

PROJECT PROGRESS

Title: Empowering Unemployed Adults & Elders (54+) to Achieve Financial Stability
Implementer: The Mustard Seed Mission – Taiwan

Feed the Minds is partnering with The Mustard Seed Mission in Taiwan to implement a unique project that aims to improve the economic prospect of unemployed adults and elders (54+) in Taipei city, New Taipei city, and Taichung city to achieve financial stability in retirement.

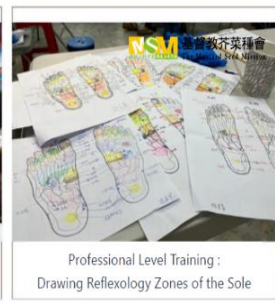
The overall aim of the project is to economically empower elderly retirees to improve their economic prospect by providing them with skills in foot reflexology and woodwork skills tailored to respond to demand for massage and carpentry products in the market. By engaging the elderly in these two activities, they will secure employment and generate their own income to attain financial stability for themselves and their dependants.

The project is a response to an aging population and a low labour force participation rate in Taiwan resulting from a decline in the birth rate and weak participation in the job market by middle-aged and older adults.

Implementation effectively started in October 2023 with foot reflexology training targeting 34 participants and so far 40 members have started training and at different levels: 14 at basic; 13 at advanced and 13 at professional.

The second phase, woodwork skills training will commence with the initial 13 participants who have attained the professional training.

The photos below capture the elderly undergoing training at various levels:



Challenges

Taiwan, being far and a new partnership, the project took long to start. Language barrier also contributed to the delay because most of the documents have to be translated. However, these challenges have been addressed and the project is progressing well.

Proposal for Palestine

Feed the minds has taken time to review several organisations operating in Palestine and their focus programmes. Though selection has been a challenge because of the activities in the Gaza Strip at the moment which require humanitarian intervention and political consideration as opposed to development.

Based on our current strategy and focus areas i.e. Economic Empowerment, Health Education and Citizenship, and considering our Christian background, we are considering partnering with YMCA on a project that focuses on women and young women.

Programs under this thematic area are intended to empower women to demand their rights from duty bearers and at the same time create employment opportunities through vocational training programs and entrepreneurship development so women, especially young women, can live a dignified life. This aligns with Feed the minds economic empowerment thematic area.

Secondly, YMCA has her foundation in Christianity with a mission to empower women and youth to demand, exercise and protect their economic, social, and political rights, it has some aspects of literacy and aligns with Feed the Minds focus of citizenship that prepares women to participate.

The process of identifying a partner in Palestine has been tricky and challenging because of the need to balance the political and religious position, This has further been made fragile by the ongoing war in the region.

Thank you.