

IRIS MAENDELEO

IRISMILE WITH CHILDREN



BUKAVU, GOMA DR CONGO

The ongoing conflict in the DR Congo continue to severely affect children's well-being, exposing them to displacement, extreme poverty, malnutrition, and emotional distress. In response to this humanitarian reality, **IRIS MAENDELEO** implemented the **IRISMILE WITH CHILDREN** activity as a concrete action to protect children, restore hope, and reinforce their emotional resilience.

On 28 December 2025, the organization supported 12 vulnerable children hospitalized at CBCA Nyamugo hospital in Bukavu, and on 30 December 2025, assisted 45 displaced children and 15 parents in Mugunga, Goma. The intervention focused on three key pillars: child protection and dignity, emotional and psychosocial support, and hope restoration.

Main activities



Assisting children in hospital

Emilie, an 8-month-old girl hospitalized since September 2025 at CBCA Nyamugo Hospital, was abandoned by her teenage mother (unable to pay the 200 USD bill) and left in the care of another 8-year-girl. Moved by compassion, IRIS MAENDELEO covered 40% of the hospitall fees.



Relaxation time

To ease emotional stress, IRIS MAENDELEO organized games and dances, helping displaced children in Mugunga feel safe and valued. This moment of relaxation restored their hope, bringing smiles, joy, confidence, and a renewed sense of childhood.



Shared dinner time

Through a shared dinner with children, IRIS MAENDELEO strengthned emotional security and hope by creating a family-like atmosphere of care and belonging, while responding to both their physical and psychological needs.