
CASE FOR SUPPORT

Skills Development & Livelihood Program



HELPING HAND
FOR RELIEF AND DEVELOPMENT

Skills Development & Livelihood Program

THE PROBLEM

People don't like handouts; they don't want to be dependent. Helping Hand for Relief and Development's (HHRD) Skills Development and Livelihood Program (SDLP) recognizes this. Hence, the program was designed to give people dignity and self-esteem by teaching marketable skills that enable participants to take control over their own lives. Through offerings such as computer repair, welding, henna and sewing we give people a way out of poverty, and mark a significant achievement in their lives. Many participants are very talented and passionate, but without the resources to obtain the credentials that employers are looking for, they have no way to put food on the table.

THE SOLUTION

SDLP does so much more than provide training. Some beneficiaries were literally unable to look people in the eye before taking part in the program. The skills they gain enable them to support themselves and their families, fostering a new sense of self-reliance and confidence.

Participants can earn nationally recognized certificates in their fields. We equip high performing students with the tools they will need to get started in their chosen profession: a sewing machine for example, or a set of welding tools. Enterprise development training helps entrepreneurs attract clients, build their resumes and connect to the job market. Value based education teaches soft skills and life skills to all our participants.

SDLP was launched with the aim of contributing towards two of the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs): eradication of poverty and women empowerment. We seek to increase trainees' income level to the average Gross Net Income of their respective country. We put people in charge of their own lives, allowing them to stand on their own feet. The goal of SDLP is to serve humanity by helping people move from a place of suffering to sustainability.

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WHAT SETS US APART

Ultimately this is an investment in a better future, not just an investment in infrastructure or supplies. While donors may not see a plaque with their name on it, a gift of resources has the potential to go further and help more people. Many of the beneficiaries share what they have learned by teaching others, and even develop the capacity to hire employees. This, in turn, leads to more people inspired and empowered, which creates a cycle of beneficiaries that use their skills to uplift their entire town. Together, we can break the cycle of poverty and create a new cycle of empowerment which flows down to the beneficiaries' children, families and communities.

Without the help of God and then HHRD Skills Development & Livelihood Program, thousands of individuals would be trapped in dire circumstances. Unable to earn a living, they may be forced to give up their educational pursuits, take charity instead of purchasing food, and perhaps live on the streets. There is no better way to uplift a society than by providing its people with job opportunities. These basic skills can mean the difference between dependence and independence, between poverty and sustainability and between a meaningful existence and one mired in hopelessness.

DONOR SUPPORT

You can be sure that your donation will go directly to training programs and participants for their skills development. HHRD is a highly rated organization that takes the stewardship of its supporters' dollars very seriously. Charity Navigator (www.charitynavigator.org), a nonprofit that evaluates thousands of nonprofits, is the gold standard when it comes to nonprofit ratings. It has rated HHRD as a 4-star (highest rating) public charity for the past 9 years. It has rated HHRD as the top Zakat-eligible charity (score 98.3%). An A+ rating from the Better Business Bureau is another indicator of the effectiveness of the organization.