



2025 Artisan Support Grant Recipients

Summary

From 111 applications, the 2025 WARP Grants Committee selected 25 recipients for Artisan Support Grants, in the form of \$500 and \$1,000 grants.

The committee awarded 4 individual grants and 21 group grants from 16 different countries.

A little about our applicants:

- Textile artisans from any country are welcome to apply.
- They can be an individual, a cooperative, or a small business.
- Their product must be fiber-based, handmade, and not mass-produced.

BHUTAN: Green Weaving/DrukVana

Textiles produced:

Fabric, scarves, shawls, bags, and home décor items woven on backstrap and frame looms using Eri silk and yak wool from the Bhutanese highlands.

Grant purpose:

Purchase raw materials for weaving (fibers, dyes, mordants), wood for loom construction and repair, camera for storytelling and promotion, and training on advanced weaving techniques, eco-product development, and business skills.



COLOMBIA: Corporación Talleres De Capacitación Y Desarrollo Esperanza

Textiles produced:

Utilitarian textile pieces such as rugs, cushions, table runners, placemat sets, scarves, arm warmers, belts, and handbags. Decorative textile pieces such as tapestries, kilims, dream catchers and gobelins (type of tapestry).

Grant purpose:

Develop the manual and creative skills of people with intellectual disabilities through weaving. Grant funds will go toward purchase of raw materials, a computer, cabinets for storage & display, packaging, labels, marketing.



DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO:

Marie Riziki

Textiles produced:

Cotton, wax (African printed fabric), silk, satin, synthetic fiber fabrics, poplin, voile.

Grant purpose:

Restart a once thriving sewing business in Bukavu (destroyed during the war) and create a positive community impact. Funds will be used for workspace rental, equipment reinforcement, marketing and promotion, electricity purchase, and participation in a training workshop.



EAST TIMOR: Koperativa LO'UD

Textiles produced:

Traditional and contemporary, 100% cotton textiles, hand-dyed with natural dyes. Woven on backstrap looms.

Grant purpose:

The Cooperative is remote and local costs for materials and services are high. They will use their grant to cover transport for dye plant collection, purchase of raw materials, and promotional materials production in order to improve supply, reduce costs, and expand market reach.



GUATEMALA: Sharing the Dream

Textiles produced:

Traditional and contemporary, 100% hand-dyed, cotton textiles woven on backstrap looms, including table runners, patterned yardage, and brocaded shawls.



Grant purpose:

Improve production efficiency and quality by creating a materials bank for the artisans which will include cotton and rayon thread, pine needles, and plastic raffia. This will save time traveling, save limited financial resources to procure raw materials, and reduce discrepancies in thread and material colors. Also provide training on product pricing.



INDIA: Himalayan Naari

Textiles produced:

Handknit woolen items and naturally dyed yarns.

**Grant purpose:**

Fabric and equipment to start a new product line of cotton tote bags to reach a customer base beyond those who purchase only woolen items.



INDONESIA: Women's Weaver Cooperative of LEPO LORUN

Textiles produced:

Hand woven items using warp ikat and supplementary weft technique.

Grant purpose:

Training, raw materials, tools, training, and accommodations for young women weavers across Flores Island to produce authentic, traditional ikat textiles.



INDONESIA: Ki

Textiles produced:

Traditional and innovative knitted bags from Papua made by wood bark called Noken.



Grant purpose:

Sewing machine, materials, and training to develop new, unisex bag collections that will appeal to men as well as women.



KENYA: RefuSHE

Textiles produced:

Urban refugee women design and produce textiles using the centuries-old technique of resist dyeing, combined with their creative input, which are then curated into scarves, apparel, and accessories.



Grant purpose:

Create a professional product catalog, design display stands for pop-up markets, sponsor posts on social media platforms, and pay for targeted social media ads to reach a larger, more engaged audience.



MALAWI: Beulah Foundation Ltd

Textiles produced:

Upcycled, second-hand clothing made into new and unique hand made fashion clothes, doormats, and accessories.



Grant purpose:

Purchase raw materials and a sewing machine to enhance production, a laptop for design and social media promotion to expand reach, and skills training for team members.



MEXICO: X-Chilul pak'

Textiles produced:

Wide variety of handmade textiles, with a focus on traditional techniques using hand-dyed threads and/or commercial threads.

Predominantly use backstrap loom and brocade, but also incorporate embroidery, knotting, floating, crochet and beading techniques in special pieces.



Grant purpose:

Purchase rayon yarns to explore new possibilities in the design of garments, fusing traditional techniques with a contemporary approach. This will build on last year's grant which enabled the purchase of a stock of raw materials and natural dyes to experiment and innovate with new designs and colors.



MEXICO: Casa textil "BIGUUS"

Textiles produced:

Handmade wool and cotton textiles woven on pedal and backstrap looms such as rebozos, ponchos, table runners, napkins, bags, placemats, belts, and pozahuancos (wrap skirt), as well as handmade clothing items such as shirts and blouses.



Grant purpose:

Build on results achieved by their 2024 grant: purchase more natural dyes to increasingly replace synthetic ones, improve efficiency and quality by acquisition of a buttonhole machine, and expand market reach by hiring a photographer to prepare a digital catalog.



NIGERIA: Adire Oodua Textile Training Hub

Textiles produced:

Traditional Adire (Tie-dye) batik textiles made by economically vulnerable Yoruba widows.



Grant purpose:

Purchase digital camera, raw materials, natural dyes, binding tools, and training for 20 low-income widows.



NIGERIA: Rafiu Ganiyu

Textiles produced:

Traditional hand woven fabric (Asooke).



Grant purpose:

Purchase, rather than rent, a two-shaft weaving loom with accessories, a portable multipurpose sewing machine, a transfer stoning machine, and weaving thread (various colors and types)) to enhance efficiency and profitability of his textile production business.



NIGERIA: Textiles Sustainability Designs

Textiles produced:

Upcycled fabrics /recycled textiles.

Grant purpose:

Tools, equipment, training, and marketing to train people with special needs in upcycled fabric production.



NIGERIA: Alaro Asooke Weaving Products

Textiles produced:

Traditional Asooke woven fabrics and products

Grant purpose:

Last year's grant focused on training young artisans in the community to weave a special traditional pattern that is in danger of becoming extinct, which generated interest and demand among community chiefs and other prominent stakeholders. To meet growing demand and promote wider adoption, purchase a manual sewing machine, industrial sewing machine, yarns, and training in modern sewing techniques to expand production to ready-to-wear Asooke garments, as well as handbags, travel bags, laptop bags, and caps.



NIGERIA: Tunnizze Creation

Textiles produced:

Teach young people how to knit and crochet caps, hats, and bags and teach breast cancer survivors to knit prosthetic breast forms as a powerful tool for creativity, healing, and community building.



Grant purpose:

Knitting kits, instructional materials and knitting supplies for young learners and breast cancer survivors. Transportation and lodging for facilitator to teach a workshop to survivors in another community.



PAKISTAN: Make Money Go Round

Textiles produced:
Stitched garments.

Grant purpose:

Purchase 10 sewing machines in order to train more women and also provide a central store-front workshop where they can go to work on orders. There will also be an option to take a machine on loan, with a plan to pay off the machine by a mutually agreed upon timeframe without any interest on the loan so that purchasers can operate their own business while the organization / cooperative can still offer these opportunities to other artisans.



PAKISTAN: Eco Artisan

Textiles produced:

Eco Artisan provides flood-affected women with skills-based training in sustainable textile production, including natural dyeing, upcycling, and handloom weaving and sells their products locally and through international partnerships that promote the rich textile heritage of Gilgit-Baltistan.

Grant purpose:

Purchase raw materials, tools, training, and marketing support to increase production and efficiency, as well as improve online branding and sales, and provide advanced training in design, embroidery, handweaving, and natural dyeing.



PHILIPPINES: New Pathways to Enterprise

Textiles produced:

New Pathways is utilizing box looms built during their previous grant to train women in a remote area of Samar Island to become box loom weavers with the skills, equipment, and materials they need to create doormats and potholders produced from recycled T-shirts and other used clothing, which are sold locally and in high demand among villagers.



Grant purpose:

Purchase raw materials and tools and provide training in box loom weaving.



UGANDA: Buga Robert

Textiles produced:

Buga Robert grows palm trees from which he harvests the raw materials local artisans need to weave baskets and mats. He sells dyes, yarn, needles, wood, fiber, sisal ropes, and other artisan supplies at local markets. He also offers training in textile design.



Grant purpose:

Purchase of seedlings, tools, and land hire to expand sisal production in order to meet increasing demand and reach new markets.



UGANDA: Women Effort, Uganda

Textiles produced:

Coin purses sold in local markets.



Grant purpose:

Iron sheets to build a shelter so that they can work during the rainy season.



UK/UGANDA: Letasi Design Studio

Textiles produced:

Batik Fabrics.

Grant purpose:

Dyes, fabric, and training to scale up batik production and expand training program.



UGANDA: Youth Inclusion and Empowerment Network - YIEN

Textiles produced:

Baskets, mats, and recycled backpacks and bags, made by disadvantaged rural women and girls using eco-friendly and traditional methods.

Grant purpose:

Purchase raw material and tools, and provide business/financial literacy training.



USA (St. Helena Island, SC): Monique DeLaTour

Textiles produced:

Eco and recycled textiles as well as natural dyes grown and produced on land that she is transforming into an historic textile farm that reflects the history and traditions of South Carolina's pre-colonial Sea Islands and its textile/fiber history.



Grant purpose:

Put the finishing touches on her farm, which will give her the opportunity to train local Gullah Geechee youth in ancient textile traditions, creating entrepreneurial opportunities for them locally.

