

Build My Business

COD-ASD-BMB-P01



Goma, Democratic Republic of Congo



Economic empowerment



Tax deductible

Total Budget



\$24,500

Project Timeline



JAN 25

DEC 25



POPULATION

95.3 million

POVERTY

63.9% of the population below poverty line

HEALTH

Life expectancy at birth: 59.7 years

EDUCATION

Mean years of school (adults) 7.2 years

HUMAN DEVELOPMENT INDEX*

Ranking out of 193 nations DR Congo 180 (Aust 10)

**2023-24 Human Development Report*



Overview

This project provides training for 100 vulnerable, and often traumatised, girls/women (90%) and young men to become tailors across two locations in Goma. Participants learn several different sewing techniques together with 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. Robust sewing machines will be used and fabric provided. A secondary aim is to facilitate peace in a society suffering from decades of civil unrest and ethnic conflict. This is our fifth sewing project with our partner to develop skills for gainful employment.

Why support this:

We are impressed with our partner's abilities and the desire to not just teach sewing, but to use it as a platform to spread peace. The requirement that each student contribute a small fee to demonstrate commitment to the course ensures buy-in. We appreciate the focus on women (and a few men) who need to earn a better living with a clear outcome for the students – different pathways into income generation and a better life. We also appreciate the benefits from the camaraderie and support mechanisms that develop. DRC continues to be a very challenging environment with insecurity in all areas - such as food, jobs and health. A purpose-built sewing centre is also planned.

Objectives include:



Tailoring training for 100 people



Marketing and Business skills training



Purchase of 2 industrial sewing machines



Financial support for two teachers

Expected life change

- Participants gain income-generating skills to support themselves
- The restoration of dignity and self-esteem to those who have - and still do - suffered so much
- Small steps towards building a cohesive and peaceful society
- A network of support from teachers and other students