



PROJECT COMPLETION REPORT

LIP-2014-15 (LIVELIHOOD IMPROVEMENT PROJECT-NRC)



Funded By: Norwegian Refugee Council NRC – Pakistan
Implemented by: Organization for Community Services and Development
81 – A, Chaman Housing Scheme, Quetta – Balochistan
District: Loralai-Pishin

Project Summary

| | | | |
|---|-------------------------|--|------------------------------|
| A | Project Title | Skills Development Vocational Training Project | |
| B | Location | District | Refugee Camps |
| | | Loralai | Katwai & Zar Kareiz |
| | | Pishin | Surkhab, Old and New Saranan |
| C | Funded By | Norwegian Refugee Council NRC, Pakistan | |
| D | Implemented By | Organization for Community Services and Development OCSD Balochistan – Quetta | |
| E | Contract No. | PKNRC/Vocational Training-BAL/131014/0130 | |
| F | Project Period | October 13, 2014 to March 31, 2015 <i>Time Extension from 1st January to 31st March, 2015</i> | |
| G | Project Objective | To increase the vocational skills and income generation capacities of Afghan Refugees populated in refugee villages/ camps of District Pishin and Loralai by provision of market oriented skills training, business start-up toolkit and linkages to market. | |
| H | Outcome | Anticipated to improve livelihood opportunities of Afghan settlers/migrants settled in Balochistan. | |
| I | Direct Beneficiaries | 115 Female | |
| J | In Direct Beneficiaries | 920 | |
| K | Total Budget received | 1,322,500 PKR | |
| L | OCSD Contribution | 332,475 PKR | |

Acknowledgements

OCSD received valuable guidance, support and encouragement from several partners during the implementation of the project. For their outstanding sensitivity and kindness, we express our gratitude to Akram, Abdul Ahad, Shahana, Tania, Maria of NRC, we are positive that with their active engagement for the cause of bringing relief, hope and possibilities to the beneficiaries at the refugee villages- the day is not far when these beneficiaries may become self-reliant and capable of carving their futures. Your dedication is well established and it has been a pleasure to work for and with you.

We would like to thank the trainers in all the trades, who made valuable contribution to the project. The product samples speak volumes about the level of interest of both the trainers and trainees.

During the course of the project-the community elders were of much help and we are thankful to them for opening the doors to us.

We hope to sustain similar efforts in the days ahead.

Irfan Alamgir Khan

Executive Director, OCSD



OVERVIEW

Supported by Norwegian Refugee Council-OCSD has set up training centers at 3 camp sites at Pishin and 2 at Loralai. Making its training program accessible to the underprivileged and disadvantaged is yet another altruistic approach by NRC, remote areas have suffered neglect and over the years –refugee affected and hosting areas have seen sharp incline in living standards with limited to no access to livelihood opportunities, with resources of the province dwindling, though these refugees have contributed widely to agriculture and have enormous abilities for growth- training programs have either phased out or faced a natural end as interest has diverted to meeting immediate needs i.e food, shelter, health. The downturn in Balochistan's economy has equally disturbed market linkages, which earlier in the decade was vibrant and had an outreach to other provinces. Baloch embroidery evolution into aesthetically appealing patterns and fine designs has put relatively bolder Afghan embroidery into the shadows, what stands out are the splash of colors on carpets and gillams-these have stood the test of time and are now even considered vintage, ethnic art and exotic prints. Very complimentary description of skills that has evolved hundred of years. To capitalize these talents and enhance skills is anticipated to bring this art and source of livelihood back into the limelight and for that we all need to make active contribution for promoting it at every possible venue.

PROJECT OBJECTIVE

To increase the vocational skills and income generation capacities of Afghan Refugees based in camps/refugee settlements of District Pishin and Loralai by provision of market oriented skills training, business start-up toolkit and linkages to market

CAMP LEVEL INTERVENTIONS-Rationale

Based on UNHCR reports, Afghan refugees residing in different camps of Pakistan did not repatriate to their home country- because they are struggling to earn income for their family and fear the same challenges would exist for them on their return to their country. Many of the Afghan refugees living in refugee villages undertake unskilled labor in order to support their families. Developing new skills will facilitate and increase refugee's abilities to generate enough income to support their families. Existing job opportunities are limited in both Pakistan & Afghanistan. Making it necessary to explore diverse options in order to generate enough income to support their families.

As many families are able to create products, which are potentially marketable in the local as well as regional markets general business and marketing skills needs continued development.

BENEFICIARY POPULATION

The beneficiaries of this project are female Afghan refugees. Some of the refugees have been in the country for more than two decades, while others arrived following the events of September 11, 2001 and subsequent air attacks in Afghanistan. The new arrivals have largely accommodated in new sites/camps including Surkhab, Katwai and Zarkarez in Balochistan. A wide-ranging survey has depicted that the majority of the refugees are ethnic Pushtoons from Kandahar, Kabul, Zabul province and surrounding areas with smaller numbers of other ethnic group.

A breakdown of trainees engaged in Tailoring/ Embroidery at 5 sites as under:

| | | |
|-------------------|--------------------|-----------|
| 1. Loralai | | |
| | Katwai | 30 |
| | Zar Kareiz | 25 |
| 2. Pishin | | |
| | Old Saranan | 20 |
| | New Saranan | 20 |
| | Surkhab | 20 |

Trainees displayed high level of interest as observed by their attendance. The course was well on schedule and met its objectives.

TEST MODULES and STRUCTURE

The tests were designed in simplified forms to get complex ideas, information across in a coherent manner and for maximum retention, reinforcement exercises were conducted to assess understanding of concepts, forms, structures. Fortunately, Afghans be they of any ethnicity are trained from a young age to sew, embroider and weave and majority have an innate ability for art as an acquired trait from their environments by sheer act of assimilation. Upgrading existing skills –enough for it to be made it a marketable product is nothing short of miraculous and that is the reason why OCSD has always sought for interventions that uplifts-upgrades-capacities for self-reliancy.

PRE-and POST-TESTS

Our pre-test is open ended to include beneficiaries with limited or no education, basic understanding is gauged through simple tasks to assess cognitive abilities- post tests are competitive in gradation as our objective is to train these trainees as future trainers-and we hope most of them, would succeed in setting up their own training centers .

VISIBILITY

At camp level, over exposure of a program that does not include a large number of beneficiaries are best conducted in relative low profile. A practice that dissuades feeling of being left out, unless long term programs are established that continue turning out batch after batch of successful trainees.

CERTIFICATION

By 31st March 2015, we should be in a very good position to judge the capabilities of the trainees-of which we are already convinced and grant certification issued from TTB. We have initiated the process and expect it to be finalized within a week to 10 days duration.



IMPACT

The program has clear indicators of being a success. The likelihood of any livelihood program is based on it's a capacity to be self-sustaining and bringing about self-reliance –we foresee positive results based on the obvious determinants i.e level of engagement, interest, aptitude. The market is never saturated for quality work, the demand for talent –never goes out of fashion or style, similarly once you have acquired a skill, it comes in handy eventually, no skill, no ability is ever wasted. Female trainees are inclined to contribute to the welfare of their household and are motivated by driving ambitions. Refinement of their work through consistent trainings can benefit them to explore bigger markets individually.

GAPS

Camp level trainings are comparatively easier to manage and has an inbuilt defense against groupings and favoritism that naturally occurs in any group activity. Trainees exhibit higher level of absorption, a keener sense of direction and are generally more responsive. At field level, tests have to gradually evolve to add new dimensions and angles of looking at a traditional way of doing /a certain trade. Developing Market linkage and /or sustaining

MONITORING AND REPORTING

OCSA has an integrated system of physical verification of activities, through direct field visits, field supervisory staff. Baseline studies are evolved and systemized to receive the maximum output against activities. Unforeseen variables are taken into account and compensatory time allotted against time loss. We retain record of beneficiaries for a maximum period of one year, dissemination of photographs, POR card no's are strictly prohibited to any third party unless required for certification. Attendance records are maintained and checked on a daily basis. Factual reporting against output is mandatory and misleading information can lead to disciplinary action.

PICTORIAL

