**Project to restore the economic activities for the survivors of the flooding in Bushushu and Nyamukubi Villages in Kalehe Territory South Kivu Province in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC).**

**Background information**

The Democratic Republic of Congo is affected by various natural calamities and disasters which have caused thousands of people who lost their lives, and thousands of others are left as survivors. Of the recent three years we can mention the following: Survivors of the Nyiragongo Volcano eruption in North Kivu, the flooding in Kisnshasa, the flooding Kindu/ Maniema, the Flooding in Uvira South Kivu, the victims of the flooding in Kalehe South Kivu, among others. On top of that we have victims of fire that consumed houses in Bukavu South Kivu, in Goma North Kivu, and the victims of ferry capsizing on Lake Kivu and on river Congo and lastly terrible road accidents among others.

**Interventions after the disasters**

In most cases the interventions are often emergency humanitarian relief and the burial of the dead, generally this activities take six (6) months and after which the survivors are left to suffer alone. And as consequence of this, thousands have been left to languish into extreme poverty after they lost everything during the disaster. Most of the survivors have remained in small plastic tents for those who are lucky in IDPs Camps where they were put after the disaster where they lived for years with the consequences in terms of trauma and risks associated to their lives.

**The need for economic recovery and development activities**

At COJESKI, we believe that development activities should be incorporated alongside with the Humanitarian relief aid, in order to boost resilience and other alternatives to recovery after the disasters. While there are so many other development interventions that are need in order to help the survivors, we have selected the **Economic Recovery** as one among the first priority we wish to put in place.

The idea consists at supporting financially the survivors in their economic activities in order to gain more freedom and restore their lives.

**Strategy for this idea**

First of all this idea is unique and seems to be moving very well among refugees where we have implemented it in North Kivu – DRC.

Twenty (20) people are put together in a group of saving, they select among themselves 4 people who will be their leaders composed of the ***chairperson, the secretary, the treasurer and the welfare***. The whole groups meets once per week, everyone is given the opportunity to select a small income generating activity he/she wants to do. Then some money is given to each person as capital grant. They agree in a group how much each person is going to save every week, the money that they save is divided into two, the first part is kept by the treasurer of the group and is intended to solve various problems among themselves, and they agree how can the person access to that money and how to bring it back. The second part of the saving is sent to COJESKI where is kept in order to support other women, or to increase the capital of those in action or to set a community project for the whole group. For example operating a restaurant for the whole group,….

**Economic recovery for the survivors of the flooding in Bushushu and Nyamukubi, Kalehe South Kivu/ DRC**

As per now more than 10,000 people are considered as direct and indirect survivors of the flooding in Bushushu and Nyamubi, some are living in small tents in camps while others are in host families. The flooding and other disasters continue to remind us **about the relationship between poverty and vulnerability**, in most cases we have observed that those who are in difficult situation of vulnerability were generally those who lived in poverty before the disaster or even before the war, we have also observed that those who were economically stable before the disaster tend to show resilience and benefit from other alternatives after the disaster. More research work in needed in order to understand this dynamic.

For example we have observed in various camps that most of those living in camps are people who were extremely poor before the disaster and did not have a stable income generating activity before. While those who were economically empowered and active are able to hire or buy land and construct houses, and are able to start again small income generating activities.

**Starting capital for the survivors**

This project therefore intends to offer opportunities to the survivors of the flooding in Bushushu and Nyamukubi to access the starting financial capital in order to put in place Income Generating Activities which will help them to overcome poverty.

**Target people in Bushushu and Nyamukubi**

**The first target group** will be all the survivors who are now involved in Small Income Generating Activities, they will be identified and put in a group of 20 people, among them 4 will be their leaders. A survey will be done and a field work will be conducted in order to establish the kind of activities people are doing and how much capital they are using. Then a grant will be given to them according to the amount the person has, for example a person who is operating a business for 100$, we shall give that person 100$ more. Then they will start saving as we explained above.

**The second target group** will be those who wish start business but they do not have capital. These should be first of all people who have history in business and then once they are identified, they will also be trained and then given starting grant, they will also be in a group of 20 and will also be saving every week,

**The third target group** of people is those who would wish to start business which they have never done, these will be put also in a group of 20 and they will have someone to stand for them as surety in order to access the grant, they will also be trained and well monitored.

**The last target group** of people are those using various talents which need to be developed, those with skills and those who want to learn skills.

These will be also supported with a capital in order to continue their work but with more order to ensure that they have saving, while those who do not know will be trained. All will be in a group of 20 people and will have weekly meetings.

**Expected Results**

The project aims at the economic recovery of people in order to overcome poverty, to help them to improve their living conditions (eating, education for their children, health, and housing among others basic needs), in long-term the project seeks to encourage them to leave the IDP camps and build better houses somewhere.

This project aims at improving individual economy and opportunities for safe-saving of the money which can help them in a situation of problems through Banks and other better opportunities,

**Budget**

For the project to start we need **480,000$** for the year 2023 – 2024,

We believe that once that money is mobilized it will cover at least 40% of the survivors directly and 70% of the survivors indirectly and will improve lives of the communities to 15 to 20% better than the current way they are living.

Thanks

**COJESKI-DRC, Coordination of North Kivu**