

IMPACTING BEYOND EDUCATION - BY CONGOLESE INTEGRATION NETWORK

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



Land & Global Solidarity Acknowledgment

Arlington, VA | 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



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Arlington, VA | 2023 Congress

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CONGOLISE: INTEGRATION NETWORK PG+ CONFERENCE PRESENTATION

Using our social justice framework, we engage local hosts to bring resources and local OH data to help support integration efforts. We also offer a safe space for families to share their experiences and challenges. For past 6 months, the network has helped 100+ families find a place to live.



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 integrate. It is essential to address these issues to provide the necessary support for their integration.



ENGAGING HARD-TO-REACH FAMILIES

OH 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

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.](#)



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Land & Global Solidarity Acknowledgment
Arlington, VA | 08/20/2023

We acknowledge the ancestral lands of the Nacotank Band of the Lumbee Tribe and the Pamlico Band of the Lumbee Tribe, who have been enduring processes and consequences.

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UNDERSTANDING THE FAMILIES WE SERVE

PROTECT: CULTURALLY ROOTED PROGRAM DELIVERY

Our 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 foster a supportive environment that encourages family engagement and participation.

ADAPTING PC+ THROUGH CIN

CIN has adapted the ParentChild 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 parent-child 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 flexible scheduling and additional resources to support larger families.

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.




PROGRAM DELIVERY AND ADAPTATION



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PROGRAM DELIVERY AND ADAPTATION



EMPOWER: RESPONDING WITH INNOVATION

The Congolese Integration Network (CIN) has launched innovative programs to empower families, 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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EMPOWERMENT AND INNOVATION





INTERACTIVE DISCUSSION: REFLECTING ON WORK WITH IMMIGRANT FAMILIES

As we gather to reflect on our experiences, we bring our own perspectives to the table. We consider the unique challenges they face in navigating a new environment. 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 our programs can grow. Let's explore new initiatives that support long-term and sustained funding for early learning initiatives.

REFLECTION AND FUTURE DIRECTIONS

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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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