



Group of entrepreneurs and their trainer (2nd from right) pose in front of mobile repair shop of Qudratullah (4th from right)

Photo by: Khumais Raza / IDO

Livelihood Opportunities for Afghan Refugees in Balochistan RVs Project

Well begun is half done . . .

Success stories from Skill Centre (Male), Chaghi, where 06 trainees of UNCHR funded project have successfully demonstrated entrepreneurship

Well Begun is half Done – A Success Story . . .

This document, WELL BUGUN IS HALF DONE – A SUCCESS STORY, presents the achievements of the project “Livelihood Opportunities for Afghan Refugees in Baluchistan – A Project in Refugee Villages” Implemented by United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) in partnership with Innovative Development Organization (IDO). The project was completed in 5 months from 1st August 2015 to 31st December 2015 in refugee villages in three districts of Balochistan including Chaghi, Qilla Saifullah and Quetta. The story is about 06 trainees of RV Chaghi in District Chaghi.

The story is interesting as it provides insights to the diverse approaches taken by the trainees to enhance their livelihoods through learning. It also narrates building on the social capital that exists within refugee communities and is an asset for successful entrepreneurship. This story highlights the quality of training imparted to the trainees as well as, the community and market mobilization efforts undertaken during the project and the resultant successful market placement. It also informs about the usefulness of the tool kits distributed to the trainees as part of the enterprise development activities undertaken by trainees after successful completion of the skill development training.

The Project

The project benefited 230 Afghan refugees out of which 54% (125 trainees) were females. The trades, that included tailoring and mobile repair, were selected following a market assessment.

The project was based not only on providing marketable skills to trainees and a certificate from recognized government institution upon completion, but development of market linkages and market placement of the trainees were also key areas of the project.

Under the Livelihood Opportunities for Afghan Refugees in Balochistan RVs project, Innovative Development Organization (IDO) with financial support of UNHCR trained 35 male Afghan Refugees on Mobile Repairing at Chaghi refugee camp. The project was successfully completed on 31st December 2015 and each of 35 beneficiaries is now certified tailors with certificates issued by Trade Testing Board Balochistan. Each of the trainees also received a business start-up tool kit.

One of the core objectives of the project was to provide sustainable and dignified means of livelihood to the beneficiaries through providing access to the local market or supporting them to start their own business setup.

This story documents the entrepreneurship initiatives of 06 beneficiaries from Chaghi camp who have opened their own tailoring shop at RVs and at local markets of Balochistan. These refugees have several opportunities due to the comparatively lower rates they are offering and the ease of access for their communities.



Shams Ullah at Agha Jan Mobile Centre, Chagai

Photo by: Khumais Raza / IDO

Shams Ullah received training on mobile repair at IDO skill development centre, Chaghi during 2015. He successfully completed the training and is now working at Agha Jan mobile repair centre Chaghi. At the shop, he is working as hardware repair expert for past 2 months. Shams Ullah gets paid for the number of mobiles he repairs and, on average, he is earning 8000 PKR per month.

Mr. Hikmat Ullah (Owner of the shop) is satisfied with the services of Shams and shared that, if his shop expands, he would like to provide jobs to more trainees from IDO skill centre as they are skilled with knowledge and practical experience of mobile repairing.

Shams Ullah along with his elder brother, is among the only 2 persons from his home who earn for the household of 14 since his father is too old for a proper job. Shams hopes to start his own mobile repair shop at Afghanistan one day after saving money for opening a new shop.



Bor Agha repairing a mobile at Siraj Mobile Centre, Chagai

Photo by: Khumais Raza / IDO

Bor Agha is currently employed at Siraj Ud Din Rahi Mobile Centre Chaghi for past 1 month. Bor Agha is working on a fixed pay of 10000 PKR / month. He shared that this earning amount is helping him immensely in supporting his family of 12 people where only he and his elder brother are bread winners. Bor Agha works 7 hours at the shop and spends remaining time at home where he supports his family in household chores and purchasing of daily usage items. The owner of the shop, Mr. Siraj, shared that he got to know about availability of skillful mobile repairers from Hikmat Ullah who first hired Shams Ullah (illustrated above) as mobile hardware repair expert. Siraj contacted Hikmat who referred Bor Agha for the job.

Bor Agha is satisfied with the new source of income and plans to get a wealth of experience in dealing with customers and to analyze the market trends so that later he could initiate his own shop.



Sana Ullah sitting at his working desk besides Ahsan

Sana Ullah is working as internee with Ahsan at Badini Mobile Repair Centre, Chaghi. Sana Ullah is 15 years old and his father asked Ahsan to teach Sana Ullah how to manage shop and customer dealing. Sana Ullah gets free breakfast and lunch along with weekly pocket money for other expenses. His father plans to open a mobile repair shop for him after a year or two at Chaghi so that Sana Ullah could help in supporting the family of 14 people in which only 2 earn for household. Sana Ullah is good at mobile repair and has repaired 10 mobiles in a month.

Ahsan is hopeful for Sana Ullah and believes that he will be able to earn 10 to 12 thousand rupees per month after opening his own shop.

Qudrat Ullah & Asad Khan



Sami Ullah & Siddique Ullah

Qudrat Ullah has opened his own shop at Chaghi Mobile Market. He has also provided a job opportunity to Asad Khan who was his class fellow at IDO training centre. Qudrat Ullah pays PKR 2500 per month to Asad Khan for support while he earned PKR 6500 during last month after deduction of shop rent and utility bills. Qudrat shared that it will take some time to attract customers since he is new in the business.

Sami Ullah and Siddique Ullah are currently enrolled at IDO mobile repairing skill centre, 2016 session and are working, in their free time, as volunteers with Qudrat Ullah to learn practical shop keeping. They get pocket money and free meals for their assistance.

Asad Khan – internee at Qudrat’s shop is the only earner of his house and hopes to open his shop next year.