



TailorSmart Initiative

Empowering livelihoods

Project Title: TailorSmart Women Empowerment Initiative – Skills, Business Training and Start-Up Support in Mukuru Kwa Njenga Slums

Website→ <https://tailorssmart.tech/>

Scholar Details:

- **Student Name:** Morgan Kibet Kwalya
- **Student ID:** 669301
- **Cohort:** 6
- **Category:** YM (Young Man)
- **Program of Study:** Bachelor of Pharmacy
- **Year of Study:** 3rd Year

Submission Date: January 2026

Executive Summary

The TailorSmart Women Empowerment Initiative was implemented in Mukuru Kwa Njenga slums, Nairobi County, to address socioeconomic exclusion among vulnerable women. The project focused on equipping five women with tailoring and entrepreneurship skills, supported by provision of sewing machines, fabrics, and mentorship.

The main objectives were to empower women with marketable skills, enhance household financial security, and promote sustainable livelihoods. Target beneficiaries were low-income women, particularly single mothers, who face challenges of unemployment, unstable incomes, and limited access to vocational training.

Key activities included beneficiary selection, procurement of sewing machines and materials, delivery of a structured two-week tailoring and business training program, and distribution of start-up kits. Adjustments were made to accommodate flexible training hours and ensure active participation.

The project outcomes were significant: four women acquired tailoring and business skills, each received a sewing machine, and immediate income-generating opportunities were established. Beyond individual impact, the initiative fostered community recognition, strengthened peer support networks, and contributed to Sustainable Development Goals on poverty reduction, gender equality, and decent work.

The project's website is published under <https://tailorssmart.tech/>.

This initiative demonstrates how targeted skills training can transform vulnerable households into resilient, self-sufficient units with long-term community benefits.

Project Background

Location of the Project

Country: *Kenya*

Region/County: *Nairobi County*

District/Sub-county: *Embakasi South*

Estate/Community: *Mukuru Kwa Njenga Slums*

Geographic and Demographic Description:

Mukuru Kwa Njenga is a densely populated informal settlement located in Nairobi County. The community is characterized by high poverty levels, inadequate housing, and limited access to formal employment opportunities. Economic activities are largely informal, including small-scale trading, casual labor, and artisanal services. Vulnerabilities include unemployment, financial dependency, poor sanitation, and limited access to healthcare and education. Social dynamics are marked by strong community networks, resilience, and reliance on grassroots initiatives for survival and empowerment.



TailorSmart Initiative

Supervisor/Mentor Comments and Approval

Community Mentor/Supervisor: Area chief

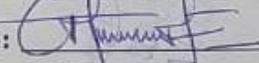
Name: Cosmas Kothuky

Contact: 0706881315

Role: Area chief

Comments:

The TailorSmart Women Empowerment Initiative successfully trained four women in tailoring and business skills. The project demonstrated strong community engagement, effective resource utilization, and visible transformation of beneficiaries from vulnerability to self-sufficiency.

Approval Signature:  _____

Date: 5/1/2026 _____

ASS. CHIEF
MARA DISTRICT
MARA DISTRICT

Project Objectives

General Objective

To empower four women from Mukuru Kwa Njenga slums with tailoring and entrepreneurship skills, enabling them to achieve sustainable income generation and improved household resilience.

Specific Objectives

- *Train four women in garment making, sewing machine operation, and tailoring techniques.*
- *Provide each beneficiary with a sewing machine and starter materials to support immediate business start-up.*
- *Deliver business skills training, including financial literacy, branding, and market access strategies.*
- *Foster confidence, self-sufficiency, and peer support networks among the women to strengthen community resilience.*

Target Beneficiaries

Number: *4 women*

Profile: *Low-income female residents of Mukuru Kwa Njenga, prioritizing single mothers and households with limited income.*

Expected Change

- *Increased household financial security through sustainable income generation.*
- *Improved access to education, nutrition, and healthcare for families supported by the beneficiaries.*
- *Strengthened community networks and local availability of tailoring services.*

Project Implementation Details

Implementation Timeline

Date/Period	Activities	Milestones Achieved
22 Dec 2025	Project officially started; funding received	Funds disbursed to initiate procurement
26 Dec 2025	Purchases made (sewing machines, fabrics, spares, tools)	Equipment and materials secured
26 Dec – 1 Jan 2026	Recruitment of participants	4 women selected from Mukuru Kwa Njenga community
1 Jan – 28 Jan 2026	Structured training program at TailorSmart Training Centre (also serves as shopfront)	Daily sessions conducted for 4 weeks

Training Structure (Daily Routine):

8:00 – 10:00 AM: *Trainer provides instruction at the training centre.*

10:00 – 12:00 PM: *Learners observe trainer working on garments.*

12:00 PM onwards: *Learners practice independently under supervision.*

This routine was maintained consistently for four weeks, ensuring both theoretical and practical mastery of tailoring and business skills.

Project Outcomes and Impact

Quantitative Results

<i>Indicator</i>	Target/Planned	Actual Achieved
<i>Number of women trained</i>	4	4
<i>Sewing machines distributed</i>	4	4
<i>Training duration</i>	4 weeks	4 weeks
<i>Training hours delivered</i>	20 hrs/week × 4 weeks = 80 hrs	80 hrs
<i>Business mentorship sessions</i>	4	4
<i>Certificates issued</i>	4	4
<i>Items produced during training (practice garments)</i>	20	18
<i>Community members indirectly reached (families)</i>	~20	~20

Qualitative Results

- Beneficiaries expressed increased **confidence** in tailoring and business skills.
- Community feedback highlighted appreciation for **local access to tailoring services**.
- Observed changes included improved **time management**, stronger **peer support networks**, and visible **income-generation potential**.
- The training centre/shopfront became a recognized **community hub for women empowerment**.

Photos and Visual Evidence



Challenges and Lessons Learned

Challenges Faced

- **Trainer fees exceeded budget** due to extended mentorship hours beyond the initial plan.
- **Branding costs were higher** than anticipated to achieve professional visibility for the shopfront.
- **Domestic responsibilities of beneficiaries** occasionally conflicted with training schedules, risking drop-outs.
- **Market access limitations** for newly trained women, with competition from established tailors in the area.
- **Resource strain** from higher fabric consumption during practice sessions.

Mitigation Strategies

- Negotiated flexible payment terms with the trainer to accommodate extended hours.
- Adjusted branding scope to prioritize essential visibility while maintaining professional standards.
- Introduced **flexible training hours** (morning instruction, observation, afternoon practice) to balance domestic duties.
- Linked beneficiaries with **local schools and community networks** for uniform contracts and garment repair opportunities.
- Monitored fabric use closely and encouraged practice on smaller items to reduce wastage.

Lessons Learned

- **Planning:** Budget allocations should anticipate possible overruns in mentorship and branding.
- **Community Engagement:** Early involvement of local leaders and the pastor strengthened recruitment and credibility.
- **Time Management:** Structured daily routines (instruction, observation, practice) ensured consistent skill acquisition.
- **Resource Utilization:** Careful monitoring of consumables like fabrics is essential to avoid overspending.
- **Sustainability:** Linking beneficiaries to community markets and networks is critical for long-term success.

Key achievements

Project Milestones

- *Recruitment of 4 women from Mukuru Kwa Njenga slums, each facing socioeconomic challenges such as unemployment and financial dependency.*
- *Successful completion of 4-week structured training, combining tailoring skills, business mentorship, and hands-on practice.*
- *Distribution of sewing machines and starter kits, enabling immediate income generation.*
- *Certification and branding support, giving participants professional recognition and visibility in the community.*

Success Stories – From Grass to Grace

Before: Participants struggled with unstable incomes, limited vocational skills, and dependence on casual labor.

After: Each woman now owns a sewing machine, has tailoring and business skills, and is positioned to run a small enterprise.

Transformation: The initiative shifted them from vulnerability to self-sufficiency, instilling confidence, dignity, and hope for their families.

Community Recognition

Local leaders and the community pastor acknowledged the project as a model of empowerment.

Beneficiaries received certificates of completion, symbolizing their new professional identity.

The TailorSmart Training Centre gained visibility as both a learning hub and shopfront, strengthening community trust.



Receipts

No.	Name of Participant	Description/Purpose of payment	National I.D Number	Phone Number	Amount (Indicate currency)	Date Received	Sign
1.	Ann Njau Njau	Rovick Participation	29556129	0722517074	Ksh 16,200	26 Dec, 2023	
2.	Jacqui's men	Transport	2422448	09220828	2000	26/12/2023	
3.	IRENE MWANGO	Tailoring Instructor	24369322	011867011	26,000	31/12/2023	
4.	Superior Technologies	Tailoring machines/Shop	Office: 010036108 Shop: 010036108		80000/-	29/12/2023	
5.	Kimeax Graham	Branding website	Shop	0101059152	2000/-	31/12/2023	
6.	Transport	Transport Courier	0722321038		5000/-	29/12/2023	
7.	(Superior technology)						
8.							
9.							
10.							
11.							
12.							
13.							
14.							
15.							



Recommendations

Improving Future CAP Projects

- **Enhanced Budget Planning:** Anticipate possible overruns in trainer fees, branding, and consumables by including a contingency allocation.
- **Extended Training Duration:** Consider stretching training beyond four weeks to allow deeper mastery and more practice time.
- **Structured Monitoring:** Introduce mid-training evaluations and post-training follow-ups to track progress and ensure accountability.

Recommendations for the Community & Stakeholders

- **Community Partnerships:** Strengthen collaboration with local schools, churches, and small businesses to secure uniform contracts and garment repair opportunities.
- **Mentorship Networks:** Engage experienced tailors and entrepreneurs as ongoing mentors for beneficiaries.
- **Faith-Based Support:** Leverage the local pastor's involvement to enhance credibility, mobilize community trust, and sustain engagement.

Opportunities for Scaling & Sustainability

- **TailorSmart Network Expansion:** Scale the initiative by recruiting more women in Mukuru Kwa Njenga and neighboring slums, creating a cooperative model.
- **Microfinance Linkages:** Partner with Women Enterprise Fund and other microfinance institutions to provide small loans for business growth.
- **Shopfront Visibility:** Use branding and signage to establish TailorSmart as a recognized hub for women's empowerment and tailoring services.
- **Peer-to-Peer Training:** Empower the initial four beneficiaries to train new cohorts, multiplying impact at low cost.

Appendix

Declaration

I, the undersigned scholar(s), hereby declare that:

This report is truthful and original.

All activities described were implemented as stated.

Funds were used responsibly and accounted for in accordance with CAP guidelines.

Scholar Details

Name: Morgan Kibet Kwalya

Student ID: 669301

Cohort: 6

Program of Study: Bachelor of Pharmacy

Year of Study: 3rd Year

Signature:  _____

Date: _____ Thursday, 01 January 2026 _____

TailorSmart Initiative

Supervisor/Mentor Comments and Approval

Community Mentor/Supervisor: Area chief

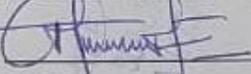
Name: Cosmas Kathuku

Contact: 0706881315

Role: Area chief

Comments:

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Approval Signature: 

Date: 5/1/2026

ASS. COMM. OFFICER
INARA DISTRICT
INARA DISTRICT

Poster that was used for participant selection

ATTENTION!

↓

FULLY SPONSORED TAILORING COURSE



Who? →

Driven Women: Individuals committed to completing the full course duration.

Skill Level: Women with previous tailoring skill or experience will have an upper hand.

Inclusivity: We strongly encourage women with disabilities to apply.

Commitment: Applicants must be willing to commit fully for the stated period in January.

Where? →

Located **opposite Kings Millennium.**

WhatsApp – 0748052811 for selection

Disclaimer The management reserves the right to discontinue the program in the event of any unforeseen challenges.



TailorSmart Initiative
Empowering Southsiders



Scholars Program

Recommendation and Appreciation Letter

TailorSmart Women Empowerment Initiative – Mukuru Kwa Njenga Slums Community Action Project (CAP) 2025/2026

To Whom It May Concern,

I am writing to recommend and appreciate the efforts of the **TailorSmart Women Empowerment Initiative**, implemented by Scholar **Morgan Kibet Kwalya** under the Mastercard Foundation Scholars Program at USIU-Africa.

This project has had a remarkable impact on our community in Mukuru Kwa Njenga by empowering four women with tailoring and entrepreneurship skills. Through structured training, mentorship, and provision of sewing machines and starter kits, the initiative has transformed vulnerable households from dependency to self-sufficiency.

I have witnessed the dedication, organization, and positive outcomes of this program. The beneficiaries have gained confidence, dignity, and sustainable livelihoods, which will continue to uplift their families and inspire others in the community.

I wholeheartedly commend this initiative and affirm its authenticity, transparency, and alignment with community needs. It is a true example of empowerment from "grass to grace."

Details

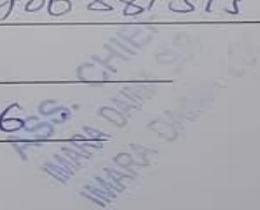
Name: COSMAS M. KATHUKU

Position: ALCATEL

Contact (Phone/Email): 0706 881315

Signature: [Handwritten Signature]

Date: 5/1/2026



Map

