



# Rwanda Action

Help Us to Make the World Better



# ENTERPRISE GROUPS

Creating employment opportunities for young people.

With unemployment at over 60% and a growing younger population, the most sustainable way to address poverty in the region we work in is to empower communities to create employment opportunities for young people.

By doing so, we help communities reduce poverty by facilitating start-up enterprise groups, which operate like cooperatives.

Since 2022 we have established 15 successful enterprise communities with a total of 200+ young people (average age 23 and many single mothers), all now gainfully employed and supporting over 500 family members. These enterprises were clustered into three groups to enable the right level of support and where the most positive impact could be achieved.

Examples of businesses include tailoring, welding, shoemaking, hairdressing, baking and wedding decorations/catering. These were chosen having analysed local markets and opportunities, and by supporting the enterprise group members in the decision making.



The successful model that has been developed works as follows -

1. Discuss and agree the business opportunity with between 10 and 15 unemployed individuals who come together to create the enterprise
2. Pay the rent of a workshop for 6 months
3. Buy all the basic tools/ equipment/materials to establish the business
4. Employ a full-time trainer for 6 months (we have an excellent team of trainers)
5. Provide initial business and financial support and advice for 6 months
6. Support to setup independent business with ongoing mentoring and networking opportunities between the enterprise groups.

# TERIMBERE - SEWING ENTERPRISE



In November 2022, a group of 11 unemployed women came together to learn tailoring. They have since moved to a workshop which is well positioned near the main road, and have customers from the wider rural area. They make garments for clients who usually provide their own fabric as well as repairing and making bags and clothing. All the women have been able to improve their living conditions, pay for basic health insurance, school fees and uniforms for their children.

In this area where people rely on subsistence farming, some members have used their share of the profits to buy livestock, important for fertilising land as well as providing food and income.

In 2024 the group recruited two new members and two trainees, have savings of £1,250 and bought a second-hand electric sewing machine. Their ambition is to buy an electric embroidery machine to help further expand the business

**Member Domithilie Nyirabahire is a single mother raising four children. She tells us:**

*I personally have earnt 100,000 Rwf to buy additional land, and I have taken 50,000 from the group to buy a big goat. With the monthly share I get I am paying school fees for one son in a day school (learning masonry) and another in senior school.*

## 2024 Financial Statement

**£480**

Opening Balance  
Jan 2024

**£2076**

Income

**£439**

Expenditure

**£868**

Distribution to the  
team



# ABAHURIJEHAMWE - WELDING

This welding group started in October 2022 with 13 members and has now grown to 20 members. They were trained by Sam (one of our team of trainers) who started out as a trainee member of an enterprise group RA supported some years ago, and is proud to be able to help others with their journeys.

He is doing very well and even owns his own motorbike.

The group focuses on making windows and doors for local houses, mostly working onsite.

## Alexandre, a 23 year-old trainee

*“I was living in serious loneliness. I dropped out of school when my mother needed help after my father died . Since then I have stayed at home with my mother, sometimes helping her on the small farmland at home.*

*In 2022, Rwanda Action brought us together, paid rent for six months for a workshop and for the initial training with a wonderful trainer.*

*RA provided the different materials for the training*

*(welding and cutting machines, with many other tools), and they trained us on business and cooperative management. We recently got the chance to attend a forum of the supported cooperatives to share all our experiences.*

*The group started when the members were 13 but now we are 20. We have opened a satellite in Bushenge in Nyamasheke district, The people nearby and neighbouring sectors are buying our products mostly the doors and windows.’*



## 2024 Financial Statement

**£660**

Opening Balance  
Jan 2024

**£2,564**

Income

**£655**

Expenditure

**£1,354**

Distribution to the  
team

# ABUNZUBUMWE - SHOEMAKING



**Laurence, a 23 year-old single mother raising her three children:**

*I personally have earned money from the group and when it is evening, I sell services of Mobile Money and phone airtime. I am borrowing money from the group to afford to pay for health insurance and I have managed to buy a she-goat which is supporting in fertilising my small plot of land nearby my home.*

Thirteen women created this group in October 2022. They are now collectively saving and using the profits as loans to group members, paid back at a low interest rate.

The group sells the shoes, belts and bags they make at nearby markets. Most of the products are made from synthetic leather and the soles are made from used tyres, sourced locally. Some members have been able to start other small income generating activities with the money earned.

In 2025 they plan to increase their membership so that they can have two workshops and buy another shoemaking machine

## 2024 Financial Statement

**£1,061**

Opening Balance  
Jan 2024

**£1,323**

Income

**£256**

Expenditure

**£948**

Distribution to the  
team

# Enterprise Gallery





# THANK YOU

EMPOWERING YOUNG PEOPLE TO BUILD BRIGHTER FUTURES FOR  
THEMSELVES AND THEIR FAMILIES