

Our experience

 DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC
OF THE CONGO (DRC)

Overview

2014–Present.

Cuso International's work in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) focuses on promoting gender equality, social inclusion, economic resilience, and climate action. Through programs like Talents Pluriels and SHARE, the DRC program delivers targeted initiatives to empower underserved communities, including women, 2SLGBTQI+ individuals, people with disabilities, and those living with albinism. By fostering partnerships with local organizations and implementing inclusive approaches, Cuso drives sustainable, community-led development.

Talents Pluriels

This innovative project incorporates gender analysis to address poverty and social inequality, involving multiple government ministries and local organizations. The project equips participants with entrepreneurial skills, professional development, and advocacy tools to reduce systemic barriers and enhance economic opportunities.

SHARE Program (Sharing Canadian Expertise for Inclusive Development and Gender Equality)

Launched in 2020, the SHARE program provides technical assistance to local partners in Africa and Latin America. In the DRC, SHARE strengthens networks for social inclusion and promotes gender equality while increasing access to economic opportunities and fostering climate resilience.



Cuso International's work in the DRC demonstrates a commitment to empowering communities, advancing gender equality, and fostering sustainable development. By partnering with local organizations and engaging diverse communities, the program drives meaningful change and builds a more inclusive future.

What makes the program unique

Comprehensive support for equity-deserving groups

The program prioritizes social inclusion, targeting underserved populations such as 2SLGBTQI+ individuals, people with disabilities, and women.

Locally-led development

Hyper-localized solutions are designed and implemented in collaboration with local organizations, ensuring sustainability and cultural relevance.

Genderfocused initiatives

By embedding gender analysis into all activities, the program tackles social inequalities that hinder economic growth and community resilience.

Multi-sector collaboration

Talents Pluriels engages over four government ministries, fostering a unified approach to addressing poverty and social inequities.

Skills development

The program delivers technical and entrepreneurial training to improve employability, professional skills, and financial independence.

Impact and goals

Community reach

Trained 3,014 young people in entrepreneurship through Talents Pluriels.

Professional development

Improved employability for 1,197 individuals, enhancing their professional skills.

Leadership training

Educated 55 managers in safe and inclusive HR policies.

Family engagement

Conducted 41 family support meetings, educating 780 families on gender equality and social inclusion.

Key activities

Entrepreneurship and employability training

- Provided essential skills training in entrepreneurship and professional development
- Enhanced participants' ability to start and sustain small businesses

Advocacy and awareness campaigns

- Promoted inclusive policies through collaboration with local leaders and government ministries
- Strengthened community understanding of gender equality and inclusion

Climate action

- Incorporated climate resilience strategies into program activities to address environmental challenges
- Promoted sustainable practices within local communities



Program structure and leadership

Regional managers

Oversee program implementation and ensure strategic alignment.

Volunteers

Provide expertise to support local partners and enhance project outcomes.

Local partners

Collaborate on delivering impactful and culturally relevant initiatives.



Why this program matters

The DRC faces complex socio-economic and environmental challenges that disproportionately affect marginalized populations. Cuso International's program addresses these challenges by empowering communities, enhancing local capacity, and promoting sustainable practices. Through targeted initiatives and measurable results, the program contributes to long-term resilience and systemic change in the DRC.