



The facilitator above shows machine basics, such as needle threading to the students. Stitches are practiced all day every day until they are ready to move on. Here a pattern is being cut, and we see one of their first projects – an apron with designer pockets upfront.





Measure twice and cut once!



Practice, practice, practice...

Period Poverty is a crippling and demeaning issue that face South African girls and women – we are therefore very proud of the re-washable pad that we developed with our students. The one on the left is a single item – the design on the right is a sanitary pad that covers the underwear, while the patterned “panty liner” item is removed and replaced during the day and put away in a waterproof dignity bag. The felt is hyper-absorbent and the is breathable waterproof lining prevent accidents and there is a towelling lining in the middle to further aid absorbency. This product alone allows a child to attend school or a woman to attend work with dignity and her feminine health and hygiene protected and supported.





The start of the traditional blue school skirt for girls and a white t shirt that can be worn under longer sleeves in winter if needed or for sports. Each student learned these patterns and perfected the items and then donated the skirts and T shirts to the schoolgirls in our Learn to Live project. They are desperately needed and very welcome.

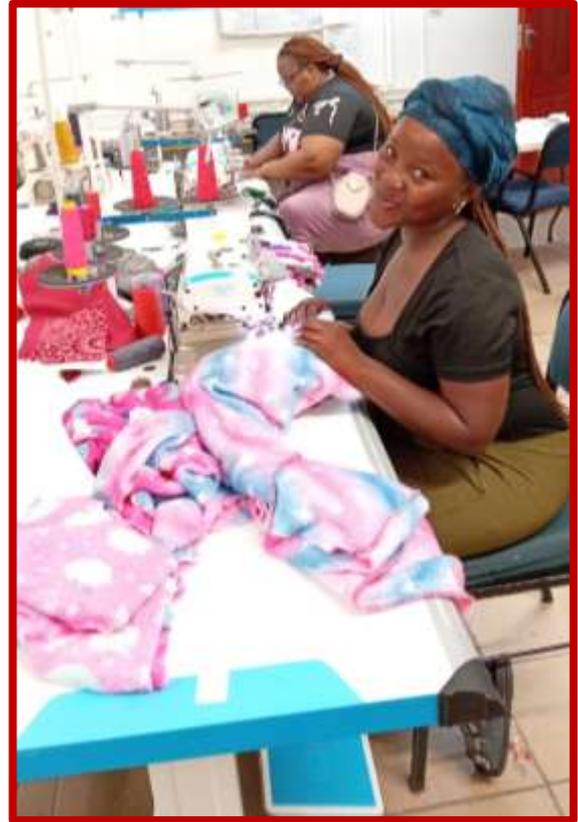




Above, the ladies display their medical scrubs, brought to life in a beautiful terracotta colour. The scrubs were an instant hit at the Expo with great interest being expressed in the lightweight fabric and flattering cut. We had a few nursing sisters from a children's home present and they instantly expressed interest in scrubs for 2026.

A busy, happy sewing space – a tiny factory compared to the one we share later.





While various product samples were being worked on, we received a visit from a little one who reminded us all why this project is so important, this little one's Mum is now accredited and in a stipend supported learnership for the next 12 months after which she can accept an employment offer – it is hers to win or lose now. Knowing her, she will make that job hers as she wants to provide for her child as so many of our students do.



This cohort was in love with creating traditional wear with a strong African theme, the bottom picture is a version of the traditional skirt for a little girl – you will see her in soon at her mother’s side at graduation.





A Life Skills Outing to a functional CMT factory for PEPCLO – the manufacturing arm of PEP – a household brand in South Africa. It was an incredible experience for the students to realise the magnitude of a professional operation. Their factory floor is just a little larger than ours...but we love filling it with our graduates!





A second Life Skills Outing was to purchase their own fabric choices for the Incubation Lab Phase, for most, a rare opportunity to buy new fabric with a design in mind. The space to play is a luxury but a necessary one for creativity to take root.





Do you recognise this little girl's skirt from page 6?

These pics are the graduation moment of pride – taken with family and friends who supported their journey and the beautiful and beloved children they are journeying for.



You may notice students supporting each other – we had two sets of sisters and a cousin join this cohort, so there was a lot of sisterly love and support happening. What is beautiful about a group of women is that often forge themselves into a sisterhood even without DNA being involved. They stand together.



Just before we moved into the Expo phase of the ceremony, we handed over to the Christine Revell Children's home the cot comforters and pillows our students had made for them as part of our students' journey into giving back into the community.

It is important for us to teach our students to give back and not just be on the receiving end of support. Our students were delighted by this challenge, it appealed to their motherly hearts, and I can see this becoming a fixture for our project. They were incredibly proud of having done this for the Children's home.

Each student had a table in which they displayed their products with an accompanying cost list. On this table alone there are multiple products from medical scrubs (terracotta colour on the right) children's pyjamas in the vehicle fabric, a hooded sweater top next to it on the left, aprons, bags, reusable sanitary pads, placemats, napkins, skirts and a drawstring bag.



Some students also wore their product offering beautiful visuals of cultural clothing.



Graduates engaging with the public and making a few sales which was great fun!



A successful end to a successful year and proof of process for a new strategy with undeniable and measurable proof of impact and change in the lives of the beneficiary and indirect beneficiaries.

This work would not be possible, the results would not be achievable without the support of our heroes, our donors who share our vision and assist us to change lives and break multi-generational poverty and exclusion.

With your support we are able to continue to focus on dignity and opportunity. Thank you for having showed faith in this programme and the changes we believed it was capable of achieving.



**INVEST IN OUR YOUTH**

