

# Cultivating Cocoa Communities, Changing Lives



**Taste the story of:**



**TRIAS**

TURNING DREAMS INTO  
OPPORTUNITIES



**UPINO** formed in 2010, this cocoa cooperative operates in Inongo, the capital of the the Mai Ndombe province in the Democratic Republic of Congo. With 227 members, they focus on cocoa production, commercialisation, and local transformation into end products.

Of its 227 members, 71 are women, 56 are youth and 4 are indigenous peoples

UPINO disposes of 7 transformation sites for post-harvest handling & has an export license

Production capacity of around 35 tons of sundried cocoa per year

**TRIAS** strengthens entrepreneurial organisations around the world, that in turn support local entrepreneurs and farmers.

Through tailored support for each partner, members get access to advice, small loans or training. This enables them to start a business or grow further.

- **Over 50 years supporting Member Based Organisations (MBOs) around the world**
- **Reaching 5.5 million people worldwide**
- **Strengthening 118 entrepreneurial organisations**

"With the support of Trias, I set up a one-hectare cocoa plantation in 2019 thanks to technical training on cocoa cultivation. I plan to reach 2 hectares by 2023, which is a great pride for me." - Henriette Baula, member of UPINO

## OUR PARTNERSHIP

Trias collaborates with UPINO in DR Congo, focusing on cocoa production and commercialisation. UPINO aims to defend members' economic interests and engage in local transformation. They do so by stimulating the production of several products derived from cocoa such as chocolate or cocoa butter, which is very much appreciated locally. Since 2023, UPINO has started a trajectory towards specialty cocoa because of their cocoa's interesting taste profile. UPINO also collected GPS data of all its plantations to adhere to EUDR regulation around zero-deforested cocoa.

### Contact details

- Nshole Midon - President
- Phone: +243808857985
- [upinocoop2018@gmail.com](mailto:upinocoop2018@gmail.com)