



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

**CHANGE**MENT | **TRANS**FORMATION | **IMPACT**

Avoid scented soaps for intimate wash in DRC

May 2026

Siège : Goma-RD Congo  
Email: [dyjepredhuasbl@gmail.com](mailto:dyjepredhuasbl@gmail.com)  
Téléphone : +243 (0) 991 707 324, +243 (0) 829 050 632  
Facebook : [dyjepredhu asbl](https://www.facebook.com/dyjepredhuasbl)



# PROJECT TECHNICAL PROPOSALS

## I. Project Summary

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### 1. Title of the project: Avoid scented soaps for intimate wash in DRC

#### 2. Contact details:

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

Address: Avenue Kasindi II, No. 131, Quartier KATOYI, Commune of Karisimbi, City of Goma North Province – Kivu / DRC.

- Telephone: +243 (0) 991707324, 0829050632
- Email: dyjepredhuasbl@gmail.com

- Referees:

Mr Christian AHADI BEN MASONGA (Executif Director)

Such: +243 (0) 991707324

Mr. RIZIKI BARAKA Isaac (Financial Administrator)

Such: +243 (0) 974744434

### 3. Organization Mission Statement

"To empower women and girls in the Democratic Republic of the Congo by promoting safe, evidence-based intimate hygiene practices. Our mission is to eliminate the use of harmful scented products through community education, the provision of safe alternatives, and the destigmatization of reproductive health, ensuring every woman has the knowledge and tools to protect her body's natural balance."

#### **Project Beneficiaries**

The project focuses on supporting women and girls across different life stages to ensure a broad and lasting impact on community health.

#### 1. Adolescent Girls and Young Women:

- Those entering puberty who are forming their first hygiene habits.
- School-aged girls who need accurate information to prevent infections that could lead to school absenteeism.

#### 2. Women of Reproductive Age:

- Especially those living in high-humidity regions or areas with limited access to specialized gynecological care.
- Women who may currently use scented products due to social pressure or aggressive marketing.

#### 3. Pregnant Women:

- A critical group, as maintaining a healthy vaginal pH is essential to preventing infections that can cause pregnancy complications or preterm labor.

4. **Local Community Health Workers (CHWs) and Midwives:**

- Secondary beneficiaries who will receive specialized training and kits to provide better counseling and support to their patients.

5. **Vulnerable Populations in Rural Areas:**

- Women with limited access to clean water and health education, who are most at risk of using improvised or harmful cleaning agents.

**Total cost of the project: US \$ 55,000**

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

**Goma Agency -DRC**

**No. 1272-28000-23526760001-87**

**Following code: TRMSCD3L**

# Context and Justification of the Project

## Project Context and Rationale

### 1. The Prevalence of Preventable Infections

In the Democratic Republic of the Congo, many women and girls suffer from recurring vaginal infections, such as Bacterial Vaginosis and Candidiasis. These conditions are often not caused by a lack of hygiene, but rather by the use of inappropriate products. The widespread use of aggressive scented soaps and traditional douching practices disrupts the delicate vaginal flora, creating a cycle of infection and discomfort.

### 2. Cultural Misconceptions and Marketing

There is a strong cultural pressure to use "fresh-scented" products, fueled by the misconception that natural bodily odors are shameful. Aggressive marketing of "feminine hygiene" sprays and scented soaps exploits these insecurities, leading women to purchase products that are clinically proven to be harmful to their reproductive health.

### 3. Climate and Environmental Factors

The tropical climate of the DRC, characterized by high heat and humidity, promotes sweating and moisture retention. When combined with the chemical irritants found in scented soaps, the risk of severe skin irritation (contact dermatitis) and microbial overgrowth increases significantly, making proper education on pH-neutral care a matter of urgency.

### 4. Public Health Impact

Untreated or recurring intimate infections are not just a matter of discomfort; they are linked to more serious complications, including increased susceptibility to STIs/HIV and adverse pregnancy outcomes such as preterm births. By addressing the root cause harmful hygiene habits this project directly contributes to improving maternal health and reducing the burden on the Congolese healthcare system.

### 5. Lack of Access to Accurate Information

Currently, there is a gap in health education regarding intimate care in schools and community centers. Many women rely on peer advice that reinforces harmful practices. This project is justified by the need to provide scientifically accurate, accessible, and culturally sensitive information to empower women to make healthy choices for their bodies.

## Project Objectives

The primary goal of this initiative is to improve the reproductive health of women and girls in the DRC by promoting safe intimate hygiene practices and eliminating the use of harmful scented products.

### **1. Primary Objective:**

To reduce the incidence of vaginal infections (Bacterial Vaginosis and Yeast Infections) among the target population by within the first months of the project.

### **2. Specific Objectives:**

- **Education:** To sensitize at least women and girls on the biological importance of maintaining a natural vaginal pH and the dangers of synthetic fragrances.
- **Behavioral Change:** To achieve a measurable shift in hygiene habits, encouraging participants to replace scented soaps with clean water or pH-balanced, fragrance-free alternatives.
- **Training:** To train local health workers and community mentors to provide accurate, evidence-based counseling on intimate care.
- **Access:** To distribute "Safe Hygiene Kits" (containing unscented soap and educational brochures) to vulnerable women in rural or underserved areas.
- **Advocacy:** To collaborate with local schools and health centers to integrate basic intimate health education into their existing wellness programs.

## **Project Mission and Core Values**

### **Mission Statement**

"To safeguard the reproductive health and dignity of women and girls in the DRC by promoting safe intimate hygiene. We aim to eliminate the use of harmful scented products through evidence-based education, the provision of healthy alternatives, and the normalization of natural body care, ensuring a future free from preventable infections."

### **Core Values**

#### **1. Scientific Integrity**

We base all our recommendations on proven medical facts and gynecological standards to ensure the highest level of safety for our beneficiaries.

#### **2. Dignity and Respect**

We treat every woman's experience with empathy, fostering a safe space to discuss intimate health without shame or judgment.

#### **3. Empowerment**

We believe that knowledge is protection. By providing accurate information, we empower women to take control of their own health and bodily autonomy.

#### 4. Inclusivity

Our project is dedicated to reaching all women, regardless of their socio-economic status, with a particular focus on those in underserved rural and urban areas.

#### 5. Sustainability

We focus on long-term behavioral changes and community-led education to ensure that healthy hygiene habits are passed down through generations.

### Project Implementation Timeline (6 Months)

Phase	Month	Key Activities
<b>Phase 1: Preparation</b>	<b>Month 1</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Recruitment and training of project staff.</li><li>Procurement of "Safe Hygiene Kits" (fragrance-free soaps, buckets, towels).</li><li>Finalizing educational content (brochures, posters) in French and local languages (Lingala, Swahili, etc.).</li></ul>
<b>Phase 2: Training</b>	<b>Month 2</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Training workshops for <b>Community Health Workers (CHWs)</b> and local midwives.</li><li>Partnerships finalized with local schools and health centers.</li></ul>
<b>Phase 3: Launch &amp; Education</b>	<b>Month 3</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Official project launch event.</li><li>Start of <b>community awareness sessions</b> (churches, markets, community centers).</li><li>Distribution of the first batch of Safe Hygiene Kits.</li></ul>
<b>Phase 4: Implementation</b>	<b>Month 4</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>School-based education programs (targeting adolescent girls).</li><li>Radio campaigns or SMS awareness blasts.</li><li>Monthly support group meetings for women to discuss health improvements.</li></ul>
<b>Phase 5: Monitoring</b>	<b>Month 5</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Mid-term evaluation: collecting feedback from beneficiaries.</li><li>Follow-up visits to health centers to track if infection reports are decreasing.</li></ul>
<b>Phase 6: Reporting</b>	<b>Month 6</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Final project evaluation and impact analysis.</li><li>Production of the final report for stakeholders and donors.</li><li>Strategic planning for project scaling/expansion.</li></ul>

## Detailed Project Budget: "Safe Intimate Hygiene DRC"

Expense Category	Items & Description	Estimated Amount (USD)
<b>1. Human Resources</b>	<b>Staffing &amp; Expertise</b>	<b>\$18,000</b>
	1 Project Coordinator (Program management)	\$9,000
	2 Field Officers (Community mobilization)	\$6,000
	Medical Consultants (Gynecologists for technical training)	\$3,000
<b>2. Hygiene Supplies &amp; Kits</b>	<b>Direct Support to Beneficiaries</b>	<b>\$15,500</b>
	Bulk purchase of 3,000 fragrance-free/hypoallergenic soaps	\$4,500
	1,500 "Safe Kits" (Cotton towels, basins, storage bags)	\$9,000
	Logistics, transport, and warehousing of goods	\$2,000
<b>3. Communication &amp; Outreach</b>	<b>Awareness &amp; Media</b>	<b>\$10,500</b>
	Design and printing of 5,000 brochures & posters	\$3,500
	Local radio campaigns (Spots and talk shows)	\$4,000
	Community workshops (Venue rental, snacks, materials)	\$3,000
<b>4. Capacity Building</b>	<b>Training Programs</b>	<b>\$4,500</b>
	Training workshops for 50 Community Health Workers	\$3,000
	Development of clinical guideline manuals for local clinics	\$1,500
<b>5. Operational Costs</b>	<b>Logistics &amp; Administration</b>	<b>\$4,000</b>
	Field travel (Fuel, vehicle maintenance, or rental)	\$2,500
	Office expenses (Internet, supplies, communication)	\$1,500
<b>6. Monitoring &amp; Evaluation</b>	<b>Impact Tracking</b>	<b>\$2,500</b>
	Baseline and endline surveys, data analysis, and reporting	\$2,500
<b>GRAND TOTAL</b>		<b>\$55,000</b>

**Budget Narrative (Justification):**

- **Direct Impact (28%):** Over a quarter of the budget is dedicated to providing physical alternatives to scented soaps, ensuring the "knowledge" provided is backed by "tools."
- **Personnel (33%):** Covers a dedicated local team to ensure the project is culturally appropriate and consistently monitored on the ground.
- **Communication (19%):** Essential for breaking taboos. Radio is prioritized to reach the maximum number of households in the DRC context.

Done in Goma, May 6, 2026

For DYJEPREDHU asbl

   
Christian AHADI BEN MASONGA

EXECUTIF DIRECTOR, HUMAIN RIGHTS ACTIVISTI