

Skills For My Future



Bukavu, Dem Republic of Congo



Economic Empowerment

Year 1 Budget \$24,500

Project Timeline

FULLY FUNDED

SEPT 22

AUG 24

Overview

This project enables training in sewing and joinery for 30 young participants living with disabilities from very poor families. It provides training for young people to learn a skill enabling them to support themselves financially and participate in a society where disability means rejection at every social level. It will also teach good social interaction skills. The 2-year program will consist of skills and business training together with a reintegration kit for each graduate. This includes materials needed to continue their trade. Yr 2 budget \$35,000.

Impact for April - September 2023

20



20 sewing students have completed year 1

of the two-year sewing course. The 14 female, 6 males have been taught the basics of sewing and have learnt how to sew underwear and simple pants.

10 participants receiving joinery training

The students have learnt foundation techniques of sawing, planing, sanding and tracing and then applying those techniques to make simple objects such as children's tables and chairs and small stools etc.

10



Training materials purchased and in use



Some of the products made from the materials have been on display for the community to appreciate student's achievements. The community is proud of the way students are working towards getting jobs and contributing to society.

Sale of products to the local community

Local furniture and clothing manufacture - such essential items used in all homes - improves stock levels and availability. Increased workforce participation benefits the whole community as wages and spending monies circulate. The joinery and sewing trainers receive wages - another small cog in the economy.



- An estimated 210 family members and 4200 members of the community benefit from the financial autonomy achieved and the services provided by the apprentices.



Sandra's Story

I am 16 years old and the third of five children. We fled our village for Bukavu when the security threat became too great. I have been hearing-impaired since birth, but was invited to attend a primary school teaching sign language. Following that, I had the chance to join the sewing program. It was a dream come true, not only for me, but also my mother who, thinking we were cursed by witchcraft, could not imagine that a child of hers would one day practice a trade. I want to become an expert in tailoring so I can earn enough to help my mother and siblings. I would also like to teach other deaf children like me to sew clothes.

100%
GETS THERE

**Thank you
for making
a difference**