



ssnup

Smallholder Safety Net
Upscaling Programme

IMPROVING THE OFFER OF FINANCIAL AND NON-FINANCIAL SERVICES FOR SMALLHOLDER FARMERS IN THE DRC



Africa



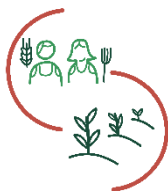
Latin America



Asia



Financial services



Non-financial services



Market building



Internal management

CONTEXT

With 80 million hectares of arable land, 4 million hectares of irrigated land, and many rivers with important fishery resources, the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) has the potential to become a global agricultural power. Although the agricultural sector employs over 60% of Congolese and contributes to around 20% of GDP, it has not yet been able to ensure food security and generate sufficient revenues and sustainable employment for the country.

CURRENT STATUS OF THE BENEFICIARY ORGANISATION

Société de Microcrédits Congolais, SMICO SA, is a Tier 2 microfinance institution created in 2010. The organisation is registered as a deposit-taking institution and supervised by the Central Bank of Congo. SMICO grants loans via individual and group lending methodologies and operates through a network of 8 branches and 102 employees.

At the end of September 2023, SMICO was serving 7,204 active borrowers, 70% of whom were women, with a loan portfolio of € 20.7 million. The institution was also financing five cooperatives with outstanding loans of USD 152,556, representing a total of around 84 small producers, 25% of whom were women, in the rice and coffee sectors. The institution, through its new strategic plan, has the intention to broaden its outreach further by focusing on semi-urban and rural clients.

OBJECTIVE OF THE PROJECT

The project aims to improve the agricultural financing model and the range of products and services to increase the MFI's outreach and reach more producers.

The expected results of the project are:

- Train 1,000 producers in financial education and 200 in good farming practices.
- Finance 300 producers with new loan product and an outstanding loan portfolio of USD 325,000.
- Open savings account for 400 producers.

IMPACT INVESTOR



BENEFICIARY ORGANISATION

SMICO (MFI) – Democratic Republic of the Congo

TARGET

1,000 smallholder households

AGRICULTURAL VALUE CHAIN

Maize, rice, potatoes, tomatoes and fish farming.

STARTING DATE

October 2023

DURATION

24 months

TOTAL TA BUDGET

€ 132,975 (phase 1)
Including € 113,029 (85%)
contribution from SSNUP

