



AVSI Foundation in the Democratic Republic of the Congo

Report #1

January – June 2025

Key Project Data

30 511

Beneficiaries Reached by Our Activities

11

Ongoing Projects

Partners

EU, FH RDC, UNICEF, CEI, EnDev, UNOPS, USAID

6 Provinces

North-Kivu, South-Kivu, Tanganyika, Ituri, Kasai Central & Kasai



Recreational activities organized at EP Diondo in Kaboya village, Dibaya, Kasai Central, DRC

AVSI Foundation has been operating in the Democratic Republic of Congo since 1972, leveraging its expertise in education, protection, livelihoods, nutrition, environment, and energy to respond to the country's prolonged crisis.

Situation Updates

Since January 2025, the security situation in South and North Kivu has significantly deteriorated due to rising political tensions and clashes between AFC/M23 forces and the government. In response to these, AVSI Foundation suspended its field operations in high-risk areas, evacuated its staff, and relocated its offices.

Despite this, AVSI Foundation maintained remote humanitarian support and strengthened its response by opening an office in Kinshasa to better coordinate its actions in health, education, and livelihoods. Activities continued in provinces such as Kasai, Tanganyika, Ituri, and parts of South Kivu. Today, with the gradual improvement in security, AVSI Foundation has resumed its field activities, adapting its approach to provide direct assistance to communities.

During the first six months of the year, AVSI's mission in the DRC, in line with the strategic guidelines and work plan for the 2024–2026 period, reached a total of **30,511 beneficiaries**.

This was achieved through the distribution of school kits, the sale of improved cookstoves to households, awareness-raising sessions, and training activities conducted across our supported sites in South and North Kivu, Kasai Central, Kasai, Tanganyika, and Ituri.

Upcoming Projects

AVSI Foundation is preparing to launch several projects:

- Karisimbi, North Kivu province: New project for the treatment of severe acute malnutrition using an integrated approach for mothers, children, and health services, funded by the **Italian Episcopal Conference**.
- Tshikapa and Kananga, Kasai Central and Kasai province: Phase 2 of the SUIDAC project, funded by **Cities Alliance**.
- Minova, South Kivu province: Launch of the Cash + Protection project, funded by **UNICEF**.

Our area of intervention



AVSI Foundation's Response Through Its Projects

Kasai-Central – EDU'KAS Project

EDU'KAS: an action supporting the education system in Kasai Central, aiming to improve access to and completion of primary education for 16,400 children, enhance the quality of education for 880 stakeholders, and support the social and economic integration of 440 youth affected by the conflict. Funded by the European Union and implemented by AVSI, AIDES, TPO-RDC, and E4Impact in Demba and Dibaya territories from 2023 to 2026.

Results:

- 14,156 school kits distributed to vulnerable children to support learning.
- School rehabilitation works carried out to improve infrastructure and ensure safe and inclusive learning environments.
- Inclusive education campaigns conducted to raise awareness about the right to education for all.
- Community accountability committees established to strengthen transparency and local participation.
- School-based awareness activities against gender-based violence to empower girls.
- Identification of vocational training centers.
- Psychosocial support provided in schools to promote the mental well-being of vulnerable students.

Goma – Distance Support Program (DSP)

The Distance Support Program has been active in the DRC since 2002. It assists vulnerable children and families, focusing on education, protection, health, and the socioeconomic recovery of households, particularly in the vicinity of the city of Goma. Following the takeover of the city by the AFC/M23 in January 2025, AVSI resumed its support activities for school children and their families. The intervention, funded by several private donations, runs from January to December 2025.

Results:

- 60 improved household kits distributed
- 417 households supported through Savings group (VSLA)
- 422 families benefited from Village Savings group (VSLA) credit
- 213 adolescents received dignity kits
- 817 communications with sponsors completed
- 614 follow-up home visits conducted
- 8 protection awareness sessions organized.

South-Kivu – ECOCIRC Project

ECOCIRC is a 42-month project aimed at improving the well-being of citizens and the water quality of the Lake Tanganyika Basin by enhancing plastic waste management and promoting sustainable and inclusive economic practices, implemented by AVSI, LVIA, CARITAS, and AHDS through support from European Union. The project covers the cities of Baraka and Uvira.

Results:

- Baseline analysis successfully completed
- Coordination meetings held with the Department of Environment and the Sanitation Technical Service in Baraka, including field visits
- Consultation meetings organized with the mayors of Uvira and Baraka

North-Kivu – PAMOJA TUTAWEZA Project

Pamoja Tutaweza, meaning Together, we can, is a humanitarian project implemented from 2024 to 2025. It aims to support 16,000 people affected by the crisis in North Kivu and raise awareness among 75,000 people about unexploded ordnance. The project also seeks to strengthen the capacities of local leaders to prevent human rights violations. Funded by the DRC Humanitarian Fund, the project is carried out in partnership with AVSI, MIDEFEHOPS, and SYOPADI.

Before January 2025, the AVSI Foundation focused on protection in displaced persons' sites around Goma. In response to families returning to their villages, AVSI is adapting its intervention by shifting its support from displaced camps to return villages facing limited access to basic services.

South-Kivu, Ituri and Tanganyika – EnDev Project

The EnDev project (Energizing Development), led by GIZ and implemented by AVSI, aims to promote a sustainable market for improved cookstoves and productive energy use among low-income households in eastern DRC. The project runs from 2025 to 2026.

Results:

- 12,272 improved cookstoves produced and sold by Congolese families.
- More than 100 cookstoves sold per month by the top-performing producers.
- 31 women trained in marketing and sales.
- 42 sales points established and supported.
- HTC/e-Cooking pilot test phase launched in Goma, with 3 families testing advanced cooking technologies.

North-Kivu – RVO Project

The EnDev - RVO project is implemented by AVSI to introduce electric cooking (e-cooking) solutions in the suburban areas of Goma, in the East of the DRC. This pilot project strengthens the strategy to promote clean and sustainable cooking solutions among low-income households. It aims to test the economic viability of e-cooking for households and business models for electricity providers, targeting 750 households and covering 60 to 80% of their cooking needs. The project is implemented in partnership with Virunga Energies and Nuru Congo Connect for the period 2025-2026.

Results:

- 373 induction cooktops distributed through Virunga Energies,
- 415 customers of partner Nuru Congo Connect surveyed to select 250 beneficiaries,
- Provided support to the EnDev project with 47 HTC cooktops distributed

South-Kivu, PAMOJA Project

PAMOJA Project — which means "Together" — supports sustainable solutions for Burundian refugees and host communities in South Kivu.

Funded by the European Union and implemented by IRC, AVSI, and COFAS, the project targets 7,000 people in the Uvira and Fizi territories. Running from 2024 to 2026, it promotes long-term integration and resilience.

Results:

- 555 refugees and host community members trained in agricultural practices and provided with kits
- 160 refugees and host community members trained in business skills and livelihoods
- 213 refugees and host community members trained in literacy
- 60 young refugees and host community members enrolled in vocational training programs

South-Kivu, PAMOJA Project

SUIDAC: Support for the Urban Integration of Displaced Communities. Funded by Cities Alliance. This six-month pilot project (October 2024 – March 2025) served as a feasibility and design phase implemented in Kananga and Tshikapa, in the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

This phase focused on analysis and planning, conducted by AVSI Foundation in collaboration with local authorities and partners. It involved the establishment of national steering committees and the identification of key urban challenges and priorities, such as lack of infrastructure, weak governance, limited economic opportunities, and insufficient access to basic services.

Based on these findings, AVSI and the municipalities of Tshikapa and Kananga proposed a 33-month implementation plan for the development of the two cities, which was presented during a regional dialogue held in Jijjiga, Ethiopia.