### IMPACTING BEYOND EDUCATION - BY CONGOLESE INTEGRATION NETWORK

Navigating Challenges, Delivering Culturally
Responsive Education, and Fostering
Community Growth



## Land & Global Solidarity Acknowledgment Arlington, VA I DRCongo

We acknowledge the ancestral lands of the Nacotchtank (Anacostan) and Piscataway peoples.

We honor their enduring presence and stewardship.

We also hold a moment of silence for the people of the Democratic Republic of Congo—recognizing ongoing suffering, resilience, and the call for global justice.

### Ongoing Crisis in the Democratic Republic of Congo A Humanitarian Emergency with Global Ties

Over 6 million people have died as a result of conflict since the 1990s More than 7 million internally displaced, making DRC one of the world's largest displacement crises.

Eastern Congo remains devastated by armed groups funded through the illicit trade of conflict minerals (coltan, cobalt,go



## UNDERSTANDING THE FAMILIES WE SERVE

# CONGOLESE INTEGRATION NETWORK PC+ CONFERENCE PRESENTATION

Today, we will explore the unique challenges faced by the families we serve—and how CIN takes a holistic approach to help parents support not just their child's learning experience, but the address root causes of these challenges. Our goal is to ensure that the entire family, not just the child, has an equal opportunity from the start.



## RECOGNIZE: UNDERSTANDING FAMILIES WE SERVE

Understanding the families we serve is crucial for effective integration and support. We aim to recognize their diverse backgrounds and the unique challenges they face in adapting to a new environment.



# DISCUSS TRAUMA AND CULTURAL SHOCK

Many families experience trauma and cultural shock when relocating to the U.S., impacting their ability to adapt. It is essential to address these issues to provide the necessary support for their integration.



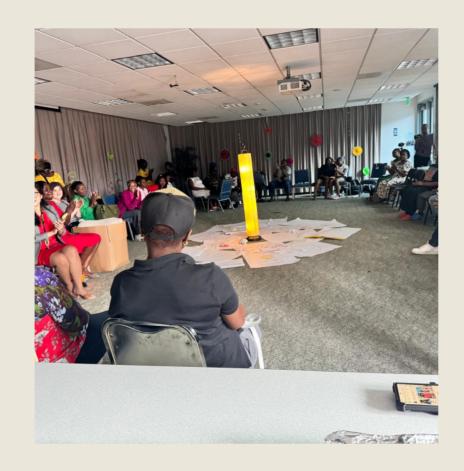
### ENGAGING HARD-TO-REACH FAMILIES

CIN employs various strategies to identify and engage hard-to-reach families, ensuring they receive the support they need. Building trust and understanding cultural nuances are key to successful engagement.



# HIGHLIGHT FAMILY STORY EXAMPLES

Sharing family stories helps illustrate the impact of our programs and the resilience of the families we serve. These narratives provide insight into their journeys and the support they need to thrive.





## UNDERSTANDING THE FAMILIES WE SERVE

### PROTECT: CULTURALLY ROOTED PROGRAM DELIVERY

Due program delivery is deeply rooted in the cultural values and practices of the families we serve, ensuring that their unique needs are met. By integrating culturally relevant approaches, we faster a supportive environment that encourages family engagement and participation.

### ADAPTING PC+ THROUGH CIN

ON has adapted the Parent Dilds program to better serve our community by incorporating feedback from families and staff. This collaborative approach ensures that our program remains relevant and effective in addressing the challenges faced by immigrant families.

### ELS ENRICHMENT WITH PROMOTING FIRST RELATIONSHIPS TRAINING

Our Early Learning Specialists (ELS) receive training in Promoting First Relationships to enhance their skills in supporting families. This training equips them with the tools to foster strong parentchild interactions, which are crucial for early development.

### ADDRESSING THE 1-CHILD RULE CHALLENGE

The 1-child rule presents a significant challenge for many families, limiting their ability to fully participate in our programs. We are actively exploring solutions to this issue, including Resible scheduling and additional resources to support larger families.

### SECURING SUPPLEMENTAL SERVICES VIA HELP ME GROW

Through our parkneship with Help Me Grow, we were able to secure appliamental services that orivance the support we provide to families. These services include developmental screenings and referrals to additional resources, manning camprimenses appear for children's growth. Unifortunately, this funding ended in 2002.



## PROGRAM DELIVERY AND ADAPTATION

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## SECURING SUPPLEMENTAL SERVICES VIA HELP ME GROW

Through our partnership with Help Me Grow, we were able to secure supplemental services that enhance the support we provide to families. These services include developmental screenings and referrals to additional resources, ensuring comprehensive support for children's growth. Unfortunately, this funding ended in 2022.

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## PROGRAM DELIVERY AND ADAPTATION



### EMPOWER: RESPONDING WITH INNOVATION

The Congolese Integration Network (CIN) has launched innovative programs to empower familities, focusing on overcoming language and employment barriers. By providing resources and support, we aim to create a more inclusive environment for all families in our community.



### LAUNCHING CONVERSATIONAL ESL CLASSES

CIN has introduced conversational ESL classes to help parents improve their language skills, fostering better communication and engagement in their children's education. These classes not only enhance language proficiency but also build confidence among participants.



### **EMPLOYMENT NAVIGATION SUPPORT**

To support parents in their employment journey. CIN offers navigation assistance that helps them access job opportunities and resources. This initiative empowers families to achieve economic stability while actively participating in their children's early literacy development.



### ENGAGING FATHERS AND REDEFINING ROLES IN EARLY EDUCATION

CIN is committed to engaging fathers in the early education process, redefining traditional roles and promoting active participation. By creating spaces for fathers to connect and share experiences, we foster a supportive community that values their contributions.





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# INTERACTIVE DISCUSSION: REFLECTING ON WORK WITH IMMIGRANT FAMILIES

As we gather to reflect on our experiences with immigrant families, it's essential to consider the unique challenges they face in adapting to new environments. Let's share insights on how our programs have made a difference in their lives and what we can improve moving forward.



### PROGRAM EXPANSION

As we look to the future, it's essential to identify where else our programs can serve families. We must advocate for resources that support long-term and sustained funding for early learning initiatives.



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