



TUDISANGE BUA KALASA KASAI CENTRALE

United for Education

Almost ten years ago, violence flared in the Kasai region of the Democratic Republic of Congo. Hundreds of thousands of people fled the province in 2017, losing access to every essential service—including education.

From 2016 to 2019, many children were forced to flee, fight or act as human shields. Thousands of girls and boys fell far behind in school. Thousands more never had the chance to start.

Quality education is vital for the world's children, particularly in crisis situations and fragile places. When education is prioritized, children's lives can be changed. That's why Tudisange Bua Kalasa Kasai—a World Vision-led education project in Kasai Central province—is so critical. A three-year program funded by the European Union and now in its third year, Tudisange aims to improve learning in this crisis-affected region.

Kasai Central is now stable, with school enrolment at approximately 90 per cent. But World Vision made an alarming discovery. Just nine per cent of children completing Grade 3 in Tudisange's target schools could understand the sentences they were reading.

“No child can progress in their studies if they cannot read with comprehension,” says Jean-Pierre Kibawa, education specialist for World Vision DRC. “That is why we must intervene from the earliest years.”



Tudisange project leaders introduced **Unlock Literacy**, a reading comprehension approach for training teachers in evidence-based approaches to literacy. They created alternative programs to ease children back into learning, provided back-to-school awareness campaigns, and distributed school learning kits. **Youth Ready clubs** are another aspect. Here, children learn about their rights, healthy behaviour, peer relationships, and time and financial management.

The DRC government ministry responsible for education is partnering with us, as are families and communities, to ensure no child in Kasai Central is left behind.



ABOUT THE PROJECT

AT A GLANCE

- **Funded by** the EU and World Vision Canada
- **Goal:** Contribute to the human development of the population of the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), especially school-aged girls, through the strengthening of the education system, particularly by improving access, performance, and the retention of students in school in crisis-affected areas, specifically in the Educational Province of Kasai Central 1, by 2026.

Access to and completion of educational programs (formal and informal) are improved for marginalized children, especially girls, particularly those affected by crisis and displacement

The quality of teaching and school practices is adapted and improved

Access to and integration into social and economic opportunities for adolescents affected by the crisis are improved.

TARGETS

Total number of project participants: 56,968 individuals (25% boys, 25% girls, 23% men and 26% women)

- 17,715 schoolchildren across 40 schools will benefit from the rehabilitation of school infrastructure.
- 450 out-of-school children will be enrolled in an accelerated education program to support their reintegration into formal schooling.
- 300 youth (ages 17 to 22) will participate in a specialized economic reintegration program to enhance their livelihood opportunities.

COORDINATION

Strong coordination mechanisms are in place to ensure quality and participative implementation:

- DRC national and local authorities, including Ministry of Education, Ministry of Social Affairs, Ministry of Family and Children, and others.
- Community leaders and mothers of children

Community-based Learning Clubs (homework clubs, remedial classes, sports, reading groups) in collaboration with children, Division of Social Affairs (DIVAS), and parents





Training programs for teachers in key thematic areas such as gender sensitivity and inclusive instruction, followed by annual refresher trainings

Train and support teachers to create learning materials through annual workshops held at the start of each school year



Providing school canteens and establishing school gardens to encourage regular school attendance



Installation of latrines in schools (before and after photos)



Installation of handwashing stations in schools



Renovation and new equipment to improve school infrastructure in an environmentally responsible manner, using a gender-sensitive approach (including dedicated spaces for students who are young mothers) and ensuring accessibility for learners with disabilities



Distribution of menstrual hygiene kits to adolescent girls, along with WASH kits and recreational kits, in the 40 targeted schools



Distribution of school kits to the most vulnerable boys and girls, in accordance with the standards of the DRC Education Sector Group for both formal and non-formal education



