

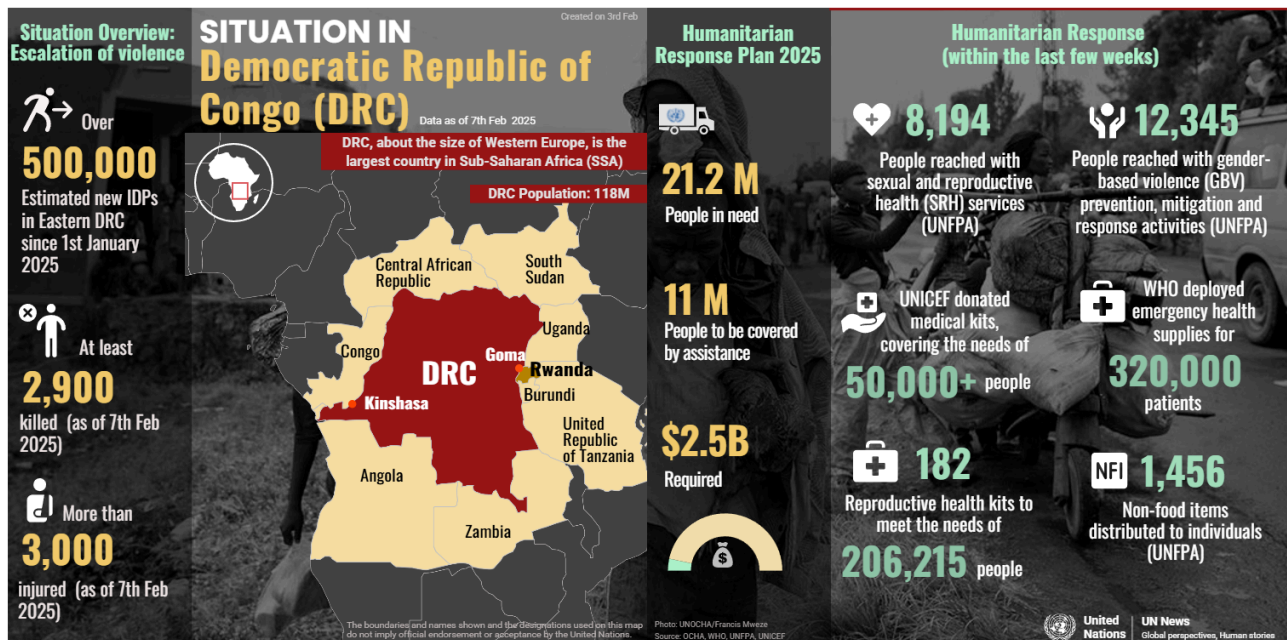
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Title: *Missionary work deepens individuals' faith by serving communities globally*

By Dieudonne Ruturwa MPH, CEO of AHEAD, September 2025

Evidence from different sources show greater need for humanitarian action in eastern of the DRC¹



"And I heard the voice of the Lord saying, 'Whom shall I send, and who will go for us?' Then I said, 'Here I am! Send me.'" Isaiah's willing response illustrates the attitude of readiness for missions. Isaiah 6:8

¹ <https://news.un.org/en/story/2025/02/1160101>

And the King will answer them, ‘Truly, I say to you, as you did it to one of the least of these my brothers, you did it to me.’” – Matthew 25:40

This report provides a summary of outcomes from the great partnership between **Nazarene Church in Bangor ME and AHEAD** towards quality of life improvement through literacy and ESL among immigrants and refugees in the USA. Beneficiaries include individuals and families from different countries including those from Africa, South America and native born Americans. Missionary work has reached 50 individuals with literacy and ESL in the city of Goma DRC. 40 youth including widows were provided with sewing machines to increase vocational skills in the City of Goma. Community Health insurance for over 300 vulnerable families in Rwanda were paid for through this great partnership. Nazarene Church Bangor ME and AHEAD are grateful to its partners and individuals including church members for the donation and support provided to back -up missionary work towards quality of life improvement of beneficiaries.

1. Background

- (a) The Church of Nazarene brings together individuals and families who believe in Jesus Christ. We serve those in need of salvation and those who have decided to make Jesus as the Lord of their lives, sharing in Christian fellowship, and seeking to strengthen each other in faith development through worship, preaching, training, and helping others. We strive to express the compassion of Jesus Christ to all persons along with our personal commitment to Christ.

While the primary motive of the church is to glorify God, we are also called to actively participate in his mission of reconciling the world to himself. Our mission statement focuses on Evangelism, Sanctification, Discipleship and compassion.

- (b) AHEAD: is a non – profit organization committed to ensure effective community engagement in various sectors leading to life improvement and economic growth. AHEAD holds the **501 (C) (3)** and

serves community members particularly immigrants in the United States of America. AHEAD and the Nazarene church in Bangor ME are committed to help community members access social services².

(c) With the support from different stakeholders including the Literacy Volunteers in Bangor ME, a good number of immigrants and refugees were supported to improve quality of life through Adult literacy and ESL programs in the State of Ohio and Maine of the USA.

2. Achievements:

2.1. Special Prayer services heart broken

On April 26, 2025 the Church of Nazarene in Bangor ME, Africa Nazarene Ministries in partnership with AHEAD organized a special prayer service for



Congolese east of DRC in difficulties related to recurrent conflicts.

The purpose of the event was to stand in solidarity with Tutsi and Banyamulenge and entire civilian communities victims of Genocide against Tutsi - Banyamulenge and Hema in the eastern of DRC³.

The event was attended by over a hundred people from different churches, especially members of Nazarene Church in Bangor ME. Prior to this event the leadership of Nazarene church and AHEAD conducted an awareness session through different social medias including Fox news TV and youtube channels ⁴. A booklet describing challenges that Banyamulenge are facing was developed and copies printed and distributed in Bangor ME A video documentary was produced to serve as a basis for future advocacy events.

² [Bangor church helps refugees adjust through education | News | foxbangor.com](https://www.foxbangor.com/news/bangor-church-helps-refugees-adjust-through-education/)

³ <https://www.youtube.com/live/euwlkizu0FM?si=WxC9OSMa7zapii0k>

⁴ [Bangor church raises funds for DRC | News | foxbangor.com](https://www.foxbangor.com/news/bangor-church-raises-funds-for-drc/)

1.2. Partnership with Bangor savings:



Bangor Savings Foundation in the State of Maine provided support to AHEAD to advance literacy and English learning among immigrants and refugees in the USA.

We are grateful to such catalytic support from Bangor Savings foundation - this will help us strengthen the on-going literacy program of

literacy and ESL reiterated Mr. Dieudonne Ruturwa CEO of AHEAD - AAHEAD.ORG

One of the students mentioned that the Nazarene church and AHEAD helped us to get connected to different resources including English learning. Your help contributes to improving our life and being effective in what we are doing, emphasized Pastor Orida.

We really thank Bangor Savings Foundation for this support — this is the beginning of our partnership. Don't hesitate to give us a call if there are any other opportunities to reinforce this program for the benefits of our community members, reiterated Pastor Joseph.

The one-on-one approach of teaching English and literacy development works well. We take this opportunity to appreciate the Bangor volunteers and Bangor savings for your support. Some of our students mentioned to us they were able to get promoted at the workplace because of language improvement, emphasized Pastor Yves.

3. About Missionary work

The purpose of Nazarene church in partnership with AHEAD's missionary work in Africa is to spread the Christian gospel and build up local churches and leaders, while also promoting education, vocational training, and social development like justice, peace, and community healing.

This partnership for missionary work focuses mainly on the following:

- **Evangelization and Discipleship:** The primary goal is to proclaim the Christian message and disciple new believers, with a focus on

reaching unreached people groups and strengthening existing churches.

- **Child protection:** Children and their wellbeing are the heart of our work. Child wellbeing can be defined as the realization of children's rights, basic needs and the opportunity for every child to have a life in dignity, with love and with a promising future. Child protection is therefore an important aspect of AHEAD and Nazarene church. Our partnership ensures children's safety and access to holistic development services including education.
- **Leadership development:** Nazarene and AHEAD missions work to build up the leadership of local churches by training clergy and lay ministers, ensuring the sustainability of Christian communities.
- **Education and Vocational Skills:** Nazarene Church and AHEAD's Missionaries often introduce or expand access to formal Western education and teach vocational skills like sewing, Learning English as second language, literacy development, carpentry, masonry, and scientific agriculture to improve community well-being in the targeted countries,
- **Social and community development:** AHEAD's projects often include promoting health, justice, peace, healing, and reconciliation, addressing poverty, and providing compassionate care to communities.
- **Partnerships development:** Our goal is to partner with and mobilize African believers, empowering them to become missionaries to their own people, thereby shifting from a foreign-led model to local empowerment.

4. Oversees missionary work

4.1. Literacy and English learning



With the support of Nazarene Church and AHEAD -aahead.org ASADI launched a six month period of English learning as

second language to the Congolese community living in Goma East of DRC from August 6, 2025.

This program aims at helping congolese community members of 18 years and above in need of improving speaking, listening and writing in English.

The main purpose of this initiative is to help congolese improve literacy, increase english skills to become more effective in doing their business in the Eastern Africa region and in the world.

ASADI is determined to help post conflicts recovery through facilitation of population to access social services as well as providing support to peace building in DRC and the region.

4.2. Community Dialogue - Health promotion

With the support of Nazarene church and AHEAD, On September 9 a community gathering named “Inteko y’abaturationge” In Kirehe, Rwanda, local health officers from Kirehe conducted a community dialogue session that brought together around 700 people from the Mahama sector.

The event took place in the cell of Munini. Led by local authorities and AHID technical staff, the dialogue reflected key prevention messages and raised awareness of community



members for the utilization of family planning, sexual and reproductive health services, HIV and GBV prevention. Health professionals engaged directly with residents to promote better health outcomes. This one-day community mobilization emphasized particularly on Family planning (kuboneza urubyaro), prevention of HIV and ending stigma associated with AIDS. Participants demonstrated active participation by asking questions. This indicates a greater need for regular dialogue on such topics by covering all sectors. AHID was commended for professionalism and quality of services. Mutelle de sante for 350 people was paid for by AHEAD and Nazarene church through AHID Rwanda.

4.3. Education & Child protection⁵

Help Children in the Democratic Republic of Congo

- The Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) is one of the worst conflict-affected countries to be a child.
- Today, the number of people in the DRC facing extreme hunger is among the highest in the world.
- Save the Children has worked in the DRC since 1994 to meet humanitarian needs of children, reaching more than 2.5 million people in 2022.

26M

Over 26.4 million people are in need of humanitarian assistance in the DRC—or about one in every four people—including 14.2 million children

30

Conflict has been raging in parts of the country for nearly 30 years, with children paying the heaviest price

\$2.15

Nearly 64% of Congolese live on less than \$2.15 a day, with 60 million living in extreme poverty



As part of child protection strategy AHEAD and the Bangor Nazarene church initiated a support to the education of 160 children in Goma /DRC through provision of school learning materials. There is a plan to extend the support to hundreds of needy youth populations in the area.

Several sources of 2025 indicate that of the estimated 220,000 pregnant women in North and South Kivu, over 12,000 are currently displaced with no assured medical care. More than 88,000 women and girls are at risk of gender-based violence, while unintended pregnancies are expected to rise due to the collapse of health services⁶.

UNICEF data demonstrate that even before the latest escalation of the conflict, the education system in eastern DRC was under immense strain, due, in part, to the high number of displaced people. More than 6.5 million people, including 2.6 million children, are currently displaced in the region. Fierce conflict since the start of the year has forced more than 2,500 schools and learning spaces in North Kivu and South Kivu, including those in

⁵ <https://www.savethechildren.org/us/where-we-work/democratic-republic-of-congo>

⁶ [UNICEF.org](https://www.unicef.org/drc) UNICEF sounds alarm over child crisis in eastern DR Congo

displacement camps, to close. With schools shuttered, damaged or destroyed, or turned into shelters, 795,000 children are now being deprived of education – up from 465,000 in December 2024. Including Ituri Province, over 1.6 million children in eastern DRC are now out of school.

4.4. Vocational Skills development



AHEAD is convinced that Africa is one of continents with a rapidly growing youth population. We believe that it is essential that all young people, including women, girls and vulnerable populations, can develop the competencies they need to thrive. In this regard AHEAD and Nazarene church initiated vocational classes in the City of Goma on sewing skills development. 50 females including

widows are trained in sewing. There is a plan to extend this program to hundreds of widows and other vulnerable populations towards quality of life improvement through income generating activities.

5. Conclusion

Although much has been done during this year of 2025, we still have a long journey in translating our faith into concrete actions to help others to grow spiritually and economically. My faith demands that I do whatever I can, wherever I am. Supporting others to improve quality of life is essential. Giving to others is an investment that we are making for ourselves.

AHEAD and the Nazarene church's missionary work that we started shows very good outcomes in the lives of beneficiaries. We believe that such partnership, if well managed over the years to come, will open opportunities to spread Christianity through evangelism and discipleship, fostering community and providing vital humanitarian aid like medical care and education.

AHEAD and Nazarene church of Bangor ME we are therefore committed to advance support to our church members and extend compassion to vulnerable population groups through missionary work.

Christian kindness action deepens individuals' faith, brings cultural exchange and understanding, and addresses physical and spiritual needs by serving communities globally.

The work we started through literacy, ESL and vocational skills development broadens a church's vision, creates purpose for believers, and strengthens faith by connecting individuals to the larger Christian mission.

AHEAD: A 501 (C) (3) helps needy populations to improve quality of life

1. Programs:



- Literacy & ESL
- Agribusiness,
- Health promotion,
- Civic engagement,
- Gender Equality,
- Labor force development
- Job application
- Legal aid support

2. Donation: Your contribution helps:

- Increase participation in agribusiness
- Increase uptake of health services
- Integration of immigrants into the American Society
- Increase access to social services
- Mitigate domestic violence
- Increase labor force

You can donate @

