

REFUGEE-PRODUCED ARTISANAL BASKETS-READY FOR EXPORT!

OVERVIEW

"ONE THING I'VE LEARNED IS WE CAN ACHIEVE SO MUCH MORE TOGETHER THAN WE EVER CAN ALONE."

Since September 2016, Indego Africa has provided vocational training and basic business education to 50 artisans at the Mahama Refugee Camp in Rwanda. The goal of this project is to help female refugees improve their livelihoods by building the skills necessary to participate in the global artisan economy. Indego Africa secures purchase orders for the women who handcraft woven products that Indego exports under the African Growth and Opportunity Act (AGOA). The women are able to produce high-quality baskets for both local and international export markets, helping to improve Rwanda's balance of trade and secure long-term economic benefits for themselves and their families.

IMPACT

Cooperative

The artisans have formed their own cooperative called Akeza Karigura (You Must Search to Find Beauty in Life). They save 10% of sales and collect a monthly membership with the goal of being able to purchase their own raw material, explore new designs, and become self-reliant.

Export Market

Vocational Training, featuring four designs from Indego Africa's collection, began in September 2016. By November, all members of Akeza Karigura were able to handcraft these products at the high-quality control standards demanded for the export market. From November through May, they fulfilled seven purchase orders (366 units) for Indego Africa who exports and sells to wholesale and retail clients in the US. Additionally, Akeza Karigura produced 55 units purchased by other buyers.

Vision

Purchase their own raw material, grow their business, and obtain their own workspace outside the camp for integration within the local community.

IMPROVING SKILLS

Vocational Training

Training in artisanal weaving and design to meet international standards and market demands.

Basic Business Education

Training on cooperative rules, laws, and regulations in Rwanda; organizational governance; cooperative and bank account management; book-keeping; supply chain logistics; quality control; and market structure and competition.



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