



**THE
CONGO
TREE**

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**OUR SKILLS DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME
FOR YOUNG PEOPLE IN THE DRC**

Context



For decades, the city of Goma, in the east of the Democratic Republic of Congo, has been deeply affected by a succession of armed conflicts, political instability and chronic insecurity. Young people are among the first victims: school dropouts, forced displacement, exploitation in conflicts, loss of bearings, and a deep sense of insecurity and community division. The education system, weakened by years of crisis, struggles to fulfil its role in building citizenship, peace and social cohesion.

7 million children do not attend school in the DRC.

In eastern DRC, due to displacement, more than 2.6 million children are deprived of schooling.

Only 43.98% of young people have access to secondary education, out of 100% who started primary school.

Only 36.6% of girls are enrolled in school in the DRC.

The quality of this education does not prepare young people to be visionaries or problem-solvers in their communities, especially regarding a culture of peace.

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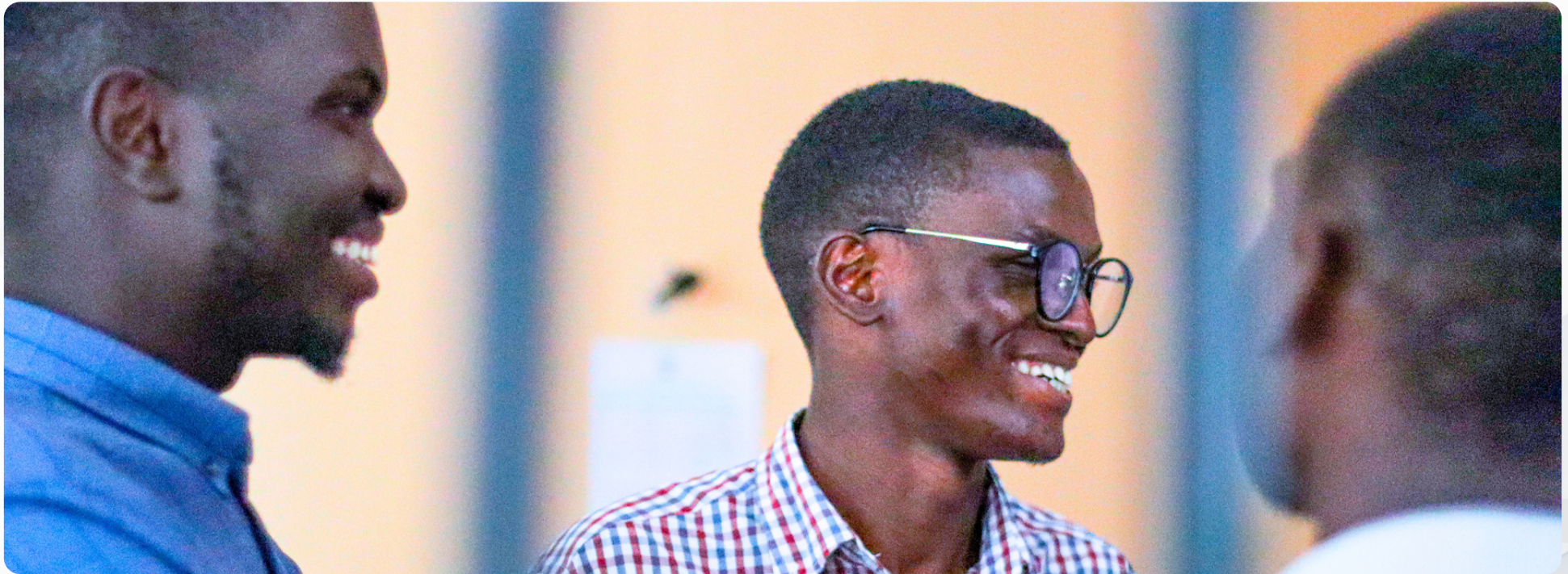
The Congo Tree is a registered organisation in the DRC. Founded in 2013, our vision is to equip, inspire and support young people for peace and development in the community. Since 2013, we have trained more than 1,500 young people in eastern DRC and our work has impacted more than **20,000 people** in Goma, Rutshuru and Masisi through our programmes.

Vision: To equip, inspire and support young people in their communities.

Our values



Our WYLD Programme (World Youth Leadership Development)



WYLD is our leadership and mentoring programme for young people. We develop their skills by focusing on character building. Here, we nurture young leaders who can make a difference in their communities by addressing local challenges. The WYLD programme responds to the needs of young people who, due to lack of guidance, often find themselves both perpetrators and victims of the conflicts in the region.

Programme Objective

To create a new generation of young leaders who have developed their skills and are capable of solving problems in their communities.

Strategy

To achieve our objective, we follow four phases:

➔ **Phase I:** Intensive training on leadership, personal development, self-awareness, teamwork, problem-solving, decision-making, communication, identity... This is accompanied by monthly meetings over a year to reinforce learning.

➔ **Phase II:** A specific mentoring programme to develop transferable skills. Each young person is paired with a mentor to provide guidance and help them achieve their vision. Meetings, networking and experience-sharing sessions are organised for the youth.

➔ **Phase III:** Young people are encouraged to identify challenges in their communities and respond through social actions. These initiatives put them in direct contact with community issues, enabling them to provide solutions and practise their leadership.



➔ **Phase IV:** Establishing means of sustainability for young people. We identify their skills and provide opportunities to put their ideas into practice through business creation, vocational training, and more.

To complete all these phases, each cohort of 28 young people, aged between 15 and 25, undertakes a one-year journey to ensure they fully acquire the skills necessary for leadership.





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