

## Tailoring My Future

COD-ASG-TMF-P01



Goma, Democratic Republic of Congo



Economic Empowerment

Total Budget

Project Timeline

FULLY FUNDED \$43,500

JUN 23

MAY 24



### Overview

This project trained and graduated 100 local Congolese women and men to become tailors across two locations in Goma. Participants learnt several different sewing techniques together with some marketing/business skills, training participants to become proficient all-round tailors who can either set up a small business or obtain a job in the sewing industry. A secondary aim was to promote peace in a society still suffering from decades of civil unrest and ethnic conflict. This is our fourth successful sewing project with our partner to develop skills for gainful employment. DR Congo continues to be a very challenging environment with civil unrest, insecurity, inflation, volcanic activity and of course COVID-19 and ensuing lockdowns etc.

### Objectives



100 students enrolled in tailoring

### Impact

100 students (93F, 7M) participated in training. 700 family members benefitted through increased household income. The upgraded course focused on specialist techniques to provide a distinctive edge and increased demand for services.



New training room near completion

Students attended 3 awareness raising sessions on gender and sexual equality. The new training room is in use, although still awaiting electricity and floor tiles. A knitting and logo machine were purchased for specialised training.



### Deborah's story

"I was born into a large family of 12 children. My father didn't take good care of us, especially the girls. I had to drop out of school because we couldn't afford the fees. I began a vocational training course, but after six months of apprenticeship, I had only gained general knowledge about basics such as cutting and sewing. It wasn't enough to acquire skills to stand out from others and attract customers. I learned from a friend about the specialised 12-month training course and now I'm sewing all kinds of women's outfits. I'm getting plenty of customers which has enabled me to support my siblings and mother, as well as make some small savings."



### Life change

- Participants gained income-generating skills to support themselves
- The restoration of dignity and self-esteem to those who have and still suffer so much
- Small steps towards building a cohesive and peaceful society; resilience and persistence in the face of continuing price rises and armed rebel attacks
- A network of support from teachers and other students

