



# **COMMUNITY TECHNICAL VOCATIONAL TRAINING PROJECT OVERVIEW**

The Community Technical Vocational Training Project, conducted by Street Children Ministry in partnership with Word and Deed Ministries, aimed to equip vulnerable individuals with practical skills in carpentry and tailoring. The project took place from July 2023 to May 2024. It had two trades, namely carpentry and tailoring, and beneficiaries from each trade were subjected to nine months of intensive training.



During this period, the beneficiaries acquired basic skills to enable them to become seasoned carpenters and tailors, respectively, and enhance their employability and self-sufficiency. In addition to the skills gained from trainers, the beneficiaries were also exposed to trauma healing sessions, life skills education, and business (entrepreneurship) management training.

## **SUMMARY OF EVENTS**

<b>PROJECT PHASE</b>	<b>ACTIVITY</b>	<b>IMPLEMENTATION DATES</b>
	Community Mobilisation	11th–17th July 2023
	Trainee selection	17th–8th August 2023
PHASE ONE	Trainer selection	25 <sup>th</sup> July–25 <sup>th</sup> August 2023
	Sourcing for suppliers	25 <sup>th</sup> July–8 <sup>th</sup> August 2023
	Orientation	9 August 2023
	Trauma healing session	11 August 2023
	Procurement of training tools and materials	28 <sup>th</sup> August–8 <sup>th</sup> September 2023
PHASE TWO	Training of beneficiaries	18 <sup>th</sup> September–26 <sup>th</sup> April 2024
	Trainee assessment	29 <sup>th</sup> April–17 <sup>th</sup> May 2024
PHASE THREE	Business management training	22 <sup>nd</sup> –23 <sup>rd</sup> May 2024
	Graduation	25 <sup>th</sup> May 2024



## **ACTIVITY DETAILS**

### **PHASE 1. PROJECT INITIATION (JUNE-AUGUST 2023)**

After approval of the project proposal by Word and Deed Ministries, five SCM staff were assigned the task of overseeing the project.

In order to ensure an ideal project launch, the team performed a number of duties, such as sourcing for suppliers, trainee selection, trainer selection, and community mobilisation.

#### **a. Community Mobilisation**

This was the first step taken by the team. It was aimed at making the community aware of the community technical vocational training project. Information about the training was passed on to the community in the following ways:

- In the church, letters were written to church leaders to inform their congregations about the project.
- Public notices are put up around the community.
- Community leaders
- Grand Aunts from the first batch of trainees
- Direct engagement between team and community leaders

#### **b. Trainee selection**

This was the second activity, with the objective of choosing the final candidates for the training. After receiving information about the training, the interested candidates were required to pick up application forms from the SCM compound, and the activity lasted three days from July 17<sup>th</sup> to July 19<sup>th</sup>, 2023, and they were to return them filled out between July 17<sup>th</sup> and July 25<sup>th</sup>, 2023.

Out of the 200 forms picked, 189 were returned, and 129 were shortlisted for the interview. The shortlisted candidates were informed about the interview through phone calls. Out of the shortlisted candidates, 106 had applied for tailoring and 23 had applied for carpentry. Attendance at the interview was 72 for the tailoring application and 17 for the carpentry application. The interview process took place over two days, on July 28 and 31, 2023.

During the interview, each candidate was asked questions, and their answers were used to evaluate their level of vulnerability, responsibility, commitment, and technical ability, which were scored and used to rank them. The best sixteen and thirteen candidates in tailoring and carpentry trades, respectively, were selected for the training. They were informed about their success through phone calls.

#### **c. Trainer selection**

This was aimed at bringing onboard instructors that would guide the selected trainees through the training. The tailoring instructor from the previous batch was retained. Ads for the new carpentry trainer were put up. Five candidates reached out to the ministry with an interest in the position. The team vetted all five and selected the best candidate based on their experiences, educational background, godly characters, and passion for helping the vulnerable group.



#### d. Orientation

The purpose of this activity was to register both trainers and trainees who had met the requirements for the training. They received congratulations on making it, an explanation of the guidelines, and information and policies about the training programme that needed to be adhere to.

#### e. Sourcing for suppliers

This involved getting the best suppliers of tools and materials for both trades to be used during the course of the training. A number of factors, such as quality, price, and location, determined the best suppliers.



Figure 2: SCM Staff orienting the students.



Figure 1: Orientation Day.





## **PHASE 2: TRAINING (SEPTEMBER 2023 – MAY 2024)**

The community technical vocational training in carpentry and tailoring trades was carried out from September 11, 2023, to April 26, 2024. The training process was aimed at equipping the beneficiaries with practical skills and knowledge in both carpentry and tailoring that they would use to enhance their livelihoods.

### **a. Schedule**

The training was conducted from Monday to Friday, from noon to 5 p.m.



Figure 3: Tailoring trainer leading the class.



Figure 4: Carpentry students.

### **b. Method of delivery**



Figure 5: Carpentry students at work.

Knowledge was passed on to the trainees mainly through practicals, but theory was also applied. The trainees were assessed through theory tests, presentations, practical assessments, and group projects.

### **c. Subject matter**

In tailoring, the trainees were subjected to a number of modules, including tailoring tools and materials, machine operation, machine repair and maintenance, pattern making, sewing techniques, garment cutting



Figure 6: Tailors at work.



and sewing, and the operation of electrical machines, to mention but a few.

The carpentry beneficiaries, on the other hand, learned about the different carpentry tools and materials and their maintenance, carpentry safety, furniture making, and applying finishing, among others.

#### d. Trauma healing and life skills sessions



Figure 7: Student during trauma & life skill sessions.

Due to the previous wars and various hardships undergone, especially by the underprivileged and marginalised groups, trauma is a prevailing aspect of the lives of many South Sudanese. This prompted the inclusion of trauma healing sessions in the training process.

These were carried out every two weeks and aimed to guide the trainees through the trauma they are faced with and equip them with skills to help them cope with trauma in the future and also help others. The life skills sessions, on the other hand, were aimed at teaching the beneficiaries skills that will enable them to live in harmony

with others, which would help boost their relationships and also run their businesses.

#### e. Monitoring and evaluation

In order to track the progress of the project, the team had to carry out monitoring and evaluation. The team relies on the curriculum and lesson plans provided by the SCM to monitor the progress of the trainees. Trainees ability to execute tasks presented to them by the trainers was one of the key performance indicators considered during monitoring and evaluation. For example, carpentry trainees were able to independently make furniture.

The trainers were required to give weekly lesson plans and reports, which were also vital for monitoring and evaluation. In addition, the trainers met with the team on a monthly basis to provide their own account of the training progress. The trainees also had meetings with the trainers and the team where they talked about their progress.



Figure 9: Carpentry beneficiaries' product.



Figure 8: Uniforms made tailoring group.





## **PHASE 3: PROJECT CLOSURE (APRIL-MAY 2024)**

This was the last phase of the training, where all the activities were aimed at the smooth closure of the project.

### **I. Trainee assessment**

Trainers completing the intended modules marked the end of the training process. However, there was a need to assess if the beneficiaries had learned and understood what had been taught. The trainees were given practical tasks to accomplish independently within a period of three weeks. These included making clothes such as uniforms, dresses, skirts, and shirts for the tailoring beneficiaries and furniture for the carpentry beneficiaries.



Figure 11: Tailoring products.



Figure 10: Carpentry furniture.

### **II. Business management training**

After their internship, the trainees were also taken through business management training to help them run their enterprises. This activity lasted two days, and the content covered included communication skills, bookkeeping, understanding profits and losses, and factors to consider before setting up a business, among others.



Figure 13: Entrepreneurship class 1.



Figure 12: After the workshop.



### III. Graduation

After the internship, the trainees were ready to become tailors and carpenters, hence marking the end of their training. The trainees that had successfully made it to this stage were graduated and handed certificates of completion approved by the Ministry of Education and Sports. They were also presented with startup kits.



Figure 15: Picture after graduation.

Of the 29 beneficiaries that started the training, only 18 made it to this stage, of whom 11 were for tailoring and 7 were for carpentry. Eleven (11) beneficiaries dropped out of the training, of which three (3) were from the tailoring section and eight (8) were from the carpentry section. Those that dropped out had reasons such as family emergencies, other responsibilities, challenges with trainers, especially carpentry, a lack of interest, and getting jobs.



Figure 14: Beneficiaries received the startup kits.

### INVOLVEMENT OF THE LOCAL CHURCH

1. During community mobilisation, letters were written to the various churches to inform their congregations about the training.
2. The church also provided recommendation letters to beneficiaries from their congregations.

### INTEGRATION OF FAITH

Each and every training session was started with a prayer and closed with a prayer emphasising spiritual guidance. There was also sharing of gospel with the beneficiaries during meetings and trauma healing sessions.

### BENEFITS TO THE COMMUNITY

1. Community development and gospel being shared with the community.
2. Most of the beneficiaries were from the community.
3. The piece of land where the training was carried out was rented from one of the community's members.





4. Items made during training were sold to community members at cheap rates compared to market rates.
5. The beneficiaries acquired skills to sustain themselves and their families.

### **CHALLENGES FACED**

1. High dropout rates by the beneficiaries
2. Absenteeism of beneficiaries
3. Failure to get the very best trainers is due to salary demands.
4. More people were willing to enrol in the training, but slots were limited.
5. Human resource limitations

### **STEPS TOWARDS SELF-SUFFICIENCY**

1. Increasing the number of sales of made items in both trades.



Figure 16: Marketing strategy.

### **PRAYER REQUESTS**

1. God would use this project to have an impact and be a blessing in the community.
2. That God would open doors for the project to include more trades such as welding, bakery, electrical, masonry, and mechanical engineering on the project.
3. Acquiring permanent premises for the community technical vocational training project
4. God's guidance for the project staff during the implementation of activities.

### **PRAISES**

1. Successful registration of the vocational skills training centre with the Ministry of Higher Education, Central Equatorial State
2. Acquisition of skills by beneficiaries from both trades
3. Graduation of those that completed the course (1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> batches).
4. God's guidance and protection for the project staff during the course of the training.
5. Funds for running the project were always available.





## RECOMMENDATIONS

1. Enhanced funding for trainer and startup salaries and incentives.
2. Diversification into new vocational fields.
3. Expansion of beneficiary slots and outreach to street children.
4. Strengthened trauma healing and life skills components.
5. Integration of peacebuilding and reconciliation initiatives

## TESTIMONIES

“I am using the skills I attained from the training to repair damaged clothes and do other basic tailoring. This has contributed to an increase in my household income.” Hellen Laat



Figure 17: Hellen Laat using her machine.



Figure 18: Amna Hafiz, a 22-year-old beneficiary  
“The skills I have gained from this training will enable me to sustain myself and my daughter.”