

Press release

More than 1,500 women and young people to benefit from psychosocial support through a project led by a consortium of three women's organizations in Butembo and supported by the Office of the UN Emergency Ebola Response Coordinator.

Butembo, 04 November 2019 - The office of the UN Emergency Ebola Response Coordinator (UNEERO), Mr. David Gressly, and representatives of the consortium of three women's organizations in Butembo, Women Engaged for the Promotion of Integral Health (FEPSI), League of Organizations of Rural Women of Congo (LOFEPACO) and the Association for the Defense of Women's Rights (ADDF), signed on Monday, November 4, a Memorandum of Understanding to support young people and vulnerable women affected by Ebola in seven health zones in the Beni and Lubero territories and in the city of Butembo.

The objective of this project is to support young people and vulnerable women affected by Ebola and those who have been victims of violence in Beni, Butembo and Lubero. Amounting to 49,775 USD, the project includes the provision of psychosocial support to youth and women victims of human rights violations.

These three women's organizations in Butembo will run activities for a period of two months in seven health zones including Musienene, Kalunguta, Masereka, Vuhovi, Kiondo, Butembo and Katwa.

Speaking on behalf of the consortium of these three organizations, Mrs. Kafanya Marie Dolorose, general secretary of the FEPSI, indicated that all activities will be oriented in particular towards young people and women and will include *"the organization of focus groups and popular forums, psycho-medical support for young people and women, mentoring young people and women in income-generating activities and the delivery of socioeconomic support kits."*

The UN Coordinator for the Emergency Response to the Ebola Epidemic in the DRC, David Gressly, for his part, said that it was essential to support survivors and Ebola-affected communities even after the outbreak is over: *"We have made great progress in the fight against Ebola and we must continue this commitment. Even after this epidemic is over, it will be necessary to continue to support Ebola survivors and the communities in which they live."*

The two territories of Beni and Lubero that surround Butembo city face great insecurity maintained by various armed groups killing, looting, raping and kidnapping peaceful citizens. Since 2018, the Ebola epidemic in the region has worsened the situation.

END