



Success Stories

Entrepreneur Support Programme

Democratic Republic of Congo | 2025

These stories represent real people whose lives were changed through targeted grant support. They are shared with funders and partners as a testament to the transformative power of community-centred entrepreneurship in the DRC.

STORY 1 OF 7 · SOUTH KIVU

From Dream to Poultry Farm: The Rise of Shagala Christophe

Kamvivira, Uvira City, South Kivu Province · February 2025



Shagala Christophe tending to his chickens at Poulailler Dorcas, Uvira, South Kivu.

In February 2025, during the launch of RDI's support program for entrepreneurs in the DRC, many young people and women from Congo had the opportunity to realize their projects, thanks to grants enabling them to start or expand their entrepreneurial activities.

Among them is Mr. Shagala Christophe, an entrepreneur residing in Kamvivira, Uvira City, in the South Kivu province. He received a grant that allowed him to launch a poultry farm called "Poulailier Dorcas." With this support, he was able to invest in the construction of a modern poultry house, and today, this activity is experiencing growing success. His farm has expanded, allowing him to keep several chickens of different breeds: broilers, laying hens, and egg production.

This development has not only allowed him to secure his family's livelihood but also to improve his children's schooling and meet their other essential needs. Shagala's success is a real source of inspiration, demonstrating how targeted support and local entrepreneurship can transform the lives of young people and women in the DRC.

Thanks to this initiative, Shagala continues to see his dream of a prosperous future for himself and his family become a reality, while also contributing to the economic development of his community.

STORY 2 OF 7 · NORTH KIVU

Empowering Women and Youth Through Duck Farming in Nyiragongo

Nyiragongo Territory, North Kivu Province · March 2025



Distribution of ducks to women and youth beneficiaries, Nyiragongo Territory. RDI staff pictured on the left.

In March 2025, Prestige House, a local organization based in Goma, North Kivu, received crucial funding from RDI to support its entrepreneurship development program, particularly in the field of livestock farming. This support helped strengthen the initiative to assist breeders and farmers, aimed at promoting the economic empowerment of vulnerable youth and women in the region.

As part of this project, Prestige House distributed ducks to unemployed youth and women in the Nyiragongo territory. The goal was to provide them with a sustainable source of income through poultry farming, while also helping them develop skills in agribusiness management.

Today, one year after this intervention, these young people and women have seen their lives change dramatically. Thanks to duck farming and the support received, they have succeeded in generating stable income, ensuring food security for their families, and becoming autonomous economic actors within their community.

This success showcases the positive impact that targeted financial support, combined with strategic guidance, can have on the empowerment and sustainable development of vulnerable populations. Prestige House and the Nyiragongo community commend their collaboration with RDI, which continues to be a driving force for change in the region.

STORY 3 OF 7 · NORTH KIVU

Prince Kamushera: Turning a Lifelong Dream into a Thriving Farm

Goma, North Kivu Province · 2025



Prince Kamushera (centre) with fellow beneficiaries in front of the RDI Entrepreneur Support Programme banner, Goma.

In Goma, in North Kivu Province, Prince, a young livestock enthusiast, had long dreamed of transforming his small-scale farming project into a thriving operation. For years, he kept this idea in the back of his mind, hesitating to bring it to life due to a lack of resources.

In 2025, everything changed when Prince was selected as a recipient of a grant from Rescue Democracy International (RDI). This valuable aid enabled him to start his own farm, providing the necessary funding to acquire domesticated animals such as pigs, turkeys, chickens, ducks, and other species.

Today, just a few months after launching his project, Prince is already seeing the fruits of his efforts. His farm is prospering, and he is beginning to generate income that ensures better survival and financial stability. Convinced of the positive impact of his activity, Prince has also decided to engage other young people in his community, offering them job opportunities and independence.

Thanks to this initiative, Prince not only supports his family but also contributes to local economic development while promoting sustainable livestock farming. His journey demonstrates that with determination, proper support, and strong commitment, it is possible to turn a dream into reality.

STORY 4 OF 7 · SOUTH KIVU

Socio-Economic Empowerment of Women Entrepreneurs — KKDEV

Bukavu, South Kivu Province · April 2025



Women entrepreneurs and KKDEV staff at the RDI-funded empowerment workshop, Bukavu, April 4–5, 2025.

In April 2025, with the support of RDI, the organization KIVU KWETU DEVELOPMENT (KKDEV) organized a workshop on the socio-economic empowerment of women entrepreneurs in South Kivu, bringing together members of the organization from April 4th to 5th, 2025. During this workshop, women received training in entrepreneurship and strategies for their socio-economic upliftment.

Following this training, these women benefitted from grants that enabled them to launch or expand their entrepreneurial activities. Today, they live exclusively from these activities, which have allowed them to improve their living standards, ensure food security for their families, and strengthen their economic independence in the region.

This success demonstrates the positive impact that targeted support and financial assistance can have on the emancipation of vulnerable women, contributing to the sustainable development of South Kivu. KKDEV and the local community commend this partnership with RDI, which continues to be a driving force for change in the region.

STORY 5 OF 7 · SOUTH KIVU

Valentine Mubamba: A Widow Who Built Stability from the Ground Up

Kabare Territory, South Kivu Province · October 2025



Madam Valentine Mubamba at her flour shop in Kabare, South Kivu.

In the territory of Kabare, South Kivu province, Madam Valentine Mubamba, a widow and resilient mother of several children, once struggled daily to provide for her family. Living in a challenging environment, she faced numerous hardships, but her hope remained alive.

In October 2025, Madam Valentine received a grant from Rescue Democracy International (RDI) that became a turning point in her life. With this financial assistance, she was able to establish a small income-generating activity by opening a shop where she sells maize flour and cassava flour. This venture has now become a reliable source of income for her.

Today, Madam Valentine's shop is thriving. She is able to afford her children's school fees and provides them with nutritious food without any difficulty. The support received from RDI has not only transformed her financial situation but also brought a sense of stability and hope into her family's life.

Her story is a shining example of how continued aid and support from organizations like RDI can lead to sustainable change, empowering vulnerable individuals to build better futures for themselves and their children.

STORY 6 OF 7 · NORTH KIVU

Muhasa Wilson: From Grant Recipient to Community Trainer

Butembo, North Kivu Province · 2025



RDI field officer with Muhasa Wilson's beneficiary group holding their rabbits, Butembo, North Kivu.

The American NGO Rescue Democracy International (RDI) continues to act concretely for human and economic development in the Democratic Republic of the Congo. Among its inspiring actions, the story of young Muhasa Wilson perfectly illustrates the positive impact of its interventions.

Muhasa, a Congolese young man from Butembo, North Kivu, received a grant from RDI to start a livestock project. With this funding, he was able to train a group of people in his region — mainly smallholder farmers — in small livestock rearing techniques, including rabbits and other domestic animals. By providing these small animals, Muhasa enabled his beneficiaries to acquire new skills and to start or expand their farming activities.

Today, thanks to collective efforts and the transfer of knowledge, the livestock has begun to reproduce. The group members have been able to sell some of these animals, generating income to meet their basic needs and those of their families. Additionally, they also consume their own livestock, improving their food security.

This success is tangible proof that RDI's actions — supporting local young entrepreneurs like Muhasa — foster community empowerment and resilience. Through this initiative, families find sustainable livelihoods and a healthy source of nutrition for their daily lives.

STORY 7 OF 7 · SOUTH KIVU

Madame Isabelle: Reborn from the Ashes of Conflict

South Kivu Province · 2025



Madame Isabelle at her relaunched shop, proudly displaying her homemade products, South Kivu.

In the heart of South Kivu, Madame Isabelle, a dynamic and passionate entrepreneur, long dedicated her energy to developing her small business, offering homemade products that delighted her community. Her determination to secure a better future for herself and her family motivated her every day to innovate and persevere.

But at the start of the war in the eastern part of the country, Isabelle's life was abruptly upheaved. Her business was destroyed, her stock was ruined, and her equipment damaged amidst chaos and violence. She found herself at a crossroads, confronted with uncertainty and the loss of her livelihood.

Faced with this difficult situation, Isabelle did not give up. Thanks to a grant obtained from Rescue Democracy International (RDI), she was able to restart her activities. This valuable support allowed her to reinvest in her equipment and to produce again — from wheat flour croquettes, juices, and cookies to other delights that are a source of pride for her community.

Today, Madame Isabelle has succeeded in relaunching her business. She sells her products locally, thereby contributing to her family's livelihood and participating in the economic vitality of her region. Her resilience and hard work, supported by her partnership with RDI, perfectly illustrate the power of determination and support in transforming hardships into success.

Madame Isabelle's story is an inspiration, demonstrating that even after the storm, it is possible to be reborn, to thrive, and to continue bringing joy and vitality to one's community.

DIMR: Liquid Soap Production — Building Hygiene and Livelihoods in Kabare

Kabare Territory, South Kivu Province · 2025



Left: DIMR team during liquid soap production training, Kabare, South Kivu. Right: Finished DIMR-branded liquid soap products ready for sale.

Since February 2025, Rescue Democracy International (RDI) has been steadily intensifying its development efforts in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, illuminating the whole region with new opportunities and hope.

An inspiring example of this dedication is its support for the local organization DIMR (Développement et Innovations en Milieu Rural), located in Kabare territory, South Kivu. With RDI's strategic support, DIMR has been able to launch the production of liquid soaps — an initiative that creates local jobs, stimulates the community's economy, and helps improve hygiene in the region.

Despite logistical challenges and access constraints to certain markets, DIMR demonstrates remarkable resilience and continues to evolve with confidence and determination. Today, their branded liquid soap products are sold locally, generating income for the families involved in production.

This success exemplifies RDI's ability to work concretely toward sustainable development by supporting local initiatives that have a real and lasting impact on people's lives.

Cekanabo Esther: Reborn Through Resilience in Bukavu

Bukavu, South Kivu Province · 2025



Cekanabo Esther at her shop in Bukavu, South Kivu, selling essential goods including flour, cooking oil, and beverages.

Rescue Democracy International (RDI) remains steadfast in its commitment to implementing high-impact humanitarian initiatives across the Democratic Republic of the Congo. Among its remarkable efforts is the inspiring story of young Cekanabo Esther from Bukavu — a living example of how targeted aid can transform lives.

Long an orphan and having endured unimaginable suffering, Esther had lost all hope of improving her situation. Everything changed when RDI provided her with a grant, enabling her to start her own small business.

With this vital support, Esther was able to open a shop where she sells essential items such as fruit juices, cassava flour, maize flour, wheat flour, rice, cooking oil, and other basic necessities. Today, she is able to provide for herself and her family, regaining her dignity and hope for a brighter future.

Her journey is a shining testament that through high-impact humanitarian actions, RDI concretely contributes to transforming lives and building a more promising future for the most vulnerable in the Democratic Republic of the Congo.



About Rescue Democracy International

Rescue Democracy International (RDI) is a US-based 501(c)(3) nonprofit founded by Dr. Justin Bisimwa Mudekereza, dedicated to reducing human suffering by supporting, empowering, and educating communities in contexts where democracy, good governance, and human rights are under threat. RDI operates directly in the Democratic Republic of Congo, working alongside local partners to deliver meaningful, lasting change.

Programme Results — 2025

- 685 youth enrolled in the Youth Leadership Training Programme across all 26 DRC provinces
- 510 programme completions (74% completion rate)
- 176 community projects implemented by graduates
- 450+ jobs created through the Youth Leadership Programme
- 650+ jobs and 200+ businesses and cooperatives supported through the Entrepreneur Support Programme
- 10,000 households reached through Environmental Conservation initiatives in Kabare

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