

Skills Development and Livelihood Program Frequently Asked Questions

Is my donation Zakat eligible?

- Yes. Just like other HHRD programs, the Skills Development and Livelihood Program is geared towards the poor and needy. We aspire to increase our students' economic situation from those who are eligible to receive zakat to those who pay and give zakat on their own.

How do you choose countries to work in?

We have three basic ways we choose countries.

- 1 Countries in which HHRD already has an established presence—this usually comes through other HHRD programs such as the Orphan Support Program or Water and Sanitation Hygiene.
- 2 Countries where we have responded to an emergency, and HHRD is seeking to establish developmental programs to help residents recover.
- 3 Countries that are referred to us by local organizations or other countries that we work with.

How do you choose the locations of the Skills Development and Livelihood Centers?

- Needs assessments are conducted either by HHRD or a local, vetted partner. It is important to locate a center where the target population can attend classes, either in a high traffic area or another place that is accessible for our beneficiaries.

How are SDLCs staffed?

- We choose instructors that are passionate and dedicated. It is important that they have a track record of success in their field of expertise, as well as the necessary certificates or degrees if applicable. Typically, they are full-time and they work year-round.
- In addition to the instructors, some classes may have assistants. More commonly, there is one staff member per course. In some locations, we also have to hire other staff; for example, we might need a security guard to protect the property and the students. We try to make sure that the SDLCs are staffed in such a way that our beneficiaries have no trouble attending and completing their courses.

Can I direct my donation to a specific SDLC?

- Yes. On our webpage, donors are able to choose the country and donate toward a center in that country or help donate toward an entrepreneurial startup kit or even sponsor a student.

Where does a general donation go to?

- A general donation made to the SDLP will go to the costs associated with running centers which means teacher salaries, equipment and supplies, tools, and maintenance of the facility.

Why are there different courses available in different countries?

- Different economies demand different skill sets. Henna, for example, might not fetch much money in some countries, but in other countries it's quite lucrative. Telephone customer service may not be needed in some economies, whereas in others it is a good skill to have. The bottom line is that we are trying to bring our students out of poverty by responding to the local market.

What do we do after graduation for the students?

- Some of the students go on to start their own business venture, and we help them by giving them equipment for their trade. For example, if a student graduates with a certificate in auto mechanics, they may get a toolkit; if they take a baking class, they might get an oven.
- We track students for two years to monitor their success in getting a job or starting an enterprise. With this data, we are able to see that many of our students increase their earnings over what they were capable of in the past. We also see a trend where students come together to start an enterprise.
- In some cases, HHRD is able to pay graduates to produce craftwork; for example, we contract with SDLP graduates for our sponsored orphans' uniforms and school bags. We offer events where graduates can meet clients and receive advice that will help them get ahead.

Are your programs accredited?

- Every graduate receives a certificate from HHRD saying that they successfully attended and completed the class and did well on the final exam. In many countries, these certificates are certified by the government. We are working on making sure that every center in every country has certification.