

**SAINT FRANCIS HOME FOR SKILLS TRAINING (SAFRAHOST)
2023 REPORT**



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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 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 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 for 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

Throughout 2023, we successfully had trainings in the 6 departments/programs of the center. A total of 179 children successfully went through the year. We had a 2.3% increase of the population compared to 2022. The table below indicates the number of youths trained throughout the year

S/N	Department	Number of Trainees
1	Capentry	37
2	Welding	24
3	Motor cycle repairs and mechanics	22
4	Sewing	42
5	Knitting	32
6	Embriodery workshops	22
	Total	179

The trainees continued with utmost dedication in their various departments. The feedback gotten from the communities who brought their work to the center to be done was encouraging. The carpentry and welding workshop had the opportunity to practice out of the center as contracts of roofing of houses and metal works was gotten in the communities.



Some of the trainees in the Carpentry workshop

As always, we had lots of emphases on practical work as the trainees were given the opportunity to produce as many items as they could in their various departments. Many of the students were able to sell some of the items produced during practicals which has being a source of motivation to them.



Grinding mill made in the wilding workshop

Throughout the year, the staff body remained dedicated in training the children which greatly contributes to the visible progress the children are making in their training.



Some of the trainees in the sewing working



3.1

ACADEMIC PROGRAMS

The trainees did not only gain knowledge in the various departments, but also had lessons in basic mathematics, English, French, Civics and General Knowledge. All of these in a bid to prepare them for the future to better interact in the communities and to be able to do estimates as all of it requires calculations. We also had entrepreneurship trainings with the trainees in order to enable them set up their own businesses when they finish their training. Some of the children go in for First School Leaving Certificate.

3.2 COMPUTER LESSONS

Knowing the importance of computer knowledge in our today's business world, we give 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.

3.3 FARMING LESSONS

The center has a garden, piggery and a poultry. The trainees are all encouraged to be part of this extra curricular 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 supports the feeding of the school. Still as an extra curricular activity, the children are shared in groups to cook their food under the supervision of the 02 chefs. This is encouraged for all the trainees as they learn how to cook.

3.4 COUNSELING ACTIVITIES

Especially with the advent of the crisis, we have intensified on the psychosocial support of the trainees. The youngsters benefited from individuals and group counseling.

4. GRADUTION AND FOLLOW UP

This year 2023, we were happy to graduate another batch of children from the center. In total, we graduated 28 youths.



5. CHALLENGES/DIFFICULTIES

- Items, especially food was very expensive. This is greatly related to the crisis in which the cost of transportation has increased thereby affecting the cost of items.
- Sometimes some of the trainers and students staying out of the center are not able to show up because of shooting in their localities. In order to catch up, there are always over time trainings some days.

6. CONCLUSION

The year 2023 has been a good training year for SAFRAHOST and we are indeed really grateful to our donors and well-wishes for the support given us to sustain the children's formation throughout the year. It is worth noting that without this opportunity to train the youths, most of them because of idleness, could have joined the separatist fighters.

In a special way, the efforts of the administration and training staff can never go unnoticed as they all put in efforts and collaborated for the good of the children and the institution.

We greatly acknowledge the financial, material, technical and moral support we received from Foundations and Individuals of good will.

May the Almighty God continue to bless and strengthen all of you as we pray for you all to have a great year 2024

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