
SAINT FRANCIS HOME FOR SKILLS TRAINING (SAFRAHOST) 2025 REPORT



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1. BACKGROUND OF SAFRAHOST

Saint Francis Home for Skills 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 Sisters 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 its 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 for children living with disabilities (CWDs). As an inclusive training center, SAFRAHOST enrolls and empowers children living with disabilities with skills that enable them to 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

During the year 2025, we successfully conducted training in five (05) departments, marking an improvement compared to 2024, when only four (04) workshops were operational. Notably, the Motorcycle Repair Department was revitalized and enrolled five (05) trainees. This achievement is particularly significant, as the department had previously been non-functional due to difficulties in securing a qualified trainer and attracting trainees, challenges largely linked to the ongoing armed conflict in the region.

Overall, the center trained a total of eighty-five (85) youths, representing a moderate increase from seventy-five (75) trainees in the previous year.

We remain very intentional about making our center a home of inclusion, where children are made to understand that disability should never be a reason to look down on anyone. Within the year, we had two trainees with special needs: one with hearing impairment and another with a learning disability resulting from poor mental development. Both trainees are gradually fitting

well into the program, and we are encouraged by the strong support they receive from fellow trainees.

We remain deeply committed to fostering an inclusive learning environment where every trainee is valued and respected, regardless of their abilities. At St. Francis Home for Skill Training, we strive to instill in our trainees the understanding that disability should never be a basis for discrimination or exclusion.

The table below presents the number of youths successfully trained during the year

Number of trainees per department:

WORKSHOPS	NUMBER OF TRAINEES
Carpentry	23
Sewing	38
Welding	14
Marking and Knitting	5
Bike Repairs	5
TOTAL	85

Throughout the year, the trainers worked closely with the students across their respective departments. The trainers' selfless commitment and dedication greatly contributed to motivating and encouraging the learners throughout the training period. As a result, the trainees remained committed to their programs, diligently following their training schedules and striving to become skilled professionals in their respective fields.

Below is a summary of the status of the various workshops.

I. CARPENTRY WORKSHOP



The carpentry workshop, like the other departments, was fully operational throughout the year under the supervision of two (02) trainers. Trainees acquired practical skills in general woodworking, a highly needed and in-demand skill within the community. Members of the community regularly brought in carpentry jobs to be completed at the workshop, providing trainees with valuable hands-on learning opportunities.

In addition to furniture making, the workshop also undertook community roofing works, giving trainees broader and more comprehensive exposure. This approach equips the learners with versatile skills, as many carpenters focus solely on furniture production and lack roofing experience.

A total of twenty-three (23) trainees were registered in the carpentry department in 2025.

II. WELDING WORKSHOP.

SAFRAHOST has gradually become known as a reliable center for timely metal works, largely due to the availability of power supply an advantage that remains a major challenge in Bui Division as a result of the ongoing crisis. Trainees in this department acquire skills in various forms of metal fabrication.



In addition, the department trains youths in the production of grinding mills, a service that has attracted significant community interest. This activity has contributed to income generation, helping to support the purchase of training materials for the trainees. Currently, the department has a total of fourteen (14) trainees

III. SEWING DEPARTMENT

The sewing department remains one of the most active workshops in the center.



In 2025, the department registered 38 trainees. The workshop provides training in cloth design, pattern drawing, cutting, and sewing for both genders and all age groups. Community members make extensive use of this department, further enhancing the trainees' practical experience. The sewing department is also responsible for producing school uniforms, an activity that keeps the trainees actively engaged throughout the year.

IV. MARKING AND KNITTING

Recognizing the importance of acquiring combined skills, all trainees in this department are trained in both marketing and knitting. In 2025, a total of five (05) trainees benefited from this training.



The department focuses on the designing and production of dresses, sweaters, baby sets, and other garments. The making of traditional attire, which is in high demand within the community, remains a major activity of this workshop

V. MOTOR BIKE REPAIR WORKSHOP

The motorbike repair workshop was revamped in 2025 and registered five (05) trainees. Given the high number of motorbikes in the division and surrounding areas, this trade has proven to be highly lucrative.



Many commercial bike riders make regular use of the workshop's services.

With increasing community patronage, the center is optimistic that more trainees will enroll in the program. There is strong hope that this workshop will become self-sustaining within the next few years.

3. GRADUATION OF TRAINEES

In 2025, SAFRAHOST successfully graduated seventeen (17) trainees who demonstrated mastery of their respective skills. The graduates were encouraged to serve as good ambassadors of the center and to return for technical support whenever needed.



In collaboration with their relatives and caregivers, efforts are ongoing to mobilize resources to support these graduates in establishing their own workshops.

4. LITERACY AND OTHER PROGRAMS

Beyond technical skills training, trainees also benefit from basic education programs, including English and French language studies, Mathematics, and Computer Studies. These programs are designed to better prepare them for the future. Many trainees arrive at the center unable to communicate in English, but after a short period, they show significant improvement.

Notably, three (03) trainees recently registered for the First School Leaving Certificate (FSLC) examination organized by the government, and all passed successfully.

The center's garden, piggery, and poultry units are also used as training platforms in agriculture. Trainees learn about animal feed composition, organic manure production, and sustainable agricultural practices. Participation in these activities is encouraged as an additional source of income when trainees establish their own workshops. These agricultural units also contribute significantly to feeding the school community.

Counseling remains a vital and routine activity at the center. Both group and individual counseling sessions are conducted, particularly for trainees who have been severely affected by the ongoing Anglophone crisis.

5. CHALLENGES / DIFFICULTIES

- **Rising cost of goods:** One major consequence of the ongoing crisis has been the sharp increase in prices of goods in Kumbo. This is largely due to the high informal payments made by traders along the roads to both separatist fighters and military personnel, costs that are ultimately transferred to consumers.
- **Limited financial contributions from beneficiaries:** Approximately 75% of trainees in 2025 depended entirely on the Sisters for their upkeep. This places significant strain on the center's resources. We remain deeply grateful to our donors and well-wishers whose support has made it possible to respond to most of these cases.

6. CONCLUSION

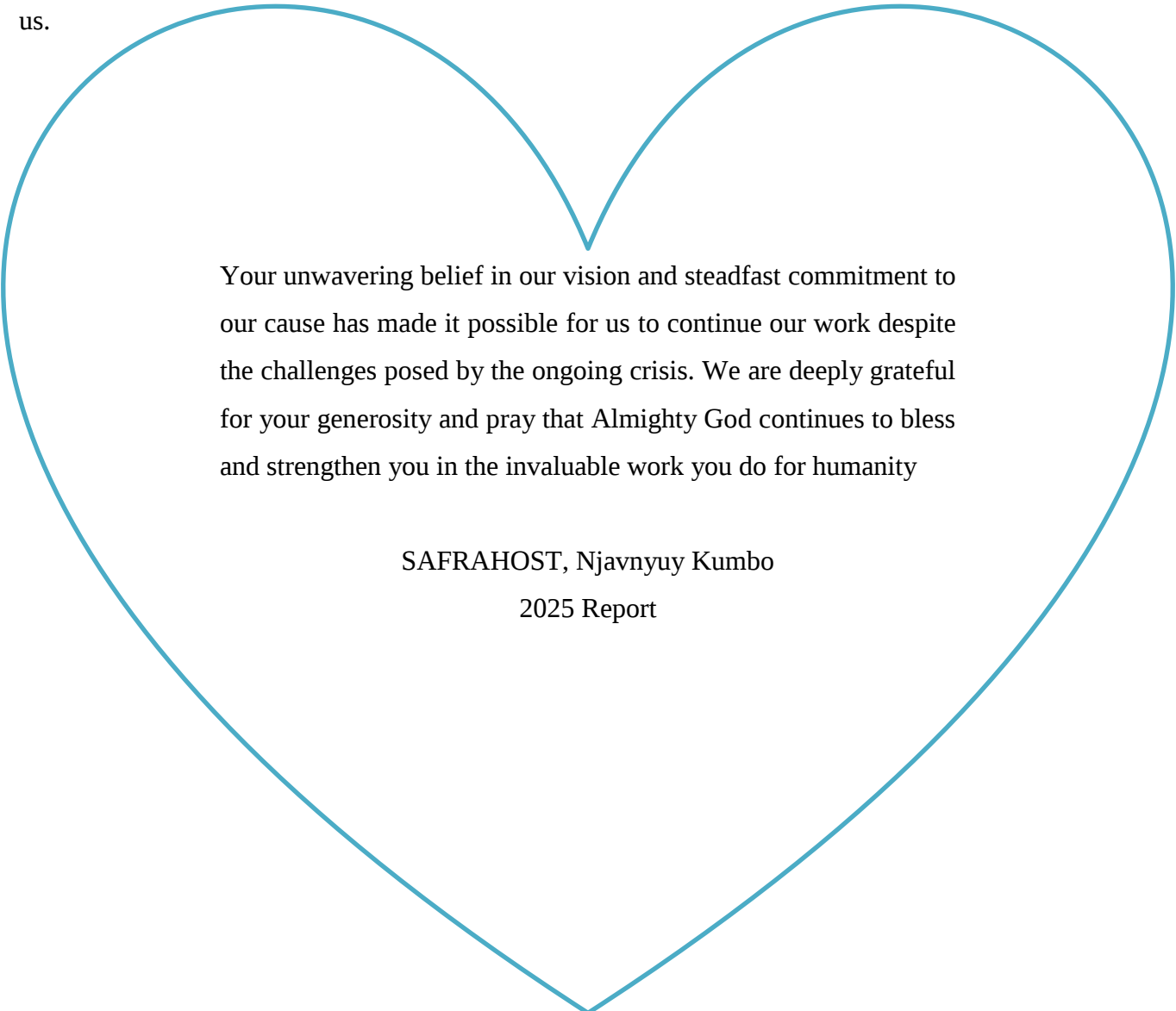
The training year 2025 can largely be considered to have been a success. Though with the so many unpredictability surrounding the Anglophone crisis, SAFARHOST was able to continue providing training to the children in her charge.

The state has greatly intensified in the presence of the military and the separatist fighters are equally not ready to give in which makes it still a battle ground. We thank God we have been safe so far and pray for God's guidance to protect the trainers and the trainees.

Mondays continue to be observed as ghost towns and still the separatist fighters declare ghost towns whenever there is a national day celebration or whenever any of their leaders is killed.

In the 2024 report, we talked of the water challenges. In 2025, we were able to secure a water source for the center which has added the water flow of the institution. This was supported by CAMFRUD and other will wishers.

Despite these challenges, we remain steadfast in our mission, thanks to the generous support of our donors. We extend our heartfelt gratitude to our donors for making this mission possible for us.



Your unwavering belief in our vision and steadfast commitment to our cause has made it possible for us to continue our work despite the challenges posed by the ongoing crisis. We are deeply grateful for your generosity and pray that Almighty God continues to bless and strengthen you in the invaluable work you do for humanity

SAFRAHOST, Njavnyuy Kumbo
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