FACTSHEET

SKILLS FOR RURAL EMPLOYMENT

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S4RE Skills for Rural Employment KOSOVO

WHY S4RE

Increased employment and income opportunities lead to poverty reduction in rural areas of Kosovo. For this to be achieved, both the supply side (skills development) and the demand side (private sector development) of the market system need to be addressed.

The formal Vocational Education and Training system is supported by donors and continues to improve, but the system is not meeting all the needs of the unemployed, particularly in rural areas. S4RE is addressing this gap by providing an informal training and skills development program, using three main intervention strategies – Learning Groups, Private Sector training and Supply Chain linkages.

When linked with existing projects and local initiatives, this multi-target approach is considered the best option for reducing poverty in rural areas.

S4RE SUMMARY

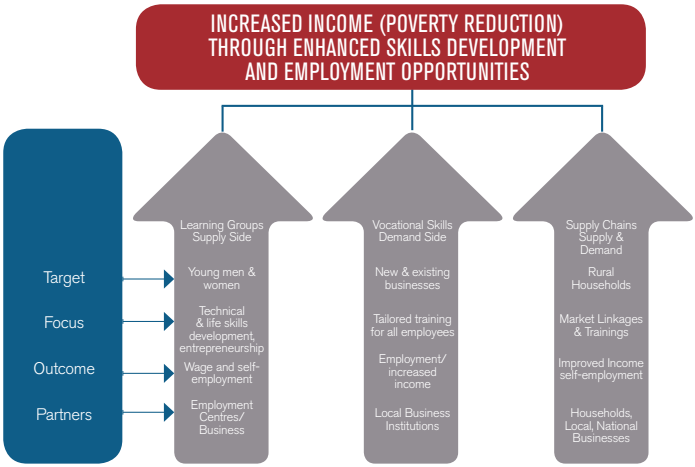
Project duration:	2013 – 2015
Project area:	Municipalities of Dragas and Strpce (Sharr Mountains area) Kamenice and Novobrdo (Northeast area) Kosovo
Budget:	CHF 1.4 million
Donors:	Medicor Foundation Julius Baer Foundation Helvetas Swiss Intercooperation
Beneficiaries:	Youth, unemployed Farmers Existing businesses Resource Persons
Implementing Agency:	Helvetas Swiss Intercooperation Kosovo
Contacts:	Office in Pristina Str. Nazim Gafurri str.nr.33 PO Box 2, 10000 Pristina, Republic of Kosovo Tel.: +381 (0) 38 517 715
Web-page:	www.helvetas-ks.org/s4re

OBJECTIVES OF THE PROJECT

Youth in Kosovo are considered as country's greatest treasure. They comprise about 49% of the population in Kosovo. However, limited education and employment opportunities hinder in making good use of it. Unemployment rate among the youth is 73%, being the highest compared to countries in the region and five times higher than the average in EU[1]. High unemployment rate amongst the young people is due to a mismatch of the market needs and skills of the labor force. Current Vocational Education System is not aligned with emerging market needs. Therefore, the project intervenes in training and skills development for youth through Learning Group methodology leading to employment and income generation improvement. Further, through tailored training packages for medium to large businesses projects aims to increase the productivity of their existing workforce and creating new jobs. In addition, the project works with farmers in supply chain to improve their business outcomes.

INTERVENTION APPROACH

The project strategy addresses both the supply and demand side of the employment market. The approach encompasses three key intervention areas: Learning Groups targeting young unemployed men and women, Private Sector Training and Skills Development targeting new and existing employees and Strengthening Supply Chain Networks in six value chains[2]. The intervention package is tailored to meet the needs of two rural regions of Kosovo, and includes a common set of life skills provided to all participants. The project strives to include women and minorities in rural areas. The use of local service providers is a key element of the project that will ensure sustainability of activities beyond the project duration and reach. Collaboration with existing businesses, projects, and initiatives is central to the project strategy.



1 *http://www.swiss-cooperation.admin.ch/kosovo/en/Home/Domains_of_Cooperation/Economy_and_Employment/Enhancing_Youth_Employability*

2 *Livestock, Dairy, Fruits and Berries, Non Timber Forest Product, Textile and Handicrafts, Information Technology and Financial*

PROJECT PARTNERS

S4RE works closely with a number of partners. The local government contributes to the project implementation enabling access to training facilities and providing office spaces and use of natural resources. Municipal Officials are also active in awareness building meetings and events. Local and national businesses are partners of high importance to identify the type of skills in demand, to coordinate with them on-the-job training and identify business opportunities for self-employment. Through Public Employment Centers the project identifies the qualified local resource persons who are willing to transfer their skills, and registers the skilled trainees as qualified labor force seeking a job. In addition, the linkage between the youth and above mentioned partners is being facilitated by vital project partners such as learning facilitators in four municipalities. These facilitators are the main source in mobilizing the youth to use the available market opportunities, often not reachable by the youth due to lack of information. In this way the project has received recognition and acceptance.

> “Us, M-Net group initially very enthusiastic about the training on IT never thought that we would reach this far. However, with the technical support of the trainer and the support provided by S4RE - Helvetas we have achieved to have today our business and the opportunity to do the job we love.”

Alban Mustafa, IT-Cisco Trainee
M-Net co-owner

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