

## 2015- Design your own clothes

Donating second-hand clothes has had a negative effect on textile industries in African countries.

There has long been a global trade in second-hand clothes, handed in to charity shops in wealthy Western nations and then sold on to traders in Africa and elsewhere in the world.

African countries once had large textile industries - and some critics blame the flood of cheap second-hand clothes from abroad for the continent's shrunken textile sector.

In 2015, member states of the East African Community (EAC), which comprises Burundi, Kenya, Rwanda, Tanzania and Uganda, announced they would ban second-hand imports from 2019 to protect their own clothing manufacturers.

Source: <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-africa-44951670>



**Design Your Own Project.** A team of dressmakers lead by a clothes designer with more than 50 years of experience organised a sewing course specially designed for women in the community of Tigray. This learning program was set up in collaboration with St. Mary's School. Participants from all different age groups of the Women's Association learned how to make their own clothes, starting from scratch. Sewing packs were provided containing tools, fabrics and sewing books.