Cascading risk communication and community engagement (RCCE) efforts to support COVID-19 response in Haut Katanga and Kinshasa provinces, Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC)

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Results – Building Capacity and Expanding Reach

- **Established 1,492 CACs and trained 8,067 RECO** in 10 health zones in Kinshasa and Haut Katanga provinces between July – December 2022.

- **Developed 1,492 Community Action Plans (PAC)** in alignment with the National Integrated Communication Plan (PIC) between January – March 2023.

- **Conducted supervision visits at 3- and 6-months** post-PAC initiation to assess reach and reporting and identify lessons learned.

- CACs reported reaching **>2.2 million** people in Kinshasa and **>100,000** in Haut Katanga between March – September 2023

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Province</th>
<th>Number of streets/avenues visited</th>
<th>Number of people sensitization (household visits)</th>
<th>Number of people sensitized outside of household visits</th>
<th>Number of community leaders sensitized</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Haut Katanga</td>
<td>515</td>
<td>103,714</td>
<td>77,797</td>
<td>715</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kinshasa</td>
<td>17,443</td>
<td>2,292,536</td>
<td>266,643</td>
<td>15,712</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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**March-Sept 2023**
Results – Facilitators and Barriers

- CAC/RECO reported being **well-trained** to respond to COVID-19
- **Community action plans** developed and shared with higher levels
- Lack of **visibility** of RECO (badges, vest, etc.); some felt demotivated by this **lack of recognition**
- Some streets/households not covered due to **inactive** or displaced RECO
- Data collection not **harmonized** across sectors; **resupply** of tools a long-term challenge
- Need to **reinforce capacity** to manage misinformation and rumors

*Community events/rumors notification form, Haut Katanga province, September 2023*
Lessons Learned & Recommendations

- **Major effort and resources** to establish CAC, identify and train RECO, and develop PACs.
- **Activation of this network of community actors** has huge potential during health emergencies.
- **Multiple tools and reporting responsibilities** are challenging to manage with limited time/resources.
- RECO want more visibility in their communities and more support from political-administrative authorities.
- **Need to continuously strengthen capacities** to address evolving rumors and misinformation.
- **Need for support and resources** to operationalize community action plans (PAC) to respond to community needs.
- **Need to explore sustainability strategies** over the long term to respond to future health challenges.

*Conducting supervision/data collection visits in Haut Katanga, September 2023.*