

JANUARY TO APRIL 2026



AITENGA DESIGN THINKING PROJECT REPORT

MAY 2026



EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The programme made progress during Quarter One, reaching 75 beginner tailoring students, 23 advanced students, and 7 learners in English support classes. The programme combined tailoring, design thinking, self defense training, counselling, and entrepreneurship training to empower young women with practical skills. The students also produced 108 Kangaroo Wrappers for mothers of premature babies, and positive 2025 DIT examination results, where all 11 students passed the practical exams and 8 out of 11 passed the theoretical examinations, marking a major success for the 2025 project.

PROJECT BACKGROUND

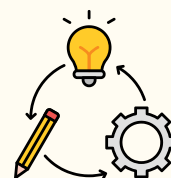
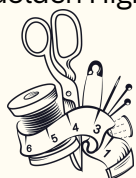


Youth and women in Uganda continue to face high levels of unemployment, limited access to vocational skills training, and gender inequalities that restrict economic opportunities. Many young people lack practical and marketable skills needed for sustainable income generation, while access to entrepreneurship and SRHR education remains limited.

The Aitenga Design Thinking Tailoring Training Programme aims to empower young women through practical tailoring skills, design thinking, entrepreneurship training, and SRHR education. The programme seeks to develop innovative, market-responsive skilled individuals who can create sustainable livelihoods and contribute positively to their communities.

The programme targets over 630 beneficiaries, including tailoring trainees and community members. Beneficiaries are mainly young women who require vocational skills, entrepreneurship knowledge, and personal development support to improve their economic and social wellbeing.

This programme is implemented in partnership with Reproductive Health Uganda, Sustainable Design Centre, Love Binti International, Uganda Tailors Association, and Golden High School Nsaggu



KEY ACTIVITIES IMPLEMENTED DURING QUARTER 1

MOBILIZATION AND ORIENTATION OF THE ADVANCED CLASS

We mobilised and oriented 23 teenage girls aged between 15 and 22 years for the advanced tailoring class, alongside 75 students enrolled in the beginners' tailoring class at Golden High School Nsaggu. The mobilisation process involved engaging former students and community leaders to encourage participation and create awareness about the importance of vocational skills development, especially in tailoring and design thinking. As a pathway, the trainers explained the training schedules, classroom expectations, rules and regulations, attendance requirements, and the importance of discipline, teamwork, creativity, and commitment throughout the training period.



PROCUREMENT OF SEWING MACHINES.

Through the generous contributions of well-wishers and a donation from Dr. Luppa, Aitenga successfully purchased 25 sewing machines to strengthen the tailoring training programme. The acquisition of these machines has greatly improved the organisation's training capacity and created a more practical and effective learning environment for beneficiaries. Out of the 25 sewing machines, 15 were allocated to the Beginner's Tailoring Class at Golden High School to support the Beginner's students learning foundational tailoring skills. The remaining 10 sewing machines were assigned to the Advanced Tailoring Class, where students are receiving more focused training. The machines have enabled trainees to gain more hands-on experience during lessons, increased participation during practical sessions, and contributed to improving the quality and effectiveness of the tailoring programme overall.

KEY ACTIVITIES IMPLEMENTED DURING QUARTER 1

TAILORING TRAINING FOR THE ADVANCED CLASS

Tailoring training sessions for the advanced class commenced with a total of 23 students, comprising 14 continuing learners from last year's beginner class and 9 newly enrolled students. The students receive advanced practical training together with Directorate of Industrial Training (DIT) assessment preparation lessons.

In addition to the tailoring modules, the curriculum also integrates Design Thinking concepts to encourage creativity, innovation, problem-solving, and customer-centered design approaches.



TAILORING TRAINING FOR THE BEGINNERS' CLASS AND CLASSROOM RENOVATION

The Beginner Tailoring Class enrolled 75 students for theoretical training aimed at building a strong foundation ahead of practical tailoring sessions. The training introduced learners to key safety precautions in a tailoring environment, including proper handling and safe use of sewing machines.

In addition to the training activities, we initiated the renovation of a standard tailoring classroom at Golden High School. The renovation works include improving the ceiling, enhancing natural lighting through the installation of windows, and upgrading the flooring. These improvements are ongoing and are intended to provide a fully equipped, safe, and conducive learning environment for tailoring students, ensuring long term sustainability and improved training outcomes.



KEY ACTIVITIES IMPLEMENTED DURING QUARTER 1

SELF-DEFENCE AND SRHR WORKSHOP

A Self-Defense and Sexual Reproductive Health and Rights (SRHR) workshop was conducted to equip participants with knowledge on personal safety, menstrual health, reproductive rights, consent, and protection against gender-based violence.



ENGLISH CLASSES

English language support classes were conducted for 7 students, including 3 students enrolled in the basic English class and 4 students in the advanced English class. The sessions focused on strengthening participants' communication, comprehension, reading, and speaking skills to enhance their confidence and overall learning experience.



DESIGN THINKING PRESENTATIONS

Participants engaged in design thinking presentations showcasing the drafts of their design items with inspiration from natural and existing items, patterns and materials.

COUNSELING SESSIONS WITH THE STUDENTS

Counselling sessions were conducted for students to provide emotional, social, and academic support. The sessions addressed issues such as gender-based violence (GBV), family challenges, peer relationships, low self-esteem, and class-related difficulties including attendance, concentration, discipline, and participation in training activities. Guidance and follow-up support were provided to help students improve their well-being, confidence, communication skills, and overall performance in both class and daily life activities.



DIT RESULTS FOR 2025

The results of the 2025 Directorate of Industrial Training (DIT) examinations were released, 11 out of 11 students passed the practical examinations and 8 out of the 11 students passed the theoretical examinations. The remaining 3 students are expected to retake the theory component to improve their performance and complete the certification requirements. The results reflect the students' dedication and practical skills development throughout the program.



CARRY WITH LOVE PRODUCTION

The Aitenga girls successfully produced 108 Kangaroo Wrappers for Mama Tulia Foundation to support mothers of premature babies. This initiative not only contributes to the care and well-being of preterm infants through Kangaroo Mother Care, but also provides the girls with an opportunity to earn income, helping to improve their livelihoods and standards of living.



QUARTER 1 MARKS EVALUATION

Quarter 1 assessments and evaluations were conducted to track student progress and identify areas requiring improvement plus awarding the best students of the quarter. Individual counselling sessions were also conducted to provide guidance, motivation, and support to trainees.



KEY UPCOMING ACTIVITIES FOR QUARTER 2

- Commencement of the Bridal and Suits Class scheduled for 26th May 2026.
- Commencement of the Design Thinking Training scheduled for 29th May 2026.
- Preparation and support for the DIT examination retake for the 3 students who did not pass the theory component, scheduled for June 2026.
- Continuation of practical tailoring training for both beginners and advanced classes.
- Strengthening mentorship, counselling, and trainee follow-up activities.
- Home visits and follow ups of the advanced class students, and the Bridal & suits class.
- Exposure visits for the advanced class students scheduled for July 2026.
- SRHR workshop for the beginner students at Golden Heart Nsaggu scheduled for July 2026.
- Making reusable pads by the advanced class students.



CHALLENGES AND RECOMMENDATIONS

- Dropouts: Five advanced trainees discontinued due to relocation, family disagreements, and long distances, the project strengthened counselling, family sensitisation, and flexible support measures to improve retention.
- Time Keeping: Irregular attendance and lateness affected training consistency; therefore, attendance follow-up, mentorship, and time management guidance were reinforced to improve commitment and punctuality.
- Slow Progress in Design Thinking Sessions: Some students required more time to understand design thinking concepts; as a result, additional coaching, practical demonstrations, and peer mentorship were introduced to enhance learning.

CONCLUSION

The first quarter of the Aitenga Design Thinking Tailoring Training Programme has marked a productive start toward achieving the project's goals. Through the successful commencement of tailoring training sessions, additional workshops, counselling and the achievement of positive 2025 DIT examination results, the project continues to create meaningful opportunities for young women. While challenges such as learner dropouts and time management were experienced, they have provided valuable lessons that are helping us strengthen our approaches and improve program delivery moving forward.

We would like to express our heartfelt gratitude to Projekthilfe Dr. Luppá for their generous support, trust, and partnership. Your contribution continues to make a real difference in the lives of the young people and women participating in this project. We also appreciate all stakeholders, trainers, partners, and supporters whose commitment continues to drive the success of this initiative. Together, we look forward to achieving even greater impact in the coming quarters.

