

ABOUT WEERDP:

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.

WEERDP/MRRD

**MAKING VILLAGES
PRODUCTIVE**

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TRAINING ON A2F FOR WESTERN ZONE STAFF



WEE-RDP/MRRD conducted a two-day training session on Access to Finance (A2F) for the western zone staffs in PMO, Kabul.

Dr. Latifa Majidi, WEE-RDP's executive director provided technical instructions on how to improve A2F activities and display the positive image of the program to villagers.

The process of transferring seed capital, management of MIS data, acceleration of seed capital injection, connection between VSLAs and village institutions as well as creation of bank accounts for these groups were the points discussed with participants.

SAVING BOXES DISTRIBUTION AND ASSESSMENT VISIT TO PUL-E--KHMURI



In a ceremony attended by Directorate of Economy, Agriculture, Women Affairs, Labor and Social Affairs, Municipality and relevant organizations, WEERDP in cooperation with Baghlan PRRD distributed saving boxes to Self Help Groups in Pul-e-Khumri district. Abdul Ghias Siddiqui, Baghlan Economy director, appreciated the program and said: "Baghlan is a great platform for the growth of agriculture sector and WEE-RDP activities can be effective in strengthening economic system of the villagers.

This program has established 157 SHGs (141 women and 16 men) in Pul-e-Khumri district, with 2102 men and women members. These groups have saved an amount of 505,040 AFN so far.

WEERDP INJECTED SEED CAPITAL TO VSLAS IN BAMYAN



WEE-RDP/MRRD injected an amount of 5.5 million AFN as the first tranche of seed capital to 56 Village Savings and Loans Associations (VSLAs) and 560 Self Help Groups (SHGs) in Bamyan province.

The seed capital distribution ceremony was attended by Sayed Anwar Rahmati, governor of Bamyan province, Mohammad Reza Payman, director of PRRD, representative of WEERDP and other guest.

Beneficiaries of the program present in the event were grateful and they called seed capital as a fuel that will boost local economy once injected to VSLAs.



VILLAGE CHAMPION

"One and a half years ago, when I joined the Women Economic Empowerment Rural Development Program, I started weaving bassinet/cradle bow. With the help WEERDP, I was able to obtain a monthly contract for the production of 30 bassinets from our village market.

At the end of each month, my husband and I take the products to the market with his Three Wheel Motorcycle and we save 250 AFN from each sale to build a house on the land my husband inherited. WEERDP is a ray of hope for our newly married life."

— *Shamila Omari, is a member of Etihad SHG and Yadgar EG in Baba Yadgari village, Dehdadi district, Balkh province*



In the 7th edition of Made by Afghan Women Exhibition, 20 beneficiaries of WEE-RDP/MRRD participated to showcase and sell their products. The exhibition was convened by Afghanistan Women Chamber of Commerce (AWCCI) in association with Ministry of Commerce and Industry (MoCI) in Chehilstoon Garden, Kabul.

Dr. Latifa Majidi, Executive Director of WEE-RDP, attended the opening ceremony and visited booths of the beneficiaries to see their products. In addition, Dr. Majidi, instructed the beneficiaries on how to further enhance their packaging, and product quality.

Moreover, the purpose of this 3-day exhibition was to support national products, and build the economic capacity of Afghan women.

WEE-RDP CONDUCTED CAPACITY BUILDING TRAININGS IN HERAT



WEE-RDP/MRRD conducted a training on capacity building and initial membership for 305 members of SHGs in Herat province. The total members of these groups amount to 1636 people that are located in Injel, Guzara, Kurkh and Rubat Sangi districts of Herat province. The criteria for membership in SHGs, the stages of creation and upgrade of SHGs to VSLAs, the method of giving loans and the importance of individual investment were the topics discussed in the training.

WEE-RDP HELD COORDINATION MEETING WITH FPs



WEE-RDP/MRRD held a coordination meeting with the FPs in PMO, Kabul to brief the program officials about the progress of activities, and share their knowledge of implementing in targeted provinces. In the meeting, the registration process of villages profile in MIS, the effectiveness of training, and the findings of the M&E unit on the provincial level were discussed, as well as the maturity procedure of SHGs. It is worthwhile to mention that 6 FPs implement the program in 39 districts of 23 provinces across the country.

WEE-RDP DISTRIBUTED SAVING BOXES TO SHGs IN FARYAB PROVINCE



In an official meeting, WEE-RDP/ MRRD distributed 500 saving boxes to Self Help Groups (SHGs) in Faryab province. Azizullah Usmani, PRRD director, program's representatives, representatives of CHA the Facilitating Partners (FP) and some local residents participated the event. It's worthwhile to mention that CHA implements WEE-RDP activities in Bel Chragh district and Maimana city of Faryab province and they have established 1177 SHGs until now. These groups have saved three million AFN through their weekly meetings which will be given as loan in the future.

WEE-RDP HELD A MEETING ON ENTERPRISE DEVELOPMENT AND MARKET LINKAGES WITH THE PRIVATE SECTOR



WEE-RDP/MRRD held a meeting with Afghan Women Chamber for Commerce and Industry (AWCCI), Afghanistan Financial and Banking Institute (AFBI), and other organizations of the private sector in PMO Kabul. Dr. Latifa Majidi, WEE-RDP's executive director, spoke about cooperation among organizations and expressed the importance of the private sector in the economic cycle of the country. All 9 participants gave brief information about their activities and expressed their interest and commitment to cooperate on enterprise and value chain development. Moreover, participants comprehensively discussed enterprise development, market linkages, value chain development, & how to find opportunities for cooperation and collaboration in the private sector. It's worthwhile to mention that the WEERDP will hold a follow-up meeting with each organization separately in the future.



In a series of seed capital distribution to SHGs and VSLAs, this time WEE-RDP/MRRD injected 490,490 AFN to 7 Village Savings and Loan Associations (VSLAs) and 73 Self Help Groups (SHGs) in Rodat district of Nangarhar province.

It is important to note that WEE-RDP will transfer the seed capital to SHGs and VSLAs in three phases during 5 years.



WEE-RDP/MRRD conducted 69 training sessions for 956 members of Self Help Groups (SHGs) in six districts (Behsood, Surkh Road, Khiwa, Rodat, Kama and Dara Noor) of Nangarhar province.

During the training sessions, basic information about program's objective, initial membership process and importance of savings were elucidated to participants.

SEED CAPITAL INJECTION TO SHGs & VSLAs BEGAN IN KANDAHAR



In an official ceremony, WEE-RDP/MRRD launched the seed capital injection process to SHGs and VSLAs in the Nageleen village of Daman district in Kandahar province.

The event was attended by Mohammad Nasim Ayobi, PRRD director, WEE-RDP's western zone manager, and village elders. An amount of 5.7 million AFN was injected to 43 VSLAs via bank accounts of these VSLAs in Dand and Daman district of Kandahar province.

SHG members were grateful for the distribution of the seed capital to their VSLAs and vowed to work harder for the prosperity of their local economy.

WEE-RDP's ACTIVITIES PROGRESS IN LAGHMAN PROVINCE



Women Economic Empowerment Rural Development Program (WEE-RDP) of the Ministry of Rural Rehabilitation and Development (MRRD) has established 1,564 Self Help Groups (SHGs) with 22,678 members in Mehterlam and Qarghaie districts of Laghman province.

SHGs have saved an amount of 969,605 AFN in weekly meetings, and 300 loans have been issued to start micro businesses at village level.

The overall goal of WEE-RDP is to increase the social and economic level of ultra poor rural women.

SEED CAPITAL INJECTED TO TWO VSLAs IN NANGARHAR PROVINCE



Dobila and Shah Burahan are the 2 new Village Savings and Loans Associations (VSLAs) of WEE-RDP/ MRRD in Behsood district of Nangarhar province.

Recently, WEERDP transferred the first tranche of seed capital to these VSLAs. The villagers have initiated business ideas with the help of program staff and are well satisfied with transparency of the process.

It is important to note that WEE-RDP will inject the seed capital to VSLAs in three phases during five years.

WEE-RDP's ACTIVITIES PROGRESS IN KAPISA PROVINCE



In addition to forming two new Village Saving & Loan Associations (VSLAs), WEERDP/MRRD staff assessed the bookkeeping procedure of SHGs & monitored the activities and progress of 52 functional VSLAs in the Nejrab district of Kapisa province last week.

Also, VSLA members were briefed on micro-business startup and criteria. Since WEERDP's initiation, 940 SHGs, & 54 VSLAs have been formed in Nejrab and Mahmud Raqi districts of the province as well as 851 members of the groups attended capacity building training.



Promoting Integrated Bamboo Based Enterprise Development (PIBBED) project conducted a six-day training for the project beneficiaries in the Bamboo Enterprise Development, Access to Market, Access to Finance and Promoting right varieties of Bamboo species in Kandahar province. During the mission, Mr. Omer Ludin, the project coordinator visited the model Bamboo nurseries established in Dand and Arghandab districts as well as the Bamboo Common Facilitation Center/Bamboo Prototypes Production Factory constructed by the project in the capital of the province, Mirwais Meena.

The model Bamboo nurseries are green and flourishing after seven months and if it continues, promoting of the identified Bamboo species would be further facilitated in a greater number in Kandahar province. Bamboo Common Facilitation Center (CFC) is also constantly used by 150 artisans supported under the project and have developed dozen of demand driven lifestyle and handicraft Bamboo prototypes using the facilities.

It's worth mentioning that PIBBED project is a joint initiative of the Ministry of Rural Rehabilitation and Development (MRRD) and SAARC Development Fund (SDF).

WEE-RDP DISTRIBUTED SAVING BOXES TO SHGS IN NURISTAN PROVINCE



In coordination with Nuristan PRRD, WEE-RDP distributed 97 saving boxes to Self Help Groups (SHGs) in Wama and Paroon districts of Nuristan province. FGA, the Facilitating Partner (FP) implements the program activities in Nuristan province, and has established 346 SHGs in the two districts comprising 4,119 members. It's worthwhile to mention that these groups have saved 6 million AFN through their weekly meetings.

WEE-RDP DISTRIBUTED SAVING BOXES TO SHGS IN TAKHAR PROVINCE



WEE-RDP/MRRD in coordination with Coordination of Afghan Relief (CoAR), one of the Facilitating Partners (FPs) distributed saving boxes and books of records to 509 Self Help Groups (SHGs) in 55 Community Development Councils (CDCs) of Bahark and Taleqan districts of Takhar province. The ceremony held for distribution of saving boxes was attended by representatives of Directorate of Women Affairs (DoWA), program's official, and CoAR representatives. Until now, the number of beneficiaries in Takhar has reached to 5,508 members and they have saved more than 260,000 AFN in the weekly group meetings.

AN AWARENESS SESSION WAS CONVENED ABOUT WEE-RDP IN SAR-E-PUL PROVINCE



Women Economic Empowerment Rural Development Program (WEERDP) of Ministry of Rural Rehabilitation and Development (MRRD) convened an awareness session for 75 women in the Gosfandi districts of Sar-e-Pul province. In the session, the rural women were briefed about the objective, activities, and expected outcome of the program. It's worthwhile to mention that 39 SHGs with **363** members have been established in the province so far.

WEE-RDP TRANSFERRED SEED CAPITAL TO KABUL AND KAPISA PROVINCES



In a ceremony attended by Deputy Governors of Kabul and Kapisa, PRRD Directors, and Head of CDCs, WEE-RDP begin the process of seed capital injection to VSLAs in Bagrami district of Kabul, and Nejrab and Mahmood Raqi districts of Kapisa province. An amount of 160,000 AFN were transferred to 2 VSLAs in Bagrami district of Kabul province, and about 5 million AFN were transferred to 41 VSLAs in Nejrab and Mahmood Raqi districts of Kapisa province. It's worthwhile to mention that seed capital injection to these VSLAs in various installments will be given out as loans (Qardul Hasna) to beneficiaries to start or support their own businesses.



In a ceremony, WEERDP/MRRD in presence of MRRD Deputy Minister for Admin and Finance, Mr. Merajuddin Shams, WEE-RDP representatives, elders, residents, and media outlets announced the start of the seed capital injection process in Herat province.

The first tranche of the seed capital is 6.2 million AFN that will be injected to 70 Village Savings and Loan Associations (VSLAs) and 642 Self Help Group (SHGs) of Injeel, Guzara, Kurkh, and Rubat Sangi districts of Herat province via bank accounts. The purpose of this gratuitous grant is to increase the amount of money saved by VSALS, to facilitate rural residents access to more financial resources, and to encourage more rural entrepreneurs to use these resources for the development and strengthening of economic activities. Through this process, Jobs are created directly and indirectly in the sectors of handicrafts, food production and processing, carpet weaving, agriculture and livestock, and more.

It is worthwhile to mention that 2,181,400 AFN will be injected as the second tranche of seed capital to 40 VSLAs and 311 SHGs in the future. In the sidelines of the meeting, WEE-RDP announced the distribution of 3,070 savings boxes to the mentioned groups as well.

WEE-RDP CONDUCTED INITIAL MEMBERSHIP TRAINING IN KUNAR



WEE-RDP/MRRD conducted initial membership training for 98 Self Help Groups (SHGs) with 1,223 members in 9 villages of Narang district of Kunar province.

In the training session, WEE-RDP's objective, Self Help Groups (SHGs) membership process, the significance of savings, and Self Help Group's (SHG) role in the family's economic development were discussed and elucidated.

In the sidelines of the training session, WEE-RDP also announced the distribution of 300 savings boxes to active Self Help Groups (SHGs).

WEE-RDP MONITORED ACTIVITIES OF SHGs IN NIMROZ PROVINCE



WEE-RDP/MRRD scrutinized the bookkeeping and savings process of 603 Self Help Groups (SHGs) in Zaranj and Chahar Burjak districts of Nimroz province.

During the assessment, the team distributed saving boxes to some of the groups.

It's worthwhile to mention that the total beneficiaries of the program in Nemroz have reached to 5,549 people, and they have saved 232,960 AFN up till now.

WEE-RDP/MRRD distributed Savings boxes in Baghlan province



WEE-RDP/MRRD in cooperation with AKF distributed savings boxes and other necessary equipment to 330 Self Help Groups (SHGs) in Baghlan - e- Jadid district of Baghlan province.

The distribution ceremony was attended by representatives of the Directorate of Women Affairs (DoWA), the Director of Community Development Council (CDC), elders, youths, religious scholars, and some of the local residents in Baghlan province.

Furthermore, 330 SHGs (270 FSHGs & 60 SHGs) have been established in 54 CDCs with a total of 600,000 AFN savings via weekly meetings so far.

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