

Research, Network and Support Facility (RNSF)

“Support to enhance livelihoods per people dependent on informal economy
and improve social inclusion of marginalised and vulnerable persons”

Volume 4.1: Good Practices and Lessons Learned

RESEARCH QUESTION	4- Innovative approaches to enhance livelihoods, equity and inclusion of people dependent on the informal economy
SUB-TOPIC (Research matrix)	<u>Strengthening IE with attention to youth and children (4.7)</u>
REGION - COUNTRY OF IMPLEMENTATION	Southern Asia - Afghanistan
GOOD PRACTICES	Transforming youth into agents of change and provisioning them with comprehensive training packages (including literacy and numeracy, life skills and business and entrepreneurship) to ensure the cascading of learning. Involving beneficiaries to ensure such cascading is key to transforming beneficiaries into agents of change providing them with pride in contributing to their group's (society's) destiny (Afghanistan).
PROJECT NAME	<i>Poverty Reduction and Community-Based Social Protection in Afghanistan</i>
YEAR	2012
FUNDING AGENCY	European Commission
IMPLEMENTING AGENCY	WarChild UK
KEY TARGET GROUPS	Women, girls and female youth who are homebound
SUMMARY OF THE ACTION	
<p>In this EC funded project implemented by WarChild UK and which aims at re-integrating street working children into formal school, the selection of beneficiaries was achieved through peer outreach, consultation with community leaders and door-to-door outreach by project staff. The action was extended to other members of the family (older working children, women) through specific training for income-generating activities, business management and entrepreneurship or other life skills, numeracy and literacy trainings.</p> <p>Criteria to be selected as beneficiary included: having never received any similar training, having more than three family members to cascade the training and being among the most vulnerable community member in the districts.</p> <p><i>Comprehensive training package for beneficiaries</i></p> <p>Women and youth received a comprehensive training package including literacy and numeracy, life skills and business and entrepreneurship classes held at the resource centres. An in-depth market survey was instrumental in designing skills training responsive to the needs of beneficiaries and the needs of the market.</p> <p><i>Peer support scheme and cascading effects</i></p> <p>The peer support scheme was the method used in business and entrepreneurship classes. It is an informal</p>	

<p>method that the business trainers established to especially encourage and increase bonding and camaraderie and facilitate learning among females. Faster learners supported and assisted the slower learners in the groups. The scheme went beyond the classroom and also encouraged women and youth to share their problems at home.</p> <p>The impact of the peer support was captured during the project’s final evaluation. Participants reported that there is an unusually high degree of fraternity and bonding within the beneficiary groups in the training centres run by the project. This is especially evident from the responses from two of the most vulnerable groups: young and adult women. Both groups have benefited enormously from their new associations outside the home in these venues. It warrants mention that the primary reason cited behind these bonds is the sharing of experiences with one another, and the learning and support that were derived.</p> <p>The external project evaluation team stated that they believed that such connections will not only serve to provide an element of sustainability to the project, but will contribute towards strengthening community-based social protection mechanisms in Afghanistan.</p> <p>During classes, beneficiaries were encouraged to convey and teach other members of their family and relatives what they were learning. They were also requested to share positive changes in their business activities to motivate others as well. The cascading of learning to family was an important aspect of this activity as the project was re-focussed on income-generating activities resources and training being used for family enterprises (instead of cooperatives).</p> <p>The final project evaluation reported that youth were passionate about becoming agents of change themselves and indicated a strong resolve to promote the project or similar resources to other youth so that they could benefit in the same way that they have benefited. Tools distributed were not only utilized for their own benefit but also for passing on the benefits through training others and thus contributing to sustainability.</p>	
LESSONS LEARNED	Inclusion of a specific <i>project objective</i> to extend the effects of the actions beyond the immediate beneficiaries to include other family members, community members or peers is important to ensure the scaling up of impact.
CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Support the inclusion of youth as agents of change in their communities. 2) Include a specific project objective to ensure extension of the effects of project actions to other persons beyond the immediate beneficiaries of the action. This includes family members, relatives or peers and is key to transforming beneficiaries into agents of change providing them with pride in contributing positively to their group’s (society’s) destiny. Including a specific project objective helps ensure that sufficient attention is paid to this issue.
SOURCE	RNSF Research Volume 4.1: https://europa.eu/capacity4dev/iesf/document/rnsf-research-volume-41-gp-and-ll-33-projects-funded-european-union
RESOURCE(s)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Poverty Reduction and Community-Based Social Protection in Afghanistan, WarChild UK (Project Evaluation Report) ▪ Project presentation slides: https://europa.eu/capacity4dev/file/11573/download?token=tAnv1o-O



**RESEARCH, NETWORK AND SUPPORT FACILITY (RNSF) - EuropeAid/135649/DH/SER/MULTI
Good Practices and Lessons Learned**

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