purchased by AusHEAL was returned to Australia for servicing.
- Paul Bakes continued to improve the IT infrastructure of the hospital with installation of more fiberoptic cables and audio-visual backup for training sessions.
- The HEAL Africa Training Centre (HATC) - continues to be used for training by various clinical groups.
- The AusHEAL Hospital Patient Fund provided treatment for patients for a total cost of \$9,900 USD.



AusHEAL's activities are facilitated at HEAL Africa Hospital by longer-term volunteers, Neil and **Gwen Wetzig** approximately 8 months in 2023 and **Paul Bakes** approximately 4 months.

VII. ACTIVITIES FUNDED BY SONIC HEALTHCARE

Sonic Healthcare has been a supporter of the work carried out in Goma by the HEAL Hospital team since 2009 with this support consisting of annual shipping containers carrying equipment and supplies for pathology, radiology and many of the hospital's projects and basic operations. We have also sent teams most years to carry out training and to support the staff in pathology and radiology.

At the end of 2023 the Sonic Healthcare Foundation sourced, packed and sent a CT scanner for use in HEAL's Radiology department. We also organised an engineering team from South Africa to oversee the installation and commissioning of the scanner. We have arranged for **Dr Sosthene Tsongo** to undertake further training through the Australian foundation 'Radiology Across Borders'; this training will take the form of completion of the 'International Certificate of Radiology Fundamentals'. This Certificate course is supported by the University of British Columbia (UBC) and Radiopaedia. This unique one-year online program aims to build the capabilities of clinicians in developing nations in radiology practice and consequently improve health care delivery to their communities. In order for Dr Sosthene to be able to satisfactorily participate we have organised a laptop and router for his use.



During the visit to HEAL by the Sonic team, **Richard Jones** and **Mark Bromley** spent two weeks reviewing a number of key areas with the HEAL laboratory staff. This review covered each laboratory department in turn and addressed issues such as daily and weekly QC and equipment appraisal to check on operability and suitability of the existing equipment as well as existing methodologies and reagents. There were a number of laboratory safety issues identified by the team and remedial action was organised.

Additionally, there were a series of laboratory staff meetings lasting approximately 90 minutes covering each department in turn. The staff were very engaged in this process and made a number of practical and useful suggestions as well as receiving guidance and advice from the Sonic team.



VIII. KEY VISITS OF THE YEAR 2023

The year 2023 was characterized by the first visit of the AUSHEAL team after COVID, followed by other visits by government and humanitarian actors.



AUSHEAL Team



AUSHEAL Team



Military Governor NDIMA CONSTANT for the inauguration of the FISTULA building on 02/06/2023



16 June 2023, Dr Samuel DJONG de l'UNICEF RDC

On 13 June 2023, the Under-Secretary-General of the United Nations, Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Sexual Violence



On June 21, 2023, Dr. ALBERT G. ZEUFACK, World Bank Director of Operations, Kinshasa

CONCLUSION

The persistence of the war in the eastern part of the DRC and its multiple consequences on the population marked the year 2023.

Despite all these challenges, HEAL Africa continued to serve the vulnerable population in geographically accessible areas, IDP camps and in deteriorated living conditions.

We give thanks to the Lord for enabling us to achieve all that is recorded in this report; may our partners, who in one way or another, have made these achievements possible, accept the expression of our gratitude.

Our region remains unstable, and the challenges are still enormous. We entrust ourselves to the Lord's care and assure everyone that we will remain faithful to our commitments to the community, in a spirit of accountability and sustainability.

IX. ANNEXES

HEAL AFRICA'S PARTNERS IN 2023

HIV/AIDS:

1. Global Strategies
2. UNICEF

SGBV

1. World Bank/ DRC Social Fund,
2. UNICEF
3. UNFPA
4. Cordaid
5. Save the Children International
6. World Bank/Infrastructure Unit (IC)
7. IMA World Health / USAID

Reproductive Health

1. World Bank/Social Fund DRC
2. EgenderHealth
3. Fistula Foundation

Reintegration, community recovery and Community Base Rehabilitation:

1. Entrust Foundation
2. UNICEF
3. World Bank/Social Fund DRC
4. WMS Australia
5. WMS UK
6. Cordaid
7. IMA World Health / USAID

Spiritual Ministry:

1. International Ministries/ABIM (USA)
2. WMS UK
3. WorldShare Australia

Administration & Finance:

1. HEAL Africa USA

Hospital

1. HEAL Africa USA
2. SONIC Healthcare
3. AusHEAL
4. HOPE Walks
5. Preik's family foundation
6. Birth Link/Global Strategies
7. Smile Train
8. Physician Human Righth (PHR)

Training & Research:

1. AusHEAL
2. WMS UK
3. HEAL Africa USA
4. WMS Australia
5. KidsOR/Smile Train
6. EgenderHealth
7. World Bank/Social Fund DRC
8. University of Florida (UF)
9. Queen's University of Canada
10. Brown University

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