

# Democratic Republic of the Congo

## Encadrement des Personnes Infectées par l'Hépatite (EPIH)\*

NGO – hepatitis patient group

Goma, Democratic Republic of the Congo

### SURVEY HIGHLIGHTS

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The Government of the Democratic Republic of the Congo did not respond to the World Health Organization survey for the 2013 [Global Policy Report on the Prevention and Control of Viral Hepatitis in WHO Member States](#), and therefore Encadrement des Personnes Infectées par l'Hépatite could not comment on government information for this report.

The organisation provided the following general statement regarding key hepatitis policy issues in the Democratic Republic of the Congo:

#### **What are the greatest problems with the national response to viral hepatitis?**

- Lack of mechanisms for enhancing hepatitis B and hepatitis C screening.
- Lack of appropriate sanitation screening for hepatitis.
- Very insufficient number of hepatology specialists.
- No access to medicines.
- Officials should give the population necessary information about the dangers of hepatitis.

#### **What needs to change?**

- The whole health care system must be reformed.

#### **What should be the government's role in bringing about these changes?**

##### **What responsibilities should the government have?**

- The government should establish a national hepatitis programme that promotes the following:
  - *Strengthen screening and early treatment to stop transmission.*
  - *Information on the prevention of hepatitis to assist in the adoption of responsible behaviour.*
  - *Early treatment, support and assist people.*
  - *Destigmatization and the fight against discrimination in order to promote the implementation of prevention combined with screening and treatment for other diseases.*
  - *Train professionals in different cross-cultural approaches to counseling.*
  - *Improve the link between awareness, prevention, screening and care.*

#### **What should be the roles and responsibilities of other stakeholders at the community, national and international levels?**

- At their respective levels, other stakeholders must respect and enforce treaties and resolutions. They should sensitise decision-makers such as government officials, representatives of foundations, and benefactors. Stakeholders must make funds available to fight this disease. They must also fight against discrimination in speeches and through the distribution of funds allocated to four priority public health diseases: malaria, tuberculosis, HIV and hepatitis.

#### **What evidence exists to support your organisation's viewpoint?**

- World newspapers.
- Reports on campaigns in schools, the university, churches and markets.
- The interventions of national and international radio and television stations (RFI, TRNC, Okapi, Kivu ONE).

\* World Hepatitis Alliance member.