

Skills for Peace and Income Project (SKIPI) under the Community Livelihood and Rural Industry Support Programme (CLARIS II)

Context

Classified as both a least developed and low-income, food-deficit country, Sudan has endured armed conflict for the last 20 years. The resulting unstable political situation has been compounded by recurrent drought. Consequently, in several regions of the country, the population is facing chronic and severe food insecurity and malnutrition, as well as unemployment and lack of education/vocational training, especially among poor, youth and vulnerable groups in rural and urban areas. The project was initiated in South Kordofan State but due to security problems and access obstacles to the project areas, the foreseen implementation setup was not feasible and the activities had to be transferred in Khartoum State. The development goal of the reallocated SKIPI/CLARIS 2 project is to contribute to poverty alleviation and sustainable livelihood of young IDPs (men and women) coming from South Kordofan and living in IDPs shanty towns in Khartoum State.

Strategy

Sponsored by the Government of Japan, UNIDO, in partnership with Khartoum State Supreme Council for Vocational Training and the Sudanese Red Crescent Society (SRCS), provides young IDPs (male and female) with marketable skills for increasing their (self-)employment opportunities and income generation activities. According to UNIDO selection criteria, the SRCS conducted an assessment and provided a list of potential project beneficiaries to be involved in these livelihood recovery initiatives. The project outputs focuses on the delivery of technical and entrepreneurship training courses, including the provision of toolkits and social skills. The training curricula are based on the demands of the following basic practical skills, which are required both in Khartoum State as well as in South Kordofan State: car electric, welding, electric for domestic lighting, plumbing, tiling, cooking, painting and decoration, etc. All these courses follow the Competency Based Training (CBT) approach, which focuses on short-term modular training programmes. The entrepreneurship trainings aim at promoting and analysing the feasibility of the beneficiaries' business idea by including marketing, financial planning, and time management skills.

The project outputs foresee also the delivery of employment counselling support, including job placement and business incubator assistance services, for guaranteeing the sustainability and the follow up of the results. During the counselling sessions, technical and entrepreneurship mentoring are provided. The focus of the counselling is on the development of cluster and cooperative groups, by providing additional common tools and materials. SRCS volunteers, VTEC trainers and IDPs community leaders are also involved in the counselling activities, for guaranteeing the monitoring and the support of the beneficiaries.

Impact/Outlook

This project develops the technical and entrepreneurship competences of young IDPs (men and women) from South Kordofan State, giving them the opportunity to be employed in existing enterprises or to start their own businesses. By increasing their employability and entrepreneurial skills, it contributes to poverty alleviation and sustainable livelihood.

At a Glance

DONORS: Government of Japan
BUDGET: USD 800.000
STATUS: SKIPI: concluded 1 January 2011 – 31 August 2012
CLARIS II: on-going 2007-2014 (funded by Italy)



Results:

- ◆ In total 21 training courses were organized involving 353 participants (234 men and 119 women). 20 courses were held in the 4 VTECs of the Khartoum State in Halfaiat, Kerrarri, Haj Yousif and Khartoum South and one in the SRCS Centre in Al Salama
- ◆ Out of the 360 young IDPs (boys and girls) that were selected to participate to the vocational training courses, there were 7 dropouts
- ◆ The graduated trainees received toolkits and business start-up materials
- ◆ For selling their acquired employability skills to potential employers, the trainees are supported in writing their curricula vitae and in the preparation of job interviews.
- ◆ The business start-up assistance included microfinance and Islamic banking (Zekat), Sudan National Labour Laws, market analysis, and business organization support
- ◆ The sector groups (cooperatives and clusters) received common facility tools and materials
- ◆ SRCS volunteers, VTEC trainers as well as IDPs community leaders actively participated together with the UNIDO counsellors in the counselling activities of the beneficiaries
- ◆ IDPs community leaders in Khartoum State formed a Steering Committee for ensuring the monitoring of the beneficiaries, considering that the IDPs are always on the move
- ◆ With the Khartoum State Supreme Council for Vocational Training it has been agreed that some beneficiaries among the most marginalized/vulnerable and motivated will receive a scholarship for attending free of charge long-term trainings in the 4 Khartoum State VTECs
- ◆ Some of the beneficiaries have already established their own business generating sustainable incomes and involving other family members (attached you can find 3 successful stories)