



**Project Title: Sewing Project
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CorpsAfrica/Rwanda Volunteer Group 4**

District: Ngororero

Village: Kabayengo, Birembo Cell, Sovu Sector, Ngororero District in the Western Province

Google Map link: <https://goo.gl/maps/HqAmaLuJG5GwZCtK7>

Community Partner Organization: Ejo Heza (Bright Future)

Community Counterpart Name and bio: Mukasine Beatrice After graduating from Secondary School in Accounting, where she was a head girl, Mukasine Beatrice was chosen to be a Stock Manager in Rwanda's VUP Program, an integrated local development program to accelerate poverty reduction, rural growth and social protection. In that role she managed 340 persons. She was in charge of the stock and she advised VUP beneficiaries on how to start and run small businesses that can improve their financial status. After that she worked as a Business Advisor in KAVUMU Sector, NGORORERO District, where she was in charge of advising people how to start small businesses and to create effective business plans. Today she is self-employed and runs a business that focuses on selling snack food, tea, sodas, and other kind of groceries.

Project Timeline:

This project will start in August 2020 and will last a few months.

Project Summary:

After conducting community-mapping exercises, the community of KABAYENGO Village came up with different ideas emphasizing how they might effectively tackle serious issues such as lack of income and not being able to cater to their basic needs. The problem of unemployment was common in women and youth in the community. The proposed project was chosen through focused group discussions accompanied with presentations that brought different suggestions.

They all agreed that a Sewing Project will both generate financial income and increase health status for poor families. This project will first start with 100 community members, who will start by learning how to sew. Given their cold climate and heavy rainfall, there is a big market for woven clothing. The project will empower them to produce items needed to protect from the cold and harsh weather. They will be taught by their fellow community members who know how to sew, and they will learn to sew different things like shawls, school sweaters, scarfs, and head covers. Their products will be sold at Birembo Market, which attracts many people from different sectors, as well as other nearby markets that share the same climate as Kabayengo. The community contribution will be in cash from their weekly group savings.

Describe the community:

KABAYENGO village is located in BIREMBO Cell within Ngororero Sector & District, in the Western Province of Rwanda. The community structure of KABAYENGO village is well organized. KABAYENGO has a fair developmental infrastructure such as the bureau of the sector, bureau of the cell, electricity, stores, main market and tap water. But the financial status of most community members is still low due to a lack of economic activities that generate income.

More than 95% of the community engages in agricultural activities. It is a mountainous region with infertile soil and very heavy rainfall throughout the year. Therefore, the rain plays a major role in soil erosion which washes away good soil and affects the profitability of their agriculture activities. It is 18 km away from the nearest paved road and is in a very remote area of Ngororero District. These kinds of remote areas are not easily accessible and do not attract many NGOs because they are so difficult to reach. The community I serve is in dire need of income generating opportunities to supplement the small amount they get from agriculture activities.

All the community members are eager to see this project come to life as they believe it will have a direct and quick impact on their lives. The community is fully committed to this project's success.

Since Kabayengo Village is located in a remote area, almost all community members – men and women alike – engage in agricultural activities. There are no other alternative economic activities within the community. Some people leave the village to sell their harvest in Kigali and others manufacture charcoal to sell in Kigali as well. The village has no tea plantation or any ongoing development activity that might employ people. Working hours start early in the morning at 5am. Both men and woman do their farming activities until late evening and head back home at 6pm. Some men go to bars while women and children prepare dinner. The children usually attend school and when they come back they feed and look after domestic animals.

How did this project come about?

The idea for the Sewing Project in Ejo Heza association was initiated and supported by community members. They all want to overcome the challenge they face of lack of income, which prevents them from addressing basic needs like buying school materials for their children, paying health insurance, and catering for their family's general needs. Members of the community decided on a project that will support their agriculture activities. Through the Sewing Project, their income per month will increase and they will be able to buy chickens, goats, sheep, or cows. This livestock will provide organic manure to use in agriculture activities, helping the harvest yield to increase. As noted above, this project is the result of many community meetings, where the CorpsAfrica Volunteer facilitated discussions using the Asset-Based Community Development and Human-Centered Design approaches. The community members discussed their assets, their issues, and the reasons their issues have persisted despite so many initiatives to address them. They finally settled on the Sewing Project as the easiest and fastest project they believe will bring a lasting impact in their lives. It will not only bring them financial satisfaction, but it will increase their knowledge and skill-set in general. This project will give them the

opportunity to appreciate the value of their own hard work and motivate them to spend the money they earn responsibly. The Sewing project will both generate financial income and increase health status for poor families through sewing clothes for profit to supplement their earnings from farming.

How does the project engage and build on local assets?

KABAYENGO Village is located in a remote area where most of the community members engage in agriculture and live in extreme poverty. The government has made different plans for poverty reduction as part of its development framework, but there are still people who live under the poverty line. Therefore, while there are no other cooperatives that have the same exact activities as the Sewing Project, it is well-aligned with the goals of the community:

1. It falls under the government program for poverty reduction by creating small businesses
2. It will increase the members' income in a short time frame
3. It will boost living standards of many households
4. This project will empower women that were previously dependent on their husbands who in some cases have more than one wife.
5. This project will help young women and men (youth) to have an occupation.
6. This project falls under Rwanda's strategy and investment plan. The Rwandan government (GoR) aims to move half of the Rwandan labour-force from low-productive agricultural dominated farm jobs to a more productive industry and services-based economy, thus reducing underemployment and unemployment especially among the youth and women. This project directly addresses the goals of the national government.

How is this project sustainable?

The sustainability plan for this project falls under three categories:

1. Local government agreed on continuous follow-up submitted to Cell-level leader in charge of Social Affairs and Community Development for one year. Project Leader for the Sewing Project will submit a weekly report to local leaders
2. Project Leader will be conducting a project evaluation to assess how well the project is managed. By making sure the project is implemented well, the Project Leader will ensure its effects are long-lasting and sustainable
3. The beneficiaries of the Sewing Project will be able to use the profits made to buy more materials, more sewing machines, train more people in the community to expand their business, and increase the number of people who benefit from this project

The reasons mentioned above will make the project last longer and allow for a wider impact on the greater community.

How will success be measured for this project?

- *There will be an increase in the number of women who are able to display proficiency in sewing. This project is focused on building the capacity of the beneficiaries through knowledge sharing with their neighbors.*
- *100% of the items that will be produced in this project will be sold either to local people in the sector or in other sectors or other districts nearby. The climate of NGORORERO*

District favors the use of sweaters, shawls, head covers and scarfs. It is culturally common for Rwandans to wear the type of thread-woven scarf that will be sewn during the Sewing Project. For this reason, the residents of NGORORERO District will support the participants of this project by purchasing their products.

- *The number of families who are able to afford health insurance will increase by 50%. Currently, village residents depend on agriculture production to be able to solve their basic needs. This project will be a great support for them to earn more and therefore access health insurance.*

What will be the impact of the project be?

The Sewing Project’s impacts on community members will include increased financial status, improved health status by being able to buy their health insurance, and increased knowledge of manual skills. The idea for the Sewing Project at KABAYENGO Village was initiated by the community, and it will not only directly impact beneficiaries but will affect the whole village. As their wealth level increases, participants of the Sewing Project will be able to receive loans and expand both their sewing practice and their agricultural activities. The community at large will benefit by having access to the high-quality materials made by the Sewing Project participants. Among the products made will be hand-sewn sweaters for the students at the schools in Birembo Cell, so these students will benefit by having locally-made school attire.

Improved living standards of community members will help to solve a multitude of problems affecting the community members, such as the number of school dropouts, early marriage for young girls as well as unwanted pregnancies. Moreover, it will facilitate community members to get capital in order for them to start small business that will generate even more income and further contribute to poverty reduction.

Exchange Rate	1 USD =	1000	Rwandan Franc - RWF										
		Unit Cost		Total Cost	Grant Request	Community Cash Contribution	Community In Kind Contribution						

Line item description	Category	Local currency	Quantity	Local currency	Local currency	USD	Local currency	USD	Expected Source of Community Cash Contribution	Local currency	USD	Describe Community In Kind Contribution
<i>user inputs below</i>	<i>user selects below</i>	<i>user inputs below</i>	<i>user inputs below</i>	<i>locked formula</i>	<i>user inputs below</i>	<i>locked formula</i>	<i>user inputs below</i>	<i>locked formula</i>	<i>user inputs below</i>	<i>user inputs below</i>	<i>locked formula</i>	<i>user inputs below</i>
House	Land/Venue Rental	1000 000.0 0	1	1000 000.0 0		\$0.00	1000 000.0 0	\$1,000. 00	Community Saving		\$0.00	
Yarn sewing machines	Materials/Supplies	3000 00.00	10	3000 000.0 0	3000 000.0 0	\$3,000 0.00		\$0.00			\$0.00	
Fabric sewing machines	Materials/Supplies	1500 00.00	4	6000 00.00	6000 00.00	\$600. 00		\$0.00			\$0.00	
Needles	Materials/Supplies	1500. 00	10	1500 0.00		\$0.00	1500 0.00	\$15.00	Community Saving		\$0.00	
Crochet needles	Materials/Supplies	1000. 00	100	1000 00.00		\$0.00	1000 00.00	\$100.00	Community Saving		\$0.00	
Tape measures	Materials/Supplies	500.0 0	100	5000 0.00		\$0.00	5000 0.00	\$50.00	Community Saving		\$0.00	
Yarn	Materials/Supplies	5000. 00	100	5000 00.00	5000 00.00	\$500. 00		\$0.00			\$0.00	
Scissors	Materials/Supplies	4000. 00	100	4000 00.00	4000 00.00	\$400. 00		\$0.00			\$0.00	
Fabrics	Materials/Supplies	1500. 00	100	1500 00.00		\$0.00	1500 00.00	\$150.00	Community Saving		\$0.00	
Teachers	Labor	7000 0.00	3	2100 00.00		\$0.00	2100 00.00	\$210.00	Community Saving		\$0.00	
Administration fee	Labor	3600 00.00	1	3600 00.00	3600 00.00	\$360. 00		\$0.00			\$0.00	
Labor cleaning	Labor	2000. 00	100	2000 00.00		\$0.00		\$0.00		200000. 00	\$200.00	Contribution of each community member
Field visits	Travel/Per Diem/Food/Lodging	5000. 00	100	5000 00.00		\$0.00	5000 00.00	\$500.00	Community Saving		\$0.00	
Cutting tables	Equipment	1400 0.00	5	7000 0.00	7000 0.00	\$70.0 0		\$0.00			\$0.00	
Big Chairs	Equipment	8000. 00	10	8000 0.00	8000 0.00	\$80.0 0		\$0.00			\$0.00	
Summary Totals				7235 000. 00	5010 000. 00	\$5,010 10.0 0	2025 000. 00	\$2,025. 00		200000. 00	\$200.00	