



fiom rwanda

The Future In Our Minds

When Boss Bean Bosco (BBB) finished his basic schooling, lack of money meant he had no way to continue his education. His parents were desperately poor, with barely the ability to grow enough food for the family to survive. By age 18, with no way to earn a living, BBB was living on the street.

FIOM Rwanda identified BBB as a vulnerable young person in need of help and with FIOM Rwanda's assistance he attended a young person's training centre to learn carpentry skills.

Having gained these vital skills, BBB was able to join with others and form a carpentry cooperative, helping him to secure an income and gain the support of others in his field.

In addition to helping BBB gain the technical skills he needed, FIOM Rwanda also provided carpentry tool kits to help them start their business, and trained the cooperative members on the principles of cooperative management, relevant legal issues, financial skills and entrepreneurship.

BBB now has an average monthly income of 50,000 RWF (US \$84) through his work with the cooperative. BBB recently made a set of living room furniture for a customer, which he sold for 100,000rwf. 55,000rwf covered the cost of the materials, and he gave 3000 to the co-operative. The remaining 42,000rwf was his income. With half of that money he bought a plot of land that he and his family can cultivate. The other half was paid into his bank account, a move that will help him to manage his money better and grow his money for use in the future.

BBB says "With FIOM Rwanda I have learnt to live by my own efforts and I am now responsible for my future. I was good for nothing, a neglected person but now because of this project and FIOM Rwanda, I am a leader in my cooperative, I earn my own money and decide how to use it, I contribute to my parents' projects. I am no longer in the street and I will never turn back to it because of the skills I have acquired on this project".

In the space of a few months BBB has gone from living a life of the street with no hope for the future, to being a self-employed skilled carpenter, working within a successful cooperative. He is now a central part of his family, making a significant contribution to their existence.