

2025

# ANNUAL REPORT

**EASTERN REGION  
JOINT PROGRAMME**

A livestock farmer receives dairy processing kits through  
STFA funds in Laghman Province. © FAO/Hashim Azizi

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The UN organizations are listed in the order of joining STFA



Programme <sup>1</sup> Title & Project Number		Country, Locality(s), Priority Area(s)/ Strategic Results <sup>2</sup>	
Programme Title: STFA Joint Programme for the Eastern Region of Afghanistan: Addressing Basic Human Needs through UNSFA ('JP-Eastern')  MPTF Office Project Reference Number <sup>3</sup> :		Country: Afghanistan Region: Eastern  Priority areas/Strategic Results: UNSFA Outcomes 1, 2, 3  Outcome 1: Sustained Essential Services Outcome 2: Economic opportunities and resilient livelihoods Outcome 3: Social Cohesion, Inclusion, Gender Equality, Human Rights, and Rule of Law	
Participating Organization(s)		Implementing Partners	
Organizations that have received direct funding from the MPTF Office under this programme: 12 PUNOs  1. Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) 2. International Labour Organization (ILO) 3. United Nations Mine Action Service (UNMAS) 4. United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) 5. United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) 6. International Organization for Migration (IOM) 7. United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) 8. United Nations Programme for Human Settlements (UN-HABITAT) 9. United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN WOMEN) 10. United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) 11. United Nations Educational, Science and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) 12. United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD)		Please refer to PUNO-specific reports	
Programme/Project Cost (US\$)		Programme Duration	
Total approved budget as per project document:	150,685,491	Overall Duration	41 months
MPTF /JP Contribution <sup>4</sup> :	54,623,798		
Agency Contribution	N/A	Start Date <sup>5</sup>	3 Nov 2022
Government Contribution)	N/A	Original End Date <sup>6</sup>	31 Dec 2023
Other Contributions (donors):	N/A	Current End Date <sup>7</sup>	31 Mar 2026
Total Contributions:	54,623,798		
Programme Assessment/Review/Mid-Term Eval.		Report Submitted By	
Assessment/Review - if applicable please attach Yes No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Mid-Term Evaluation Report – if applicable please attach Yes No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Name: Peter Nordstrom</li> <li>Title: Senior Trust Fund Manager</li> <li>Participating Organization (Lead): N/A</li> <li>Email address: peter.nordstrom@undp.org</li> </ul>	

[1] The term "programme" is used for programmes, joint programmes and projects.

[2] Strategic Results, as formulated in the Strategic UN Planning Framework (e.g. UNDAF) or project document;

[3] The MPTF Office Project Reference Number is the same number as the one on the Notification message. It is also referred to as "Project ID" on the project's factsheet page the [MPTF Office GATEWAY](#)

[4] The MPTF or JP Contribution, refers to the amount transferred to the Participating UN Organizations, which is available on the [MPTF Office GATEWAY](#)

[5] The start date is the date of the first transfer of the funds from the MPTF Office as Administrative Agent. Transfer date is available on the [MPTF Office GATEWAY](#)

[6] As per approval of the original project document by the relevant decision-making body/Steering Committee.

[7] If there has been an extension, then the revised, approved end date should be reflected here. If there has been no extension approved, then the current end date is the same as the original end date. The end date is the same as the operational closure date which is when all activities for which a Participating Organization is responsible under an approved MPTF /JP have been completed. As per the MOU, agencies are to notify the MPTF Office when a programme completes its operational activities.

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# List of Acronyms and Abbreviations

<b>ASYREC</b>	Automated System for Customs Data for Relief Consignments
<b>CRC</b>	Chamtala Community Resource Centre
<b>FHH</b>	Family health house
<b>IDP</b>	Internally displaced person
<b>MSMEs</b>	Micro-, small and medium-sized enterprises
<b>PUNO</b>	Participating United Nations organization
<b>STFA</b>	Special Trust Fund for Afghanistan
<b>UNSFA</b>	United Nations Strategic Framework for Afghanistan



# Executive Summary

Children fetching water at an STFA-supported water supply network in Kunar Province. © UNHCR/Ulfat Kazemi



In 2025, the Special Trust Fund for Afghanistan (STFA) Regional Joint Programme for Eastern Afghanistan achieved strong results, contributing to relief, recovery and economic revitalization in Kunar, Laghman, Nuristan and Nangarhar provinces. It benefited:

 **212,349<sup>8</sup>**  
people, including 110,321 women and girls.

Integrated stabilization interventions restored essential services, strengthened community resilience, promoted sustainable livelihoods and generated short-term employment through cash-for-work initiatives. Interventions addressed immediate recovery needs while supporting longer-term socioeconomic stabilization in vulnerable and conflict-affected communities.

Family health houses (FHHs) continued to provide quality integrated, life-saving reproductive, maternal, newborn, child and nutrition services in hard-to-reach areas, particularly in Kunar Province. This included antenatal and postnatal care, the timely referral of risky maternal health cases and the provision of skilled midwives. Services reduced maternal and child mortality and strengthened health system resilience.

The programme provided agricultural support encompassing livestock, soybean cultivation and backyard production. These activities protected household productive assets, promoted sustainable livelihoods and income diversification, and improved household dietary diversity and nutrition, with strong emphasis on reaching women-headed households. Households were better able to meet their immediate to long-term food and nutrition needs and establish essential livelihood assets, thereby reducing their reliance on harmful coping strategies.

Participating United Nations Organizations (PUNOs) coordinated several initiatives to support women entrepreneurs to establish, sustain and expand their enterprises, including through asset support. An initiative specifically for returnee women equipped them with vocational skills and apprenticeships to start generating income immediately for their families, a step welcomed by the host community and local *de facto* authorities. Strong partnerships with provincial chambers supported effective outreach, coordinated beneficiary selection and alignment with local economic priorities, while engagement with employers' organizations, including the Afghan Women Chamber of Commerce and Industry, reinforced labour standards compliance and peer learning. Measurable improvements occurred in business performance, women's economic empowerment and workplace safety, laying a sustainable foundation for continued growth and strengthened local market linkages.

The provision of renewable energy solutions replaced fuel-based systems, enabled off-season cultivation and enhanced household energy access and living conditions. Disaster risk reduction efforts provided flood and erosion protection. Community-based capacity-building interventions strengthened preparedness through training on disaster risk analysis, contingency planning, first aid and search and rescue. The establishment of functional disaster committees and early warning practices were essential steps in a region frequently affected by floods.

The Chamtala Community Resource Centre (CRC) in Khogyani remained a central hub for internally displaced people (IDPs), returnees and host communities, providing multisector services and supporting social cohesion. The centre also served as a coordination platform for partners, enhancing service coverage and reducing duplication.

[8] Beneficiary numbers are generally fluid and are subject to change following routine data verification and validation exercises that are conducted through the three layers of monitoring (PUNO – TFMU – TPMA).

The Exemption/Automated System for Customs Data for Relief Consignments (ASYREC) digital platform to clear humanitarian and exemption relief consignments was fully installed, backed by comprehensive training. A total of 124 humanitarian and basic human needs exemption consignments were successfully processed, demonstrating increased efficiency, transparency and institutional ownership while ensuring timely delivery of assistance to crisis-affected populations.



A livestock farmer receives animal feed through STFA funds in Nangarhar Province. © UNDP/Mohammad Haroon Hamdard





Agency for Assistance and Development of Afghanistan

د افغانستان د کونړ ولایت  
بښځو او نجونو لپاره بېرته

Emergency assistance to  
affected women and  
Kunar Province, Afgha



د ماشومانو د روغتیا د پیاوړتیا لپاره  
د ماشومانو د روغتیا د پیاوړتیا لپاره  
د ماشومانو د روغتیا د پیاوړتیا لپاره

Family Planning  
IUD  
Inpatient

# Purpose

A midwife attending to a patient affected by the earthquake at the STFA-supported Family Health House in Kunar Province. © UNFPA



The STFA Regional Joint Programme for Eastern Afghanistan covers the provinces of Kunar, Laghman, Nuristan and Nangarhar, which share a border with Pakistan. The Joint Programme was approved by the STFA Steering Committee in March 2022, with funding allocations approved in October 2022. As of December 2024, the programme had received a total funding allocation of \$41.50 million, based on the STFA Regional Allocation Strategy, which is guided by the population-adjusted Multidimensional Poverty Index.

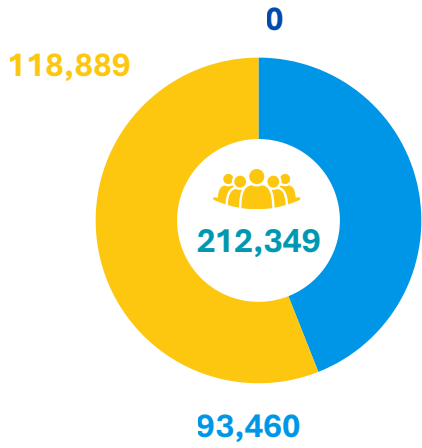
Home to a population of 2,912,579 people (representing 7.48% of the national population), the Eastern region remains highly vulnerable to natural hazards, including seasonal floods, earthquakes, landslides and droughts. The region has also been severely affected by decades of conflict, resulting in displacement, the destruction of infrastructure and livelihoods and disrupted development. Insecurity and the remoteness of rural areas continue to pose serious access challenges, contributing to a fragile humanitarian situation. A total of 11 PUNOs received funding to implement Joint Programme activities in the Eastern Region.



Entrance to a six-class room school built with STFA funds in Nangarhar Province. © UN-Habitat/Piroz Amin

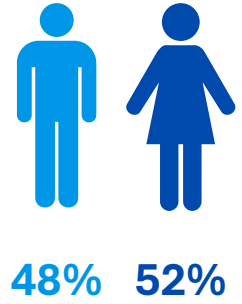


Below is the 2025 report card for the region.



- **Priority 1:** Sustained Essential Services
- **Priority 2:** Economic Opportunities and Resilient Livelihoods
- **Priority 3:** Social Cohesion, Inclusion, Gender Equality, Human Rights, and Rule of Law

Percentage



**119,187**  
Infrastructure support



**21,000**  
Agri-based livelihood



**6,355**  
Other



**108**  
Cash for work



**8,125**  
Awareness-raising



**540**  
Income generation



**55,641**  
Health



**1,344**  
MSMEs



**1,393**  
Trainings





# Results

A poultry farmer supported through STFA funds, feeds his chicken in Nangarhar Province. © FAO/Hasim Azizi



# Outcome

In 2025, the STFA Regional Joint Programme for Eastern Afghanistan achieved strong results, contributing to relief, recovery and economic revitalization in Kunar, Laghman, Nuristan and Nangarhar provinces. It benefited 212,349 people, including 110,321 women and girls, improving services, livelihoods and infrastructure.

Positive health outcomes increased in vulnerable communities through the integrated care offered by the FHHs. They fostered greater uptake of antenatal and postnatal visits, the life-saving use of skilled birth attendance and timely referrals for complicated maternal health cases. This reduced risks of maternal and neonatal mortality and morbidity. Modern contraceptive use improved, and child health services were delivered at scale, including integrated nutrition services. Community engagement activities complemented facility-based services, reinforcing health awareness, referral pathways and community mobilization. The CRC, as an area-based model, reduced duplication, strengthened service links and improved access for IDPs, returnees and host communities across Chamtala and neighbouring districts. Through coordinated, multisectoral interventions aligned with STFA priorities, the programme achieved lasting improvements in service availability, community capacities and protection outcomes.

PUNOs coordinated several initiatives to help micro-, small and medium-sized enterprises (MSMEs) regain operational capacity, sustain jobs and create new employment opportunities. Women, including returnees, strengthened their roles as economic actors within their communities. The programme backed sustainable income generation, stabilized household economies and reinforced local market systems. It contributed to improved business performance, safer and healthier workplaces and greater awareness of labour standards, including by linking financial support with entrepreneurship training for women's MSMEs.

The programme delivered substantial gains in disaster risk reduction through infrastructure works, community-driven planning and strong coordination with provincial authorities. These measures improved water access and agricultural productivity and built resilience to common risks such as droughts and floods.

Communities gained knowledge of the early warning signs of disaster risks and strengthened their abilities to respond effectively to drought-related challenges, including through disaster committees. For the first time, these communities have the capacity to independently monitor weather and hydrological risks. The committees serve as permanent mechanisms for preparedness, enabling real-time alert dissemination, rapid community mobilization and coordinated protection of vulnerable groups during emergencies.

The Exemption/ASYREC Programme has revolutionized the delivery and clearance of humanitarian relief and basic human needs consignments in Afghanistan. By leveraging system compatibility, automation, capacity-building, and continuous evaluation, the programme has significantly improved the speed, transparency and accountability of emergency response operations. Fully implemented, the system ensures timely, efficient and coordinated aid delivery, ultimately bolstering national capacity and improving humanitarian outcomes for crisis-affected populations.

# Output-level Results

## UNSFPA Priority Area 1: Sustained Essential Services

Output

1



Essential services and community infrastructure – including for health, agriculture, education, and energy supply - are functional, sustained and expanded to meet different needs of women and men.

Output 1 benefitted

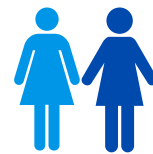
Number of Beneficiaries

93,460



Number of Women and Girls

51,222



6

canal irrigation schemes were selected in the Chaparhar and Pacher Agam districts of Nangarhar Province, based on community demand. Two local private construction companies were chosen through competitive bidding, with construction proceeding through the end of the year.

40

community-level irrigation infrastructures were rehabilitated in Nangarhar and Laghman provinces, benefiting 3,000 households (21,000 people, including 10,395 women and girls). This infrastructure collectively irrigates more than 11,500 hectares. It included 129 metres of PCC canal protection wall, 1,157 metres of protection wall on both sides of the canal, 628 metres of protection wall on one side and the cleaning of 105.5 kilometres of canals. Additional structures included 20 culverts, 19 community water access points, 39 steel gates for off-takes, a one-sided intake structure and five stone masonry protection walls for canal banks.



## 124

truckloads of consignments were processed by the Exemption/ASYREC Programme. This centralized, digital consignment management platform includes functionalities for:

- Exempted inventory and shipment tracking from the system
- Real-time documentation and clearance workflows
- Automated reporting and audit readiness

An extensive capacity-building initiative supported stakeholders to effectively use the system, including the embassies of Azerbaijan, China, Qatar and Saudi Arabia, and 13 United Nations agencies. The training covered:

- Technical use of the platform
- Operational procedures for exemption consignment management
- Best practices for compliance and coordination
- System installation and configuration

A monitoring and feedback mechanism has been established to improve system performance and enhance user satisfaction. It includes:

- Helpdesk support and user guidance materials
- Continuous stakeholder feedback incorporated into system enhancements
- A review framework to capture lessons learned and apply system enhancements

## 5

FHHs in hard-to-reach districts of Kunar Province remained operational throughout 2025. These FHHs provided integrated, life-saving reproductive, maternal, newborn and child services as well as nutrition services to communities with limited access to formal healthcare.

## 53,934

(40,422 women and girls, 74.9%) benefited from services delivered through the targeted FHHs.

## 682

women attended their first antenatal care visit and 364 completed the recommended four visits, demonstrating improved health-seeking behaviour and continuity of care. Postnatal care facilitated the timely detection and management of post-partum complications, with 350 women attending a first postnatal care visit and 309 up to a third visit. Skilled midwives supported 300 safe deliveries, improving maternal and neonatal outcomes. A total of 24 complicated maternal cases were referred to emergency obstetric and newborn care facilities, ensuring access to higher-level care when needed.



## 9,587

outpatient consultations were provided to children under age 5, addressing common childhood illnesses and preventing complications. Nutrition services were integrated into routine care, reaching 3,950 beneficiaries with basic maternal, infant and young child nutrition services, allowing for early detection and referral of severe acute malnutrition to therapeutic feeding units for specialized treatment.

## 2,822

individuals received family planning counseling; 967 users were able to satisfy their demands for modern family planning methods.

## 371

individuals were reached through targeted sessions by family health action groups.

## 20

solar water wheel pumps were provided in selected villages in Nangarhar, Laghman and Kunar provinces, benefitting 102 households (714 individuals; 350 women and 364 men). The pumps, which draw water from open sources such as streams, have replaced costly fuel-powered generators, significantly reducing operational costs and air pollution. The shift to solar-powered irrigation has enabled farmers to cultivate crops even during the summer season, marking a first for many. Technical training for beneficiaries included the proper use and maintenance of the pumps, identification of error codes and troubleshooting. In Nangarhar Province, the completion of a solar-powered tube well and a water reservoir at Kandi Bagh School ensured a reliable supply of safe drinking water, directly improving hygiene and the learning environment.

## 298

household shelters in Nangarhar and Laghman provinces (Kama Rodat, Surkh Rod, Alingar and Mehtarlam districts) have been solarized, achieving 70 percent of the target of 445. Several key components remain pending, however. In some shelters, inverters, batteries and fans have not yet been installed. Currently, only 150 shelters are fully equipped with fans, while the remaining shelters are still awaiting the installation of inverters, batteries and fans. More than 625 kilowatts of solar energy will be provided to 445 households.

## 10

FHHs were completed in Laghman and Kunar provinces. Following consultations with provincial and national *de facto* health authorities, the original proposal was redesigned. This required additional coordination, cost adjustments and procurement realignments, but ultimately strengthened the functionality of the completed structures.



## 8

FHHs gained water systems at two remaining sites in Kunar, groundwater unavailability and community-imposed restrictions on connecting to existing infrastructure necessitated long-term solution planning with partners and local authorities.

**The CRC established in Chamtala District, Nangarhar Province**, functioned as a multisectoral hub supporting displacement-affected communities, returnees and vulnerable households. It improved access to essential services, with 453 households assessed and referred for assistance, creating measurable linkages to health, protection, livelihoods and legal services. For example:

— Skills-building and resilience outcomes were notable. Computer literacy training for 48 participants (equal gender representation) enhanced employability and digital inclusion. Vocational training in tailoring and mobile repair equipped returnees with marketable skills, enabling more sustainable reintegration. Monthly health camps provided direct medical assistance and health education, reducing barriers to access for vulnerable groups. Messaging and accessible reporting channels related to the prevention of sexual exploitation and abuse and sexual harassment improved safety and trust across the community.

— Protection services yielded further results. A women's rest area enabled safe access to mental health and psychosocial services, midwifery support and gender-based violence awareness. Dignity kits were distributed through community-endorsed targeting, promoting equitable and transparent access to essential items.

— Child protection outcomes were strengthened through the child-friendly space, which provided a safe environment for learning, psychosocial support and recreation, benefiting 7,712 children (4,106 girls and 3,606 boys).

The CRC also:

— Enhanced community awareness and protection: 5,660 individuals (2,065 women) participated in awareness sessions on available services, accountability to affected populations and the prevention of sexual exploitation and abuse and harassment, strengthening community safeguards and accountability.

— Strengthened community structures: Two committees (each with 20 men, 15 women) became functional platforms for information-sharing, mobilization and problem-solving.

— Greater service integration: Through three dedicated desks (complaints and feedback mechanisms, protection screening and general information), the CRC increased responsiveness and ensured timely referrals.

The CRC served as a local coordination space, hosting 38 meetings involving over 538 participants from PUNOs and non-governmental organizations, such as the Norwegian Refugee Council and International Rescue Committee. These efforts led to concrete service improvements including in providing information, counselling and legal assistance, and through deploying mobile medical teams.

## UNSFA Priority Area 2: Economic Opportunities and Resilient Livelihoods

Output

2



Livelihoods, businesses and the local economy can recover, more sustainable and more resilient to instability.

Output 2 benefitted

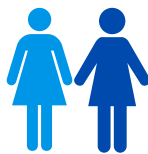
Number of Beneficiaries

648



Number of Women

350



Number of Households

5,916



Percentage of Women-headed Households

31%



Number of MSMEs

1,344



Percentage of Women-led MSMEs

98%



1,516

households (1,511 households headed by women) were supported with newly created agriculture-based income-generation opportunities. Interventions included home gardening packages for 1,500 households and micro-poly greenhouse packages for 16 households.



## 20

women in Chamtala District took part in globally certified training courses for business start-ups. They in turn delivered training to 500 women entrepreneurs who had previously gone through vocational skills training. Three training modules, tailored to meet the needs of women entrepreneurs, provided a comprehensive framework for identifying, launching and managing sustainable business ventures. Trainings were interactive, with participants engaging in group discussions, peer-to-peer learning and scenario role plays to practice decision-making, negotiation and problem-solving.

Each participant developed a personalized business plan. Trainers worked closely with the women to refine these plans, ensuring they were practical, achievable and tailored to the local market context. By the end of the training, participants had a clear roadmap to start or grow their businesses along with the confidence and tools necessary for success.

## 100

outstanding entrepreneurs selected through a transparent and rigorous evaluation process received targeted capital support tailored to their business needs.

## 350

women returnees were provided with vocational trainings, mentorship and asset support, based on demand from the host community in Chamtala District, where returnees are concentrated. A rapid need assessment was conducted and affirmed the value of training on livestock, poultry and tailoring. The selection of participants followed established criteria and a rigorous verification process, in consultation with community elders, to prioritize the most vulnerable and eligible returnees. Since the majority of participants were not literate, pre- and post-training assessments were conducted at the group level to effectively measure learning outcomes. All training sessions took place at the CRC in Chamtala, ensuring accessibility and convenience for all participants.

Additionally, 12 women-led businesses were selected to provide mentorship and work placement opportunities for 50 women. A training-of-trainers for four women built their capacities in the three targeted sectors. They developed and enriched sector-specific training materials and 20-day curricula, carefully tailored to participants' learning needs.

## 1,311

families in the Kamdish district of Nuristan Province gained greater access to healthcare through the successful completion of the Koshtoz Basic Health Centre. A cash-for-work scheme to construct the centre provided 21 labourers with 1,647 working days, improving income and economic stability. The centre provides vital healthcare services, including primary medical care, maternal and child health services, and immunizations. It is expected to enhance overall community health by reducing common illnesses, promoting preventive care and ensuring timely treatment.



### Livelihood training leads to economic reintegration

Monitoring of 300 women trained in 2024 on livestock rearing, poultry rearing and tailoring, and provided with resources to use new skills for income generation, found that women began generating tangible income across all livelihood streams. In the livestock component, many households used the milk for their own consumption to meet nutritional needs, while others sold surplus milk in the local market to supplement their income.

Participants engaged in poultry production reported daily earnings of approximately AFN 300 from selling eggs within the community. Similarly, women trained in tailoring have started providing sewing and stitching services to local households, earning between AFN 150 and AFN 500 per day depending on demand. Overall, these income gains demonstrate the programme's effectiveness in promoting economic reintegration, strengthening household resilience and contributing to broader community economic development.

## 400

MSMEs gained specialized training on containerized gardening, learning techniques suitable for limited spaces, along with agricultural toolkits to establish productive home gardens. This strengthened household food security and nutrition and created income-generating opportunities, fostering greater economic independence and resilience among MSMEs and their communities.

## 1,311

families gained reliable power through the 80-kilowatt Merkihil Micro Hydropower project, a small-scale renewable energy initiative. A cash-for-work component engaged 270 households, including 52 local labourers, and generated 2,655 working days.

## 450

households gained electricity from the 100-kilowatt Want Micro Hydropower project; 21 labourers received employment through 1,818 working days under a cash-for-work programme.

## 998

person-days of cash-for-work benefitted 14 labourers in constructing the PD7 boulder wall project.

## 40

MSMEs received tailored asset replacement packages. The support targeted enterprises central to local value chains, such as food production, light manufacturing, carpet production and recycling, thereby strengthening supply systems and safeguarding livelihoods.



This resulted in:

- 233 jobs (17 women, 7.3%) sustained, and 291 new jobs created, with significant gains for women, who accounted for 175 of the new jobs.
- Increased inclusion of vulnerable groups, including nine women-owned MSMEs, one led by a person with disabilities
- Improved sustainability through the distribution of solar-powered systems (a combination of solar and business assets) to 27 MSMEs, reducing operational costs and increasing productivity

## 190

employees (all men) across 18 MSMEs received three months of salary support to prevent job losses and support recovery from economic shocks. This contributed to:

- 133 existing jobs preserved, sustaining production in strategically important sectors, including food processing, dairy, beverages, cosmetics and sports equipment manufacturing
- 57 (all men) new jobs created, enabling businesses to retain skilled labour while reinvesting in growth

## 350

women including 89 returnees, 89 IDPs and 172 host community members, successfully completed entrepreneurship training and received tailored business startup kits. Key results included:

- Increased participation of women in growth-relevant sectors, such as food processing, textiles, shoe and handbag production, carpet weaving, tailoring and personal care manufacturing
- Strengthened home-based enterprise opportunities, enabling culturally appropriate, sustainable income generation
- Improved financial independence among women, fostering stronger household resilience

## 25

women-led MSMEs were selected through a competitive process for an integrated package of enterprise development and workplace improvement interventions. They were provided with financial support, alongside comprehensive technical assistance to strengthen compliance with labour standards and improve working conditions.


## 30

MSMEs received training on occupational safety and health, emergency first aid and the elimination of child labour. They included the 25 financially supported enterprises and 5 MSMEs nominated by PUNOs and the provincial chapter of the Afghanistan Women Chamber of Commerce and Industry. First aid kits were distributed to all 30 MSMEs to support the practical application of workplace safety measures. The trainings emphasized practical, low-cost solutions that could be readily integrated into daily business operations.



## 80

women strengthened entrepreneurial, financial management and marketing capacities through business start-up training. Among the participants, 24 were MSME owners or directly engaged in existing MSMEs, while the remaining 56 were aspiring entrepreneurs who had not yet established businesses.



A tailor in Salma Dozi Beads Sewing Centre supported by STFA in Nangarhar Province. © UNDP/Mohammad Haroon Hamdard

Output

3



Communities have improved infrastructure, access to water and preparedness mechanisms to protect farm-based livelihoods and cope with climate and environment shocks and natural disasters.

Output 3 benefitted

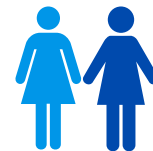
Number of Beneficiaries

118,241



Number of Women and Girls

58,749



190,000

community members will gain from 17 culverts under construction in Nangarhar Province (Surkhrod and Jalalabad districts), Laghman Province (Alishang district) and Kunar Province (Chapa Dara, Ghazi Abad, Marawara, Sarkani, Shigal and Watapur districts). Selected in response to community-identified priorities, the culverts contribute to disaster-resilient community infrastructure, with a specific objective of mitigating potential natural hazards, notably flood risks. Site selection was conducted in close consultation with local communities and their stakeholders, identifying critical gaps in community infrastructure, local risks and susceptibility to natural disasters as well as community priorities. Interventions further targeted areas with significant numbers of returnees straining local resources and capacities. The culverts have been designed to meet the standards of strong technical quality assurance.

5

community-based drought early warning systems were established in five districts of Nangarhar and Laghman provinces.

393

smallholder farmers and herders were trained on early warning systems, community-level anticipatory mitigation actions and preparedness mechanisms.



## 12,000

people benefited from rehabilitation and/or newly constructed disaster-resilient community infrastructure and nature-based solutions. This included continued advances in irrigation rehabilitation (with six additional schemes ongoing), community-level infrastructure (70 structures completed), cash-for-work, early warning systems and training on climate-smart agricultural practices.

## 35,013

(17,150 women and girls) in three vulnerable communities gained protections against soil erosion and seasonal flooding through the completion of the PD7 boulder wall. By reinforcing riverbanks, the project protects public infrastructure, including approximately 600 hectares of agricultural land, one girls' school and one boys' school, thereby improving overall community safety and strengthening resilience to flood-related hazards.

## 61,710

(30,236 women and girls) benefited from five disaster risk management infrastructure projects. Based on community action plans, they were developed based on detailed engineering designs to mitigate disaster risks and strengthen local resilience. They represented a shift towards more localized risk mitigation, targeting communities most affected by seasonal flooding and erosion:

- In Alingar District (Laghman Province), water infrastructure improvements in the Tangoor-Akhunzadgan community enabled more reliable irrigation flows, directly supporting agricultural continuity and enhancing livelihoods.
- In Kareez Kabir (Nangarhar Province), the construction of a 1.6-kilometre earthen embankment provided critical erosion control, protecting farmland and residential areas from seasonal runoff.
- In Surkhrod District (Nangarhar Province), the rehabilitation of Koz Kakrak's major irrigation canal restored water distribution and strengthened flood management for one of the district's largest agricultural systems.
- In Dara-e-Pech and Asmar districts (Kunar Province), the Umaar Koolak and Tesha intake rehabilitation ensured stable water access and reduced disaster vulnerability for thousands of residents.

## 3

flood-prone communities in Laghman Province – Roghani (Alingar District), Rahin (Alishang District) and Abozayee (Mehtarlam District) – underwent community-based capacity-building interventions; 180 community members (90 women, 50.0%) completed a two-week, practical, community-focused training session. Communities gained skills in hazard identification, first aid, search and rescue, contingency planning and early warning activation.

The work was coordinated in close collaboration with *de facto* local authorities at the district and provincial levels, ensuring that committees were recognized, trusted and positioned within broader community governance structures. This partnership-based implementation model also helped integrate disaster risk reduction practices into local decision-making processes and promoted the equitable engagement of women and marginalized groups.



# Delays in Implementation, Challenges, Lessons Learned & Best Practices

Farmers in the citrus orchard supported through STFA's alternative livelihoods initiative in Nangarhar Province. © UN-Habitat/Piroz Amin



# Challenges

- 1** Nationwide Internet and mobile network outages in September 2025 disrupted project coordination and reporting. Business continuity measures allowed essential operations to continue, although reporting was slower; normal communication has since resumed.
- 2** Bans on women's participation required adaptations such as women-only activities and the inclusion of mahrams. Activities were organized at times and locations accessible to women, supporting meaningful participation and contributing to gender equality and women's empowerment.
- 3** Livelihood support interventions encountered constraints due to extremely high demand relative to available support packages. This gap occasionally generated unmet expectations among MSMEs and community members. The presence of multiple economic recovery actors increased the risk of duplication, requiring constant coordination with PUNOs and partners to maintain complementarity.
- 4** *De facto* authorities were initially unfamiliar with ASYREC's humanitarian purpose and its role in facilitating faster clearance of exemption relief and basic human needs consignments. Gaining approval to continue technical development and testing required persistent engagement and technical briefings. Recognition that the system was designed to strengthen national customs capacity led to formal permission to proceed with development and testing.
- 5** Delays in completing the 17 culverts resulted from diverting critical personnel to respond to the return emergency on the eastern border. The diversion was critical to meet the needs of growing numbers of Afghan families returning from Pakistan. Culvert construction has an anticipated completion date of 31 March 2026.
- 6** Implementation of the FHHs faced significant delays due to major discrepancies between contractor quotations and internal cost estimates. Unexpectedly high bids required extended negotiations to secure financially viable offers while maintaining structural integrity. Mid-implementation, design requirements shifted when the *de facto* authorities requested a revised engineering design. This necessitated halting ongoing processes, revising technical specifications and bills of quantities, and restarting procurement. Although this redesign raised unit costs and delayed works by several months, the early decision to harmonize designs prevented far more costly midconstruction alterations.
- 7** Quality control challenges surfaced when two FHHs in Kunar required contract termination and complete reconstruction following substandard workmanship. While successfully resolved, these incidents prolonged implementation and demanded additional coordination with legal, procurement and *de facto* authority counterparts.



8

Two completed FHHs still lack water due to a community refusal to share existing waterlines and the absence of viable groundwater. This highlights a persistent risk; community resource constraints and social dynamics can undermine otherwise fully completed infrastructure. Community-level advocacy has included engagement with community leaders and *de facto* authorities to explore solutions but the issue remains unresolved.

9

Additional cost pressures emerged from the depreciation of the US dollar, remote construction sites requiring extensive levelling work, and logistics complications, including a landslide that destroyed a contractor's truck and compressor.

10

Budgetary and logistical limitations necessitated the prioritization of interventions and careful selection of beneficiaries, focusing on women-led MSMEs with a demonstrated commitment to complying with labour standards.

11

Security challenges in certain districts required focusing activities on more accessible areas.

## Lessons Learned

1

Early community engagement was essential to build trust and reduce resistance. Engaging families and community leaders diminished resistance, promoted acceptance and strengthened women's participation in economic activities. This approach helped manage expectations and foster shared responsibility among communities, implementing partners and PUNOs. Weekly meetings between beneficiaries and implementing partners provided a platform to discuss issues and challenges openly, while enabling joint problem-solving and peer learning that strengthened overall project outcomes.

2

Grievance redress mechanisms promoted transparency, while technical training improved construction standards. Integrating environmental and safety considerations supported both sustainability and community acceptance.

3

The integration of health and nutrition services within a single FHH platform improved efficiency, service uptake and continuity of care. The deployment of unemployed midwives within their own communities further strengthened trust, acceptance and use of services.

4

Integrated support models combining asset replacement with temporary salary coverage yielded significantly stronger enterprise recovery outcomes than isolated interventions. Emphasizing practical, low-cost and replicable solutions supports the maintenance of improvements in workplace safety, operational practices and financial management beyond the programme.

5

Green energy solutions proved transformative, with solar systems reducing operating costs, minimizing outages and improving enterprise resilience.



## Risk Analysis

In 2025, the Regional Joint Programme for Eastern Afghanistan continued to operate under the risk management framework established during its design, which categorized risks into contextual, programmatic, operational/financial and organizational dimensions. No new risks were reported; however, previously identified risks from 2023 and 2024 persisted. As implementation will continue into 2026, these risks remain relevant and are being actively managed.

Key materialized risks included the ongoing deterioration of the human rights situation and increasing restrictions on women's participation. Decrees limiting the physical presence of national women UN staff at UN compounds and within non-governmental organizations affected programme operations. To mitigate these challenges, PUNOs maintained a principled approach by adopting "by women for women" modalities, enabling remote work for women staff, engaging local stakeholders and sustaining high-level advocacy. These measures supported the continuity of operations while safeguarding inclusion, access and accountability.

## Qualitative Assessment

Integrated healthcare services in the FHHs were well aligned with the National Health Policy and community priorities and needs, as captured through community feedback mechanisms. Acting on a request to integrate vaccination and nutrition support into reproductive health services enabled women and children to obtain multiple essential services in a single visit. Women consistently identified this as a key improvement, as it reduced travel time and costs while improving access to comprehensive, life-saving care. Third-party monitoring found overall strong performance by the FHHs, but with some lags in pharmaceutical management and staff capacity-building. Addressing these issues requires strengthening medicine supply chains and institutionalizing refresher training.

Continued functionality monitoring of the four comprehensive health clinics established in 2024 found that they remain fully operational and effectively serve beneficiary communities. Improvements in healthcare have reduced child mortality, among other signs of better health conditions in target communities. Increased access to basic services has also reduced risks faced by vulnerable individuals, including women, girls, older persons and persons with disabilities.

A direct delivery model for livelihood initiatives allowed close oversight over beneficiary selection, procurement and distribution. This mechanism enabled consistent quality standards, rapid adjustments to market conditions and effective safeguarding measures, particularly for women beneficiaries. Partnerships played critical roles in maximizing results. Local MSMEs, for instance, collaborated closely in identifying priority equipment needed to restore or expand operations. Coordination with market actors, chambers of commerce and women's business networks strengthened alignment with emerging market opportunities and helped identify growth-ready enterprises.

A wage support modality proved critical during periods of low liquidity, allowing enterprises to maintain essential staff and safeguard production capacity. Livelihood interventions consistently upheld "do no harm" principles, providing fair access for returnees, IDPs and host community members while reducing tension over limited economic opportunities.



Across disaster risk reduction interventions, the programme demonstrated clear progress in shifting communities from reactive to preventive disaster management. The combination of durable infrastructure and strengthened local capacities now provides a more predictable, safer environment for families dependent on agriculture, supporting both livelihoods and long-term climate resilience. Third-party monitoring assessed the disaster risk reduction portfolio overall as effective and well-received, with strong social acceptance. It suggested that future efforts should strengthen supervision, integrate formal environmental management planning and support routine maintenance to sustain long-term resilience gains.

Vocational trainings, mentorship and asset support for women returnees in Chamtala District enjoyed strong support from the host community and *de facto* authorities. Both felt that the intervention was timely and demand-driven as an influx of returnees continued to grow, pressuring local communities. Close consultation with community elders, religious leaders, men and women as well as the incorporation of their ideas in the project design helped embed community support.

Integrated interventions across the four provinces demonstrated a significant positive impact on community stabilization, resilience and livelihoods. Solar water wheel pumps, microhydropower projects and shelter solarization initiatives provided essential services and empowered communities by reducing dependence on costly fuel-based systems, improving agricultural productivity and expanding access to electricity. Beneficiaries reported increased crop yields, improved household nutrition and a greater ability to manage seasonal water shortages, reflecting a contribution to both food security and sustainable economic recovery.

An emphasis on cash-for-work programmes and capacity-building strengthened local ownership and community engagement. Through technical training, hands-on support, and active involvement in construction and maintenance, beneficiaries acquired practical skills and a sense of responsibility for sustaining new infrastructure. Overall, an integrated approach combining infrastructure, livelihoods, renewable energy and disaster risk reduction has not only addressed immediate recovery needs but also laid a strong foundation for long-term stabilization and resilience in conflict- and climate-affected communities.

STFA funding has played a key role in strengthening implementing partners by enhancing their capacity and improving delivery on the ground, expanding the reach and impact of interventions. Targeted capacity-building support was provided on good agricultural practices, crop production, and livestock and poultry management, for example, enabling partners to deliver quality technical assistance and ensure effective implementation. Through its work with the women returnees in Chamtala District, one implementing partner, BRAC, gained the trust of *de facto* authorities and communities, mitigating previous difficulties in employing female staff. During the project, BRAC was asked to employ women trainers at the field level.

In supporting women-led MSMEs and aspiring women entrepreneurs, combined efforts by international and national partners strengthened targeting, reduced duplication and kept interventions responsive to local economic realities. Joint Programme coordination among PUNOs further supported results by promoting complementarities, sharing beneficiary information, and aligning interventions across livelihoods, enterprise development and workplace improvement. As a result, the programme not only delivered its planned outputs but also contributed to more sustainable business practices, safer workplaces and stronger local linkages beyond the reporting period.

Third-Party Monitoring findings from 2025 provide independent validation that the programme’s integrated, multisectoral approach generated strong and mutually reinforcing outcomes across essential services, livelihoods, resilience, and social inclusion. Beneficiaries consistently identified the relevance of interventions to their priority needs, while monitoring confirmed high levels of satisfaction, community acceptance, and operational effectiveness across programme components. These results demonstrate that combining service delivery, economic support, and infrastructure investments within the same geographic areas can produce broader and more sustainable impacts than standalone interventions.

TPM observations further underscore the importance of adaptive delivery mechanisms, localized implementation, and strong community engagement in sustaining results under complex operating conditions. Programmes that embedded participation, technical oversight, and capacity-building from the outset were better positioned to strengthen ownership and preserve long-term gains. At the same time, monitoring highlights the need for continued investment in maintenance systems, technical standardization, and market linkages to ensure durability beyond the implementation period. Collectively, these lessons reinforce the programme’s contribution as a scalable model for resilience-building and inclusive recovery in conflict- and climate-affected settings.

## Partnerships

# 1

**Strategic positioning and coordination:** STFA’s strategic positioning within the UN coordination framework has been a cornerstone of its effectiveness in Afghanistan. STFA has ensured seamless engagement in key coordination bodies and clusters, enabling optimal programmatic impact through the identification of synergies and complementarities across funding streams and organizations. Under the strategic leadership of the UN Resident Coordinator, STFA is positioned to be responsive to the evolving context in Afghanistan. It is actively involved in the Humanitarian Country Team, the Risk Management Team, the National Durable Solutions Secretariat, the Programme Management Team and the Resident Coordinator’s Office-led Monitoring and Evaluation Working Group. This collaboration allows STFA to align with broader UN strategies and foster coordinated actions with humanitarian and development partners to deliver durable solutions for vulnerable communities.

STFA’s engagement with these coordination mechanisms ensures that its interventions are prompt, effective, and aligned with UN-wide risk management measures. They strengthened the ability to adapt to dynamic needs, supporting long-term stability and resilience through integrated, complementary programming.

# 2

**Collaborative initiatives:** Under the strategic leadership of the Resident Coordinator, STFA continued to apply the delivering as one modality as central to its operations, fostering synergies across organizations and enhancing programme quality, cost-effectiveness and socioeconomic impact. The four collaborative thematic initiatives approved by the STFA Steering Committee exemplify how the delivering as one approach uses the comparative advantages of each organization to maximize impact and deliver sustainable, coordinated solutions for vulnerable communities.



# 3

**Private sector engagement:** STFA has expanded MSME financing and market access by partnering with Ghazanfar Bank, Afghanistan International Bank, Kam Group, ASEEL, Hesab Pay and more. These collaborations led to new loan products for women-led MSMEs. They helped onboard more than 140 MSMEs onto ASEEL’s e-commerce platform, enabling wider market reach. Private sector engagement was further strengthened through targeted outreach and high-level meetings in Dubai. These efforts secured commitments from financial institutions and business partners to enhance MSME access to finance, lower operational costs and open new international market channels.

# 4

The CRC in Chamtala District stands as a model of integrated, multisectoral service delivery. Its success was rooted in a network of complementary partnerships. IOM provided coordinated support linking health, protection, livelihoods and accountability. The Norwegian Refugee Council, UNICEF, Homeland Youths Social Incentive Organization, ACTED, UN Women, CoAR, BRAC, WAW, World Food Programme and others expanded services related to legal aid; child-friendly spaces; gender-based violence awareness; water, sanitation and hygiene; nutrition and vocational training.

These partnerships broadened the CRC’s impact and demonstrated the value of joint, area-based service delivery. Community participation through committees, consultations and inclusive service approaches enhanced ownership and strengthened long-term sustainability. Collaboration backed the systematic integration of cross-cutting issues such as gender equality, protection mainstreaming and community accountability.



Strong Families session with children of parents undergoing drug treatment in Nangarhar Province. © UNODC





# Annexes

Community members fetching water from a water tap, constructed with STFA funds in Nangarhar Province. © UN-Habitat/Piroz Amin



## Annex I. Indicator-based Performance Tracker

(The figures in brackets are female figures.)

Annex I - Indicator-based Performance Review	Unit	Baseline	Target	Progress	Reasons for Variance with Planned Target	Source of Verification
<b>Output 1. Essential services and community infrastructure - including for health, agriculture and energy supply - are functional, sustained and expanded to meet different needs of women and men.</b>						
1a. Number of people that have benefited from UN-supported essential services and/or new/rehabilitated infrastructure, disaggregated by type of service and sex.	Kits	12,080	0 (0)	124		PUNO report
	People	689,936	8,000 (3,200)	91,753 (51,222)		PUNO report
1c. Number of people that have benefited from drug-treatment, drug rehabilitation services (health)	People	8,400	0 (0)	1,707 (0)		PUNO report
1d. Number of functional, UN-supported, facilities providing basic health assistance (including basic health assistance services for women and girls)	Facilities /Infrastructure	0	11 (0)	24 (1)		PUNO report
1g. Hectares of rehabilitated and/or newly irrigated land for agricultural activities	Hectares	0	0 (0)	11,500		PUNO report
<b>Output 2. Livelihoods, businesses and local economy are able to recover and are more resilient to instability</b>						
2b. Number of people who have benefited from newly-created income-generation opportunities, disaggregated by sex, age and province	Households	0	0 (0)	1,516 (1,511)		PUNO report
	People	938	0 (0)	350 (350)		PUNO report
2b.1. Number of people who have benefited from productive employment through CfW schemes (at least 30% women; 50% youth)	Households	0	0 (0)	4,400 (299)		PUNO report
	People	1,604	0 (0)	298 (0)		PUNO report
2c. No. of worker-days generated with UN-support	Work days	0	0 (0)	7,118		PUNO report
2f. Number of MSMEs that benefit through financial capital support, training and/or other forms of asset support, disaggregated by women-led and men-led MSMEs	MSMEs	146	12 (0)	1,344 (1,313)		PUNO report

Annex I - Indicator-based Performance Review	Unit	Baseline	Target	Progress	Reasons for Variance with Planned Target	Source of Verification
<b>Output 3. Communities have improved infrastructure, access to water and preparedness mechanisms to protect farm-based livelihoods and cope with climate shocks and natural disasters</b>						
3a. Number of districts with functional early warning systems and other preparedness mechanisms for climate shocks and natural disasters	Districts	0	0 (0)	5		PUNO report
	Other	0	2 (0)	3 (0)		PUNO report
3b. Number of people who acquired knowledge and skills on disaster preparedness (including explosive hazard awareness) and climate-resilient livelihoods (at least 30% women)	People	0	0 (0)	1,393		PUNO report
3c. Number of farmers who benefited from training and assets for improved, climate-smart, agriculture (at least 30% women)	People	0	0 (0)	8,125 (5,483)		PUNO report
3d. Number of people that benefit from rehabilitated and/or newly constructed disaster-resilient community infrastructure and nature-based solutions	People	241,750	42,340 (21,876)	108,723 (53,266)		PUNO report
3e. Number of enabling initiatives implemented or knowledge products produced.	Researches	0	0 (0)	3		PUNO report
<b>Output 4. Social cohesion, human rights, access to justice are strengthened at local level.</b>						
4a. Number of CBOs/CSOs with improved capacity for participatory and inclusive community planning (at least 20% women-led)	CSOs	0	24 (0)	31 (0)		PUNO report
4b. Number of people with better awareness about human rights, social cohesion and conflict prevention (at least 50% women)	People	0	120 (50)	0 (0)		PUNO report

## Annex II. Stories from the Field

# How Reliable Water is Rebuilding Lives in Ghani Khil District



Abdul Basit on his agricultural field with an FAO staff in Nangarhar. © FAO

Abdul Basit, a 31-year-old father of two, lives in Zeer Toot village in Ghani Khil District, Nangarhar Province. Like most families here, his life depends on his small farm and five goats. But recently, nature has been unforgiving. Two consecutive years of severe drought in 2022 and 2023 caused groundwater levels to plummet, leaving the village's main irrigation canal dry and broken. Without water, Abdul's harvests failed, and his income disappeared.

A cash-for-work initiative under the joint programme addressed this issue. It helped families to earn an immediate income while working together to restore the irrigation systems they depend on.

Abdul and 94 other villagers set to work. Over 20 days, Abdul earned \$100. This was a lifeline for his family, representing a significant 25 percent of his total seasonal income. It allowed him to buy food and meet essential expenses during a period of extreme hardship.

The villagers rehabilitated 3.1 kilometres of the canal and built protection walls to prevent future erosion. They also constructed a new community water access point. The impact was immediate.

As soon as the work was completed, clean water began flowing reliably to the fields for the first time in years.

"I am more than happy," Abdul said. "Water now reaches my fields consistently. It has changed everything for us."

The intervention's reach is vast. It provides reliable irrigation for 360 hectares of land, supporting 2,700 families, about 20,000 people. Inclusion was also a priority; 3 percent of the beneficiaries were women-headed households. For these families, the new water point has significantly reduced the daily physical burdens on women who previously had to travel long distances to collect water and wash clothes.

This is not just a short-term fix. To keep the canal functional, the community has established a water user committee. Local farmers have agreed to contribute a portion of their harvest to a maintenance fund to keep structures in good repair.



## Scaling Up a Women-Led Enterprise: From a Home Kitchen to City Markets

Sola, an entrepreneur living in Surkhrod District, Nangarhar Province, started producing pickles and jams from her home kitchen in 2007. Initially, it was a small family endeavour, with Sola managing the food preparation and her father handling local distribution. Yet demand for her traditional recipes steadily grew. Through disciplined savings, Sola reinvested her earnings into jars and basic solar panels. Yet without industrial-grade equipment, her production capacity eventually hit a ceiling.

To help Sola bridge this gap and build a sustainable business, the joint programme provided targeted assistance. Sola received a comprehensive support package valued at approximately \$8,578. This included a modern vegetable pulper machine, an upgraded solar power system, support for employment retention and funding for apprenticeships.

This modernization transformed her operation. Sola's production capacity increased by 50 percent, and the time required to process raw ingredients dropped significantly. With improved efficiency, she diversified her product line to include chili sauces, flavoured vinegars and seasonal fruit sweets.

Now officially registered as the Mastoorat Food Centre, Sola's business has expanded its market reach from local village stalls to major retail hubs in Jalalabad City.

Beyond its commercial success, the centre has become a vital platform for women's economic empowerment. By providing hands-on training and basic business literacy, Sola helps other women acquire the skills needed to generate their own income.

Former apprentices have even gone on to establish their own small businesses, continuing the cycle of economic independence that began in Sola's kitchen.

"I am thankful for the Mastoorat Food Centre for creating a safe, supportive workplace for women during challenging times," said Nooria, a former apprentice. "I gained practical skills that now allow me to support my family independently."



Women working in Sola's Mastoorat Food Centre supported by STFA in Nangarhar Province. © IOM



## From a Single Sewing Machine to Community Empowerment

In Nangarhar Province, Khkulah Afghan, a 38-year-old mother of four, is transforming the lives of women in her community through her handicraft and tailoring business, the Khkulah Afghan Handicrafts Production Company.

Her journey began out of necessity. Originally from Khost Province, Khkulah and her family were forced to move to Jalalabad due to drought, insecurity and a lack of economic opportunity. With her husband unable to secure a stable income due to a minor disability, Khkulah took the initiative to start a small tailoring business with her daughter.

At first, the business struggled. With few customers, irregular income and no formal business planning, their production capacity was low. Furthermore, the workspace lacked proper organization and basic safety measures. The turning point came when Khkulah participated in a series of business development trainings organized by the joint programme. She completed the Start and Improve Your Business course, alongside training on occupational safety and health, the elimination of child labour and first aid.

These interventions provided Khkulah with the practical skills she needed to manage her finances, organize production, and apply safe, responsible workplace practices. She soon expanded her workshop and her production capacity. She also diversified her product line, which now includes women's clothing, hijabs, traditional embroidery (salma dozi) and children's garments, and improved the overall quality of her goods.

Today, Khkulah employs 12 women, providing them with a safe environment and a stable income. By establishing strong relationships with local markets and supermarkets, she has ensured a steady flow of orders.

“Before, I was only trying to manage our daily needs,” Khkulah reflected. “Now, my business is organized, my income is more stable, and I can plan for the future. I learned that growing a business is not only about selling more, but also about protecting the people who work with me and building something that can last.”

With a structured production cycle and strong market linkages, her all-women enterprise is directly contributing to women's economic participation at the community level. Looking ahead, Khkulah has a clear, ambitious vision: “I want to expand this into a larger company and create jobs for 100 to 150 women in the future.”



Women working at Khkula Afghan company supported by STFA in Nangarhar Province. © ILO





DELIVERING AS

 ONE

The word 'ONE' is rendered in a large, bold, white sans-serif font. To its left is a circular icon representing the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), which is a ring of 17 colored segments.

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