



## SUCCESS STORY

### PROMISING PARTNER'S GRANT



To paraphrase the team leader of the USAID health team in DRC “Some of the best development ideas spring up not in Washington or Kinshasa but in the areas where they are most needed”. One of the components of Project AXxes, ‘The Promising Partners’ Grant’ (PPG) was designed to foster and develop just that.

This past quarter a number of proposals were submitted to Project AXxes. Ideas ranged from focusing on low-risk (as opposed to high risk) persons in mining areas of DRC where the seroprevalence of HIV/Aids is the highest in the country and low risk students become high risk workers. Another group wanted to establish community run micro-enterprises aside health clinics with cooperative management. One NGO sought to form clubs; bringing together parents, students, and teachers to bring to light the problem of sexual harassment of female students; others addressed the issue of girls becoming mothers or prostitutes. In another region where sexual assault is prevalent, a group wanted to ensure that victims of rape come forward and that perpetrators were prosecuted. Their appeal for funding was based on the premise that many in rural areas don’t recognize sexual assault as a crime. A program in Katanga Province recognizing that malnutrition is both a socio-economic and health phenomenon, sought to identify high risk families and screen children based on risk factors, intervening before the vicious cycle of malnutrition started.

The PPG program seeks to not only foster ideas, but to train and support grass root NGOs to implement them. After a process of submissions and screenings several NGO representatives were invited to Kinshasa where Project AXxes staff worked with them in developing proposals, procedures and protocols. A two-tiered training process involved writing skills, budget establishment, creation of indicators, and modalities to monitor and measure progress.

Four new grants, ranging from \$25,000 to \$30,000, were selected this quarter for funding and submitted to the USAID for approval. Project AXxes believes that the success in these endeavors will be twofold: First, through the delivery of health and development services to communities in need and second, by fostering of local ideas and grass root organizations that not only give credence to local initiatives, but represent hope for sustainability in development, long after Project AXxes has fulfilled its objectives.

*The AXxes ‘The Promising Partners’ Grant’ not only fosters innovative ideas, but also builds the capacity of grass root NGOs to develop, manage and monitor sustainable health projects within their communities.*