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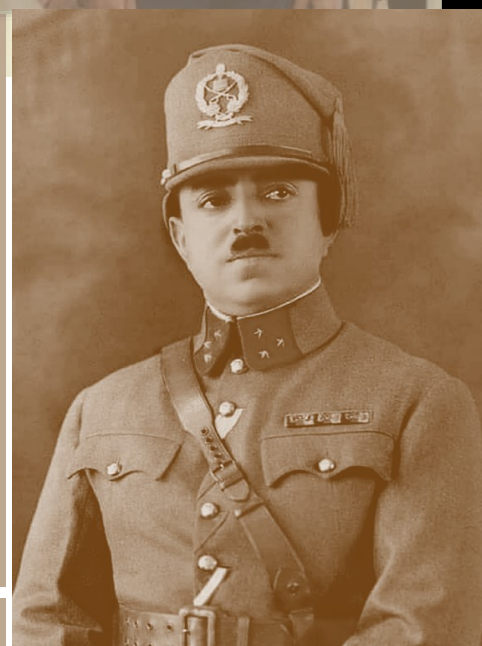


AN EXCLUSIVE ISSUE FOR CELEBRATION OF 100TH INDEPENDENCE ANNIVERSARY OF AFGHANISTAN

About WEERDP/MRRD:

Women Economic Empowerment Rural Development Program (WEERDP), under leadership of Ministry of Rural Rehabilitation and Development (MRRD) and in view of National Unity Government (NUG) goals and WEE-NPP objectives, was initiated in 2018 in continuation of Afghanistan Rural Enterprise Development Program (AREDP) for the purpose of social and economic empowerment of women in rural areas of all 34 provinces of Afghanistan with the financial aid of World Bank.

Through this program Self Help Groups (SHG), Enterprise Groups (EG), Village Savings and Loan Associations (VSLA) and Small and Medium Enterprises (SME) will be established to develop local economy, and create income generation and job opportunities for program beneficiaries (80% female) in rural areas of Afghanistan.



Afghanistan's King, Amanullah Khan

EMPLOYEE OF THE MONTH



This month's employee of the month is Mrs. Breshna Amiri, who is an Operation Officer in Returnees Enterprise Development Project (RED) of WEERDP/MRRD. Mrs. Amiri holds a bachelor degree in Science from Kabul University. She has more than 8 years of relevant experience in operation management. Since her employment with RED/WEERDP, she has been an integral part of achieving project's objectives, therefore, she is recognized as one of the most productive employees of the organization. We wish her all the very best in her future endeavors.

GRAND VILLAGE BAZAAR FESTIVAL OF MRRD WAS CONVENED TO COMMEMORATE THE 100TH INDEPENDENCE ANNIVERSARY OF AFGHANISTAN

100th Independence Anniversary of Afghanistan was commemorated through Grand Village Bazaar Festival of Ministry of Rural Rehabilitation and Development. The festival was attended by H.E Mujib Rahman Karimi, Minister of Rural Rehabilitation and Development, H.E Nasir Ahmad



Durani, Minister of Agriculture, Irrigation and Livestock, Mr. Sayed Abdul Wahid Qatali, Head of Administrative Office of the President, executive directors of programs, entrepreneurs and ministry's staff. The festival was convened in the Chehilstoon



Garden of Kabul. The festival was held for three days (31 July – 02 August), which featured entertainment such as folk music, kite flying, and handicraft products by Afghan women entrepreneurs from across the country. There were a total of 200 booths, and out of these 200 booths 190 booths were for handicraft sector as well as 10 booths were allocated for local foods. It is worth mentioning that this is the first exhibition where women entrepreneur from 34 province of Afghanistan showcased their handmade products.



VILLAGE BAZAAR EXHIBITION CONVENED ON THE OCCASION OF 100TH INDEPENDENCE ANNIVERSARY OF AFGHANISTAN IN WEE_RDP SOUTHWEST REGION



A three-day Village Bazaar Exhibition was held in honor of 100th Independence Anniversary of Afghanistan in Ayno Maina, Kandahar province, which featured 73 entrepreneur women that showcased their handmade products. In addition to participants from Kandahar, women entrepreneur from Uruzgan, Zabul, Helmand and Nimroz provinces also took part in the exhibition. Mr. Abdul Hanan Munib, Deputy Governor of Kandahar, Mohammad Nasim Ayubi, Provincial Director of Rural Rehabilitation and Development, Ruqia Achakzai, Provincial Director of Women's Affairs and Yaqub Sulaiman, WEERDP Regional Manager attended the event and welcomed other guests. Deputy Governor, Abdul Hanan Munib, while referring to national aspirations, especially economic aspiration of King Amanullah Khan, entitled such exhibitions effective in enriching the economic situation of the people in the villages. Mahmood Khan Karzai, Businessperson

and AFCO International President, participated and saw the products displayed in the exhibition, in the meanwhile, he pledged to dedicate a sales location in the Ayno Maina permanently for some of the beneficiaries. In addition, Mr. Karzai vowed to donate some land to the Saffron producers and giveaway some shops to the handicraft sector craftspeople. The participants expressed their gratitude and said that the only way to find market for the national products are to launch these kinds of exhibition. In the end, Ms. Ruqia Achakzai, Provincial Director of Women's Affairs, highlighted the importance of women's economic self-sufficiency at the village and district level, and added that holding such exhibitions by the Ministry of Rural Rehabilitation and Development is a commendable act in the current situation. The Village Bazaar Exhibition took place from 7 to 9 August in Kandahar province.

MINISTRY OF RURAL REHABILITATION AND DEVELOPMENT'S GRAND VILLAGE BAZAAR EXHIBITION CONVENED IN HERAT PROVINCE.

The opening ceremony of the exhibition was attended by Mr. Bashir Ahmad Ibrahimi, Economic Adviser to Governor, Mr. Kabir Essar and Ms. Sakina Hussaini, Provincial Council Representatives, Mr. Mohammad Waheed Ibrahimzada, Deputy Director for Program, Wahid Ahmad Nawidi, Acting Director of Provincial Rural Rehabilitation and Development Directorate, Ms. Hemmati, Director of Herat Economy Directorate, Mr. Ratib Hamim, Herat Water and Energy Director, President of Afghan Carpet Producers and Exporters Union, Heads of Community Development Councils, and women.

The exhibition featured more than 65 businesses (Enterprise Groups, Small and Medium Enterprises) from Herat, Farah, Ghor and Badghis provinces. The participants showcased their products for sale and display. The exhibition was held for three days from 28-30 August in the Taraqi Park of Herat city.

Participants of the exhibition included members of Enterprise Groups (EGs), Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs), and Individual business owners that are supported by Women Economic Empowerment Rural Development Program (WEERDP) from the four provinces mentioned on the basis of specific features such as quality and quantity of products, business ideas, and loans obtained for startup.



There were variety of products for exhibition from different industries such as food processing, carpet weaving, beekeeping, dairy, saffron, and various handicrafts products.

In the exhibition, there were a total of 50 booths, out of which 35 booths were dedicated for Herat province beneficiaries, and 15 booths for Farah, Ghor and Badghis beneficiaries.

In the event, Mr. Bashir Ahmad Ibrahimi spoke about the importance of supporting the local handicrafts industry and facilitating the workplace for people, especially women. He called Women Economic Empowerment Rural Development Program (WEERDP) to be the most effective national program for rural development, highlighting the important role of the state in supporting local entrepreneurs.

Mohammad Waheed Ibrahimzada, Deputy Director for Program, also spoke about the program's activities aimed at boosting economic and social capacity, creating sustainable income sources and providing employment opportunities for rural people, especially rural women.



SURVEY AND EVALUATION WORKSHOP CONDUCTED FOR SOCIAL ORGANIZERS OF THE CENTRAL ZONE



An evaluation and survey workshop was held to evaluate the activities of central zone staff (Kabul, Panjshir, Parwan, Kapisa, Bamyán, Maidan Wardak,

Logar and Daikundi) of the Women Economic Empowerment Rural Development Program (WEERDP) of Ministry of Rural Rehabilitation and Development (MRRD). The workshop was held at the WEERDP main office in Kabul, where social workers expressed their challenges, suggestions and views on how to effectively implement the program in the selected areas, as a result, the respective heads of units presented solutions and their recommendations. During its five-year work in the central zone, WEERDP will establish 8238 Self Help Groups (SHGs), 1030 Enterprise Groups (EGs), and 1939 Village Savings and Loans Associations (VSLAs) that will later receive 727 million AF as gratuitous grant.

WEERDP BENEFICIARY CONDUCTED A FIELD VISIT TO NORTHWEST ZONE



Women Economic Empowerment Rural Development Program (WEERDP) of MRRD arranged a field visit to Northwest region in order to learn operation and process of setting up Self Help Groups (SHGs), Village Savings and Loans Association (VSLAs), startup of small women businesses and trade in the four provinces of Northwestern part of the country. 26 beneficiaries from Badakhshan, Baghlan, Takhar and Kunduz visited Balkh province in groups with their Mahrams. During

the workshop, topics such as Islamic Banking, Qard-ul-Hasan and Mudarabah were discussed between participants. Participated women expressed their satisfaction with the visits, and emphasized that by meeting and discussing with women in Balkh they had a good economic incentive to pursue alongside home business. It is noteworthy that this is the first time that beneficiaries of one zone have been sent to another zone for exposure visit. It should be noted that 2 working days were allocated for the visit of each province beneficiary.



MINISTRY OF RURAL REHABILITATION AND DEVELOPMENT CONVENED A VILLAGE BAZAAR EXHIBITION IN NANGARHAR PROVINCE



A three-day exhibition was conducted in Shirzai Stadium of Nangarhar province to honor the 100th Independence Anniversary of Afghanistan. The opening ceremony was attended by Shah Mahmood Miakhail, Governor of Nangarhar, other government officials and residents. Nangarhar Governor, Shah Mahmood Miakhail considered these kinds of exhibitions to be effective in the economic prosperity of rural women and vital for handicrafts sector. He also thanked

the officials of Nangarhar Rural Rehabilitation and Development Directorate for conducting the exhibition which improves the economic situation of the villagers. He urged all residents of the province to buy their local products to make a valuable contribution to the prosperity of their province. The exhibition featured a selection of handmade products, carpets, clothing, jewelry, edible and non-edible items that were sold with good quality and reasonable price.

CONTACT INFORMATION:



Nila Bagh Road, Dar-ul-Aman, Kabul, Afghanistan



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www.facebook.com/weerdpofficial



@weerdpofficial



Abdulwafi.nayebzai@mrrd.gov.af



+93 (0) 788 911 211

