

UNHCR Livelihood Activities for Afghan Refugees in Pakistan



August - 2019

BACKGROUND

UNHCR Pakistan supports Afghan refugees in seeking durable solutions through crosscutting interventions in the areas of health, education and livelihoods, with a view to promoting the empowerment and self-reliance of refugees during their stay in Pakistan and upon return to Afghanistan. Livelihoods opportunities helped individuals to meet their basic needs, gain access to knowledge, skills and services, as well as enhance their dignity and financial, social and human capacities. As such, UNHCR Pakistan has prioritized livelihood interventions as one of its key strategic priorities.

UNHCR Pakistan has worked with partners to implement the Livelihoods Strategy by undertaking activities in the following key action areas:

- Social and economic capital in refugee communities;
- Livelihoods assets of refugees and on-farm and off-farm sectors;
- The promotion of rights;
- Increased access to financial services;
- Transferrable and marketable vocational and technical skills with linkages to demand in Afghanistan; and
- Expanded access to employment in Afghanistan and Pakistan.

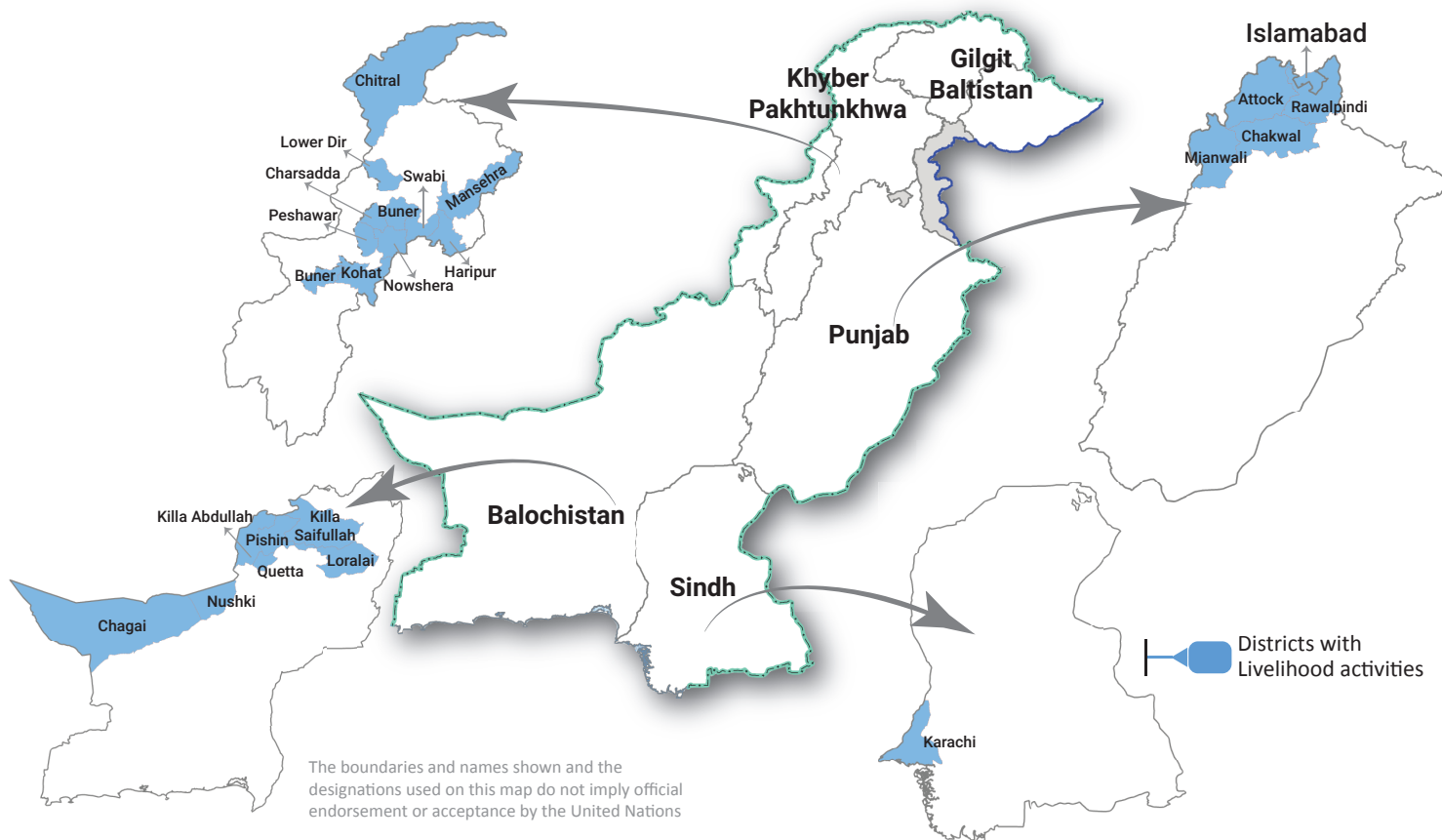


TOP SKILLS/ TRADES OF AFGHAN REFUGEES IN PAKISTAN

1. Carpet weaving	8. Machinist
2. Driving	9. Industrial Electrician
3. Solar wind and UPS repair	10. Masonry
4. Plumbing	11. AC and refrigeration
5. Motor vehicle repair	12. Mobile repairing
6. Carpentry/ wood work	13. Welding
7. Heavy machinery operators	14. Aluminium Fabricator

1. Beautician
2. Handicraft
3. Fashion Designing Tailoring
4. Hand and machine embroidery
5. Professional Chef and Cooking
6. Computer Application and Web Development

GEOGRAPHICAL FOCUS OF UNHCR LIVELIHOOD ACTIVITIES BY DISTRICT



PROGRESS AND ACHIEVEMENTS 2016 - 2018

Youth empowerment through skills development

- 3,300 youth have been trained in vocational and technical skills, provided certificates and toolkits.
- Afghan refugees have been included in National Vocational and Technical Training System - (NAVTTTC).

Innovative and sustainable livelihoods solutions for refugees

- 2,000 households have been supported through the Pakistan Poverty Alleviation Fund's "poverty graduation approach".

Women economic empowerment

- 616 women have been trained in artisanal skills.

Refugee's access to bank accounts

- Seven hundred registered Afghan Refugees have submitted applications to open bank accounts.

SUCCESS STORY

"A three-month tailoring training enabled me to become an entrepreneur inside my house." - Samar

Samar (40) is an Afghan refugee and a mother of eight children aged between 3 to 17 years. She lives in Barakai refugee camp, Swabi district of Pakistan. Her husband is a daily wage earner and has no stable income source to support his family.

In September 2018, Samar participated in a skills development project in the refugee camp which taught advanced tailoring and provided business start-up assets. Samar always had a keen interest in tailoring but she did not have the confidence to pursue her interest.

After completing the course, she was given a sewing machine and started a tailoring business at home. Eventually, she received orders from customers and made their dresses.

Samar now earns about Rs 8,000 (60 USD) per month and regularly contributes to the family's income. With the money she makes, she is able to pay for her children's educational, health and daily expenses. "The training gave me confidence in myself," says Samar. Her husband noted that thanks to Samar's contributions, he no longer experiences financial stress and plans to provide schooling to their children, as they now can easily afford to do so. Samar also said that children now have books, bags, uniforms and new shoes, and happily go to schools every day.

When asked about her future aspirations, she replied:

"I will utilize the skills I've learned during the skills training that I received in this project. I'll save some money and will start a home-based female clothing shop in the future, along with my sewing business. "My skill is my asset; I am using it productively now, and it will be very useful after repatriation to Afghanistan to support my family."



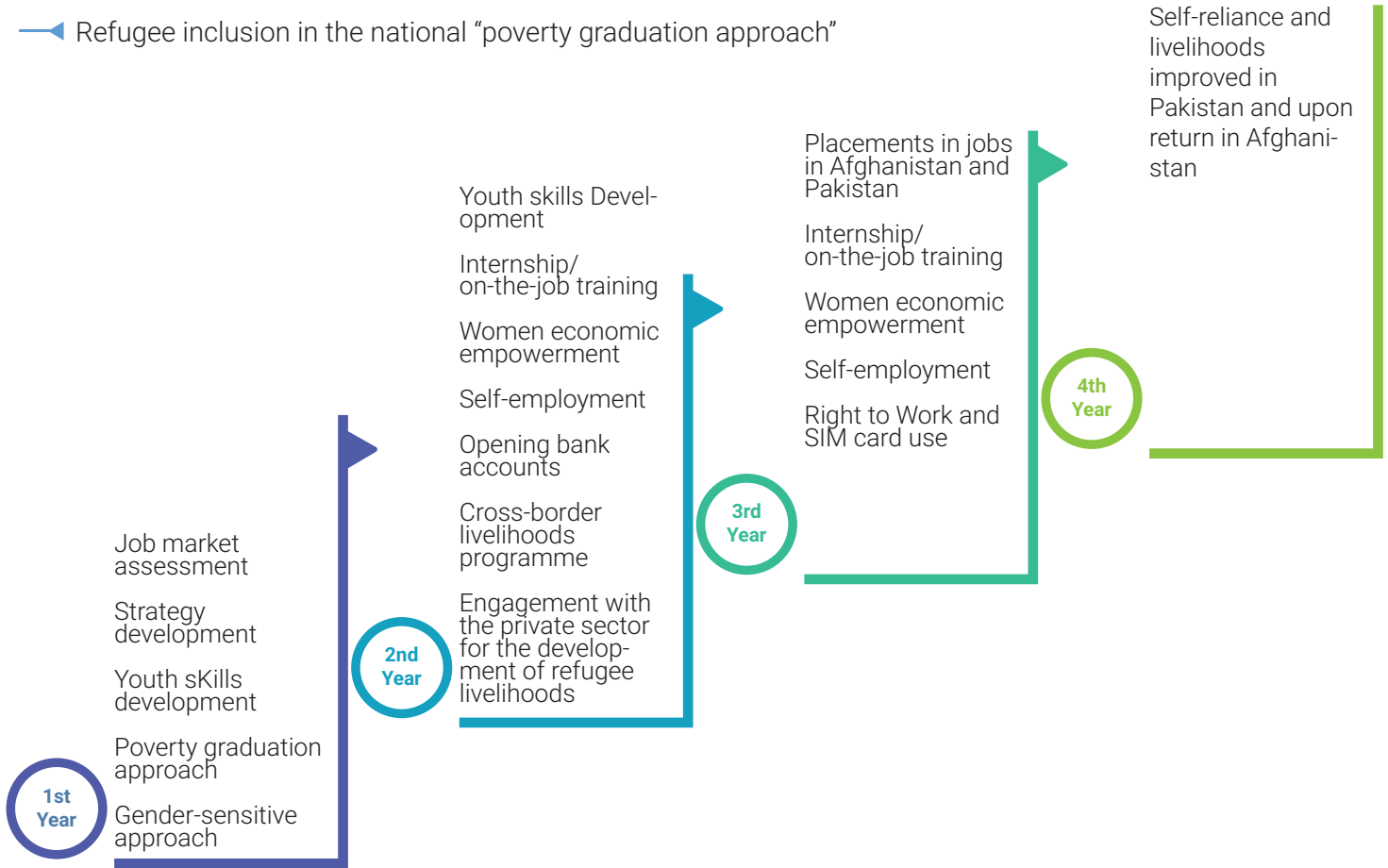
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LIVELIHOOD WAY FORWARD / PROVISION

- Placement of refugees in formal job markets (conditional on the granting of the right to work by the Government of Pakistan and the relevant visa regime)
- Self-employment opportunities
- Right to work, SIM card use and business registration
- Cross-border livelihoods programme (in partnership with GIZ, WB and IOM)
- Refugee inclusion in the national "poverty graduation approach"



Donors



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