

# PANZI FOUNDATION

Dr. Denis Mukwege founded Panzi Hospital in 1999 in Bukavu, Democratic Republic of the Congo, as a clinic for gynecological and obstetric care, expecting to be working on issues of maternal health. Since 1999, however, Dr. Mukwege and his staff have helped to care for more than 50,000 survivors of sexual violence. The hospital not only treats survivors with physical wounds, but also provides legal and psycho-social services to its patients. Even patients who cannot afford medical care are treated without charge.

Having survived an assassination attempt, Dr. Mukwege has been fearless in his efforts to increase protections for women and to advocate that those responsible for sexual violence be brought to justice, including the Congolese government and militia groups laying siege to eastern DRC. In 2018, Dr. Mukwege was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize for his advocacy against sexual violence as a weapon of war and for his outstanding services to survivors of rape. Watch this amazing man speak out:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4gTjysqFav0>



Over the past 20 years, Panzi Hospital has earned a global reputation as the preeminent treatment center for survivors of sexual violence in conflict. More than 85,000 women suffering from rape- or birth-related complications have been treated by [Panzi's] expert personnel, with thousands also taking advantage of an innovative holistic healing model that enables them to rebuild their lives. In addition to treating victims of conflict, Panzi's wide-ranging services ensure that every patient who seeks care receives the treatment they need. [Staff] deliver more than 3,500 babies per year with a 99.1% live-birth rate – a staggering

achievement in a country with one of the worst mortality rates on record according to the World Bank. Panzi also serves as a general hospital.

Panzi Foundation's world-renowned four-pillar holistic healing model meets the full spectrum of needs for survivors of sexual violence. Panzi creates a safe space that supports not only women's **physical** healing, but fosters their **emotional** recovery, helps rebuild their **livelihoods**, and contributes to the long-term, sustainable **restoration of their communities**.

Dr. Mukwege is also advisor to **The City of Joy**, funded in part by Eve Ensler's V-Day Campaign. Perhaps you've performed in **The Vagina Monologues** on V-Day? City of Joy is a transformational leadership community for women survivors of violence, conceived, owned, and run by local Congolese women. Watch Eve Ensler here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=31D-j7CFQz0>

Stage 2 #1, prepared by Lisbie Rae of the VG4A Education Working Group

Both Panzi Foundation and City of Joy are community-based organizations (CBOs) supported by The Stephen Lewis Foundation.

