



WEERDP/MRRD



His Excellency, Mr. Shahzar Zadran the newly appointed Deputy Minister for Programs of Ministry of Rural Rehabilitation and Development (MRRD) visited Women Economic Empowerment Rural Development Program's (WEERDP) personals, spoke about activities and achievements of the program in a series of his visits from various programs.

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About WEERDP/MRRD:

Women Economic Empowerment Rural Development Program (WEERDP) is one of the key programs of Ministry of Rural Rehabilitation and Development (MRRD) that aims to increase social and economic empowerment of poor rural women in 76 districts of 34 provinces across Afghanistan.

The program covers two districts in every province. WEERDP is envisaged to establish a total of 40,000 Self Help Groups (SHGs), 5,000 Village Savings and Loans Associations (VSLAs), 5,000 Enterprise Groups (EGs) and 500 Producer Associations (PAs) in order to develop local economy in rural areas, and create job opportunities for program beneficiaries (80% female) during five years through 6,250 Community Development Councils (CDCs).

EMPLOYEE OF THE MONTH



This month's employee of the month is Mr. Said Akbar Khpalwak, who is program's Admin Officer. Mr. Khpalwak holds a Master of Business Administration (M.B.A) from Dunya University in Kabul. Mr. Akbar has more than 8 years of relevant professional experience, and he has been working with WEERDP program since 2011.

Since his employment with WEERDP, he has been playing an integral role in providing administrative support to the program, therefore, he is recognized as one of the most productive employee of the organization. We wish him all the very best for his future endeavors.

DA AFGHANISTAN BANK HOLDS FINANCIAL LITERACY TRAINING WORKSHOP FOR WEERDP FINANCE DEPARTMENT STAFF

A three-day financial literacy training workshop was conducted by Da Afghanistan Bank for 7 regions finance department staffs.

The training workshop was delivered by Da Afghanistan bank on financial literacy and banking from 9 – 11 December 2019, as well as topics covered such as (What is money? What is a financial institution? What is a bank? What are bank duties and goals? What are bank accounts?).

In addition, financial services in the country, types of bank accounts, bank account opening conditions in financial institutions, types of loans, Islamic banking, mobile banking, online banking, and debit cards, types of insurance and monetary inflation were other topic discussed in the workshop. The topics mentioned in the workshop were taught the experts



to the participants. It is noteworthy that at the end of the workshop the participants received official certificates from the Da Afghanistan Bank.

WEERDP'S EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR VISITS HERAT PROVINCE TO OVERSEE PROGRAM'S IMPLEMENTATION PROGRESS



A high ranking delegation from WEERDP led by Rahmatullah Quraishi, Executive Director of the program along with managers of various units visited Herat provinces to monitor the operation and implementation procedure of the program in Herat.

Mr. Rahmatullah Quraishi and accompanying delegation visited the newly created groups of Guzara village, as well as talked to the group members about the program's objective and how to mobilize others to join the groups.

Furthermore, in an exclusive meeting, Herat province staff spoke about the challenges they face during implementation phase, offered their suggestions and recommendations; based on Mr. Rahmatullah Quraishi's instructions essential actions were taken to neutralize the complications.

It's worth mentioning that WEERDP covers 4 districts and 360 villages, where 2876 SHGs, 360 VSLAs and Producers Associations will be established. The aim of creating these financial associations is to intrude the culture of savings and investment, facilitate villages to access financial resources and encourage other village entrepreneurs to use sources for the development of their business activities, which will create job opportunities in various sectors for many in a direct or indirect way.

HOPES SPROUT



On June 2019 Women Economic Empowerment Rural Development Program WEERDP started its activities in the Azhdar Community Development Council (CDC) of Bamyan province. 15 women from Azhdar CDC joined Self Help Groups (SHGs). Mrs. Husnia, 32, a member of Omid Self Help Group, after saving in the group for a while got 2000 AFN loan and produced 20 jar of pickles and jam.

Prior to the start of the WEE_RDP, not all women, including Husnia, knew how to start a small business and make a profit through it; besides, there were no financial resources and job opportunities for them. Women had previously been housekeeping and caring for their children, and did not even imagine having a small or medium-sized business in their



dreams.

Mrs. Husnia said: “after the orientation session of the program in our village and establishment of Self Help Groups (SHGs), I and my other group members were saving 20 AFN per week, and after five months of continuous and uninterrupted savings, WEERDP staff visited our village to conduct various trainings where we learned how to set up a small business and get access to financial resources, as well as, the staff gave us the motivation to start a small business.

I also desired of having a business in the past, so I decided to borrow 2000 AFN for three months and started my own business. Using my basic knowledge of making jam and pickles, I prepared 20 bottles and sold them to our shopkeeper and thereafter made 500 AFN profit. Now, I realize that even illiterate women and housewives can start a small business, to cover their basic needs, and improve their family economic situation.

I am really thankful to WEERDP-MRRD’s leadership and their staff to prepare this kind of opportunity for rural women and want them to support us in future as well.



NEWLY APPOINTED DEPUTY MINISTER OF PROGRAMS MET WITH WEERDP STAFF

His Excellency, Mr. Shahzar Zadran the newly appointed Deputy Minister of Programs of Ministry of Rural Rehabilitation and Development (MRRD) visited Women Economic Empowerment Rural Development Program's (WEERDP) personals, spoke about activities and achievements of the program in a series of his visits from various programs.

Mr. Rahmatullah Quraishi, Executive Director of WEERDP, congratulated him on his appointment and talked about the purpose and objectives of the program in 34 province of Afghanistan.

In the end of the meeting, Mr. Zadran offered some recommendations for smooth implementa-



tion of program's activities, which was acclaimed by program's leadership and staff.

JOINT EXHIBITION OF RURAL HANDICRAFTS CONVENED BY MINISTRIES OF RURAL REHABILITATION AND FINANCE

Women Economic Empowerment Rural Development Program WEERDP-MRRD and Ministry of Finance organized a one-day women handicrafts exhibition in the Ministry of Finance.

In the opening ceremony of the fair, Acting Minister of Finance, Mr. Mohammad Hamayoun Qayoumi, talked about the role of women in society and the effective role of holding such exhibitions in promoting the economic growth and prosperity of rural women and said ministry of finance is compelled to support rural entrepreneur women.

The fair was attended by 30 women entrepreneurs who are beneficiaries of Women Economic Empowerment Rural Development Program from eight provinces (Herat, Balkh, Bamyan, Nangarhar, Khost, Paktia, Parwan and Kandahar).

Handicrafts, coarse carpets, expensive stones, Jewelries, dairy products and many types of pickles items were on display at the fair.

Women entrepreneurs expressed their satisfaction with the launch of such exhibition and said:



cooperation between ministries, and supporting rural entrepreneurs could lead to economic self-sufficiency.

It should be noted that the exhibition was organized by the Ministry of Finance in cooperation with the Women Economic Empowerment Rural Development Program of Ministry of Rural Rehabilitation and Development in support of the 16-day campaign to eliminate violence against women.

WEERDP – MRRD 2019 YEAR-END REVIEW MEETING



Women Economic Empowerment Rural Development Program's (WEERDP) year-end review conducted in Herat regional office. The year-end review meeting was attended by Ms. Monesa Hasanzada, Deputy Governor of Herat province, Aqa Mohammad Siddiqi, Director of Rural Rehabilitations and Development, Moammad Waheed Ibrahimzada, Deputy Director for WEERDP, and Waheedullah Raoufi, Support Deputy Director. In addition, managers of various units and staff from the regional offices (Western, Central, Eastern, Northern, and Southern zones) participated in the 3-days meeting and discussed the program's achievements, problems and the challenges program will face in the future.

In this meeting, the Deputy Governor talked about the importance of economic projects especially for rural women, she emphasized that there should be more attention to the economic support of women and to create job opportunity for them. She added, that women could be the pillar of support for their families at times of economic crisis and asked the staff for their tireless efforts to empower them.

In this ceremony, Aqa Mohammad Siddiqi spoke about the program's operation and called the program's activities effective in Herat province. He also called for the deployment of economic support to all districts aimed at reducing poverty and removing distance between cities and villages by improving rural capacity. Moammad Waheed Ibrahimzada, WEERDP Deputy Director for Program, recalled the tireless efforts of the staff throughout Afghanistan and appreciated the support of governor office and Rural Rehabilitation and Development Directorates in the implementation of the program. He called WEERDP as one of the most useful and effective programs, and mentions the government's role in the development of local business especially rural women.

Wahidullah Raoufi, Support deputy director, also talked about programs importance, and added that the site visits are in the agenda and it could discover the issues and challenges clearly. WEERDP-MRRD is aimed to increase social and economic capacity of poor rural people especially women in selected communities and create a sustainable income generation source. WEE-RDP is a national program, it aims to work in 76 districts of 34 provinces across Afghanistan. It is envisaged that WEERDP will create a total of 40,000 Self Help Groups (SHGs), 5,000 Village Saving and Loan Associations (VSLAs), 5,000 Enterprise Groups (EGs) and 500 Producer Associations (PAs). WEERDP supports includes technical services, capacity building, financial support, equipment distribution, conducting exhibitions and improvement of market.

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