



**TOOLS FOR
SELF RELIANCE**

Practical help for practical people

IMPACT & LEARNING REPORT



Sustainable Livelihoods for Unemployed Youths

In partnership with
Craftshare Vocational Training Centre, Sierra Leone

SUSTAINABLE LIVELIHOODS FOR UNEMPLOYED YOUTHS IN BO, SIERRA LEONE

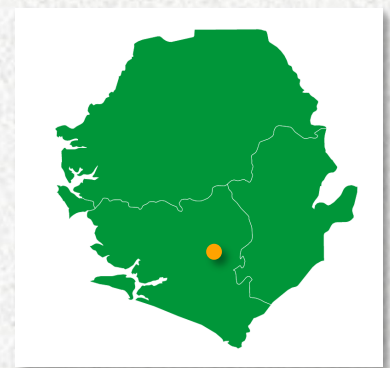
Delivered by our partner, Craftshare Vocational Training Centre (CVTC), our sustainable livelihood project supported 130 young unemployed people to learn vocational training skills, basic numeracy, literacy, business and life skills, to support them establish their own businesses and earn sustainable incomes.



The project was delivered in Bo, Sierra Leone an urban area which has experienced increased migration into its population from more rural areas where opportunities are even fewer.

Around 70% of young people aged 15-35 are unemployed, and lack of skills, including basic literacy and numeracy, makes competing for limited jobs even more difficult.

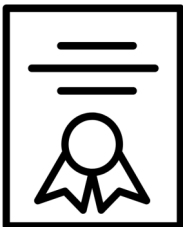
Many trainees, who were early school leavers or hadn't received an education, trained in either carpentry, tailoring, metal works, building and construction, electrical training, catering, hairdressing, or auto mechanics. In addition to their centre based training, the trainees also undertook a three-month work placement.



CVTC's location in Bo, Sierra Leone

Project duration November 2016-November 2017 • Project evaluation November 2018

PARTICIPATION & OUTCOMES



130 participants completed their 12month vocational training.

All 130 trainees sat and passed a trade test accredited by the National Council for Technical, Vocational, and Other Academic Awards.

99% of trainees rated the training overall as good or very good.



91% of trainees used their skills to earn an income whilst training



100% of trainees felt that they had gained the skills needed to earn a sustainable income and to establish their own businesses.



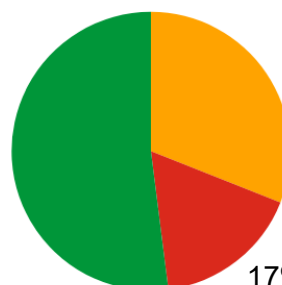
7 out of every 10 graduates are now saving to support their families and businesses



Average monthly incomes from graduates after training has **TREBLED** compared to their income before training

X 3

52% saving through village groups



31% saving cash at home

17% savings in the bank

CHALLENGES

Completion rate

There was a higher than average drop out rate for the project; 130 of 150 participants completed the course.



Tailoring trainees in the classroom at CVTC

Food

Trainees highlighted that the lack of food provision at the centre was a challenge, and suggested that a lunch allowance would have been helpful given they were not able to return to their homes to prepare food during the day. This issue was compounded by reduced ability to afford food for the household while participating in training.

Childcare was also mentioned as a constraint.

Travel

Participants identified the distance they needed to travel to take part in the programme as a challenge, as many came from communities in the outlying areas of the project area, and were walking for up to two hours to get to the training. Feedback varied between trainees from different trades, but at least 60% of trainees overall found that transport was the greatest issue.

STORIES OF CHANGE

“I now know how to write my child’s name.” Musu

“I was really suffering before...but now my life has changed so much. I was feeling proud because people see me and I am somebody, I am a business woman, working for no one but myself.”

Mariama

“Everything has changed, I can now buy school shoes for my children, save money for hospital and family needs.”

Isata



Left to right: Musu, Mariama, Isata, Elizabeth
Visions Sisters Catering Group

“Trust that our life has changed... [we] will be senior contractors.”

Alhaji, Construction graduate, when asked on his plans for the future with fellow graduate and business partner



“Everything is different now – I’m happy because knowledge is power.”

Hawa, Catering graduate



LEARNING

Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)

During the evaluation visit, it was evident that welding graduates were not using the appropriate PPE, despite having received training on its importance. In consultation with CVTC, it was agreed that in future projects, the importance of using protective gear would be reinforced throughout training and that CVTC would facilitate a savings scheme to support trainees to buy the boots and overalls needed at the end of the course. Tools for Self Reliance provides welding masks and goggles in training and start up kits.



Project duration

26% of the trainees felt that they would have benefitted from a longer training programme and suggested this as a key change for the future.

MORE STORIES OF CHANGE



Hawa Jakama, Fatmata Sheriff and Komeh Foday, formed Glory Catering Business after their training and are now saving a significant amount (250,000SLL or £23.07) of their monthly income in order to purchase a restaurant in the near future.

As well as investing in their future, graduates still have sufficient additional income to eat better quality food, and are now all eating at least three times a day, compared to only once per day prior to starting their training.

“So much has changed, I left the village and was struggling but now I am independent.”
Mamai, tailoring graduate

“I would like to see myself in a big company as an engineer.”
Finda Conteh, auto mechanics graduate when asked where she sees herself in five years time.



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