

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 23 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 focuses on women and youth empowerment (WYE) through Employability, Employment, and Entrepreneurship (EEE) initiatives, 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.



Mahtab (left), Halimah (center) and Zahra (right) are young women displaced by conflict, supported with photography skills and now operating a photo studio in Herat. © UNHCR/S.Rich



Jalil Khan, an internally displaced youth, in Jalalabad, drives a Zarange as part of the Zarange transport union community-based protection project, supported by UNHCR. © UNHCR/S.Rich

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 administration 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:

- 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;
- 350 women being supported 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:

- Establishment of the 'Youth Excellence Action Hubs' (YEAH) – which aims to (i) empower 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
- Establishment of the '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);
- 1,000 apprenticeships in partnership with private sector;
- 980 entrepreneurship under ILO's SIYB model;
- 1,200 women under MADE51; and
- 1,000 students under CODE4FUN

CODE4FUN

CODE4FUN aims at providing an opportunity for students to improve their creative skills by creating a safe, secure, and friendly space where girls and boys can learn, communicate and enjoy being in an educational environment. In addition to teaching the coding skills to develop mobile applications (for iOS and Android) on child protection, education and environment, CODE4FUN also focuses on enhancing students' self-esteem and confidence through interactive sessions on interpersonal, leadership and teamwork skills.

- In 2018, CODE4FUN will target 1,000 youth (500 girls and 500 boys) in Herat.

SAFE FROM THE START: WOMEN'S ONLY INTERNET CAFE

Safe from the Start aims to reduce the risk of Gender-Based Violence (GBV) by empowering women and youth. The women's only internet café provides a five-month International Computer Driving License course (basic to intermediate level) on Hardware, Windows, Word, Excel, PowerPoint and Internet – and remains open for easy accessibility to women in Herat city. Safe from the Start funded activities also includes pre-TOEFL classes, the celebration of International Women's Day (8 March) and the 16 Days of Activism against SGBV, as well as women/youth sport tournaments (e.g. volleyball, basketball, taekwondo).

- In 2018, Safe from the Start will target 7,420 women and youth.

MADE51: EMPOWERING ARTISANAL WOMEN

UNHCR's Global MADE51 aims at empowering refugee/returnee artisans by linking their skills to international markets whilst ensuring safe working conditions and fair trade. In 2017, the initiative supported 350 women in Mazar, Bamyan and Kabul in partnership with Turquoise Mountain, Label STEP, ARZU HOPE and UNIQLO.

- In 2018, MADE51 will target 1,200 women.

YOUTH AMBASSADORS

UNHCR looks for opportunities to support and empower youth through different initiatives, including through partnerships. In 2018, UNHCR financially sponsored the Afghan Youth Ambassadors of Peace with the support from the Office of the First Lady and the Afghan Ministry of Information and Culture, with USD 1,500. This was following a meeting that the UNHCR Representative in Afghanistan held with the Afghan Youth Ambassadors of Peace, the Deputy Minister for Youth and Culture in March, where the youth ambassadors presented their proposed plan to bike from Afghanistan to Paris, while holding peace conferences for Afghan youths in nine countries (through which they plan to bike), in order to promote peace.



Fariba instructs female internally displaced and local community youth on computer programming and how to use the internet at the women's only internet cafe in Herat city, Afghanistan, 2018. © UNHCR/S.Rich

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