

**SAINT FRANCIS HOME FOR SKILLS TRAINING (SAFRAHOST)
2024 REPORT**



Contact Person: Sr. Hedwig Vinyo
Njavnyuy, Kumbo
Tel: 677 617 113
Email: hvinyo@gmail.com

1. BACKGROUND OF SAFRAHOST

Saint Francis Home for Skill Training (SAFRAHOST) is a vocational training center registered with the Cameroon Ministry of Employment and Vocational Training (MINEFOP). SAFRAHOST was created in 2011 by the Tertiary Sister of Saint Francis (TSSF) to respond to the challenges faced by orphans and vulnerable children in relation to HIV/AIDS pandemic. These children were supported by identifying and enrolling them in the center for rehabilitation and skills training. By so doing, these children gained social and economic independence as they resettled back in their various communities. Along the line and with the emergence of the armed conflict in the North West and South West Regions of Cameroon, SAFRAHOST has deepened her activities by bringing on board not just children orphaned by HIV/AIDS but also orphaned or victimized by the ongoing socio-political crisis. This crisis which started in 2016 has caused untold consequences in the lives of young boys and girls; many have lost their homes to arson attacks and parents to stray and targeted bullets.

SAFRAHOST is also a home to children living with disabilities (CWDs). As an inclusive training center, SAFRAHOST enrolls and empowers children living with disabilities with skills that enables them generate income for themselves and also for their families. This intervention has given hope to so many children living with disabilities within and out of our region.

2. THE WORKSHOPS

Within the year 2024, we successfully had trainings in 04 departments/programs of the center reaching out to 103 youngsters for the year. Out of these total, 28 children graduated in.

The table below indicates the number of youths successfully trained throughout the year

Table 1: Number of Trainees per department

WORKSHOPS	NUMBER OF TRAINEES
CARPENTRY	25
SEWING	33
WELDING	25
MARKING AND KNITTING	20
TOTAL	103

With close follow up given to the children, they greatly engaged in their training program with dedication and zeal in becoming experts in the various fields of studies.

- The trainees in the carpentry workshop were trained on general furniture work where they produced chairs, beds and other items. The community makes use of this department as they have functioning planing machines using a generator. Within this reporting period; we had 25 trainees in this department.



Figure 1: Trainees in the Carpentry work

- For the Welding department, we had 25 trainees. The workshop trained them on metal works which is actually a very lucrative business in Bui Division. Many people from the community bring in their metal work in the center as there is a continuous power supply for this department with the use of solar energy and generator.

Many Welding workshops in Bui division have closed down within the crisis as there is no steady electricity supply in the division for a very long time. The trainees in this department also learn how to produce grinding mills which is a well celebrated skill in the region and not easy to find.



Figure 2: Trainees in the Welding Workshop

- In 2024, we had 33 trainees in the sewing department. The youngsters learned skills in designing dresses of both genders and for children and adults. Like the other departments, this department equally attended to the public. The trainees in most cases are given materials to come up with their own designs. They do this and sale during visiting periods and also when they are on holidays.



Figure 3: Trainees in the Sewing department

- In the Marking and Knitting department, we had a total of 20 trainees. They are trained on designing of traditional dresses and equally marking of normal dresses. The training procedure includes; hand marking and marking with the machine. The youngsters have commands from the community members which gives them opportunity to learn. The trainees equally



Figure 4: Trainees in the Marking and knitting workshop

are provided with training materials practical that they use and sale during visiting days and equally during holidays. Through this practice, they are already preparing to later on get their own work items when they graduate.

3. GRADUATION OF TRAINEES

In 2024, SAFRAHOST graduated 28 trainees who had demonstrated a mastery of the various Skills. The youngsters were encouraged to be good Ambassadors of the Center and to always call back for technical support if they have challenges in their work. Together with their relatives/caregivers, we are hoping on joining efforts to mobilize resources to support them establish their workshops.



Figure 5: Graduating Students during graduation mass

4. ACADEMIC PROGRAMS

The trainees equally had basic lessons in Mathematics; English and French languages to enable them communicate well, prepare estimates and do the necessary calculations. We are equally preparing some of the children to participate in the First Scholl Leaving Certificate examination for next year.

5. COMPUTER LESSONS

Knowing the importance of computer knowledge in our today's business world, we gave the youngsters the opportunity to have knowledge on this. Our main concern throughout the period was on Microsoft word applications, graphic designing and usage of internet to promote their businesses/ trade.

6. FARMING LESSONS

The center has a small garden, piggery and poultry. The trainees are all encouraged to be part of this extracurricular activity with the hope of training them in this sector as it could easily be



another source of income for them alongside their workshops when they set up. The garden, piggery and poultry greatly support the feeding of the school.

7. COUNSELING ACTIVITIES

Especially with the advent of the crisis this has been a routine activity. We have intensified on the psychosocial support of the trainees. The youngsters benefited from individuals and group counseling.

8. CHALLENGES/DIFFICULTIES

The difficulties we had included;

- We have water crisis in the school especially during the dry season. The borehole has not really been functioning well and for this reason, we will be looking for the possibilities of getting another water source.
- We have the challenge of paying the trainers as so many trainees are not able to contribute a token for their training.
- The prices of items keep increasing on daily bases which are consequence of the ongoing crisis.

9. CONCLUSION

2024 training year was a success. We had no major issues as such that halted the training program. The trainees are very dedicated and even though with the little pay, the trainers are equally dedicated and duty conscious which we greatly attribute the success to their efforts. In a special way we appreciate the financial, moral, spiritual and technical support of our donors who believe in our vision and stood by us. It has been a difficult venture with the crisis, but thanks to your generous support, we are able to pull through.

May Almighty God continue to bless and strengthen our benefactors for the work they are doing for humankind

Sr. Hedwig Vinyo

SAFRAHOST, Njavnyuy Kumbo.



