



**WEERDP/MRRD**

**MAKING VILLAGES  
PRODUCTIVE**

## MINISTRY OF RURAL REHABILITATION AND DEVELOPMENT (MRRD)

### 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.

### EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF WEERDP OVERSAW THE ACTIVITIES OF EGs



Women Economic Empowerment Rural Development Program's (WEERDP) Executive Director, Dr. Latifa Majidi oversaw the operation and activities of Enterprise Groups in Nawabad Yaka Toot village of Chaharkant district in Balkh province.

During evaluation, Dr. Majidi provided a series of technical instructions for the improvement of product's quality and EGs operations.

At the end, women of the village expressed their gratitude for receiving a clear guideline in order to bring a positive change in their products and asked for more assistance at village level.

### AN AWARENESS PROGRAM WAS CONDUCTED FOR SHG MEMBERS



Women Economic Empowerment Rural Development Program (WEERDP) conducted an awareness program for 256 members (60 women and 196 men) of Self Helping Groups in the center and Ahmad Aba districts of Paktia province.

In the awareness session, Information about the program, SHGs formation, saving methods, issuance of loans and startup of small businesses were topics discussed and elucidated with the participants.

In addition, the program has established 39 VSLAs and 17 EGs in the center and Ahmad Aba district and several contracts were inked with vendors to supply EGs' products to the market.

It is noteworthy that out of 724 established SHGs, WEE-RDP has conducted awareness programs to 364.

### WEERDP CONDUCTED A TRAINING ON ISLAMIC MICRO FINANCE - IMF



WEE-RDP/MRRD conducted a four-day training on Islamic Micro Finance and Financial Literacy for 35 District Coordinators (DCs) of 13 provinces (Nangarhar, Laghman, Kunar, Nuristan, Khost, Ghazni, Paktia, Paktika, Balkh, Faryab, Jawzjan, Samangan, Sar-e-pul) in PMO Kabul.

In the training session, history of Islamic banking, types of Islamic transactions, types of bank accounts, profits and taxes and Islamic banking terms were discussed and elucidated to the participants.

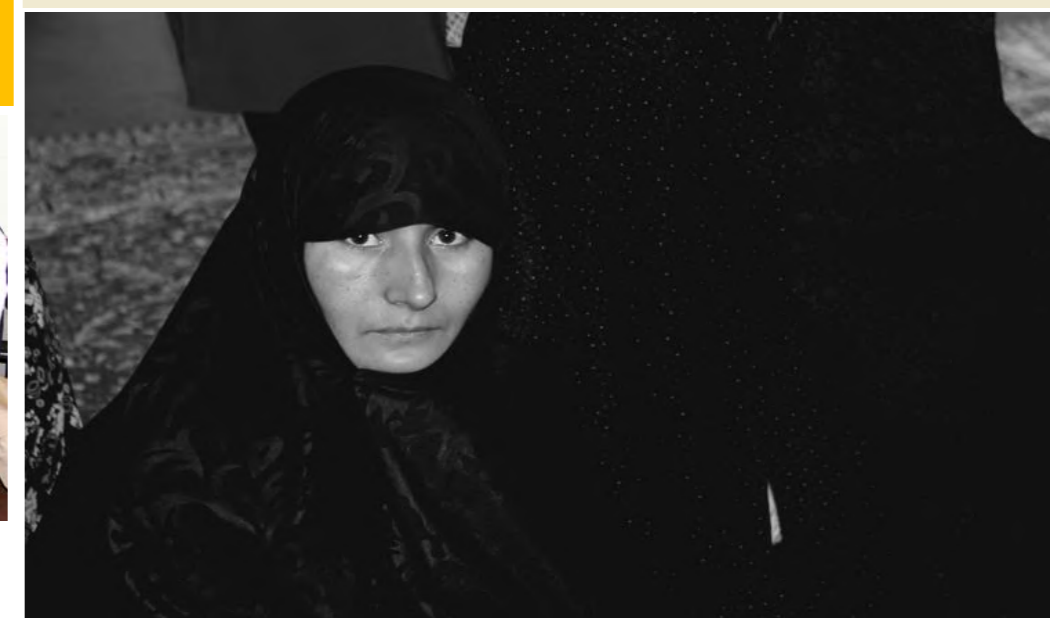
## NEWSLETTER ISSUE# 24

October-2020

### IN THIS ISSUE:

- WEE-RDP conducted a training on Islamic Micro Finance
- An awareness program was conducted for 256 members of SHGs in Paktia province
- Executive Director of WEERDP oversaw the activities of EGs in Balkh province
- VSLAs Establishment in Center of Bamyan province

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### VILLAGE CHAMPION

Fate took my husband & poverty my dear child. Living life of a widow and in poverty is one of the most miserable period a women must go through.

Although, my life is full of miseries, I Regained faith in life when I was empowered to financially support my family from the money I earned from my small business I established with the assistance of WEERDP. I am thankful to the program for giving me hope to see my children go to school and dream a prosperous future for them.

*Layeqa Nawrozi, a beneficiary from Esaq Village, Karukh district, Herat*



Women Economic Empowerment Rural Development Program (WEE-RDP) of Ministry of Rural Rehabilitation and Development (MRRD) conducted a 4-day training on MIS for 42 field staff of 42 Facilitating Partners (FPs).

Integration of AREDP MIS system into WEE-RDP MIS system, assembly of information about various departments achievements, quality and accuracy of data, and entry of data to the new system were the main topics discussed in the workshop.

It is noteworthy that the training was conducted in Chehil Setoon garden for 3 days.



### VSLAs ESTABLISHMENT IN CENTER OF BAMYAN PROVINCE



Out of 41 Self Help Groups (SHGs) in the center of Bamyan province, three Village Savings and Loan Associations (VSLAs) established by WEERDP/MRRD.

The members of SHGs and VSLAs are pleased & gratified from the program's activities in their community and consider this program as a reliable economic pillar for their lives.

### WEERDP OFFICIALS MONITORED THE ACTIVITIES OF SHGs IN FARYAB



The field staff of the Women Economic Empowerment Rural Development Program (WEE-RDP) of the Ministry of Rural Rehabilitation and Development (MRRD) monitored the activities of 55 Self Help Groups (SHGs) that is comprised of 820 members in Maimana city of Faryab province. The monitoring team examined the bookkeeping and saving methods of these SHGs.

It's noteworthy that some of the group members have started small and medium businesses after they borrowed money from their respective groups.

### WEERDP'S OPERATION PROGRESS STATUS IN NIMROZ PROVINCE



The Women Economic Empowerment Rural Development Program (WEERDP) of the Ministry of Rural Rehabilitation and Development (MRRD) through (FGA) covers 65 villages in Zarang and Chahar Burjak districts of Nimroz province. Since the program's inception, 756 SHGs with 5900 (Female & Male) members have been established in the mentioned province.

It's worthwhile to mention that more than 90 % of these groups have received training on initial membership and all groups have received saving boxes.

### A COORDINATION MEETING HELD BETWEEN WEERDP AND LITACA-II PROJECT



A coordination meeting was held between executive directors of the Women Economic Empowerment Rural Development Program (WEE-RDP) and the project Livelihood Improvement in Tajik – Afghan Cross Border Areas (LITACA- II) in LITACA-II project main office to share the past experiences and future work plans. Dr. Latifa Majidi, Executive Director of WEERDP, and Roshan Safi, Head of Litaka Project, while discussing the activities and achievements of both programs during the last six months, they also spoke about the objectives and creation of a common approach that would result in effective marketing for the products the beneficiaries of these programs. At the end of the meeting, both parties agreed to prepare a memorandum of understanding and the content of which is expected to be discussed in the coming months.



Women Economic Empowerment Rural Development Program (WEERDP) of the Ministry of Rural Rehabilitation and Development (MRRD) established 217 Self Help Groups (SHGs) in 26 Community District Councils (CDCs) of Wama district in Nooristan province. WEERDP has delivered training on different subjects to 191 FSHGs with 1528 members and 36 SHGs with 454 members. It's noteworthy that a total of 496,900 AFN have been saved by these groups in the weekly group meetings.



Women Economic Empowerment Rural Development Program (WEE-RDP) of Ministry of Rural Rehabilitation and Development (MRRD) conducted a training workshop on accounting and initial membership to 96 Self Help groups with 1054 members in Laghman, Bamyán and Khost provinces.

In the training sessions, importance of savings, its effective use; accounting methods, responsibilities of SHGs key members, and planning were the main points elucidated to the participants.

### WEE-RDP's PROGRESS STATUS IN JOWZJAN PROVINCE



### INITIAL MEMBERSHIP TRAINING CONVENED IN KHOST PROVINCE



Women Economic Empowerment Rural Development Program (WEERDP) of Ministry of Rural Rehabilitation and Development (MRRD) organized a training workshop on initial membership for 743 members of 85 Self Helping Groups in 23 villages in the center and Mandozi Ismail Khail districts of Khost province.

Topics such as, SHGs membership, program's objectives in rural areas of the country and effectiveness of savings were discussed and elucidated to the participants in this training.

### WEERDP CONVENED INITIAL MEMBERSHIP TRAINING TO SHG MEMBERS IN KANDAHAR



Women Economic Empowerment Rural Development Program (WEERDP) of Ministry of Rural Rehabilitation and Development (MRRD) organized a two-day training workshop on initial membership for Self Helping Groups (SHGs) members in Dand and Daman districts of Kandahar province.

In this two days session, topic such as, SHGs membership, program's objectives in rural areas of the country and importance of savings, access to finance and loan management were discussed and elucidated to the 459 participants of 64 SHGs.

It's noteworthy that the training session will continue for 6 more days in 14 CDCs of Dand and Daman districts of the province.

### WEERDP DISTRIBUTED SAVING BOXES TO BENEFICIARIES IN KUNDUZ PROVINCE



Women Economic Empowerment Rural Development Program (WEE-RDP) of the Ministry of Rural Rehabilitation and Development (MRRD) in collaboration with the Agha Khan Foundation (AKF) begun its activities in Ali Abad district of Kunduz province in August 2020.

As of today, WEERDP has covered 17 Community Development Councils (CDCs) out of 52 planned CDCs and has established 114 SHGs that have saved a total of 111,610 AFN in the weekly meetings.

Recently, the program conducted training on initial membership to 70 members of SHGs and distributed saving boxes to 25 groups.



Promoting Integrated Bamboo Based Enterprise Development project (PIBBED) of WEE-RDP/MRRD has linked ten beneficiaries from the center, Kama and Khewa districts of Nangarhar province with the market and they have supplied 43 samples of their products.

PIBBED project assists men and women in Bamboo cultivation and elucidates the ways to use Bamboo products in the mentioned districts so they could support their families.

In addition to training in the field of Bamboo production, the project links beneficiaries with the market and provides access to finance to help women from Nangarhar province exhibit their products in national and regional markets.

It is noteworthy that PIBBED has created job opportunities for 150 men and women since its inception.

## WEERDP MONITORED SELF HELP GROUP'S ACTIVITIES IN NANGARHAR



WEE-RDP/MRRD monitored the process of seed capital injection to Self Help Groups (SHGs), and Village Savings and Loan Associations (VSLAs) and the procedure of loan transactions to borrowers in 6 CDCs of Behsood district of Nangarhar province.

WEERDP has conducted a 2-day training session on initial membership to 4 SHGs consisting of 40 members in Sediq Abad and has supervised Enterprise Groups (EGs) in Behasood districts of Nangarhar province recently.

## SEED CAPITAL INJECTED TO VSLAS IN BALKH PROVINCE



Women Economic Empowerment Rural Development Program (WEE-RDP) of Ministry of Rural Rehabilitation and Development (MRRD) injected an amount of 2 million AFN as a second tranche of seed capital to Village Savings and Loan Associations (VSLAs) in Chahar Kint, Dehdadi and Nahr e Shahi districts of Balkh province.

Injected amount will be disbursed among villagers to assist them in starting up small business in their communities and play an affective role in the economy.

Monitoring and evaluating from VSLAs and Self Help Groups (SHGs) activities and conducting trainings with different titles for beneficiaries have been done by regional staff of the program recently.

## WEERDP MONITORED ITS ACTIVITIES IMPLEMENTATION IN FARYAB PROVINCE



WEE-RDP/MRRD monitored the process of bookkeeping of 8 Self Help Groups (SHGs) with 120 participants and the process of 2 Village Savings and Loan Associations (VSLAs) formation in 2 villages which are located in Maimana city of Faryab province.

It's worth mentionable that, during this monitoring process, MIS data has been checked with the outputs of mentioned unit.

## CENTRAL REGION STAFF HELD A COORDINATION MEETING IN PMO



In a meeting held for coordination, 35 field personnel from the Central Region stationed in 22 districts of (Kabul, Parwan, Kapisa, Panjshir, Daikundi, Logar, Maidan, Wardak, Bamyan) provinces presented the report of their activities to the program leadership.

In the meeting, the field staff discussed challenges they encounter during implementation, figures of established Self Help Groups (SHGs) and Village Savings and Loan Associations (VSLAs), and seed capital injection with the senior management. In the end, the senior management provided technical recommendations and instructions to help the field staff effectively execute their plans.



Women Economic Empowerment Rural Development Program (WEE-RDP) of the Ministry of Rural Rehabilitation and Development (MRRD) conducted a 3-day training workshop on gender to the program field staff in Kandahar province.

Professional behavior, Law on Elimination of Violence against Women (EVAW), and integration of gender into professional affairs of the program were major topics discussed in the workshop and elucidated to 25 field staff.

Training workshop on Gender issues is considered an effective means to build the capacity of the employees by WEE-RDP, and it is planned to deliver such training to beneficiaries in the future.



**WEERDP CONDUCTED INITIAL MEMBERSHIP TRAINING TO 451 SHGs IN KUNAR**



Women Economic Empowerment Rural Development Program (WEE-RDP) of Ministry of Rural Rehabilitation and Development (MRRD) conducted training on initial membership and financial literacy to 5488 members of 451 Self Help Groups (SHGs) in 2 districts of Kunar province.

It's worthwhile to mention that more than 1 million AFN has been saved by these groups in their weekly meetings.

**WEERDP ESTABLISHED SHGs & VSLAs IN NORTHERN PROVINCES**



Recently, Women Economic Empowerment Rural Development Program (WEERDP) formed 4 Village Savings and Loan Associations (VSLAs) from 52 Self Help Groups (SHGs) in Jawzjan province, and 2 VSLAs from 27 (SHGs) in Trinkot district of Urozgan province.

Also, WEERDP mobilized 65 Community Development Councils (CDCs) in the Aybak city of Samngan province which enabled WEERDP to establish 106 SHGs; the majority of which are related to females.

**WEE-RDP DISBURSED SEED CAPITAL TO VSLAs IN BALKH PROVINCE**



Women Economic Empowerment Rural Development Program (WEE-RDP) of Ministry of Rural Rehabilitation and Development (MRRD) injected the second tranche of seed capital to 2 Village Savings and Loan Associations (VSLAs) in Nahr – e - Shahi district of Balkh province.

It is worthwhile to mention that more than 8 million AFN has been injected into various groups in Balkh province and it is one of the leading provinces that has fulfilled the eligibility criteria to receive seed grants.

**CONTACT US:**



**Women Empowerment Afghanistan**



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