

Support My Future

COD-HKC-SMF-P01



Bukavu, Dem Republic of Congo



Economic Empowerment

Total Budget \$27,900

Project Timeline

FULLY FUNDED

APR 21

MAR 22

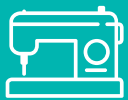


Overview

This project provided training in sewing and joinery for 30 young participants living with disabilities from very poor families. It provided training for young people to learn a skill which will enable them to help support themselves financially and participate in a society where disability means rejection at every social level. It taught good social interaction skills and raised awareness in the community, breaking down barriers caused by customs and beliefs which perpetuate marginalisation of those with disabilities. The one-year program consisted of skills training together with a reintegration kit for each graduate. This included materials needed to continue their trade. This was a wonderful project!

Objectives

Impact



20 students trained in sewing

20 students (4 male, 16 female) – with hearing, mental and mobility impairments - received training in sewing to become financially autonomous. Approx. 140 family members and 2800 members of the community benefit from their services.



10 students received joinery training

10 male students, all of whom are hearing impaired, were trained in joinery. The joinery classes are of a high standard and participants can confidently make chairs and tables, for example, to a marketable quality.



Reintegration kits provided to 30

30 reintegration kits were purchased and distributed among the graduates. Sewing kits included sewing machines, fabrics, irons, and other essentials. Joinery kits included planes, clamps, hammers, saws, and assorted woodwork tools.



30 students with improved social skills

Community engagement means graduates are welcomed and integrated back into the mainstream. Entrust Project Manager Jenny Crameri attended the graduation! The students have grown in confidence and have an improved social life.



Life change

- Reduced begging and a means to support themselves
- Development of self-esteem, confidence and dignity to work with others and in a community
- Improved health due to better food security from earning income
- Increase in school/education attendance leading to skill development



Dieudonné's Story

I am 19 years old and the fifth child in my very poor family. I am so happy to have finished my training because now I can make chairs, beds, tables, cupboards and more. When I leave the centre, I plan to join with other workers to open a large, cooperative joinery, where we will share the monthly income. I want to save my money to help my parents, buy clothing and look for a family house ready for when I can get married. I don't want to waste my money and I am determined to abstain from alcoholism and other harmful pursuits. Thank you for helping me gain the skills so I can prepare for my future.



Joinery students in action, enabled to reach their full potential and demonstrate their capacity to contribute meaningfully to the wider community

Chito's Story

I come from a very poor family. We moved from a village to the city of Bukavu in search of work, but still could not find a secure job. I am 16 years old and the 7th child. Now that I have been trained in sewing, I hope to build up supplies for my work and extra things to help my parents and siblings. I also want to save for my future as one day I hope to get married and have children of my own. Having the ability to work and earn an income, gives me the financial independence to provide for my future family's needs. I also think that the quality of my work will break down prejudices that marginalise deaf people. I am so thankful for the support that gave me this opportunity.

