



Completion Report

COD-ASD-TFP-P01, DRC
Reporting Period: October – April 2019

Tailoring for Peace – Democratic Republic of Congo

Budget: \$20,300 – fully funded!

The Project:

This economic empowerment project followed on from a very successful one-year project, supported by Entrust, to train local Congolese to become tailors. The aim was to train fifty students over the course of a year in two locations in Goma, in the troubled and volatile region of eastern DRC.

Impact:

- 50 participants learnt several different sewing techniques such as cutting, how to use the sewing machine, learning to repair items, different sewing styles and adapting patterns
- Marketing/business skills were also taught and topics covered a wide range including saving money, recording, entrepreneurship, budgeting and accounting
- A secondary aim was to facilitate peace in a society still suffering from two decades of civil unrest and ethnic conflict. By opening the school to all, different ethnic groups came together to learn, and students reported finding healing from the trauma inflicted by war. This was especially important as the DRC elections were held during this volatile period
- Graduation took place on DRC Mother's Day in March 2019 after final examinations. All students made their own garments to wear to graduation!
- Each student is now a proficient all-round tailor who can either set up a small business or obtain a job in the sewing industry
- 12 sewing machines and 2 embroidery machines were purchased and used during the course. Those in good condition will be re-used in future projects
- Indirectly the project supported local clients, repair tradespeople, children (by keeping them with their mothers) and it taught students about empowerment, how to study and learn a skill and has given them confidence and hope for the future



Our partner says, *“This lady (left) has done a fine, fine job in her sewing skills. She had been forced to drop out of school due to a lack of school fees. Now with the tailoring business, she feels self-esteem and her dignity is highly promoted in her society. Mrs Mafendo (pic above) is being taught by teacher Mrs Faida in cutting cloth. After one year her skills have gone from zero to 100% and she has no problem attracting customers!”*

Supporting 50 students, their families and the local community is a significant start towards empowerment, healing and reconciliation, and we have seen that every step counts. Thank you for supporting this life-changing project.