

Skills Supporting My Future

COD-HKC-SSF-P01



Bukavu, DR Congo



Economic Empowerment

Total Budget

\$32,000

Project Timeline

DEC 24

NOV 25



Overview

This project provided training in sewing and joinery for 40 young participants (12 male and 28 female) living with disabilities from very poor families. It provided training for young people to learn a skill, enabling them to support themselves and participate in a society where disability means rejection at every level.

It also taught the students good social interaction skills. The program consists of skills and business training together with a reintegration kit for each graduate when they return to their village. This includes materials needed to continue their trade. Students will be economically independent in society at the end of the project.

Objectives



Skills training for 40 young people

Impact

40 students with hearing, mental and mobility impairments received training in sewing and joinery to become financially autonomous and competitive in the job market. 280 family members benefit from the increased income and improved living conditions as a result.



10 graduates – kits provided

10 sewing students graduated from the training during this period. 20 moved from 1st to 2nd year of the sewing course, 4 moved into 2nd year of joinery and 6 into 3rd year. Students comprised deaf/mute, paralysed and intellectually handicapped young people - a fantastic result!

Didier's Story

I am the oldest of six children. Our father abandoned us many years ago and our mother sells small fish in the market to help us survive. Deaf and mute from birth, I was enrolled at Heri Kwetu Centre from primary school. When I finished sixth grade, I decided to become a joiner. I know that when I finish my training I will be able to contribute to my family's needs. Once I have the necessary skills and tools, I will set up my own workshop to earn money. I hope that my trade will be enough to get my siblings through school and create a brighter future for my family.



Life change

- Participants have grown in self-esteem and communication skills.
- No longer needing to beg, participants can feed and care for themselves and have gainful employment.
- The beneficiaries are supported to set up their own workshops allowing them financial independence and a way to integrate into society.

