

Enhancing Youth Skills Development and Employment Opportunities in Kivu



kiyo



In the East of DR Congo, unemployment, underemployment and low wages make youth vulnerable to recruitment into armed groups, exploitation, drugs and crime. Young women and vulnerable youth face a particularly difficult situation. Many youth lack relevant skills in demand in the labour market. Moreover, the country's skills development system was ill-equipped to provide youth with the kinds of in-demand skills sought by potential employers. Investing in training and skills is needed to strengthen socio-economic resilience and successful employment opportunities for youth.

**Merveille 20 years old
Goma – KIYO partner ASCEN**

"Traditions keep women in my community from demanding their rights and from developing an entrepreneurial spirit. I always wanted to open my own hairdressing salon. ASCEN helped me to realise this dream by first believing in my own potential. They also accompanied me in developing technical and professional skills needed to open my own business. We need much more female entrepreneurs to bring positive change in our country."



Keep in touch!

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The logo for KIYO, featuring the word 'kiyo' in a stylized, lowercase font with a green-to-yellow gradient.

ASCEN

EMPOWERING YOUTH TOGETHER IN DR CONGO



KIYO and the African Social Cohesion Entrepreneurship Network (ASCEN) have been partners since 2022. KIYO and ASCEN learn from each other's work with youth as well as from other KIYO partners through KIYO's overall programme. In the DGD 2022-2026 programme, KIYO and ASCEN will focus on the following activities together :



- Strengthening the learning environments of Technical and Professional Training Centers that provide vocational trainings. These centers will be accompanied in enriching their pedagogical approaches by including the teaching of life skills, in addition to technical skills, in their vocational courses.
- Organising reflection and career orientation activities to help youth make meaningful choices.
- Offering vocational trainings to youth of their choosing with a high chance of employment. These include: masonry, mechanics, welding, tailoring, hairdressing, culinary art, livestock breeding, agribusiness, etc.
- Accompanying youth in their search for employment or in developing their own income-generating activity. The accompaniment is done by voluntary mentors which are youth from the communities who have themselves successfully gone through a process of socioeconomic empowerment and who are trained by ASCEN to accompany other youth as experience experts.