

Title : Survivors' Experience: Capitalization For Quality Healthcare

In the context of its actions in the South Kivu province in the Democratic Republic of Congo, the NGO Doctors of the World Belgium observed gaps in the proposed intervention strategies to promote both the acceptability of services in sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR) and to empower survivors of sexual violence. Through participatory action research, an innovative approach to capitalizing on the experience of women survivors of sexual violence and beneficiaries of the SRHR program was experimented with the aim of determining if this capitalization approach could address the identified gaps.

This participatory approach showed promising results, notably by improving the well-being of the research participants involved but also by strengthening their ability to act, at both the individual and community levels. Capitalizing on the experience of the participants, both in terms of their resilience journey and the aspects related to their healthcare experience, led to the development of a strategy conceived by and for survivors to enhance the quality of care.

The lessons learned from this initiative can influence healthcare practice at various levels. By valuing the experiential knowledge of survivors, we have understood that an approach centered on beneficiaries and valuing the knowledge of indigenous peoples is essential for more effective and respectful healthcare. These insights could help transform health policies, thereby supporting current and future efforts to ensure the right to health for all.