Sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV) remains a significant and endemic problem in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) which has been exacerbated by the ongoing conflict in the central and eastern regions of the country. Post-exposure prophylaxis kits, also known as PEP kits, reduce a survivor’s risk of contracting HIV and other sexually transmitted infections. Access to these critical treatments has been uneven and challenging. According to DHIS2 data collected at health centers, nearly 25 percent of health facilities in the country failed to provide PEP kits to some SGBV survivors from 2017 through the first quarter of 2018. This was true even when eligible cases presented for services.

The Post-Exposure Prophylaxis Kits Procurement Project, funded by the Office of U.S. Foreign Disaster Assistance, or OFDA, and implemented by IMA World Health, aimed to improve the supply chain for PEP kits in 16 provinces that all experienced a high prevalence of SGBV. A baseline assessment revealed that approximately 90 percent of health facilities across these 16 targeted provinces experienced a PEP kit stock-out during the period of January to June 2018. From July 2018 to October 2019 IMA facilitated access through the distribution and supply of 17,839 PEP kits in all 16 targeted provinces. The remaining 15,331 kits that were not supplied to health facilities due to procurement delays will be transferred to the new OFDA-funded PEP kit project, upon OFDA’s approval, and distributed to facilities by IMA, along with kits from the follow-up OFDA award.

- **33,370** Procured pharmaceutical commodities equivalent to 33,370 PEP Kits.
- **17,839** PEP kits assembled by a pre-positioned, trained team and distributed to survivors of SGBV in 16 provinces.
- **15,324** SGBV survivors treated during the 12 month period.
- **Estimated 10 to 15 percent of recipients were internally placed persons.**
15,324 individuals were treated over the course of the project, representing 113 percent of the target. Though the data suggests that the project went beyond the target, it should be noted that pharmaceutical commodities used for these treatments were not necessarily provided by the project alone. It is against DRC national protocol to disaggregate patient data by which specific partner provided the medication or treatment, so data on patients treated by IMA-supplied PEP kits are not available.

The graph to the left illustrates the upward trend in the number of rape survivors treated over the course of the project. The red point indicates the beginning of the project’s PEP kit distribution to health zones and health facilities. The percentage of survivors of SGBV presenting to health facilities within 72 hours who received treatment has increased by approximately eight percent. The number of survivors receiving treatment reached 95 percent at the end of the project.