

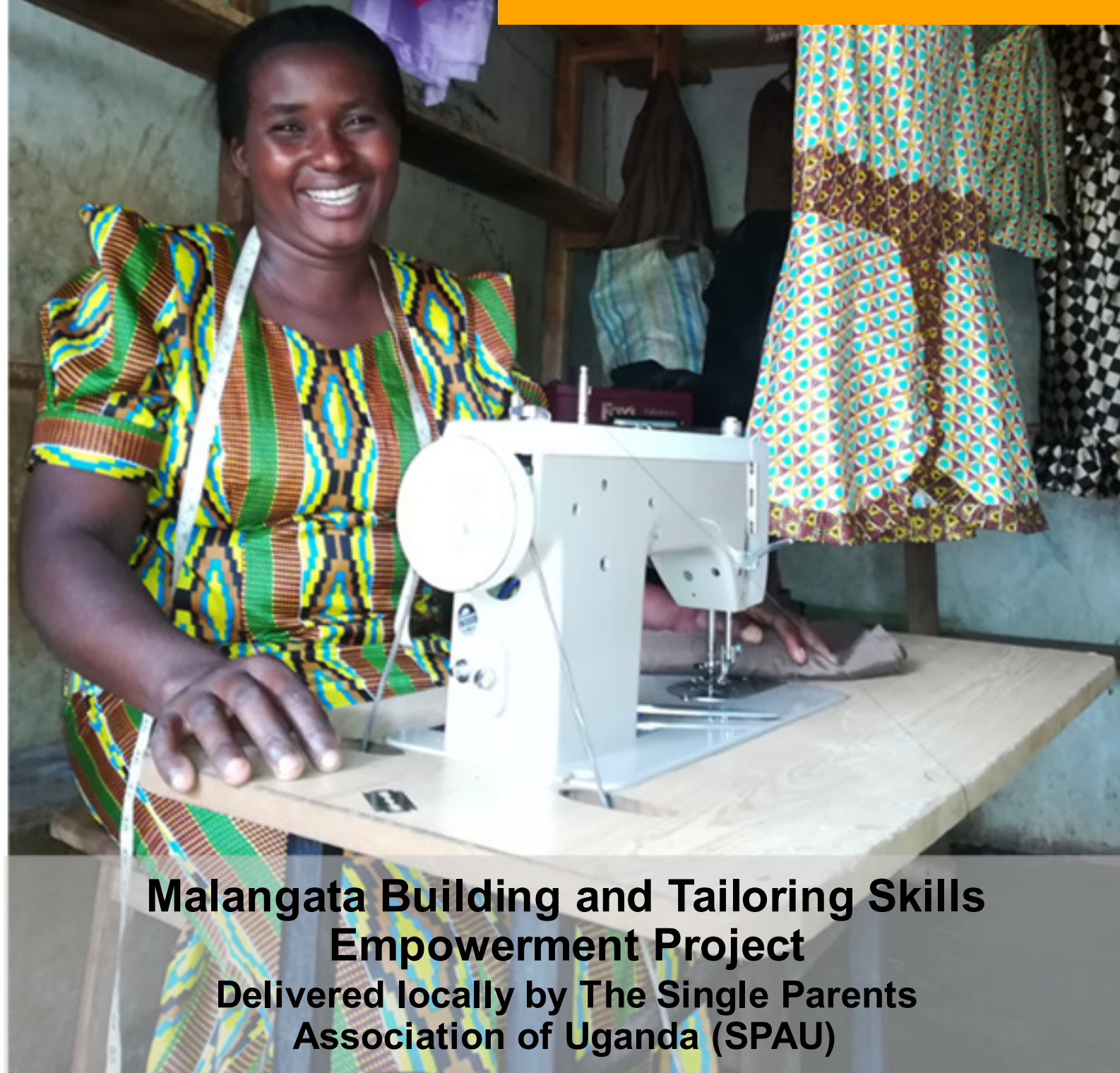


**TOOLS FOR  
SELF RELIANCE**  
Practical help for practical people



Single Parents Association of Uganda  
**SPAU**

## **IMPACT & LEARNING REPORT**



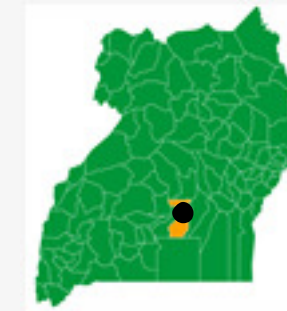
**Malangata Building and Tailoring Skills  
Empowerment Project**  
Delivered locally by The Single Parents  
Association of Uganda (SPAU)

# MALANGATA BUILDING AND TAILORING SKILLS EMPOWERMENT PROJECT

The aim of the project was to equip 60 young people with the skills to set up their own businesses and develop a sustainable income, directly improving their own lives and those of their families and community.

With three quarters of the population under the age of 30, it is unsurprising that Uganda has one of the highest rates of youth unemployment in the world, at 64%. Just 53% of children complete primary education, with poverty and early marriage principle reasons people leave school early. Lacking an education or vocational skills, many rely on subsistence farming or irregular casual jobs, earning a minimal and unreliable income. It is especially difficult for single parents, for whom a lack of support framework means they are frequently excluded from training and development opportunities.

This project aimed to provide a solution to issues such as early pregnancy, drug abuse, youth unemployment, lack of access to education, and cycles of poverty caused by lack of practical skills by offering accessible vocational training.

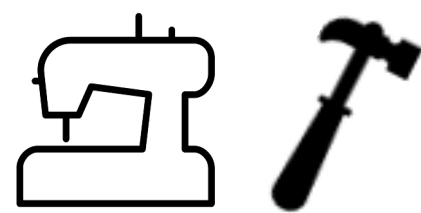


The project was located in Malangata Village, Wakiso District, Uganda

Project duration  
Jan 2017 – Jan 2018  
Project evaluation  
May 2018

## PARTICIPATION

Alongside practical skills, the programme also incorporated business and life skills training.



Participants trained in either  
**TAILORING** or  
**BUILDING** and  
**CONSTRUCTION**

Over **6 OUT OF 10** of the participants were early school leavers due to their families not being able to afford them to continue attending.



**BEFORE TRAINING 85%** of the participants were previously **UNEMPLOYED** and 15% earned an income through unreliable petty trading or casual work.

# OUTCOMES

On the evaluation visit we were able to meet 6 graduates, 4 women and 2 men, representing 10% of the cohort who were trained.

## Before training

**3 OUT OF 4** trainees felt that they lacked employable skills



At the start of the programme,

**9 OUT OF 10**

of the participants felt as though they were

**UNABLE TO MEET HOUSEHOLD NEEDS**

And 7 out of 10 felt they lacked employable skills

## After training



**ALL GRADUATES**

are now using their skills to earn an income.

**All have established their own businesses**



Graduates on average are now earning 192,500 UGS per month (£38.50)

**6 TIMES MORE**

than before the training.



Harriett, tailoring graduate

# STORIES OF CHANGE



With his new income Alex has bought clothes and food for his family and 6 chickens, enabling him to sell eggs and supplement his income.

We asked Medius, tailoring graduate seen on the front cover, where she sees herself in five years; ***“A powerful tailor. I will have my own place to live and I will train my children to have tailoring skills like I already training my niece.”***



Moses applied for the tailoring course to ***“better myself and meet needs.”***

# CHALLENGES

## Participant literacy levels

Some participants did not share their education levels during baseline interviews, which meant that some participants who could not read and write were not identified at this early stage – the lack of literacy and numeracy skills were not apparent, given the practical approach to training, until examination period. Consequently there was a delay in providing the additional support required until later in the programme.



## Translation of documents to local language

Translating the examination questions into the local language (Luganda) was time consuming for the SPAU team. It also increased the programme's expenses through the printing process. Consideration of this will be given during project design stages of future programmes.



Trainees graduating and receiving their tools and sewing machines

# LEARNING

## Equipping graduates

Given the location of participants in Malangata (a rural sub-town on the outskirts of Kampala) where the project was based, it became clear that if graduates were provided with solo kits (to enable them to work independently) it could prove more productive regarding income generation upon completion of training. Currently graduates have been placed into small groups to form businesses following their training. Group working is a model which has proved successful in other projects, but in this context, it was not as effective. The distance, domestic responsibilities and restriction of transport options locally make group work difficult.

## Provision of treadle bases for graduates

We faced a challenge in adequate provision of treadle bases, these were used as training machines for tailors during the project. However, due to a lack of donated treadles in the UK, and inadequate budget provision to purchase them in Uganda, graduates were equipped with hand machines upon completion of the course. Feedback from tailors indicated they felt this restricted the pace at which they could work, and that it was difficult to transition to working on hand machines after being trained on treadles. Again, this will be considered in planning future projects.



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