

Creating My Future

UGA-YIM-CMF-P02



Kampala, Uganda

Economic Empowerment



2 Year Project: June 2024 to May 2026

Total Budget: \$79,000



Overview

High quality, professional and holistic vocational training courses in tailoring, fashion & design, and hair & beauty provided 100 Ugandan marginalised youth (over two years) with practical market-ready skills and techniques to commence their own business or obtain meaningful employment. The course also taught business and entrepreneurship training in order for businesses to thrive. The courses are designed to a high standard to give graduates multiple competitive edges. Students are supported through graduation to find jobs or set up a business with a small loan. Each participant contributes a small amount to the program to ensure they have some "skin in the game".

Objectives



6mth training in hair/beauty and tailoring courses

Impact

46 students (41 female and 5 male) attended vocational training courses for 6 months. The practical skills classes ran Monday – Thursday. On Fridays, extra classes in adult education, mental health and business are provided by partner organisations.



Business training for a competitive edge

Business and entrepreneurship trainings ran every Friday for 10 weeks. Extra lessons by guest speakers from the local bank, talking about financial literacy, saving and opening bank accounts, plus a 1-day workshop by a local accountant were added this term.



Grow social enterprise for income generation

The social enterprise was busy making school uniforms and fashion items for tourists. It continued to grow, reaching more clients and providing more employment opportunities to graduates. A small profit was made to help cover extra costs of the trainings.



Community giveback program

Three community give-back programs were run during this 6mth period, encouraging students to serve and engage in their communities. Students created fabric shopping bags for food & toy hampers, reusable, washable pads for school girls and free hairdressing services & beauty treatments.



Life change

- Income-generating skills have provided sustainable income for participants which helps support themselves and their families
- Young people now feel empowered to live fruitful, successful lives less vulnerable to crime and the damaging effects of unemployment
- 96 graduates have grown in self-esteem, confidence and dignity and they now have the chance to give back to the community



Regan's Story

I grew up in an orphanage because my parents died when I was young. I finished primary school and then did chores around the home and tended the goats. I was very shy and lacked confidence when I joined the tailoring course at 18. I mastered the practical side of sewing, benefited from the mental health sessions and started to believe I could become someone in the future. The orphanage gave me a chance to teach tailoring at the school and I am now happy that I can support myself financially but can also give back to children just like myself. I have become a role model both within the orphanage and the community. I am like a lamp hidden under a basket, now shining brightly for others to see.



Graduation ceremony for Tailoring and Hair & Beauty students

Florence's story

Florence, 19, was born deaf and unable to speak, making school a lonely and frustrating experience. However, Florence was interested in hairdressing, loved watching women plait hair and slowly taught herself by observing them. When Florence joined the hairdressing course, the change was immediate. She could not express herself in words but the excitement was there. After years of being excluded, she found herself surrounded by people who accepted her and wanted her to succeed. She continued to grow in confidence and skill, worked incredibly hard throughout her training and consistently impressed both staff and trainers with her ability and determination. Florence now earns money and contributes to family and personal needs.

