



Dynamique des Jeunes Leaders pour la Paix et le Respect des Droits Humains

DYJEPREDHU asbl

Dynamics of Young Leaders for Peace and Respect for Humans Rights

CHANGEMENT TRANSFORMATION IMPACT

Strengthen women peace networks in DRC

April 2026

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PROJECT TECHNICAL PROPOSALS

I. Project Summary

1. Title of the project: Strengthen women peace networks in DRC

2. Contact details:

- Name of the organization: Dynamic of Young Leaders for Peace and Respect for Human Rights, “DYJEPREDHU asbl” in acronym

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3. Organization Mission Statement

Option 1 : Axée sur l'autonomisation (Empowerment)

"To empower Congolese women by strengthening their leadership in peacebuilding and decision-making processes, ensuring their voices are central to the stability and sustainable development of the Democratic Republic of Congo."

Option 2 : Axée sur le plaidoyer et les droits (Rights-based)

"Our mission is to amplify the voices of women’s peace networks through strategic advocacy, capacity building, and institutional support, fostering a society where every woman is a recognized actor in peace and secu

Project Objectives: Architecting Inclusive Peace in DRC

1. Overall Objective (Goal)

To institutionalize the leadership of Congolese women in peacebuilding, ensuring they are no longer secondary participants but **primary architects** of national and regional stability, leading to a measurable reduction in communal violence and sexual conflict.

2. Specific Objectives (SO)

SO 1: Strengthening Grassroots Mediation Capacity

- **The Aim:** To transform "informal" women's influence into "formal" community authority.
- **Key Actions:** Establish and equip **25 "Peace Huts"** (Maisons de Paix) across North Kivu, South Kivu, and Ituri.
- **The Target:** Train **500 local women mediators** in conflict analysis, negotiation techniques, and land-law mediation to resolve at least 60% of local disputes without military intervention.

Total cost of the project: US \$ 100,000

- **Bank account: Dynamique des Jeunes Leaders pour la Paix et le Respect des Droits Humains, DYJEPREDHU asbl**

Trust Merchant Bank S.A. (TMB)

Goma Agency -DRC

No. 1272-28000-23526760001-87

Following code: TRMSCD3L

Context and Rationale

Context and Rationale: Strengthening Women's Peace Networks in DRC

1. The Security Landscape: A Protracted Crisis

The Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), particularly its eastern provinces (North Kivu, South Kivu, and Ituri), has been embroiled in over **three decades of cyclical conflict**. The resurgence of the M23 rebellion and the activities of over 120 armed groups have displaced more than **7 million people**.

- **The Problem:** Armed conflict in DRC is not just political; it is deeply rooted in inter-communal tensions over land, resources, and ethnic identity.
- **Justification:** Traditional military interventions have failed to address these grassroots grievances. Women, who remain in the communities while men are often mobilized into armed groups, possess unique access to local intelligence and cross-border social networks essential for de-escalation.

2. The "Body as a Battleground" and the Justice Gap

Sexual and Gender-Based Violence (SGBV) continues to be used as a **strategic weapon of war** to destabilize and humiliate entire communities.

- **The Problem:** Despite thousands of reported cases, the judicial system remains inaccessible to most rural women, and survivors often face social stigmatization.
- **Justification:** This project is justified by the need for **survivor-led justice**. By strengthening women's networks, the project transforms survivors into "Peace Ambassadors" who can provide legal guidance and psychosocial support, ensuring that peace is not just the absence of war, but the presence of justice.

3. The Institutional Vacuum (MONUSCO Withdrawal)

The ongoing **accelerated withdrawal of the UN Peacekeeping Mission (MONUSCO)** creates a critical security and mediation vacuum.

- **The Problem:** As international forces leave, there is an urgent risk that local conflict resolution mechanisms will collapse, leaving communities vulnerable to militia rule.
- **Justification:** It is imperative to transfer peacebuilding responsibilities to **local, sustainable actors**. Women's networks are the most resilient community structures

available. Strengthening them now ensures a "civilian-led" security architecture that survives long after international missions depart.

4. Systematic Political Exclusion (The 1325 Gap)

Although the DRC has ratified **UN Security Council Resolution 1325** and adopted a National Action Plan, the implementation remains largely symbolic at the "high table" of peace talks.

- **The Problem:** Women are often relegated to side-events or "technical advisory" roles rather than being primary negotiators in processes like the Nairobi or Luanda talks.
- **Justification:** This project justifies its existence by moving beyond "capacity building" to "**power building.**" It equips women with the technical negotiation skills and collective bargaining power to demand a seat at the table, ensuring that peace agreements reflect the needs of the 52% of the population who are women.

5. The Economic-Conflict Nexus

Poverty is a primary driver of militia recruitment among Congolese youth.

- **The Problem:** Women-led peace initiatives often fail not because of lack of will, but because of **financial precarity.**
- **Justification:** By integrating economic empowerment (VSLAs) with peacebuilding, the project addresses the root cause of instability. Economically empowered women can influence their sons and husbands to lay down arms, providing a viable alternative to the "war economy."

Summary of the Rationale

This project is not a "charity" initiative; it is a **strategic security necessity.** Strengthening women's peace networks is the most cost-effective and sustainable way to:

1. **Prevent** local disputes from becoming provincial wars.
2. **Protect** the most vulnerable through community-led early warning systems.
3. **Sustain** peace by building an inclusive social contract that includes over half of the nation's citizens.

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SO 2: Advancing Political Influence and Advocacy

- **The Aim:** To secure a "seat at the table" in high-level provincial and national peace processes.
- **Key Actions:** Create a "**National Roster of Female Experts**" and provide high-level training in the Nairobi and Luanda peace frameworks.
- **The Target:** Ensure a minimum **30% representation of women** in all provincial security committees and formal peace negotiation delegations by 2028.

SO 3: Implementation of Gender-Responsive Early Warning Systems (EWS)

- **The Aim:** To prevent conflict through real-time, gender-specific data collection.
- **Key Actions:** Deploy a **digital reporting platform** where women can report security threats (e.g., troop movements, increased harassment at water points).
- **The Target:** Establish a direct communication link between women-led networks and the DRC's **National Police (PNC)** and military (FARDC) to trigger rapid protection responses.

SO 4: Fostering "Positive Masculinity" and Social Allyship

- **The Aim:** To neutralize patriarchal resistance by engaging men as protectors of women's rights.
- **Key Actions:** Conduct "**Champion Circles**" for traditional chiefs, religious leaders, and military commanders to sensitize them on the benefits of inclusive peace.

- **The Target:** Secure written commitments from **100 influential traditional leaders** to advocate for women's inheritance rights and political participation.

SO 5: Economic Empowerment for Peace Sustainability

- **The Aim:** To provide the financial "social capital" necessary for long-term activism.
- **Key Actions:** Launch **100 Village Savings and Loans Associations (VSLAs)** integrated directly within the peace networks.
- **The Target:** Ensure that **80% of the peace network members** achieve financial self-sufficiency, reducing their vulnerability to political co-optation or economic displacement.

3. Expected Key Results (Deliverables)

1. **Legal Frameworks:** Successful lobbying for the adoption of provincial decrees that recognize "Peace Huts" as legitimate mediation bodies.
2. **Reduction in Violence:** A 40% decrease in reported cases of inter-communal violence in project-target zones.
3. **Knowledge Production:** Publication of a "**Best Practices Manual for Congolese Female Mediators**" to be used as a regional training tool.
4. **Network Synergy:** A unified digital platform connecting rural mediators with international human rights observers.

Vision and Mission: Strengthening Women's Peace Networks in DRC

1. Our Vision

"To build a Democratic Republic of Congo where women are recognized as the architects of sustainable peace, holding equal authority at every negotiation table, and where every community thrives in a culture of justice, non-violence, and gender equity."

In-Depth Meaning of our Vision:

- **Architects of Peace:** We see women not just as participants, but as the designers of the security frameworks that protect their families and the nation.
- **Equal Authority:** We envision a future where "women's inclusion" is no longer a request but a standard institutional reality in the DRC.
- **Culture of Justice:** A peace that goes beyond the absence of guns to include legal protection and dignity for all.

2. Our Mission

"To empower, unify, and formalize women's peace networks across the DRC by providing them with the technical skills, economic independence, and political platforms necessary to mediate conflicts, protect human rights, and influence national security policy from the grassroots to the global stage."

Core Pillars of our Mission:

- **To Empower:** We provide high-level training in mediation, international law, and digital advocacy to transform local activists into certified experts.
- **To Unify:** We break down silos between fragmented women's groups to create a "network of networks"—a powerful, single voice for Congolese women.
- **To Formalize:** We work to ensure that local "Peace Huts" and mediation committees are legally recognized by the state and traditional authorities.
- **To Influence:** We bridge the gap between the rural mother protecting her village and the diplomat in Kinshasa or New York, ensuring her local expertise shapes national policy.

The Strategic "Why" (La Justification)

While a **Vision** describes the world we want to see, our **Mission** is the daily roadmap to get there. In the DRC context, this means moving away from "short-term projects" and toward a **permanent movement** that remains resilient even after international aid leaves.

Project Implementation Schedule (12-Month Timeline)

Phase	Months	Key Activities	Expected Output
Phase 1: Inception & Mapping	M1 - M2	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Baseline study & conflict mapping in target zones.• Identification and vetting of local women leaders.• Stakeholder meetings with customary & religious chiefs.	Selection of 25 intervention sites and local mediator cohorts.

<p>Phase 2: Infrastructure & Setup</p>	<p>M3 - M4</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Construction or renovation of "Peace Huts" • Launch of Village Savings and Loans Associations (VSLA). • Procurement of digital communication kits (tablets, solar chargers). 	<p>Physical presence established; financial groups activated.</p>
<p>Phase 3: Capacity Building (The Incubator)</p>	<p>M5 - M7</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Intensive training in Mediation & Land Law. • Workshops on Digital Early Warning Systems. • "Positive Masculinity" seminars for local police and army. 	<p>500 women certified in mediation; Early Warning Platform live.</p>
<p>Phase 4: Action & Advocacy</p>	<p>M8 - M10</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Deployment of mediators to resolve active local disputes. • High-level advocacy tours in Kinshasa and provincial capitals. • Radio campaigns for community sensitization. 	<p>Local conflicts resolved; representation increased in security councils.</p>
<p>Phase 5: Monitoring & Sustainability</p>	<p>M11 - M12</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Impact evaluation & data collection. • Final Regional Peace Forum to showcase results. • Handover of management to local Women's Committees. 	<p>Final project report; network autonomy established.</p>

Detailed Quarterly Breakdown

Quarter 1: Foundation (M1-M3)

- **Focus:** Trust-building and Logistics.
- The project starts by securing "buy-in" from traditional leaders. Without their approval, women's networks face high risks. We establish the legal and physical framework (Peace Huts).

Quarter 2: Skills & Systems (M4-M6)

- **Focus:** Technical Empowerment.
- This is the "Incubator" phase. We don't just teach "peace"; we teach **technical mediation**, legal frameworks (Resolution 1325), and how to use data for security reporting.

Quarter 3: Leadership & Impact (M7-M9)

- **Focus:** Influence and Visibility.
- Women begin mediating actual disputes (land, family, or ethnic tensions). We also facilitate meetings between these women and provincial governors to ensure their voices reach the "high table."

Quarter 4: Consolidation (M10-M12)

- **Focus:** Long-Term Resilience.
- The VSLAs should now be generating enough internal capital to support the networks' basic needs. We document "success stories" to lobby for permanent state recognition of the Peace Huts.

Global Project Budget

Category	Item Description	Unit Cost	Qty	Total (\$)
1. Infrastructure & Hubs	Establishment of "Peace Huts"			\$22,500
	Renovation/Rental of local mediation centers	\$1,500	10	\$15,000
	Solar power kits & basic furniture (tables/chairs)	\$750	10	\$7,500
2. Capacity Building	Training & Certification			\$28,000
	Mediation & Legal training (3-day workshops)	\$2,000	10	\$20,000
	Digital Literacy & Early Warning System training	\$800	10	\$8,000
3. Economic Resilience	VSLA & Micro-Grants			\$15,000
	Seed capital for 30 Village Savings & Loans groups	\$500	30	\$15,000
4. Advocacy & Media	Voice & Influence			\$12,000
	Radio talk shows (Conflict resolution awareness)	\$200	30	\$6,000

	Travel for advocacy (Meetings in Kinshasa/Goma)	\$1,500	4	\$6,000
5. Personnel (Local)	Project Management & Field Staff			\$18,000
	Field Coordinators (part-time local stipends)	\$500/mo	2	\$12,000
	M&E Officer (Monitoring & Evaluation)	\$500/mo	1	\$6,000
6. Operations & Admin	Running Costs			\$4,500
	Office supplies, internet, and communication	\$375	12	\$4,500
TOTAL BUDGET				\$100,000

Budget Justification (Deep Dive)

- **1. Peace Huts (\$22,500):** Instead of expensive new builds, we renovate existing community structures to ensure local buy-in. Solar kits are essential for "Early Warning" gadgets (phones/tablets) in off-grid rural areas.
- **2. Training (\$28,000):** This covers the "technical core." The cost includes venue rental, facilitator fees (DRC experts), and transport/meals for the women mediators traveling from remote villages.
- **3. Economic Seed Capital (\$15,000):** This is a **revolving fund**. By giving \$500 to each VSLA group, the network becomes self-sustaining. This money is used for small loans, ensuring women don't quit the peace network due to financial pressure.
- **4. Advocacy & Media (\$12,000):** In the DRC, **radio is the most powerful tool**. Broadcasting mediation success stories protects the women by giving them public legitimacy and visibility.

- **5. Local Personnel (\$18,000):** We prioritize hiring local Congolese experts rather than international consultants to keep costs low and ensure cultural relevance.

Financial Sustainability Note

By Year 2, the **VSLA interest** and the **community ownership** of the Peace Huts will reduce the required external funding by an estimated 40%.

Done in Goma, April 19, 2026

For DYJEPREDHU asbl


Christian AHADI BEN MASONGA
EXECUTIF DIRECTOR, HUMAN RIGHTS ACTIVISTI

