

# INTERNATIONAL



**Caring hands:** Ebola survivor and caregiver Vianey Kombi takes care of a three-month-old orphaned girl who is confirmed to be suffering from Ebola inside an Ebola treatment centre in Beni in North Kivu. /Reuters

## Women in Congo who joined Ebola fight now back to square one

● Disease brought females together in a country where women have struggled to have their voices heard, but now many have had to flee their homes amid rising violence

Ange Kasongo  
Mangina

When Ebola hit her town three years ago, Congolese seamstress Zawadi Kavira did something previously unthinkable in her conservative community – she became a builder.

Construction was traditionally seen as men's work in Mangina in North Kivu province, where the Democratic Republic of the Congo's worst- yet Ebola epidemic began.

But the rural community needed extra hands to build a dedicated treatment centre, and though the work – fetching water, digging holes and transporting gravel – was hard, it was rewarding and relatively well-paid.

**I TRIED TO MAKE MYSELF USEFUL. WOMEN CAN TURN THEIR HANDS TO ANYTHING, AND WE WANTED TO BE INVOLVED**

Zawadi Kavira  
Seamstress

"I tried to make myself useful," said the 39-year-old, one of more than 20 years of armed conflict – one of the biggest barriers to mounting an effective response to the last major outbreak, which killed more than 2,200 people before it was declared over last year, according to aid groups.

Many in the community resented the focus on a single disease in a region racked by conflict, while the presence of government forces to protect health workers also caused anger and suspicion, said medical charity Medecins Sans Frontieres.

Concerned that these suspi-

cions were hampering efforts to tackle the outbreak, the area's main women's group, SOFEPADI, issued a plea that local women be placed at the heart of the response.

Women, they argued, were already the main caregivers in the community, and their trusted status meant they could help tackle misinformation that was preventing people from reporting symptoms or seeking treatment.

"Women have so much influence on their husbands, their children, and the community as a whole," said Aime Kiakimwa, a leader of SOFEPADI in the city of Beni in North Kivu.

### SHORTLIVED

"We could not achieve anything without them."

The outbreak brought many female members of the community opportunities they had previously seen as unattainable in a country where women have long struggled to have their voices heard.

Female representatives account for only about 12% of the 500 seats in Congo's national parliament and the country only gave women the right to vote in 1964 – four years after independence. Yet as a fresh Ebola outbreak hit the region this month, local women leaders said the opportunities had been shortlived.

Many local women paid to engage in awareness-raising are now unable to find paid work as organisations with funding for such work tend to favour men, said Antoinette Zawadi, co-ordinator for a Beni-based umbrella association of local women's groups.

She also said some aid workers had "deliberately capitalised on the naiveté or the lack of awareness of these [women] about sexual exploitation and abuse" during the crisis.

A Thomson Reuters Foundation investigation with The New Humanitarian found that dozens of women who sought paid

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**12% of the 500 seats in Congo's national parliament are taken up by women**

work with aid organisations working on the 2018-2020 Ebola crisis suffered sexual harassment or exploitation.

Last month, an independent commission set up by the World Health Organization (WHO) found more than 80 aid workers were involved in sexual abuse and exploitation of women and girls.

WHO director-general Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus has vowed to ensure that the affair would be "the catalyst for a profound transformation of WHO's culture".

As one of the only women in Mangina to have completed high school, 29-year-old single mother Dekila Kavira Kyakimwa managed to get work with the UN raising awareness of Ebola.

The money she made meant she could help her family – paying for weddings and funerals, and funding the education of her late brother's two children – and open a hair salon.

### REBEL ATTACK

"I have truly experienced what we call women's empowerment, thanks to the salary I got from the [Ebola] response," she said.

But in May this year, Mangina was attacked by a rebel group, forcing residents to flee. Dekila grabbed her children and ran, and when she returned, her house and salon had been gutted.

Worse, some in her community rejoiced at Dekila's loss.

"They said it was right that the ADF [rebels] had stolen my belongings because they were acquired on the back of Ebola victims," she said.

"That's what really hurt, when I thought of the investments that I had no hope of recouping."

At a recent community meeting in Mangina to discuss rising violence, residents said the response to the Ebola crisis had raised women's sense of what they could achieve, with lasting

effects. "It will be an example to future generations," said Louise Kavira, a local official.

"They will be motivated, aware that they were not born just to be housewives."

Local mayor Kasereka Kandondo said the epidemic had shown the town what women could do for their community.

But he conceded that their participation in public life was still minimal.

**I HAVE TRULY EXPERIENCED WHAT WE CALL WOMEN'S EMPOWERMENT, THANKS TO THE SALARY I GOT FROM THE [EBOLA] RESPONSE**

Dekila Kavira Kyakimwa  
Congolese single mother

There are more and more women's groups, but few women-led businesses. Insecurity and the difficulty of accessing funds – the only bank is 30km away in Beni – have not helped.

Seamstress Kavira's story underscores the immense difficulties for women seeking greater financial independence.

The four months she spent building the medical centre enabled her to fulfil a long-held dream of buying her own sewing machine at a cost of \$80.

But when violence broke out in the town earlier this year, she fled to Beni with her family, and thieves stole the machine.

Today she is back to her old work selling mobile phone top-up cards, earning no more than \$8 a day.

"It was complete panic," she said sadly. "We had no choice but to forget our dreams and run to Beni to save our lives."

/Thomson Reuters Foundation

### UN REPORT

## Climate no sweat for Russian, Saudi teens

Augusta Saraiva

Teenagers in oil-rich Russia and Saudi Arabia are slightly less worried about climate change being a global emergency than adults, against a trend among young citizens of G20 countries.

Russians and Saudis under 18 are, alongside Argentinians, the G20 teenagers less likely to see climate change as a threat, says a UN Development Programme report released on Monday. Less than 65% consider climate change an emergency, compared with more than 85% of teenagers in the UK and Italy.

"We relate this a lot to levels of education on the climate

crisis," said Cassie Flynn, UNDP strategic adviser on climate change and report author.

Overall, seven in 10 teenagers in G20 countries see climate change as an emergency, compared with 65% of adults, who are more likely to want companies to pay for pollution.

The US and Australia registered the largest discrepancy between teenagers' and adults' views. Three-quarters of Americans under 18 believe in a climate emergency, while only 65% of adults do. Australia saw a 10 percentage-point difference too, with 82% of teens believing in a crisis.

"In places like the US and

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**7 in 10 teenagers in G20 countries see climate change as an emergency**

Australia that have experienced extreme wildfires and extreme heat, these young people are looking at this and they're saying, 'Is this our new reality?'" Flynn said in an interview.

Latin American adults are among the least concerned. While 64% of Brazilians and 62% of Mexicans see it as a global crisis, only 57% of Argentinians do – the lowest number among all G20 adults.

The UNDP polled almost 690,000 people in 18 countries in the bloc between October 2020 and June, though the survey omitted China and the EU, whose governmental apparatus is a G20 member. /Bloomberg

### LOCAL GOVERNMENT NOTICE

#### JOHANNESBURG METROPOLITAN MUNICIPALITY NOTICE IN TERMS OF SECTION 116(3) OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT: MUNICIPAL FINANCE MANAGEMENT ACT, NO. 56 OF 2003

In terms of the Municipal Finance Management Act Section 116(3)(a) & (b), notice is hereby given of the proposed amendment of the contract listed below:

Contract Number	Original Contract Scope	Amendment	Reason for the proposed amendment
SOUTH HILLS: MIXED INTEGRATED HOUSING DEVELOPMENT	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Construction of Bulk, Link, and Internal Services (Civil and Electrical),</li> <li>Construction of 1244 FLISP/Affordable units,</li> <li>Construction of 3070 Social/Gap/Rental units,</li> <li>Construction of 1309 BNG units and</li> <li>Construction of 204 CRU units</li> </ul> <p>This contract will be extended for a period of three years commencing from date of signing development agreement addendum.</p>	This contract will be extended for a period of three years commencing from date of signing development agreement addendum and additional scope of works also includes the reticulation of gas infrastructure	The information statement proposing the amendments is accessible at <a href="http://www.joburg.org.za">www.joburg.org.za</a> and will also be available in the Municipal Offices reflected hereunder

- Queries and question may be directed to Francis Gadzikwa and Nicholas Kgasi by Fax: (011) 018 6828 or email: [francisg@joburg.org.za](mailto:francisg@joburg.org.za) / [nicholask@joburg.org.za](mailto:nicholask@joburg.org.za)
- The local community and other interested persons are invited to submit comments or representations in respect of the proposed contract/development agreement adjustment, to the Municipality. Such comments or representations must be received by no later than **25 November 2021** via e-mail to: [francisg@joburg.org.za](mailto:francisg@joburg.org.za) / [nicholask@joburg.org.za](mailto:nicholask@joburg.org.za) or must be delivered at the office of City of Johannesburg Metropolitan Municipality listed hereunder and must be marked for the attention of Francis Gadzikwa (PUBLIC HOUSING PROGRAMME)

REGION	PHYSICAL ADDRESS	TELEPHONE NUMBER
F	222 Smit Street Braamfontein	(011) 018 6825

#### INFORMATION STATEMENT PROPOSING AMENDMENTS

- The purpose of this document is to inform the public and other stakeholders, as required by the Local Government: Municipal Finance Management Act, 56 of 2003 (MFMA), of the intention of the City of Johannesburg to amend a Service Level Agreement for Development Purposes for SOUTH HILLS: MIXED INTEGRATED HOUSING DEVELOPMENT procured through its supply chain management policy
- Section 116(3) provides: "A contract or agreement procured through the supply chain management policy of the municipality or municipal entity may be amended by the parties, but only after - (a) the reasons for the proposed amendment have been tabled in the council of the municipality or, in the case of a municipal entity, in the council of its parent municipality; and (b) the local community - (i) has been given reasonable notice of the intention to amend the contract or agreement; and (ii) has been invited to submit representations to the municipality or municipal entity."
- A Service Level Agreement for development purposes South Hills: Mixed Integrated Housing Development was concluded between the City of Johannesburg as the landowner and South Hills Development Company (Pty) Ltd as the implementing agent to complete the works. This contract will be extended for a period of three (3) years commencing from date of signing an Addendum within the signed Service Level Agreement for development purposes.
- The structure of SOUTH HILLS: MIXED INTEGRATED HOUSING DEVELOPMENT Contract is summarized in the table below:

FAG #	BRIEF DESCRIPTION	TELEPHONE NUMBER
FA 01	Construction of Bulk, Link and Internal Services for the development	South Hills Development Company (Pty) Ltd
FA 02	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Construction of 1244 FLISP/Affordable units,</li> <li>Construction of 3070 Social/Gap/Rental units,</li> <li>Construction of 1309 BNG units and</li> <li>Construction of 204 CRU units</li> <li>Facilitate implementation of various community amenities.</li> </ol>	South Hills Development Company (Pty) Ltd

- Reasons to amend the term of the agreement:
  - To ensure a continuation of service delivery; and
  - To ensure the stability and uninterrupted development process to the residents of SOUTH HILLS: Mixed Integrated Housing Development and the COJ Departments,
- Queries and questions may be directed to Francis Gadzikwa and Nicholas Kgasi by Fax: (011) 018 6828 or email: [francisg@joburg.org.za](mailto:francisg@joburg.org.za) / [nicholask@joburg.org.za](mailto:nicholask@joburg.org.za)
- The local community and other interested persons are invited to submit comments or representations in respect of the proposed Contract/SLA to the Municipality. Such comments or representations must be received by no later than **25 November 2021** via e-mail: [francisg@joburg.org.za](mailto:francisg@joburg.org.za) / [nicholask@joburg.org.za](mailto:nicholask@joburg.org.za), or must be delivered at the office of City of Johannesburg Metropolitan Municipality listed hereunder and must be marked for the attention of Francis Gadzikwa.

City of Johannesburg: Region F	15th Floor, 222 Smit Street, Braamfontein	(011) 018 6825
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