

Prosperity Catalyst develops and strengthens women-led businesses in distressed regions, providing business and technical training, creating opportunities for women to achieve economic and social empowerment.

Investing in Women Changes Everything!

Iraq: Business Management Training For Business Owners & Candle Makers



From April to June, Prosperity Catalyst ran a training for 30 women, **15 business owners** and **15 candle artisans**, in Baghdad. Participants were divided into six groups, with each group comprised of both business owners and candle artisans, so entrepreneurs and artisans could **learn from each other** and cross-pollinate ideas.

The training, which was funded by the German Corporation for International Development (GIZ), was **tailored** to meet the level of participants' education, profession, and availability. The trainer, Ms. Fadhil, developed the training schedule and agenda and utilized **multiple learning methodologies** to appeal to the needs of all participants, including large and small group discussions, individual and group practical exercises, and an evaluation of the training by participants. Each group developed a business plan incorporating key concepts from the training, which they then presented to a panel of judges for feedback.

The training helped **build relationships** between women business owners and candle makers, and as a result business owners hired some of the candle makers to join their business. Other candle artisans are intending to **establish their own businesses**; the training gave them the knowledge, skills, and motivation to not only dream about launching a business, but to also make it happen!



Change of Address

Please note our new mailing address:

PO Box 5542
Beverly, MA 01915

Haiti: Artisan Graduation Ceremony

On August 10, our Haiti staff held our third **graduation ceremony** honoring 15 groups (30 artisans) who devotedly participated in a 5-month business management training. In order to graduate, each artisan's group was responsible for taking part in all the training sessions and completing a basic business plan that incorporates concepts from the curriculum.



The 30 artisans represented a **variety of handicraft skills** including metal working, beading, crochet, painting, and stone working. Some of the artisans also sell food products on top of the handcraft work they do. The training curriculum covered **key business concepts** including market research, inventory, value chains, costing and price, quality control, savings, and order fulfillment.



Each artisan who participated in the training sessions testified about the positive impact of the business skills they gained. Their **business revenues have increased at least 40%** since they started to grasp and apply the business concepts they learned from the mentors. The artisans also honored the fact that PCat emphasizes and reinforces **women's capacity in the artisan sector**.

Please join us!

PCat Meet & Great: Thursday Sept 26, 5:30-7PM, Cambridge MA
[Click here for details and tickets on Eventbrite](#)

Matching Gift Challenge Success!

A big **thank you** to our many wonderful supporters who made Prosperity Catalyst's summer fundraising a big success! Together, we raised \$7,500 to support our programs in Haiti and Iraq. The impact of these funds were doubled by matching gifts from two members of PCat's Board of Directors, Kate Wallace and Dena Enos.

IMPORTANT REMINDER: Prosperity Catalyst's **fiscal year ends on September 30th**. If you haven't already made your annual gift, please do so today. Thank you!

Questions? Comments? We love hearing from you!
Contact Ali Smart at ali@prosperitycatalyst.org or 401-241-8335

