



## **PROJECT TITLE: Sewing For Hope**

**Applicant names:** Partners For Conservation  
**Address:** NM 205 ST 1, Musanze, Northern Province, P.O.Box 133 Musanze, Rwanda  
**Website:** [www.notrebio.org](http://www.notrebio.org)  
**Telephone number:** +250 788301775  
**Contact person:** Emmanuel BUGINGO  
**E-mail:** [emmanuel@notrebio.org](mailto:emmanuel@notrebio.org)

### **1. Project summary**

The project aims to promote locally led income generating activities through sewing programmes as a home-grown solution susceptible to drive substantial and long-term resilience actions and rebuild living expectation of rural and poor women. It entails to allow a group of 45 women to work together towards their economic inclusion by providing additional sewing machines and materials for them to generate income sources and access to market by supplying clothes and other fabrics to local and neighbouring markets. On top of that it will strengthen the women's Community Based Organisation as an engine for them to raise their voices towards local social economic welfare through their active participation in decision making processes at both the household and local community levels.

### **2. Background**

In 2015, PFC conducted a field study called "**Insight on Living Conditions in Shingiro Sector, Musanze District In The Vicinity Of The Volcanoes National Park**". The study targeted 156 respondents. 58% of the respondents (of which 69% are women) affirmed to have never been to school. 62% respondents believe that illiteracy has cost them opportunities to invest into job markets and suggested to be introduced to informal literacy programme for them to be able to access and search for job related information. In 2017 the programme has been replicated to support communities from Nyange, Kingi and Musanze sectors. Since 2015 up to now, the programme trained over 900 people, most of them were adults. During the graduation in December 2018, graduates requested the project concept to be improved to drive access to further resources (skills, knowledge and funds) for them to be more proactive in local economic growth. Thus, they requested Partners For Conservation to accommodate other skills such as modern sewing with a goal of increasing job opportunities and investment in income generation activities. In response to this, in 2019 PFC launched a training programme in modern sewing whereby 45 women have graduated. Despite Covid-19 outbreak and measures to contain the spread of this pandemic that have followed, PFC has been able to secure 10 sewing machines so far for the project. The provision of additional sewing machines and inputs will enable all women to actively and equally contribute towards the project goal.

### **3. Problem Statement**

The project is designed to promote home-grown solutions to help rural and uneducated women in Kinigi get access to income generating activities through sewing by providing them with additional sewing machines and materials as well as establishing a women owned Community Based Organisation for them to trigger and strengthen their involvement in social-economic development plans.

The 4<sup>th</sup> Rwanda Population and Household Census (2012) suggests that overall labor force participation rate among youth (between 15 and 35 years) is 63%. It indicates that 61% of the employed youth are self-employed and 67% of them are primarily in agriculture. The unfortunate aspect here is that this sector is characterized by activities of extremely low productivity, low earnings and involves precarious conditions which can be considered as vulnerable employment. This is the case of rural communities in Kinigi where agriculture constitutes 90% of primary livelihood although land is insufficient as it is estimated between 0.2 to 0.8 ha per household, because the region is one of the most densely part of the country 600 people per km<sup>2</sup> (**Threatened Kingdom, 2005**).

Besides that, the government of Rwanda through its 7 years Transformation Strategy, recognizes the urgency and importance of identifying critical skills required in the labor market and to scale up vocational training programs. This calls for strengthened collaboration and partnership among all stakeholders to develop and support priority sub-sectors with high potential for growth and employment and ensure enhanced ownership at all levels.

In this regard, the project is designed to invest rural women into microbusiness opportunities through skills development and capacity building programs through modern sewing by providing additional 35 sewing machines and other sewing materials.

### **4. Justification**

The project targets women from poor, disadvantaged and marginalized communities living in the surrounding of the Volcanoes National Park, Nyange, Kinigi and Musanze sectors of Musanze district in the Northern Province of Rwanda. Unfortunately, only 10 sewing machines have been secured so far. This project is inspired by the National Social Protection Policy which aspires to strengthen the national social protection system with a view to ensuring that all Rwandan citizens have a dignified standard of living. This is done through improving access and strengthening social services for the old people, promoting economic empowerment and resilience among households living in poverty, and promoting community engagement in problems solving at individual and community levels. Through home grown initiatives, such as Ubudehe (a Rwandan practice and a cultural value of mutual assistance among people living in the same area in order to overcome or solve their socio-economic problems) and other self-help schemes, as well as promoting positive values, self-reliance, family and

community-based support among the communities with a view to achieve social transformation, it will strengthen the national social protection system with a view to ensuring that all Rwandan citizens have a dignified standard of living.

In this regard, the project proposes a local sewing programme for a pragmatic source of income. Unlike other economic sectors that depend on internal-external marketing nexus, sewing can entirely depend on locals to grow as it is needed from clothes repairing to making brand new ones. The national constitution advocates for particular actions for this community's socio-economic inclusion. This project is designed to engage beneficiaries in a self-resilience process by scaling them from trainees to professional sewers. It therefore stands as a home-grown solution susceptible to drive substantial and long-term resilience actions and rebuild living expectation through supplying clothes and other fabrics to local and neighbouring markets, to create jobs for young and unemployed women as well as promoting equity by contributing to households' financial health towards improved living conditions such as paying health insurance, children's education etc. which has been for long men's responsibility.

#### **How will this project solve the problem?**

The project is designed to provide additional sewing materials to promote home-grown solutions to help rural and uneducated women in Kinigi get access to income generating activities through sewing by providing them with sewing machines and materials as well as establishing a women owned Community Based Organisation for them to trigger and strengthen their involvement in social-economic development plans. This will be achieved through:

1. **Acquisition of sewing machines:** the project aims to introduce 45 women to professional sewing. So far, the project has acquired 10 sewing machines. The project is designed to provide 35 additional sewing machines
2. **Acquisition of textile:** this involves providing women with raw material textile to start with in respect to the project aspirations, which are producing for local markets. The chosen raw material is the fabric in line with the Made in Rwanda policy. Each woman will be given 4 units of fabrics.
3. **Acquisition of knitting machines:** the project is located in a cold area where people need warm clothes. The project aspires to use knitting machines to produce pullovers and other warm clothes.
4. **Acquisition of other sewing materials:** these includes threads, needles and iron.
5. **Establish a sewing enterprise:** this involves driving women into project ownership through a community-based structure. PFC will ensure necessary actions are taken such as the development of a constitution and other legal texts, opening a bank account for women to have a legal working framework.
6. **Skills development:** through this activity beneficiaries will be acquiring new skills in project management, reporting and evaluation, financial and accounts management, environmental

education and language (English) for them to lead business negotiations.

### **Potential Long-Term Impact**

Besides providing rural and uneducated women with sewing materials including machines and other inputs, the project also aims to establish a women owned Community Based Organisation as an engine for their involvement in social-economic development plans and inspire other communities. The provided materials will help women start their sewing industry and grow their income from sales. It is expected that within two months, women will be able to generate enough income to move forward by covering the project costs. This stands as a great catalyst of transformation and exchange of knowledge within remote communities through enhanced equity and inclusiveness in all household related matters as women will not only be contributing financially to day-to-day welfare at both households and local levels. It will also ensure improved living conditions as families will finally have access to health services and education.

### **5. Main objective of the project**

The project's main objective is to drive substantial and long-term resilience actions and rebuild living expectation of rural and poor women through the provision of additional sewing material.

### **6. Specific objectives:**

- (i) Provide 35 sewing machines
- (ii) Provide 2 knitting machines
- (iii) Provide other sewing materials
- (iv) Establish a women owned Community Based Organisation

### **7. Area**

The project will be implemented in Kinigi sector of Musanze district in the Northern province of Rwanda.

## 8. Budget In US\$)

Nº	Item	Unity	Total Unities	Unity Cost (	Total Cost
<b>Sewing materials</b>					
1	Sewing machines	Machine	35	150	5,250
2	Knitting machine	Machine	2	400	800
3	Threads (usual)	Bundle	130	1	130
4	Thread (knitting)	Bundle	45	1	45
5	Sewing fabrics	Fabric	180	15	2,700
6	Needles	Needle	20	5	100
7	Iron	Iron	4	35	140
	<i>Subtotal</i>				<b>8,715</b>
<b>Establishing a women Community Based Organisation</b>					
3	Computer	Computer	2	500	1,000
4	Printer	Printer	2	250	500
5	Papers	Ream	12	8	96
6	Rent	Month	50	12	600
7	Power and water	Month	12	50	600
8	Communication	Month	12	50	600
	<i>Subtotal</i>				<b>3,396</b>
	<b>TOTAL</b>				<b>12,561</b>




Emmanuel BUGINGO  
 Executive Director  
 Partners For Conservation