



HELPING HAND
FOR RELIEF AND DEVELOPMENT

Skills Development & Livelihood Program - SDLP

Semi-Annual Progress Report
JANUARY ~ JUNE 2023



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Mission

The Skills Development and Livelihood Program (SDLP) is designed for the socio-economic prosperity of vulnerable communities, especially those afflicted by natural and man-made disasters. It was launched with the aim of contributing towards two Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs): eradication of extreme poverty and women empowerment. SDLP aims at imparting training to those in need, allowing them to stand on their own feet and become financially stable. It empowers them to take charge of their own lives with dignity and determination. Skills trainings open the doors to opportunities that can change the trajectory of a family, community and even an entire country.

Overview

HHRD has developed a unique model under the Skills Development and Livelihood Program. The model is based on three components:

- 1 Training: to enable participants to generate income and develop entrepreneurship skills through their respective trainings.
 - 2 Livelihood and Income Generation: To develop professional skills of participants by linking them with job markets for sustainability of livelihood. The program aims at increasing trainees' income level to the average Gross Net Income of their respective country.
 - 3 Life Skills Development: To prepare trainees to contribute towards social change by developing their character through a series of learning sessions.
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Countries Served

From January 1st to June 30th 2023, SDLP provided services in the following countries:

- Afghanistan
 - Bangladesh
 - Dominica
 - Dominican Republic
 - Guyana
 - Haiti
 - Indonesia
 - Jordan
 - Kenya
 - Lebanon
 - Mexico
 - Nepal
 - Pakistan
 - Philippines
 - Somalia
 - Turkey
-



Comparative Data

Country	Number of eneficiaries 2022	Number of Beneficiaries Jan-Jun 2023	On Track to Meet or Exceed?
Afghanistan	555	402	Yes
Jordan	473	234	Yes
Kenya	459	646	Yes
Lebanon	705	388	Yes
Mexico	160	135	Yes
Haiti	0	10	Yes
Nepal	200	123	Yes
Pakistan	4,855	2,513	Yes
Indonesia	10	10	Yes
Philippines	24	24	Yes
Somalia	169	141	Yes
Dominica	15	15	Yes
Guyana	17	15	Yes
Dominican Republic	0	45	Yes
Bangladesh	360	180	Yes
Turkiye	30	142	Yes

Country Report

AFGHANISTAN

Afghanistan has suffered over 40 years of protracted conflicts. The most recent development has resulted in a situation where women and widows are encouraged not to go outside the home. Girls above the 6th grade are not educated. 71% of out-of-school children are females, compared to 28% males. Only 32% of adult females (ages 15-24) are literate, compared to 61% of men.

In addition, every year more than 200,000 youth graduate from universities and high schools, but are unable to find jobs. HHRD intendeds to provide employable skills training for both men and women to enable them to support themselves and their families. For women, this means focusing on activities that can be accomplished in the home while still generating enough income for the family to survive.

Since 2014, HHRD has graduated 1,406 trainees in Laghman, Kabul and Nangarhar provinces.

Project objectives in Afghanistan:

- To empower the local community by providing them opportunities to learn employable skills
- To reduce poverty by teaching people marketable skills
- To enable youth who have graduated from secondary school or university to get jobs
- To prepare women for social change in the society by organizing a series of value-based activities
- To manage an affordable group home for widows and other women to enable them look after their families

Trainings offered:

- 1 Computer – Microsoft Office
- 2 Tailoring class – ladies
- 3 Tailoring class – men
- 4 Intermediate English class
- 5 Engineering – software training
- 6 Mobile hardware
- 7 Carpentry
- 8 Resume writing & career development

Country Report



BANGLADESH

HHRD Skills Development & Livelihood Program serves the displaced Rohingya Refugees living in Bangladesh. Beneficiaries include homeless, under-resourced and oppressed women and teenagers who were persecuted in Myanmar by security forces. These refugees are living a stressful life in makeshift tents, and facing extreme suffering due to ongoing violence.

Outcomes in Bangladesh:

- 1 Provided skills-based training on handicraft items for 80 Rohingya refugee women
- 2 Supported capacity building of targeted Rohingya refugee women that created income generating activities
- 3 Provided value-based education
- 4 Helped beneficiaries deal with trauma

Trainings offered:

SDLP in Bangladesh offers handicraft training which includes the following items: quilts, bed sheets, pillow covers, mosquito net bags, tablecloths, sofa covers, chair covers, etc.

Skills Development Program for survivors of Gender Based Violence

Common forms of GBV towards the Rohingya refugee community include rape and commercial sexual exploitation. Income generating activities and trainings not only play a role in creating jobs and easing physical suffering but also help in healing mental wounds. Our Sewing & Stitching project enables women to learn new tailoring skills and gain independence while working from home. Our handicraft project trains women with the machines and skills needed to create traditional handicrafts and start a small business to support themselves.

Many GBV victims are trying to cope with severe anxiety, depression, and post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD). The need for mental health services is unimaginable. Our team of doctors are there to provide individual and group Psychosocial Therapy to facilitate the healing process and provide hope. In addition, our Nutrition Services, Hygiene Training Sessions & Hygiene Kits, help Rohingya refugees stay physically healthy and prevent dangerous outbreaks.

Country Report



JORDAN

SDLP in Middle East & North Africa (MENA) has programs in both Jordan and Lebanon to serve dense populations of Syrian, Palestinian and Yemeni refugees. Some people have integrated into the cities, while others remain in tents in the desert. Entrepreneurial skills are desperately needed to help rebuild lives devastated by war. If we can give refugees the tools to be self-sufficient, it will go a long way toward restoring the type of life they left behind.

Outcomes in Jordan:

- **234 beneficiaries trained**
 - 160 Syrian refugees
 - 41 Yemeni refugees
 - 14 Palestinian refugees
 - 16 local Jordanians
- **13 courses held**

Trainings offered:

- 1 Sewing
- 2 Hand embroidery
- 3 Handicrafts
- 4 Detergents
- 5 Computer maintenance

Country Report

KENYA

SDLP in Kenya is designed for the socio-economic development of people (especially women) from vulnerable communities. It embodies the approach to eradicate poverty among the most neglected segment of society by providing them with employable skills & facilitation for home-based income-generating activities.

In the first half of 2023, HHRD provided 150 students with Ramadan food packages. We held a Henna Week prior to Eid, inviting members of the community to come and have their hands and feet decorated by our students. This was an opportunity for students to meet new customers and expand their businesses.

Trainings offered:

- 1 Information technology
- 2 Tailoring/embroidery
- 3 Henna
- 4 Electronics & mobile phone repair

Project objectives in Kenya:

- Provide training to individuals to enable them to generate income and develop entrepreneurship skills.
- Develop capacities of program participants by linking them with the job market.
- Prepare trainees to contribute towards social change by developing their character through value-based education e.g. work ethics and interpersonal skills (communication, persuasion & leadership, etc.).

Country Report



LEBANON

Lebanon is undergoing a severe economic crisis, leading to a high rate of unemployment, staggering inflation, poverty and hunger. The youth unemployment rate is more than 60% and reportedly even higher in areas affected by a 2020 explosion at the Port of Beirut.

Nevertheless, youth need to develop their practical skills in order to enter the highly competitive labor market, especially during current harsh economic circumstances. Empowering them with technical skills is vital to helping them transition into full time employment.

In addition to local beneficiaries, HHRD also assists refugee families with their skills development needs.

Outcomes in Lebanon:

- **217 beneficiaries trained**
 - 55 Syrian refugees
 - 17 Palestinian refugees
 - 73 Local Lebanese
 - 2 Egyptian refugees

Trainings offered:

- 1 Graphic design
- 2 Cell phone maintenance
- 3 English
- 4 Photography
- 5 Computer maintenance
- 6 Women's hairdressing
- 7 Men's hairdressing
- 8 Health assistant
- 9 Personal trainer
- 10 Executive secretary
- 11 Digital marketing
- 12 Cooking
- 13 IT

Country Report

MEXICO

HHRD's Skills Development & Livelihood Program operates in three locations in Mexico. Beginning in 2022, this country was added to the roster because a need was identified in America's closest developing neighbor.

SDLP for Mexico City is aimed at adults, mainly women (mostly single mothers) who are looking to acquire the necessary skills to obtain jobs with salaries above the average. It also meets the needs of new entrepreneurs to guide them along the path of formal work.

SDLP in Tecamac reaches out to high school graduates whose income barely exceeds the lowest levels of salary, providing new tools to the community members to help them to increase the value of their labor or service and improve their income.

SDLP in San Cristobal targets women from the various Mayan indigenous peoples, primarily from Tsotsil and Tseltal groups. It provides tailoring classes from basic level to advanced level.

Project objectives in Mexico:

- To provide new skills for adults who are interested in getting job development and higher income.
- To teach English as a second language for those who are looking forward to working in bilingual jobs.
- To ensure access to competitive job offers in the region according to the training provided.

Trainings offered:

- 1 English for call center
- 2 Digital marketing
- 3 Finance
- 4 English for ESL teaching
- 5 Online middle & high school completion
- 6 Tailoring
- 7 Electricity
- 8 Cell Phone Repair
- 9 Hair Stylist

Country Report

NEPAL

Bordered by India and China, Nepal sits directly on top of the Himalayan mountain range. Most famous for Mt. Everest, Nepal has a rich history and a diverse people. The COVID-19 pandemic and its resulting economic downturn, coupled with recent international political upheaval and climate change, has pushed Nepali children and families toward starvation. The loss of crops in neighboring India caused prices to soar and left many unable to afford food. Nepal now ranks 81st out of 121 on the Global Hunger Index according to the Kathmandu Post.

Outcomes in Nepal:

- In the first 6 months of 2023, SDLP Nepal successfully completed 2 training courses and one livelihood project for 123 youth and women from vulnerable communities.
- Over 60% of 2023 graduates are employed or have established their own business.
- Since 2019, 511 learners successfully completed the skills training course and started earning more money through jobs or their own small businesses.
- Overall, 60% of SDLP graduates are earning more than 5 dollars a day. That is more than the average Gross Net Income (GNI).

We are giving priority to widows, poor and disabled individuals to uplift their living standards and make their lives more comfortable. This initiative is getting positive results and feedback from the community and local government in regards to its model, execution and productivity.

Trainings offered:

- 1 Basic tailoring
- 2 Advanced tailoring
- 3 Advanced Dhaka weavers
- 4 Handicraft-glass beading
- 5 Mobile phone repairing
- 6 Optical (eyeglass) dispensers
- 7 Bike repairing
- 8 Plumbing course
- 9 Bakery training

Country Report

PAKISTAN

Pakistan is the world's fifth most populous country. However, according to Pakistan's Ministry of Planning and Development, roughly 25 percent of Pakistanis, or 55 million people, live in poverty. Among other things, a lack of human development is a primary source of long-term poverty in rural and urban communities. Pakistan SDLP offers many interventions to address poverty in Pakistan. In addition to providing skills classes, it provides an Olive tree livelihood project and an Enterprise Development project.

Outcomes in Pakistan:

At Skills Development & Livelihood Centers, in the period of Jan-June a total of 24080 bags were produced. 4267 garments were prepared including school uniforms by registered workers. 2,734,563 PKR was paid directly to artisans/workers.

Enterprise Development Program: In 2023, SDLP aims to engage 200 families from 10 districts in Enterprise Development interventions. Assessments and beneficiary selection have been completed in 6 districts from January to June. Enterprise Development Training has been conducted in 3 districts, while assets have been provided to beneficiaries in 2 districts. The project has been successfully completed in Bagh, AJK, and Quetta, Baluchistan, supporting a total of 33 families.

Olive Tree Livelihood Program: In March, 22,250 olive plants were distributed to specific project locations, namely Hattian- 5,000, Bagh-2,500, Chakwal-2,250, Loralai-7,000, and Lower Dir-5,500. The distribution of these plants was aimed at supporting the olive cultivation which were provided to 191 farmers. This initiative is expected to increase olive production in these areas and enhance the livelihoods of the beneficiaries.



Trainings offered:

- Dress making
- Fashion designing
- Arts & crafts
- Personal grooming
- Henna
- Computer/basic
- Computer/professional
- Product development training
- Industrial unit school uniform
- Knitting
- English language
- Agri-skills (kitchen gardening, food preservation & flower marketing)

Country Report

PHILIPPINES

The Philippines is an archipelago in Southeast Asia. It's made up of 7,641 islands and is located in the western Pacific Ocean. Only about 20% of the land is arable. The Philippines is a lower middle-income country with a gross national income per capita of US \$3,640.

Project objectives in the Philippines:

- To provide opportunities to members of the community affected by job loss during the COVID-19 pandemic
- To provide adequate training in skills the participants are interested in
- To provide livelihood training that will give participants the necessary skills to earn a living
- To connect participants with possible employment opportunities
- To provide participants with a support group in their fellow trainees which helps their mental health

Trainings offered:

- 1 Food safety and halal awareness
- 2 Urban farming and agripreneurship
- 3 Hydroponics gardening
- 4 Handloom weaving
- 5 Dress making
- 6 Electrical installation and maintenance
- 7 Entrepreneurial skills (iStar)

SOMALIA

In the Horn of Africa, Somalia is a country of nearly sixteen million people, many of whom are under the age of 25. It is experiencing significant drought due to climate change and a disruption in the rain cycle. As the humanitarian crisis grows, SDLP is on the ground in Somalia, teaching skills that will help families and young people connect to the existing job market.

Trainings offered:

- 1 Information communication technology
- 2 Henna
- 3 Tailoring and embroidery
- 4 Cooking

Country Report

TÜRKIYE

Türkiye is a large peninsula that bridges the continents of Europe and Asia. It's at the crossroads of the Balkans, Caucasus, Middle East, and eastern Mediterranean. The number of Syrians under temporary protection status registered in Türkiye by the Directorate of Migration Management has reached 3.6 million. Over 98% of Syrian refugees live across Türkiye in 81 provinces. The refugees in Turkey are encountering difficulties in accessing the labor market. Tens of thousands of university and high school graduates, who are refugees, are looking for job opportunities in unhealthy conditions due to low-cost labor and lack of qualifications. By implementing SDLP, we aim to open employment opportunities for these refugees in addition to some Turkish local youth.

Because of the major earthquake at the end of 2022 the implementation of the program in 2023 was delayed till May.

Project Objectives and Deliverables:

- Improving livelihoods to respond to growing food insecurity
- Contribute to improving the standard of living for families of orphans and families headed by a woman
- Reducing the problem of unemployment and the phenomenon of beggary
- Reducing child labour, especially those who do not have a breadwinner, and contributing to their return to school, completing their studies, and ensuring a better future for them



Courses being offered:

- Graphic design
- Professional photography
- Programming
- Basic computer programs (Microsoft Office + Google Apps)
- Introduction to Business Administration
- Project management
- Entrepreneurship and self-employment
- Digital marketing and e-commerce

Country Report

The Dominican Republic

The Dominican Republic is located on the island of Hispaniola in the Greater Antilles archipelago of the Caribbean region. The Dominican Republic occupies the eastern two-thirds of the island, while Haiti occupies the western third. Hispaniola is one of the few islands in the world shared by two independent nation-states. The Dominican Republic is the second largest nation in the Caribbean. The official language of the country is Spanish.

The Dominican Republic has an extremely high number of single mothers in its population. Statistics show that the republic has about one and a half million single mothers. This is attributed to divorce, death of husbands, personal choices and other reasons. This population has a big effect on the social, economic and political status of the country.

Implementation strategy:

To ensure a high-quality training, the program will take place at one of the technical schools in the city, with a variety of courses. Besides acquiring technical know-how beneficiaries will be trained to develop the skills they will need to assert themselves in a competitive job market, and to engage in awarding careers. These trainings are results-driven; through practical experience, the trainees establish contacts with potential future employers. Our partner is a legal and registered Technical School with years of experience in the area, so official and valid certificates will be granted which will allow students to apply for jobs in the public or private sector.

Courses offered:

- Computer Science
- Computer Technician
- English Intensive
- Refrigeration Technician
- Electric
- Master in Construction
- Mobile Phone Repair

Country Report



INDONESIA

Indonesia is a country in Southeast Asia. It's the world's largest archipelago and the 14th-largest country by area. Indonesia is located between the Indian Ocean and the Pacific Ocean.

Livelihood assistance provided:

Business Management Training: Business Management Training is a training that aims to open horizons and provide additional skills to improve the quality of the businesses run by the beneficiaries. The training also seeks to make the beneficiaries understand how to manage capital and financial products and the management of micro-enterprises.

Cart and capital assistance distribution: Each beneficiary receives a mobile food cart for generating income. After successful completion of the business management training the beneficiaries are provided with seed money/ capital to start their business.

Project Overview

SDLP has established a business cart program in Indonesia for community empowerment and alleviation of poverty. Through this program, it is hoped that these micro traders will be able to develop their businesses to achieve a better level of economic freedom.

Country Report

DOMINICA

Dominica is a small independent island developing state, with a population of only 70,000 people. It is located halfway between the Dominican Republic and Venezuela in the Atlantic Ocean.

The government's source of revenue is mainly through taxation. There is high percentage of unemployment in the country.

The training took place at Dominica State College in Roseau, the capital city. This project began in November 2022. Due to the high level of unemployment and persons lacking the necessary education needed to access jobs, the training is targeted at the vulnerable persons who have a lower educational background and those who are unable to find other means of employment. These trainings are meant to help people get jobs for themselves or be in a position to be self-employment. The targeted age range is from age 18 to 35, both men and women.

Courses offered included:

- Welding
- Refrigeration and Air Conditioning
- Auto Mechanics

HAITI

Haiti is a country in the Caribbean Sea. It's the third largest country in the Caribbean by area, and the most populous country in the Caribbean. Haiti's economic and social development continues to be hindered by political instability, increasing violence and unprecedented levels of insecurity. Haiti remains the poorest country in the Latin America and the Caribbean (LAC) region and among the poorest countries in the world.

Project objectives in Haiti:

- Provide training to individuals to enable them to generate income and develop entrepreneurship skills.
- Develop capacities of program participants by linking them with the job market.
- Prepare trainees to contribute towards social change by developing their character through value-based education e.g. work ethics and interpersonal skills (communication, persuasion & leadership, etc.).

Courses offered included:

- Tailoring

*Other courses will be offered later in 2023

Country Report

GUYANA

Guyana is located on the northern coast of South America, near Venezuela. A former British colony, its official language is English. This project started in November 2022 to address the number of people lacking adequate skills for the work force.

This program entails the study in fields such as motor vehicle repairs and electrical insulation in hopes of equipping beneficiaries with the ample skill sets to secure jobs. With the constant rise of vehicular purchases in Guyana, there is a continuous demand for motor vehicle repairs. Also, there are numerous new construction projects, thus increasing the demand for electrical insulation.

Along with the increasing infrastructure, external companies, such as Exxon Mobil, are constantly searching for new employees. Thus, the two selected fields are in high demand. Additionally, there were selected courses for the women such as the crochet and macramé and catering and hospitality. Most of the students come from a background with financial strain.

Project Objectives:

Some of the objectives of this program, as aforementioned, include:

- To equip future leaders with a particular skill set
- To assist students who have a financial strain
- To supply for demand
- To increase the job options for youths

Courses offered included:

- Electrical
- Plumbing
- Motor vehicle
- Catering and Hospitality
- Crochet and macramé
- Small Business development

Success Stories



Ahmed Rafi Deeb (Lebanon):

Ahmed Rafi Deeb is a 22 year old Lebanese student. Ahmed finished his studies in public school until he graduated from high school.

However, he was unable to enroll in the university to complete his studies due to the high cost and the difficult living conditions. During a conversation with his friend about the situation in Lebanon and the circumstances that led him not to be able to continue studying, his friend informed him that Helping Hand for Relief and Development is offering free vocational training courses in Lebanon. He applied for these courses and chose the computer maintenance course so that he could work and gain money for living.

After he attended the computer maintenance course, he learned maintenance skills well. Ahmed graduated from the training and obtained a training certificate that entitles him to start working. Presently, Ahmed found a freelance job in repairing computers and his monthly income is about \$200.



Mundhir Bakari Omar (Kenya):

Mundhir Bakari Omar successfully graduated from the Skills Development and Livelihood Center after completing his four months of Electronics and Mobile phone Repair Course. During his graduation, he was awarded electronics tools as business start-up kits.

Mundhir is married and has three children who depend on him for their basic needs. With the kit, he decided to have a station at a corner of his house where he offers his services to his clients every day. His earnings are currently enough to support the family's basic needs.

He is very grateful to HHRD for giving him a chance to acquire quality knowledge. May Allah bless HHRD and its donors abundantly.