

Wilson

**Identity:**

My name is Wilson.

Address:

I have been living in the displaced camp in Bulengo for three months; I fled the war between the armed groups in Masisi.

Start of the wars:

I remember when the war between armed groups started, I was eight years old. It has continued until today, and it was the reason for my fleeing.

Consequences of the wars:

When the war broke out, it had targets; it was aimed at certain people, from a specific region or entity. Upon arrival in a region or entity, the aggressors would search for people from any other region. Therefore, when you see someone from a certain neighborhood or area, you think they've come to find you, to kill you.

The war had several consequences on my personal life; I didn't study well, we fled, the schools were closed, I lost the parent I loved and my friends. In general, things were stolen, houses were burned down, we didn't go to the fields anymore, there was hunger in the community, and we were also afraid to go back home; we were on the run and sleeping in the forest. As for the education of children, classes were closed, other school buildings were demolished and set on fire, and the children were living on the street - they had no means of getting to school, and some of them joined the armed groups.

The problem I've had, mentally, is that when I planned to study, the years passed, and it became lengthy. When I see one of those who were part of these armed groups, I remember the things I experienced before. These wars have mentally terrified me when I remember what I've been through, people who were killed, houses that were burned, and people who were burnt alive inside the houses. And when we hear a certain noise, we think these armed groups of aggressors are coming back. When I sleep, I don't sleep well because I dream of past events. For example, when I see a vehicle passing by, and there's an accident with fatalities, those images remind me of people I saw dying and being cut alive. So I feel like I'm not free. In my life, when I see these acts, I remember a lot of things, and my development decreases gradually. When I read, there are moments when I remember the events I experienced, I get goosebumps, and I stop reading. Or when I plan a certain project, if I remember these things, I stop pursuing the project.