



YEARLY REPORT 2017

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A. Report on Skills training courses and Small Businesses Funding (SBF) in Tursunzoda

Objectives:

- A. To train underprivileged women and men in a new skill to open up more possibilities for them to find work.
- B. To empower underprivileged people to begin their own business by...
 - Training them well in a skill.
 - For those who excel in learning to provide equipment grants (SBF – Small Business Fund) so that they can more easily begin a small business.
 - To provide 6 months follow up on Small Business Funding recipients to help them work through business problems that they encounter and continue to teach them more business principles.
- C. To provide a nurturing environment to learn new skills and do well.

People Focus: Underprivileged women, the poor, divorced, widowed, men or women with only one parent and those with a disability.

Place: Skills Training Center in Tursunzoda.

Tailoring Course: 40 students

1. We taught tailoring to 4 groups of ladies this year. Each course began with 10 ladies in the classroom.
2. During the course, we made a home visit to each student's place to make sure they qualify to be in this program. We also gave 2-3 tests besides the final exam.
3. In every course, 2-4 students received Small Business Funding.
4. The local trainer has worked hard in developing her teaching skills showing much patience and respect to help students learn well.



Computer Course: 39 students

1. In summer one more laptop was added, so we could have 7 students for each class.
2. We reviewed our course material this year and upgraded our curriculum to include more advanced skills in Word, Excel, and Powerpoint.
3. We also challenged students to work hard on typing skills with a clear guideline for certificate.



Knitting Course:

1. The knitting course went well this year. Many ladies enjoyed learning new skills in knitting, and every student was very satisfied with what they had done.

Basic Skills Preparation Course:

We found that in our tailoring course some women who were accepted tried their best but still could not learn well enough due to lack of basic skills, such as simple math and writing. Seeing this need we decided to open a course for those who did not have an opportunity to learn the basic skills when they were younger.

1. This course is to teach them reading, writing and simple math so that they could then learn other skills like sewing even better.
2. Students come twice a week to this 3 month class. These students are often amazed at what they can learn in a short period of time.



Beneficiaries in 2017:

Total students: **122**

Total sewing students: 40

Sewing students who successfully completed the course: 34

Total computer students: 39

Computer students who successfully completed the course: 29

Total knitting students: 38

Knitting students who successfully completed the course: 35

Total basic skill preparation class students: 5

Basic skills preparation students who successfully completed the course: 5

Small Business Funds given: **17**

Certificates given: **64**

Successes:

Many people 18 years and older, who could not afford to pay for a course, have come and studied with us.

One lady, who finished our course successfully, received a SBF recently and then got a job in a local training center as a trainer.

Finances for 2017:

Total amount spent on this project: **TJS: 150,773**

B. Report on the Skills Training Centre and Small Business Funding in Chorboq

Objectives:

- Training local women to be equipped to produce local traditional and also western style dress, so that they can start to work as seamstresses and generate income for their family.
- Creating jobs skill sets for those who seek employment and are in financial need.

Targets:

- Local women in financial need.

Activities:

- We taught local women traditional dress making and western style dress making.
- We trained them to draw patterns for traditional and western style dresses with our own developed design system.
- We have a six month follow-up program for SBF beneficiaries who have received sewing machines and run home-based businesses.



Successes & Challenges:

- We were encouraged that some experienced seamstresses' joined our class to learn new methods of sewing using advanced pattern drawings. They learned this new method not only for traditional Tajik dresses, but also for western dresses, school uniforms, a western style coat and jacket, etc.
- Some students came from a very remote village in the Funie Valley. We realized that it would be very difficult for them to daily commute to the skills training center due to lack of available transportation and winter weather. So we offered an extra training so that they could be tailoring teachers for the young women in their home village. They studied well and we gave them both Small Business Funding.

Beneficiaries in 2017:

Number of beneficiaries: **31**

Number of Small Business Funding support given out: **11**.

Amount spent:

TJS 67,909.40

C. Mother and Child's Health (MCH) activities in Khatlon

Objectives:

Improving the knowledge of local women and village health nurses on maternal and child health, leading to improved health-seeking behaviour and a decrease in maternal and neonatal mortality and morbidity.

Training midwives and other health workers in emergency obstetric care and complication management, to decrease maternal and neonatal mortality and morbidity.

Target people:

health workers (nurses, midwives, doctors), community volunteers, community women and their families

Activities:

1. Teaching pregnant women about healthy pregnancy, birth, and newborn baby, including teaching about danger signs. Series of six lessons, given one morning a week for six weeks in ten villages.
2. Distribution of book 'Саломатии кӯдакон ва бемориҳои онҳо' to training participants and clinic staff (123 handed out).
3. Training of Tajik doctor to teach healthy pregnancy lessons.
4. Training nursing staff of Qurghonteppa and Bokhtar Poliklinika on communication skills (communication between nurse and patients).
5. Monitoring and evaluation

Locations: Bokhtar district, Vakhsh district, Qurghonteppa

Successes:

- The women enjoyed the lessons and mentioned that 'they made new friends'. In this way our programme has strengthened the social community.
- The women gained knowledge about how to stay healthy during pregnancy and delivery and how to look after their new born babies.
- The women learnt about danger signs during pregnancy and often looked for medical help when these danger signs occurred.
- The communication trainings were well-received by the nurses.

Challenges:

- Participation varies a lot depending on the location and the season.
- Though women participated well during the lessons, they could not recall all information during the evaluation meetings. More effort needs to be made for women to remember the information, and to put it into practice.
- In some villages the nurses are actively supporting our lessons and getting women together, but in some villages it is more difficult to get the nurses involved. When

nurses would be more involved, they could reinforce our training messages when they see the women again.

Pictures



Communication training with nurses



Teaching about nutrition



Evaluation meeting. The women brought their healthy babies

Beneficiaries:

Direct beneficiaries: **280**

Indirect beneficiaries: 1700

Amount spent:

TJS 115.857

D. Report on the medical project in the Tursunzoda area

Objectives:

- A. Develop community health by advanced training of the local medical staff.
- B. Teaching groups of women in the surrounding villages on issues of:

- General health.
- Maintaining a healthy lifestyle of her own, in her family and the community.
- Specific health issues related to women, e.g. pregnancy and maternity care.

Target people:

Medical staff (nurses and midwives), regular hospital visitors, women at home as well as people in general, in villages, medical college students.

Locations:

Hospitals, polyclinic, small groups in houses, clinics and health posts in villages

Activities:

- Continued training for nurses and doctors at village clinics. The lessons were divided into two courses. The first course is 13 weeks of lessons about women's health and diseases, pregnancy and children's health and diseases. After finishing the first course a second course of 21 weeks was started about various diseases.
- Lessons at the outpatient clinic of Qaratogh: around 10 nurses, midwives and a doctor participated in the first and second course.
- Lessons at the outpatient clinic of Sarkor: around 8 nurses, midwives and a doctor attended for the lessons.
- We worked together with the family nurses' training course at the polyclinic in Tursunzoda. 20 nurses were attending this training course from various village clinics.
- We have provided blood pressure machines and thermometers for the village clinics and there has been continuing demand for the basic medical instruments for nurses and doctors at village clinics.
- The local nurse who is working with us has been trained and gives lessons not only in Uzbek language, but also in Tajik at the village clinics under a little supervision of us.
- We have started to visit and educate people who have high blood pressure and high blood sugar in three villages, who are at risk of Diabetes and Hypertension. We educate them in diet, exercise, and taking medications. We check blood pressure and blood sugar once a week.



Checking blood sugar



Checking blood pressure

Beneficiaries:

- Nurses and Doctors: **93**
- Teaching and visiting those who have high blood pressure and high blood sugar: **56**.
- Medical students: **97**

Total of direct beneficiaries: 246.

Finances: Total: 33,248.61 TJS

E. Report on the chicken project in Tursunzoda

Objectives:

- Promote local production of eggs, by helping families to set up and run successful, small scale chicken farms for egg production.
- Provide complete training in egg production and then offer follow-up guidance, enabling families to establish and run their own business.
- SAI also promotes egg production by fully supporting egg producers, providing quality equipment, pullets and poultry feed.
- Through this process we empower men and women to learn a skill, which enables them to earn an income in Tajikistan itself. The major result will be that the beneficiaries of this project will no longer need to leave their family members behind in order to work abroad. The individuals trained will have the skill and knowledge to continue to work in this type of work.

Target people:

Low income families

Activities:

- SAI staff helped train chicken farmers in keeping accurate records of chicken's age, weight, feed, amount of light the chicken receives and number of eggs produced.
- SAI assisted chicken farmers regarding feed, egg production, lighting and ventilation issues.
- SAI staff helped set up a simple cost effective cooling system when temperatures rose to over 40C and the chickens needed their house cooled down.
- SAI staff provided advice, assistance, and ongoing monitoring. Recordkeeping was enforced to promote learning how to diagnose problems from existing information.



Direct beneficiaries: 37

Amount spent:

TJS 37,412

F. Report on agricultural project in Khatlon

Objectives and Target Groups:

Working out of the projects office in Qurghonteppa, the Khatlon regional center , SAI continued to support innovative new agricultural techniques and assist low income households in the Khatlon region.

The chosen result for SAI's programs providing overall focus was **“Improved opportunities for men and women led families in rural communities to improve their income using sustainable business methods”**.

Key expected results include an increase in the profit potential of sustainable businesses in rural communities where the project works, an increase in the use of sustainable business practices and technology, and an improvement in rural family agro-business management processes and planning.

SAI took two approaches during the reporting period: partnering with experienced early vegetable producers who regularly make a profit, and partnering with low income households who have little experience in growing early vegetables for profit.

SAI had a total of 20 greenhouse (high tunnel) farmer beneficiaries - of these greenhouse owners, 9 of the families were headed by women. Five of the smallholding farming families had disabled family members in them.

Activities:

SAI provided training or networked **247 beneficiaries** to training opportunities covering 10 comprehensive lesson topics. Some of the training was provided by SAI agricultural specialists directly, some was through partnerships with projects like TAWA (USAID) or Farmer to Farmer (USAID).

SAI distributed 20730 high quality hybrid greenhouse specific tomato seedlings during March and April of 2017. In general, farmers obtained large and early harvests during the second quarter of 2017



SAI staff trained the farmers in recordkeeping and continued ongoing monitoring and advice for the farmers into June and July.

After the end of the Spring harvest, SAI staff assisted and advised farmers on solar soil disinfection, an ecologically sustainable practice. Two farmers used this method.

SAI staff conducted open field days on the use of modern fertilizers using drip systems (fertigation) in the communities of *Bokhtar Jamoati Navbahor dehai Vahdat* and in *Qurghonteppa, mahallai Gayrat*.

SAI staff also supported farmers with soil testing - ph and for water hardness. The lack of a soil laboratory in Qurghonteppa severely hurts farmers ability to scientifically make good fertilizer decisions.

SAI staff also taught farmers plastic mulching for vegetables - one farmer adopted this practice. SAI will continue to work with farmers to see how to help them adopt this in a way that is profitable.

Five professional farmers adopted drip irrigation with SAI assistance. SAI will continue to assist farmers in technical assistance. SAI has more drip irrigation equipment which it will distribute in 2018.



SAI Agricultural experts traveled to Hisor, Shahrinav and Tursunzoda to improve and to see the practice of farmers in Autumn cropping. SAI invested 10000 somoni in greenhouse seeds to develop seedlings for an autumn greenhouse crop, however hot weather caused a seedling crop failure. SAI will continue to network with other farmers to look for improved profitable autumn vegetable harvests stretching into winter under plastic tunnels. Overall investment cost and end of season profit was monitored to test the cost effectiveness of the innovations SAI has introduced. The effect of the labor conditions for women and men was also recorded. Disease and pest issues were monitored and networking farmers and agricultural input providers was a key focus for SAI, building up knowledge and best practice.

Farmer income from all 20 greenhouse beneficiaries totalled 122 279 somoni. Profits for all farmers totalled 80 493 somoni.

Specific Work with experienced farmers - improving and testing innovation



These professional farmers had all received large greenhouses (approximately 8.2m x 30m x 4.5m) between January and February 2017.

Drip irrigation systems for five large greenhouses were installed between April and May of 2017.



Work with low income farmers - creating income and nutrition opportunities

SAI continued its work with ten low income farmers who received small greenhouses in March (approximately 6m x 30m x 2.5m).

These farmers continued to see a harvest through July.

SAI staff provided advice, assistance, and ongoing monitoring. Recordkeeping was enforced to promote learning.

Locations

SAI continued work with nine experienced farmers from six communities

The partner farmers for smaller greenhouses were from eight different communities

Successes

Key successes included solid and sustainable profits seen across both professional experienced smallholding farmers and low income smallholding farmers. SAI has a clear successful economic model for vegetable farming that is sustainable and intensive, using household yards close to home as profit centres.

SAI also demonstrated a good model of a larger better ventilated greenhouse that farmers can duplicate. Other projects have shown regular interest in the value provided by SAI's greenhouses. As a technical success, drip irrigation has proven a good fit for greenhouse farmers.

Challenges

Fall cropping of vegetables proved difficult - developing seedlings during the hot August month proved impossible this year, but SAI will continue to press on as autumn off season vegetable sales are a key opportunity for farmers, especially for those with a higher and better ventilated greenhouse. Getting farmers to adapt integrated pest management and better bookkeeping management is not a one or even two year task. SAI has a long term commitment to its beneficiaries and will continue to provide assistance, technical training and coaching for them.

Beneficiaries

Direct beneficiaries:

The **20 families who received greenhouses from SAI** had a total of 65 members working in those greenhouses. Of these, 30 were men, 21 women, and another 14 youth. Of the 21 women, 9 were head of household. Five families had a member with some level of disability, four of whom were involved in farming activities.

A total of 247 people received training from SAI. 189 were men, 58 were women.



Indirect beneficiaries:

We can estimate that approximately 8 household members were assisted either economically or nutritionally for each greenhouse, leading to **160 more** assisted.

Additionally approximately **50 persons per greenhouse** (neighbours, relatives, broader networks) **were exposed to new ideas and innovations**, totalling **1000** people.

Amount spent:

TJS 320,864.00

G. Totals of direct beneficiaries and number of Small Businesses started

TOTAL of direct beneficiaries of all projects in 2017:	963
TOTAL of Small Business Funded by SAI in 2017:	50

H. Overall final results of all projects in 2017 in numbers

Total expenses per project are mentioned under each individual project part.

General expenses made on behalf of all projects during this year:	TJS: 20.796,87
Implemented total on all projects in 2017	TJS: 725.064,01
Total of what was spent in 2017	TJS: 745.860,88
Against weighted exchange rate	USD: 84.660,71

THIS AMOUNT IS NOT INCLUDING THE EXPENSES AND SALARIES OF EXPATRIATE PERSONNEL, SO ALL OF THIS MONEY HAS GONE DIRECTLY INTO THE PROJECTS.

On behalf of the international implementing team in Tajikistan
Yours sincerely,

Mrs. I. Hofma,
International Director