



**THE
CONGO
TREE**

ANNUAL REPORT

APRIL 2024 – MARCH 2025



Presented by: THE CONGO TREE

MESSAGE FROM THE CO-CHAIRS



At The Congo Tree we are always striving to make a difference and be hopeful in all we do...but we must also be honest too and this year has been really hard. Hard for the young people of the Eastern Democratic Republic of Congo who have had to endure yet another conflict. Hard for us as The Congo Tree, operating in such a context of upheaval and instability which has affected all of our team whether directly or indirectly. Hard for the world at large, where it feels as though so many of the values that many of us took for granted are under threat.

"Yet, in spite of everything thrown at us we are still standing and continue to be a stable and hopeful presence for so many young people. Whether through our WYLD programme, enterprise and artistic work or through our psychosocial support spaces, we are making a difference. So much of this credit must go to our newly appointed Director, Medi, and the DRC team who work tirelessly and in such challenging circumstances.

We must also thank every supporter of The Congo Tree and everyone who gives their time, money and energy. We cannot do this without you, so thank you for being part of the story"

MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR



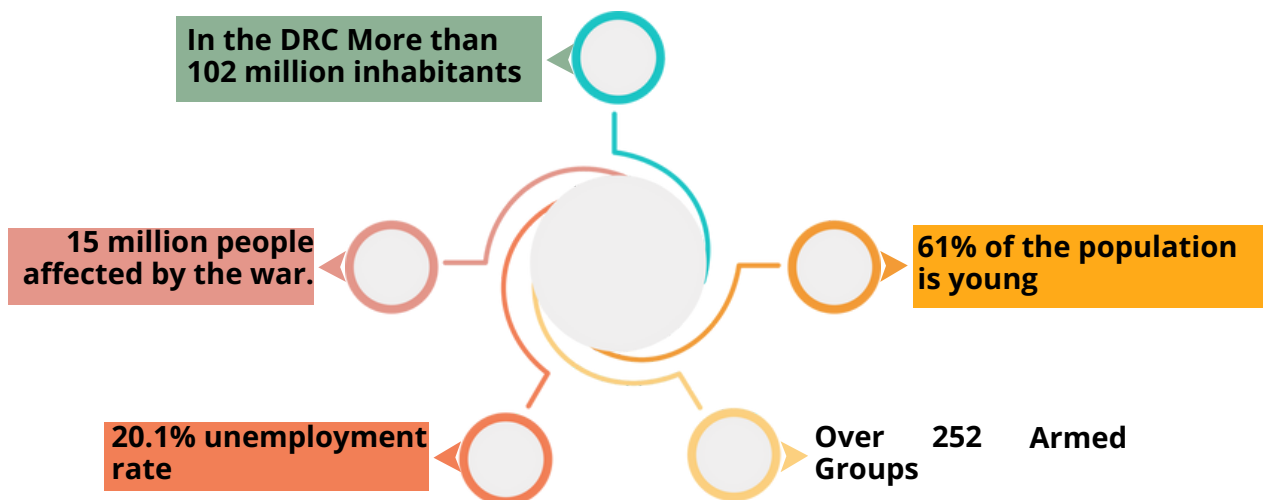
"This has been an even more unusual year, with the situation dominated by armed conflict in the east of the Democratic Republic of Congo. Young people are often both perpetrators and victims of conflict in their communities. Today, The Congo Tree has been able to empower these young people to become peacemakers and solution-makers thanks to our actions towards them.

This work is possible thanks to all of you who, in one way or another, wanted to be part of this story. We are proud that this story continues to be written with a considerable impact on young Congolese people. We have seen the resilience of young people in the face of everything they have had to endure, especially in taking the lead in community actions. This encourages us again and again to continue. A big thank you to all our volunteers and donors for your contribution to the success of our programmes. We are proud of you all. »

CONTEXT



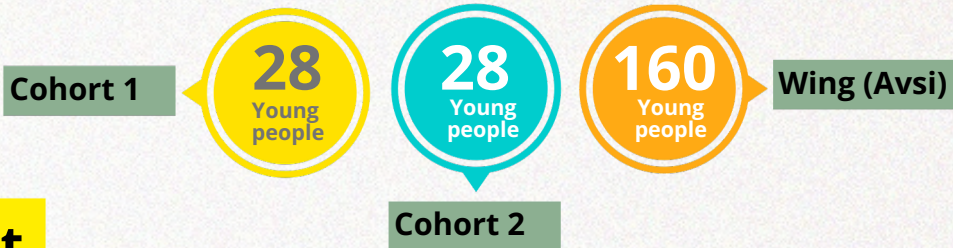
The Democratic Republic of Congo is one of the richest countries on the planet. Located in the centre of Africa, it covers an area of more than 2,345,000 square kilometres. It is the second largest country in Africa. Its soil and subsoil contain several minerals that are very important for current technological development around the world. Unfortunately, the DRC, and especially the eastern part, has experienced several wars and tribal conflicts. Young people remain the victims and perpetrators in these recurring wars, which is why their supervision remains a priority.



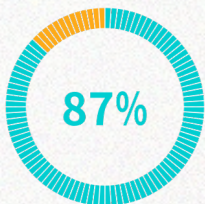
OUR PROGRAMMES

1.WYLD

The WYLD programme has always been one of the pillars of our work with young people. This programme allows us to work individually on each participant's skills and personality. For over 10 years, its impact on the community has been considerable. It focuses on leadership, self-awareness, teamwork, identity, communication, and much more. This year, we mentored **216 young people** who actively participated in the programme for a year, with mentoring support.

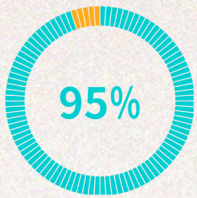


Impact



Young people say they have developed their leadership skills and self-awareness.

"My time in the Wyld programme has helped me truly discover who I am and the path I need to follow to achieve my vision. I am proud to discover my strengths and weaknesses, and it is a challenge for me to improve every day."



say they are involved in solving problems in their communities

'My time at The Congo Tree reminded me that I am a solution maker in my community. I now believe that if everyone does their bit, we will develop our communities and emerge from underdevelopment.'



say they have developed resilience despite ongoing conflict situations.

"Every day that passes makes me stronger than yesterday. Despite the war and difficult circumstances, I have learned at The Congo Tree that a leader always finds solutions. I am a role model for my generation and I must have a big heart."



- **Young people want to continue with the programme.**
- **They want to continue in future programmes.**

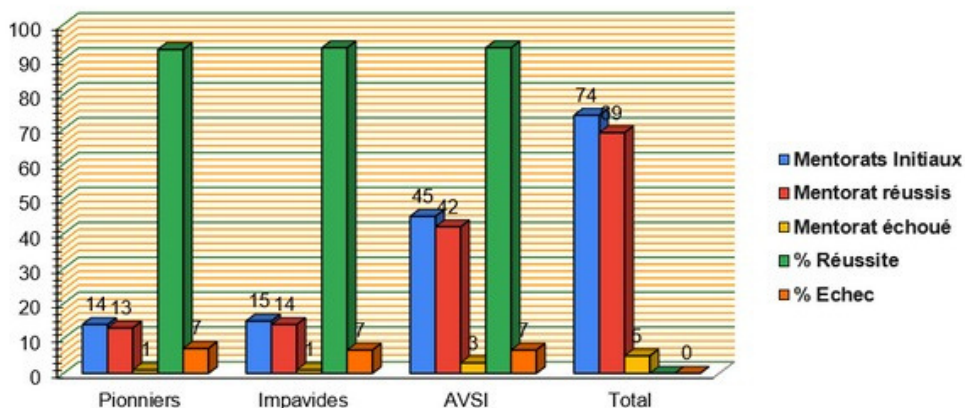


Mentoring

During the 2024-2025 academic year, the WYLD programme trained two cohorts, including two in the standard programme and one in partnership (WINGS project with AVSI), **totalling 216 young participants**. These young people underwent a year-long mentoring programme, forming **108 mentor-mentee pairs**, with a balanced distribution between girls and boys. They also benefited from leadership training over two weekends, followed by an assessment via the mentoring programme. This mentoring was crucial in strengthening their problem-solving skills and resilience in the difficult context of the DRC. The mentors provided particular support to the youngest mentees, taking into account their emotional and personal needs beyond the initial objectives. The notable impact was the transformation of the young people from shy, self-conscious individuals who struggled with public speaking and self-confidence to more fulfilled and self-assured individuals. This process also enabled mutual learning, with both mentors and mentees experiencing positive changes.



Tendance entre la réussite et les échecs du mentorat par cohorte 2024-2025



Testimonials



“The mentoring programme marked a real turning point in my life. It was a journey of personal discovery, as beneficial for me as it was for the young person I mentored, Charles Barhabula. At first, Charles struggled to fit into society, but thanks to our mentoring relationship, he developed his self-confidence, particularly in public speaking. I myself grew and evolved throughout this experience.”

There is clearly a ‘me’ before and after this programme. I am grateful to The Congo Tree for this transformative initiative, and I sincerely hope that it can expand beyond the city of Goma to reach other young people throughout the DRC.

Even though this mentoring cycle is coming to an end, I don't intend to stop there. My goal is to continue to impact other young people, especially those who are going through similar or more difficult situations. This is how I intend to embody true leadership, true to our motto: be part of history.

Suleyman SENGOMA

“My name is Edith Namwana, and I am grateful to have participated in The Congo Tree training programme for a year. This programme has been of great importance, both personally and for my community.

I joined with the desire to strengthen my leadership skills, get to know myself better and become a real agent of change in my community. Throughout the training, I acquired a great deal of knowledge, including

I believe that leadership is based on the ability to influence, vision, and managing one's emotions and interpersonal skills.

This programme has had a profound impact on my career and has helped me grow as a committed future leader.



Edith Namwana

TREE OF LIFE



The Tree Of Life programme is a psychotherapeutic tool that complements the WYLD programme. This programme has been extremely useful during this very difficult period, full of atrocities and conflicts, which has caused the loss of many lives and the loss of family members for others due to the negative forces operating in our regions. Young people, who are in shock due to the violence, have received this training as a means of supporting them in their trauma. This approach is based on:

- Mutual knowledge of origins and identity
- Understanding each other's skills and having a clear vision
- Being part of each other's stories and creating solutions within the community
- Understanding the problems and obstacles to be overcome



Graduation

This year, we were delighted to celebrate the graduation of the 'Yes We Can' and Sake cohorts, in collaboration with our partner Uhuru Knowledge Centre, marking the end of their journey with the WYLD Programme. It was also a wonderful opportunity to warmly thank our team of facilitators for their exceptional work. Together, we celebrate the commitment and success of these young leaders!



We are proud to have completed this journey of influence and impact in the community with our young people from Sake. Despite the armed conflict and all the effects it has had on these young people, we have witnessed their resilience and commitment to finding solutions. Thank you to our partner, the Uhuru Knowledge Centre, for its commitment and support.



FACILITATORS



In 2024-2025, we welcomed a new team of 15 facilitators and thanked 20 others who had served for more than four years. Our facilitators are pillars of our programme implementation. These young men and women volunteer more than six hours each month to make an impact in the community. For us, facilitation is not only a time to share knowledge with others, but also a time to learn ourselves.



"I am very proud to be one of The Congo Tree's volunteer facilitators. In the few months that I have been giving my time, I have learned a lot from the wonderful young people we mentor. Facilitation is not only done at TCT, but wherever I go, I try to put this knowledge into practice and become better. Congo Tree is truly a school that makes us the best versions of ourselves. "

Blaise SIVANZIRE, Facilitator.

OUR PROGRAMMES

2. Peace for a Future R2250, response to war

Peace For a Future is a programme that places young people at the centre of the search for solutions to issues related to peace, justice and inclusion in the community. This programme emphasises the various pillars of R2250.

We believe that young people are peacemakers and should play an important role in their communities.



Overall Result

- Participation

More than 1,500 young people have been made aware of the contribution young people can make to peace through our monthly meetings. Thanks to these awareness-raising activities, we have achieved the following:



100% commitment from young people to their involvement in the pursuit of peace in the community.



Five young people from our programmes are getting involved in the country's political life through the elections.



Implementation of the National Action Plan on United Nations Resolution 2250 and the Operational Plan on United Nations Resolution 2250

- **Protection**



10,000 young people supported through our psychological support campaign.



700 people displaced each month thanks to our Mwanzo Artistique programme

- **Prevention**



1,500 young people raise awareness about conflict prevention in communities.

- **Partnership**



Establishment of activities with other youth organisations to have a significant impact on the community (creation of the Youth Peace and Security Coalition).



We had the pleasure of organising a film screening this weekend to mark International Peace Day. The screening of Erikey XY93's film 'Binti, la survie' was followed by lively discussions led by Hubert MASOMEKO, reinforcing everyone's commitment to fostering a culture of peace within our communities.

OUR PROGRAMMES

3.Mwanzo Enterprise

The Mwanzo Enterprise programme aims to support young entrepreneurs in the sustainable development of their business ideas. It offers a structured framework combining training, coaching, incubation and personalised support to strengthen young people's entrepreneurial skills and enable them to become responsible and resilient economic actors. The programme is part of a vision for local impact, promoting innovation, autonomy and the creation of jobs adapted to the socio-economic context of eastern DRC.



These young entrepreneurs benefited from three intensive training sessions on entrepreneurship and essential concepts, followed by three coaching sessions per month from October 2024 to January 2025. These sessions enabled project leaders to acquire solid practical skills and to design key documents for the viability of their businesses, such as business plans and lean canvases. Thanks to this support, the incubated businesses are now better structured and prepared to meet the challenges of the local market.



OUR PROGRAMMES

3. Mwanzo Artistique

The Mwanzo Artistique programme supports young artists in expressing, promoting and professionalising their talent. The programme aims to create a safe and stimulating space where young people can explore their creativity, assert their identity and use art as a lever for personal and social transformation.

The artists were supported in four main disciplines: music, drawing, slam poetry, and comedy, under the guidance of specialised coaches. Mwanzo Artistique also served as a real incubator and workspace thanks to Tree House, which hosted creative sessions, rehearsals and exchanges between artists and coaches. The programme enabled the organisation of public performances in the BULENGO camp for displaced persons, thus offering young artists concrete opportunities to perform and express messages of peace.

- **12 Artists (Comedy, Slam Poetry, Music & Drawing)**
- **04 Coaches (Humour, Slam, Music & Drawing)**
- **02 public performances in the BULENGO displaced persons camp**
- **02 shows hosted at Tree House**



WINGS PROGRAMME

Our collaboration with AVSIDRC has been a great success in the community. The Wings programme aims to support young people by giving them the means to succeed. We have contributed our expertise by focusing on developing young people's skills (leadership, vision, self-awareness, teamwork) before launching them into apprenticeships and entrepreneurship. The WINGS programme is positioned as an inspiring model for youth empowerment and building more resilient communities in conflict and post- conflict areas.



114 Young people have developed skills for learning trades

Young people who have benefited from the programme.

160

➤ **96% of our young people say they have developed their skills and have a clear vision of the future.**

"When I joined this programme, I was very closed off and didn't want to talk to others about what was going on in my life. Today, I am the driving force behind my team. I have developed my public speaking skills and, above all, my listening skills, as I am serving many other people. Thanks to these training courses, I have learned that I can learn a lot and develop my skills through others. I feel more useful than I did six months ago. Thank you very much for all your support."

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85% say they are now involved in community activities

"Our communities have many problems, and what I learned during the training is that I must take the lead in finding solutions. I decided to start a club for 20 young girls where we discuss GBV. This has helped us break the taboo. I am proud to raise the voices of young girls."

PARTNERSHIP

1.FONDS NGANGI



We discussed leadership principles with young scholars who are beneficiaries of the Fonds Ngangi. These young people, who are bearers of hope, are called upon to act with integrity, embody exemplary leadership, and play an active role in solving community challenges.

Many thanks to the Fonds Ngangi for involving us in this initiative.

Together, we are helping to build sustainable solutions.

2.MUSIKA NA KIPAJI FESTIVAL

The Musika na Kipaji festival celebrated Burundian talent at the displacement camp. This wonderful initiative was supported by our Mwanzo Artistique programme.

Each performance carried a powerful message of resilience and a call for peace and stability in the region.



3.GAARJ



We are delighted to support an initiative by young people in Goma called 'Grand Prix Kä Mana', organised by GAARJ Org. This is a regional public speaking and ideas competition for young students from the cities of Goma and Bukavu on topics related to peace, security and employment in the Great Lakes Region.

SOCIAL ACTIONS

The young people from the graduating class of 'Yes We Can' visited the La Lumière orphanage in Goma as part of the final phase of their social action project. The aim of this activity was not only to spend some joyful time with these children in need, but also to provide them with school supplies for the new school year starting in September. **A total of 70 children benefited from this initiative.**



For two days, young people from a group called 'Les Pionniers' raised awareness and trained women victims in the RUSAYO 1 displacement camp on menstrual hygiene and how to make sanitary pads as part of their social action programme.

This commendable initiative will help improve the health and well-being of women in their community, and we are confident that it will have a lasting impact. Well done to these young leaders for their commitment and positive contribution!

The second group of young people from the 'Les pionniers' class chose to spend time with children from the 'NanaBim Family' orphanage to bring smiles back to the faces of these children in need of affection and attachment.



BE PART OF THE STORY



[#bepartofthestory](#)

We couldn't do any of what we have reported on without the amazing financial support of generous people - thank you to everyone who has given to us in 2024-2025 !

If you are thinking about giving to The Congo Tree, we would like to invite you to come and be WYLD with us, by supporting a place on a WYLD programme for only £150 / \$200 or £20 / \$30 per month!

Each cohort in Goma, Masisi, Rutshuru and Sake needs supporters like you to give the young leaders of tomorrow a life-changing experience - through training, mentoring and long-term sustainable support.

Find out more at: www.thecongotree.org.uk/donate

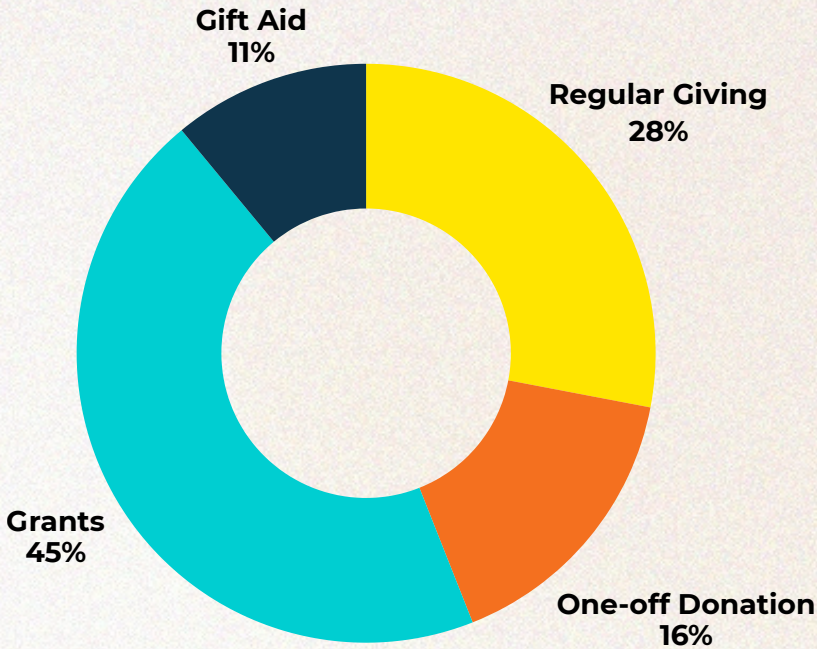
And there are lots of other ways that you can get involved!

- Volunteer with the UK Team
- Get sponsored for us or run a fundraiser for us
- Support a young entrepreneur or team with a specific social action / creative enterprise project
- Gifts in kind - such as laptops, musical instruments or books
- Invite us into your school

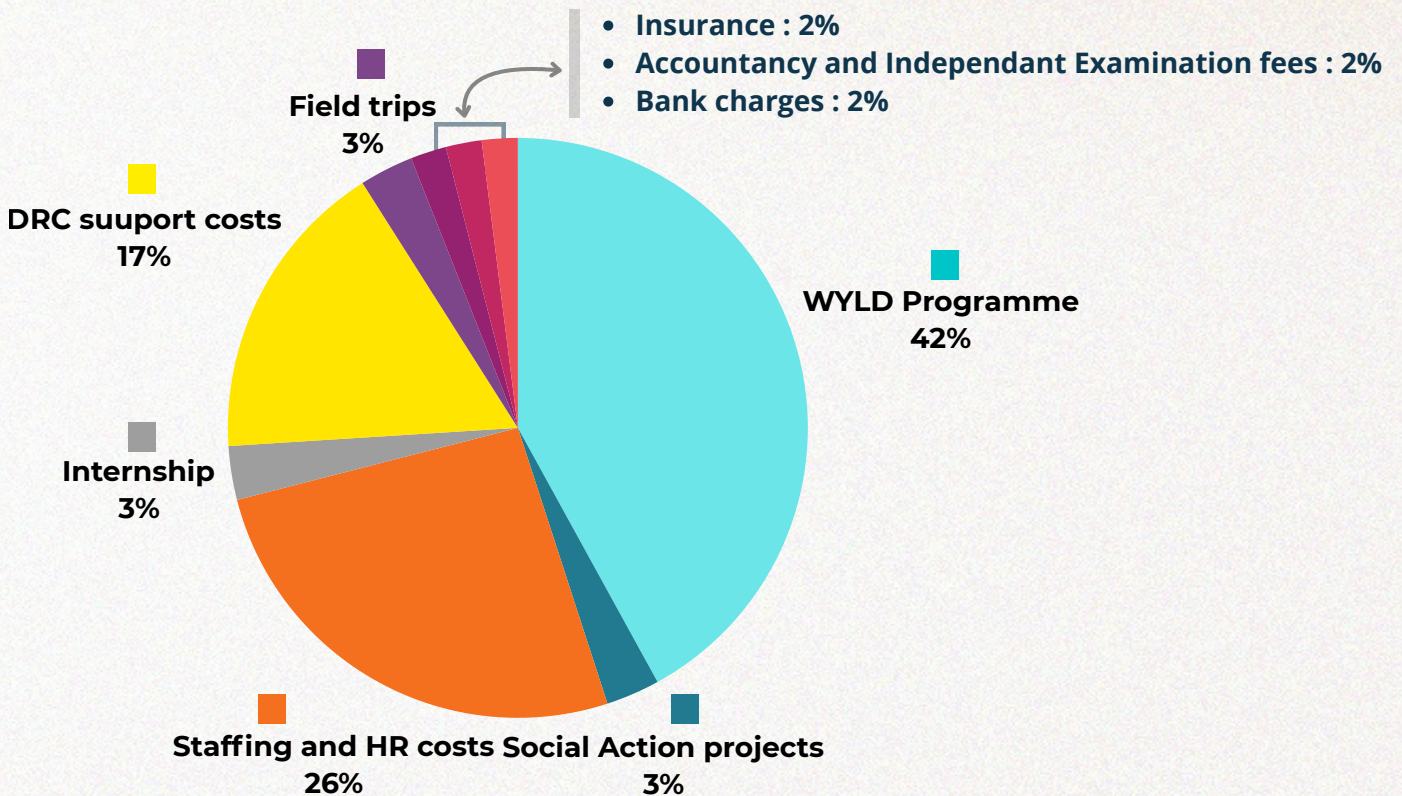
Do get in contact to find out more: hello@thecongotree.org.uk

FINANCE

Income : £30,594



Expenses : £36,700



THANK YOU TO ALL OUR PARTERS



Let Yourself Trust
Providing a choice and a chance



FONDS NGANGI



Youth Peace & Security
DRC COALITION



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