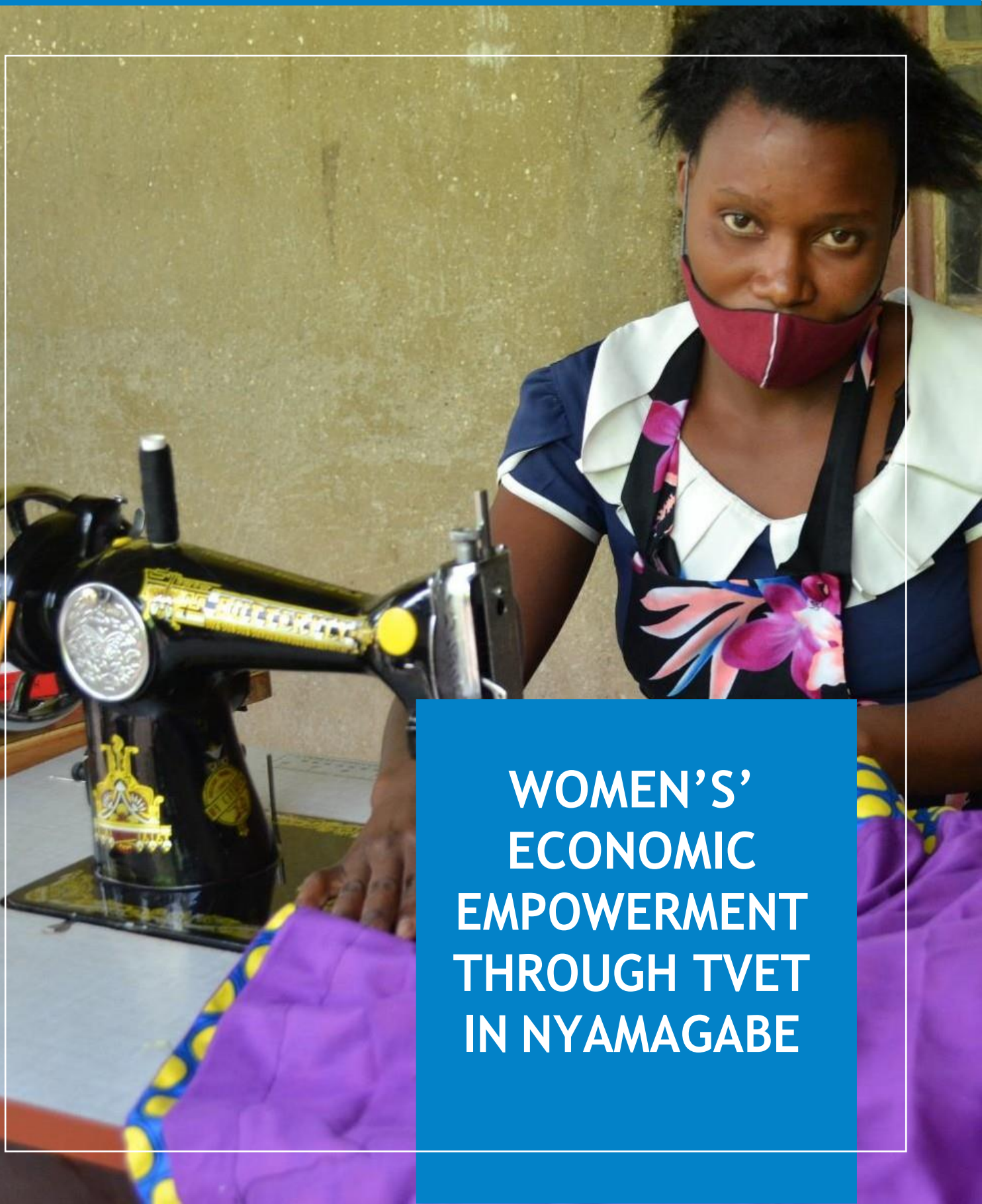


# Trócaire



**WOMEN'S'  
ECONOMIC  
EMPOWERMENT  
THROUGH TVET  
IN NYAMAGABE**

# PROFILE OF TRÓCAIRE & PARTNERS IN THE PROJECT

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**Trócaire**

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## MAJOR DONOR IS A PRIVATE DONOR

Under its Women Empowerment Pillar, Trócaire Rwanda in collaboration with Duterimbere ONG, under the financial support of a Major Donor, implemented a project aimed at improving living conditions of vulnerable women mostly teen mothers by equipping them with vocational skills.

The support by the Major Donor helped 60 people, including 59 teen mothers and 1 male youth from vulnerable families go through vocational training at Cyanika TVET based in Cyanika sector, Nyamagabe District, Southern Province. The sixty programme participants were also given comprehensive tool kits to enable them start income generating projects. They are now improving their livelihoods and contributing to their families' welfare.

Thus, this document captures the impact of the **“Women’s’ Economic Empowerment through TVET in Nyamagabe”** project. By capturing the testimonies of beneficiaries, this document highlights success stories, achievements, best practices as well as challenges and proposes solutions.

# PROJECT OVERVIEW

WOMEN'S' ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT THROUGH TVET IN NYAMAGABE

IMPLENTED IN CYANIKA SECTOR BY:

**Trócaire**

**MAJOR**  
DONOR

60 PARTICIPANTS AT CYANIKA TVET



**59**

**47 TAILORING AND  
2 LEATHER CRAFT**

- Basic points in sewing and hosiery
- Embroidery
- House dressing & decoration
- Children and adults' clothes making
- Transformation and repairing of clothes
- Blouse fashion making
- Basic maintenance
- Internship
- Running microbusiness



**10**

**FOOD  
PROCESSING**

- Hygiene & food safety
- Juice making
- Fermented milk
- Bread making
- Fruit sugar preserves
- Tropical wine

## IMPACT OF THE PROJECT

### ECONOMIC:

- Creation of new jobs,
- Improved living conditions ,
- Ability to make savings in VSLA.

### SOCIAL:

- Restored dignity,
- Prevention of stigma against teen mothers,
- Mended family relations.

### PSYCHOLOGICAL:

- Restored hope of life,
- Teen mother regain self- confidence.

## TRÓCAIRE PROJECT LEADS TO CREATION OF NEW JOBS IN CYANIKA SECTOR/NYAMAGABE

Gaudence Mukansanga, 18, completed her vocational training at Cyanika TVET and is now applying the acquired skills in a shoe making.



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“I got the shoe making skills at Cyanika TVET School. Trócaire and Duterimbere ONG paid my school fees and provided me with school materials. After we had completed the vocational training, they also gave us the start-up tool kits with which we launched a shoe making and repair business.”

Inside Mukansanga’s workshop there are new materials including a hammer, a shoe stand, a cutter, spare leather and threads which were provided by Trócaire and Duterimbere ONG. But there are also new sandals and damaged shoes that she will repair, which is an indication that she is getting clients. This makes her believe that this is an important turn-point in her living conditions following years of hardship and despair.

“My father died; my mother was in jail. So, I headed the household because I am the eldest child. I had to drop out of school to be able to take care of my brother whom I was living with. In the past, it was hard for me to get money to meet basic needs. Now, I am earning money from this business. I can earn Rwf 4,000, 5,000 or 6,000 (approximately 4 to 6 Euro) per day depending on the day.” recounts Mukansanga.

Gaudence Mukansanga is one of 60 youth, predominantly teen mothers, who completed vocational training at Cyanika TVET. Their training was sponsored by a Major Donor through Trócaire and Duterimbere ONG that implemented the project for “Women’s’ Economic Empowerment through TVET in Nyamagabe”



Cyanika TVET hosted 60 trainees who also received toolkits after Completing the vocational training.

Like Gaudence Mukansanga, all the programme participants got start-up tool kits and are now applying the knowledge from the vocational training. Among them is Alphonsine Mukarugendo who went through challenging times after she became a teen mother.

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“In the past I could hardly get money to buy soap. Men used to attract me by promising me material support. This cannot happen anymore because now I have a job from which I earn money to meet my needs”

These stories of transformed living conditions match with what Trócaire and Duterimbere ONG were aiming for in the project for “Women’s’ Economic Empowerment through TVET in Nyamagabe”.

Trócaire is working with its partners such as Duterimbere ONG, and we are in close collaboration with the Ministry of Gender and Family Promotion, the Gender Monitoring Office but also with district authorities and local authorities in the communities that we work. And through all those stakeholders, we have been informed about the challenges that teen mothers are facing. There are so many young girls that have become pregnant, facing serious consequences of having to drop out of school, and not being able to stay with their families. They have to sometimes leave the house and try to fend for themselves. Together with the local authorities we have come up with this project so that we can provide a small contribution to solve this large problem. Said Mrs. Marleen Levina Masclee, the Country Director of Trócaire Rwanda.

Lambert Kayiranga, Cyanika Sector officer in charge of social affairs lauds the impact of Women's' Economic Empowerment through TVET in Nyamagabe project.



Lambert Kayiranga, Cyanika Sector officer in charge of social affairs

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“The project was much needed because we had several cases of teen mothers some of whom were from poor families. So there was a need to equip them with vocational skills that they needed to be able to fend for themselves.”



Group of graduated students located in Cyanika Sector, Karama Cell, Karama Village

## VILLAGE SAVING AND LOAN ASSOCIATION ENHANCES THE IMPACT OF TRÓCAIRE PROJECT IN CYANIKA SECTOR



**Beneficiaries of Trócaire project in Cyanika gathering for a saving and loan association meeting.**

It is a sunny afternoon in Cyanika sector. A group of about ten young women sit on a circle surrounding bank notes of various values. They are convening in an ordinary session of their village saving and loan association that they chose to name as “Twiubake” (Let us change our living conditions).

All the members of “Twiubake” group benefited from vocational training organized by Trócaire and Duterimbere ONG with financial support from a Major Donor. Upon completion of their training at Cyanika TVET, Trócaire and Duterimbere ONG advised them to form village saving and loan association.

Alphonsine Mukarugendo is one of the founding members of “Twiubake”<sup>1,2</sup>. She says that they are already reaping the benefits of working together as a group.

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““In the past we did not have saving and loan associations because we did not have money to save. We also wasted even the small money that we got because we knew nothing about small savings”



**Alphonsine Mukarugendo making a dress with a sewing machine donated by Trócaire and Duterimbere ONG**

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““When we save money, any member who has an urgent need applies for a loan and pays it back with a small interest rate. We are planning that once we hit our annual saving target, we will rent an appropriate and well placed house where we will establish our dressmaking workshop” said Mukarugendo

The Women Economic Empowerment through Vocational Training and Support project integrated the promotion of village saving and loan associations among its activities.



**Muhigana Alexis, the Director of studies at Cyanika TVET**

Muhigana Alexis, the Director of studies at Cyanika TVET believes that this component is going to make the project more impactful because it is helping the beneficiaries to join hands around a common goal and helping them to learn from one another and even push one another forward.

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“The project stood out as unique by providing start-up tool kits to beneficiaries. Another good initiative that they started this year, is helping the programme participants to work through village saving and loan association. This helps in ensuring that the beneficiaries learn from one another, work together and put to good use the materials provided to them” Said Muhigana.

With the project creating unprecedented impact in the lives of teen mothers who in the past were socially rejected, there are calls from members of the community, local leaders and programme participants themselves for the extension of the interventions.



**Mrs. Marleen Levina Masclee, the Country Director of Trócaire Rwanda**

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“The needs are huge. And we see the needs not only in the Southern Province, we see them actually everywhere in the country where Trócaire works. For us, this is extremely important for having successfully carried out this pilot phase because we can go to other donors and showcase the success, the impact that this kind of support has. As Trócaire, in collaboration with our partners, we are committed to extend our support to other areas where this is needed as long as we can do this in strong collaboration with our local partners including local authorities, TVET management as well as stakeholders”

## LESSONS LEARNT

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1. Integration of village saving and loan association is key because it will keep beneficiaries together around one common goal thus enabling them to work together, share experience and help one another in putting provided tool kits to good use.

2. Vocational training for teen mothers creates an impact when it goes hand in hand with provision of startup tool kits. Beneficiaries of vocational training end up not benefitting from the knowledge that they acquired because those from poor families do not have means (capital and materials) to apply what they learnt. It is crucial that they are helped to get the start-up kits at the end of the training.

3. Collaboration with grassroots administrative organs is key in the implementation of projects that target beneficiaries deep in communities. The involvement of local authorities create trust, transparency and stimulate ownership on the part of local authorities in the targeted area.

4. Helping teen mothers to acquire skills needed to create income generating activities also give them an opportunity to regain self-respect, dignity in their communities and restore their hope of life. Most of the time teen mothers go through traumatizing experiences caused by acts that led them to fall pregnant, rejection by parents and stigma in the community.

## CHALLENGES AND RECOMMENDATIONS

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NO.	CHALLENGES	RECOMMENDATIONS
1.	Limited awareness of the root causes and consequences of teen pregnancy and how to treat victims of teen pregnancy	Increasing the level of national awareness on the issue of teen pregnancy and its effects on victims, their families and community at large and how to treat victims.
2.	Limited budget to reach all the teen mothers who need support.	Mobilization of resources from all stakeholders to equip teen mothers with the necessary skills and tools to engage in economic activities
3.	Some teen mothers attending vocational training have no one to leave their babies with	Put teen mothers' welfare and that of their babies among the priorities of ECDs