

Project Update: January 2018

Introduction:

In November and December 2017, the project continued with a focus on advanced and medium-skilled women. As mentioned in our previous report, after the 1st phase of training, the project proceeded to an evaluation trial. The scorecard suggested the split of the trainees into 3 groups (graduated, advanced and medium). During this period, graduated women combined both producing baskets and supporting their fellow women.

The training in extension:

Having only seven out of 33 women expected to graduate just after the 1st phase of the project has impacted on the next phases. In fact, these seven women were solicited to fill in the gap left by the trainer by training the 16 women from the initial group plus the 17 others who have freshly joined the training as part of the extension of the training. Of course, the project management was called to ensure beneficiaries maintain the project momentum which; is producing modern baskets and extending training.

Project management:

As mentioned in our previous report, during the management committee meeting on September 9th, 2017 it was concluded that a new bank account be open to avoid confusion between income generated by the project and that generated by Dusabane as a cooperative. Beneficiaries altogether agreed on INKINGI as the account name. INKINGI is a kind of a women group of all women project beneficiaries including members and non-members of Dusabane. It was noted afterwards that opening a new bank account has dissimulated all kind of confusion that were anticipated over the management of project income. Partners for Conservation is working with all stakeholders including local authorities to support project beneficiaries to meet all required conditions to have INKINGI operate as a new Community Based Organisation.

Additional knowledge and skills:

Partners for Conservation continued to provide additional knowledge to project beneficiaries. Miss Leonie Zuener, continued the training women hygiene mainly on body hygiene based on Menstruation Health Management.

Thierry Ishimwe, a Rwandan Volunteer, went on providing trainings in environment education using Plant for the Planet Model. This model involves active participation of beneficiaries through group works and presentation. The focus was once more put on soil rain water management techniques including rain water harvesting and soil protection using stabilisers

Partners for Conservation's Executive Director, Mr Emmanuel BUGINGO introduced beneficiaries to accountability basic skills where they learnt how to make a good report both financial and narrative.

Progress made to face identified issues/challenges:

Availability of raw materials: during our previous report, it was mentioned that the project Consultative Committee recommended the use of papyrus to ensure they have raw materials as near as possible. The use of papyrus is looking as an easy and

cheap option and it was noticed later that materials made from papyrus is well appreciated on the local market.

A workshop:

The same previous report pointed out another serious issue affecting the project in relation to a workshop. As mentioned, after the cell was forced to use the room initially pledged for the project, we found ourselves in difficult situation in regards to training and project activities especially during the raining season. One of actions was to keep organising training through small groups formed randomly to help beneficiaries from one place to meet and move on with the weaving/training. We however noticed that, in the long run, this may have a negative impact on the project as beneficiaries won't be working together, as a group. As a second action, we're putting together a proposal with a hope to secure necessary funds to have our own workshop.

Existence of projects with different strategies and approaches: as reported in our last update, this follows the existence of a number of projects aiming at helping historically marginalised people and other poor and vulnerable people. Some of the projects give incentives while others give material support. This represents a serious threat to a project like ours which; provides skills and knowledge only. As action, the Consultative Committee engaged joint mobilisation campaign with the local authorities with aim of raising awareness of project contribution on improved living conditions on a long term run.

