

Testimony of Sadam Hussain

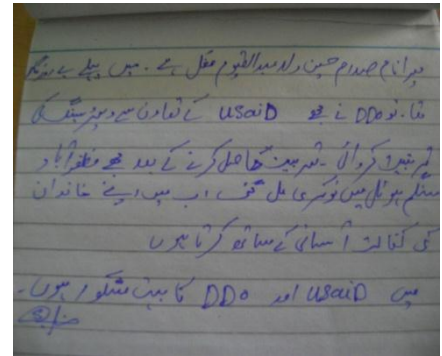
“Give a man a fish and you feed him for a day; teach a man to fish and you feed him for a lifetime” is a Chinese proverb which I have been hearing from my elders. But now I have experienced it.

I, Sadam Husain S/O Abdul Qayoom, 23, live in village Kel Maidan, UC Kel, Neelum Valley AJK. I have done intermediate and have nine family members.



Being the eldest in my family, I had the responsibility to support my family. Due to old age, my parents were unable to work so I had to quit my school and started working as a laborer on daily wages. I did not have any sustainable source of income. On average, I earned only Rs. 3000 per month and fulfilling my family needs was challenging.

One day I came to know about Skill Development opportunities by USAID & DDO. I submitted my application along with my documents to DDO office. I got a call for an interview and eventually got selected for training on Waitressing & Housekeeping. I received the training at IRM VTEC Rawalpindi. It was fully funded by DDO & USAID, and I was also provided all kinds of facilities free of cost along with my travelling expenses. After the completion of the training, I applied for a job at Sangam Hotel Muzafferabad and got selected as a Waiter. My basic salary is Rs. 6000 per month plus I manage to get Rs. 5000 in the form of tips. The hotel also provides me with food & accommodation.



As a result of the training provided by IRM, I now also have a job offer from Pearl Continental Hotel, Muzafferabad. Moreover, Sangam Hotel management has also selected me for a Dubai based Hotel & Restaurant. I am currently waiting for my visa and other necessary documents. As soon as my visa process is complete, I will move to Dubai.

My financial situation has improved considerably and for this I am thankful to USAID for their generous support. It is because of USAID, DDO and IRM that I am now able to support my family and afford my younger siblings' education. For me, the Chinese quote became true. USAID taught us to catch fish.

Thank you USAID – Thank you American people – Thank you DDO – Thank you IRM!