



SISTERS OF THE
GOOD SHEPHERD ECAP



2026

**ADVOCACY FOR HUMAN
RIGHTS TO WOMEN AND
GIRLS IN ECAP**

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Executive Summary



In March 2026, ECAP implemented coordinated advocacy and empowerment initiatives across Uganda, Kenya, and the Democratic Republic of Congo to advance the rights of women and girls, in line with the International Women’s Day theme, “Rights, Justice for All Women and Girls,” and the Sustainable Development Goals

Reaching over 2,300 participants, the programs focused on gender-based violence prevention, access to justice, education, health, environmental sustainability, and economic empowerment. Key achievements included increased awareness of human rights, strengthened community engagement, enhanced vocational skills, and improved livelihood opportunities. Overall, the initiatives reinforced women’s role as agents of change and promoted inclusive, equitable, and sustainable development.

Report for IWD activities in Uganda – Kampala Community on 8th March 2026

The Justice and Peace Kampala Community commemorated International Women’s Day on 8th March 2026, bringing together 158 women from different groups to promote awareness, empowerment, and collective action toward sustainable development. The celebration was aligned with the 2026 theme: “Rights, Justice for All Women and Girls.

Contribution to SDGs

- This activity directly contributed to the implementation of the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals, particularly:
- SDG 5: Gender Equality: By empowering women with knowledge of their rights and promoting equal participation in society.
- SDG 16: Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions: Through advocacy for justice, peaceful coexistence, and strengthening community-level accountability.
- SDG 3: Good Health and Well-being: Through psychosocial and spiritual support that enhances well-being and social cohesion.
- SDG 4: Quality Education: By providing informal education and awareness sessions on women’s rights and responsibilities.
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Activity Overview

The event gathered 158 women, creating an inclusive platform for dialogue, learning, and solidarity. The objective was to strengthen women’s capacity as agents of change in promoting peace, justice, and sustainable community development.



Key Activities and Outcomes

Awareness Raising and Capacity Building

The program began at 9:00 a.m. with prayer and the Holy Rosary, fostering spiritual grounding and unity. A key highlight was the awareness and sensitization session, which:



- 1 Enhanced women's understanding of their fundamental human rights
- 2 Promoted gender equality and social inclusion
- 3 Encouraged women to actively claim their rights and seek justice
- 4 Strengthened their role in peacebuilding and conflict prevention

Strengthening Social Cohesion

The celebration of the Holy Mass and the shared meal created space for:



- 1 Building community solidarity
- 2 Promoting inclusive participation
- 3 Reinforcing values of peace, dignity, and mutual respect.

Empowerment Outcomes

As a result of the activity:

- 1 Women demonstrated increased awareness of their rights and responsibilities
- 2 Participants were motivated to become advocates for justice and peace within their communities
- 3 The initiative contributed to reducing inequalities and harmful social norms



Key notes:

- The International Women's Day celebration by the Justice and Peace Kampala Community contributed meaningfully to advancing the Sustainable Development Goals, particularly in promoting gender equality, peace, and inclusive development.
- The activity strengthened the capacity of women to actively participate in building a just, peaceful, and equitable society, in line with the global commitment to "leave no one behind."

KENYA - GOOD SHEPHERD SISTERS' PROGRAM MERU COUNTY – MIKINDURI

The Sisters of the Good Shepherd continue to implement integrated, community-based interventions targeting women, girls, and men through organized group structures, with the aim of promoting inclusive and sustainable development.



On 14th March 2025, the women beneficiaries commemorated International Women’s Day, aligning their activities with the globally recognized theme for the year. The commemoration served as a strategic platform for advocacy, awareness raising, and community engagement on critical gender issues.

In particular, the initiative focused on addressing the increasing prevalence of gender-based violence (GBV), which remains a significant barrier to the realization of women’s rights and well-being in the country. Through targeted sensitization sessions, the activity contributed to:

- Advancing SDG 5 by promoting gender equality and the elimination of all forms of violence against women and girls
- Supporting Goal 16 through strengthening community awareness on justice, human rights, and protection mechanisms
- Enhancing community capacity to challenge harmful social norms and practices that perpetuate inequality and violence

The intervention fostered increased awareness among participants on their rights, responsibilities, and available support systems, while encouraging collective action toward the prevention and response to GBV. Overall, the activity contributed to strengthening resilient, informed, and gender-responsive communities, in line with the broader commitment to the United Nations Agenda 2030 and the principle of leaving no one behind.

REPORT FOR DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO - DRC: BON PASTEUR PROGRAM - KOLWEZI

High-level event in Joli City

On 9th March 2026, Sr. Bernadette Tapsoba, Community Link for Kolwezi, participated in a high-level event held in Joli City under the leadership of Fifi Masuka. The event brought together over 2,000 women and key stakeholders to promote dialogue and advocacy on challenges affecting women and girls, including gender-based violence, early and forced marriages, and limited access to basic social services.

The engagement contributed to advancing the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals, particularly SDG 5 (Gender Equality), SDG 1 (No Poverty), SDG 3 (Good Health and Well-being), and SDG 16 (Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions). Overall, the event strengthened collective commitment toward gender equality, social inclusion, and sustainable development in line with the 2030 Agenda.

State (DRNOFLU) event with local partners (13th March 2026, Katebi)

The month of March marked the celebration of IWD across the DRC, under the 2026 global theme: “Rights, Justice for All Women and Girls.” A subsequent event organized by the Direction des Recettes Non Fiscales du Lualaba took place in Katebi under the theme: “The place of etiquette and professional ethics of women in public service.” Donatus represented the sisters at this gathering, which brought together public officials, health professionals, and community stakeholders.

Key Highlights and Discussions

- **Role of Women in Society:** Speakers emphasized that a woman is not only a mother or wife but a key contributor to the socio-economic development of the community. Madam Kasongo highlighted the importance of recognizing women’s broader societal roles.
- **Professional Ethics in Public Service:** Discussions focused on the deontology and ethical responsibilities of public servants, stressing values such as: Excellence, Integrity, Respect and Accountability. These were emphasized by Ms. Marie-Louis Musenga Mafo, Director of Public Service in Lualaba.
- **Environment and Health:** During the interactive session, Sr. Donatus raised a critical issue on the nexus between women, environment, and health. She underscored that deforestation and the widespread use of charcoal (carbon de bois) in the Democratic Republic of Congo are major drivers of carbon emissions, contributing significantly to respiratory diseases and other adverse health outcomes. She further sought clarification on concrete government actions to accelerate the transition to clean energy.

- In response, Ms. Marie outlined ongoing efforts aligned with the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals notably SDG 3 (Good Health and Well-being), SDG 5 (Gender Equality), SDG 7 (Affordable and Clean Energy), and SDG 13 (Climate Action)—emphasizing a strengthened, integrated approach linking environmental sustainability, public health, and women’s empowerment. Key interventions include:
 - Scaling down charcoal dependence by up to 80%, reducing deforestation and carbon emissions
 - Expanding access to clean energy solutions, particularly solar and gas, for sustainable household use
 - Mitigating pollution-related health risks, including respiratory illnesses and certain cancers
 - Promoting sustainable environmental practices through community awareness and behavior change initiatives These measures demonstrate a coordinated strategy to advance clean energy adoption, environmental protection, and improved public health, while positioning women as central actors in driving sustainable development outcomes.
- **Gender Equality and GBV Awareness:** The discussions aligned with United Nations Goal 5: Addressing sexual and gender-based violence (GBV)
 - Promoting women’s rights awareness
 - Encouraging family planning for improved maternal health
- **Education and Women’s Empowerment:** Ms. Faryole Luta (DRNOFLU Agent) highlighted:
 - Persistent stereotypes limiting women to domestic roles
 - Low secondary school enrollment (approx. 40% in rural areas)
 - Findings from the CEDAW review (2025), showing high rates of sexual violenceRecommendations included:
 - Strengthening girls’ enrollment in primary and secondary education
 - Achieving 100% school enrollment for girls by 2030
- **Health Awareness:** Prof. Dr. Fanny Malonga, Gynecologist and Director of Mwangeji General Hospital, led sensitization on:
 - Cervical cancer (col de l’utérus)
 - Risks linked to multiple sexual partners
 - Obstetric fistula and early/forced marriages
 - Importance of vaccination and community health education

- **Contribution of Bon Pasteur Programme:** The Programme continues to support women and girls through:
 - Formal and informal education
 - Literacy and computer training
 - Cultural and vocational initiatives
 - Health services through Afya Bora Clinic
 - Referral systems and partnerships for holistic care
- **Official Remarks** The representative of the Governor, Madam Kainda (Minister), emphasized that:
 - Despite persistent patriarchal challenges and violence, women continue to play vital roles in society
 - Education and autonomy are key to women’s empowerment and community development
 - Women must be supported and trusted in their capabilities The event concluded with remarks from Mr. Georges Tshata, Provincial Director.

Way forward:

The 2026 IWD celebrations in Kolwezi and Katebi highlighted the critical role of women in shaping a just, equitable, and sustainable society. From environmental stewardship to public service, education, and health advocacy, women continue to stand at the forefront of community transformation. Strengthening their rights, promoting education, and ensuring equal opportunities remain essential to achieving lasting development.

Participation in partnership with Equity Bank (17th March 2026, Kolwezi)

The Sisters Bernadette Muindi, Donatus and Jean Lenge, Manager for Habima – participated in the event organized by Equity Bank, reinforcing partnerships for sustainable development.

Key Takeaways:

- The central role of women in advancing the SDGs
- Shared values such as integrity, respect, and inclusion
- The importance of combining manual and digital approaches to improve livelihoods



International Women's Day Celebration – 25th March 2026

Venue: Kanina Grounds, Democratic Republic of Congo

The International Women's Day was commemorated on 25th March 2026 at Kanina Grounds by the Good Shepherd Sisters in the DRC through the Bon Pasteur Programme (USUMADA & MAHUWA Projects). The event convened women, girls, community members, and local authorities to advance dialogue on women's empowerment, protection, and rights.



The activity contributed to the implementation of the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals, notably:

- **SDG 5:** promoting women's rights, empowerment, and elimination of gender-based violence
- **SDG 16:** strengthening access to justice and awareness of legal protection frameworks
- **SDG 1 & SDG 8:** enhancing women's economic resilience through vocational skills and income-generating activities
- **SDG 4:** advancing literacy and skills development for women and girls

Opening remarks by Sr. Bernadette, Director of Bon Pasteur, reaffirmed institutional commitment to the dignity, protection, and socio-economic advancement of women and girls. The keynote address, delivered on behalf of the Chef de Cabinet, emphasized the need to strengthen institutional mechanisms to combat gender-based violence and ensure effective enforcement of women's rights.

Discussions highlighted persistent challenges, including harmful practices, gender-based violence, and gaps in enforcement of legal frameworks. Practical guidance was provided on evidence preservation in cases of sexual violence to support access to justice. Participants were further sensitized on risk prevention and protection mechanisms, while interactive sessions enabled experience-sharing and strengthened community-level engagement.

The event also demonstrated measurable progress in women's economic empowerment. Beneficiaries from six project sites reported increased financial autonomy through dressmaking and vocational training, providing safer and more sustainable alternatives to high-risk livelihoods such as artisanal mining. Additional outcomes included improved literacy, enhanced self-reliance, and strengthened livelihood opportunities.

A total of trainees from four centres successfully completed dressmaking and were awarded certificates by the Department of Social Affairs. Each graduate received a sewing machine, supporting their transition into sustainable self-employment and income generation. Overall, the initiative underscores the tangible contribution of the Bon Pasteur Programme to advancing gender equality, social inclusion, and resilient communities, in alignment with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

