Progress Report



Skills For My Future

Bukavu, Dem Republic of Congo

Year 2 Budget \$33,000



Project Timeline

FULLY FUNDED SEPT 22

AUG 24

COD-HKC-SFF-P02

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.

Impact for September 2023 - February 2024

20

20 sewing students have commenced year 2

And have been hard at work learning how to make a range of clothing items, including pants, shirts, suits, jackets, skirts, dresses, blouses and overalls. Students have progressed well and an improvement in the quality of their work has been observed.



Students have made considerable progress towards competencies in manufacturing windows, doors, stools, wardrobes, cupboards, tables, chairs beds, shelves, racks and benches – any furniture item that the public might want to purchase!



Training materials and staff salaries

Entrust support has enabled the purchase of all classroom materials and supplies and staff salaries to be paid. Funding also covers the cost of upcoming field visits to various industries for joinery students to see tools and machinery used in carpentry.

Sale of products to the local community

The joinery workshop receives furniture orders from members of the public. Students, under the guidance of the trainer, manufacture pieces of furniture to meet these orders. Similarly for the sewing workshop, clothes made by students are popular among the general population and help bring in some revenue.



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



Aimable's Story

I am 15, the eldest of 6 children, and have been hearing impaired since birth. My parents don't have secure jobs and so we have always been poor. When I came to the centre at the age of six, I chose the sewing profession because for me it is the best technique. I am proud to learn the trade and to earn some money. Whenever possible, I will save some money for when I get married and to buy a plot of land for my future family. I also want to help my parents, siblings and friends. I am so thankful for all the kind people at the centre who gave me the opportunity to learn a skill so I can enter the workforce.

