Hassan’s workshop

Bekaa Livelihoods Programme

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For twenty years, Hassan ran his own tailoring workshop in Homs. Since 2013, when he left it, he has taken day work on farms in the Bekaa Valley whenever it was available, and done small repairs at home on a borrowed sewing machine.

In the spring of 2026 he received a $600 small-business grant and took part in a four-day course on pricing and record-keeping. He chose to spend the grant on a used industrial sewing machine and a small solar battery, so that he could work through power cuts.

Today he repairs and alters school uniforms for three schools nearby. In most months, his work now pays the rent. Since the course he has kept a notebook of every order, and he raised his prices for alterations after working out what each one cost him.

“People come to me now,” he says. “I don’t go looking for work.”