

Project: Education and Reintegration of Young Mothers - DRC: Multipurpose Center for Learning and Community Awareness - AUTONOMOUS GIRL OF KINSHASA-DR CONGO

Project description:

Give Back Chance by supporting the creation of a multi-purpose community center (including spaces for community awareness and social reintegration through apprenticeships in IGA trades—entrepreneurship and assistance funds) for 2.340 young single mothers who have dropped out of school, aged 16 to 25, and have no income, to empower them in Kinshasa, the capital of the Democratic Republic of Congo.

Project background and rational:

For more than a decade, the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) has been devastated by recurrent armed conflicts, which have resulted in a serious deterioration in the socio-economic situation of the population.

Despite the improvement in the political and macroeconomic environment, marked by the gradual return of peace, the of democratically elected institutions and economic growth thanks to the economic and structural reforms initiated by the Government since 2002, the majority of the Congolese population lives in multi-faceted poverty: low income, unsatisfied food needs, inability to access healthcare and schooling, inability to find decent housing, growing unemployment and other phenomena affecting young people, notably the social and family breakdown of children, etc....

Young girls/women represent more than 50% of the Congolese population. In the latest UNDP Human Development Report (2016), the DRC ranks among the bottom countries in the world inequality classification. It is characterized by a feminization of poverty, with 61.2% of women living below the poverty line compared with 59.3% of men. More than 87% of women have no formal education and no formal job, while many young girls have become single mothers by accident, with all the economic weight of the family resting on them, they have no hope and fall mostly into prostitution.

Since 2017, the Revised National Gender Policy sets out the country's vision on gender: "to build, with all stakeholders, a Congolese society without discrimination,

where men and women, boys and girls have the same opportunities and rights to participate in its development and enjoy the benefits of its growth".

Being convinced that everything that happens to the children of single mothers with no income are the consequences of the interactions of the members of their environment who must educate and protect them; Considering the impact of all these facets on the integral development of the whole population, including women and girls, on social peace and on the future of the country.

OJMA has set up this project to help certain parents who have had an accident during their life's journey, more specifically single mothers who have dropped out of school, to assume their family responsibilities and financial autonomy.

OJMA asbl is a community network working together for the well-being of women and their children. Among the families it cares for, we note those of young single mothers who have dropped out of school, have no income and no job, 30 to 40 of whom have benefited from an apprenticeship in cutting and sewing here in Kinshasa, and over 350 registered in the provinces by 2022.

OJMA aims to support and/or identify the mothers of these more vulnerable children, to make them less dependent on men, and to enable them to acquire the goods and services they need to live their lives with dignity.

Project objectives

- Community awakening and resilience-building: Creating places where community members can come together, exchange ideas and take part in educational and cultural activities.
- Education through work-study and for self-reliance: apprenticeships in IGA trades (Agriculture, Livestock, Natural Resources, NTIC and technical): Offer practical and theoretical training in trades, to enhance the skills of young girl mothers and improve their employability.
- Entrepreneurship: Encourage entrepreneurship by offering workshops and training in business creation and management, as well as access to financing.
- Assistance fund: Set up a financial support system to help young single mothers/trained entrepreneurs start up or expand their businesses.

Direct beneficiaries

- Direct: 3,900 out-of-school single mothers, including 780 per year, 195 per term for 5 years.
- Indirect: 50 young international interns-volunteers per humanitarian mission, 10 per year, 5 per semester.
- Multiplier effects: Job creation opportunities for young local residents, visibility and support for international solidarity, etc.

Activities and expected results:

1. Community awakening spaces:

- Organization of workshops and seminars on various themes (health, education, human rights).
- Creation of discussion groups to encourage the exchange of ideas and best practices.
- Raising awareness of the importance of diversifying crops and activities to enhance the value of trades that are in short supply or in decline.
- Organization of cultural events to promote local traditions and strengthen social cohesion.
- Organization of sports activities by creating sports teams to encourage physical activity and teamwork.

Expected results:

- Social cohesion: Community spaces will encourage social interaction and strengthen ties between community members.
- Collective awareness and commitment of community members to social, environmental and economic issues.

2. Education par l'alternance et pour l'autonomie - Apprentissage aux métiers AGR :

- Practical training in modern, sustainable farming techniques.
- Practical training in technical and professional trades
- Workshops on natural resource management and environmental preservation.

Expected result

Skills enhancement: Participants will acquire practical skills that will enable them to better integrate into the job market.

3. Entrepreneurship:

- Training programs on business creation and management.
- Helping local entrepreneurs develop their projects.
- Competitions to encourage innovation and creativity.

Expected result:

Boosting the local economy and self-reliance: By supporting entrepreneurship, the project will contribute to job creation and economic growth in communities, especially among the young single mothers who will benefit.

4. Assistance fund:

- Creation of a mutual aid fund to support community members in times of need (illness, job loss, etc.).
- Organization of awareness-raising campaigns on financial management and savings.
- Setting up partnerships with financial institutions to facilitate access to credit.

Expected results:

- Economic autonomy
- Poverty reduction

5. Awareness and advocacy:

- Awareness campaigns on social and environmental issues.
- Working with NGOs and local players to defend community rights.

Expected results:

Creating an environment conducive to the development of young single mothers who have dropped out of school, and to energizing communities while promoting self-reliance and sustainable development.

Implementation strategies:

Capacity building: The young people targeted by the project will be closely involved in the action to acquire the skills and habits needed for sustainability.

Partnerships: Collaborate with NGOs, government institutions and local businesses to maximize resources and project impact.

Awareness and advocacy: Inform the community about the opportunities offered by the center and encourage participation. Awareness-raising campaigns will be conducted among the population and local authorities, with a view to developing a healthy environment and a policy of victim relief.

Community mechanisms for respecting the environment: Strengthening existing community mechanisms will ensure that local communities participate in and take ownership of the project. Duly trained community leaders will take part in awareness-raising activities, identifying bad practices such as the dumping of plastics and other waste in and around the training sites, reducing pollution, and so on.

Monitoring and evaluation: Set up mechanisms to assess the project's impact and adjust activities in line with participants' needs.

Project impact assessment mechanism:

- Organization, steering and monitoring of the project: project activities will be the subject of detailed planning by period (see Chronogram above) with precise objectives. This tool will also serve as a basis for monitoring and evaluation. At the start of the project, a set of common forms will be drawn up for monitoring and follow-up files, and for capitalizing on the results obtained.
- Indicator monitoring: ongoing, regular monitoring will be carried out on the basis of the logical framework and a dashboard for tracking project results via indicators. The dashboard will be entered by the project coordinator, with the support of the project team.
- Reporting: All activities carried out will give rise to a full narrative and financial report, which will be produced by the project team. OJMA will also produce interim and final project progress reports, as requested by the partner.

Evaluation indicators:

- Number of campaigns organized;
- Number of people reached by these campaigns;
- Number of animated radio and television programs;
- Number of discussion and consultation meetings
- Number of direct and indirect beneficiaries

- Number of material and financial donations received from people of good faith
- Number of changes made
- Number of follow-ups

Visibility strategy and communication

Strengthen visibility and the communication strategy to be implemented by OJMA aims to:

- (1) Improve the visibility of the project,
- (2) Ensure the visibility of the various partners,
- (3) Capitalize on the lessons learned from the project by disseminating and multiplying its results and impacts, so that it serves as a benchmark for players working on the same theme, but also at sub-regional level.

The messages and media used will be tailored to the target audience. The participation of partners, particularly financial partners, will be publicized at all levels, from political leaders to final beneficiaries. Their logos will be inserted on all communication and display media (program, banners, etc.). Events will be covered by the press. The project plans to produce a range of awareness-raising and visibility materials (flyers, kakemonos, banners, presentation brochures).

Social impact:

The creation of multi-purpose community centers in the Democratic Republic of Congo represents a valuable opportunity to improve the living conditions of young single mothers who have dropped out of school. By investing in education through practical training and community support, this project contributes to sustainable and inclusive development

As such, it is responsive and fully compliant with national, regional and international policies on gender equality and life rights through education because:

1. Contributes to improving family living conditions (socio-economic reintegration) and empowering women through IGAs (income-generating activities);
2. It increases the resources of disadvantaged women, giving them access to basic social services, vocational education and economic independence.

These two project impacts (education for financial autonomy and community awareness for social equality) are the most important elements of national and international policy, and the surest way to achieve gender equality, poverty

eradication and inclusive economic growth for the empowerment of women/young single mothers.

Project sustainability:

The sustainability of a project is essential to guarantee its long-term impact. Here are our key strategies for ensuring the center's sustainability:

- Strategic planning: OJMA will present a clear vision and long-term objectives. This includes identifying the necessary resources and potential partners.
- Stakeholder involvement: The project involves all stakeholders from the outset, including beneficiaries, partners and funders. Their commitment is crucial to the continued support of the project after 3 or 5 years.
- Training and capacity building: OJMA ensures that the people involved in the project have the skills they need to manage it effectively, even after the initial funding phase.
- Diversification of financing: OJMA ensures that we are not dependent on a single source of funding. We explore different options, such as grants, participatory financing or partnerships with the private sector.
- Evaluation and adjustment: OJMA sets up regular evaluation mechanisms to measure the project's impact and make adjustments if necessary.
- Communication and awareness-raising: OJMA will promote the results and impact of the project to a wider audience to attract attention and support.

BUDGET		
Project: Education and Reintegration of Young Mothers - DRC	Amount in US\$	
Project Implementation (Equipment, Assistance Fund, and Trainers' Periods)	124 388,96	
Operations (Rentals and Supplies)	31680,13	
Missions (Humanitarian Interns and International Volunteers)	4981,37	
TOTAL IN USD - Project	161 050,45	

