



## PROJECT OVERVIEW

# Essential Services for Maternal and Child Health (SEMI)

### PROJECT GOAL

To contribute to the reduction of maternal and child under-five mortality in the DRC by strengthening the health system and improving the quality, effectiveness and affordability of health services to achieve a sustainable impact in Kasai province.

The Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) continues to face acute and complex humanitarian crises characterized by internal displacement and widespread insecurity. According to the World Bank, the maternal mortality rate is 547 deaths per 100,000 live births (2020) and mortality rate for children under five remains one of the highest in the world at 62 deaths per 1,000 live births (2021). These causes of death, often preventable, are aggravated by high rates of malnutrition, inability to access quality health care, lack of access to clean water and gender-based violence (GBV).

Recognizing the leadership of the Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office (FCDO) in bringing positive change for women and girls worldwide and their commitment to health systems strengthening in the DRC, IMA World Health implements the Essential Services for Maternal and Child Health (SEMI) project in all health zones of the Kasai province. By developing the health system and addressing preventable deaths of mothers and babies, IMA World Health works to reduce social inequities in access to health care through SEMI. The project is funded by UK aid and managed under the direction of IMA World Health in partnership with the

government of DRC and with local implementing partner SANRU.

The DRC remains burdened by a health system with a limited capacity to reduce high maternal, newborn and child mortality, decrease chronic malnutrition and respond to disease outbreaks. To address these key areas, SEMI's interventions focus on:

1. Improving access to essential maternal, newborn, child and adolescent health services;
2. Promoting rights-based family planning services for women and girls; and
3. Strengthening the health system in the following areas:
  - a. Community governance mechanisms
  - b. Human resources for health
  - c. Drug supply chain management
  - d. Health information system quality and completeness
  - e. Public finance management at the central level



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Since 2000, IMA World Health has been a key partner in the DRC's development and humanitarian response, working alongside the Congolese government, development partners, and local and international organizations to revitalize the health system, improve WASH outcomes and fight disease. Through long-standing relationships with the Ministry of Health and a robust faith-based network, IMA has provided direct assistance in 251 health zones, consistently and distinctively operating in the country's most remote and challenging areas where successive armed conflicts and political instability have demanded creativity and unparalleled local partnership. With such expansive geographic coverage and enduring linkages with the government and local authorities, IMA's long-term investment in the DRC is working to change the narrative and the trajectory of health care.

## RESULTS TO DATE

- **1,872,960 patients** have used curative services.
- **53,582 pregnant women** received 4 doses of intermittent preventative treatment (IPT) during antenatal visits during the last quarter of 2022, helping to prevent the transmission of malaria during pregnancy.
- **108,000 planned deliveries** were attended by a skilled birth attendant. These planned deliveries represent 96% of total deliveries in Kasai province.
- **95% of survivors of GBV** were seen at a supported health facility within 72 hours of an incident.
- **265,400 children under five** have been screened for malnutrition by community volunteers. Of these, 71% were considered recovered from moderate or severe malnutrition by the fifth home visit.
- **2,338 CODESA (community health committee) meetings** were held to advance community health care.



## The Corus Effect

Founded in 1960, IMA World Health is a leading public health organization operating in some of the world's most fragile settings. Through partnerships with change agents at the local and national level, our work centers on four strategic pillars: global health security, health systems strengthening, social and behavior change, and integrated primary health care support and delivery.

IMA World Health is part of Corus International, an ensemble of global leaders in international development and humanitarian assistance. In addition to IMA World Health, the Corus family of organizations includes global non-governmental organization Lutheran World Relief, U.K.-based technology for development company CGA Technologies, impact investing group Ground Up Investing, and direct trade company Farmers Market Brands.

We operate as permanent partners, integrating expertise, disciplines, approaches and resources to overcome global health challenges, develop productive and stable economies, improve resilience in the face of climate change, and respond to natural disasters and humanitarian crises.

