SIKILIZA *"Listen to Me"*

Community Journalism & GBV Prevention · Eastern DRC - North & South Kivu · 36 months

15M+	1,163	30,000	90	420	45
people in target region	direct beneficiaries	indirect reach	Journalists trained	youth trained (70% girls)	community leaders involved

THE CHALLENGE

North and South Kivu remain among the world's most complex peace and protection contexts. Over 15 million people live with prolonged armed conflict, mass displacement, and eroded social structures. Women and girls face persistent gender-based violence, exclusion from decision-making, and silencing by stigma and fear.

At the same time, community radio remains the primary, often only, reliable source of information in rural areas. Yet most local journalists have never received formal training in ethical, conflict-sensitive, or gender-responsive reporting. In this gap, misinformation, harmful norms, and violence go unchallenged.

OUR RESPONSE

SIKILIZA is a three-year initiative built on the conviction that the communities most affected by these crises hold the capacity to lead change. The project will provide them with the skills, tools, and platforms to do so. It will bring together four organisations combining local expertise, editorial methodology, and international journalism training standards to build a sustainable, locally led media ecosystem in the Kivus.

Rather than importing external experts, SIKILIZA will invest in and train 8 local trainers, each paired with an international mentor from JEA or **aidóni** for the full project cycle. These trainers will deliver ethical and gender-responsive journalism training to 90 community radio journalists and 420 young people organised into 42 school clubs. 45 community leaders are engaged as active partners. Together they will produce content, shift norms, and open decision-making spaces to women and girls.

THEORY OF CHANGE

When community journalists, young girls and boys, and local leaders are equipped with strengthened skills, adapted tools, and safe spaces to speak, they can produce and broadcast responsible information, prevent violence, promote gender equality, and contribute durably to peace and social cohesion in their communities.

A CONSORTIUM OF FOUR ORGANISATIONS

Child and Youth Care Organization

CYCO (DRC) - strategy, coordination, field lead, GBV prevention & survivor support

aidóni
People at the heart of our stories

aidóni (France) - strategy, coordination, curriculum, methodology, editorial direction

jea.

JEA (USA) - mentorship network & trainer coaching

Press Pass NYC
Highlights from Our Partner School Publications

Press Pass NYC (USA) - pedagogical standards & curriculum consulting

WHAT SIKILIZA DELIVERS

Local Training Capacity

- 8 local Trainers of Trainers, paired 1-to-1 with international mentors
- 18 co-developed training modules (internationally informed, locally embedded)
- A sustainable local training resource that outlasts the project

Professional Community Media

- 90 journalists trained across 30 stations in ethical, conflict-sensitive, gender-responsive journalism
- 30 stations equipped with production kits and solar energy systems
- 10 new production studios constructed
- 144 radio programmes · 36 audio spots · 36 educational sketches over 3 years

Youth as Agents of Change

- 420 young people (70% girls) in 42 school clubs across both provinces
- Media literacy, GBV prevention, and community mobilisation skills
- Smartphones and safe peer networks for coordination and reporting
- Direct collaboration with trained journalists on radio content

Community Engagement & Protection

- 45 community leaders trained and engaged in GBV prevention
- Annual intergenerational dialogues between girls and leaders
- 600 hygiene kits · IGA & VSLA support for 300 mothers
- Monthly awareness sessions reaching ~30,000 people each year

Documentation & Public Goods

- Trainers' Journal: a locally-authored methodology
- SIKILIZA Audio Series: a podcast with international reach via **aidóni**'s channels
- Collaborative Guide: guidelines for journalists based on voices of survivors, women, and experts, published in FR / EN / Swahili under Creative Commons

CONTACT

Joseph RUNYAMBO (CYCO) | josephcasirunyambo@gmail.com | +243 827 542 225
Méline LAFFABRY (**aidóni**) | meline@aidoni.org | +33 612 700 340
Lara BERGEN (Press Pass NYC) | lara@presspassnyc.org | +1 (646) 338-196
Kelly FURNAS (JEA) | kfurnas@elon.edu | +1 (540) 200 8665