

## Democratic Republic of Congo

### STUDIO HIRONDELLE-RDC

Studio Hironnelle-RDC is a Fondation Hironnelle project in the Democratic Republic of Congo, operating since 2014. Via professional, committed media, it aims to help consolidate democracy in the country through better involvement of Congolese citizens, particularly women and young people.

Its programmes, broadcast in 5 languages (French, Lingala, Kikongo, Tshiluba and Swahili), place people at the centre, providing them with reliable, independent information and getting their voices better heard through strengthened local media. Since September 2023, its work has focused primarily on governance and on various electoral processes.



Map of Studio Hironnelle RDC's network of media partners.

#### FINANCIAL VOLUME 2023

570,303 CHF

#### SOURCES OF FUNDING

- European Union
- Switzerland (SDC - Core contribution)
- Income generated

Further information is available at:  
[www.studiohirondellerrdc.org](http://www.studiohirondellerrdc.org)

#### Key figures for 2023



124 radios and  
23 TV partners



35,400 website  
users



48 media  
professionals  
trained



28'000 followers on  
social media



5 broadcast  
languages



22 hours pf  
broadcasting

### Context

The year 2023 was marked by presidential and legislative elections in DRC. Fighting involving the armed group M23 intensified in the east of the country, forcing hundreds of thousands of people to move and exacerbating community tensions. Against this backdrop, the Congolese media, already weakened by a lack of resources, were particularly exposed to the risk of being exploited, especially in the face of the growing challenges of misinformation on social networks in relation to issues of governance and peace.

### Committed citizen media to strengthen democratic culture and fight misinformation

Between October and December 2023, Studio Hironnelle-RDC produced 10 magazines, 2 studio debates and 2 public debates, in 5 languages (French, Lingala, Kikongo, Tshiluba, Swahili). These programmes covered the main electoral issues at national and local level, including public policy analysis and civic and political engagement among young people.

In Kinshasa, Kananga, Goma and Mbandaka, the partner media benefited from editorial and technical training, as well as training on the challenges of running a community radio station. The editorial team at Studio Hironnelle-RDC received support to refine its digital strategy. It took part in a workshop on solutions journalism applied to the environment and climate change.

Studio Hironnelle RDC broadcast its programmes through its network of 124 community radio stations and 23 partner television stations throughout the country. In 2023, the studio developed new digital formats for broadcasting on social networks, in particular Facebook and YouTube, but also for a younger audience on Tik Tok or Instagram.

### OUR IMPACT

In addition to its radio and web media productions, Studio Hironnelle-RDC is making a special effort to step up its presence on young people's social networks (Tik Tok or Instagram). This is a way of reaching a different audience, increasing audience engagement and the reach of the content produced. It also represents a new development for Fondation Hironnelle.

### TESTIMONIAL

*"Even though I'm not old enough to vote, I've managed to understand the rationale behind elections and how they work. I'm way ahead of the students at my school."*

Eric Amboka, schoolboy listener to Radio Mwana in Mbandaka.

Studio Hironnelle-RDC continues to offer radio content while retaining its added value: short, impactful, balanced and relevant formats. The studio deals with post-democratic and electoral issues through debates and round tables with local citizens and political players. The team offers fact-checking content to decipher false information. Media literacy programmes are produced to support citizens in their critical consumption of different sources of information.

In 2024, Studio Hironnelle-RDC will develop digital tools capable of monitoring fake news and online hate speech. The studio team plans to strengthen its digital presence, particularly on Tik Tok and Instagram.

Training will be given to journalists from both the studio and partner media. Topics covered include investigative techniques, fact-checking, data analysis, governance and citizen participation in public debate. Training sessions for local trainers are organised to work on developing a team of Congolese trainers with the pedagogical skills to provide editorial training for community media.

### PRIORITIES

- ▶ Issues following the democratic and electoral process
- ▶ Fact-checking
- ▶ Media literacy
- ▶ Strengthening digital strategy

### ACTIVITIES

- ▶ Broadcasting 3.5 hours of programmes per week in 5 languages
- ▶ Training for journalists from the studio and partner media
- ▶ Monitoring misinformation and hate speech online and offline

### BENEFICIARIES

Thanks to a national network of 147 media partners in every province of the country, Studio Hironnelle-RDC's programmes cover the entire country, with a potential audience (Kantar, 2019) of more than 30 million Congolese.

In addition to citizens, the entire media sector benefits from the productions and capacity-building of media players.

### DRIVERS OF CHANGE

- Fighting disinformation and misinformation
- Media literacy
- Strengthening democratic culture

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