

Template Project proposal

PROJECT NAME: "EXPANDING CIVIC SPACE AND PROMOTING THE RIGHT TO DEFEND HUMAN RIGHTS FOR HUMAN RIGHTS DEFENDERS AND THEIR COLLECTIVE IN THE DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO AND THE GREAT LAKES REGION"

AMOUNT REQUESTED: 500 000 EUR..... (in euros)

DURATION: 24 MONTHS..... (number of months)

DATE OF INTRODUCTION: 01/11/2021..... (latest version introduced)

Shape instructions:

The completed version of this project proposal may not exceed the maximum number of 10 pages (font Times New Roman size 11).

The eligible language(s) are French, English or Dutch.

This project proposal may not be submitted in handwritten form.

1. Organization

- full name: Protection International aisbl
- abbreviation: (PI)
- legal status: aisbl
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- address for correspondence (if different from the official address):
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2. Bank data

- name of the bank: Belfius Banque
- bank address: Avenue Brugmann, 247-1180 Bruxelles –Belgique
- account number / IBAN (EU): BE37 7765 9747 4328
- bank holder: 7765 9747 4328
- BIC / SWIFT: GKCCBEBB
- Reference to be included when payments are executed: Protection International aisbl

3. Motivation (Relevance)

Context: The Great Lakes Region, which encompasses the 12 member States of the International Conference on the Great Lakes Region¹ is made of a multitude of different interests, cultures, experiences, diversities and ethnicities. As a result, this sub-region of Africa constitutes a complex network of political and economic

¹ The organization is composed of twelve member states, namely: Angola, Burundi, Central African Republic, Republic of Congo, Democratic Republic of Congo, Kenya, Uganda, Rwanda, Republic of South Sudan, Sudan, Tanzania and Zambia.

interactions with significant implications for peace, security and governance. For many decades, the region has been ravaged by conflicts relating to governance issues, identity division, structural violence, exploitation and unequal access to natural resources.

The project intervention will focus on the **Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC)**, which plays a major role in the stabilization in the region. The important cross-border dimension and transnational ethnic identities have favored the interconnection of conflicts destabilizing the whole region. Therefore, because of the strong connections and interferences with the neighboring countries, the project will have a regional dimension and integrate regional activities **within the Great Lakes Region** with a focus on **Tanzania, Kenya, Uganda and Burundi**. In the Great Lakes region, progress in terms of governance, democracy and the rule of law is very limited. Indeed, in many countries, the different electoral processes have been systematically called into question by failed or successful attempts by current governments to modify their Constitutions so as to stay in power. Political participation by citizens in this region is furthermore severely hampered by the use of violent and systematic state repression against dissenting voices, considerably reducing the democratic space and jeopardizing the public's most fundamental rights and freedoms such as the freedom of expression and opinion and sometimes even the right to life and physical integrity of those who seek to express themselves, this is the case in Uganda, DRC, Burundi, Tanzania. Impunity for crimes and human rights violations committed is rampant in countries where the legal system and the security services are seriously dysfunctional, lacking of independence and often corrupt. For instance, Kenya faces a great deal of issues concerning cases of extra-judiciary executions of young people living in informal settlements. The Great Lakes region is currently prey to a number of crises: crises of institutional governance and legitimacy of leaders often wielding excessive centralized power and seeking to devoid the democratic principle of political alternation of its meaning, crises of governance accompanied by democratic crises with an excessive lockdown of the democratic space and increasing attacks upon fundamental freedoms and human rights. These originally political crises often degenerate into serious, large scale security and humanitarian crises causing a great deal of suffering for the populations of the Great Lakes as well as general instability across the region. Amid concern about unceasing hurdles to the exercise of political freedoms and human rights in the Great Lakes region, the United Nations has launched a new strategy focused on preventive diplomacy, security cooperation and development.³

In the DRC in particular, the political changeover so long sought by CSOs and Congolese people finally came about during the last presidential elections in 2018. However, ongoing political battles, combined with a weak economy exacerbated by the COVID-19 crisis, repeated conflicts and the permanent presence of armed groups, place the Congolese population in extremely difficult living conditions. In eastern Congo, numerous armed groups, and in some cases, government security forces, attacked civilians. The humanitarian situation in the country remained alarming, with 5.5 million people internally displaced. The violent repression of civil society actors, journalists and human rights defenders (HRDs) persists. The coming electoral context in countries like DRC, Kenya is likely to bring more violence, have an impact on the freedom of expression and also contribute to the repression of human rights defenders (HRDs).

Problem statement:

As highlighted by the study 'Claiming back civic space – Towards approaches fit for the 2020s?' Commissioned by Belgian Ministry of Foreign Affairs: *"Deteriorated civic space contributes to wider movements of democratic recession, through reduced scrutiny and reporting on policies and human rights abuses and on attempts to subvert independent institutions. Further, it often results in political polarization, hate campaigns on social media, violence as well as an erosion of norms -such as the acceptance of the role of opposition. It is not solely a state-driven process, however, as this polarization is promoted by numerous non-state actors and movements –, populist and reactionary ones in particular."*⁴

Closing civic space: In this context of shrinking civic space, HRD) in DRC and globally in the Great Lakes Region are particularly exposed and suffer recurrent violations of their HRDs. According the HRW, in the DRC,

² P. KANYANGARA, « Conflict in the Great Lakes Region. Root Causes, Dynamics and Effects », *Conflict Trends*, 2016

³ <https://www.un.org/press/en/2020/sc14324.doc.htm>

⁴ https://diplomatie.belgium.be/sites/default/files/downloads/study_claiming_back_civic_space_towards_approaches_fit_2020s.pdf

authorities cracked down on peaceful protesters, journalists, and politicians, while using state of emergency measures temporarily imposed due to the Covid-19 pandemic as a pretext to curb protests. Dozens of people who criticized government policies, including on social media, were intimidated and threatened, beaten, arrested, and in some cases prosecuted. HRDs in the Great Lakes Region faced threats, intimidation, arbitrary arrest, and detention from both state authorities and armed groups, making these two actors the main perpetrators of HRDs violations. Indeed, the state authorities do not recognize the legitimate work of HRDs despite the international norms dictated by numerous treaties and agreements. The climate of impunity and the lack of visibility of HRDs' work encourages violence against them, which is often the result of a misunderstanding of their mandate. In DRC, the Nobel Laureate Dr. Mukwege received death threats for his advocacy of justice for serious crimes. The current context with the "state of siege" declared by the government since May 2021 in the provinces of North Kivu and Ituri further weakens HRDs when they have to face military and police while denouncing their abuses.

High level of exposure for HRDs on the front line: In DRC, at national and local level, there are several initiatives and active NGO working on human rights, social justice, and end impunity. These HRDs activists are very vocal, dedicated, but not trained on proper security and protection management. Those HRDs are dealing with very sensitive issues, and are increasingly using digital tools and social media communication. Without adequate training, they are at risk of physical and digital attacks and smear campaign. The project proposes to train selected HRDs, that are highly exposed to risk and threat to access to a comprehensive training in preventive protection capacity building, including digital security component, as well as advocacy skills.

Lack of protection mechanisms at local, national (DRC) and regional level (Great Lakes Regional): As already highlighted, a number of local, national and international organizations are active on the issue of HRDs. However, there is still a lack of clear monitoring and updated knowledge of the situation of HRDs in the region. For instance, in DRC there is no national coalition of HRDs, which specifically monitors and coordinate actions around the protection of HRDs, as in many neighboring countries or in the region. In Uganda and Kenya for instance, the National HRD coalitions play a major role in coordinating and representing the actions of organizations working for the protection of HRDs and are the privileged interlocutors of state authorities and national and international institutions on issues of HRDs protection. The project proposes to fill this gap by supporting the emergence of a national protection working group/coalition in DRC capable of coordinating and representing advocacy initiatives for the implementation of public policies in favor of HRDs, as well as improving protection mechanisms. Exchanges of experience between National HRDs coalitions will take place to duplicate good practices.

An expanded mandate for CNDH being grasped : To improve HRDs protection, in October 2018 more than 260 representatives of National Human Rights Institutions (NHRIs) as well as representatives of the United Nations and F/HRDs collectives adopted the Marrakech Declaration: "Expanding Civic Space and Promoting and Protecting Human Rights Defenders, the Role of National Human Rights Institutions"⁵, in which NHRIs committed to endorse a new mandate for the protection of HRDs, in particular for women and their legitimate role in society. However, in the DRC, the National Human Rights Commission (CNDH) does not yet apply the Declaration, which can be explained, among other things, by a lack of knowledge of its content. Thus, despite the promulgation of an edict on the protection of HRDs journalists in South Kivu (2016) and North Kivu (2019), work remains to be done to popularize the Marrakech Declaration at national and provincial levels, as well as to improve the monitoring of public policies concerning HRDs, which are cruelly lacking of coordination on this subject. This project comes at an opportune and strategic moment, when the CNDH is in need of technical support to take on its new mandate for the protection of HRDs through the Marrakech Agreement.

Lack of coordinated advocacy actions to advance public policies for the protection of HRDs: At local, national and regional level within the Great Lakes Region, current approaches to HRD protection are insufficient. Policies are reactive, narrowly defined, not situated to the realities of the field, neither gender nor diversity sensitive and too prescriptive. Key stakeholders are not effective in providing the necessary support to authorities to comply with their obligations. Duty-bearing authorities lack the knowledge or political will to apply existing protection measures. These elements foster environments where perpetrators enjoy high levels of impunity and HRDs are daily exposed to abuse and human rights violations.

⁵ https://ganhri.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/11/Marrakech-Declaration_ENG_-12102018-FINAL.pdf

4. **Objectives** (Effectiveness)

General objective: To expand civic space and promote the Right to Defend Human Rights for Human Rights Defenders in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) and the Great Lake Region.

Specific objectives:

SO1. The capacities of defenders' organizations are strengthened to ensure their protection and enable them to work collectively on the right to defend human rights in the DRC.

SO2. State authorities and influential stakeholders respect, protect and recognize human rights defenders as key actors in the advancement of the rule of law in the country.

Target groups (number and type):

- **235 most at risk HRDs**, including 10 security focal points (SFP): HRDs are selected based on their activism and engagement for human rights recognition and promotion. They will improve their comprehensive security and protection skills, digital security and safe information sharing as well as their advocacy and strategic documentation skills. The SFP will be trained to transfer knowledge as to fulfil the *multiplier effect*, reaching more grassroots HRDs.
- **6 local/ national/ regional HRDs networks/coalitions** joining forces around a national advocacy HRDs coalitions. Networks foster the collective protection of HRDs and avoid marginalization and isolation. Existing HRDs networks will be reinforced to address their needs through capacity strengthening to improve their comprehensive collective security and protection skills; their advocacy and positive communication skills.
- **1 National Human Rights Institutions (NHRI):** NHRIs are independent institutions established by national constitutions or laws. They comply with the Paris Principles, and play a crucial role in promoting and monitoring the implementation of international human rights standards at the national level and local level. Often they lack knowledge about their mandate and they fear retaliations by governments. The project will train them on the Marrakesh Declaration. NHRIs will also participate in roundtable exchange, advocacy meetings with HRDs.
- **175 targeted national and regional authorities** who have an influence of HRDs protection: PI particularly focuses on authority representatives with neutral or negative attitudes with the aim of transforming them into positive allies in the promotion of human rights. The project will involve these authorities in capacity buildings on their mandate and formal and informal meetings.
- **40 regional/international stakeholders** who have a positive influence of HRDs protection including Protection Working Groups from Kenya and Tanzania, Special Rapporteurs on human rights, NANHRI, Civil Society Organizations, INGOs, MPs, European Parliament Rights Committee, COAFR, EU, ProtectDefenders.eu.

5. **Activities and Strategies** (Efficiency)

Developed strategies (theory of change):

Expected Result 1: HRDs and their networks are empowered to lead initiatives around their protection in the DRC. By building the capacities of HRDs and their representative organizations in preventive security and protection management, the project will contribute towards empowering HRDs to manage their own protection by increasing their risk analysis skills and to better protect themselves. The project will focus on the most at risk HRDs: women and sexual minorities HRDs, young pro-democracy activists, environmental HRDs. These activists are working in a context of increasingly complex political dynamics, continued impunity and a decline in the rule of law, and therefore require effective security management training. Thus, the protection needs of HRDs range of physical protection measures, networking, data management and ICT security, and better access to available support and defense mechanisms to early warning systems. Through the specific training of security focal points using a training of trainer methodologies, security focal points will be able to duplicate and reach out HRDs within their network in remote areas. PI protection Manual and facilitator's guide⁶ will be used as guiding tools for the conduct of the training. The trainer will use participatory methods to ensure the concept is well understood and can be integrated at the organizational level. Moreover, in the DRC, there is very little awareness among HRDs of the basic principles of information management, including encryption of sensitive data and its safe storage, secure communication via social networking platforms and mobile phones. Therefore, a specific training on this topic will be organized at national level with the protection working group.

⁶ <https://www.protectioninternational.org/en/protection-manuals/new-protection-manual-human-rights-defenders>
<https://www.protectioninternational.org/en/protection-manuals/guide-facilitators>

Expected Result 2: State and regional authorities respect, protect and fulfil the right to defend human rights. HRDs networks and coalitions will work collectively for more effective engagement of HRDs with duty-bearers to contributing to protection mechanisms and public policies for HRDs. Understanding alliances as a way of collective protection, the project will contribute to overcome the isolation of HRDs and strengthen HRDs protection working group in DRC, leading to the setting up of a National HRDs Coalition. The various existing initiatives for the protection of HRDs at a local and national level will be better coordinated through this new initiative. More precisely, the action will support the adoption and effective implementation of local and national public policies to protect HRDs, providing technical advice and training to the authorities through the organization of periodic round tables, advocacy meeting and regular follow up meeting. Good practices and learning from local level initiatives in North and South Kivu where local laws for the protection of HRDs have been adopted will be duplicated at national level. Empowering HRDs networks and coalitions to participate effectively and in a constructive manner in open dialogues with government stakeholders will be a key element of the project. HRDs networks/coalitions, through interactions with duty-bearers and stakeholders will ensure their effective involvement to attend protection needs of HRDs.

Expected Result 3: Influential stakeholders, in particular the NHRC and the media, support the leadership of HRDs on the right to defend human rights and protection of civic space. The project will provide technical support to the CNDH to take on its new mandate for the protection of HRDs through the Marrakech Agreement⁷ for the protection of HDRs. The project will undertake joint assessment with the CNDH on the operationalization of the Marrakech Declaration, organize a roundtable between the CNDH, national authorities and civil society for a joint dialogue on the operationalization of the Marrakech Declaration and the development of a roadmap. This roundtable will include the NANHRI (Network of African NHRIs), KNCHR (Kenya National Commission of Human Rights, as they can guide the process and share experience and lessons from Kenya. Finally, jointly with the CNDH, the HRDs coalition, the protection working group, the project will organize annually the celebration of the international day of HRDs to advance positive narratives on the importance of human rights, and the legitimate role of HRDs.

Expected Result 4: Coordinated regional advocacy and monitoring actions influence protection mechanisms and public policies development for protection of HRDs in the Great Lakes Region. The project will use a multi-dimensional advocacy strategy -combining national and regional lobbying, media engagement, research- action, and coalition building, as well as coordination with key stakeholders (NHRI, AU, EU, diplomatic mission). Collective advocacy and communications actions will ensure a sufficient visibility and coverage on the topic of HRDs protection at local, national and international level. The project will be encouraging regional protection networks, protection working groups, National HRDs coalitions to influence public policy on HRDs or demand accountability, using evidence-based research and media campaigns. A regional campaign on social media with all HRDs allies will reinforce and advance positive narratives on the importance of human rights, and the legitimate role of HRDs, focusing on their positive contribution to development. Researches and advocacy briefing papers on the topics of “Civic Space Reduction and barriers against the right to defend rights” and “Public policies for the protection of HRDs in Central and West Africa” will be undertaken in collaboration with strategic actors like EURAC and ISHR. These researches will feed advocacy actions, as well as ensuring the qualified participation of HRDs in the process of design and implementation of policies. A monthly regional monitoring will document human rights violations in the region, with a specific attention contextual trends impacting HRDs protection such as an election. Regional advocacy actions will be carried out jointly with EURAC to mobilize key European actors on the issue of HRDs and influence Great Lakes state actors through advocacy, policy briefs, briefings with MPs, European Parliament Rights Committee, COAFR and events at the European Parliament. Moreover, the project will provide technical support to Protection Working Groups in Kenya/ Tanzania, who will to share their experience during a Regional Conference on the Protection Polices in Central Africa and the Great Lakes. This high level conference will be the avenue to present the results of the result of the researches. Exchange of experiences and good practices will be shared between all key protection actors at the Great Lakes Region level, such Protection Working Groups from Kenya/Tanzania, Special Rapporteurs on human rights, NHRIs, National HRDs coalitions from DRC,

⁷ https://ganhri.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/11/Marrakech-Declaration_ENG_-12102018-FINAL.pdf

Kenya, Burundi, Uganda and regional networks, local protection networks, NGOs, HRDs, Government representatives in charge of protection.

Activities Result 1	Calendar
A.1.1. 3 capacity-building workshops on comprehensive security and protection management for 6 organizations in 3 provinces: Central Kasai, Central Congo and Kinshasa (2 organizations per provinces). <i>3 workshops of 5 days with 20 participants per session (1 workshop per province plus 1 in Kinshasa)</i>	Year 1 Quarter 1
A.1.2. Training of Trainers and follow-up of 10 Security Focal Points (SFP) in the 5 provinces (North Kivu, South Kivu, Central Kasai, Central Congo and Kinshasa (1 focal point per organization). <i>1 three-day training in Kinshasa with 6 participants (Central Kasai, Central Congo and Kinshasa SFP), 1 three days' training in Goma for 4 SFP(Goma et Bukavu SFP)</i>	Year 1 Quarter 2
A.1.3. Support and coaching of Security Focal Points to replicate the protection training in their organizations and networks in North Kivu, South Kivu, Central Kasai, Central Congo and Kinshasa (<i>10 SFP* 15 HRDs per replication = 150 HRDs</i>)	Year 1 Quarter 3
A.1.4. 1 capacity-building workshop for the HRD protection working group in Kinshasa on digital security and the secure collection, sharing and processing of information and data. <i>1 training session in Kinshasa with 15 participants * 3 days</i>	Year 1 Quarter 4
Activities Result 2	
A.2.1. Support to 2 local protection mechanisms in North Kivu and South Kivu to strengthen the implementation of local protection laws. <i>4 round tables (2 South Kivu/2 North Kivu) with 25 participants each for 1 day reaching 100 stakeholders)</i>	Year 1 Quarter 2 Year 2 Quarter 2
A.2.1 Structuration of a national HRDs protection working group in Kinshasa and an action plan for the implementation and monitoring of protection mechanisms and public policies for HRDs. <i>2 meetings (1 day) with 30 participants in Kinshasa</i>	Year 1 Quarter 1 and 2
A.2.3 Monthly meeting to monitor the action plan for the implementation of public policies and protection mechanisms at the national level in Kinshasa . (<i>Monthly meeting 20 people</i>)	Year 1 and 2 Monthly
A.2.4 Advocacy meeting between the national HRD protection working group and targeted public authorities in Kinshasa ; <i>3 meetings per year with 15 people* 2 years</i>	Year 1 and 2, every quarter
A.2.5 Annual policy roundtable between the authorities and the National HRD working group in Kinshasa , exchange of good practices between the provinces and the national level. <i>2 events*1 day * 30 participants</i>	Year 1, quarter 3 Year 2, quarter 3
Activities Result 3	
A.3.1 Joint assessment with the CNDH on the status of the operationalization of the Marrakech Declaration for the protection of HRDs in DRC	Year 1, quarter 4
A.3.2 Roundtable between the NANHRI, KNCHR (Kenya National Commission of Human Rights, CNDH, national authorities and civil society for a joint dialogue on the operationalization of the Marrakech Declaration and learning from good practices of other regional contexts. <i>1 round table * 2 day*25 participants</i>	Year 2, quarter 1
A.3.3 Support to the CNDH to operationalize the Marrakech Declaration, definition and follow-up of a roadmap. <i>3 follow-up meetings per year (6 participants)</i>	Year 1 and 2 quarterly
A.3.4 Annual National Day of HRD Celebration in connection with the CNDH, National HRD coalition in Kinshasa . <i>2 Events 80 people for 1 evening, dinner, room rental, Visibility. Flights 10 HRDs,) (1 event per year)</i>	Year 1, quarter 4, Year 2, quarter 4
Activities Result 4	
A.4.1 Regional online campaign with all HRDs allies on social media to advance positive narratives on the importance of human rights, and the important and legitimate role of HRDs	Throughout the project
A.4.2. Regional Research on “Public Policies around the contents and implementation of HRDs protection laws in Central and West Africa (case study of DRC, and West Africa)”, in collaboration with ISHR	Year 1, quarter 2

A.4.3 Monthly Regional Monitoring of Human Rights Violations (DRC, Kenya, Tanzania, Burundi, Uganda) and specific contextual trends impacting HRDs protection such as an election	Year1 and 2, Monthly
A.4.4. Regional Advocacy actions jointly with EURAC to mobilize key European actors on the issue of HRDs and influence Great Lakes state actors. <i>2 advocacy policy briefs on Civic Space Reduction and barriers against the right to defend rights (1 per year), 2 briefings with MPs, European Parliament Rights Committee, COAFR (1 per year), 1 Event on Civic space reduction and barriers to defend Human Rights at the European Parliament.</i>	Throughout the project
A.4.5. Support to Protection Working Groups in Kenya/ Tanzania <i>8 meetings (half day) in both countries to set up objectives and action plan with 15 persons for UPR follow, and others key actions (2 meetings per country per year). 2 webinars for exchange of experience.</i>	Throughout the project
A.4.6 Regional Conference on the Protection Polices in Central Africa and the Great Lakes based to present results of research (A.4.2.). Exchange of experience and good practices between key protection actors at the Great Lakes Region level (Protection Working Groups from Kenya, Tanzania , National Human Rights Institutions , Special Rapporteurs on human rights, National HRD coalitions from DRC, Kenya, Burundi, Uganda and regional networks, Local protection networks, NGOs, HRDs, Government representatives in charge of protection) <i>3 days conference in Nairobi with 40 participants</i>	Year 2, quarter 2

Organizational capacity: past results and lessons learned (in the context of ongoing projects/programmes): This action is not an isolated effort, but rather the continuation of almost two decades of work by PI to build the capacity of HRDs and their grassroots organizations in Africa aiming at strengthening the Rule of Law in the countries of intervention. The proposed action is also complementary to the ongoing EU and Zivik/Ifa-funded projects in Tanzania and DRC, aiming at fostering the preventive individual and collective protection of HRDs and with the ongoing EU-funded project implemented in Kenya to protect women HRDs dealing with extrajudicial executions in the informal settlements in Nairobi. Finally, this action is the continuation of a project funded by the German Embassy in Nigeria to assess and respond to the protection needs of HRDs in West Africa. This project will complement and expand the ongoing actions, in particular to support HRDs networks, as well as encouraging civic participation in the DRC in the context of election and enhance current regional activities by addressing existing gaps. Evaluations of PI' s previous and ongoing projects carried out both internally and externally have demonstrated the need to continue protection capacity building actions in order to ensure their sustainability.

6. **Partners** (Synergy and complementarity)

In DRC:

- **Réseau de Protection des Défenseurs des Droits de l'Homme, Victimes, Témoins et Professionnels des Médias – REPRODEV (Kinshasa):** This network brings together local organizations working on the protection of HRDs, journalists, good governance, fight against sexual and gender-based violence, fight against impunity as well as the protection of HRDs. Its participation in the project will bring together key actors already present and to strengthen their capacity in security and protection, and public advocacy and form the national protection working group.
- **La Lucha** and their local branches in **North Kivu, South Kivu, Central Kasai, Central Congo and Kinshasa.** They will receive capacity building in security and protection management for HRDs and pro-democracy activists at risk
- **Coalitions des Femmes Défenseuses des Droits Humains (CFDDHs)** is network of 44 organizations working for the promotion of women's rights **in North and South Kivu.** They will receive capacity building in security and protection management for women HRDs at risk.
- **Synergie Ukingo Wetu (SUWE):** a local protection network based in **North Kivu** composed of 8 local human rights organizations. They will be involved the project to follow the local implementation of local HRDs protection laws and share the good practices at National level.
- **Commission National des Droits de l'Homme (CNDH) in DRC:** The National Human Rights Commission will be supported by the project to enlarge its mandate towards the protection of HRDs

At regional level:

- **Protection International Africa (PIA):** based in **Kenya**, PIA is the regional hub, managing all operations in Africa. PIA will ensure that all project actions are well coordinated between PI **DRC** office and the regional actions taking place in **Kenya, Tanzania, Uganda and Burundi**.
- **Tanzania Human Right Defenders Coalition (THRDC)// Burundi Human Rights Defenders Coalition (BHRD):** is currently operating from Uganda due to the human rights situation in the Burundi // **Coalition for Human Rights Defenders Uganda (NCHRD-U)/ Kenya Human Rights Defenders Coalition (NCHRD-K)**. The Coalition will be associated to the project to support the emergence of a Protection Working Group and later a National Coalition of HRDs in DRC. They will participate in roundtables and conference on protection mechanism and public policies for HRDs, as well as researches and policy briefs.
- **Kenyan National Commission on Human Rights (KNCHR)//Network of African National Human Rights Institutions (NANHRI)**. They will be associated to support the operationalization of the Marrakesh declaration in DRC and share good practices on the advancement of human rights.
- **European Network for the Great Lake Region (EURAC)** and **International Service for Human Rights (ISHR)** will be associated to the project for joined activities on advocacy, public policies, briefing papers and researches.

Synergy and complementarity with other interventions: PI has a strong connection with key partners such as the EU, diplomatic missions, UN and African Union, Special Rapporteurs on human rights. PI works closely with INGOs such as AI, HRW, FIDH, FLD, AEDH, 11.11.11. In addition, PI is an active member of the European Network for Central Africa (EURAC) and the Human Rights and Democracy Network (HRDN), as well as part of ProtectDefenders.eu, a consortium of 12 human rights NGOs. Moreover, over the past 10 years, PI has forged close links with regional and local partners' organizations. In Africa, PI collaborate closely with Defend Defenders, the African Human Rights Network Foundation and African Defenders/Pan African Defenders Network. In DRC, PI closely collaborate with local protection networks such as REPRODHOVIT, VIWINE, SUWE as well as dynamics for monitoring protection cases such as that of the BCNUDH, Freedom House, FLD, the EU Delegation in DRC, the RISK project and the Carter Centre.

7. Impact and sustainability

PI's interventions are designed to maximise sustainability at all levels, engaging the target groups and all key stakeholders from the very early stages of project conception, so that the beneficiaries of the action do feel a strong sense of ownership and a commitment to pursue the action, spreading the acquired knowledge and good practices even once the project implementation is over.

Specifically, the sustainability of this action will be assured with: 1. Security Focal Points, as a way for HRDs to get easier support for advocacy and outreach activities; 2. The technical skills preventive comprehensive security and protection; 3. The linkages created at the regional levels will be an important asset for regional and international advocacy actions; 4. The knowledge acquired by authorities and NHRIs will shape public policies to better promote human rights and better protect HRDs. As for financial sustainability, PI works continuously to raise funds to finance its activities. Thus, as this project is in line with PI' s global strategy, the organisation will work to ensure the continuity of the intervention. Similarly, PI will raise awareness among HRDs and NHRIs on the need for them to take ownership of the action and implement a sustainability policy. In terms of institutional sustainability, it will be ensured by raising awareness among national and local authorities and NHRIs that will benefit from the capacity building processes and that will perpetuate such institutional awareness. This action will also focus on existing initiatives to consolidate, popularize and promote the protection of HRDs while initiating other similar dynamics to adopt new public policies protecting WHRDs with the aim of ensuring long-lasting results. PI's action will have no negative environmental impact: PI will limit air travel to what is strictly necessary, purchase carbon offsets as appropriate and maintain environmental policies and practices with regards to recycling and reducing energy waste.

8. Donor visibility

Proposal to be made by the applicant organization: PI will acknowledge the support provided by the Belgium cooperation in its website and annual report. PI will display the Belgium Cooperation logo during all events, training activities, and all publications, unless there is a demonstrate risks for the project stakeholders.

9. **Monitoring methods** (Management capacity)

Logical framework (basic values, target results, indicators): Please find the full logical framework in annex

- Indicators SO1: Number of HRDs and collectives empowered to address human rights issues in a more secure environment.
- Indicators SO2: Number of joint efforts between influential stakeholders and HRD networks to strengthen public policies and mechanisms for the protection of HRDs.
- Indicators R1.1: 80% of HRDs and their networks have adopted contextualized security practices and strategies to mitigate and reduce risks of aggression and vulnerability based on discriminatory practices.
- Indicators R1.2: 50% of HRDs and their networks have successfully implemented a strategy to influence the authorities regarding their protection priorities.
- Indicators R.2.1: At least 5 spaces for dialogue on a public policy and protection mechanisms for HRDs have been established between national authorities and national HRDs advocacy network.
- Indicators R.3.1:70% of PI and NHRC advocacy at field and/or national level with national and international authorities leads to positive actions in favor of HRDs and HRDs networks.
- Indicators R.3.2: Public and media discourse on the protection of HRDs includes reference to the Right to Defend Human Rights.
- Indicators.R.4.1: Protection working groups in Kenya, DRC and Tanzania take form and influence protection mechanisms in their respective countries with the aim of coordinating regional advocacy, rapid response, and shared information on emerging trends on HRDs security with key stakeholders.

Proposal for monitoring and evaluation to be formulated by the applicant organization: A monitoring and evaluation mechanism, through the design of a baseline, will be set up at the beginning of the action and will be regularly used by the project team.

- Weekly coordination meetings to review activity planning meeting, evaluate activities carried out the previous week will be done in order to propose adjustments for the activities planned for the following weeks. Other monthly and quarterly meetings will be organised and quarterly narrative and financial reports will be produced;
- Review the operationalisation of the Logical Framework and objectively verifiable indicator monitoring tools: the team will develop monitoring and evaluation tools based on the proposed objectively verifiable indicators of the action in order to collect all information on the progress of the project. The data collected will be analysed using the logical framework as a dashboard to assess the results and impact of all planned activities.
- Financial audit : a financial audit will be carried out at the end of the project to verify the regularity of expenditures incurred in the implementation of the project. A regular monitoring will be carried out by the team with the support of the target groups in order to re-orient the implementation of the action through accurate recommendations.
- At the end of the project, a final external evaluation will be carried out to assess whether the results have been achieved.

10. **Detailed Results-Based** Budget (Efficiency)

- also indicate any other funding requested and obtained for the same project: Budget in annex

11. **Risk analysis**

Table of risk analysis and mitigation measures: PI considers the proposed action as manageable and entire operation as feasible. Possible risks have been identified and their mitigation been built into the implementation strategy of this action. Risks to staff, beneficiaries and partners have been analyzed and preventive as well as reactionary measures are in place. A regular evaluation process is part of the operation.

Risk Description with regard to expected results	intern/extern	Likelihood	Impact	Management/ Mitigation measures
1. Unexpected political changes, such as armed attack, or threats from illegal armed groups	E	H	H	Security plans for each of the capacity building sessions with HRDs will be developed/shared with all the partners involved.
2. The law and order situation is deteriorating in the countries, high risk remote areas	E	M	L	A detailed preventative and emergency plan will be drafted before any local, national, regional activities.
3. Widespread insecurity targeting HRDs and organisations such as office burglary, /hostage-taking/office closure, cessation of partners' activities in DRC, arbitrary arrests, accusation of political opposition, targeting, enforced disappearances. Criminalisation of HRDs because of their human rights work	E	M	H	Set up a security plan and a contingency plan specific to each situation; build the capacities of the actors for an awareness and appropriation of the security measures. Promote state accountability, prosecute actors criminalizing HRDs, in synergy with other actors working against international crimes (TRIAL, ASF, BCNBUDH), mobilise support actors
4. Duty bearers might not be in agreement with the purpose of the programme	E	L	H	PI has been active in most of the project countries since 2004 and registered as local entity in several countries (DRC, Kenya) with public Ministries assures risk mitigation including fiduciary risks. Authorities have been willing to dialogue with PI.
5. Theft and hacking of digital data	I+E	M	M	Software kits for data protection will be shared and capacity building of D/HRDs in digital protection will enable effective use of these tools.
6. Recurrence of epidemic or pandemics such as COVID-19 and Ebola, which prevents meetings between HRDs and state authorities	E	M	H	Sensitization of preventive measures, vaccination. Organise online exchanges and meetings if necessary

Annexes to be added (not necessary for multilateral organizations):

- Statutes of the organization
- A copy of the last annual financial accounts report and the last audit report