## WORKPLACE LEARNING SUPPORT PROGRAMME IGIRA KU MURIMO

## Quarterly Newsletter



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### **Programme response amid Covid-19**



While the global Coronavirus (Covid-19) outbreak is affecting not only our health, lives and economies, but also the labour market and education sector, the Workplace Learning Support Programme initiated mitigation strategies to cope with Covid-19 effects on the implementation of dual training in Rwanda. The programme invests in digitalization of its interventions to support the capacity development of partner institutions, companies, TVET Schools and apprentices through online capacity building initiatives.

Online training and learning material are being developed. The programme considered that it is prerequisite to support Rwanda Polytechnic to adapt the training approach to new training conditions aligned with Covid-19 preventive measures in both schools and companies. TVET Schools and apprentices will be provided with telecommunication tools including tablets and smartphones to ease the online learning and monitoring of apprentices.

The programme supports PSF to operationalize online training and capacity development for companies through Imanzi Business Institute (IBI) to ensure companies remain competitive and able to train apprentices in the workplace.

From April to June, company managers and in-company trainers attended an online course on Covid-19 and First Aid in collaboration with the Rwandan and Flemish Red Cross to prevent the spread of Covid-19 at the workplace.

# The programme beneficiaries contributed to the production of face-masks



Apparel Manufacturing Group (AMG) is among garment factories and tailoring companies allowed to produce facemasks. AMG is a collective investment of more than 40 micro garment and tailoring firms including 10 among the 38 tailoring companies collaborating with the Workplace Learning Support Programme. The group does mass production of modern clothes, including men, women and kids' wear, and underwear, as well as home textiles like bed covers. However, amid Coronavirus pandemic, all involved companies have shifted their usual work to the production of facemasks.

Before joining Apparel Manufacturing Group, three among the above 10 companies joined efforts and made a single joint company "Couture du Moment". This company hired 6 graduates of the IGIRA KU MURIMO programme as permanent employees among whom 2 are employed in facemasks production.

Jeannette Mukandayishimiye is among the apprentices from Cyondo TVET School in Nyagatare who couldn't go back to her family from incompany training in Kigali due to Coronavirus lockdown. She is one of the 187 apprentices of the 2nd intake of dual training under IGIRA KU MURIMO Programme who were ending their second term of training in companies in different districts after a first term of training in schools. She was hired by African Sewing Club, one of AMG member companies where she was undertaking in-company training, to support in facemasks production. She produced a minimum of 250 facemasks and earns FRW 10,000 per day.

"In 3 weeks, I have made around FRW 200,000. I already realized that IGIRA KU MURIMO programme is the master key that I have been missing to unlock job opportunities. I am very much motivated to complete the dual training and encourage youth to join this programme to acquire employability skills that fit with labour market needs," says Jeannette Mukandayishimiye.

# E-learning course on Management of Vocational Training Centres



# International **Training** Centre

In line with core objectives of the Workplace Learning Support Programme - IGIRA KU MURIMO, pilot TVET schools are capacitated in order to enhance their collaboration with companies to implement quality dual training.

The IGIRA KU MURIMO programme, in collaboration with ITC ILO, organized an online course from 18th May to 17th July 2020, to strengthen managerial skills of 11 school managers, 3 staff from Rwanda Technical Teachers Training Institute (RTTI) and 3 APEFE staff in the management of vocational training centres.

The course focused on strengthening participants' understanding of management concepts and reviewing the management of vocational training centres from a quality-based perspective. Participants examined management challenges related to a vocational training centre and developed a thorough understanding of the centre's role in skills development, skills assessment and recognition and transition from school-to-work processes.

As a way forward, the IGIRA KU MURIMO programme plans to support RTTI through Rwanda Polytechnic (RP) in identifying what additional knowledge is needed to upgrade RTTI modules to train School Managers in the implementation of dual training, collaboration with the private sector and self-financing of TVET schools.

This eLearning training was part of ITC ILO's Skills Development portfolio, which targets worldwide capacity building needs to support the implementation of TVET and skills development programs.

## Training on Covid-19 and First Aid



In the framework to capacitate its stakeholders to implement dual training, the Workplace Learning Support Programme promotes decent work, occupational safety and health.

In this regards, the programme, in collaboration with the Rwandan and Flemish Red Cross, organized two-week training sessions (from 12th to 22nd May 2020 and from 8th to 19th June 2020) on First Aid for for 48 company staff including company managers and in-company instructors, 18 TVET schools representatives including school managers and trainers. The training aimed at enabling participants to deal with emergencies in their workplace.

In order to contain the spread of Covid-19 in companies and schools, participants also undertook online sessions on Covid-19 to better prevent its transmission.

The Red Cross revealed that millions of people are hurt or killed by injuries every year due to inadequate response or lack of timely assistance. Taking immediate action and applying the appropriate techniques, while waiting for professional help, can considerably reduce deaths and injuries, and the impact of disasters and everyday emergencies.

# Companies were provided with equipment to facilitate dual training

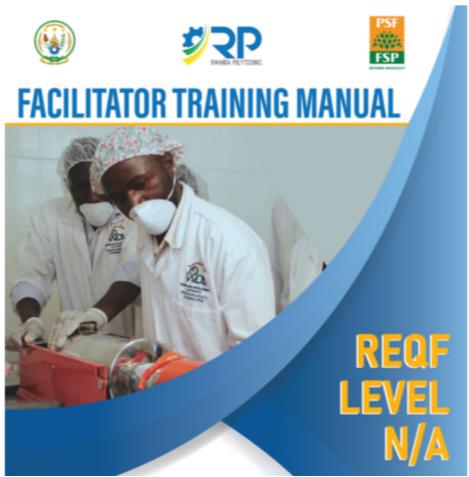


In the framework of strengthening the capacity of companies to facilitate the learning of apprentices through dual training, the Workplace Learning Support Programme - IGIRA KU MURIMO resumed the activity of distributing equipment to companies, which was held up due to Covid-19 outbreak.

From 10th to 12th June 2020, 39 sewing machines branded JUKI were distributed to 22 companies collaborating with the programme to implement dual training in tailoring sector in the 3 Districts of the City of Kigali (Gasabo, Kicukiro and Nyarugenge).

In March 2020, 58 sewing machines were already distributed to 26 companies in the 5 pilot districts outside the City of Kigali namely Huye, Musanze, Gakenke, Gatsibo and Nyagatare.

# The Facilitator Training Manual for the training of In-Company Instructors was handed over to RP and PSF



On 30th June 2020, the Workplace Learning Support Programme in collaboration with USAID/EDC HUGUKA DUKORE AKAZI KANOZE handed over the Facilitator Training Manual for the training of In-Company/Workplace Learning Instructors.

This manual is a tool that will support lead trainers in training Incompany instructors according to the training programme for Incompany/WPL instructors validated in 2019 by the Workforce Development Authority (WDA) to ensure quality training of apprentices in the workplace.

APEFE co-chairs the private sector engagement task-force that aims at harmonizing approaches in workplace learning and private sector engagement.

"We are thankful to the fruitful collaboration between partners in the implementation of the Workplace Learning Policy. Our joint efforts will make dual training a success," said Marie-Pierre Ngoma, the Programme Administrator at APEFE Rwanda.

Thank you for reading this Quarterly Newsletter of the Workplace Learning Support Programme - IGIRA KU MURIMO.

Looking forward to continous fruitful collaboration.

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