

YOUTH VOCATIONAL TRAINING CENTRE IN THE CONGO

Project Description

This project is seeking funding of exact amount of \$99,000 for a vocational training and sports centre for vulnerable children and youth in the capital city of Kinshasa in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) that otherwise would not have access to education, be involved in a community and learn a trade. It helps the beneficiaries among which (orphans, street boys and raped girls), become employable and regain dignity in their society.

Context of the project: The DRC is emerging from twenty years of crisis that have particularly affected its economy and its social structures. The labor market remains tight, leading to a high unemployment rate. Access to drinking water and electricity remains a daily problem, the HIV / AIDS is very present, and insecurity still affects many civilian populations. Every year, millions of children, youth and women are affected by political, social and economic instabilities in the county and the region.

Location: Because of the wars during the last 20 years, many unprepared families had fled to Kinshasa for refuge, making the city so over populated with about 12 Mio inhabitants that the already weak existing infrastructures can't accommodate them. This increased the number of homeless people on the streets, with children, youth and women being the most vulnerable.

Problem Solving: Local structures have survived periods of unrest and the collapse of public funding. Local authorities in the sector are not able to provide schools with the support they need. The monitoring of the sector has been interrupted and is only gradually resuming thanks to the projects of international aid. We would like to teach job and life skills that prepare the participants for real life and be employable. Leisure, culture and sports facilities will shape the vocational training centre.

Beneficiaries: Vulnerable children and young adults (men and women) from the poor social group of the densely populated, dis advantaged areas in Kinshasa, with few opportunities for children and young people and alarming school dropout rates, with limited or no access to formal education, enabling them to play an active role in Congo's poverty reduction and economic development strategy.

Mission:

1. To use Vocational Training, Sports and Culture activities to promote the responsibility, creativity and peace of the children and young adults living in the overcrowded and poor areas of Kinshasa.

2. To expand the real freedoms people enjoy so they can be able to choose to live the lives that they might have reason to value.

Project Objectives: This project seeks to fight the **social inequalities** of the Congolese children and young adults through vocational training and social programs, using sport, vocational training facilities, cultural exchange and library as tools for facilitating life skills training and education for social responsibility, integration and dignity.

The Project Activities: The project is about the development of job skills, socio-cultural and recreational activities, life-skills and computer lessons. These facilities are a rare example in the DRC, because after the civil wars there is a few number of capable social infrastructures remaining.

Gender Issue: The gender issue will be addressed with close attention. The identification of all recreational and cultural activities will be done with beneficiaries themselves. The latter will be fully accountable for all matters relating to the planning and execution of information, awareness-raising activities and cultural and sports activities within their centre. It is in this context to bring them to be true actors of the project and not only beneficiaries. Particular attention will be paid to the representation of girls in the management structures and at the level of the training sessions where they will be represented at reasonable percentage. This issue is very important as it will help to strengthen the confidence skills of girls and encourage their participation in various activities and decision-making.

Impact of the Project: At the same time, issues that affect youth namely neglect, abuse, physical and sexual violence, and exploitation through child labor, will decrease. This project is set up to reduce the arrival of new vulnerable children on the streets, make young men and women employable, decrease the number of raped young women because they hang around due to lack of professional activity. The project will therefore facilitate full integration in the society.

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