



HELPING HAND
FOR RELIEF AND DEVELOPMENT

Skills Development and Livelihood Program

SIX MONTH REPORT - JULY 2025



Together
WE ARE

**SERVING.
HEALING.
EMPOWERING.**



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Opportunity Builds Dignity



HHRD Mission

"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."



HHRD Values

HHRD's six core values are reflected in the work we do.

- Mutual Respect: we recognize the innate worth of all people and the value of diversity
- Equity and Justice: we work to ensure equal opportunity for everyone, irrespective of race, gender, color, class, ethnicity, disability and location
- Care for All: we provide care for vulnerable groups; orphans, widows and elderly people
- Honesty and Transparency: We are accountable at all levels for the effectiveness of our actions and open in our judgments and communications with others
- Self Respect: We help the poor without making anyone feel humiliated
- Solidarity with the Poor: The only criteria for receiving services is need

From Aid to Ability



HHRD's Skills Development and Livelihood Program (SDLP) operates learning centers globally, providing localized vocational training and official certifications whenever possible. The program targets marketable skills specific to each region—from henna design to customer service training—ensuring graduates earn living wages in their local economies. SDLP provides complete entrepreneurship support including tools, marketing assistance, and business development guidance to transition participants from unemployment to self-employment or industry careers.

Program Mission

**Empower people to break
the cycle of poverty
through skills training,
entrepreneurship, and
values-based education.**

Countries Served (JAN-JUN 2025)

Region	Country	Beneficiaries
Africa	Kenya (566), Somalia (140) & Tanzania (128)	834
Bangladesh	Skills Development for Rohingya Refugees	100
Middle East and North Africa (MENA)	Jordan, Türkiye, Morocco, Lebanon	174
Association of South East Asian Nations (ASEAN)	Philippines (80), Cambodia (50)	130
India		130
Nepal		166
Afghanistan		699
Pakistan		2137
Latin America	Mexico (188), Peru (100)	288
Caribbean Countries	Haiti	54
Total		4,582

Global Trends

Across multiple regions, SDLP graduates are rapidly transitioning from skills training to micro-enterprise creation. In Peru, pastry graduates launched their dessert business within months of completion. Similarly, Kenya's tailoring graduates established a collaborative shop at Madogo Shopping Centre. From Afghanistan's mobile repair technicians to Tanzania's beauty therapy practitioners, these entrepreneurial endeavors capitalize on strong market demand for locally-relevant skills training.

Climate-related demand is informing many of our programs. Green technology like solar panels and planting native crops offer participants a way to earn money without destroying the planet. Cooling system repair has become essential across multiple regions as temperatures rise and middle-class appliance ownership increases.

Women Leading Economic Recovery in Post-Crisis Communities Female participation dominates programs in disaster-affected and conflict zones. Jordan's program serves 174 women (64% married, 21% single, 15% divorced/widowed), while Afghanistan's poultry program specifically targets 164 widows and vulnerable women. In Peru, sewing graduate Daniela Pintado exemplifies this trend, transforming from unemployment to market vendor through skills acquisition. This pattern reflects both economic necessity and women's capacity to drive community-level recovery.



Worldwide Support

Pakistan



Thousands of Lives Changed

The Skills Development and Livelihood Program (SDLP) in Pakistan is HHRD's flagship initiative designed to strengthen vulnerable communities affected by natural and man-made disasters. Operating across 35 districts in all provinces and territories, the program promotes sustainable livelihoods through skills training, income-generating opportunities, and value-based personal development. In the first six months of 2025, SDLP benefited 2,137 individuals through its comprehensive approach that includes both vocational training and character building through Islamic values.

Core Skills Development Centers



2,137 beneficiaries across 20 districts

- Offers 16 market-relevant courses including digital skills, tailoring, IT, and freelancing
- Strong performance in dress making (683 enrolled, 565 graduates) and IT courses (859 enrolled, 474 graduates)
- Provides startup kits to high-achieving graduates for business launch

Agriculture Project

Promotes sustainable farming practices and improves crop productivity for small-scale farmers in Punjab and KPK.

- 120 farmers trained with 10 specialized training sessions on crops like okra, bitter gourd, maize, and rice
- 12,835 kg of mixed vegetables produced, generating significant income for participating families
- Conducted 8 farmer meetings, 3 seed/fertilizer distributions, and 12 fencing installations

Enterprise Development Project

Empowers marginalized communities through creation and growth of small-scale enterprises, connecting entrepreneurs to local markets.

- 181 beneficiaries supported in current period (458 total to date) through comprehensive assessments and training
- Provides startup kits and enterprise training across 14 districts
- Plans to support 300 additional entrepreneurs in 2025

Olive Project

- Enhances rural livelihoods by utilizing underused land for long-term agricultural investment
- Launched in 2021
- 64,175 olive plantations established, benefiting 395 farmers since inception
- 13,900 plants distributed to 85 farmers in current period across 8 districts
- Partnership with 3 universities for research and development
- Hosted 4th International Conference on Olive Value Chain with National Agriculture Research Center

Sports Skills Development Project



Provides pathways to careers in the cricket industry for youth aged 14-16 from underserved areas.

- Conducted 16 cricket skills sessions, 12 organized matches, and 8 life skills workshops
- 20 young athletes progressed to junior-level regional/provincial standards
- 8 trainees representing their respective regions in competitions

Afghanistan

Abdul Wahab's Story



Abdul Wahab is the sole provider for 14 family members in Laghman province—his three sisters, wife, children, and elderly parents. He dropped out of school at age 10 due to financial hardship and spent years as a daily laborer, often walking to the market only to find no work available. When HHRD's survey team visited his village to identify vulnerable youth for skills training, Abdul Wahab saw an opportunity to change his family's future.

Now four months into mobile repair training at HHRD's Skills Development Centre, Abdul Wahab has already

begun working as an assistant technician at a local shop. He attends classes in the morning and works in the afternoon, earning \$20 per week—income that will increase once he graduates and receives his certificate. "I am very thankful to the donors of HHRD for this great project," he says. "Here we learn how to catch the fish instead of receiving one kilogram of fish."

699 trainees

Training across Kabul, Nangarhar, and Laghman provinces

- Microsoft Office computer training
- Tailoring for men
- Intermediate English language classes

Food Security and Livelihood Program (FSL)



A Path to Independence

Many families have immediate needs that can't be deferred until after training. HHRD provides these beneficiaries with bags of rice in addition to everything the need to set up their own microenterprise. From poultry farming to fruit and vegetable carts, HHRD delivers the livestock, equipment and inventory entrepreneurs need to get started as well as the skills they will need to make their business a success.

379 vulnerable trainees: Trainees across Kabul, Kunar, Ghazni, and Zabul provinces, including widows, orphans, and disabled individuals.

Eight specialized skills taught: tailoring, mobile repair, poultry farming, electrical engineering, computer repair, refrigerator/air conditioning repair, motorbike/generator repair, and car repair

Monthly food baskets and transportation support provided to all trainees during the six-month training period.

164 women trained in poultry farming receive complete starter kits including 20 chickens, wooden cages, feeding troughs, water tanks, and rice supplies, enabling immediate income generation through egg production and sales

Combined Impact: 1,078 total beneficiaries trained across both programs

Africa

Kenya

Tailoring Partnership

Mariam Adan, Najma Ali & Markabo Nawario Hamisi dedicated six months to mastering tailoring skills at the Madogo skills development center in Kenya. Upon graduation, each received a certificate of achievement and professional equipment through their business start-up kit. Together, they launched a thriving tailoring shop at Madogo Shopping Centre, where their collaboration and creativity have earned them a loyal clientele and renewed independence.



556 total beneficiaries across five centers (Nairobi, Madogo, Malindi, Lodwar, Nyeri)

- ICT: 177 students across 4 centers (3-month programs)
- Henna: 206 students across all 5 centers (3-5 month programs)
- Electronics Repair: 82 students in Malindi and Lodwar (4-month programs)
- Baking: 44 students in Nairobi and Nyeri (3-month programs)
- Tailoring and Embroidery: 47 students in Madogo (6-month program)
- Innovation highlights: Weekly bake sales generating community income in Nairobi and Nyeri
- Additional services: Language and communication skills training in Nairobi to enhance job market competitiveness

Kenya represents one of HHRD's largest SDLP operations by both beneficiary count and geographic spread, demonstrating the scalability of the skills-to-entrepreneurship model.

Somalia

Faduma's Journey from Student to Entrepreneur

Mogadishu, Somalia. Faduma, a determined young woman, was forced to miss classes frequently due to financial constraints. She had no money for school fees or for transportation. When her family's economic hardships threatened to derail her education entirely, she enrolled in HHRD's Skills Development and Livelihood Center.

During her six-month ICT course, Faduma demonstrated exceptional commitment despite her challenging circumstances. She received not only a certificate of achievement but also business start-up materials. With her newly acquired computer skills, Faduma launched her own small business, creating sustainable income while contributing to her family's financial stability.



- 140 total beneficiaries served
- Information Communication Technology (ICT): 38 students (3-month program)
- Henna and Cooking: 34 students (3-month program)
- Tailoring and Embroidery: 68 students (6-month program including tie-dye techniques) •

Tanzania

Beauty Therapy Transformation



Jawahir Mohamed was confined to domestic work while her family struggled below the poverty line. She enrolled in the Henna and Beauty course in 2024 to pursue her dream of becoming a beauty artist. After graduation, she used her certificate and startup gifts to rent a space and offer services to her community. This new source of income has transformed both her life and her family's financial situation.

- 128 total beneficiaries served
- Information Communication Technology (ICT): 57 students (3-month program)
- Henna and Beauty: 55 students (5-month program including makeup artistry and bridal preparation)
- Electronics Repair: 16 students (4-month program covering fans, heaters, mobile phones, TVs, and appliances)
- Innovation component: Students create additional income streams through candle decoration and facial scrub production



Middle East and North Africa

Jordan

Empowering Women



"My name is Sabah Ibrahim Shehadeh. A widow from Syria. I have one son and I have experienced great suffering in my life. AlhamdoliAllah, the sewing course that I received at Helping Hand and woke me up from a difficult psychological state. I knew about Helping Hand and the trainer Miss Samira, from whom I learned that life has many difficulties. I learned that with persistence and challenge you can overcome life's problems. AlhamdoliAllah, indeed, after the sewing course, my life changed a lot for the better. Thank you, Helping Hand, and to everyone who contributed to the sewing course."

174 women trained

- 64% married, 21% single, 15% divorced/widowed
- Education levels: 40% elementary, 26% high school, 24% secondary, 10% university

Classes Offered:

- 7 Handicraft courses (107 participants)
- 2 Sewing courses (32 participants)
- 1 Embroidery course (14 participants)
- 2 Detergent-making courses (24 participants)



Türkiye

Students in Gaziantep, Istanbul, and Kilis are primarily youth and professionals seeking to develop high-value digital skills for participation in Türkiye's growing technology and creative sectors.

Programs Offered:

- Web Programming
- Digital Marketing & E-commerce
- Professional Design
- Media Production
- Financial Accounting

Classes start in second half of 2025 inshaAllah.

Lebanon

Lebanon faces unprecedented economic collapse with currency devaluation, widespread unemployment, and basic infrastructure challenges. Practical skills training has become essential for survival and community stability.

Programs Offered:

- Healthcare Support
- Technical & Construction
- Creative & Business Services
- Beauty & Personal Care
- Emerging Technologies
- Language & Communication

Classes start in second half of 2025 inshaAllah

Morocco

In Morocco's Taroudant Province, we bridge traditional craftsmanship with contemporary market demands. Our students are primarily women seeking to develop traditional craftsmanship skills while accessing modern economic opportunities in Morocco's textile and handicraft sectors.

Programs Offered:

- Traditional Sewing & Tailoring
- Modern Sewing & Tailoring
- Embroidery

Classes start in second half of 2025 inshaAllah

Bangladesh

Supporting Rohingya Refugee Women

Minara lives in Camp-16, Block B-3, where she joined HHRD's handicraft training program after learning about the opportunity through community outreach. Through the three-month skills development course, she mastered tailoring, embroidery, kantha stitching, bag making, and block batik work. Now she teaches neighbors these skills for income and works at the production center, receiving monthly support that helps meet her personal needs.

60 women and adolescent girls completed comprehensive handicraft training

- Manual and industrial sewing machine operation
- Traditional Nakshi Kantha and textile decoration
- Jute product manufacturing
- Block printing and hand painting techniques
- Capacity building classes including mental health counseling

100 total individual beneficiaries (including 40 production volunteers)

Bangladesh represents HHRD's response to the Rohingya refugee crisis, providing marketable skills to women in Cox's Bazar camps while preparing them for potential reintegration in Myanmar. The program addresses the critical gap where only 7-8% of Rohingya youth have access to vocational training, empowering women to generate income within the restricted camp environment.

"This initiative has been especially impactful for helpless girls like me."

- Minara, SDLP artisan



Cambodia



Supporting River Communities

Hak Kariya and his wife, Chheing Chann, are each 36 years old. They live in Kandal province with their three sons. HHRD provided a new boat so that the family could increase their earnings over the \$5-7.50 families typically earn. With a new boat and a higher yield, their children can focus on learning which may help them escape the cycle of intergenerational poverty.

10 families received complete livelihood boat packages

- Fishing boat
- Boat engine
- Protective roofing
- Living materials and wood

65 total individual beneficiaries

Cambodia represents HHRD's most innovative SDLP approach, addressing both housing and livelihood needs simultaneously for river-dwelling communities.

Indonesia



Digital Skills for the Modern Economy

Indonesia's SDLP represents a shift toward high-tech digital training, focusing on in-demand skills for the modern economy rather than traditional vocational trades. Unlike other HHRD centers that provide physical startup kits, Indonesia's program develops digital competencies that participants can immediately apply in remote work or freelance opportunities.

26 total participants

- Data Analyst track: 13 participants learning research methodologies, data analysis, and quantitative/qualitative research skills
- UI/UX Design track: 13 participants developing user interface and user experience design capabilities
- Digital focus: Intensive bootcamp format emphasizing both technical abilities (hard skills) and interpersonal competencies (soft skills)

India

The SDLP (Skills Development & Livelihood Program, Hyderabad India. 2025) focuses on empowering women and youth by providing livelihood skills to disadvantaged communities in Telangana, including widows and jobless youth. In 2025, the program aims to reach 290 individuals; by August, 130 beneficiaries participated in projects such as:

- Teacher's Training
- Mobile Repairing, and
- Air Ticketing

Upcoming initiatives include IT training, tailoring, henna design, and paramedical courses.



Government accredited certificates awarded to the candidates who have completed the course and passed the examination. Secretary Islamic Social Service Society Dr. Mubashir Ahmed motivated the students and awarded the certificates.

The Basic Air Ticketing course is intended for individuals seeking a career in the airline industry. This three-month program addresses current market needs and is offered in partnership with Akbar Academy Of Airline Studies, Hyderabad.

Malaysia

Flowers in the Night Market

Growing up as a single mother in Malaysia's urban areas where the cost of living continues to rise, Hafizah struggled to make ends meet while caring for her children. With limited business experience but determined to create a better future for her family, she joined HHRD's Small Business Entrepreneur program. Starting with just a small flower bouquet stall at the local night market, Hafizah learned essential business skills including cash flow management, customer relations, and marketing strategies. Within three months of the program, her monthly income grew from MYR 56 to MYR 1,216. Today, she continues running her successful flower business independently, having saved enough to cover future stall rentals while providing stable income for her family's needs.

27 total beneficiaries

- Business Categories: Clothing, food items, household goods, perfumes, toys, and services
- Community Impact: 135 indirect beneficiaries including family members
- Hands-on Training: Real business operations with 3-month stall rental support and canopy provision

By June, 22 out of 27 participants (81%) were earning over MYR 1,000 monthly, with several exceeding MYR 2,000. Total monthly income for all participants grew from MYR 8,086 in March to MYR 39,211 in June - nearly a 5x increase over just 4 months. The fact that participants saved enough during the 3-month supported period to continue independently proves that SDLP creates genuine economic sustainability rather than temporary assistance.



Mexico

From Gigwork to Teaching



Anel is a 39-year-old divorced mother from Tianguistengo, Mexico, who supports both her son and her disabled father. She had been selling homemade desserts for years to make ends meet after dropping out of tourism studies when she got married.

When clients started asking her to teach cooking classes, she initially thought it was a joke. But after meeting a school director who encouraged her to become a certified trainer, she enrolled in Helping Hand's SDLP cooking course. After completing the CONOCER certification training, she was quickly hired as a cooking instructor.

Anel doubled her income by continuing to sell desserts while also teaching cooking classes. The success enabled her to plan opening her own bakery in 2025. She's now expanding her teaching to non-urban areas in Tequixquiac, Hueypoxtla, and Apaxco counties, and collaborating with a halal meat enterprise.

188 trainees

- English Teaching, 29 participants
- Hair Styling, 91 trainees
- Cooking, 68 students
- Recognition: Certified by Mexico's Ministry of Public Education (SEP) and Ministry of Labor and Social Security (STyPS)

Ecuador

Programs Offered:

- Digital Marketing - Comprehensive online marketing strategies and social media business development
- Import-Export Training - International trade skills for global market access
- Business Development - Entrepreneurship skills for digital and international commerce

Courses start second half of 2025 inshaAllah.

Nepal

166 beneficiaries

Course Offerings:

- Tailoring (Master Level-02 and Basic)
- Building Electrician
- Japanese Language Training
- Plumbing
- Hotel Assistant

Strong Historical Performance

- Since 2019: 980 youths completed skills training
- 75% of graduates secured jobs or started self-businesses
- 4 districts: Jhapa, Siraha, Mahottari, Chitwan (plus Kathmandu and Kapilvastu planned)
- Graduates earn more than Nepal's average GNI
- 3,750 individuals benefited directly or indirectly from the program

Upcoming: Mobile Repairing, AI for All, Teacher Professional Development



Government certified: Uses CTEVT (Council for Technical Education and Vocational Training) curriculum

Haiti

From Darkness to Light

Growing up in a rural Haitian community where electricity was a luxury and blackouts were frequent, Clarousse relied on kerosene lamps like most families in his area. Unemployed and uncertain about his future, he enrolled in HHRD's 6-month solar installation training program. After completing his studies, Clarousse secured a 2-week internship with Waltech Energy, a growing Haitian solar company. His impressive performance earned him a full-time position as a Junior Installation Technician. Today, he installs solar panels on homes, schools, and health clinics, providing clean energy to communities while supporting his younger siblings.

54 total beneficiaries in Leogane, serving earthquake survivors and gang-displaced families

- Tailoring: 13 women participants
- Solar Panel Installation: 15 participants
- Plumbing & Electrical: 18 men participants
- Community-driven selection: Local committees identify deserving participants from slums and rural communities



Philippines

Undoing Covid's Disruption



Cesar, a 49-year-old former construction laborer from Taguig City, lost his job during the pandemic. He transformed his life through our Skills Development and Livelihood Program after completing electrical installation and maintenance training and earning his TESDA National Certificate. He secured employment as Electrical Maintenance Staff, and is now earning around \$400 monthly.

80 program beneficiaries

- Front-End Web Development (20 trainees enrolled, 55% women)
- Virtual Assistant Services (60 women selected for apprenticeship program from over 800 applicants)

Location Impact: Strategically located near major business districts (ARCA South, Bonifacio Global City, Makati City) providing access to high-demand IT and BPO opportunities.

Thailand

In Thailand, vulnerable women—including Thai communities, Rohingya refugees, and Burmese migrants—face significant barriers to economic independence. Despite Thailand's growing economy, these women encounter educational limitations, language challenges, and exclusion from formal labor markets, leaving them heavily dependent on humanitarian aid.

Programs Offered:

- Culinary Skills Development
- Business Planning & Marketing
- Recipe Development

Classes start in the second half of 2025 inshaAllah.

Peru

Building Resilience Through Skills



Jessica Flores and Marilyn García met when they both enrolled in the HHRD pastry course. Together, they learned not only pastry-making techniques but also gained the confidence to become entrepreneurs. With their newfound skills, they opened a small dessert stand selling alfajores, cakes, and pastries. Starting with home orders, they now have regular customers and are generating sustainable income. "This course gave us the tools and motivation to start. Now we have our own business, we're generating income, and we're growing as entrepreneurs. This is just the beginning."

100 program beneficiaries

- Pastry and Baking Program 50 trainees enrolled across 4 groups, course duration 2 months
 - Graduation Achievement: 40 participants successfully completed training with certificates awarded
- Garment Construction and Sewing 50 trainees enrolled across 4 groups, course duration 2 months
 - Graduation Achievement: 45 participants successfully completed training with certificates awarded

Location Impact: Operating in Piura, Peru, with classes held in two daily shifts to maximize accessibility, enabling graduates to establish micro-enterprises and sell products at local markets, creating sustainable income streams within their immediate community.

Thank you



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