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Humanitarian Crisis of Horrific Proportions

The International Coalition for Women in Shooting and Hunting (WiSH) has pleaded for increased recognition of the humanitarian crisis in the Democratic Republic of Congo. Research published in British medical journal The Lancet has revealed that the overwhelming majority of deaths come not from violence but from easily preventable illness and disease.

“For too long, the international community has been unaware of the ongoing human tragedy in Congo. We call upon wealthy nations to acknowledge their humanitarian responsibilities, and deliver medical assistance, improved nutrition, and better support for the people of Congo,” WiSH Chairwoman Ms Samara McPhedran said.

Although major fighting ended in 2002, an estimated 38 000 people are dying each month - most from treatable causes. The leading killers are malaria, diarrhea, respiratory infections and malnutrition. Up to 20 percent of children are malnourished.

“Current diplomatic and military efforts, while dramatically reducing the magnitude and extent of violence, are unable to help the huge number of innocent people who are suffering and dying from preventable causes each and every day. The biggest killers are being ignored.”

“Bringing peace is a long-term, multi-faceted process. Peacebuilding strategies will remain unable to address the awful death toll unless healthcare and infrastructure are given priority. Preventing illness and disease can begin right now, and we must send world leaders the message that aid is desperately needed,” Ms McPhedran finished.

Contact:

Ms Samara McPhedran – (+61) 415 963 189

Chair, International Coalition for Women in Shooting and Hunting (WiSH)

www.ic-wish.org

WOMEN ON TARGET FOR POSITIVE CHANGE