



2022 DRC WORKSHOP FINAL REPORT

Teaching about the Holocaust, Genocide, and Mass Atrocities: Learning about the Past to Shape the Future

December 19 - 20, 2022

Summary

The Educators Institute for Human Rights (EIHR) and its Congolese partner the Program of Action for Sustainable Development (PADS) a workshop titled *Teaching About Holocaust, Genocide and Mass Atrocities: Learning about the Past to Shape the Future*.

This two day intensive workshop aimed to enhance educators' skills on addressing sensitive subjects related to tragic experiences of violence and to spark among students a culture of tolerance, peaceful cohabitation, understanding of diversity and preventing of further violence. The participants included teachers from primary and secondary schools, universities professors, human rights activists, youth opinion leaders, journalist, and officials from the education sector.

Two projects that EIHR and PADS have been working on since 2021 workshop were presented to the public:

1. Peace Education Short Message Alert (PESA) app was launched to send real time guidelines reminders to educators on teaching about the Holocaust, genocide, and mass atrocities to prevent hate and ethnic conflict in Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC)
2. Final draft of an educators' guide to prevent mass atrocities and peace building in the DRC.

The workshop was conducted in hybrid format via Zoom, allowing 329 participants to connect from six different locations: Kinshasa, Goma, Bukavu, Beni, Sake and Munguridjipa. There was no possibility to hold a workshop in Kiwanza site as initially planned because of the ongoing conflict in the region.

Different themes were developed by speakers from both EIHR and PADS, as well as from [United States Holocaust Museum \(USHMM\)](#), [United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization \(UNESCO\)](#), the [Anne Frank House, Paris](#), the [Institute for Economics and Peace \(IEP\)](#), and [Institute for Genocide and Mass Atrocity Prevention \(I-GMAP\)](#) at the State University of New York, Binghamton, and others independent speakers.

The event was officially opened by a representative of the Ministry of High Education and Universities of the DRC. On the night of 12 to 13 December 2022 flooding caused by heavy rains caused loss of life, destroyed infrastructure, and disrupted electricity in Kinshasa. This situation impacted the training in terms of electricity and internet provision from the main conference room in Kinshasa. While this was uncomfortable situation it has

provided lesson learned regarding backups for connectivity and translation services useful for future sessions.

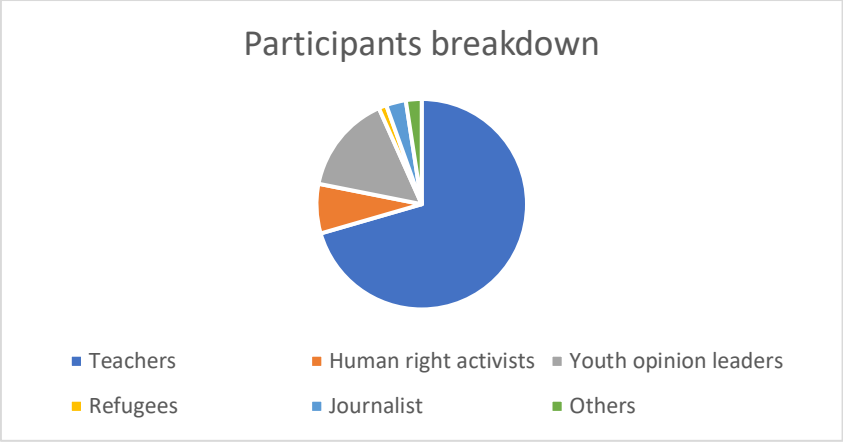
Achievements:

The workshop turnout was spectacular 219% of the initial target. The initial plan was to host 150 participants. We managed to welcome 329 thanks to strategic thinking of site managers and participants understanding. The extensive participant rate is justified by the following reasons:

- Last year 400 applications were received; only 167 educators were accepted in the workshop leaving aside a good number of interested candidates. During selection of candidates this year discussion circulated among applicants and some candidates reached out directly to request a seat for this year. Teams on the ground discussed ways of accommodating this solicitation by reducing reimbursement of transportation expenses and offering one coffee break at the beginning of the workshop and providing only water bottle in the middle of the presentations in five localities except Kinshasa. Therefore, each participant in Kinshasa received 10\$ per day while in Bukavu, Goma, Sake, Beni and Mangurejipa each one received 2.5\$ which is far low from what other organizers of workshop do offer to participants. Despite this positive discrimination participants were very committed to this workshop as they declared to be interested in the workshop topic more than anything else. Two teachers walked 20 Km from Njiapanda to attend workshop in Mangurejipa and formulated request to consider Njiapanda for future sessions. Njiapanda is a locality in the territory of Lubero in North Kivu province which has happen to be bordering Beni territory [close to Mangurejipa].
- This year not only teachers were welcomed but other professionals, such as human rights activists, youth opinion leaders, journalist, and officials from the education sector. The Site Managers reported enthusiasm to see this workshop being extended to the entire community since peaceful cohabitation is real challenge in the region.

In total 329 participants attended the workshop, of which 71% were teachers, 8 % human rights activists, 15% youth opinion leaders, 1% internally displaced person, 3% journalists and 2% from another category.

CITY	DAY 1	DAY 2
Kinshasa	47	43
Bukavu	28	28
Goma	58	58
Beni	35	38
Sake	77	77
Mangurejipa	82	85
Total	327	329



Opening remarks Ministry of High Education Rep.



Kinshasa auditorium



Food service in Kinshasa



Manguredjipa auditorium



PADS Coordinator handing certificates



Beni auditorium



Group photo in Bukavu



Bukavu auditorium



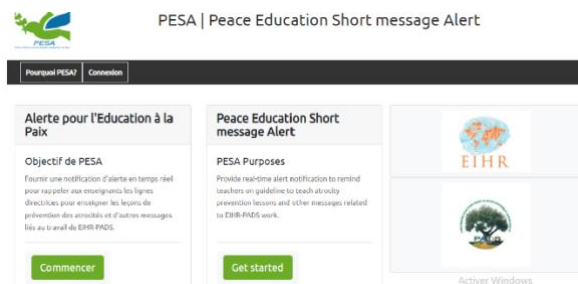
Sake auditorium (from back of the room)



Sake auditorium (from front of the room)



Goma group photo



PESA app registration screen shot

Media coverage

Daily newspapers:

- *La tempête des tropiques* N.6819 of Wednesday December 21 at page 9
- *Forum des As* N.6826 of Wednesday December 28 at page 6

Online media:

- <https://7sur7.cd/index.php/2022/12/23/rdc-des-educateurs-outilles-sur-le-traitement-des-sujets-sensibles-pour-inciter-les>

Television:

- *Canal Numérique Télévision (CNTV)* – TV Broadcasting, Dec 27 at 20H30.

Feedback

We have compiled feedbacks from all six sites and tried to categorize them.

- Making this opportunity a continued training; not limiting this to teachers but extending to entire population through raising awareness session
- Extending training duration, two days is not enough
- Need of another session on the history of Anne Frank
- Electricity and internet disrupted a little bit but overall good satisfaction on the training organization
- "Before this training I was ignorant now I have some background," one teacher said
- Teachers will need posters and educational material for peace education in classroom
- This lesson needs to be introduced to primary, secondary, and university teaching
- Advocacy for mobilization to end conflict in DRC as same as it is for Ukraine
- The guide under development needs to be finalized quickly so that we can start using it
- This workshop should be extended to opinion leaders, civil society organizations
- This peace education needs to be nationalized for all teachers not only to few applicants to this workshop.
- I liked the subject on Nazi propaganda nonetheless I would recommend you add some African based history too that would be more adaptive to our reality here
- The image of the child on the grave reminded me of my sad experience when our village was attacked, I had no other place to hide. The best place I could find was on my parents' grave
- I was interested with Anne Frank story; I request to have this training two to three times each year
- I request that you make available to participants some books with all these subjects. Also, you need to revise the time workshop must close because of traffic jam in the city. Same claim from the participants in the Eastern DRC who were obliged to leave before the end of the session.

Recommendations

- Need to plan for break next time and allocate enough time for discussions and experience exchange
- Need to add protocol personnel to guide visitor and listen to participants requests
- Need to develop mass atrocity media campaign program
- Training a pool of local trainers who can scale up this training at schools in remote area where even internet connection is not possible. These local trainers must follow EIHR certification training
- Discuss with authority for the introduction of specific peace education program at primary, secondary and university
- North Kivu province to be the experimental zone of the teacher guide once it gets finalized
- Need of having better quality equipment for image visualization and Sound system for sites in the remote area.

Actions

- Discuss with Anne Frank house possibility to organize a session focused on the History of Anne Frank. Christine Loreau mentioned such possibility in her presentation and the message was echoed among participants
- Make progress on a DRC Education Summit to convey message of introducing this type of education into the teaching curriculum
- Planning for 2023 end of year workshop with extended duration
- Send a PESA message to all participants of 2021 and 2022 session before January 15, 2023. Next step of the PESA app will be checking possibility to send same message with WhatsApp.