

Support for Young People with Disabilities

COD-HKC-SYP-P01



Bukavu, DR Congo



Economic Empowerment

Total Budget

\$15,500

Project Timeline

SEPT 19

DEC 20



Overview

Our partners run a centre for people living with disabilities in Bukavu, a densely packed city of 1 million on the border with Rwanda. This project provided training in sewing and joinery for 17 young participants from very poor families. Young people living with disabilities often fall through the gaps and community networks and, without support, usually end up begging on the streets. Through education and training, these young people have learnt skills to support themselves financially and participate in a society where disability means rejection at every social level. It has also taught good social interaction. The one-year training program includes a reintegration kit for each graduate with materials needed to continue their trade - a fantastic project with really worthy recipients!

Objectives



Skills training for 17 young people

Due to COVID-19 lockdowns, the project was extended by four months to allow full skills training. The final half of the project included more advanced skills training together with some business training. The project has changed their lives.



17 graduates and kits provided

All 17 students - 12 in sewing (5 boys, 7 girls) and 5 deaf and mute boys in joinery graduated from the training. Sewing students comprised deaf/mute, paralysed and intellectually handicapped young people - a fantastic result!



David's life transformed!

David was born with a hearing impairment and he was continually slapped when he attended school. "Now I have tailoring skills and I want to be a great tailor and support myself just like non-disabled people. This is my mum with me in the photo. I am so proud and she has gone to great lengths to support me. My dad is going to help me build a sewing workshop and I will work seriously. I have learnt to sew so well from my training and I am so grateful to the people who supported this program."



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.

