Stepping Stones Stories from *DRC......*

⭐ *ERICK NGOIE*

Organisation: UNDP (United Nations Development Programme)

Country: Democratic Republic of the Congo

⭐ *When did you first come across* Stepping Stones, *how did you use it and where?*

In 2012, we recruited a consultant who had trained communities and supervised the implementation of the *Stepping Stones* approach. The manual was used with communities in the south – Kivu to Walungu, Bideka, Luvungi and in Central Congo in Mbanza Ngungu. From 2011 up to now the UNDP has financed *Stepping Stones* activities to more than $300,000 in the DRC. Eddie Ndungi, Country Expert is trained in the approach to help the country in the promotion of *Stepping Stones*. I think very highly of him.

⭐ *Something that you liked about it:*

Awareness, responsibility and sense of honour among women when they claim their rights.

⭐ *Do you have a positive message you would like to share with the* Stepping Stones *Community of Practice?*

It is worth continuing to use *Stepping Stones* because both on an individual level and in the community where it is applied it brings big change.

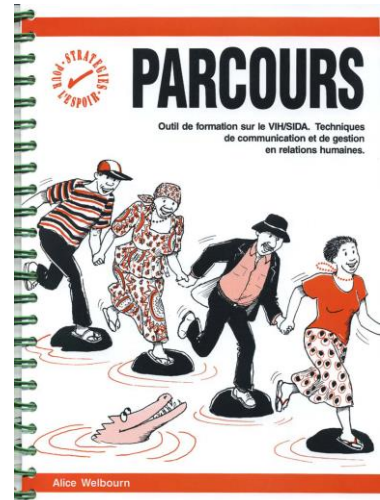**Thank you Erick!** *Please turn over to hear from Eddie Ndungi........*

⭐ *EDDIE NDUNGI*

Organisation: Tabernacle Sifa AIDS Ministry

Country: Democratic Republic of the Congo

⭐ *When did you first come across* Stepping Stones, *how did you use it and where?*

I first discovered *Stepping Stones* in 2007 with a batch of manuals which I had received from Strategies for Hope. As a leader (or organiser) in development I found the *Stepping Stones* ('*Parcours'* in French) manual and film a very interesting tool. And so I set to exploring it thoroughly.

In 2010, thanks to a stay in Uganda where I took part in a seminar about community approaches to gender, HIV and lifeskills, I was enlightened and equipped with information about the implementation of *Stepping Stones*.

I used it for the first time in September 2011 in Walungu, Southern Kivu, with UNDP.

I am proud of having contributed to the widespread acceptance of '*Parcours'* as a promising tool and approach with the United Nations in the DRC.

⭐ *Something that you liked about it:*

The gift of *Stepping Stones* is a major asset to human development. We can't claim to develop our local communities if gender inequalities persist.

Thanks to *Stepping Stones*, I have changed my own attitudes in terms of gender and I have become proactive in this subject.

Men and women are called to work hand in hand, with mutual respect for each other and take into account each others' rights and duties without discrimination.

Although it was set up 21 years ago, *Stepping Stones* remains a relevant tool and approach to the fight against gender-based violence associated with HIV. *Stepping Stones* is worth its weight in gold and can contribute to achieving the objectives in the fight against Aids by 2030.

Considering the relevance of *Stepping Stones* and its easy adaptability in the context of

our country, given the need to fight against GBV-HIV which still degrades our local communities, it is proving pressing to extend this methodology across Congo. And I, modest servant of humanity, am disposed to embark on this undertaking of huge responsibility.

Thank you Eddie!

To read and view more about the work in DRC:

"*UNDP DRC HIV & communications teams are pleased to share with you our latest video:*
[HIV Stepping Stones](#). *This 6 minutes movie highlights the UNDP mandate in the fight against HIV, which aims at fighting against discrimination and stigma & the promotion of a conducive environment for persons living with HIV and for key populations. Strong testimonies of beneficiaries and Congolese partners in HIV response are central in the video.*
Thanks to Papy, George and Eric for their commitment to make this video project happen.

Going further on AIDS answer in DRC, please discover also the interview of ALPHA, one of our partners' expert in HIV AIDS [projects](#). "

www.salamandertrust.net
www.steppingstonesfeedback.org

Salamander Trust
TRANSFORMING THE WAY WE THINK ABOUT HIV