

Four small businesses we support currently in the 1st round of Microenterprises program

Livestock Farming



Ilshad was so excited when he received the business plan that he texted his business coach and said, "Thank you so much for the great help! I read the business plan again and again, and I am extremely grateful; thank you!!!"

Over two months of regular business coaching, Ilshad learned a lot about his livestock farming business and how to operate it more efficiently. He discussed the challenges he is experiencing in his business with his business coach, and finally crafted an actionable business plan.

Now, with a USD 20,000 business loan, he hopes to start a new phase in his business. This investment will assist him in expanding and establishing a sheep and rabbit farm to supply his community with fresh meats. He has a heart for helping others and plans to use the profits to not only fulfill his dream of one day owning his own home but also to increase the financial assistance he currently provides to youth and students in his area whose parents are unable to provide financial support from their home in China.

Clothing Manufacturing



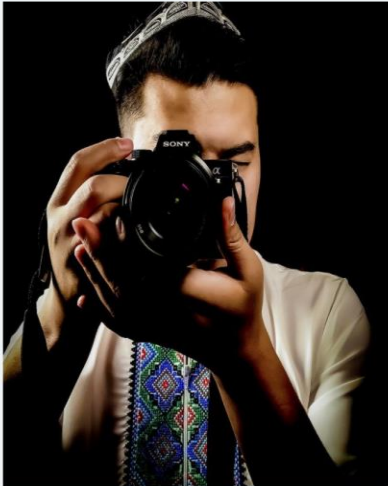
Textiles and clothing manufacturing is a major industry in Turkey. Muratjan will receive a loan of USD15,000 to establish a new clothing manufacturing business that will employ ten qualified and highly skilled Uyghur women seamstresses to produce garments.

These Uyghur women, many of whom are without husbands or other family support networks, have suffered significant financial and emotional hardship.

Muratjan is passionate about providing the Uyghur community with employment, training, and finance. He has supported these women through their training and now starting a business to help them use their skills and support their families.

The loan will provide the startup capital the business needs to employ the ten seamstresses and provide time to establish profitable cash flow from efficient and quality production.

Video and Film Production



Based in Istanbul, an existing video and film production business wants to expand from a team of 5 to become one of the top filming companies in Turkey – which would involve growth to around 40 staff. The existing business is based mainly on filming weddings and commercials for businesses and the plan is to add the production of TV programs and movies. To move to the next stage, the business needs to purchase a camera, lenses, and lighting, and lease an appropriate office. They need USD7,000 to do this.

"I thank my business coach for making each learning session enjoyable," said Halid, the business owner, "I learned the importance of developing a sound business plan. I was not able to envision my business expanding because we're struggling and making little progress. Now we have a business plan and a financial forecast. And I am excited to have a business loan from Empower Communities Charitable Trust to buy the equipment we need the most. This gives me the confidence that I will be able to grow my business in the coming years. I can now see hope for my dream to become one of Turkey's top ten filming companies."

Beauty Therapy



Abire is a remarkable woman. After losing touch with her husband five years ago when she was three months pregnant, she soon after had to flee a hostile environment in a neighboring country with two young children and a newborn. Now living in Turkey, she has not allowed those circumstances to stop her hope for a better future, both for herself, her family, and in particular, Uyghur women living in Turkey who find themselves in similar circumstances.

As a trained beauty therapist, Abire wants to use her skills to help other Uyghur women feel happy again and valued as a person.

A USD 5,000 loan will provide her with the equipment she needs to continue growing her small business until she has sufficient customers to open a store where she can employ other women and expand her services to include retailing skincare products and training other beauty therapy students.