

# SEWING A BETTER FUTURE FOR WOMEN AND TEENAGE GIRLS



For teenage girls in Mozambique, marrying before age 18 isn't uncommon. With no economic opportunity outside of marriage, many young girls find themselves in early and often difficult marriages.

Local United Methodist Churches

in Mozambique are helping girls avoid these situations by training them to sew. This vocational skill allows girls and women both to be financially independent and to help support their families.

The Mozambique Initiative helps meet the greatest needs of partner communities in sub-Saharan Africa. Our partners in Mozambique shared their hope to empower women and support girls by multiplying these sewing and design centers at churches across the country.

Four centers already exist – at local churches in Chimoio, Nicoadala, Mituge and Tsalala – and over 50 people have been trained in the past two years. Graduates of the vocational training program can sew their own clothes, including school outfits, church groups' outfits, and garments for their families and community members. Currently 12 women are enrolled at the Tsalala center.

"Sewing is more than just knowing how to operate machines," says Felicidade Macome, a graduate from the Tsalala sewing program. "Sewing is therapeutic and relaxing for me. Since I had a sewing machine of my own, I am now able to gain some income from the work I am doing and therefore help cover my children's school fees and sustain my family."

The price of a sewing machine in Mozambique is \$700 USD. A roll of fabric to make school uniforms is \$80. A box of hand needles is \$1.50. Your gift of any size will make a real difference in the lives of women and girls in Mozambique.



## WAYS TO SUPPORT SEWING CENTERS

- Online at [www.mzinitiative.org](http://www.mzinitiative.org)
- Mail your check to 3601 Amron Court, Columbia, MO, 65202. Make sure to include "Giving Tuesday" in the memo line.



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