



project summary

# Inyambo STARS

programme: culture

## THE CHALLENGE

Growing up as a young person in post-conflict Burundi is tough. As social structures and services have eroded during the war, there is not much for them to do in their community. This makes young people an easy target to be drawn towards crime, drugs or prostitution. Whilst luckily many young people will not succumb to this, they lack the opportunity to connect and develop themselves through organized activities in their community. How can we support young people in Burundi to self-organize to improve their talents and bring positive change to their lives and their communities?

## OUR SOLUTION

In a 2021 pilot we brought together a group of young fashionistas, designers and creative minds in the community of Gihanga in Burundi. From day one they have shown that they are ready for change, so they have now established a local youth group called *Inyambo STARS*. We help them to start up to become a well-respected group of motivated youth. We want Inyambo STARS to become a local association where young people, aged 10 to 25 years, are able to develop and demonstrate their talents while doing good for their community. Our dream is for Inyambo STARS to inspire young people in other communities in Burundi to also self-organize in talent development.

### Our advantage

- ❑ We have an excellent network in Burundi & the Netherlands to support this youth-driven initiative
- ❑ Commitment to leverage resources and connections for Inyambo STARS to grow into a sustainable community-based organisation

### Benefits of the solution

- ❑ Demonstrate that young people are able to self-organize to develop their talent
- ❑ Make young people agents of change in their community while applying their talents
- ❑ Inyambo STARS can serve as a model for youth-driven talent development in Burundi

## THE DIFFERENCE WE MAKE

### Impact

- ❑ We help to improve the lives of young people in Burundi by supporting them to self-organize and develop their skills and talents
- ❑ Improve communication between young people and community members
- ❑ Increased cultural activities and events in Gihanga
- ❑ More engagement with other young talents and artists in Burundi

### Achievements

- ❑ Over 35 young people already benefitted from Inyambo STARS membership
- ❑ 26 young people actively engaged in talent development in Gihanga
- ❑ Three fashion/ design events organized for over 1,650 people in Burundi
- ❑ Community campaigns organized on societal issues, e.g. community cohesion, HIV/ AIDS

