**COLLECTIF DES ORGANISATIONS DES JEUNES SOLIDAIRES DU CONGO KINSHASA**

 **« COJESKI/RDC »**



 **COORDINATION PROVINCIALE DU NORD-KIVU**

 **Projet : Global Refugee Leaders Forum (GRELEF)**

 Personnalité Juridique : N°385/CAB/MIN/J & GS/2003 du 30 avril 2003, NGO wi NGO with a Special Consultative Status at the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations (ECOSOC) **& Jouissant duStatut d’Observateur auprès de la Commission Africaine des Droits de l’Homme et des Peuples / UA.**

**NREF: 01/COJESKI/NK/01/2023 Date: 23/01/2023**

**Refugee Tailoring Center Project in Goma the Democratic Republic of Congo**

**Background information**

In January 2021 we started the work on the effective protection of refugees in the Democratic Republic of Congo, shortly we were invited by UNHCR officers who preached to us how they have helped refugees over the years and showed us how all refugees in Goma and its surroundings are well supported, while others are locally integrated in their host communities.

 Surprisingly vulnerable refugees especially women are young girls started coming to offices to seek for help in terms of food, school fees, medical treatment, and money to pay for their rent, among others.

We were then confused between what we were told and what we were seeing, this helped us to initiate a field work in Goma and in Nyiragongo to see how refugees are living, which helped us to realize that refugees have been abandoned over the years and mostly lost protection, and that information from UNHCR about refugees is not credible and not accurate. In the process we came across this young girl who we had a touching interview with us about her life as a refugee young girl.

Because of security reasons we are going to call her Bora, she is now 17 years old, we met her in home a certain Wednesday in the afternoon in March 2021, and she was cooking some sweet potatoes in their small house.

Bora is a victim of rape and she was infected with HIV/AIDS, she is one among the five other children in her family. Both the mother and father left Rwanda during the 1994 genocide and have been in DRCongo up to now, they lived in Masisi North Kivu the Democratic Republic of Congo. Bora was the only child left with her parents, the others died and one elder sister got married. Her mother is always sick and suffers with permanent bleeding over the years, while the father is also old man. In order to eat Bora must go out to look for food, and this forced her to drop out from school in order to feed her parents.

On that fateful day in 2012, Bora left her home in the morning together with her three other friends and went to the garden to collect food mainly sweet potatoes, in the afternoon they started the journey moving back home, when they reached in the forest they were ambushed by 11 Armed Young Men who raped them all, Bora collapsed and was left there bleeding lying down while her friends were taken by armed groups to unknown places.

People who used also the same road later found her already collapsed, they knew her parents and decided to carry her up to home, then she was rushed to the health center where she spent 5 months for treatment. After the Doctors requested a lot money in order to continue with the treatment but Bora’s parents could not afford to pay for the medical bills, Bora was then detained in the Hospital, later on she arranged with others how to escape and from that time they shifted from Masisi to Goma because they fired they would be arrested by the owner of the health center.

 When we met Bora at her home around Goma, she narrated to us all these issues and then we asked her how best we can help her, and what she can do in terms of skills. She then proposed to learn Tailoring because “***at least with Tailoring I know I will be getting some money every day which I can use to buy food for my parents and also for my basic needs***”.

We then enrolled her a Tailoring Center owned by a Congolese where she studied only for three months and then dropped out because of many challenges including discrimination and language barrier but also failed to get materials for practice during learning process. This forced us to have in place a Refugee Tailoring Center generally for refugees and other vulnerable people in the host communities where all those concerned will feel protected and well planned for all their needs.

The Refugee Tailoring Center aims at economic development of refugees and other vulnerable groups in the Communities, and focuses on the following objectives:

To impart refugees with life skills which they can use in order to survive and improve their livelihood opportunities,

To provide refugees with Shewing Machines which can help them to earn some money for themselves every day,

To create Refugee Business Shop where they can sell their products from which they have made,

To foster the protection of refugees and restore their dignity,

To turn refugees into an important human resource and therefore participate to the community development,

**Current activities**

**Creating awareness**: This is done every day in different refugee communities,

**Tailoring Trainings**: The trainings are done three days per week which are Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday from 8:00 to 12pm, for a period of six months per each promotion.

**The Center Capacity**: Currently the center can accommodate only 15 learners at ago, the project will have two centers in Goma,

**The equipment**: The center requires the necessary equipment in order to offer the best trainings to learners

**Staffs:** This project will employ 4 Trainers, two cleaners and two security guards,

**Impact**

On the side of refugees this project will help them to develop economically, offer them opportunities to come together, to know each other and network among themselves for better opportunities,

For the host communities this project will offer them solutions to the community challenges in terms of production in shewing, and therefore support the community economic development,

For the government this project will help to gather refugees, extend services to them, and easily get them for different engagement, but also help refugees who benefited to pay taxes and not engage in various forms of criminality,

**Period**: The project is a long-term project and it will take many years being implemented, it will also be extended to other areas in DRCongo,

**Budget**

Here is the summary of the budget we may need in order to fully implement this project.

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| No | **Item**  | **Cost per month**  | **Cost per year**  | **Total**  |
| 1. | Rent  | 250$ | 3000$ | 3000$ |
| 2. | Staffs allowances  | 200x8 | 17,600$ | 17,600$ |
| 3. | Equipment  |  | 10,000$ | 10,000$ |
| 4. | Administration | 150$ | 1800$ | 1800$ |
| 5. | Training Materials  | 200$ | 2,400$ | 2,400$ |
| 6. | Emergency  | 100$ | 1,200$ | 1,200$ |
| 7. | **Total**  |  | **36,000** |  |

Thanks