

## Sewing to Success

COD-ASG-STS-P01



Goma, Democratic Republic of Congo



Economic Empowerment

Total Budget

\$30,000

Project Timeline

JAN 20

MAR 21



### Overview

This project trained and graduated local Congolese women to become tailors across two locations in Goma. Participants learnt several different sewing techniques together with some 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. A secondary aim saw the facilitation of peace in a society still suffering from two decades of civil unrest and ethnic conflict. Students formed support groups during COVID-19 lockdowns to help them through. This is our third successful sewing project with our partner to develop skills for gainful employment. DR Congo continues to be a very challenging environment.

### Objectives



57 women graduated in March

### Impact

Fifty-seven women successfully completed the sewing course in March 2021. This was extended by 3 months due to lockdowns. Forty-three had to drop out due to restrictions. Despite this, it was an incredible feat to finish!



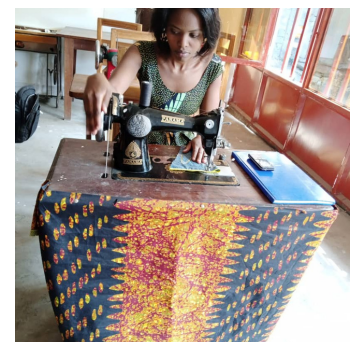
A new sewing room was built

A new sewing room was completed during the project. It is a simple wooden structure with chairs and tables, some cutting boards and irons. This helped the current students and will enable a better space in the future.



### A life transformed!

Rode Rugisha is responsible for the household after her mother abandoned them and her father was shot by soldiers and spent two years in hospital. She enrolled in the sewing class and is now helping out with the daily household costs for food. Her father has returned home but it is difficult to find work. Rode has work from the local community and she sews clothes for her neighbours and others. Her new skills are providing a pathway to helping feed and clothe her family. She is very thankful for the opportunity.



### Life change

- Women gained income-generating skills to support themselves/families
- The restoration of dignity and self-esteem to those who have suffered so much
- Small steps towards building a cohesive and peaceful society
- A network of support from teachers and other students, particularly during COVID-19 lockdowns and restrictions

