

Annual Report 2023– 2024

Une
Chance
de
vivre



*Together for maternal
and newborn health*

*A world where every mother and every
newborn have access to quality care, no
matter where they are born.*

English Edition

2023–2024

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President's message

The years 2023 and 2024 marked an important turning point for Une Chance de Vivre.

The neonatal unit project at the Kimbanguist Hospital in Kinshasa, which we have been carrying since 2017, entered a new phase with the delivery of modern medical equipment. This delivery turned out to be full of challenges and learning for us, but it also enabled us to expand our network of collaborators in the DRC.

In a context of political transition in the Democratic Republic of the Congo—marked by elections and long months of waiting before the appointment of the new government—we had to deal with unusual administrative delays and uncertainties on the ground. These circumstances slowed several of our efforts, in particular our discussions with local authorities.

But these challenges were also a source of learning and consolidation. As we were approached by other health facilities seeking support in neonatal and maternal care, we realized how important it was to anchor our action more strongly at the institutional level. With this in mind, in 2024 we obtained official recognition from the Congolese authorities and began discussions with the Ministry of Planning of the DRC in order to sign a framework agreement.

Despite the challenges, we continued to save lives, train health workers and build bridges between Quebec and Africa.



We continued to care for hundreds of newborns in our unit in Kinshasa. And finally, we laid the foundations of a forward-looking project: Acces-Neo, an innovative digital platform for clinical training tailored to low-resource settings.

These achievements are the result of collective commitment, a shared vision and solidarity without borders.

Every mother's smile, every breath of a newborn reminds us why we do this work and why we exist as an organization.


I would like to express my deep gratitude to our partners, families, volunteers, donors and collaborators who, each in their own way, help bring our mission to life: *enabling every mother and every newborn to have access to quality care, no matter where they are born.*

Micha Mfuana
President and co-founder



Mission, vision, values

Our Mission



To promote and improve the quality of maternal and newborn care in low-resource settings, so that every life can begin in dignity and safety.

Our Vision

A world where every mother and every newborn have access to quality care, no matter where they are born.

Our values

Our work is based on strong values that guide each of our decisions and interventions :



Reliability :

Being a trusted partner for families, health workers and communities.



Innovation :

Offering simple, creative solutions adapted to local realities.



Integrity :

Acting with transparency, ethics and responsibility.



Equity :

Ensuring access to care for all, without discrimination.



Agility :

Adapting quickly to challenges and the changing needs of communities.



Safety :

Providing care that follows best practices and is centred on the patient's well-being.

Our areas of intervention

To put our mission and vision into practice, we focus our efforts on three main areas:



Training and capacity-building for local health-care providers.



Equipment and technical support for partner hospitals.



Digital innovation, through the development of the Acces-Neo platform.



Equality and empowerment



Our approach places women at the heart of change.

We recognize that maternal health is inseparable from women's rights and dignity, and that it is a key driver of equality.

We also work to strengthen the autonomy of local teams by prioritizing skills transfer and the development of sustainable solutions rather than dependence on external aid.



Empowering women is the key to breaking the cycle of inequalities and building a sustainable future.



Global context & inequalities

At the global level, maternal and child health remains a major issue, with significant disparities in survival depending on place of birth or residence.

According to United Nations data, every two minutes a woman dies from preventable causes related to pregnancy or childbirth, **70%** of these deaths occurring in sub-Saharan Africa (World Health Organization, 2023).

A woman living in sub-Saharan Africa has a risk of maternal death **forty times higher** than a woman in Australia or New Zealand (WHO, 2023).

Newborns are also affected by these gaps: a child born in sub-Saharan Africa is **ten to fifteen times more likely** to die in their first month of life than a baby born in Europe or North America (UNICEF, 2023).

These differences are mainly explained by access to and quality of care.

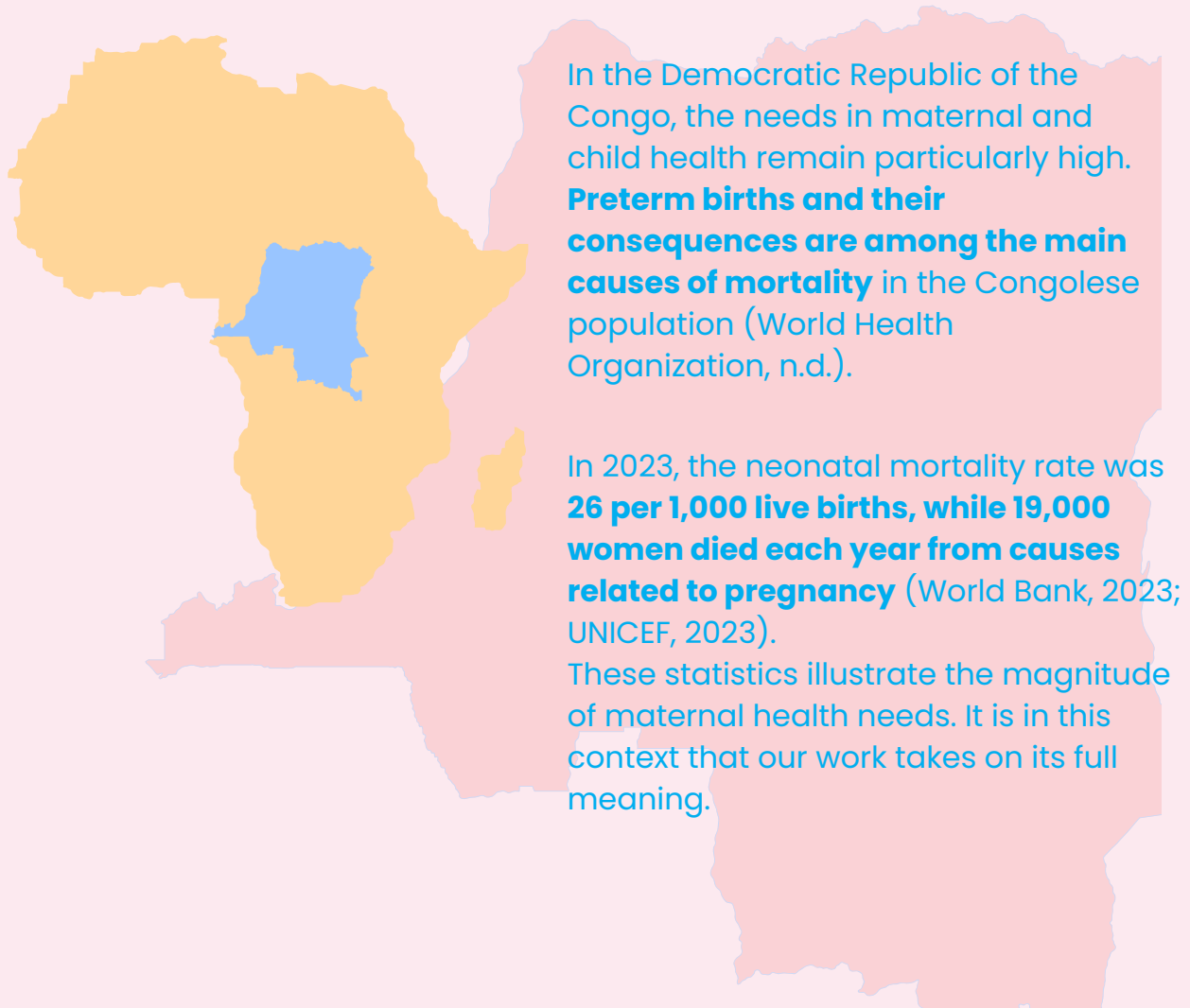


Key facts

70% of maternal deaths occur in sub-Saharan Africa

Rooted in the DRC

A long-term commitment at the heart of the Democratic Republic of the Congo since 2017.



Neonatal mortality: **26 per 1,000** live births.

19,000 women die each year.



"Every mother and every newborn deserve to start life with an equal chance."

— Une Chance de Vivre

Achievements 2023



In 2023, our work at the Kimbanguist Hospital in Kinshasa continued with energy and commitment.

The neonatal unit, which we have been supporting since 2019, admitted **264 sick newborns**.

Thanks to your support, we were able to strengthen the local team, provide essential equipment and offer valuable human support to families.



Follow-up and training missions

Three missions were carried out during the year, combining on-site visits and remote support.

They helped to support health-care staff, adjust equipment needs and organize practical workshops on the care of preterm infants and neonatal resuscitation.



264

sick newborns
admitted



**3 follow-up and
training missions on
the ground.**



Acts of solidarity

During our mission in January, we carried out a special initiative for hospitalized mothers: distributing gift baskets containing essential items for their babies. Two young mothers of twins also received support to cover the medical costs of their children.



Strengthening of the neonatal unit

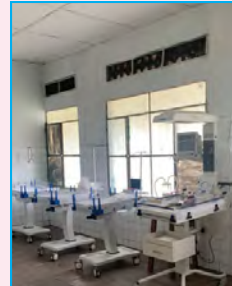
At the end of the year, we launched phase II of the project with the delivery of new medical equipment: radiant warmers, resuscitation tables, cardio-respiratory monitors, phototherapy equipment and more. All of this equipment is brand new and under warranty, and has made it possible to increase the unit's capacity to 12 beds and to improve care for preterm infants from 32 weeks of gestation.



A recognized partnership

This step marked a turning point: during the handover ceremony, a representative of the Ministry of Health praised the quality of our work.

Shortly afterwards, the unit was integrated into Universal Health Coverage (UHC), enabling vulnerable families to receive free care for mothers and newborns—an important step toward equity in health.



Achievements 2024

Towards an expansion of our impact and the birth of Acces-Neo

After several years of collaboration with the neonatal unit of the Kimbanguist Hospital in Kinshasa, our work inspired other health facilities in the Democratic Republic of the Congo and in Guinea.



These growing requests revealed a common need: to enable health-care workers to strengthen their skills, even remotely, in settings where continuing education is difficult to access.

During one of our training workshops, a health worker confided to us:

We film so that we can remember when you are no longer here."

That sentence marked a turning point.

From it was born Acces-Neo, a French-language digital platform designed to offer health-care workers easy and ongoing access to reliable clinical protocols, practical videos and training modules adapted to local realities.

This project reflects our commitment to making knowledge accessible to everyone, everywhere.

"Acces-Neo is not just a tool: it is a bridge between knowledge and health-care workers, where needs are most urgent."



Monitoring the functioning of the Kinshasa neonatal unit

In 2024, the neonatal unit of the Kimbanguist Hospital admitted 227 sick newborns.

Since January 2024, it has been integrated into the national Maternal and Newborn Universal Health Coverage (CSUM) program and now benefits from free care for mothers and babies.

This year was therefore devoted to observing the concrete effects of CSUM: accessibility, quality of care and autonomy of the local team.

Our exchanges continued remotely via videoconference, enabling regular virtual clinical support.

Finally, maintenance of the medical equipment was ensured by our technical partner AMT, guaranteeing continuity and safety of care.

Official recognition in the Democratic Republic of the Congo

2024 also marked a key step in our institutional anchoring: Une Chance de Vivre obtained official status as an international NGO in the DRC.

This recognition now allows us to work directly with local authorities, benefit from customs exemptions for medical equipment and strengthen the legitimacy of our actions in the field.

This process paves the way for the forthcoming signing of a framework cooperation agreement with the Ministry of Planning—a decisive step for the sustainability of our projects.

Highlights 2024

227

sick newborns admitted

Enrolment of the neonatal unit in CSUM (Maternal and Newborn Universal Health Coverage).

Official recognition of Une Chance de Vivre as an NGO in the DRC.

“Being recognized locally means embedding our work in the long term.”



Representation & visibility



In 2023 and 2024, Une Chance de Vivre continued its awareness-raising and outreach efforts, responding to several media and partnership invitations. These activities helped to increase understanding of our mission and projects, and above all of the reality of the health-care workers and families we support on the ground in the Democratic Republic of the Congo.




We took part in several live events on social media, including with **Karibu Montréal** and **Soins d'Oummi**, to share the challenges on the ground and the progress of our work in maternal and newborn health. We were also invited to the podcast “**L'Incubateur**”, a platform that highlights initiatives and innovations in neonatal health. It was a great opportunity to showcase our approach based on training, collaboration and innovation adapted to low-resource settings.

Finally, a highlight of 2024 was our participation in a **TED Talk** in Florida, an international stage that allowed us to present our work and bring the voices of mothers and health-care workers in the Congo to the world. This experience strengthened the visibility of our organization and highlighted Quebec's expertise in global health, placed at the service of newborns' lives.



Through every public intervention and every testimony shared, we continue to build bridges between Quebec and Africa—so that every birth can be a victory.



 **YouTube**
Watch our
TED Talk



Financial summary

2023–2024

The years 2023 and 2024 represented a pivotal period for Une Chance de Vivre (UCV).

While 2023 was a year of action in the field, with the delivery of medical equipment to the Kimbanguist Hospital in Kinshasa and several training missions, 2024 was devoted to structuring the organization and securing its official recognition in the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

This transition period made it possible:

- To obtain official NGO status in the DRC;
- To lay the foundations of the Acces-Neo digital project;
- To benefit from the positive effects of Universal Health Coverage, which now covers maternal and newborn care in Kinshasa.

A period of transition and consolidation

Categories	2023 (CAD)	2024 (CAD)	Change
Total revenue	67 215 \$	2 812 \$	▼ – 96 %
Total expenses	68 250 \$	2 297 \$	▼ – 97 %
Net result	– 1 035 \$	+ 515 \$	▲ Back to balance

In summary



- In 2023, expenditures were linked to the delivery of equipment, training and awareness-raising activities.
- In 2024, the organization voluntarily reduced its expenses to focus on strategic planning and official registration in the DRC.

This prudent management enabled Une Chance de Vivre to preserve its financial balance while preparing the next phase of growth.

Perspectives 2025

The year 2025 will be a year of renewed momentum:



Launch of the Acces-Neo pilot project;



Development of new institutional partnerships in Quebec and internationally;



Strengthening our network of donors to sustainably support our work in the field.

Every act of solidarity helps build the foundations of a fairer future for mothers and newborns.



Global Perspectives

2025

The year 2025 will mark a key milestone for Une Chance de Vivre, with the revival of our field projects and the launch of Acces-Neo, an innovative digital platform designed to strengthen the skills of African health-care workers.

We will continue our collaborations in the Democratic Republic of the Congo and in Guinea, while consolidating our partnerships in Quebec and internationally.

Follow-up missions will be carried out with the Kinshasa neonatal unit to assess the progress made and to continue the ongoing training of local teams.

New clinical webinars will also be offered to French-speaking African health-care workers to promote knowledge-sharing and the exchange of experience.

Finally, we remain deeply committed to women and children affected by the humanitarian crisis in eastern DRC, exploring responses focused on health, dignity and protection.

“In 2025, Une Chance de Vivre will continue its mission with a single goal: that no mother and no newborn be left without care.”



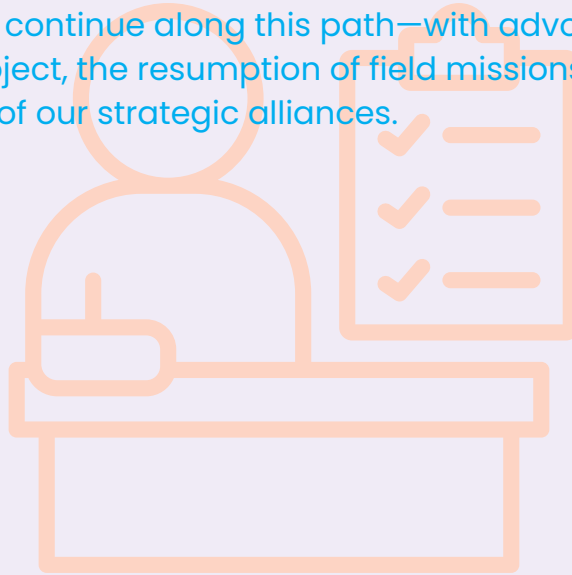
Conclusion

The years 2023 and 2024 marked a new stage of maturity for Une Chance de Vivre.

Drawing on what we have learned, we have strengthened our institutional anchoring, developed new digital tools and deepened our partnerships between Quebec and French-speaking Africa.

These advances reflect a deep conviction: lasting change is born from training, cooperation and local empowerment.

In 2025, we will continue along this path—with advocacy for the Acces-Neo project, the resumption of field missions and the strengthening of our strategic alliances.



♥ ***Every mother's smile,
every breath of a newborn
reminds us why we do this
work.***



Acknowledgements

This report reflects collective work carried out by many hearts, hands and shared convictions.

We express our deep gratitude to all those who made these achievements possible:

- Our institutional partners, including Seed Charity, the Ministry of Planning of the DRC and the Secretariat of the Ministry of Health of the DRC.
- Our medical collaborators in Quebec and in French-speaking Africa, who work every day to improve access to care;
- Our donors, volunteers and supporters, whose trust and loyalty are the driving force behind our mission.

Lastly, a special word for the local teams at the Kimbanguist Hospital in Kinshasa, whose resilience, professionalism and determination inspire our work every day.

Together, we form a chain of solidarity that gives every child a chance to live.



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"Because every life matters, every act brings a child closer to a chance to live."



