

Livelihood and economic development activities are of increasing relevance to the objectives of the Transition and Recovery Division (TRD). They occupy a central role in the achievement of durable solutions to internal displacement. In fragile and crisis settings, recovery and self-reliance oftentimes requires sustainable livelihoods and employment-generating activities. In complex migration crises, mobility can be a reflection of the need to enhance access to, or diversify, livelihoods. Dedicated and robust livelihoods and economic recovery activities in such settings can increase resilience in communities, including those that face recurrent climatic shocks.

The TRD portfolio applies development-principled approaches to address the root causes and drivers of crisis and associated mobility. Livelihoods and economic development outcomes contribute to wider objectives associated with resolving displacement, addressing instability, preventing violent extremism, addressing food security, fostering resilience, promoting social cohesion, supporting recovery and laying the foundations for peace and sustainable development. Activities support displaced populations and those progressing towards durable solutions, host-communities impacted by displacement, communities at risk of disasters or conflict, marginalized groups and former combatants. TRD’s use of livelihoods and economic development activities supports the Secretary General’s Action Agenda on Internal Displacement, the Sustainable Development Goals, and the Humanitarian-Development-Peace Nexus (HDPN).

IOM’s livelihoods portfolio continues to grow. In 2021, IOM undertook livelihoods activities in over 30 countries experiencing crisis, fragility or displacement. These activities reached an estimated 802,145 displacement-affected individuals in the same year. This portfolio represents an expanded set of tools and approaches that are increasingly sophisticated, including the Enterprise Development Fund (EDF) which leverages a novel grant mechanism to private-sector enterprises to create sustainable job opportunities.



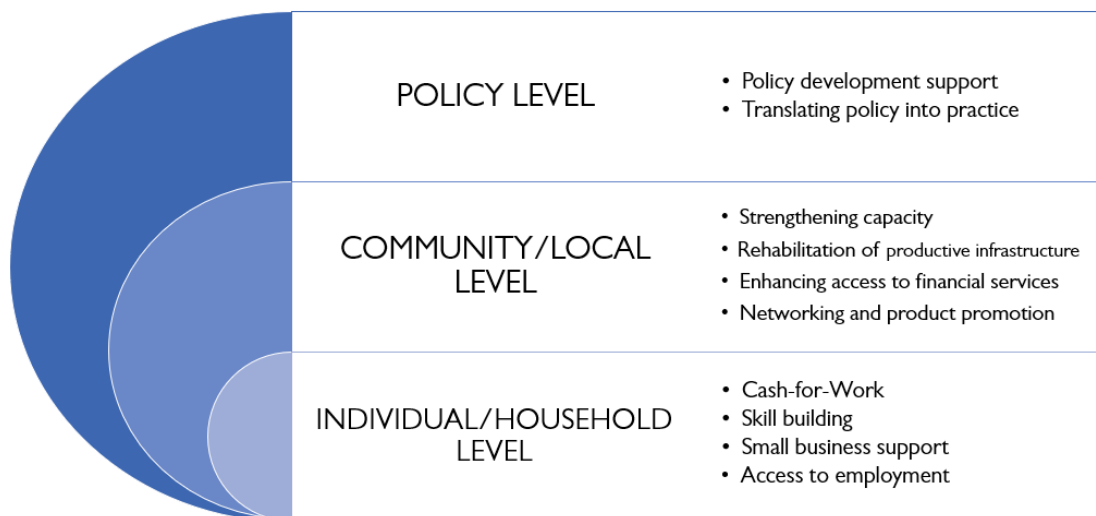
SOCIOECONOMIC INTEGRATION ACTIVITY WITH INDIGENOUS VENEZUELAN PEMÓN. IOM BRAZIL HAS FUNDED LIVELIHOOD ACTIVITIES IN THE COMMUNITY, SUCH AS FISH FARMING IN PACARAIMA, BRAZIL. © IOM 2022 / BRUNO MANCINELLI



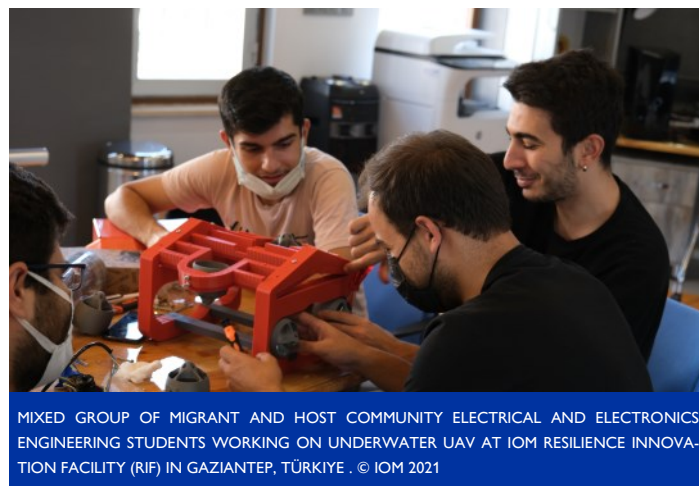
AFGHAN RETURNEES ARE SUPPORTED TO ATTEND A SHOE MAKING TRAINING SCHOOL IN HERAT. THE PROGRAMME HELPS RETURNEES REINTEGRATE, ENHANCE THEIR PROFESSIONAL SKILLS AND EVENTUALLY GAIN NEW LIVELIHOOD OPPORTUNITIES. © IOM 2021 / MUSE MOHAMMED

## MULTI-LEVEL ENGAGEMENT

IOM provides contextually-relevant support at the individual and household level, reinforced with efforts at community and policy levels that create conditions conducive to economic activity and job creation.



Individual livelihoods support is provided based on individual and household [capacities](#), [market opportunities](#) and [aspirations](#), within legal frameworks. Initiatives may span short term interventions such as cash-for-work schemes, which enable beneficiaries to generate an interim income as well as provide quick cash injections into fragile local economies, which can often be a means of rehabilitating local (productive) infrastructure. IOM also strengthens capacities through formal and informal lending responding to market demands, as well as replacing lost or damaged assets so urban and rural livelihoods can (re)start. IOM supports job placements and facilitates access to existing job services and labour markets.



At the community/local level, IOM supports the construction or rehabilitation of productive community infrastructure which can generate local economic benefits, improved access to markets and services and/or improved security, amongst others. [Investing in community-identified priorities](#) can also enhance social cohesion, reinforced through community-led maintenance in the longer term.

To [support small business growth](#), IOM engages with formal and informal financial services, primarily providing technical support to institutions or self-help groups to promote equitable access or tailored products, as well as direct financial support, often in the form of grants or micro-credits and awareness raising among institutions and potential clients to identify and address barriers. IOM also works with [potential employers](#) to address barriers to employment, raise awareness of rights and duties, support mentoring initiatives or subsidise initial employment.

IOM facilitated [networking](#) with providers, suppliers and other stakeholders, which is often key to exploring opportunities, expanding partnerships, promoting products and developing and growing market-relevant and innovative businesses. IOM also supports States at their request to contribute to [policy development and implementation](#), engaging at national and sub-national levels with a range of counterparts. This may take the form of advocacy or policy development support to promote labour market inclusion, support to implement existing policy at national and sub-national levels, awareness raising, including information for potential private sector employers, employees and regulators on the right to work, qualification recognition, promoting decent work and prevention of exploitation.

## ENTERPRISE DEVELOPMENT FUND

In 2018, IOM piloted a grants mechanism to support Small and Medium enterprises (SMEs) in post conflict Iraq. It has since grown into a highly structured mechanism to support economic growth and job creation, providing grants to over 1,000 businesses in Iraq and under active expansion to other IOM Missions worldwide.

At the heart of the EDF approach is engagement with the private sector as a platform for economic recovery and sustainable job creation. In many contexts in which IOM works, the private sector, while representing growth potential in terms of employment, does not have access to forms of support that would allow SMEs to recover or expand following man-made or natural disasters. Grants, loans, vocational trainings, or capacity building initiatives at the structural level are either non-existent or recovering. The EDF is a way for IOM to support the initial recovery period, generate sustainable employment opportunities, and help establish or revitalize longer-term private-sector led job creation.

The EDF encourages private sector revitalization through tailored grants to SMEs in targeted sectors. The grants, which can range from 5,000 to 25,000 USD, allow for rapid and large-scale job creation by businesses. The beneficiaries are not the businesses (or SMEs) themselves, but rather the individuals that are hired as a result of the expansion allowed by the grant. The EDF requires a robust selection and follow-up process in order to be successful, and the context has to fit this type of programme. But it is a novel approach and another example of the increasingly versatile toolkit that the Transition and Recovery Division offers to livelihoods and economic development.



SHANSEL KITCHEN, WHO RECEIVED GRANT FUNDING THROUGH IOM'S ENTERPRISE DEVELOPMENT FUND (EDF), STARTED WITH 2 EMPLOYEES IN A TINY KITCHEN IN BASRA IRAQ, EXPANDED THEIR PRODUCTION AND GREW TO A STAFF OF SIX, ALL OF THEM WOMEN. © IOM 2021 / LESLYE DAVIS

## FLEXIBLE AND ADAPTABLE

IOM's livelihoods initiatives seek to address barriers, which often requires a comprehensive approach, including activities which enable those impacted by crisis and fragility to fully benefit from IOM support and achieve self-reliance. Complementary activities may include: disaster risk awareness, peace-building initiatives, psychosocial support, fostering social cohesion, protection activities, enhancing access to health and educational services, provision of shelter or housing, improving water and sanitation services or, access to legal services. Engaging with key stakeholders adds value to IOM programming. Partners may have an existing field presence, can facilitate access, have specific technical expertise or have established relationships, and include non-traditional partners such as the diaspora and private sector. Local partners can contribute contextual knowledge which supports the relevance of livelihoods interventions, and often remain engaged after the completion of IOM's interventions, thus contributing to the sustainability of intended outcomes.



THROUGH THE "LEARNING BY DOING" METHODOLOGY, 30 FORMER COMBATANTS FROM VARIOUS REGIONS OF COLOMBIA IMPROVED THEIR SKILLS ACROSS SEVERAL AREAS OF EMPLOYMENT, OPENING NEW CHANNELS FOR EMPLOYMENT AND ENTREPRENEURSHIP. © IOM 2022

For more information: <https://www.iom.int/stabilization-and-resilience>

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