

## **Project Update: November 2017**

After the first evaluation, the project was split into three small groups including a group of graduated (those who can start training others and produce baskets for the market), advanced (who can start training others but can't really produce baskets for the market) and medium (those needed to be assisted to improve their skills). This left seven women who were graduated, 10 at advanced level and 16 at medium level.

The same update states that out of 33 women only 17 (seven graduated plus 10 from the advanced level) were qualified to train others. It was therefore an imperative for the project management to reconsider the extension and instead of bringing on 33 new women we only brought in 17 just to enable equitable training. This means that the project is covering right now 50 women including 16 from the third level (who failed the evaluation) and 17 beginners.

### **Project management:**

On September 9<sup>th</sup> 2017, the management committee met to evaluate the project. The committee concluded that a new bank account could be open to avoid any type of confusion between income generated by the project and that generated by Dusabane as a cooperative. Therefore a new bank account was open in the name of INKINGI, a kind of a new community-based organisation grouping all women beneficiaries of the project including Dusabane members and non-members. This account will be used for all project related incomes including sells, savings and donations.

### **Promoting the project:**

In September 2017, our patron Mrs Sally Kweskin and her two sons visited the project. Bought some project products but also recommended pliable mats (easy to be carried by a tourist) as they're ready to open a market in Laos for these mats.

### **Additional knowledge and skills:**

Partners for Conservation continued to provide additional knowledge to project beneficiaries. Miss Leonie Zuener, a volunteer from Germany, is training women in Menstruation Health Management.

Thierry Ishimwe, a Rwandan Volunteer, is providing training in environment education. The emphasis was put on soil management.

As for me, besides the regular follow up, I continued my training in cooperatives and project management.

### **Actions to face the identified issues/challenges:**

Availability of raw materials: women started using papyrus instead of sisals the first results proved that they can be used in place of sisals.

A workshop: we kept organising training through small groups formed randomly to help beneficiaries from one place to meet and move on with the weaving/training.

Existence of projects with different strategies and approaches: The Consultative Committee launched is now engaged in a joint mobilisation campaign on project long term contribution

#### Conclusion:

For this period, the project registered an income of \$70 from the sales. This brought up to \$270 total income generated so far. While, it was anticipated to keep this amount as savings, women used this money after most of them were affected by the heavy rains that unfortunately swept away crops and houses including a house of their leader.



