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*Economic Empowerment of vulnerable Afghan women (EEVW)*  
**Afghanistan**

The security situation in Afghanistan has worsened. Civilian casualties are at their highest since 2002, with an unprecedented level of conflict-induced displacement. In 2017, The United Nations Assistance Mission for Afghanistan (UNAMA) recorded 10,000 civilian casualties. During the same period, more than 202,000 Afghans were internally displaced by conflict and 44,000 others were displaced by natural disasters. A surge of returnees from Iran and Pakistan (over 296,000 in 2017) has brought mounting pressure on humanitarian assistance.

As per the World Bank report, real GDP growth was estimated at 2.6 percent in 2017. The agriculture sector grew by only around 1.4% in 2017 due to unfavorable weather conditions, with service and industry sectors recording slightly faster growth of 3.4% and 1.8% respectively. Insecurity is taking a heavy toll on private investment and consumer demand. Business sentiment shows no sign of recovery. Because of the sluggish economic growth and the deteriorating security situation, the poverty rate increased to 39.1, up from 36 percent in 2011-12, meaning that 1.3 million people fell into poverty over a period of three years. Labor demand in the off-farm sector declined. Most of the jobs created in the service sector during the pre-transition phase were lost. In 2013/14, the unemployment rate stood at 23% with the female unemployment rate two and half times higher than the male rate. Unemployment is particularly severe amongst low-skilled, illiterate workers, who historically are at the greatest risk of falling into poverty. Left unattended, poverty and inequality can further undermine social cohesion and jeopardize progress attained in the past 15 years.

The situation is even worst for women and girls as Afghanistan remain a very rigid, conservative and narrow society for women and girls. Women and girls have limited opportunities and that too are hampered by the rigid social norms unfavorable for women and girls. Women and girls continue to go through different forms of violence including physical psychological and emotional abuse. A 2013 UNFPA study suggest that 87% of women in Afghanistan have gone through some sort of violence.

A survey released by Save the Children in 2017 found that children of Afghan families returning from Pakistan, who have no access to education, are increasingly at risk of early marriage and child labor. Parents facing poverty, lack of documentation, money and access often feel the only stable choice they can make is to arrange a marriage for their child, or to bring the children into the workforce. Around 56% of the internally displaced are children, who face particular risk of abuse and exploitation, as well as interrupted school attendance and harmful child labor. Multiple forms of violence, particularly early and forced marriage, and domestic, psychological and sexual abuse, are reported.

**Profile of the Target Population:** 30 women individuals by supporting them with access to improved livelihoods and protection: 50% will be documented Afghan returnees and others will include undocumented returnees, IDPs and vulnerable host members, i.e. female headed households, disabled, severely or chronically ill members, or those at risk of social marginalization. To ensure that 50% of targeted beneficiaries are documented returnees, the. The beneficiaries will be selected from the most vulnerable families in the locations highlighted below. The project will include a focus on women, children and adolescents' girls because poverty, harsh conditions, and lack of awareness of women and children's rights often lead to child abuse, child labor and early marriage. Through this project participant will contribute to peaceful development in place where they are not allowed to leave their houses after 3 pm in Nangarhar. Bringing peace through education and work will play an important role in these women's educational and career development. All the individuals selected for the project will be selected from Jalalabad city.

**Project Description:** Objective 1: Vulnerable returnees, IDPs and host community members have access to safe and dignified employment or self-employment. Based on initial needs assessment and a basic market survey, the project will establish Beneficiary Selection Committees (BSCs) that will select beneficiaries according to the needs and will ensure that 50% of the beneficiaries are documented Afghan returnees. New beneficiaries will be selected based on vulnerability and need, through direct observation, house-to-

house surveys and interviews. The project will also pay extra attention to the specific needs and concerns for women and girls and will, to the extent possible, facilitate women's participation in the selection process.

**Vocational Training:** The project will select 30 beneficiaries between 18 and 45 to participate in three months of market relevant vocational training. Local labor market assessments will be conducted to ensure vocational training classes are identified based on current market demand. 100 percent of the training participants will be female and receive Home Based Business (HBB) support for two months after graduation; and receive On-The-Job (OJT) training support, including marketing, competitive pricing, quality control, etc. Beneficiaries will also receive numeracy and literacy training during the three months, furthermore, a training kit will also be provided upon graduation.

**Business Development Training:** The 30 vocational training beneficiaries will participate in a 5-day business development and marketing training facilitated by the project. Participants will learn how to set goals, manage their finances, develop a business plan and the basic components of business management. The training curriculum is based on Competency-based Economies through Formation of Enterprise (CEFE) curriculum with additional components on life skills from Learn to Earn curriculum.

**Exhibitions for Beneficiaries:** The project will facilitate an exhibition throughout the project period, bringing together potential suppliers and traders from different sectors. As a result, retailers' awareness will be raised to purchase products made locally by women as part of their home-based businesses. The skills of the apprentices will be demonstrated during the awareness session and encourage the employers to provide employment opportunities to those currently in apprenticeship placements. The project will enable 30 vulnerable women and girls assist themselves and contribute to the family baskets of their respective families.

<b>Objective #1:</b> Vulnerable returnees, IDPs and host community members have access to safe and dignified employment or self-employment.				
Indicator	Indicator type	Target # and/or %	Baseline # and/or %	How measured/ documented/ collected
<b>Indicator 1:</b> Number of people receiving vocational skills training disaggregated by gender	Output	30	0	Attendance list; Certificate of completion; Reporting frequency: monthly
<b>Indicator 2:</b> Number and percentage of project participants, disaggregated by gender and population (refugee, national) who self-report increased income by end of project period as compared to the pre-project baseline assessment	Outcome	40%	0	Baseline and end line surveys; Reporting frequency: end of project
<b>Indicator 3:</b> Number and percentage of vocational trainees who started their own businesses	Outcome	15 50%	0	Baseline and end line surveys; Reporting frequency: end of project
<b>Indicator 4:</b> Number of beneficiaries received CEFE training	Output	30 100%	0	Attendance list; Certificate of completion; Reporting frequency: monthly
<b>Indicator 5:</b> Number of exhibitions held	Output	1	0	Program records Reporting frequency: monthly
<b>Indicator 6:</b> Number of beneficiaries supported with supplies and equipment for business start-up	Output	30	0	Distribution list; Reporting frequency: monthly