

ANNUAL REPORT

2022



HELPING HAND
FOR RELIEF AND DEVELOPMENT

SDLP

**Skills Development &
Livelihood Program**



☎ 1-888-808-4357[HELP] 🌐 www.hhrd.org

HHRD MISSION & VISION

HHRD is committed to serve humanity by integrating resources for people in need. We strive to provide immediate response in disasters, and effective Programs in places of suffering, for the pleasure of Allah.

SDLP MISSION & VISION

To eradicate poverty by empowering youth and women through skills, enterprise and values training.

GOALS

SDLP has four main goals:

- 1 To provide trainings to enable individuals to generate income and develop entrepreneurship skills
- 2 To increase trainees' income level to the average Gross National Income of the country
- 3 To develop the capacity of program participants by linking them with the job market
- 4 To prepare trainees to contribute to social change by developing their character through series of value-based learning sessions

COUNTRIES SERVED

- Afghanistan
- Bangladesh
- Dominica
- Guyana
- Jordan
- Kenya
- Lebanon
- Mexico
- Myanmar
- Nepal
- Pakistan
- Philippines
- Somalia
- Turkiye

TOTAL BENEFICIARIES
FOR 2022:

8736

TOTAL BENEFICIARIES
FOR 2021:

6212

YOUR IMPACT AT A GLANCE

- ✓ You have helped us train 8736 individuals from fourteen countries and four continents
- ✓ You have helped us give over 1,200 graduates startup entrepreneur kits
- ✓ You have helped over 1,500 graduates establish business ventures or begin taking steps into self-employment
- ✓ You have helped 146 farmers receive olive farming training, required equipment and 11,073 olive plants for generating a sustainable livelihood in 2022.
- ✓ You have helped 600 students receive food assistance in Ramadan through SDLP
- ✓ You have helped SDLP artisans produced over 65,000 products
- ✓ You have helped HHRD establish an Enterprise Development initiative where 56 families received enterprise development training. After the training, the participants received financial & business advice assistance.

With your support HHRD impacted over 40,000 people in 2022 through SDLP (If on average there are 5 persons per household, then approximately 40,000 persons have been directly or indirectly impacted by Helping Hand's Skills Development and livelihood Program in 2022.)

INTRODUCTION

Poverty robs people of opportunities, forcing them into survival mode. Education has the power to elevate communities from the cycle of poverty, changing the course of generations with a single gift. It doesn't need to be an advanced degree to make a difference in someone's life. Sometimes a marketable skill is just as valuable.

Yusra is a Skills Development and Livelihood Center (SDLC) graduate whose story proves that skills development can change the course of history for an entire family. She is a Syrian refugee in Turkiye whose family fell on hard times when her husband lost his sight in an accident. With two children to feed and no way to earn a living, Yusra was at her wits end. To make matters worse, her teenaged boys (10 and 14) were arrested one afternoon for loitering in the streets, trying to sell something to help their parents out. After completing an SDLP workshop, Yusra was able to earn a living, rescuing her family from their dire situation and making sure the kids were back in school. The crisis was averted and the entire family benefitted from Yusra's achievement.

The Skills Development and Livelihood Program (SDLP) provides training workshops, integrated into the local educational system whenever possible. We want our graduates to hit the ground running with an official certificate or license to do business. Selecting only those skills that will allow an individual to earn a living wage in their country of operation, our program is highly localized. We offer henna design in Kenya and call center training in Mexico, to name a few.

SDLP operated learning centers in 14 countries in 2022 across the globe, ensuring that our learners have a clean, safe space to practice their new skills. We offer a graduates in specific fields tools that they will need to start their own businesses and even provide marketing and advertising help. Everything a young person needs to move from unemployment to entrepreneurship or a career in a local industry is provided.

As Allah (SWT) says in the Quran, He "*made the night as a cover, And made the day for livelihood.*"
An-Naba 10-11

MENA

SDLP operates in three countries in the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) region: Jordan, Lebanon and Türkiye. Large populations of Syrian and Palestinian refugees are living in Jordan and Lebanon, both in tent camps and in city dwellings. Türkiye is home to another displaced Syrian refugee population, many of them young people in need of jobs. SDLP also opens its doors to residents of the host countries in need of support.

BENEFICIARIES

1,238

COURSES

63

Skills Trainings in MENA

- Sewing
- Hand embroidery
- Handicrafts (Accessories, pottery, Knitting, beads, macramé)
- Graphic design
- Mobile Phone Repair
- Women Hairdressing 1 & 2
- English
- Men Hairdressing
- Healthcare Assistant
- IT Technician
- Photography
- Personal Trainer
- Executive Secretary
- Digital marketing
- Computer Maintenance
- Line Cook Training
- Graphic Designing & Digital Marketing
- Soft skills

Success Story

Isra'a is a Syrian woman, married with three children. Her husband didn't make enough money to support the family on his own, so she enrolled in an embroidery training course in the Skills Development Center. Before graduation, she was in the habit of calling to ask HHRD for assistance buying medicine. Alhamdulillah, after her graduation she was able to support herself by producing embroidery pieces and selling them. She also participates in charity bazars where she has a number of repeat customers. She is happy now and has stopped asking for relief assistance due to being able to provide for herself.



PAKISTAN

More than 40% of the country's population is currently living below the poverty line. Flood damages that have disrupted the supply of essential items have also increased inflation. The poorest households in the country are forced to spend most of their income on food, and other necessities like health and education are compromised. Poverty in Pakistan is a highly gender-biased phenomenon because, when it strikes, it first affects girls and women. They are often the ones who must sacrifice their diets, health, and especially their education when there is not enough money to go around.

BENEFICIARIES

4,855

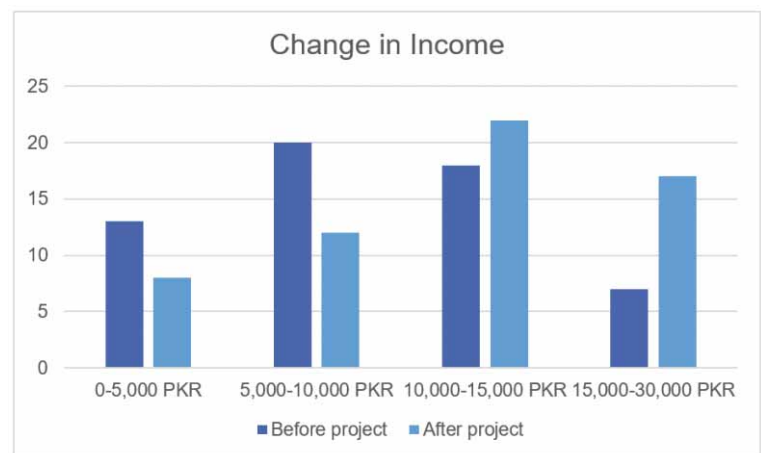
COURSES

23

Skills Trainings in MENA

- Dress Making (Basic & Advance)
- Fashion Designing
- Personal Grooming
- Henna Course
- Computer (Basic & Advance)
- Product Development Training
- Knitting Training
- English Language Course
- LED Bulb Assembling and Repairing.
- Food Preservation
- School Bag Training
- School Uniform Training
- Arts & Crafts Trainings
- Web Development
- Graphics Designing
- Sewing Machine Training
- Personal Grooming
- Domestic Electrician
- Mobile Phone Repairing
- Agri Skills Trainings
- Kitchen Gardening Training

Before attending HHRD skills development training, a majority of participants were earning below 10,000PKR per month and after the training, the majority were earning anywhere from 15,000-30,000 Masha'Allah. For example, before the training, only six participants were earning at the highest level, while after the training, 16 individuals were earning up to 30,000. Before the training 13 people were earning less than 5,000PKR per month, while after the training that number dropped to seven. 1 PKR = \$.0038



PAKISTAN

Production Unit

Pakistan is home to a production unit, which is a craft work factory where graduates of the SDLCs make bags, clothing and knitted objects for HHRD and other customers. The Production Unit takes orders from other schools and businesses as well as the HHRD Orphan Support Program and the Education Support Program. It is a way for graduates to earn a more reliable wage than might be available as an entrepreneur.



Olive Project

In 2022, the SDLP team planted 11,073 olive saplings in Chakwal, Chakri of Rawalpindi, Hattian Bala and Lower Dir. Grafting was done with around 8,300 plants, and training was provided to 146 farmers. We provided tools and equipment and training. This plantation will become a sustainable source of livelihood for many families. Moreover, it will be beneficial for country in combating the drastic effects of climate change.

Enterprise Development

To help small and mid-sized businesses develop a business plan, and provide start up seed money. Recently a focus has been to help beneficiaries recover from the dual shocks of COVID-19 and inflation. Aimed at growing small and mid-sized businesses, we offer coaching and assistance through marketing and planning to help entrepreneurs become secure in their future. Piloted in Chakwal in 2021, the project expanded to Mianwali & Azad Jammu and Kashmir in 2022.



AFGHANISTAN

Forty years of war, recurrent natural disasters, chronic poverty, and drought left millions of people, especially women, in Afghanistan in need of humanitarian assistance. After the change in government in August of 2021, half of all government employees lost their jobs. Women are currently not allowed to work outside their homes, leaving many families without a primary source of income. SDLP creates opportunities by training youth in employable skills such as carpentry, cell phone repair, tailoring and English language.

Women are assisted with income generating skills they can use at home, for example, tailoring. We know that until all children are educated, societies will not change. In Afghanistan, 71% of out-of-school children are females, compared to 28% of males. Similarly, just 32% of adult females (ages 15-24) are literate, compared to 61% of male adults. While we can't address these problems with skills development, we can help individual families thrive on their own.

BENEFICIARIES

555

COURSES

7

Success Story

Raees Khan is from a high school graduate from Nangarhar province. He was unable to find a job and unable to afford continued education to provide him with the skills he needed. After a year spent searching fruitlessly, he heard about the SDLP from a friend. Obtaining admission, he studied English language and computer operations for six months. He was able to secure a job as a principal at a private school in Jalalabad and the salary was enough to support his entire family. "I visited HHRD and on the same day, filled out the registration form, and got accepted," Raees said. "Alhamdulillah, now, I can support my family. I am thankful for HHRD. Its staff is not only smart and kind but experienced as well. I kindly request the donors to continue their support for the improvement and betterment of Afghans."

Skills Trainings in Afghanistan

- English Language (Beginner & Intermediate)
- Computer (Microsoft Office Package)
- Engineering Software
- Mobile Hardware (Cell phone repair)
- Resume Writing Workshop
- Tailoring
- Carpentry



AFRICA

SDLP operates in two countries in Africa: Kenya and Somalia.

Kenya is recognized as an emerging economy and until the COVID-19 pandemic, it was one of the fastest growing economies in Africa. Since then, it has been forced to contend with rising inflation and a crippling drought that has destroyed livestock and forced many to rely on charity.

In Somalia, almost seven out of ten young people are unemployed. When you consider that over 70% of the population is under 35, the youth unemployment situation in Somalia borders on catastrophic. As a result, most young people want to leave the country and hundreds die each year trying to cross the Mediterranean sea to enter Italy illegally in search of jobs in Europe. And many have become vulnerable to exploitation by terrorist organizations and piracy groups. The situation is worse for young women.

BENEFICIARIES

785

COURSES

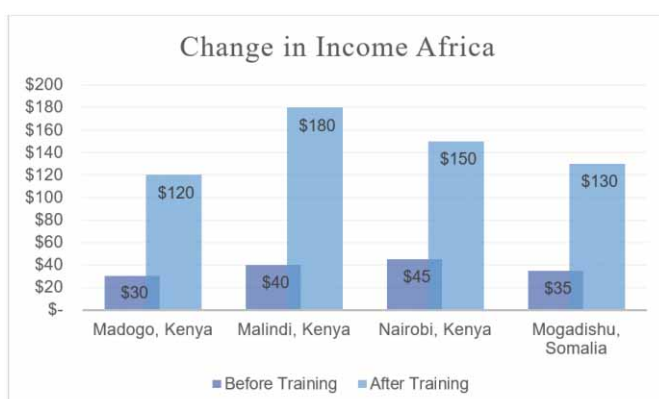
5



Skills Trainings in Africa

- Information Communication Technology
- Henna
- Cooking
- Tailoring and Tailoring and Embroidery
- Electronics and cell phone repair

Graduates of each of the four Skills Development and Livelihood Centers in Kenya and Somalia earned dramatically more money per month than they did before training. In Madogo, Kenya, for example, the average graduate went from earning just \$30 per month to earning \$120. That's a life changing jump, Alhamdulillah.



Success Story

Aamino is a mother of eight residing in Mogadishu, Somalia. She enrolled in the Skill Development and Livelihood Center this year to pursue training in Tailoring & Embroidery. After six months, Aamino graduated and got a certificate and a sewing machine (business start-up kit). She opened a sewing shop where she works and receives an income of \$150 to \$200 per month, finally able to support her family. She says she will remember and pray for HHRD her entire life.

PHILIPPINES

The Philippines is a collection of islands off the coast of Vietnam. There are over 120 languages spoken, though Tagalog and English are commonly used by the government. Agriculture has historically represented the largest segment of the economy, but a growing number of professionals have established a presence in the e-commerce market, providing virtual support for businesses worldwide. The COVID-19 pandemic and global inflation pushed many more Filipinos into poverty in recent years, bringing the figure to nearly 20% of the country's population. HHRD established a partnership with a local organization in late 2022 to bring skills development to under-resourced communities. The project completed only two workshops in 2022, while many others will continue into 2023 Insha'Allah.

BENEFICIARIES

24

COURSES

3



Skills Trainings in Philippines

- Food Safety and Entrepreneurial Training
- Weaving
- Dressmaking

Success Story

HADJA PUTLIH A. ABDULGANI, 76, is a widow and a retiree who worked as a nurse in the Middle East for over 20 years. She stays with her son's family and helps take care of her grandchildren. Despite her age, she still believes that she can be productive and enjoy the remaining years of her life with new friends from the training.

"I did not realize that I can still make money out of my hobby of cooking native delicacies. After the training, I learned to prepare food in a halal-compliant manner. This is important because we live in a non-Muslim majority community."



BANGLADESH

The Rohingya people have faced decades of systematic discrimination, statelessness and targeted violence in Rakhine State, Myanmar. Such persecution has forced Rohingya refugees into Bangladesh for many years, with significant spikes following violent attacks in 1978, 1991-1992, and again in 2016. August 2017 triggered by far the largest and fastest exodus into Bangladesh. Since then, an estimated 745,000 Rohingya— including more than 400,000 children— have fled to Cox's Bazar.

In 2022, HHRD accomplished the following objectives in Bangladesh:

BENEFICIARIES

160

COURSES

4

Gender Based Violence Counseling

Gender-Based Violence (GBV) is a pandemic which violates human rights across communities around the world. Rohingya women and girls who fled to Bangladesh following severe rights violations enacted upon them by the Myanmar military in 2017 faced indescribable gender based violence in their home state.

Considering the gravity of the situation and assessing the need, SDLP partnered with a local, vetted organization to establish a safe space for Rohingya survivors of GBV in the camp area. Since June 2021, the center has provided support including skills based training and psychological counselling to help women recover and escape from dangerous situations.

In 2022, 100 women were provided:

- Psychosocial counselling
- Protection in a safe space
- Handicraft training
- Tailoring and stitching courses
- Food support (1,200 beneficiaries)

Success Story

My name is Jannatul Mawa. I am 15 years old and I live in Camp-16, Block-A8. Because of brutal torture in my native country of Myanmar, we came to Bangladesh. I learned about Helping Hand's Skills Development classes in handicrafts and I applied for admission. I learned to design embroidered quilts, bed sheets, prayer mats, and pillow covers. After completing my studies, I am able to take orders. I earn money by selling them and spend time happily with my family. Thank you to Helping Hand and its donors.



BANGLADESH

Skills Trainings in Myanmar

Many ethnic Muslims fled Myanmar for neighboring Bangladesh, but many remained behind despite widespread violence and oppression. COVID-19 and banking restrictions have further exacerbated the situation and made relief efforts difficult. There are over sixty Muslim villages and relevant camps where internally displaced people are residing. SDLP works through a vetted local partner to address the needs of those who stayed in Myanmar by helping them gain skills required to earn a living rather than relying on charitable handouts and rations.

- Cosmetic products (soap, shampoo, perfume, conditioner and lotion)
- Handicrafts (making art and items out of recycled materials)
- Women empowerment

BENEFICIARIES

200

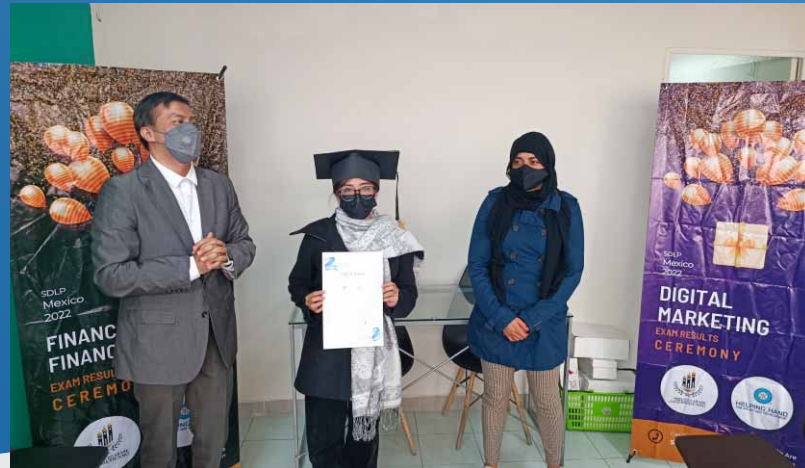
COURSES

3



LATIN AMERICA

The majority of HHRD's activities occur in Muslim countries or locations with large Muslim refugee populations. The SDLP programs in Latin America are among the exceptions to that rule. It is important to the mission and vision of the organization to offer services to individuals based on need rather than religion. In 2022, SDLP offered classes in three Latin American countries: Mexico, Dominica and Guyana.



Mexico

BENEFICIARIES

160

COURSES

4

Mexico shares a border with the United States and many of the same customs and celebrations as its neighbor to the north. HHRD established the SDLP in Mexico in 2022, with five classes in two cities. Courses offered included:

- Finance
- Digital Marketing
- Call Center
- English for English teachers

Dominica

BENEFICIARIES

15

COURSES

3

Dominica is an island located halfway between the Dominican Republic and Venezuela in the Atlantic Ocean. The training took place at Dominica State College in Roseau, the capital City. This project began in November 2022. Courses offered included:

- Welding
- Refrigeration and Air Conditioning
- Auto Mechanics

Guyana

BENEFICIARIES

17

COURSES

5

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.

Courses offered included:

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

NEPAL

Nepal is a mountainous country located in the Himalayas between China and India. Unemployment is a problem and even youth who have academic credentials are unable to find work. The Economic Survey of the Ministry of Finance was quoted as saying 512,000 youth are added to the labor market each year without the prospect of employment. There is a desperate need for actionable skills that will provide a living wage. SDLP Nepal provides short-term trainings to meet that need and qualify young people to open their own businesses or secure employment in available fields.

BENEFICIARIES

200

COURSES

12

In 2022,

- 70% of graduates are earning more than the average Gross Net Income of Nepal
- 70% of graduates are employed or have established their own businesses
- 2,390 people have directly or indirectly benefitted from SDLP projects
- 62 graduates received livelihood kits to get them started

Skills Trainings in Nepal

- Advanced Weaving
- Advanced Tailoring
- Cell phone repair
- Eyeglass dispensers
- Graphic design
- Accounting
- Building electrician
- Hand knitting
- Glass beads
- Basic tailoring
- Sanitary pad making
- Cushion and soft doll making

