



DRC Myanmar | Poverty and Hunger Alleviation through Support, Empowerment, and Increased Networking (PHASE IN II) **via the European Union**

PROJECT SNAPSHOT | **Business Start-up Support in Rakhine State**

A European Union-funded project is under way in Rakhine State targeting extremely vulnerable men and women. Given the need for people affected by conflict and crisis to remain adaptive to the rapidly changing needs and context, DRC will support 200 vulnerable households' economic well-being through a combination of market relevant technical skills and financial literacy trainings. This will equip and position participants to find local jobs or be supported to start their own businesses. DRC will help people with new business knowledge and technical skills that are designed particularly according to conditions in their community to enable them to be more risk adverse and adapt new livelihoods to the crisis context.

Building new resilience

An integral part of protection and promotion of psychosocial wellbeing in a protracted displacement situation is education and training. Because of internal displacements, death of adult family members, loss of employment, etc. many families are faced with complete disruption of their livelihoods, provoking a dramatic decrease in income and inability to adapt to new situations due to lack of proper skills or information. This was further evidenced in [DRC's Rapid Needs Assessment \(July 2020\)](#).

Tailor-made training for 200 entrepreneurs

DRC will support 200 men and women in Rakhine with individual start-up grants, business follow-up, mentorship and coaching during the start-up phase. DRC technical staff will support beneficiaries so that they have the ability to assess their readiness to start their businesses, develop realistic business plans, cost their products or services, ensure financial management and record keeping and skills on how to start their actual business. This training and support will be based on the ILO [Start and Improve Your Business \(SIYB\)](#) concept.

The criteria for selecting these entities and giving the financial support is based on the sustainability/profitability analysis of the business proposal/plan developed by the individual. Appraisal criteria will be weighted to account for women's vulnerability and income potential, so that more women receive grants than using traditional cost benefit analysis.

PHASE IN II is funded by the European Union and implemented by DRC in Myanmar between 2017 and 2021 in Maungdaw, Mrauk-U, Kyauktaw, Sittwe, and Pauktaw townships of Rakhine State through seven main project components:

*Technical Vocational Education and Training (TVET) ● Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) ● Cash for Work (CfW) ● Village Savings and Loans Associations (VSLA) ● Community-driven Development (CDD) ● **Business start-up Support** ● Multi-Purpose Cash Assistance (MPCA)*

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