

Build My Business

COD-ASG-BMB-P01



Goma, Democratic Republic of Congo



Economic Empowerment

Total Budget

Project Timeline

FULLY FUNDED \$24,500

DEC 24

NOV 25



Overview

This project provided training for 53 vulnerable, and often traumatised, girls/women to become tailors across two locations in Goma. Participants learnt several different sewing techniques together with marketing and business skills. This has trained participants to become proficient all-round tailors who can either set up a small business or obtain a job in the sewing industry. Robust sewing machines were used and fabric was provided.

A secondary aim of the project was to facilitate peace in a society suffering from decades of civil unrest and ethnic conflict. This was our fifth sewing project with our partner to develop skills for gainful employment.

Objectives



**53 students
enrolled in
tailoring**



**New training
room now
completed**

Impact

53 students participated in training. 370 family members have benefitted through increased household income despite M23 rebels occupying Goma at this time. The course focuses on specialist techniques to provide a distinctive edge and increased demand for services.

The new training room now has all floor tiles laid and electricity installed. Security around the centre was strengthened so that the students could attend classes. Students attended three awareness raising sessions on entrepreneurship, self care and financial savings.

Sarah's story

"I seized the opportunity of free lessons in learning to sew when I arrived in Goma last year. My family were displaced from Masisi due to civil war. We left everything including jobs and schooling. We are living off the generosity of our host family who are struggling to provide for our basic needs. I have acquired so much practical knowledge in cutting and sewing and I am now able to sew ready-to-wear outfits. The income helps me provide for my family and I am saving a small amount to start a workshop to teach other girls like me to sew, free of charge. Thank you so much.



Life change

- Participants gained income-generating skills to support themselves
- The restoration of dignity and self-esteem for 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 inflation and occupation of rebel forces
- A network of support from teachers and other students

