



SYRIAN BUSINESS GRANTS AND APPRENTICESHIP PROGRAMME

Project Proposal *

Date: 28 March 2021			
Name of project:	Syrian - Business Grants and Apprenticeship Programme		
Project number (if available)	P02619	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
Project start date	04 April 2021	Project location(s)	[REDACTED]
Main sector	Livelihoods	Email	[REDACTED]
		Contact person	[REDACTED]

Project Overview

This project is also designed based on the know-how and lessons learned from the Samaritan's Purse country office in Iraq. We have been implementing an apprenticeship programme in the Qaraqosh area.

Location: [REDACTED] Syria

1. Problem Statement/Needs Assessment:

After ten years of conflict, the Syrian pound continues to plummet, it has lost its buying power twice over in the last nine months. The fall is mainly attributed to the economic crisis in neighbouring Lebanon, which remains Syria's only entry point to the global market and Syria's access to foreign capital. Additionally, the newly imposed economic sanctions and the closure of borders and internal restrictions imposed to counter the COVID-19 pandemic have further crippled the Syrian economy and escalated food insecurity.

The ongoing conflict has squeezed people from all sides, many breadwinners have either been killed in fighting, or fled to escape conscription or to seek work to fund their families. This has led to a growing number of female-led households struggling to make ends meet.

To make matters worse an 18-month drought and geopolitical manipulation of water access has led to crop failures and a destruction of the agricultural industry, leading to food scarcity and malnourishment.

In addition to the existing difficult market situation, an estimated 121,799 Internally Displaced People were hosted in the area in November 2019.

* Some information has been redacted for safety reasons

2. High unemployment living in urban [REDACTED]

There is no availability of foreign investment in the region and many people can't access work to feed their families. Syria is a highly educated country and numerous people with degrees find there are no opportunities available.

The top reported barriers to employment in [REDACTED]

- 76% lack of employment opportunities
- 56% lack of finance
- 58% lack of appropriate skills

3. Local businesses are unable to grow due to the economic crisis faced by the [REDACTED] Syria.

The [REDACTED] team conducted a livelihoods assessment in September 2020 to determine the greatest gaps and needs for Internally Displaced People (IDP's) living in the [REDACTED] governorate. The results of this assessment identified a lack of livelihoods opportunities and decreased food security. Additionally, this assessment highlighted the unique context of IDP's living in host community environments. They could not plant or till land and/or raise livestock.

4. Strategies:

This project is designed to support self-resilience by protecting and building productive assets and restoring/creating income-generating opportunities to save and sustain life.

The following strategies will be adopted to achieve these outcomes:

Businesses

Samaritan's Purse will target small scale businesses struggling to grow their business in support of job creation. The project will serve 40 businesses by providing grants of up to \$2,500 to purchase or repair equipment vital for their business.

Apprentices

Samaritan's Purse will accept 75 apprentices who will be provided with a stipend of \$5/day for six months of work (22 days per month). The apprentices will be matched with the businesses according to their skills and experience. During the programme, apprentices will receive on-the-job coaching from the business. Basic soft skills and business management training, including writing a budget and calculating revenue, will be offered to all apprentices.

The apprentices will be selected according to the following criteria:

- Not currently employed;
- Non-consistent employment in the last six months;
- Priority to Internally Displaced People but not exclusively;
- No other income in the family.

At the end of the programme, a start-up kit, i.e. construction toolbox, sewing machine, will be provided to the apprentices graduating from the programme. The start-up kit will encourage the apprentices who want to start their own business after the programme is concluded.

The programme will integrate biblical values through soft-skill training that the apprentices and businesses owners will attend. **Considering the war experiences beneficiaries have gone through, SP will aim to bring relief and spiritual peace by helping in the healing process through Christ-centred values.**

5. Project Update as at June 2021

- Orientation meetings have begun to show people how to fill out the applications.
- We have received 390 applications for an apprenticeship to date.



Potential apprentices being guided through the application process.