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**Coffee for Peace and Development Organization (CPDO), Yamio County, Western Equatoria State, South Sudan**

**Concept Note to buy and sell Excelsa Coffee, training our members as well as operating Youth Coffee Hub in Yambio.**

**About the organization**

Coffee for Peace and Development Organization (CPDO), is an initiative of mostly youth, who were raised under coffee farmer and they understand the role of coffee in their welfare. And these farmers were known for growing and selling quality Excelsa coffee in the past. Most homes have a few mature trees of Excelsa which yield some coffee for home use and domestic market. We intend to train farmers to rehabilitate these trees and plant more in organized patterns and tipped for ease in management.

Coffee for Peace and Development Organization (CPDO) has been registered as a profit-making entity founded in Yambio County, Western Equatoria since 2023. We have a 8-member committee and 21 ordinary members.

**Background**

Traditional coffee growing areas were abandoned due to long civil war in the Country and not enough markets and as a result most coffee farms were destroyed by wildfires.

Due to the influx of returnees, refugees, and internally displaced people (IDPs), Yambio Town has experienced a sudden surge in population. This has resulted in increased demand for food crops and new environmentally friendly cash crops like coffee, moringa, honey, and other foodstuffs. However, many individuals in the community are unaware about the value of coffee. Establishing Youth Coffee Hub in Yambio Town can raise awareness of the value of coffee and other agricultural products among the public, potentially leading to increased production.

**The Problem and rationale statement**

The rapid change in the climate due to the high increased population resulted in massive cutting down trees for fuel, settlement, cultivation, and without replacing them back. Increased crime recorded within the country due to lack of employment, land grabbing.

The absence of adequate structural industrialization in Yambio town creates a significant gap in providing the population with high-quality processed goods. This concept paper aims to address this issue by:

1. Products and Services:
   * Offering a wide range of well-prepared coffee products to coffee enthusiasts, including roasted coffee, hot coffee, premium coffee beans, and delectable cakes and create a conducive environment for international guests.
   * Providing a platform for presentation of innovations generated by community Based Organizations such as Malinga, well processed Honey, Crafts to the public including international guests.
2. Mitigate crime record:
   * By creating employment opportunities for the youth in the coffee aggregation center and Youth Coffee Hub Yambio giving youth an alternative to being deployed by military and this will highly be contributing to peace building in the Country.
   * Since Coffee is a long-term crop, this can also lead to permanent agriculture in the land and hence registration of the land and the issue of land grabbing can be solved among the community and securing land for the women.
3. Fighting forest degradation:
   * Providing Traditional farmers with excelsa coffee seedlings which can be planted and replaced with trees, has been cut for other activities and create new more reliable and forest friendly cash crops.
4. Fighting poverty among small scale coffee farmers:
   * Creating market for coffee and other agricultural products and the possibility of coffee farm expansion resulting in increased income by small scale coffee farmers.

**The proposition**

From farm to cup Youth Coffee Hub Yambio will serve high quality but affordable Excelsa coffee which is a drought and disease resistant indigenous coffee variety in Yambio and ready to prepare powder or roasted coffee beans as well as provide a platform for local organizations and CBOs supported by Caritas to showcase and market their products such as honey, wax, propolis, fruits, nuts, roots and tubers, forest harvests, vegetables, sesame paste, moringa powder and oil, leading to increased motivation of beneficiary smallholders to avail high quality agricultural product.

**Feasibility**

The success of this initiative depends on the Caritas Austria in South Sudan leadership to instill collaborative efforts by Coffee for Peace and Development Organization (CPDO), Caritas previously and currently supported local organizations, the State Government of Western Equatoria State, and the wider community, which we consider our clients. Clear signage will be placed at the Hub to communicate the available services, and radio talk shows will be held to introduce the Hub to the community.

**Methodology**

The methodology for this project involves collaboration with local organizations, community-based organizations (CBOs), individual farmers, and cooperatives. Building strong relationships and establishing trust on both sides is crucial to ensuring a continuous flow of goods and successful transactions.

**Potential Outcomes and Impact**

Implementing this concept will result in an increase in the production of high-quality agricultural goods, leading to rapid development within the farming community. This is because the enhanced marketing opportunities will generate higher demand for these goods from the population.

Result in creating environmentally friendly space since the project will be dealing with agro-forestry such as coffee and moringa plantations and hence contributing to climate change control. Creating job opportunities leading to sound mind of the youth in the Country.

Moreover, this approach will reduce instances of spoilage due to limited market access, encouraging increased production as a direct channel from farm to processing and finally to the market will be established.

**The project has the following objectives**

1. To provide capacity building for the local farmers and agricultural support like supplying seedlings and agricultural tools.
2. To establish a coffee buying and selling/Aggregation center in Yambio County.
3. To open a café and a one-stop shop for agricultural products from our farmers and other like-minded producers participating in the project.

**Proposed project activities**

1. Draft a gap analysis, a business plan and annual activity plan for Coffee for Peace and Development Organization (CPDO).
2. Develop a curriculum to promote integrated Excelsa coffee farming, post-harvest handling, processing and marketing.
3. Develop a diversification investment plan for our Coffee for Peace and Development Organization (CPDO).
4. Set up a coffee yard for buying, drying, and processing Excelsa and operational capital
5. Develop a plan to identify a site and set up a café and one stop center for small-holder products in Yambio.

**Proposed high level budget**

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| **S/N** | **Item** | **When** | **USD** |
| 1 | Gap analysis, business plan and activity plan | Dec 2024 | 2,000 |
| 2 | Curriculum development | Dec 2024 | 1,000 |
| 3 | Diversification plan development | Dec 2024 | 1,000 |
| 4 | Set up a coffee yard & operational structures to mobilize, train | Dec 2024 | 10,000 |
| 5 | Starter up capital to buy and sell coffee | Dec 2024 | 10,000 |
| 6 | Motorcycle and running costs for one year | Dec 2024 | 10,000 |
| 7 | Set up a Café and one-stop center in Yambio, (land rent, housing, equipment, supplies, and operational costs for a year) | Jan 2025 | 10,000 |
|  | **Total (USD)** |  | **44,000** |

**The project will have the following impact**

* Increased production of high-quality Excelsa coffee
* Increased access to services by Coffee for Peace and Development Organization (CPDO) members of post-harvest handling, drying, processing and marketing at local, regional and international markets.
* Improved quality of coffee produced by Coffee for Peace and Development Organization (CPDO) members.
* Creation of jobs for returnees, persons with disabilities, women and youth in the growing coffee industry in Yambio County.
* Improved food security and livelihoods in Yambio County.

**The project will be sustainable through the following mechanisms**

* Our coffee buying and selling yard will generate revenue to cover continuity and related operating costs beyond project.
* The café and one-stop shop for agricultural products will generate revenue to cover the operating costs and self-propel beyond project.
* Coffee for Peace and Development Organization (CPDO) members will be trained in coffee agronomy, business management and marketing to ensure that the project is sustainable in the long term.
* Coffee for Peace and Development Organization (CPDO) will commit volunteers in all planned activities who will transition to staff from the break-even point of the project going forward.

**Organization structure**

**Conclusion**

In essence, the cafe will provide a diverse range of coffee-based beverages, while the value-added advanced shop in Yambio town stands out as an extraordinary establishment. Its uniqueness lies in its emphasis on promoting local and homeland productions. This innovative approach will introduce fresh concepts and facilitate collaborations between local organizations and community-based organizations (CBOs), showcasing their innovations and raising awareness among the population about their broader programs.