



BACKGROUND

Access to vocational and skills training and enhanced livelihoods opportunities enables refugees to meet their basic needs, become self-reliant and contribute to the development of their host communities, and country of origin upon return, through inclusion in the labour market. Continued efforts to build self-reliance, particularly in the context of protracted situations, are thus crucial at all stages of displacement, and constitute a critical component in accelerating the achievement of durable solutions.

The Population Profiling, Verification and Response survey conducted in 2011 revealed that around 83% of the Afghan workforce in Pakistan were involved in elementary occupations, sales, services, craft and related trades. Most of the adult males are either self-employed or work as daily wage labourers in the informal market, and do not possess competitive skills to access better employment opportunities and improve their living standards.

The Government of Pakistan has enabled the access of Afghan refugees to the Government's vocational training centres and programmes and is supportive of projects aimed at improving the productive capacities of refugees and their host communities. This commitment was most recently reaffirmed by the decision of the Prime Minister of Pakistan to enable Afghan refugees to open bank accounts and promote their economic inclusion.

Over the past years, the RAHA projects have been delivering livelihoods support to Afghan refugees and their host communities through market-led vocational skills trainings and provision of income generating tools and business start-up equipment, and assisting with the establishment of market linkages.

The RAHA livelihoods projects are designed based on the needs identified by the communities, and implemented in close consultation with local/provincial/federal Government authorities and other partners. The projects are fully aligned with and supportive of UNHCR Pakistan's Livelihoods Strategy, as well as the regional multi-year Solutions Strategy for Afghan Refugees (SSAR) which identified youth empowerment through education, skills training and livelihoods as its cross-cutting priority theme.



KEY OBJECTIVES

Enhancing the productive capacities and financial, human and social capital of refugees and their host communities

Supporting policies that foster an environment in which the most vulnerable members can achieve greater self-reliance

Enabling Afghan refugees to acquire transferrable assets and skills, based on livelihoods and employment opportunities in Afghanistan

FOCUS OF RAHA LIVELIHOODS INTERVENTIONS:



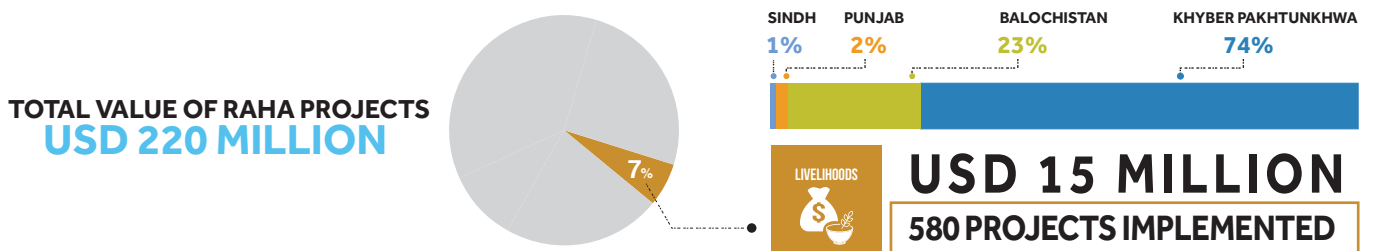
IMPACT OF RAHA LIVELIHOODS INTERVENTIONS:



"The Global Compact on Refugees calls on the international community to "foster inclusive economic growth for host communities and refugees, in support of host countries and subject to their relevant national laws and policies, States and relevant Stakeholders will contribute resources and expertise to promote economic opportunities, decent work, job creation and entrepreneurship programmes for host community members and refugees, including women, young adults, older persons and persons with disabilities."

EXAMPLES OF RAHA LIVELIHOODS PROJECTS

- Construction of the Government’s Women Technical Training Centre (W TTC) in Loralai, Balochistan (USD 1.2 million);
- Training for more than 20,000 youth in various technical and vocational skills, through community based centers or the Government’s technical and vocational institutes;
- Projects aimed at imparting artisanal skills in producing 43 different types of crafts. Further refinement of the quality of products and the creation of appropriate market linkages (through the MADE51 approach) helps the trainees to produce high quality crafts for national and international markets;
- Provision of paramedical skills training for the Afghan refugee youth;



MORE THAN 470,000 INDIVIDUALS BENEFITED FROM RAHA LIVELIHOODS PROJECTS

