Workshop:

Women’s participation in the labor market in Afghanistan and special challenges for Afghan women in Pakistan and Austria

6 November 2018, 9:00 – 14:00 hrs
C3, Centre for International Development, Sensengasse 3, 1090 Vienna

Languages: English and German with interpretation (Flüsterkoffer)

Guiding questions:

- How does the Afghan labour market look like, especially for women?
- How does the Pakistan labour market look like, especially for Afghan refugees?
- What are the problems and challenges for women’s full participation in the labour market?
- What skills and trainings are needed to enhance women’s active participation in the labour market?
- What challenges and obstacles do Afghan female refugees deal with in Pakistan and Europe? Especially in regard to cultural, social and political barriers?
- How could the Afghan female Diaspora contribute best to the development in Afghanistan?

Programme

9:00 – 9:15   Registration

9:15 – 9:30   Welcome by Andreas Zinggl (Caritas Austria) and Michael Fanizadeh (VIDC)
Introduction by the chair Tanya Kayhan – Afghan journalist in Vienna

9:30 – 10:30   Women’s participation in the labour market in Afghanistan

Suraya Pakzad – Director of Voice of Women Organization, Herat:
Ms. Pakzad has been advocating women’s rights and helping Afghan women with income generating programs for over two decades. She started her career as a “secret teacher”, when women were banned from all public life including educational settings. Ms. Pakzad will inform us on the challenges of Afghan women after years of conflict? What has gone wrong with women low labour participation despite of international support? What are the key factors for the failure and success?
**Ali Ahmad – VIDC:**
Mr. Ahmad will inform us about the major findings of the Labour Market Analysis in Afghanistan (Qualitative study on the access to the labour market in Afghanistan from a gender perspective). The study has been conducted as part of the project “‘Dard Kush’ – Strengthening Livelihoods of Afghan Refugees and Pakistani Host Communities” co-ordinated by Caritas Austria and funded by Austrian Development Agency. A special focus of the presentation will be set to major findings of the 50 qualitative interviews which have been conducted during the research.

10:30 – 11:30: **Challenges in relation to the labour market for Afghan women in Pakistan**

**Elaine Alam – FACES Pakistan, Lahore, Pakistan:**
Ms. Alam will contribute their experiences with vocational training in Lahore and will discuss good practices in regard to gender, which have emerged with Afghan refugees in Pakistan.

**Mechthild Geyer – Post Graduate Student, University of Vienna:**
Ms. Geyer will speak about cultural constraints which are imposed on women by the Afghan society. With her study of Afghan women living in Austria and Pakistan, she unveils three crucial aspects of Afghan women’s consciousness: the role of the family, the concept of honour, and the most important impact of fathers.

11:30 – 11:45  **Coffee Break**

11:45 – 13:15  **Diaspora Engagement and decent work: A new challenge for Afghan women in Austria**

**Aadilah Amin – Association of Afghan Students in Austria (IGASUS) and project employee at CORE, an EU-funded cooperation project of Vienna Municipal Department 17 – Integration and Diversity and others.**

**Nahida Safi – Board Member of the Cultural Association Afghan Wulas and a specialist trainer for the labor market integration of asylum seekers, persons with subsidiary protection status and recognized refugees at the vocational training institute of the Österreichischen Jungarbeiter Bewegung. She is also a legal adviser in the migrant association St.Marx.**

**Sabine Steiner - Hakikat Company, a support project for Afghan women in Austria and Afghanistan.**

13:15 – 13:30  **Closing remarks and follow up**

13:30 – 14:00  **Informal gathering and snacks**

Registration by 29 October 2018: Michael Fanizadeh (VIDC), fanizadeh@vidc.org