

Participation, transparence, efficacité, équité,
inclusivité.



Fonds pour les Femmes Congolaises

2018 ANNUAL REPORT

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Opening Statement

The Fund for Congolese Women (FFC) is the powerhouse behind numerous women's organizations working at the local, grassroots level. By providing grants to these organizations, FFC is advancing women's and girls' rights in the DRC. We are pleased to present our 2018 Annual Report which summarizes activities that are transforming the gender parity landscape.

Many factors contribute to low participation rates of women in political, civic, economic and social activities. Some of these factors include socio-cultural constraints, negative stereotypes, the weak implementation of different national and international laws such as the *law implementing gender equity*, lack of women's financial independence, women's limited access to agricultural production and land, and limited participation in decision making bodies.

Against this backdrop, FFC carried out a strategic, multipronged approach to improve the lives of women and girls and advance women's rights at the local, regional, and national levels.

Despite the unstable political and security situations, 2018 was full of accomplishments. FFC supported 60 projects with technical know-how and financial backing. We focused on six areas of intervention: female leadership and women's political participation; fight against sexual and gender-based violence; peace negotiations; women's empowerment; climate justice and the environment; and HIV / AIDS and reproductive health. In addition to our core grant-making work, FFC was also busy organizing capacity-building workshops where women and girls share valuable experiences and best practices in a safe and conducive environment. FFC initiated numerous "advocacy missions" where groups of women and girls gathered at governmental offices and appealed to those in power for the immediate and effective implementation of laws to protect the rights of women and girls.

Despite all the difficulties implementing a legal framework for women's protection, we persevered. The rate of women's political participation in decision-making bodies increased from 9% to 10% at both the provincial and national levels and jumped from 6% to 9% at the local level. These numbers encourage us to work even harder.

We hope you find the contents of our 2018 Annual Report inspiring.

Yours Truly,

A handwritten signature in purple ink, appearing to read 'JL', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Julienne Lusenge, Executive Director

The Policital Landscape

This year was remarkable. The Democratic Republic of Congo had its first electoral change in presidency since its independence in 1960. The world watched how then-President Joseph Kabila, whose official term was up at the end of 2016, delt with the election that finally meant his step down from power. Tensions and the fear of electoral violence were high.

Despite the rumblings of people's discontent, Congo's Independent National Electoral Commission (CENI) continued with the electoral process; it had been postponed long enough. In April 2018, CENI published a list of registered voters: 40,287,387 voters of whom **20,546,567 were women (or 51%)**. CENI also registered 21 candidates for the presidential polls with 3 favorites including 1 from the party in office and 2 from the opposition parties. **Among the 21 candidates there was one woman, Marie Josée Ifoku.** The election campaign lasted from November 22th to December 21th. It was marred by irregularities and repression, even denying certain candidates access to some geographical areas.

Another upheaval occurred just three days before the polls opened. CENI, through a press conference, informed people about the sudden exclusion of certain districts in Beni city, Beni Territory, Butembo in North Kivu, Yumbi and Mai Ndombe Provinces for reasons of heightened insecurity and the growing Ebola outbreak. Yet the long-awaited elections finally took place on December 30th, 2018, marking a new day and era for the DRC.

Legal Framework for Gender

In 2018, the Democratic Republic of Congo published in its official governmental journal the protocol of the African charter on human rights and how they pertain to women's rights. This publication allowed the protocol to enter into force, bringing women's rights officially to the legal and political forefront. A win for the women's rights movement!

Grantmaking

In 2018, the Fund for Congolese Women focused on grassroots women's organizations targeting three specific issues:

1. Fighting sexual violence against teenagers in schools
2. Implementing projects for women, peace, and security within the Addis Ababa Framework Agreement
3. Elevating women's and girls' participation in the electoral process and in the prevention of electoral conflicts

Sixty projects launched from women's and girl's organizations received funding in the following areas across the DRC:

- Fight against sexual violence: 24 projects
- Female leadership and women's political participation: 16 projects
- Women's empowerment: 7 projects
- Peace negotiation: 4 projects
- Climate justice and environment protection: 3 projects
- The prevention of Ebola in Beni city: 2 projects

The following tables detail the projects which are categorized by province and issue (acronyms of project names are detailed at the end of the report).

Scope	North-kivu	South-kivu	Maniema	Ituri	Tshopo	Haut Uele	Congo Central	Kinshasa	Tanganyika	Equateur
Women's leadership and political participation	CAF/M CAFED REFED SAUTI SOFEPA DI	MIFA	CEPROF SAFIMANIE MA ATK	CEFI	COFE	APRU	FJC	ELAEIS	SAFEKA AW	
Women's Empowerment	MAPENDO DFJC SPHGN MINISTE RE DE LA COMPAS SION	SEPPAF		GEPA/ TUMA INI AMDP				PFND/KIN SECODE		
Access to natural resources and right to own land	FUPROS	ASOFE COEDEV ALEFEM								
Climate justice and environment protection	LSC						Womin	FESO Forum je change pour le climat		

Fight against sexual violence and gender based violence	PIDP DHBO EFIM WADHI CCJT AGNK CAF/M ACIPDH	SOFIBEF AGIR GAD MIFA ISANDA JMLD	AFELMA SAFI MANIEMA		UFCOD		NDJF AMIBEFE		AW	FAIDD AFM
Peace negotiation	DYFEGOU SYFUDP	AFD								
HIV/AIDS and reproductive health	MAPENDO									
Total Projects	23	12	5	3	2	1	4	5	3	2

Choosing the Grantees

As FFC receives more requests for funding than what we can provide, we are diligent in our selection process. An independent selection committee composed of professionals working in civil society as well as subject matter experts determine who makes the cut. The finalists are shared with the program department which then does a deep dive with the organizations. This deep dive assesses the organization's viability, reliability, and governance structure. FFC visited these first-time applicant organizations:

- Collectif des associations Féminines pour le Développement (CAFED) and Sauti ya Mama Mu Congomani (SAUTI) in North-Kivu
- Sauve la Femme et la jeune Fille du Katanga (SAFEKA) in Tanganyika
- Association Tujenge Kwetu Maniema (ATK) in Maniema
- Femmes Juristes du Cataracte (FJC) in Congo Central

To create strong partnerships, FFC's role is to bring in expertise and financial support all the while recognizing and honoring the fact that these organizations better understand the needs of their communities and are already undertaking actions to promote women's and girl's rights.

Highlights from the Field

A. Fight against sexual violence and gender based violence: Wapandaji Project

To prevent and eliminate the sexual and gender based violence, FFC funded 24 projects, one of which was the Wapandaji Project.

The Wapandaji Project is a girl-led project where girls have banded together to fight sexual violence in schools in Kalemie, Tanganyika Province. Twenty-five girls, previously trained, had set up a reporting system for girls to safely report cases of sexual violence. With support from FFC, Wapandaji trained 25 more girls, so-called "focal points," in three additional schools on laws to prevent and eliminate sexual violence and to protect women's and girls' rights. Wapandaji members, in collaboration with school authorities, set up five school clubs. The members of these clubs educated 387 students and teachers and identified two cases of sexual violence which are now being prosecuted in court. Wapandaji members documented another case of early, forced marriage. A family wanted to marry off their 17 years old daughter. Wapandaji members informed the city mayor. Because of Wapandaji's advocacy, he canceled the wedding and ordered the parents to allow their daughter continue with her studies, which she is.

B. Climate justice and environmental protection: First National Climate Conference

FFC funded the organization “Je Change pour le Climate” to organize the first national climate conference in the DRC. The conference was held in Kinshasa from June 5th – 8th, 2018. It was a major success. By the end of the conference, ministries critical to the implementation of positive changes committed to building an economy based on principles that protect the environment, especially for the extractive industry. Committed ministries include: Planning, National Economy, Foreign Affairs, the Deputy Director of the Head of State, Senators and Members of Parliament. The Minister of Foreign Affairs offered to host the 27th Climate Forum in 2021 (COP27) in Kinshasa, DRC.

C. Female leadership and women’s participation in decision-making bodies: ELAIES

With FFC support, the organization ELAIES implemented a project to prevent and manage electoral conflicts in the area around Kinshasa by establishing six Election Peace Committees. ELAIES began by building the capacity of 30 women and girls on electoral conflict resolution. They became mediators and members of the peace committees who, in return, used their new found skills and leadership to raise awareness of 2,400 people through educational talks focusing on non-violence and elections. In addition, the six Peace Committees managed fifteen cases of election disputes, preventing violence from occurring.

In a separate project, FFC continued civic education to prevent election violence in South and North Kivu. The project has already impacted 105,418 people: 51,414 men and 54,004 women. Due to the success of these campaigns, there were significantly fewer election-related conflicts.

D. Women’s and girls’ empowerment: Union of People with Disabilities

The organization Union of People with Disabilities (SPHGN), with FFC support, led a project focused on entrepreneurship for women living with disabilities in the rural area of Oicha. SPHGN trained 60 women living with disabilities how to manage micro-loans. This training also served to promote laws protecting women and girls, and peace, security and cooperation as outlined in the Addis Ababa Framework Agreement. The 60 trained women received microloans and were able to produce raw materials to make semi-industrial soaps. The profit earned from the sale of soaps enabled the 60 women to pay off their loans, take care of their families, and bolster their self confidence as valuable, productive members of their community.

Capacity Building with Grantees

FFC also strengthens the growing women's movement through our capacity-building program. In 2018, FFC organized and led capacity-building sessions for women and girl leaders.

A. Workshop for young girls leaders on women's rights and advocacy

The workshop was organized in 2 different locations: Kinshasa and Goma. The workshop gathered 26 girls and so-called "focal points" who are women leaders who act as a bridge between FFC and local communities. The attendees were from areas as diverse as Equator, Bandudu, Congo Central, Mai Ndombe, and Kinshasa. These girls are involved in setting up projects to fight sexual violence in their schools.

The workshops brought women and girls together to share their experiences of sexual violence in a safe environment and learn about international and national laws which protect them. Attendees also learned about advocacy techniques as well as how to set up advocacy missions to promote girls' rights in their localities throughout the country.

Throughout these workshops, FFC invited women leaders to share their experiences in promoting women's rights in order to strengthen the mentorship approach which FFC has been using for the last three years. FFC implements this mentorship approach at each possible opportunity. FFC mentors young girls for their personal development which strengthens the women's movement. Girls in the workshops identified the main issues they face: sexual violence. They then drafted a guiding document listing their needs to be used during advocacy missions with traditional chiefs. To this end, traditional chiefs have committed to getting involved in finding solutions to fight against sexual violence.

B. Workshop on civic education and electoral observation

FFC organized workshops on civic education and election observation. Thirty women and girl leaders attended the workshop, coming from the Provinces of North Kivu, South Kivu, Maniema, Haut Uele, Congo Central, Ituri, Tanganyika, Kinshasa, and Tshopo. The women learned skills necessary for election observation, mediation of electoral conflicts, and monitoring women candidates' cases before, during, and after elections.

After the training, participants organized recapitulation sessions with their colleagues and community members. FFC accredited these women and girls as official election observers to

CENI (the National Independent Electoral Commission) during the presidential election. The training and break-out sessions educated a total of 196 women and girls who became official observers. They reported the voting process in real time through a WhatsApp group they created and shared the observation reports with FFC.

The notable and lasting achievement of their efforts is that the girls realized for the first time that they could contribute directly to peace and democracy in their country. They had never participated in electoral observation and monitoring before. They have collectively said that they are grateful for this opportunity to fulfil their civic duties and will continue to be involved. Until 2018, they thought that political participation was reserved for older women. Thanks to FFC, they discovered their abilities, contributed to building democracy, and are committed to continue participating politically in the future.

C. Three workshops on capacity building for women candidates

FFC works to increase women's and girls' participation in decision-making bodies. These workshops focused on communication and fundraising strategies, electoral processes, strategies to mobilize people, and on drafting a campaign plan.

- Workshop in Kinshasa: 15 candidates
- Workshop in Lubumbashi: 22 candidates
- Workshop in Goma: 19 candidates

The 56 women candidates then ran for office. CENI (the National Independent Electoral Commission) publicly announced provisional election results and four of the 56 women were elected as members of parliament at the provincial level. These results encourage FFC to continue with this capacity building program in order to get women and girls ready for upcoming municipal and local elections.

D. Women's convening for peace, security and cooperation for DRC and the region

The Fund for Congolese Women, in partnership with the Global Fund for Women, organized the 3rd convening of the women's platform for peace, security and cooperation for the DRC and the region (Addis Ababa Framework Agreement) which took place in November. Thirty-five women and girls attended, coming from Burundi, Rwanda, Central African Republic, Uganda, and the Democratic Republic of Congo. Representatives from MONUSCO (the United Nations Organization Stabilization Mission for the DRC), UN Women/DRC, and the African Union also attended.

The regional convening focused on projects executed by the grantee organizations' implementation of the Addis Ababa Framework Agreement in the Great Lake region. Hot topics of discussion were the current security situation and social and political issues. Women and girls produced an action plan for the UNR1325 implementation on women, peace and security. The girls were invited to learn from women leaders.

E. Convening of women within the DRC

To build a strong women's movement between women living in conflict zones in the DRC, FFC organized a meeting for women to share their experiences and best practices. The meeting brought together 30 women and girls from Congo Central, Kinshasa, Haut-uele, Ituri, Tshopo, Maniema, North Kivu, and South Kivu Provinces. The participants discussed different strategies to increase women's and girls' participation in decision making bodies within a short period of time. At the end of the two-day meeting, the attendees produced an action plan with activities to be carried out, indicators for success, and expected results.

FFC on the Move!

FFC's work cannot be done in isolation. We are grateful to be increasingly involved with partners both in the DRC and internationally. Such international conferences include:

- United Nations Commission on Status on Women (CSW62) in **New York**. At the CSW, FFC organized a workshop on conflict transformation in rural areas by survivors of sexual violence that was well attended.
- The Prospera Network organized an African Women's Fund regional meeting in **Lusaka, Zambia**. As a member, FFC attended.
- FFC has been a member of GAGGA (Global Alliance for Green and Gender Action) since 2016. GAGGA implements projects on climate justice and women's rights in the DRC. The meeting was held in **Dar as Salaam, Tanzania**.
- FFC attended the Forum of Women's Rights Defenders in **Beirut, Lebanon**.
- FFC attended the Prospera African Women's Fund conference in **Mauritius**. Simultaneously, FFC attended the Africa Philanthropy Network conference.
- FFC attended World Forum for Democracy in **Strasbourg, France**, organized by the International Organization of La Francophonie in partnership with the European Council. FFC presented on the current situation and on heroic women making change.

Revenue Streams		
Funders	Amount in USD	Project Objectives
International and non-governmental organizations based inside the DRC		
<i>Counterpart International</i>	\$ 50,898.16	Promotes civic commitment and peace on the eve of elections in Democratic Republic of Congo.
International and non-governmental organizations based outside the DRC		
<i>Foundation Oak</i>	\$ 197,600.00	Core support
<i>Global Fund for Women (GFW)</i>	\$ 90,252.00	Implements projects building capacity in the women's movement.
<i>NOVO Foundation</i>	\$ 300,000.00	Supports grassroots organizations raising awareness and fighting against sexual and gender-based violence.
<i>Mama Cash</i>	\$ 96,709.69	Core support
<i>Global Fund for Woman (GFW)</i>	\$ 119,888.00	Implements projects on peace, security, and cooperation, as outlined in the Addis Ababa framework agreement for the DRC and the region and Emergency project.
<i>American Jewish World Service (AJWS)</i>	\$ 54,960.00	Implements advocacy projects for women's rights and urgent actions and Emergency project.
<i>Media Matters for America</i>	\$ 20,976.00	Raises awareness on women's participation in decision making-bodies and peace negotiations in media.

<i>Match International</i>	\$ 38,677.54	Supports projects focused on renewable energy and capacity building of women and girls.
<i>Madre</i>	\$ 5,728.00	Investigates barriers that prevent women's participation in decision making.
<i>David and Lucile Packard Foundation</i>	\$ 199,980.00	Empowers women and girls in North Kivu through access to agriculture and builds capacity of women and girls on reproductive health.
<i>Affaires Mondiales Canadiennes</i>	\$ 82,678.54	Impliments projects on capacity building for election mediations.
Philanthropy		
<i>Donation boxes</i>	\$ 562	First time donation boxes were placed in local supermarkets.
<i>Individuals</i>	\$ 0	
Members' contributions		
<i>Members cotisations</i>	\$ 935.00	Savings account
Total	\$ 1,259,844.93	

Challenges

In 2018, we faced many difficulties including political tensions and violence related to the elections; insecurity in North and South Kivu, Ituri and Kasai Central Provinces; the government-mandated internet shutdown across the country that started on December 31, 2018 and lasted well into January 2019; currency devaluation; and the rising prices of airline tickets.

We also experienced a couple challenges that hit closer to home. In North Kivu, for example, one of our FFC program officers was in the field in Oicha. At the same time he was there, the ADF (an armed group) attacked Oicha. Thanks to collaboration with different professionals in the field from civil society, he managed to leave Oicha and return safely.

Another incident with the same FFC program officer occurred at the Prospera Monitoring and Evaluation Training Course in Malaysia. When he arrived to represent FFC at that important meeting, he was unfortunately taken into custody and held by airport security. Our prosecutorial and whistle-blowing efforts were timidly supported by the organizers and other colleagues. This situation has psychologically affected our colleague and the entire FFC team.

Looking Ahead

The FFC team overcame these difficulties together, bringing a renewed conviction for the work. As with all deep-rooted societal problems, we must take the long view. Gender justice doesn't happen overnight. We celebrate our wins in 2018: educating thousands of women and girls on their rights as well as traditional chiefs who decided to commit themselves to women's rights advocacy; supporting women and girls in their tremendous efforts to mediate conflict, sexual violence, and to empower themselves and uplift their communities through common sense projects, created and executed by them for them; making new national and international partnerships and strengthening others. Together, in 2019, we will continue to advocate for a strong, dynamic women's movement in the DRC.

We look forward to sharing the victories with you.

In Solidarity,

The FFC Family

ACRONYMS

AFD: Action Des Femmes pour les Droits ET le Développement
AGIR Action Genre et Initiatives de Renforcement :
AGNK: Association des Guides du Nord Kivu
AFELMA: Association des Femmes Eleveuses du Maniema
ALEFEM: Association de Lutte Contre l'Exploitation des Femmes et Enfants de Mines
AMDP: Association des Mamans Déplacées pour la Paix
APRU: Actions pour la Promotion Rurale
ASOFFE: Action de Solidarité des Femmes pour la Femme et l'Enfant
ASSOCIATION MAPENDO: Association Mapendo
AW: Association Wapandaji
ATK: Association Tujenge Kwetu Maniema
CAFED : Collectif des associations Féminines pour le Développement:
CAF/M: Collectif des Associations Féminines de Masisi
CCJT: Coalition Congolaise Justice Transitionnelle
CEFI : Centre d'Encadrement des Femmes de l'Ituri
CENCO : Conférence Episcopale Nationale du Congo
CENI : Commission Electorale Nationale Indépendante
CEP : Comités Electoraux de Paix
CEPROF : Centre pour la Promotion Féminine
COEDEV : Coopération Education au Développement
COFE : Collectif des Femmes de la province orientale démembrée
DHBO : Droit Humain Bonne Gouvernance et développement
DYFEGOU : Dynamique des Femmes pour la bonne Gouvernance
EFIM : Encadrement des Femmes Indigènes et des Ménages vulnérables
ELAEIS/ASBL: Eleais Association Sans But Lucratif
FESO: Femmes Solidaires
FFC : Fonds pour les Femmes Congolaises
FJC : Femmes Juristes du Cataracte
FNL : Forces Nationales de Libération du Burundi
FUPROS : Femmes Unies Pour le Progrès Social
GAD : Genre Actif pour un Devenir meilleur de la femme
GEPA/TUMAINI : Groupe d'Eleveurs et de Producteurs agricoles/TUMAINI:
ISANDA : Initiative de Secours Alimentaire Normal et du Développement
JMLD: JEUNES METHODISTES
LSC : Ligue pour la Solidarité Congolaise
MIFA: MINISTERE DE LA FEMME EN ACTION
NDJF: Nouvelle Dynamique de la Jeunesse Féminine
PFND/KIN: Plateforme des femmes du Nord-Kivu pour un Développement Endogène/Kinshasa
PIDP : Programme Intègre pour le Développement du Peuple Pygmée au Kivu
RDC : République Démocratique du Congo
REFED : Réseau Femme et Développement
SAFEKA Sauve la Femme et la jeune Fille du Katanga
SAFIMANIEMA : Soutien aux Actions des Femmes Indigentes au Maniema
SAUTI : Sauti ya Mama Mu Congomani
SECODE : Secours Enfants Congolais en Détresse
SEPPAF : Service par, pour et avec les Femmes
SOFEPADI : Solidarité Féminine pour la Paix et le Développement Intégral
SOFIBEF : Solidarité des Femmes de Fizi pour le Bien-Être Familial
SPHGN : Syndicat des Personnes Handicapées du Grand Nord
SYFUDP : Synergie des Femmes Unies pour la Paix et le Développement
UFCOD : Union des Femmes Congolaises pour le Développement
VIH/SIDA : Virus de l'Immunodéficience Humaine/ Syndrome d'Immunodéficience Acquise
WADHI: Women In Action for Human Dignity