



Sharing Opportunities with Women NEWSLETTER

BANGLADESH - HAZARA'S STORY



Hazara with her award

She smiles from ear to ear as she shows off her one-room shop. "I made all of these clothes myself!" she beams. Hazara's story is the most successful among a group of 40 women who participated in a Tailoring Training project in the Tea Garden area of Bangladesh. The men and women of the communities in this area have very limited opportunities to work, usually settling for tea farming and working for only 10 days out of the month.

The average daily income in the region is still just a little over \$1/day. The group of four that made up the SowHope team, including SowHope staff Mary Dailey Brown and Aaron Hoxworth, marveled at the shop full of clothes. "Are these all for sale?" we asked. "No, every piece in here is from an order. Every day, I get several orders from people in the community", Hazara replied.

Hazara was not always successful. She married very young and quickly had a baby girl. Her husband was upset that she kept the baby and, after the child was born healthy, he decided to divorce Hazara and marry another woman. Due to her religious and cultural restrictions as a woman, Hazara is unable to marry anyone else but her ex-husband - although he does not have the same restrictions. Hazara was determined to care for herself and her child, so she signed up to participate in the Tailoring Training funded by SowHope. She excelled more than any other student and was able to quickly buy a sewing machine from the money she earned as a tailor. "Now that I have success, my ex-husband wanted to come back to me and divorce his other wife. I turned him down and decided I can support myself."

Because of Hazara's brave decision to stay unmarried and start her own business, she received an award from the District Government. The village sees her as a model to any woman in the community that is oppressed and impoverished. Hazara believes if she can do it, any woman can.

Hazara's business continues to grow. She is currently hoping another woman from the Tailoring Training can join her to fulfill the constant orders coming in from the community. Presently, she makes twice as much as any man living in the village!



*Mary, Hazara, and Bobita
the Instructor*

RESTORING SIGHT IN SOUTH SUDAN

Imagine slowly losing your sight. Transitioning from full independence to being led around with a stick by one of the young members of your family for the rest of your life. The young person becomes your daily guide and loses the opportunity to go to school. Blindness becomes a tremendous burden not only for you but also for your caretaker.

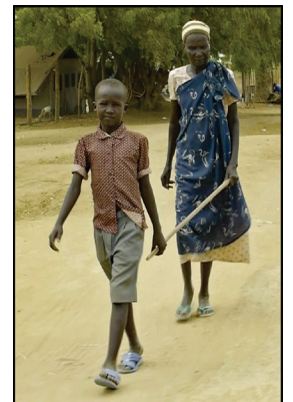


*Woman receives care from
nurse Beverly after surgery*

Though dramatic, this is the reality of many living with blindness in South Sudan because of the scarcity of care and resources to combat cataracts and trachoma (an infectious disease that leads to the breakdown of the outer surface or cornea of the eyes). Recently, SowHope collaborated with Partners In Compassionate Care to provide a two-week cataract surgery camp near their medical clinic.

During these two weeks, 307 fully blind people received surgery to remove cataracts or trachoma while another 367 were treated with preventative medicine to slow down or prevent blindness from occurring. The surgeries resulted in the restoration of every patient's eyesight! SowHope funded the surgeries for 183 women and medication for an additional 259 women.

While having bandages removed after surgery, one woman was asked, "What will be different in your life?" She answered, "When I can see, I will start gardening, so that I can feed my grandchildren." Then with great satisfaction, she said, "I will be free to come and go as I wish and I will never be led by anyone again!"



SPONSOR THE BIG EVENT!

SowHope's 5th Annual Fundraising Dinner

Thursday, September 26, 2019, 6:30PM
Frederik Meijer Gardens & Sculpture Park

**Five Levels of Corporate Sponsorships or
Three Levels of Table Sponsorships Available**

2018 ANNUAL REPORT

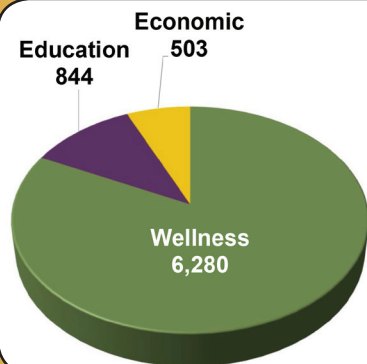
SowHope's mission statement is: To inspire women around the world by promoting wellness, education, and economic opportunities.

Here are some of the highlights of 2018, our 13th year of existence:

- ✚ SowHope hit a milestone, totaling over \$1,000,000 in grants given over the life of the organization.
- ✚ SowHope's income for the year 2018 was \$416,035, with ending net assets of \$337,401.
- ✚ SowHope's 2018 operating expenses totaled \$311,411, with 86% of expenses going towards programs, 9% toward fundraising, and 5% toward administration.
- ✚ During 2018, SowHope funded 34 projects in 9 countries, impacting 7,627 women.
- ✚ Since SowHope began, 198 projects have been funded in 20 countries, impacting 92,113 women.

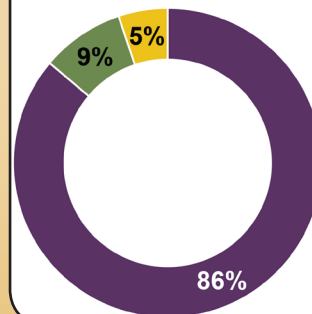
Program Accomplishments

	# of	# of
Country	Projects	Women
Burkina Faso	1	1
DRC	9	3,409
Ethiopia	1	3
Haiti	1	400
India	1	160
Kenya	2	55
Nigeria	12	1,184
South Sudan	3	311
Uganda	4	2,104
2018 Total	34	7,627



**7,627 Women
Impacted by
SowHope Projects
in 2018**

2018 Operating Expenses



- Program - \$268,323
- Fundraising - \$27,049
- Administration - \$16,039

SowHope's incredible global impact is only possible through your generous support. Thank you!

SAVE THE DATE!

SowHope's 5th Annual Fundraising Gala
Thursday, September 26, 2019, 6:30 PM
 Frederik Meijer Gardens & Sculpture Park

NEED A SPEAKER FOR YOUR GROUP?

Several years ago, Mary Dailey Brown founded one of the only global organizations dedicated to the basic holistic care of women. Her dream was to inspire impoverished women around the world by promoting wellness, education, and economic opportunities. This organization, SowHope, has changed the lives of thousands of women in some of the most difficult places in the world to be a woman. Want to hear her story and be inspired? You'll be amazed! To book this dynamic storyteller, phone the SowHope office at 616.433.1575 or email info@sowhope.org.

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on social media:



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