



## The Weaver

The Ifakara Women Weavers project was started in 1983, by a Danish NGO, to help poor female school leavers from the Kilombero and Ulanga districts of southern Tanzania to establish sustainable livelihoods for themselves and their families.

In 1993 the project became a workers cooperative, The Ifakara Women Weavers Association (IWWA), owned and governed by the women who are its members. The women benefit and share the profits they make amongst themselves.

IWWA has a training school for weavers, a loom production unit to build the essential equipment, a dyeing unit to produce the dye for the yarn, and a shop where the finished products are sold.

Products include dyed yarn, bedsheets, curtains, blankets, bags, and other cloth products. Individual items are all labelled with the name of the woman who made it.

Each member benefits in proportion to her contribution to production and sales.



## The Tailor

Billy Mtengule has been a tailor for 25 years, working from a tiny sewing room right next to the Ifakara Women Weavers Association.

The oldest of six children, Billy left school after his parents died and dedicated himself to learn sewing. He is proud to have become such a well-known tailor in Ifakara.

For the past 10 years Billy has been passing on his skill and expertise by teaching local young women to sew.

He takes only 2 students at a time in his compact work space, which is 'just the right amount of people here', according to Billy.

Training others gives them an essential skill that can provide a sustainable living.

A father of three girls, two of them twins, Billy would be happy to see his daughters follow in his footsteps.

Ifakara Health Institute (IHI) is one of many institutions that IVCC works with in Africa, testing new vector control products.

IHI has a history of more than 50 years as a leading research organization in Africa. It is an independent non-profit organisation registered in Tanzania with a strong track record in developing, testing and validating innovations for health.

Find out more at [www.ihl.or.tz](http://www.ihl.or.tz)



### Hand made by local people in Ifakara, Tanzania

In the shadow of the Ifakara Health Institute, Tanzania, on the main street in Ifakara, you will find a shop displaying hand woven cloth produced by local women. This is the cloth that your bag is manufactured from.

And next door to the weavers' shop is the workshop of Billy Mtengule who turned the cloth into bags.