

Mimco  
Spring-Summer 2016  
Impact Assessment  
ITC Ethical Fashion Initiative: Haiti  
July-August, 2016



This order was monitored using the RISE framework – an innovative scheme developed by the International Trade Center’s Ethical Fashion Initiative (EFI) allowing clear and objective monitoring through data analysis. Benefits of the order were recognised in terms of income and savings, education, health and nutrition, overall strengthening local enterprises and improving the standards of living for those involved and their families.

## ITC Ethical Fashion Initiative Impact Assessment



### Mimco, Spring-Summer 2016 order summary





Mimco produced 2000 Necklaces and bracelets, along with their own accompanying dust bag in Haiti as part of their Spring-Summer 2016 collection.

A total of 40 artisans were involved in producing the order, part of five different community groups: Papillon Enterprise, DOT, Ace Iron Craft, ADAAC and GRAPAH. 67% of the artisans working on the order were women and 89% of the artisans were under the age of 40.

Different skills required to produce the order were: Bead making, beading, jewellery mounting, metal work, horn, supervision, packing, sewing, finishing, quality control and metal work. Nearly all artisans received some form of training to help with the production of the order.

68% of the artisans used income received to fund the education of their children, dependents or their own.

Style	Photo	Quantity	Groups involved in production
Lagoon Necklace		400	Papillon Enterprise, DOT, GRAPAH, ADAAC and Ace Iron Craft
Lagoon Bracelet		400	Papillon Enterprise, DOT, GRAPAH, ADAAC and Ace Iron Craft

<p><b>Lagoon Hispaniola Bracelet</b></p>		<p><b>400</b></p>	<p>Papillon Enterprise, DOT, GRAPAH, ADAAC and Ace Iron Craft</p>
<p><b>Peach Hispaniola Bracelet</b></p>		<p><b>400</b></p>	<p>Papillon Enterprise, DOT, GRAPAH, ADAAC and Ace Iron Craft</p>
<p><b>Black Hispaniola Bracelet</b></p>		<p><b>400</b></p>	<p>Papillon Enterprise, DOT, GRAPAH, ADAAC and Ace Iron Craft</p>
<p><b>Dust Bags</b></p>		<p><b>2000</b></p>	<p>DOT</p>
<p><b>Total</b></p>		<p><b>4000</b></p>	

## Community groups participating in the order

Group	Main skills used in the order	# of the participants in the order	# of Women	Trainings received ?
Papillon Enterprise	Clay beads Paper beads	15	13	Yes
DOT	Beading Jewellery mounting Sewing Finishing Supervision Quality Control Packing	17	12	Yes
Ace iron craft	Metal work	2	0	Yes
ADAAC	Cutting and sculpting metal	2	1	Yes
GRAPAH	Horn	3	0	Yes
Kazuri 2000 Limited	Ceramic Beads	5	5	Yes
<b>Total</b>		<b>39</b>	<b>26</b>	

Map of communities involved / production location



Challenges

The order was produced between July and August of 2016. This was the time when children returned to school and the parents needed to pay school fees. Focus group discussions revealed that most of the artisans improved their living conditions, were able to provide more nutritious meals and pay tuition fees. For Example: Adeline Riche was not able to send her 8 children to school last year, but this year they all went to school.

Income, saving and investment



The workers received a fair and decent wage throughout the order. Many of the artisans were able to **save and invest their earnings into education, health, housing and various other commodities**, increasing their opportunities and contributing towards poverty alleviation.



- ❖ 37% of participants stated their income was higher than what they would have otherwise earned from the domestic market;
- ❖ 47% of participants were able to save and invest their income;
- ❖ 37% of workers were able to pay all or most of the tuition fees for their children;



- ❖ 25 workers were able to send their children to school thanks to the order, resulting in 35 children gaining access to education in total.

## Skill development



To complete the order, the artisans improved and expanded their **skillsets** and received trainings. This contributes to their **income-generating prospects**.

- ❖ 68% of artisans received training and learnt new skills to complete the Mimco order.

## Health and nutrition



Receiving a regular income enabled artisans to **maintain their health** due to a **regular meal** and **improved medical care access**, subsequently enhancing their **quality of life**.



- ❖ 100% of participants were able to provide a regular meal for their household, and 100% of workers stated that they never or rarely skipped a meal;
- ❖ 86% of artisans were able to access private health care while working on the order;
- ❖ 100% of artisans said they would not have sought the same medical treatment without the income received from the order.

## Social well-being



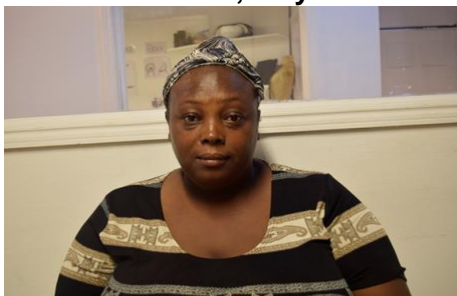
For most artisans, working on the order provided them with a sense of **social well-being** and improved their **life satisfaction**. Not only did the artisans work together to complete the order, but they **worked as a community** to discuss their **daily needs** and **solve pressing social issues**. This **empowered women** and **improved development**, consistent with the aims of EFI.



- ❖ 100% of artisans said they felt more confident in their daily tasks and activities as a result of the order;
- ❖ 100% of artisans felt proud of the work they had produced;
- ❖ The Mimco order had an overall satisfaction rate of 100%.

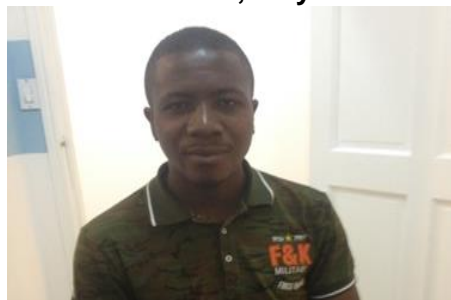
**Meet the artisans**

**Adeline Riche, 47 years old**



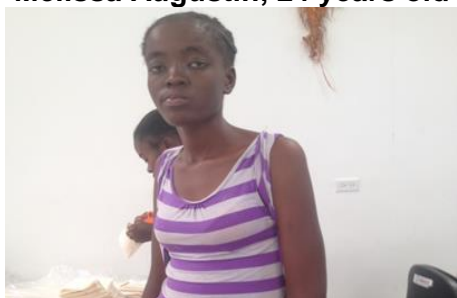
*I worked on the Mimco Spring-Summer 2016 order. I had a great experience and I learned a lot. Even when it was difficult at times, I did my best to satisfy the customer. This order has been a great help to me, particularly in supporting my children. I love to work so I can help my children. I love to learn because I know I can succeed with many things that I learn.*

**Wilson Ysrael, 24 years old**



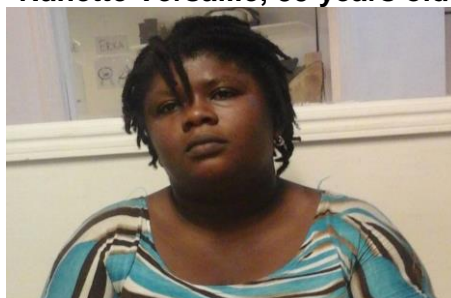
*I am an orphan. I worked on the Mimco Spring-Summer 2016 order as both a jewellery mounter and beader. It was my first work experience and because I received training in jewellery mounting it's now a new job for me. With the money from the order I helped my aunt who was very sick, and I have been saving, it has been a very great benefit.*

**Melissa Augustin, 24 years old**



*I am an orphan. I really liked working on the Mimco Spring-Summer 2016 order. I participated as a sewer for the dust bags. I learnt a lot during this order. The money from the order allowed me to go to the hospital and save to send my little brother to school.*

**Nanette Versaille, 35 years old**



*I was looking for a job because I needed money to send my child to school. I worked on the Mimco Spring-Summer 2016 order in beading and packaging. It was a very interesting experience.*

**Valancia Florestal, 25 years old**



*I worked on the Mimco Spring-Summer 2016 order in beading and packaging. I am grateful for this job opportunity and for the trainings I received. With the money I earned, I was able to pay tuition for my child.*

## Conclusion

The Mimco Spring-Summer 2016 order enabled 40 people to gain work doing a job they enjoy while earning a decent income. The artisans improved their skills and received training in beading, jewellery making, supervision, packaging, sewing and quality control. For seven artisans this order was the first work experience. They used the money to pay health services, to buy clothes and to respond to family needs.

The educational and employment opportunities for the **artisan's children** were also enhanced as a result of Mimco's order due to an **increase of income** and **greater education access**.

## More about the Ethical Fashion Initiative:

The Ethical Fashion Initiative (EFI) is a flagship programme of the International Trade Centre, a joint agency of the United Nations and the World Trade Organization. EFI reduces global poverty by linking micro-producers and artisans to the international supply chain of fashion, facilitating dignified work at a fair wage. By collaborating with social enterprises, the EFI supports local creativity, female employment and empowerment and gender equality. Ultimately, this aims to reduce extreme poverty and increase the export capacities of the region in which it operates.

EFI's project in Haiti has been funded by USAID<sup>1</sup> since 2015.

## More about DOT:

DOT (Design, Organization and Training), is a center dedicated to contemporary and quality production and design by Haitian artisans. Located in the Tabarre commune of Port-au-Prince in Haiti, DOT was created in 2015 by Donna Karan, Urban Zen, Parsons School of Design, and Haitian designer and business woman, Paula Coles. Since its opening, the center has worked to help bridge Haiti's numerous traditional techniques with modernity and design innovation that are required to succeed in today's global marketplace. Collaboration is at the heart of DOT with partnerships encouraged between artisans, brands, non-profit organisations, the DOT in house design team and academia, with the aim of taking Haitian craftsmanship to the next level.

Since 2016, DOT has partnered with the Ethical Fashion Initiative with whom it shares the common goal of empowering artisanal communities through work. The Ethical Fashion Initiative currently operates from the DOT center.

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<sup>1</sup> Agreement No. AID-521-IO-14-00001