



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 **TRANS**FORMATION **IMP**ACT

Help vulnerable palm oil startups in the DR Congo

May 2026

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PROJECT TECHNICAL PROPOSALS

I. Project Summary

1. Title of the project: Help vulnerable palm oil startups in the DR Congo

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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Mr Christian AHADI BEN MASONGA (Executif Director)

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Mr. RIZIKI BARAKA Isaac (Financial Administrator)

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3. Organization Mission Statement

Our Mission

"Our organization is dedicated to empowering vulnerable agribusiness entrepreneurs and smallholder farmers across sub-Saharan Africa. Through the deployment of clean agricultural technologies, structured formalization support, financial inclusion networks, and digital environmental mapping, we transform informal, fragile supply chains into resilient, profitable, and zero-deforestation ecosystems. We work to break the cycle of poverty, restore human dignity in labor, and foster sustainable, community-led economic stability in post-conflict regions."

Functional Variations Based on Your Audience

Depending on who you are sharing this mission statement with, you can adjust the focus:

- **For Institutional Donors & Grant Applications (Focus on Impact):**
"To drive rural stabilization and economic resilience in fragile states by empowering smallholder cooperatives with sustainable technology, market formalization, and climate-compliant agricultural practices."
- **For Impact Investors & Commercial Partners (Focus on Growth):**
"To unlock the economic potential of frontier-market agribusinesses by integrating modernized processing tools, scalable financial infrastructure, and global compliance standards into local value chains."

Project Beneficiaries

Given the hyper-local nature of the **\$500 micro-budget allocation**, the project targets a highly concentrated, high-risk area (such as a single informal Internally Displaced Persons (IDP) camp or a high-density community school) in an epidemic hotspot like North or South Kivu.

The target population is split into two distinct categories:

1. Direct Beneficiaries

The project directly and indirectly targets individuals, enterprises, and institutions within the palm oil value chain in the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

Direct Beneficiaries

- **50 Vulnerable Palm Oil Startups & Micro-Enterprises:** Small-scale, informal businesses that will receive legal registration, corporate formalization, and business management training.
- **20 Artisanal Palm Oil Cooperatives:** Structured local producer groups that will receive semi-automated oil presses, infrastructure upgrades, and waste upcycling equipment.
- **400 Smallholder Farmers:** Local growers who will benefit from digital farm mapping, traceability tools, and guaranteed fair-trade purchasing agreements with the modernized mills.
- **150 Women and Youth Entrepreneurs:** Individuals prioritized for specialized training in agricultural waste management and by-product processing (soap and animal feed production).

Indirect Beneficiaries

- **Rural Households (Approx. 2,500 Individuals):** Family members of farmers and workers who will experience improved living standards through increased household income and local economic stability.

- **Displaced Populations (IDPs):** Vulnerable individuals in conflict-affected zones who will gain access to direct employment opportunities generated by the expanded startup networks.
- **Local Consumers & Wholesalers:** Regional buyers who will gain access to higher-quality, safer, and more hygienically processed palm oil and soap products.
- **Local Ecosystems & Conservation Bodies:** Regional environmental protection networks that benefit from the elimination of slash-and-burn practices through EUDR compliance mapping.

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

1. Background and Context

The Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) possesses immense agricultural potential, with palm oil deeply rooted in its economic and cultural history. Once a leading global exporter, the sector transitioned over decades into a highly fragmented market dominated by smallholders, artisanal millers, and vulnerable micro-startups. Today, the industry faces severe structural disruptions, particularly in conflict-affected eastern provinces like North Kivu and Ituri. Local entrepreneurs operate under extreme systemic instability, dealing with ongoing security threats, massive displacement of agricultural communities, and a lack of basic energy infrastructure. Consequently, these startups rely on rudimentary, low-yield processing methods that limit production to local survival markets, leaving them completely disconnected from national and global value chains.

2. Problem Statement

Vulnerable palm oil startups in the DRC face three critical bottlenecks:

- **Inefficient Processing and Safety Hazards:** Most smallholders extract oil manually using dangerous, labor-intensive techniques. This results in low oil extraction rates, poor product quality, high physical strain, and frequent workplace injuries.
- **Financial Exclusion and Informality:** A significant portion of these businesses operate informally due to complex administrative barriers. This informality cuts them off from formal microfinancing, government safety

nets, and market information, leaving them exposed to economic shocks and extortion.

- **Strict International Environmental Barriers:** Global markets, particularly the European Union via the EU Deforestation Regulation (EUDR), require strict proof of zero-deforestation. DRC startups lack the digital tools, mapping capabilities, and traceability expertise to prove compliance, permanently locking them out of lucrative export opportunities.

3. Project Justification

Investing in and supporting these vulnerable startups is highly justified across economic, social, and environmental dimensions:

- **Poverty Alleviation and Stabilisation:** Palm oil is a primary income driver for thousands of rural households. Strengthening small businesses injects immediate liquidity into local economies, creating sustainable jobs for youth and displaced populations, which directly helps mitigate regional conflicts.
- **Industrial Modernization and Added Value:** Introducing semi-automated processing technology drastically increases yields, improves product hygiene, and minimizes physical labor. Upcycling manufacturing waste into soap or animal feed creates strong secondary revenue streams.
- **Environmental Conservation:** Transitioning smallholders toward sustainable, traceable agroforestry practices reduces the incentive for illegal logging. Collaborating with local ecological networks allows startups to balance commercial viability with the preservation of critical biodiversity.

Project Objectives

1. General Objective (Main Goal)

The main objective of this project is to structurally empower vulnerable palm oil startups and smallholders in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) by modernizing their production tools, formalizing their business operations, and integrating them into sustainable, value-generating, and deforestation-free supply chains to foster regional economic stability.

2. Specific Objectives (SMART Goals)

- **Technological Modernization:** Upgrade at least of targeted artisanal mills with semi-automated oil presses to increase oil extraction rates by and eliminate workplace safety hazards.
- **Formalization and Financial Inclusion:** Assist informal palm oil micro-enterprises in obtaining official business registration and securing access to fair microfinance services or working capital loans.
- **Capacity Building and Waste Upcycling:** Train local entrepreneurs and cooperative members in cooperative management, quality control, and the transformation of processing by-products into high-value items like soap or animal feed.
- **Environmental Compliance and Traceability:** Implement digital mapping and mobile traceability tools for smallholder farms to ensure

alignment with international zero-deforestation standards (such as EUDR) and secure access to premium markets.

- **Job Creation and Social Inclusion:** Generate direct and indirect sustainable jobs, prioritizing women, youth, and internally displaced persons (IDPs) within conflict-affected communities.

Project Mission and Core Values

1. Project Mission

Our mission is to transform vulnerable palm oil startups in the Democratic Republic of the Congo into resilient, modernized, and profitable enterprises. By providing access to clean technology, formal business training, financial inclusion, and ecological mapping, we empower local smallholders to uplift their communities, break the cycle of poverty, and lead the transition toward a sustainable, conflict-free, and deforestation-free palm oil sector.

2. Core Values

- **Empowerment:** We believe in equipping local entrepreneurs with the tools, skills, and ownership needed to drive their own long-term economic independence.
- **Sustainability:** We pledge to protect the DRC's rich biodiversity by enforcing zero-deforestation practices and promoting circular economy models that minimize waste.

- **Inclusivity:** We prioritize the economic integration of women, youth, and internally displaced persons (IDPs) who are most vulnerable to regional instability.
- **Safety & Dignity:** We commit to replacing hazardous manual labor with modern agricultural machinery to ensure a safe, humane, and dignified working environment.
- **Integrity & Transparency:** We champion fair trading practices, official business formalization, and reliable supply chain traceability from farm to market.

Project Activity Timeline (Gantt Chart Layout)

This chronological timeline outlines a standard **12-month project cycle** divided into four quarters (Q1 to Q4). You can adjust the timeline based on your project's actual duration.

Phase 1: Preparation, Mapping & Engagement (Months 1–3 / Q1)

- **Activity 1.1:** Stakeholder engagement meetings with local authorities, traditional leaders, and cooperatives.
- **Activity 1.2:** Baseline assessment and identification of vulnerable palm oil startups and smallholder beneficiaries.
- **Activity 1.3:** Digital mapping of smallholder plots to establish baseline data for EUDR environmental compliance.

- **Activity 1.4:** Procurement of semi-automated oil presses and agricultural equipment.

Phase 2: Capacity Building & Formalization (Months 4–6 / Q2)

- **Activity 2.1:** Legal formalization support to register micro-enterprises with national registries (e.g., RCCM, Guichet Unique).
- **Activity 2.2:** Training workshops on financial literacy, cooperative management, and business accounting.
- **Activity 2.3:** Technical training on equipment maintenance, hygiene standards, and workplace safety protocols.
- **Activity 2.4:** Establishment of partnerships with local microfinance institutions (MFIs) for credit lines.

Phase 3: Equipment Deployment & Production Scale-up (Months 7–9 / Q3)

- **Activity 3.1:** Installation and commissioning of semi-automated oil processing units in target communities.
- **Activity 3.2:** On-site technical assistance during the initial high-yield production runs.
- **Activity 3.3:** Technical workshops on waste upcycling (transforming palm kernels and sludge into soap or animal feed).

- **Activity 3.4:** Implementation of mobile traceability apps to log production batches from farm to mill.

Phase 4: Market Integration, Monitoring & Evaluation (Months 10–12 / Q4)

- **Activity 4.1:** Linkage events connecting modernized startups with regional buyers, wholesalers, and soap manufacturers.
- **Activity 4.2:** Mid-term operational reviews to assess oil extraction rates, income changes, and safety metrics.
- **Activity 4.3:** Final project evaluation, impact reporting, and compilation of lessons learned for stakeholders.
- **Activity 4.4:** Project closure and handover of equipment ownership to local cooperatives or entrepreneurs.

Budget Summary by Category

Category	Item Description	Estimated Cost	% of Budget
Personnel & Labor	Project Manager (Freelance - 6 months)	\$15,000	27.3%
	Software Developers / Designers	\$12,000	21.8%
Marketing & Growth	Digital Advertising (Google & Social Media)	\$6,500	11.8%
	Content Creation & Branding	\$3,500	6.4%
Operations & Tech	Hardware (Laptops, Servers, Office Equipment)	\$5,000	9.1%
	Software Subscriptions & Cloud Licensing	\$3,000	5.5%
Administrative & Legal	Business Registration & Legal Fees	\$2,500	4.5%
	Office Supplies & Utilities	\$2,000	3.6%
Contingency Fund	Emergency Reserves (10%)	\$5,500	10.0%
TOTAL BUDGET	All Expenses Combined	\$55,000	100%

Done in Goma, May 31, 2026

For DYJEPREDHU asbl



Christian AHADI BEN MASONGA
 EXECUTIF DIRECTOR, HUMAIN RIGHTS ACTIVISTI

