

**AFGHAN DISPLACED PERSONS PROGRAM 2013
PROJECT PROPOSAL**

GENERAL PROJECT INFORMATION

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| Organisation | ChildFund Australia ACN: 002 885 761 - ABN: 79 002 885 761 |
| Project Title | Youth Empowerment Project (YEP) |
| Project Location | Nangarhar Province, Afghanistan Three target districts of: Surkhrod (pop: 4000), Kama (pop: 3600), Behsood (pop: 6000). |
| Target population(s) of project | The general target group for this project is youth between 15 and 24 years of age located in Nangarhar Province. More specifically, the direct beneficiaries will number: 5,500 youth aged 15-24 Indirect beneficiaries will number: (approximately) 3,000 family members of trained youth |
| Agency Contact Details | |
| Implementing Agency and Implementing Partners | ChildFund Afghanistan |
| Proposal funding | |

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The recent history of tumult in Afghanistan has resulted in over a decade of volatile population movements in and out of the country. In 2012, Afghanistan was the leading country of origin for refugees and earned a reputation as a source of irregular migrants, asylum seekers, and refugees. At the same time Afghanistan was also one of the highest returnee countries. According to UNHCR, more than 5.7 million refugees have

repatriated back to Afghanistan in the last 10 years¹. The Eastern province of Nangarhar is the 2nd highest returnee destination in the country², however, the pace of development has not kept up with this massive and swift influx of people. Consequently, there are serious gaps in relation to the provision of basic services such as education, health, water and sanitation, and livelihood opportunities. The youth of Nangarhar experience this absence of services acutely. Both returnees and indigenous (or host) youth suffer such negative effects as physical and mental health issues, poor education, financial uncertainty and lack of employment opportunities, social disconnection and mistrust, and general insecurity. ChildFund assessments in the area have shown young people are turning to risky and damaging behaviours such as drug use, petty crime, and radicalization as the means to cope with and manage these conditions. Furthermore, many youth consider irregular migration abroad as a viable option compared to the bleak and insecure perception of their future in Afghanistan, particularly as the porous Eastern border into Pakistan is so nearby. While a number of organisations are engaged in assisting returnee communities, the bulk of the work is still of an emergency response nature and there is limited activity in longer-term areas such as rebuilding livelihoods or youth empowerment.

To respond to this sense of despair and vulnerability being experienced by youth in the area, ChildFund Australia, in partnership with ChildFund Afghanistan, is proposing the **Youth Empowerment Project (YEP)**.

YEP's goal is that youth aged 15-24 are empowered to bring about positive change and social cohesion to their communities in order to reduce vulnerabilities and reduce risky behaviours including irregular migration.

YEP's Objectives are:

- To strengthen the skills set and financial security of vulnerable youth.
- To promote and strengthen the involvement of youth in local civic activity.

YEP will operate in Nangarhar Province for a period of 22 months and will primarily work with over 5,500 youth aged 15-24 years, both males and females, from both returnee and host community groupings. YEP intends to empower the target youth through livelihoods and skills support and support them to be agents of positive civic actors in their communities. Other vulnerable groups such as ethnic minorities, very recently returned youth, and people with disabilities will also be included in the project's scope.

YEP will deliver five major outputs, which are:

- 600 vulnerable youth are trained in improved livelihoods
- 250 youth are supported to start small businesses
- 30 youth clubs are established/strengthened and functional.
- A youth-focused awareness raising campaign about risky behaviours, including irregular migrations, is developed and delivered in partnership with local government
- Youth Clubs, local government and local Shuras have collaborated on social development activities

YEP will contribute fully to **Objective 1 and 2 of the Afghan Displaced Persons Program 2013**. It is also in accordance with the **'Expert Panel Report on Asylum Seekers' Recommendation 3**. Finally, it supports multiple objectives in the Economic and Social Development Pillar of the **Afghan National Development Strategy's (ANDS)**.

BACKGROUND

As result of more than a decade of conflict, one fourth of the Afghan population has been uprooted from their places of origin. These individuals, together with those uprooted from Sudan and Angola, constitute one fourth of the world's displaced population. With nearly 2.6 million refugees in more than 80 countries, Afghanistan was the leading country of origin for refugees in 2012, and has earned a reputation as a source of irregular migrants, refugees, and asylum seekers. At the same time, due to forced and voluntary return,

1 2013 UNHCR country operations profile – Afghanistan; <http://www.unhcr.org/cgi-bin/texis/vtx/page?page=49e486eb6>

2 <http://www.unhcr.org/4eaa9d119.html>

Afghanistan has one of the highest rates of returned refugees. According to the UNHCR, more than 5.7 million refugees have voluntarily repatriated to Afghanistan in the last 10 years.³

There are several positive changes in the country, brought about by support from the international community and the reconstruction process that has taken place in the last decade. However, assessments and research show that the needs of returnee communities are not being adequately met. Development initiatives in Afghanistan do not address people in these communities, especially youth.

ChildFund conducted various assessments in high returnee areas in Afghanistan's eastern provinces in 2012 and 2013. The results revealed huge gaps in basic services, education, health, water, and sanitation. It was also found that young people were especially vulnerable to risky behaviours, such as drug usage, radicalisation and illegal activities, and irregular migration, as they lack adequate livelihood opportunities.

Many organisations, such as the UNHCR, UNICEF, UN Habitat, the Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC), Save the Children, the International Medical Corps, and the Danish Committee for Aid to Afghan Refugees (DACAAR) are assisting returnee communities. However, the focus of these organisations is often limited to emergency response activities, with little emphasis on livelihood and youth focused activities. As the withdrawal date (end of 2014) for NATO troops nears, there are concerns that the efforts to address the needs of returned refugees in the last decade will be negatively affected. The withdrawal of NATO troops could potentially be destabilising, and increase the rate of irregular migration amongst youth in returnee communities.

The Afghan National Development Strategy (ANDS) under the Social Protection Pillar objective prioritises increasing the capacity of repatriated and internally displaced persons' (IDPs) families.⁴ The strategy emphasises the need to provide IDPs with job opportunities and increase their self-reliance, in order to reduce poverty, "stabilising and regularising population movements internally and creating a minimum standard of living and livelihoods for returnees should improve security by diminishing the risk of unemployed youths joining militant groups or criminal networks, and reduce urbanisation". In line with the UNHCR Solution Strategy (2012), ChildFund is working in Afghanistan to improve young peoples' livelihoods in areas, which with high rates of returned refugees in Nangarhar Province.

ChildFund has been working in Afghanistan since 2001. The organisation has extensive experience implementing various projects focusing on the reintegration of displaced populations in the north east and eastern provinces of the country. Nangarhar Province has the second highest rate of returned refugees in Afghanistan. According to the UNHCR's latest report, 16 out of the 48 sites with the highest refugee return rates in the country are located in the province.⁵ Since 2011, ChildFund Afghanistan has been providing education, water, sanitation, and health (WASH), and protection-related support for returnees in this province.

Through the proposed project, ChildFund intends to provide a focused social and economic development strategy for three of the highest returnee sites: Surkhroad, Behsud, and Kama. The project aims to provide youth, who are at risk of engaging in prone to dangerous behaviour with alternative livelihood opportunities and a stronger sense of belonging. ChildFund plans to do this by: providing youth with of relevant livelihoods related information; strengthening youth clubs and youth associations; developing the skills of youth; and supporting small and micro-business start-ups in the targeted districts. ChildFund Afghanistan designed this project in line with the overall goal of the Australian Department of Immigration and Citizenship's (DIAC) Displaced Person Program (DPP). The project will reduce young people's inclination to engage in irregular migration, and decrease the number of potential asylum seekers by reducing the vulnerability of youth in returnee communities.

3 2013 UNHCR country operations profile – Afghanistan; <http://www.unhcr.org/cgi-bin/txis/vtx/page?page=49e486eb6>

4 ANDS is Afghanistan Macro Economic plan (2008-2013) strategy for development and poverty reduction

5 <http://www.unhcr.org/4eaa9d119.html>

OBJECTIVES

YEP will contribute fully to **Objective 1 of the Displaced Persons Program** – *to stabilise and reduce the prospect and flow of irregular arrivals from source countries, including providing support for internally displaced persons*; and **Objective 2** - *to encourage sustainable voluntary returns of persons no longer in need of protection, including through increasing livelihood opportunities*. This is also in accordance with the **'Expert Panel Report on Asylum Seekers' under Recommendation 3**, which prescribes local integration of support for displaced populations through training and skills development. Finally, it supports the **Afghan National Development Strategy's (ANDS)** goal of "increasing the capacity of repatriated and IDPs' families, providing them job opportunities to reduce poverty and increase self-reliance".

The goal of the ChildFund's proposed *Youth Empowerment Project* is that **youth, aged 15-24, are empowered to bring about positive change and social cohesion in their communities, in order to reduce vulnerabilities and the incidence of risky behaviours such as irregular migration.**

In order to achieve this goal the project will work towards the following objectives:

Objective 1: Strengthen the skill sets and financial security of vulnerable youth

Without sustainable livelihood opportunities, returnee communities will remain unstable; there will continue to be risks to communities' security and young people will be encouraged to seek refuge elsewhere. Therefore, ChildFund will focus on facilitating sustainable livelihoods opportunities for youth by: providing youth with livelihood and technical skills training; improving youth's understanding of markets; providing youth with start-up support for small businesses; and facilitating linkages between youth and micro-credit facilities.

Objective 2: Promote and strengthen the involvement of youth in local civic activities

Research has shown that empowering youth as civic actors can develop their self-esteem and is a strong indicator that they will continue to be engaged with their communities in adulthood.⁶ In order to ensure this is done effectively, youth need to be given avenues to voice their concerns, needs, and expectations with each other, the wider community, service providers, and policy-makers. Providing youth with these opportunities will minimise the attraction for youth to engage in anti-social, risky behaviour, and consequently reduce the risk of irregular migration.

DELIVERABLES/OUTPUTS

Objective 1: Strengthen the skill sets and financial security of vulnerable youth

Output 1: 600 vulnerable youth are trained in improved livelihoods

Providing relevant training based on a market assessment and supported by a job referral system is established best-practice to support youth with entry into the labour force.

Output 2: 250 youth are supported to start small businesses

In Afghanistan, most people only gain financial security through self-employment. However, youth lack an understanding of how to run their own businesses and cannot easily attain the capital required to set one up. This project enables youth to set up their business by improving their awareness of markets and providing them with start-up capital.

Objective 2: Promote and strengthen the involvement of youth in local civic activities

Output 3: 30 youth clubs are established or strengthened, and are functional.

ChildFund has a proven track record of establishing youth clubs in other countries (including the SAYFE project in Sri Lanka funded through DIAC DPP), and working with Child Wellbeing Committees and Family

⁶ E. Smith, 1999; The effects of Investments in the Social Capital of Youth on Political and Civic Behavior in Young Adulthood; A Longitudinal Study; Political Psychology; Vol. 20, No 3

Support Networks in Afghanistan. As a result, ChildFund is well positioned to establish youth clubs in Afghanistan to enhance youth's sense of belonging in their communities.

Output 4: A youth-focused campaign, which raises awareness about risky behaviours including irregular migration, is developed and delivered in partnership with the local government

ChildFund will design a relevant awareness raising campaign which will address the reasons why young people consider engaging in high-risk behaviours, such as overseas migration. The campaign will also utilise strategies to strengthen links between young people, the government, NGO services, and other service providers.

Output 5: Youth clubs, the local government, and local Shuras have collaborated on social development activities

Engaging youth in activities that are beneficial to the wider community will speed up local development and stabilisation efforts, and help increase the social bonds youth are currently lacking.

ACTIVITIES AND RESOURCES

Activities:

Objective 1: Strengthen the skill sets and financial security of vulnerable youth

Output 1: 600 vulnerable youth have received training to improve their livelihoods

Activity 1.1: Conduct an assessment of local markets and business opportunities

A market assessment will be conducted to gather information about market trends. The assessment will include: collecting information about potential employers; mapping micro finance institutions and other loan providers; and gathering information on the demand and supply sides of the market. This information will be used to develop a database of potential employers and opportunities, which will help ChildFund organise relevant skill trainings and apprenticeships for youth. The market assessment will also include the identification/mapping of potential trainers and micro finance institutions.

Activity 1.2: Identify and select 600 vulnerable youth and consult with them to determine training priorities

Through this activity, ChildFund will mobilise at least 600 youth by providing them with vocational training and apprenticeships. 350 of these youth will also receive life skills training through youth clubs (further explained in Activity 3.4). In line with ChildFund's commitment to participatory programming, the 600 selected youth will be directly consulted about their own priorities and wishes in relation to livelihoods and employment opportunities. This information will be cross-referenced against the market survey and used to inform decisions about training packages to be developed (Activity 1.3).

ChildFund is sensitive to the fact that Afghanistan is a very conservative society, where women have very limited mobility, and cannot mix with male members. The organisation is aware that the patriarchal structure of society is particularly prominent in returnee communities.⁷ ChildFund will endeavour to increase gender equality within returnee communities by training equal numbers of males and females in their relevant fields of interest, and providing apprenticeships for youth to engage in trades. ChildFund will also support young women to develop the skills needed to engage in culturally accepted activities, such as kitchen gardening and poultry farming.

ChildFund is also aware of the environmental context of the targeted communities and will support environmentally friendly practices, such as the use of drip irrigation as an alternative irrigation method.

Activity 1.3: Provide training and skills development for youth in identified livelihoods areas

⁷ One of the main issues identified by a 2012 UNHCR assessment in returnee villages in Nangarhar is gender based violence.

ChildFund will recruit relevant trainers, who are identified during the market assessment. These trainers will then develop training course plans and training modules in their field of expertise, as determined in Activity 1.2. The project will then support the facilitation of the various training options to the 600 youth. Initial assessments indicate activities such as poultry rearing, kitchen gardens, and business development will be in demands. Some overlap is anticipated between these 600 participants and those participating in the life skills training provided for 350 youth at the youth clubs (see Activity 3.4 for more information). As a result, the estimate that 600 unique individuals will receive livelihoods related training is conservative.

Activity 1.4: Link trained youth with potential employers

ChildFund will: develop an employer database; create a job/vacancy referral system; and set up regular meetings with potential employers. The meetings will be organised based on the information collected in the market assessment. Employers will discuss the apprenticeships and employment of trained youth and/or the linking of micro-businesses established under Output 2. ChildFund will also engage, and coordinate, with the Provincial Department of the Ministry of Social Affairs (DOLSA) to coordinate youth employment.

Output 2: 250 Youth are supported to start small businesses

Activity 2.1: Support youth to develop individual business plans (for new businesses)

Each of the trainees will be supported to develop their own business plans in order to utilise the skills they have gained through the trainings. Those youth who have completed business development skills trainings (Activity 1.3) will develop more detailed plans for starting their own businesses, while those who received vocational training (Activity 1.3) will develop plans for future employability and sustaining an income. The ChildFund team, in coordination and consultation with key stakeholders, (youth organisations, Shuras, and relevant government authorities) will: identify youth to provide with micro-credit; support them to develop business plans; and assist them in the preparation of applications for micro-credit from micro-credit organisations. The project team use the results of the market assessment survey conducted at the onset of the project to create necessary linkages and referrals for young graduates. This intervention will support create employment opportunities for youth, and enable them to gain an increased income through their existing businesses.

Activity 2.2: Provide start-up/support capital for 250 small business plans

Under this activity, ChildFund will provide capital of 200 \$USD to the 250 successful business plan holders. The business plans will be developed by the youth either to supplement existing business activities, or start new small businesses.

ChildFund will develop selection criteria to guide the allocation of capital to the trained youth in consultation with key stakeholders. Priority will be given to youth who have entrepreneurial business concepts, and can match some amount of the start-up capital. All business plans will be presented to the approval committee for review and decision. The approval committee will consist of representatives from key stakeholder groups, and technical experts (provincial and district government departments, Shuras, micro-enterprise experts, youth associations, and ChildFund staff). The committee will also disseminate this project's results and support with the project's monitoring. The committee will meet every two months to do this. The selected youth will be encouraged to open an account in a local bank and the capital amount will be transferred in their account. Where bank facility is not available or for some reasons selected youth may not able to open account then funds will be transferred in cash by the committee with documentation.

Activity 2.3: Provide follow-up mentoring to the business proprietors

The livelihood expert, with the support of the youth development officers, will provide ongoing support and mentoring to those youth who have started small businesses. This support includes assessing: how the business is going; how the youth are keeping their records; what kind of challenges the youth are facing; and assisting the youth to address these challenges and bottlenecks. Continued support and mentoring will also be used as a means to monitor the project's activities.

Objective 2: Promote and strengthen the involvement of youth in local civic activities

Output 3: 30 youth clubs are established, or strengthened, and are functional

Activity 3.1: Identify existing youth clubs that can be strengthened

The concept of youth clubs is not new within Afghanistan. Youth clubs can be registered with the Ministry of Culture as youth associations and become a recognised part of Afghanistan's civil society, which includes organisations, such as human rights associations, women rights associations, unions, and environmental groups. Youth associations (or youth clubs) have the potential to play a significant role in supporting and training talented youth for these civil society organisations and governmental bodies. Youth clubs also have the ability to enable peace and development in local communities, and support the rebuilding of the Afghan society. However, youth associations often exist as informal organisational structures in the society. ChildFund will identify existing youth associations, formal and informal, and identify the needs and potential of these youth associations to become youth clubs.

Activity 3.2: Support the formation and registration of 30 youth clubs

ChildFund will coordinate with relevant youth departments to facilitate the process of establishing and/or strengthening, and then formally registering with government 30 new and existing youth clubs in targeted areas. ChildFund will establish separate male and female youth clubs and have these supported by male and female youth development officers respectively, as to strict cultural traditions dictate that men and women cannot mix and sit together in meetings. Plans to strengthen youth clubs will be decided and finalised in consultation with participating youth clubs, Shuras, and relevant government authorities.

Activity 3.3: Strengthen the organisational capacity of the youth clubs, and provide ongoing mentoring to youth club leaders

All youth associations/clubs will be given training on organisational development, including such capacities as leadership, governance basic accounting and management, and proposal writing. This will enable the standardisation constitutions, governance structures, and election processes, and will strengthen relations, integration, and coordination with local community structures. These activities will increase the role youth clubs play in their communities, and provide an avenue for members of youth clubs, especially women, to exchange experiences with other youth clubs, access opportunities to develop skills, and gain self-esteem and confidence.

In addition, youth club leaders will be provided with training on how to work with communities, local governments, other development organisations, and private sector organisations. ChildFund, in collaboration with relevant government departments, will continue to provide ongoing support, coaching, and mentoring to youth associations/clubs to enhance their growth and development. The above mentioned trainings will be designed and facilitated by ChildFund staff and professional trainers.

Activity 3.4: Provide positive life skills training opportunities through the youth clubs

Through the youth clubs, ChildFund will provide 350 youth with training in various life skills areas such as leadership, communication, preparation of job applications, work habits, work ethics, confidence building, community services, health and hygiene, and other areas that are driven by demand from youth club members. ChildFund will adapt existing training materials from other projects in Afghanistan or abroad, and third parties for these trainings. The selection of participating youth will be sensitive towards the inclusion of marginalised groups. ChildFund anticipates it will conduct the bulk of training, but will outsource some of the life skills training where necessary.

Output 4: A youth-focused campaign, which raises awareness about risky behaviours including irregular migration, is developed and delivered in partnership with the local government

Activity 4.1: Develop a youth-focused education and awareness raising strategy

Youth clubs will be the centre of ChildFund's activities in this project, and ChildFund will closely work with youth clubs throughout the project cycle. ChildFund and key stakeholders will jointly develop an education and awareness raising strategy. This strategy will utilise sports events, cultural events, IEC materials, street

theatre and plays to raise awareness about risking behaviours for male and female youth clubs and their extended local communities.

Activity 4.2: Develop and implement a locally-relevant communications strategy

ChildFund will organise six different types of culturally appropriate events for male and female youth, and local communities. Key messages on positive thinking, the consequences of risky behaviours and alternate options to these behaviours will be given to all youth and community members who participate in these events. We will also organise an exhibition, which will display art, crafts, and paintings produced by local youth or by any artist. ChildFund will organise two seminars on risky behaviours (including irregular migration) in the target project areas. People from the government, I/NGOs, IOM, and UNHCR will be invited to be guest speakers and facilitators to speak about risky behaviours.

In Afghan society, there is a strong trend of listening to the radio. For this reason, seven radio programmes will be aired throughout the project period. The radio programmes will promote debate and discussion of risky behaviours, and include topics, such as social isolation, ostracism, and hesitation to engage that are relevant to youth. Key messages on youth and social issues will also be included in various other programmes (such as music, sports, and current affairs programmes) at different times of the day to create a large field of influence.

Activity 4.3: Develop and distribute locally-relevant Information, Education and Communication (IEC) materials

ChildFund will develop and/or adapt IEC materials around the topics discussed in the awareness raising activities. This includes the preparation of leaflets, posters with different messages, stationery, sign boards, and other materials. These materials will be widely circulated in education institutions, work places, and other relevant forums. ChildFund will explore and work in both coordination and partnership with other organisations that are working on similar types of awareness activities. ChildFund will also develop a case study on risky behaviour in consultation and coordination with youth clubs and relevant government authorities. This case study will be used to educate youth and communities, and will be disseminated through awareness raising events, radio programmes, seminars, working groups, and networks outside the project.

Output 5: Youth clubs, local government and local Shuras have collaborated on social development activities

Activity 5.1: Facilitate a coordination forum between Youth clubs, local government and local Shuras

ChildFund will help to effectively coordinate youth clubs, Shura committees, and relevant government and non-government organisations, in order to improve youth participation, and to create a space for the voice of youth to be heard and contribute to decision making processes. This will enable collaboration between youth, community leaders, and government officials on community development projects like community infrastructure, health posts, and schooling. ChildFund will focus on coordinating initiatives to address social issues related to risky behaviour, such as developing a referral system with local Shuras and organisations working on protection issues. These initiatives will utilise ChildFund's previous experience in working with Family Child Wellbeing Committees, which have had a positive stabilising effect on communities.

Activity 5.2: Support youth clubs to undertake/participate in social development activities

The youth clubs will be encouraged, and supported, to gradually take over the coordination role from ChildFund and continue to liaise with government and non-government organisations on small scale community development projects. Youth clubs will also be supported to organise meetings on social issues, facilitate local community discussions on resettlement, and volunteer for community development activities.

Activity 5.3 Develop a reporting and referral system for protection issues and resettlement issues

ChildFund will support youth clubs to develop a referral and reporting system for protection issues, such as early and forced marriages, domestic violence, and harassment that affect youth. ChildFund will utilise its expertise in working with Family Child Wellbeing Committees to support youth clubs to establish networks

and linkages with government and non-government organisations, in order to address protection issues more effectively.

BENEFICIARIES

YEP's intended beneficiaries are youth, aged 15-24, who ChildFund will support to be the main drivers of change in their communities. Specifically:

- 600 unique youth individuals who will be trained and supported in various aspects of livelihoods. This will happen through the provisioning of four main types of trainings (business skills, vocational training, women-oriented home business, and life skills) with a total of 800 training slots available to 600 target youth under **Outputs 1 and 3** of the project.
- 1900 unique youth individuals will be directly engaged in youth awareness raising and social cohesion activities originating from 30 youth clubs, under **Objective 2** of the project.
- A further 3000 youth are expected to directly benefit from village events and radio programming explained under **Outputs 4 and 5 of Objective 2** - radio programming is considered one of the most effective means of raising awareness and communication in Afghanistan.

In total, approximately 5,500 youth will be direct beneficiaries of YEP

ChildFund has identified returnee youth as the most vulnerable to identified risky behaviours and accordingly, youth from that grouping and who meet certain criteria will be eligible for support under this project. However, ChildFund is also cognizant that youth from indigenous or host communities have also been adversely affected by the wider, meta conditions in the province, and hence will look to also include their participation in order to strike a balance. This is very relevant and important where host and returnees communities are overlapping ChildFund will register a ratio of between 75-80% and 25-20% returnee youth versus host youth. Similar eligibility criteria will apply to both, including (but not applicable to all):

- Returnees;
- Internally displaced persons;
- Socially, ethnically, economically marginalised;
- Engaged in or influenced by risky behaviours;
- Residing in areas of high returnees areas concentration/in the vicinity of IDP camps in the targeted districts;
- Female youth.

The direct beneficiaries are youth in this project, however considering dominant social and cultural bonds and the nature of family and clan ties, the project will also engage with a wider network of individuals from the partner communities. In particular, the families of individual young people will also benefit from this activity. Youth are culturally expected to shoulder a large amount of responsibility in relation to income generation in in Afghan culture. The average family size is six people – thus an approximate further 3,000 indirect beneficiaries (600 targeted youth x an average of five family members per youth) will be reached as a result of the stronger livelihoods and increased income capacity of the target youth.

The promotion of youth clubs and youth as key civic actors the project can have further indirect benefit on overall social cohesion and stability. Young girls and boys from early age seven and eight and are expected to perform main chores at home and as then generate income once they reach 15 and above, particularly boys. These social and economic pressures do contribute to a shift towards anti-social and risky behaviour and YEP's inclusive youth club activity has the potential to provide support, direction, guidance and a safe space for such youth, in part helping to steer them away from damaging behaviours and attitudes that are both personally detrimental and cause tension in the wider community.

RESOURCES

Human Resources:

ChildFund Afghanistan's Jalalabad office will implement the project and coordinate with the government, with support from the national office in Kabul. The project team will be based in Jalalabad. The team will be

led by a project manager and supported by four youth development officers, a livelihood specialist, a finance officer, operations and security officer, and various other support staff. The project team will be responsible for establishing and strengthening youth clubs, and working with local government authorities and communities to ensure the smooth implementation of the project.

The national office in Kabul (which includes the National Director, Program Director, Program Manager, M&E Specialist, Communication Specialist, Finance Manager, and Administration and Security Officer) will provide technical assistance and support for monitoring the project. ChildFund International, as the operational manager of the ChildFund Afghanistan program, will provide backstopping support for technical content through its Youth Technical Director, and support for grant compliance through its Grants Compliance Manager. ChildFund Australia will be responsible for the overall monitoring and evaluation of the project, and will support the Afghanistan team to ensure the timely reporting of outcomes and outputs. The ChildFund Australia's Sydney Office will be responsible for regular reporting and liaising with DIAC, as well as project management support.

Equipment and Materials:

All major project inputs have been listed in the related budget which is attached as **Annex 1 – YEP Budget**.

TIMELINE

Please see **Annex 2 – YEP Workplan** - for a detailed timeline of activities.

SUSTAINABILITY

ChildFund has a track record of working with stakeholders on different projects, both within and outside Afghanistan. Stakeholders are always consulted and involved in both the project design and implementation stages.

ChildFund and keys stakeholders will develop the capacity of youth associations/clubs to work in partnership with Shura committees and relevant government and non-government authorities. ChildFund will do this by developing linkages between these organisations, as well as an exit strategy, which will outline the gradual transition of project responsibilities over the life time of the project. ChildFund will also: build youth's life skills; improve organisational development; increase resource mobilisation; teach youth how to work with communities, local social structures, civil society organizations, government authorities, and funding agencies; and build youth's project development and management skills. These activities will help youth associations take lead role in their communities, continue to engage with key stakeholders, and work independently to implement project activities beyond the project's life span.

ChildFund will also support youth associations/clubs to develop linkages with funding/support organisations like the NRC, the UNHCR, Save the Children, the ICRC, and Oxfam for future funding and training activities. In addition, ChildFund will assist youth associations to mobilise resources from their members, philanthropists, and government authorities for community development activities.

IMPLEMENTING AGENCIES

Organisational Expertise:

ChildFund Australia is an AusAID accredited, independent and non-religious international development organisation with over 18 years' experience in programme implementation in Asia and the Pacific. ChildFund Australia manages programmes directly in Cambodia, Laos, Myanmar, Papua New Guinea, and Vietnam.

ChildFund Afghanistan has been operational since 2001, assisting more than half a million children and families. ChildFund works in 200 communities in Badakshan, Baghlan, Kunduz, Nangarhar, and Takhar Provinces. ChildFund has extensive experience working with various donors and partners including UNCHR, UNICEF, USAID, the Bureau of Population Refugees and Migration (BPRM) of the US State Department, and the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA). ChildFund Afghanistan works for the well-being of children by supporting locally-led initiatives that strengthen families and communities, helping them break the cycle of poverty and protect the rights of their children.

ChildFund's programs in protection, health, education, water and sanitation working with displaced communities, provide support to thousands of children and their families to take greater control of their lives and future. ChildFund promotes community independence over dependence where children, families, and communities are active and leading contributors to their own development. ChildFund builds capacity and sustainability in communities and ensures that programs truly belong to communities themselves. This distinctive approach focuses on the journey of a child from birth to young adulthood, from healthy and secure infants, to educated and confident children, to skilled and involved youth.

Through its global programming aiming to create skilled and involved youth, ChildFund focuses on ensuring youth have greater access to opportunities, safe and supportive environments for strengthening their economic, physical and social well-being, and for bringing lasting and positive change in their communities. This is accomplished through: 1) leadership and civic engagement, 2) employment education and preparation, and 3) sexual and reproductive health services and education. This programming applies a long-term partnership-focused approach, especially with children and youth, communities, civil society, and government institutions.

Implementing Partners:

ChildFund Afghanistan will be the key implementing partner. It will be responsible for the day-to-day implementation, management and monitoring, as well as coordination with relevant stakeholders.

Stakeholder Support:

The most significant stakeholders for this youth empowerment project are the partner communities. ChildFund has developed, and will continue to strengthen, good relationships with key stakeholders such as community leadership and elders, local Shuras, and local youth representation. ChildFund is ultimately accountable to these groups and the communities they belong to. As such genuine and meaningful participation on their part is critical to the project's success for it generates ownership and project sustainability. ChildFund has extensive experience in grassroots projects and establishing community engagement and this will enable the local ownership necessary for community inputs into the project activities.

The project will also liaise extensively with relevant government, non-government agencies, and UN organisations at district, provincial and national level. These include:

- **The Deputy Ministry of Youth** – the provincial- and district-level offices will provide a range of technical support for establishing the youth club, and for developing and delivering the various life skills trainings packages.
- **The District Administration (DA)** - it will be a focal point for government relationship and help to provide comprehensive support for implementation of the project. Necessary approvals and registrations will be channelled through the DA. It is also focal point for any security-related issues in the district and project areas. The DA will be invited to visit the project activities and share progress and challenges on the project. ChildFund has a very good working relationship with the government at this level.
- **Village-level Shura Structures** - ChildFund will work with Shuras committees at a village level to seek their support and cooperation in relation to the running of the project. Shura engagement provides local legitimacy and credibility to a project and access that might otherwise not have been possible. The Shuras will support ChildFund to develop linkages with other key stakeholders in the target areas including direct community beneficiaries, local leadership, and local businesses. The Shuras will be actively engaged in various project activities including: the selection of youth, certain training elements, start-up and mentoring of small business, and general project management and coordination with government.
- **Other stakeholders** - this includes UN agencies and various NGOs. ChildFund will coordinate with other NGOs and UN agencies in the Jalabad and Kabul to leverage resources and coordinate with them to avoid duplication and exchange information, technical support, and technical approaches. Specifically, it will look to link up with other livelihoods and skills development programmes, any social

entrepreneurship programmes, NGO delivered or backed micro-credit schemes, any other youth club networks, and national bodies working on issues of resettlement and reintegration for returning Afghans.

REPORTING

Please see a full reporting schedule attached as **Annex 3**. A summary of reporting dates is included below:

| Project Report | Reporting Period | Reporting Date |
|----------------|----------------------|--|
| Project Report | January – June 2014 | July 21st 2014 |
| Project Report | July – December 2014 | January 21st 2015 |
| Project Report | January – June 2015 | July 21st 2015 |
| Project Report | July – October 2015 | January 21st 2016 - Project end Report |

RISK ASSESSMENT

Please see a full risk matrix attached as **Annex 4**

INSURANCE

Please see attached **Annexes 5** for all necessary insurance documentation.

BUDGET

A detailed budget is attached as **Annex 1** (submitted as a separate excel sheet).

Summary:

| | |
|--------------------------------|--|
| Total Project Budget | |
| Total fund requested under DPP | |
| Total funds from other sources | |

ATTACHMENTS

Annex 1 - Detailed Budget

Annex 2 - Timeline/Work Plan

Annex 3 – Reporting Schedule

Annex 4 – Risk assessment Matrix

Annex 5 – Copies of relevant insurance documentation

Annex 6 – YEP Logical Framework/Results Framework

Annex 7 - ChildFund Australia’s Deprivation, Exclusion and Vulnerability (DEV) Framework, Programme Logic, & Development Effectiveness Framework (DEF) - SUMMARY

ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS

| | |
|------|---|
| ANDS | Afghan National Development Strategy |
| BPRM | Bureau of Population Refugees and Migration |

| | |
|--------|--|
| CIDA | Canadian International Development Agency |
| DACAAR | Danish Committee for Aid to Afghan Refugees |
| DIAC | Australian Department of Immigration and Citizenship |
| DOLSA | Ministry of Social Affairs |
| DPP | Displaced Persons Program |
| ICRC | International Committee for the Red Cross |
| IDPs | Internally Displaced Persons |
| IEC | Information, Education and Communication |
| IOM | International Organisation for Migration |
| I/NGOs | International/ Non-governmental Organisations |
| NATO | North American Treaty Organisation |
| NRC | Norwegian Refugee Council |
| SAYFE | Strong Active Youth for Empowerment |
| UNHCR | United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees |
| UNICEF | United Nations Children's Fund |
| USAID | United States Agency for International Development |
| WASH | Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene |
| YEP | Youth Empowerment Project |