



ANNUAL REPORT | 2023

Skills Development and Livelihood Program



HELPING HAND
FOR RELIEF AND DEVELOPMENT

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Executive Summary

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.

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.



Your Impact at a Glance

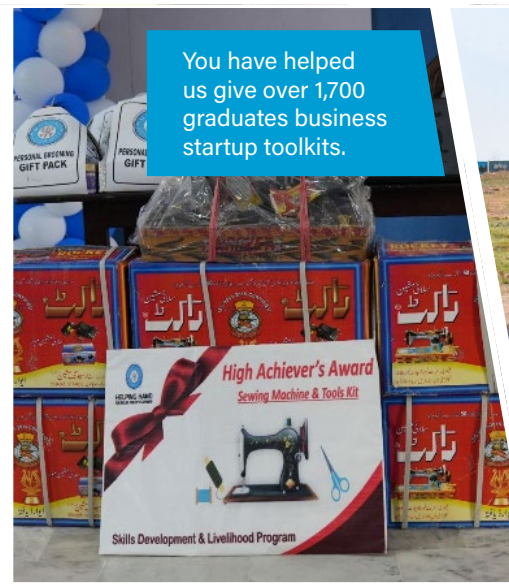
You have helped establish over 50 Skills Development Centers and 7 Livelihood Projects benefitting over 10,000 people in 19 countries across four continents.



You have helped over 2,500 graduates establish business ventures or begin taking steps toward self-employment.



You have helped us give over 1,700 graduates business startup toolkits.



You have helped 199 farmers receive olive farming training, required equipment and 22,250 olive plants for generating a sustainable livelihood in 2022.



You have helped SDLP artisans produce over 70,000 products



You have helped 500 students receive food assistance in Ramadan through SDLP



You have helped provide over 60 different types of courses and trainings.



Afghanistan



Location: Nangarhar province

SDLP creates economic opportunities for Afghan widows, women, and youth through skills training.

Project objectives

- To empower the local community by providing them opportunities to learn employable skills
- To reduce poverty
- To enable youth who have graduated from secondary school or university to get jobs
- To prepare women for social change 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

- Computer classes
- Tailoring classes
- Intermediate English class
- Mobile hardware repair
- Carpentry
- Handicrafts

Program outcomes:

- 472 graduates
- 67 business toolkits distributed to students
- 220 mobile phones repaired by trainees during the last month of Mobile Hardware training

Livelihood for Food Security program in Afghanistan (LHFS)

Location: Kabul, Nangarhar, Laghman & Kandahar provinces.

According to the World Food Program, 19 million Afghans don't have enough food for daily meals. LHFS trains people to empower them financially and reduce food insecurity. These skills have been selected by HHRD to be taught in its LHFS centers.

Trainings offered

- Electrician courses,
- Carpet weaving & rug making,
- School Bag production,
- Auto mechanic Tailoring,
- Mobile phone repair and
- Poultry farming

Program outcomes

- 1000 trainees have been trained in Kabul, Nangarhar, Laghman and Kandahar provinces.
- Tool kits are distributed to all trainees for benefiting in their daily lessons and future careers after graduation
- 1000 trainees received monthly food baskets for six months during their training period.
- 80% of the graduated trainees started their own business and earn bread for their families.



Cambodia

Location: Kandal province

Cambodia is considered one of the poorest countries in Asia, and long-term economic development remains an overwhelming challenge. Fish and fishing have been central to Cambodian culture since ancient times. Cambodia's inland fisheries are among the largest and most significant in the world. The fishermen in Cambodia live on boats in the river and have no money to afford proper housing. HHRD gifted boats to four families that will act as homes and working vessels. Fathers will be able to support their children and spend much more time with them.

Beneficiaries: 4 families, 28 individuals

Dominican Republic

Location: Santo Domingo

The Dominican Republic occupies the eastern two-thirds of the island of Hispaniola, while Haiti occupies the western third. The country has an extremely high number of single mothers in its population, 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.

To ensure a high-quality training, the program takes place at one of the technical schools in the city, with a variety of courses. Beneficiaries are trained to develop the skills they will need to assert themselves in a competitive job market and to engage in awarding careers. Our partner is a legal and registered technical school with years of experience in the area, so official and valid certificates are granted which allow students to apply for jobs in the public or private sector.

Courses offered

- Computer Science
- Computer Technician
- English Intensive
- Refrigeration Technician
- Electrician
- Master of Construction
- Mobile Phone Repair
- Accounting
- Dental assistant
- Pharmacy technician course

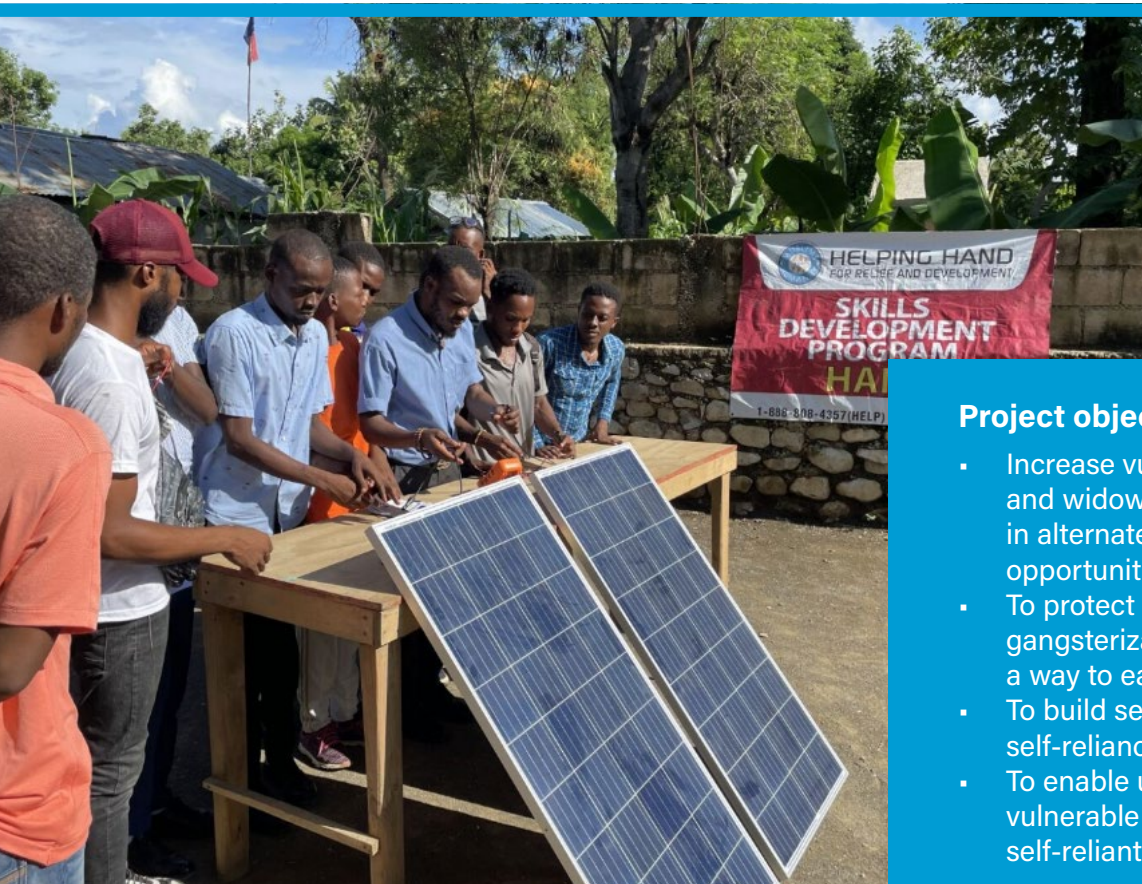
Project outcomes

- 60 Students and 40 graduates

Haiti

Location: Leogane

Haiti is the third largest country in the Caribbean Sea by area, and the most densely populated one. 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

- Increase vulnerable women and widows' participation in alternate employment opportunities.
- To protect young men against gangsterization by giving them a way to earn their own money.
- To build self-confidence and self-reliance.
- To enable unemployed vulnerable women to become self-reliant.

Courses offered

- Tailoring,
- Solar Panel Installation

Project outcomes

- 40 students



Mexico

Location: Tecamac & San Cristobal

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.

Our beneficiaries are adults, 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

- To provide new skills for adults who are interested in 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

- English Teacher training program,
- Computing,
- Hairstylist,
- Cellphone Repair,
- Computer courses,
- Electrician courses,
- English for Call center Agent training,
- Tailoring 1-3

Project outcomes

- 307 students and 251 graduates
- 75% of trainees are women and 35% of the trainees are single mothers

Guyana

Guyana is located on the northern coast of South America, near Venezuela. This project started in November 2022 to address the number of people lacking adequate skills for the work force. 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.

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

- 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

Project outcomes

- 16 students enrolled

Nepal

Bordered by India and China, Nepal sits directly on top of the Himalayan mountain range. One of the most significant challenges is unemployment, with young people accounting for half of the nation's population. Despite the increasing number of youths entering the employment market, job opportunities are limited.

Every year, hundreds of thousands of Nepali youth migrate to the Gulf and other countries in search of employment opportunities. Unfortunately, 90% of them lack the necessary skills and are forced to work as low-paid laborers.

According to the Economic Survey of the Ministry of Finance, more than 32% of the country's working-age population (15-64 years of age) is unemployed. To address this issue, HHRD Nepal offers short-term skills enhancement courses and professional training, including both hard and soft skills. The courses are designed by CTEVT of Nepal. Graduates are certified by CTEVT after their skill test exam.

Project objectives

- Enable youth to find employment opportunities
- Increase economic outlook of community

Courses offered

- Advance Daka Weaving
- Optical Dispenser
- Bag Making training
- Teacher Professional development Training
- Tailoring Course
- Bike Repairing Training
- Plumbing Training
- Basic Tailoring Course
- Bakery Training
- Computer Operator Training
- Basic Tailoring
- Hotel Assistant (Waiter/Waitress)
- Basic Tailoring
- Mobile Phone Repair Technician
- Livelihood Support for Daka Weavers

Project outcomes

- Number of Beneficiaries: 250
- Number of training/courses: 15
- Number of Job Holder/Self Business: 180
- 715 learners trained since 2019
- 3,575 people have directly or indirectly benefited from SDLP projects.
- 89 graduates are self employed or have started business enterprises
- 91 graduates gained employment after training
- 72% of graduates earn more than the gross national income (GNI) of Nepal
- 38 graduates were gifted with livelihood support



Success Story

“Baking dreams into reality, one pastry at a time, empower your path with SDLP!”

I am Rejing Subedi. While I was attending the Bakery Training program, I was actively searching for employment opportunities. This period was marked by numerous job interviews, during which employers consistently requested both job experience and training credentials.

Upon completing my training, I returned to my village, and fortuitously, a local bakery had a job opening. I promptly applied, backed by the certificate acquired through the HHRD Skills Development and Livelihood Program. I demonstrated my skills for a day, after which the management offered me a position for a trial period of two days.

Presently, I am employed on a monthly basis, earning NPR 25,000. This is a source of income that has not only supported my continued education but has also significantly contributed to my family’s livelihood. This job has granted me newfound independence and is instrumental in supporting my younger brother’s education as well.

I extend my heartfelt gratitude to both Helping Hand for Relief and Development and Subedi Bakery Udyog Pvt. Ltd. Nawalparasi for their unwavering efforts in facilitating my journey to success. Thank you immensely for this opportunity.



Kenya

Location: Madogo, Nairobi, Malindi and Lodwar

Kenya's job market is diverse, encompassing sectors such as agriculture, services, and technology, with a growing emphasis on innovation and entrepreneurship. However, persistent challenges in unemployment rates, particularly among the youth, highlight the need for continued efforts to foster sustainable economic growth and create more opportunities for the workforce.

Project objectives

- 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 a series of value-based learning sessions. (E.g. work ethics, interpersonal skills, communication, persuasion, leadership, etc.)

Trainings offered

- Information technology
- Tailoring/embroidery
- Henna
- Electronics & mobile phone repair
- Cooking and baking

Project outcomes

- 688 students enrolled and received certificates
- HHRD indirectly impacted over 5,580 people in 2023 through SDLP
- 259 graduates benefited from business start-up kits and are set to earn and improve their livelihood.
- Product development and selling in local market. E.g. dress, Shirts.
- Held Henna week (Prior to Eid) at the Centre where students had locals as their clients and got paid
- Tailoring students also benefited from the Eid occasion where they had clients who needed clothes made fitting as per their taste.
- 206 SDLP students received Ramadan food package
- SDLP Madogo Tailoring class made school uniforms for OSP students in the cluster.
- Renewal of registration of SDLC Madogo with TVET Authority.



Somalia

Location: Mogadishu

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

- Information communication technology
- Henna
- Tailoring and embroidery
- Cooking

Program Outcomes

- 207 trainees
- 207 students received Ramadan food package
- 33 received business startup kit



Tanzania

Location: Dar es Salaam

SDLC vocational and technical training programs combine theoretical and practical modules, all delivered with an interactive approach. The course teaching methodology is 90% practical and 10% theoretical. In addition to acquiring technical knowledge, beneficiaries are trained to develop the skills they will need to assert themselves in a competitive job market and to engage in awarding careers. Through practical experience, the trainees establish contacts with potential future employers. This program ensures that each trainee is prepared to successfully enter national and/or international job markets.

Courses offered

- Computer Studies,
- Electronics & Mobile phone repair,
- Henna artistry

Project outcomes

- 35 students trained
- 20 receive business start up toolkits



Jordan

Location: Amman

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.

Project objective

SDLP in Jordan seeks to empower the targeted group (mainly refugee women and youth) by offering training courses that qualify them to make a living by working from home or directly joining the labor market.

Trainings offered

- Sewing
- Hand embroidery
- Handicrafts
- Detergents
- Computer Maintenance

Outcomes

- 364 graduates (100% of the trainees were women)
- 50 business startup kits distributed
- Beneficiaries from Syrian Refugees, Palestinian Refugees, Yemeni Refugees, Sudanese Refugees, Local Jordanians

Lebanon

Location: Bekka, Beruit, Tripoli

Lebanon's job market faces challenges due to economic instability and political unrest, leading to high unemployment rates, particularly among the youth. The presence of a significant number of refugees, mainly from Syria, further strains the labor market, exacerbating competition for employment opportunities.

Trainings offered

- Graphic design
- Cell phone maintenance
- English
- Photography
- Computer maintenance
- Women's hairdressing
- Men's hairdressing
- Health assistant
- Personal trainer
- Executive secretary
- Digital marketing
- Cooking
- Auto Mechanic & Motorcycle Mechanic

Outcomes

- 626 graduates
- 185 business startup kits
- Beneficiaries trained: Syrian refugees, Palestinian refugees and Local Lebanese



Türkiye

Türkiye is a large peninsula that bridges the continents of Europe and Asia. The number of Syrians under temporary protection status registered in Türkiye by the Directorate of Migration Management has reached 3.6 million. 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. By implementing SDLP, we aim to open employment opportunities for these refugees in addition to some Turkish local youth.

Project Objectives

- Improving livelihoods to respond to growing food insecurity
- Contribute to improving the standard of living for families of orphans and female headed households
- Reducing the problem of unemployment and the phenomenon of beggary

Courses offered

- Graphic design
- Professional photography
- Programming
- Basic computer programs
- Introduction to Business Administration
- Project management
- Entrepreneurship and self-employment
- Tailoring (beginner, immediate and advance)
- Digital marketing and e-commerce

Project outcomes

- 208 graduates

Pakistan

Pakistan is the world's fifth most populous country. However, according to Pakistan's Ministry of Planning and Development, roughly 25% 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.

Trainings Offered

- Dress Making Basic
- Dress Making Advance
- Fashion Designing
- Personal Grooming
- Henna Course
- Computer classes Basic & advance
- Product Development Training
- Industrial Unit School Uniform Training
- Knitting Training
- English Language Course
- Led Bulb Assembling and Repairing
- Food Preservation
- handicraft
- Hand Embroidery
- Website Development
- Graphics Designing
- Digital Marketing
- Domestic Electrician
- Mobile Repairing
- Kitchen Gardening Training & Roof Top Gardening
- Lemon Plantation
- Olive Plantation
- Fish Farming
- Backyard Poultry



Project Outcomes

- 6,052 total beneficiaries
- 5467 graduates from 22 SDLCs throughout Pakistan
- 22,250 Olive trees planted
- 196 beneficiaries of the Enterprise Development Project
- 178 former graduates employed making products for HHRD

Products

- 52,323 total products created
- 36,500 bags created (School bags, Shopping bags, Hygiene bags, etc)
- 6,800 uniforms sewn
- 1,523 children garments
- 7,500 knitting projects



Enterprise Development Program

Our Enterprise Development program in Pakistan has provided professional customized detailed enterprise development training along with financial assistance to 200 families. This training helps the families establish tire shops, grocery shops, produce shops, spare parts shops, refreshment shops, goat & cow farms, etc. In 2023, SDLP engaged 33 families from 10 districts in Enterprise Development interventions.

Project Objectives of Enterprise Development

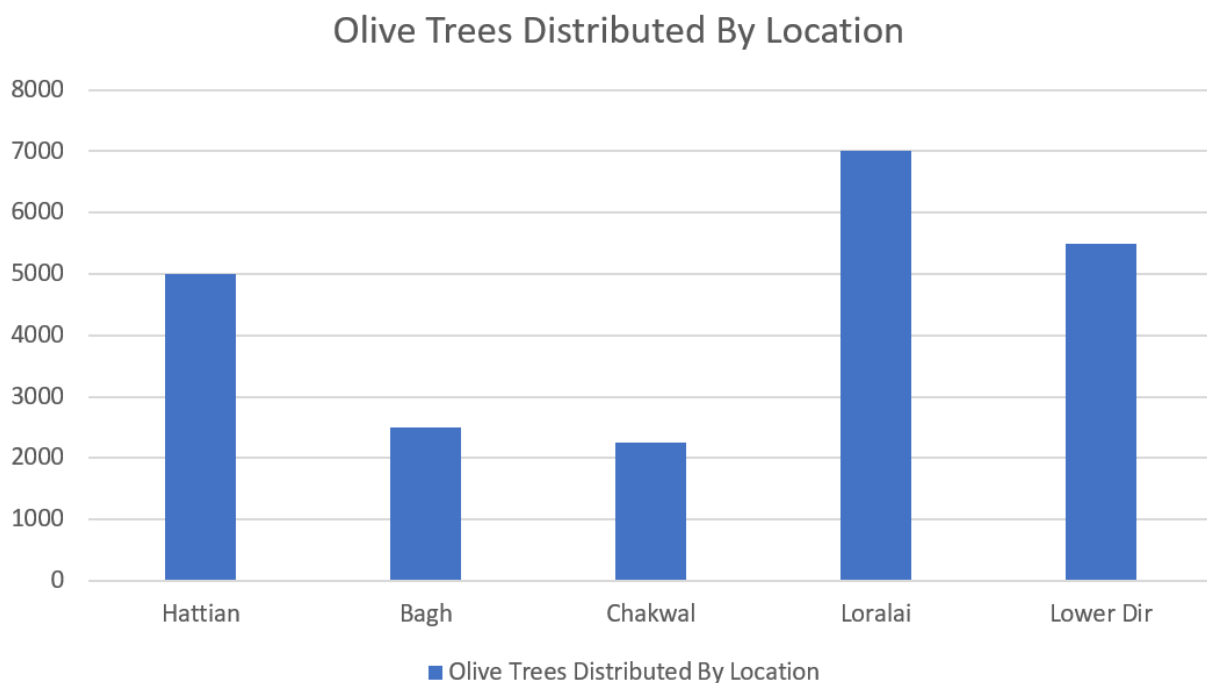
- To empower marginalized communities by establishing and supporting small enterprises to provide sustainable livelihood opportunities.
- To establish networking and linkages with local market.
- To contribute to overall economic growth of the community

Olive Tree Livelihood Program

In March, 22,250 olive plants were distributed in five locations. The distribution of these plants to 191 farmers supported olive cultivation and production in these areas and enhanced the livelihoods of the beneficiaries.

Project outcomes

- 191 farmers benefitted
- 22500 olive trees distributed



Success Story

“Nalain Abbas’ Journey with Helping Hand’s Outsource Program”

Nalain Abbas, a deserving orphan, embarked on a transformative journey with the Helping Hand’s Outsource Program. Nalain’s story is one of overcoming adversity and reaching new heights, showcasing the power of education and support.

Nalain’s family, headed by his hardworking mother who stitched clothes to make ends meet, faced numerous challenges in managing household expenses. The burden of responsibility rested heavily on Nalain’s shoulders, but he remained determined to change his circumstances.

Helping Hand recognized Nalain’s potential and enrolled him in a comprehensive Chef training program at COTHM. The program not only equipped him with essential culinary skills but also instilled in him the confidence to pursue a career in the competitive hospitality industry.

Upon completing the Chef course, Nalain’s dedication and newfound skills caught the attention of Papa Johns, a renowned fast-food brand. Nalain secured a position with the company, marking a significant turning point in his life. His monthly salary of 20,000 PKR became a lifeline for his family, providing financial stability and alleviating the struggles they once faced.

With Nalain’s success at Papa Johns, his family experienced a positive transformation. The once daunting challenge of making ends meet was replaced with a newfound source of income and security. Nalain’s story stands as a testament to the impact of education and support, showcasing how a helping hand can lift an individual from despair to prosperity.

Nalain Abbas, through his determination and the support of Helping Hand’s Outsource Program, not only secured a fulfilling career but also became a beacon of hope for others facing similar challenges. His journey serves as inspiration for the potential that lies within every deserving individual, waiting to be unlocked with the right opportunities and support.



Bangladesh

Location: (Cox Bazar) Rohingya refugees

SDLP serves the displaced Rohingya Refugees living in Bangladesh. The Rohingya, a Muslim minority group from the northern part of Rakhine State in Myanmar, are among the most vulnerable of the world's refugee communities.

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.



Trainings offered

Handicraft training including:

- Quilts,
- Bed sheets,
- Pillow covers,
- Mosquito net bags,
- Tablecloths,
- Sofa covers,
- Chair covers

Project Outcomes

1. Provided skills-based training on handcraft items for 100 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

Skills Development Program for survivors of Gender Based Violence in Bangladesh

Common forms of Gender Based Violence (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.

Project outcomes

- Number of women at this center: 100 women

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. A technological leader, its economy is diverse with many people working virtually for clients around the world.

Project objectives

- To provide opportunities to members of the community affected by job loss during the COVID-19 pandemic
- To provide adequate training in relevant skills
- 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

- Virtual Assistance
- Electrical Installation and Maintenance
- Dressmaking
- Automotive Servicing and Repair
- Beauty Care Services
- Housekeeping

Project outcomes

- 117 students
- 99 graduates to date

Indonesia

Indonesia faced severe disruptions during the COVID epidemic, particularly in sectors such as tourism, hospitality, retail, and small businesses. Many individuals lost their jobs or experienced reduced working hours. SDLP has three interventions in Indonesia: mobile tailoring, business food cart training and business management training.

Mobile Tailoring

- **11 Beneficiaries**

Indonesia is a diverse nation with a rich cultural heritage, and traditional clothing such as the kebaya and batik. Mobile tailoring, also known as jasa jahit keliling or tukang jahit keliling, is a growing trend in Indonesia. It involves tailors providing their services to customers at their preferred locations, rather than operating from a fixed shop. The Mobile Tailoring for Sustainable Income and Skills Development project is a transformative initiative aimed at empowering beneficiaries, enhancing their income, and fostering economic resilience within communities.

Food Cart Program

- **10 beneficiaries**

SDLP has established a business food 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. 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.

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.

Peru

Peru's employment landscape is diverse, with significant contributions from sectors such as agriculture, mining, and services. The country faces challenges in reducing informal employment and enhancing job opportunities, prompting SDLP to establish a training center. Classes will begin in 2024.

Project outcomes

- 20 students are enrolled

Malaysia

Malaysia is a Southeast Asian country, lying just north of the equator, occupying parts of the Malay Peninsula and the island of Borneo. To the north it is bordered by Thailand, and to the south, at the tip of the peninsula, is the island republic of Singapore, with which Malaysia is connected by a causeway and a bridge. Malaysia has a robust economy and it has experienced healthy economic growth during the past decade. However, Malaysia has a high level of income inequality. It is even higher than the United States, which is one of the most unequal advanced economies in the world.

Project objective

Malaysia's bread and bakery industry is a dynamic sector that supplies food to millions of consumers every day. Due to this very reason, there has been a noteworthy surge in entrepreneurial endeavors in the sector. The baking industry is competitive, but the participation of women whether a home-based or commercial operation, is still very small compared to men.

1. A skill training program to develop single mothers, women breadwinners and women from very low income families to venture into the high demand bakery industry.
2. To empower female breadwinners and single mothers, who often raise their children without sufficient financial supports and to enable them to build their business foundation and become economically independent for their families and participate in society as responsible and contributing individuals.
3. To drive change and commit to taking pro-active actions to address the poverty gap by equipping them with the necessary knowledge, training and skills to be independent

Trainings offered

- Bakery Course
- Entrepreneurial training

Project Impact

- 10 single mothers were trained in bakery & were provided stalls in a market to sell their products
- 10 women economically empowered. Empowered women have better mental health and greater resilience; they become positive role models and encourage mental resilience in their children.
- Assisted 10 women to be self-dependent, make better choices, decrease poverty and food insecurity, and raise the stability, nutrition, and overall wellness of the beneficiary family
- Supported 10 women who have faced adversity & challenges in their lives and helped them take the bold steps towards learning a new vocation to contribute to the family economy and improve their standard of living.

Thank you



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