

BEAM webinar, 17th June 2021

The road to jobs during a protracted crisis

Written answers to questions asked during the webinar

(some questions were answered live, and some in writing)

Q: How can aid agencies improve the demand for employment in a labour market of a protracted crisis context?

A: Well, R2J project worked differently compared to other aid agencies. the project partnered with private sector where opportunities could be forecasted to create employment. in depth studies were conducted to identify potential value chains and intervention areas. Then project focus on those and looked for creating employment through innovations by private sector.

Q: In the carpet making sector (and other handicrafts) one of the advantages (given conditions in Afghanistan) is home working is that the case here?

In this case, both. There are carpet weaving centres where women come together and work in the factory. The factories then have kindergarten and acceptable work environment. But, companies like Marhaba Zareen decided to distribute looms and raw material to houses for weavers during COVID19 restrictions so they can continue to work from comfort of their homes.

Q: One of the real MSD opportunities in SIYB is the creation of independent trainers. Have you followed this approach?

Yes, there are more than 90 trainers and 9 master trainers who are working both with SIYB company as well as individual/independent consultants.

Q: The project seems more like an employment opportunity provision by those two investing companies, what about the market part by the beneficiaries themselves? Was this a part of the vision of the program or not at all? I mean for more sustainable business context we need to empower in all aspects

For the carpet sector there was high demand in the international market but a lack of capacity was the constraint. The project did work on market aspects of other value chains such as grapes, dairy and poultry. But for carpets, the modern designs or digital design have good existing market, but everyone doesn't know how to weave.