

UNHCR's programmes strategically focus on reducing and mitigating protection risks, both at individual and community level, through 'Community-based Protection Measures (CPMs)'.

In line with the *Multi-Year Strategy (2017-19)* and *Solutions Strategy for Afghan Refugees (SSAR)*, UNHCR Afghanistan has implemented solutions-oriented initiatives in 22 locations of high return and displacement. These activities are within the framework of and or aligned to the Afghanistan National Peace and Development Framework (ANPDF, 2017-2021), National Priority Programs, and the Displacement and Returnee Executive Committee (DiREC) action plan.

CPMs explicitly focused on women and youth empowerment (WYE) through Employability, Employment, and Entrepreneurship (EEE) initiative, based on the existing human capital (skill-sets) within the targeted communities. Key activities for 'employability & employment' included targeted vocational trainings in line with the local market demand and job-placement services in partnerships with the private sector particularly Chamber of Commerce and Industry and Industrial Unions.



Photo 1 Opening of the Youth Council Centre in Dragon Valley in August 2017. Photo: UNHCR/J.Wafa



Photo 2 CODE4FUN Center, a new initiative for youth empowerment in Herat. Photo: UNHCR/Waheeb

The 'entrepreneurship' activities were built on the informal 'saving credit and/or self-help group approach' and included small businesses development in the local economic sectors such as bee keeping, dairy farming and processing, greenhouses, carpet weaving, shoe making, mobile repairs, motor and car mechanics, carpentry, dish antenna services, confectionary, embroidery and tailoring and transport services among others. Basic admin-management and financial literacy training are an integral part of the blended entrepreneurship programme together with technical trainings and establishing links with international markets and businesses. UNHCR's Global MADE51 (Markets, Design and Empowerment of refugee artisans) initiative links local products to global markets; and CODE4FUN – a safe, secure, and learning platform to improve the creative skills of young boys and girls are key activities.

2017 ACHIEVEMENTS (FROM AUGUST – DECEMBER 2017):

- 316 apprenticeships (job placements) with private sector
- 70 self-help groups
- 281 small businesses
- 300 market-based technical and vocational trainings
- 100 entrepreneurship trainings under ILO's Start and Improve Your Business (SIYB) model;
- Supporting 254 women in carpet sector under MADE51 (in partnership with Turquoise Mountain and ARZU)
- 40 students trained under CODE4FUN in developing mobile and computer applications

KEY TARGETS OF THE WYE IN 2018 INCLUDES:

- established the 'Youth Excellence Action Hubs' (YEAH) – which aims to (i) excel the youth through skills (life, technical, and education) and entrepreneurship trainings, and (ii) acts as the action platform to foster youth engagement in decision-making structures and for amplifying the voices of young people by directly connecting them to decision-makers through a "digital space"; and
- Established 'Youth Innovation Fund' for facilitating the start-up of own businesses through provision of seed capital grants (200);
- Increased access to microfinance services for business development (500);
- 1000 apprenticeships in partnership with private sector;
- 750 entrepreneurship under SIYEB;
- 1200 women under MADE51; and
- 200 students under CODE4FUN