



Completion Report

COD-ASD-TLR-P01, DRC
Reporting Period: January to June 2017

Sewing into Peace – Democratic Republic of Congo

Budget: \$14,500 – fully funded!

Update:

This project trained 50 people to become tailors, including a handful of enthusiastic men. All 50 have completed their year-long tailoring course, graduating in a special ceremony in June. They are now proficient in a number of different sewing styles, with the ability to either set up their own small business or obtain a job in an industrial sewing business.

The project purchased 20 pedal sewing machines, hired a classroom and paid for sewing instructors. The students paid a small amount to study, covering costs of supplies. All were keen to learn and they can operate a sewing machine, draw a pattern and cut it out. Some have already started small businesses sewing for relatives and neighbours, or have started making clothes for their family. In addition, the participants took part in a marketing course, learned about hygiene and domestic economics, received some counselling/advice and how to manage tailoring accounts. Students' relatives have also been involved in cutting and sewing the cloth and many neighbors, friends and customers have been assisted by the project.

Project Manager Claudaline said, *“One aim was to bring together different ethnic groups and to assist women to recover from the traumas of over two decades of war and civil unrest. The course was open to all to provide an opportunity for those from different religions to mingle and get to know each other.”*

One graduate, an 18-year-old boy named Tresor is now earning some money to put himself through secondary school as his parents are unable to support him financially. Another, Darlene, is 35 with three children and has primary school education to grade 6 only. She said, *“I am so happy that I have learned these skills. I am now able to rely on myself and sustain my family.”*



L to R: The Graduation Ceremony in June with Entrust partner Claudaline, a student and Jenny Cramer, Entrust Project Manager.



Jenny Cramer from Entrust attended the Graduation Ceremony in Goma. She said, *“There was an air of excitement as students came forward to receive their Certificates. The students were asked to design an outfit for the ceremony (see left) and the standard of the sewing was excellent with many creative designs. Not only have the students obtained a relevant and useful skill to provide an income, I could sense the feeling of achievement and self-esteem that the students gained from this course.”*

We are thrilled that not only have these women and men learned skills which will pull them from poverty, but are also engaged in peace-building and restoration. Thank you from all the students!