



DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO INUKA PROJECT

2025 Project Summary

The INUKA project, meaning “to get back on one’s feet” in Swahili, progressed into full implementation in 2025 in Kinshasa, Democratic Republic of Congo. Building on the 2024 preparatory phase, the project applied the UPSHIFT methodology to empower youth through social innovation and entrepreneurship across the municipalities of Masina, Ngaliema, and Lingwala.

Key preparatory activities included a Training of Trainers on UPSHIFT (August 2025) and a market assessment which identified major barriers such as limited access to finance, weak market linkages, and skills gaps. This phase selected partners: Centre National d’Appui au Développement et à la Participation Populaire (CENADEP) and Centre d’Encadrement pour l’Autonomisation et la Réinsertion Sociale des filles mères (CEARSEM), after a rigorous process.

Community outreach and mobilization led to 99 youth group applications, from which 12 groups (60 youth) were selected for participation in the UPSHIFT bootcamp. A total of 57 youth completed these Bootcamps, which were conducted in November and December, with 94% demonstrating strong knowledge of innovative business development at the end.



Following the Bootcamp, mentorship support enabled the youth to refine their ideas, leading to a competitive selection process in early 2026. Six youth-led projects were selected and received seed funding of USD 1,000 each to support implementation.

To further strengthen capacity, 29 youth participated in entrepreneurship and life skills training. Overall, the project successfully established a pipeline of youth-led initiatives, combining training, mentorship, and financial support to promote sustainable economic opportunities in an urban context.



With continued investment in teaching quality, learning materials, and infrastructure, the project is strengthening the delivery of accelerated education for out-of-school children in South Kivu, contributing to improved learning outcomes and supporting pathways toward longer-term resilience.

Key Results for 2025

Indicator	Achieved
Market assessment	Completed with 573 participants (54% women)
Youth participating in Bootcamps	57 youth
Participants demonstrating innovation skills	94%
Projects receiving seed funding	6 projects
Youth trained in business skills	29 youth

Ketshia, a 27-year-old entrepreneur, gained the tools, training, and mentorship to transform her ideas into a viable initiative. Using the UPSHIFT methodology, she learned how to identify community challenges, develop solutions, and pitch her concept. Today, she is leading a project focused on raising awareness, cleaning up plastic waste, and transforming it into cobblestones.

Ketshia now has the confidence and skills to grow her business and expand its impact. She hopes to scale production, create new products from recycled materials, and contribute to a cleaner, more sustainable Kinshasa.

“War Child has played a big role in the way I work... before I had ideas but I didn’t know where to start, but thanks to the Inuka project I found the starting point.”
-Ketshia, 27

