

2021

Project Profile

MISSION ONE

through the Global Church

PAKISTAN SEWING CENTERS

Partner: Asian Episcopal Reformed Presbyterian Church of Pakistan

A sewing project in Pakistan seeks to transform the lives of women who are overlooked in society, allowing them to generate an income for their families as seamstresses and viewing themselves as beloved daughters of Christ.

From the time they are born, women in Pakistan are told a story of subjugation, submission, and a lack of identity. Rather, their societal worth is largely defined by their domestic abilities to help around the house and their desirability for marriage. Women — especially Christian women — tragically become regular targets of sex trafficking, forced prostitution, and imposed marriage.

These sewing centers are the prayerful imagination of partner pastors and leaders to train women in vocational skills to give them dignity and aid them in contributing financially to their family and community.

OUR PLAN

In June of 2019, Mission ONE partners in Pakistan began an initiative of sewing centers in coordination with local churches in two cities. This initiative was birthed, in part, as a response to the growing hostility and persecution of Christians in Pakistan. Three times a week, women travel from around the rural community to a small church building to share life and learn a variety of sewing skills. The holistic curriculum gives women hands-on training as they take turns working on machines, learning intricate stitching techniques, the basics of business, and money management. In addition, each woman learns their God-given value, knowing they are loved by God as they are.

Many women are able to begin their own businesses after three months of classes, while others can spend up to six months in the program. When they finish the program, they begin businesses out of their homes making traditional dresses or providing tailoring services to their community. Those who complete the program are immediately able to begin providing financial support to their families. Over time, women are able to contribute not only to their families but to their community sewing center as teachers, providing a long-term self-sustained center.

DESIRED IMPACT

In a culture where men are valued exponentially more than women because of the financial contributions they bring to their families, these sewing centers were established to write a different story for these women and their communities. Over time, these sewing centers are changing the ways that women are viewed in their communities, writing a new history for this generation of women.

For Seima, a mother of four, learning to sew changed the future for her family in a time of need. Sadly, as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, Seima's husband lost his job as a day laborer. Although Seima was still new to sewing, she knew her skills could be used to provide for her family. Quickly, she went to work, knocking on doors and offering her skills to anyone that needed a seamstress. Throughout the pandemic, Seima's tenacity kept her family from starving and losing their home.

These sewing centers are making rural Pakistani villages more like the Kingdom of God every day. Through vocational education and training, these women are developing their skills and talents. By supporting this project, you are paving the way for these women's spiritual and emotional development, finding a safe space to laugh and share life with other women as they come to know their own value in Christ.

MEASURABLE GOALS

- By the end of 2021, empower 12 women (three women per sewing center) to start their own businesses.
- Achieve two self-sustainable sewing centers by the end of 2021.
- Establish a third new sewing center in Karachi by the end of 2021.

