



Beekeeping in West Bank, Palestine



SAVING
LIVES
CHANGING
LIVES

Strengthening human capital for resilience and food security

Skills for Livelihood Opportunities (SLO) Programme

WHAT IS SLO?

Recognizing the need to better emphasize long-term outcomes, in 2024, WFP's flagship skills development programme, Food Assistance for Training (FFT), underwent a strategic review. This resulted in a new name, Skills for Livelihood Opportunities (SLO), which better reflects the initiative's goal of **enhancing human capital for self-reliance and eventually contributing to resilience strengthening and food security**. WFP's SLO programme aims to achieve such objectives by improving individuals' **access to labor market-driven livelihood opportunities while providing, in most contexts, food assistance**.

Working with Governments and Partners, SLO enhances people's **skills and enables them to**

secure better jobs or set up their own business.

Depending on the context, the programme revolves around four key components:

- **Labor market-driven technical and vocational trainings (TVTs)**
- **Conditional food assistance**
- Access to **labor market networks and opportunities**
- **Access to physical or financial resources and products.**

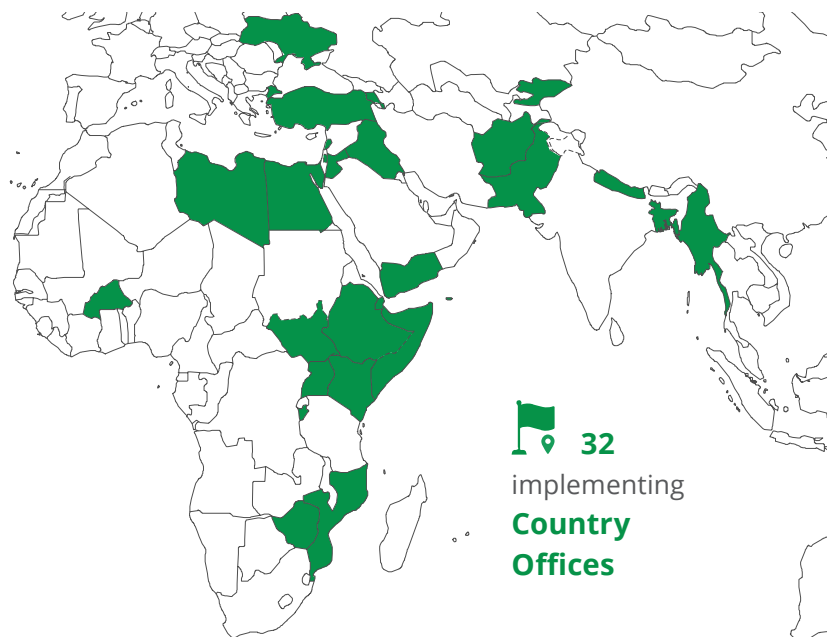
Additionally, SLO aims at **enhancing the capacities of national authorities and market actors** to deliver technical skills initiatives and facilitate access to livelihood opportunities.

THE CONTEXT

WFP has increasingly been adapting its programming to major trends such as rapid **urbanization, protracted and growing displacement, lack of gender equity, and a notable increase in the youth population** in developing countries. Food insecure and vulnerable people in these contexts, especially women, often do not have access to productive assets, such as arable land and natural resources, and need to focus their food security strategies away from agriculture, on small scale businesses or wage labor.

The SLO programme is designed to address these challenges, by providing vulnerable individuals with **marketable skills and support to access local job opportunities, either through wage labor or self-employment (self- or wage-)**. By leveraging people's skills and abilities, the programme aims to diversify and multiply livelihood opportunities, strengthening resilience, food security, and in turn **independence from WFP assistance**.

SLO ACTIVITIES GEOGRAPHICAL COVERAGE



SLO ACHIEVEMENTS IN 2024



795.150 people reached



54% of the beneficiaries are **women**



32% of the beneficiaries are **displaced people**



52%¹ of the participants **engaged in income generation**



1900 Metric tons of food distributed



22 million USD transferred to beneficiaries

¹ based on 8 COs' reports

PAKISTAN

How Skills Community Centers are empowering Pakistani women at scale

In rural Pakistan, income-generating opportunities are limited. Men engage in seasonal labor or small-scale farming while prevailing sociocultural norms often restrict women to domestic roles. **With over 60% of Pakistan's population under 30, many young people, and women in particular, face unemployment due to limited skills and opportunities.** This limits their capacity to support their families' income.

To address these hurdles and ensure food-insecure women and youth have access to fair earning opportunities, **WFP helps rural Pakistani communities diversifying their livelihoods.** With a deep community involvement, while WFP supports men in building community assets for better resources management and climate resilience, **women and youth get market-driven training to boost their income potential.**

In 2024, **around 5,100 people – 75% of whom women – gained income-generating skills** through trainings in handicrafts making, mechanical trades, food processing, digital literacy, e-commerce, and business development. Additionally, 20% of the trainees received post-training support, with the 'business startup pack'. **75% of participants now earn income using their new skills. WFP boosts employability and local growth,** enabling participants to earn between PKR 5,000 to 15,000 (between \$18 USD to \$54 USD) monthly ².

Current WFP successes build on the **"Women Empowerment through Livelihood and Enterprise Development"** (WE-LED) approach in Balochistan province, a multi-donor funded initiative. In 2022, **WFP trained 320 women and established eight community-based**

Production & Training Centers (PTCs) as learning and marketing hubs. Over time, these centers demonstrated remarkable sustainability, independently **upskilling over 4,000 women.**



Preserving Balochistan's cultural heritage: a participant showing her traditional hand embroidery product (WE-LED Programme)

Recognized by the Pakistani authorities, the PTCs received significant government support and are now registered as independent local NGOs. This recognition allowed them to attract resources from government programs and other organizations, strengthening their role in driving local change. **They deliver vital support – skills, infrastructure, food and cash – directly to those who need it most.** Building on the successful WE-LED programme, WFP is **scaling up the initiative by establishing additional 16 PTCs which will train 2500 women with marketable skills.** By such interventions these women will also spark a ripple effect, mentoring another 6000 people, and creating a lasting wave of economic empowerment.



[Check out
WE-LED
stories of
empowerment](#)



EGYPT

From Assistance to Independence: Supporting Refugees' and Host Community's Self-Reliance

Egypt shelters more than 900,000 registered refugees and crisis-affected individuals, making it the third largest host in the Middle

² As per the latest Minimum Expenditure Basket Survey in Pakistan, in rural settings, the average amount needed to lift the economic capacity of the targeted population at the level of the cost of essential needs is PKR 14,000.

East and North Africa region. Sudanese refugees represent 70% of the displaced population, while the second largest groups are Syrians (15%). **The continuous influx of refugees coincides with a long-standing economic crisis, characterized by rising inflation, currency devaluation and food prices increase.** These complex, multi-layered challenges exacerbate food insecurity and could lead to social tensions due to limited resources and opportunities.



Refugee and host community women wrapping bakery-training products for selling

In this context, WFP renewed its efforts in its skill development programme, enabling refugees, crisis-affected populations and Egyptians alike to improve their livelihoods and social cohesion. The programme aims **to transition people from reliance on food assistance to long-term food security and economic independence, through vocational training and income-generating activities.** In this way, refugees gain portable skills and new knowledge that could also be applied in case of return to their home countries. At the same time, **the inclusion of the host community into the programme aims at fostering community harmony.**

Between 2024 and 2025, WFP empowered **over 23,000 people, providing them with vocational training on highly marketable skills and financial capital to local enterprises.** This support, coupled

with food assistance, **benefited over 115,000 people by bolstering their food security.**

Through this programme, WFP fostered wide partnerships with academia, private sector, and NGOs, enhancing its reach and sustainability. The training curricula covers over 20 topics: from baking to carpentry, from entrepreneurship and e-commerce to leather goods and hairdressing. WFP also offers training in skills suited for home-based work, such as embroidery, helping women to reconcile their house chores with economic empowerment activities.

The programme impact is substantial, especially on women, who **represent 70% of the participants:** 88% of the participants improved their skills set, while 81% shared that the training would help them finding a job. But most importantly, **43% of the trainees successfully increased their income within only six months from WFP support.** Finally, the programme also fostered social integration through stronger social bonds, improved capacity to listen to each other, and a supportive community that extended beyond training sessions.



Refugee women gaining new marketable skills through a food processing training

Photo cover page: WFP/Nizar Khadder

Photo page 3: WFP/Pakistan CO

Photos page 4: WFP/Kanzy Amr; Sayed Mohamed

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