



WEERDP/MRRD

MAKING VILLAGES PRODUCTIVE

ABOUT WERDP:

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.

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THE FIRST-EVER EXHIBITION OF WOMEN'S HANDICRAFTS IN GHOR PROVINCE



Women Economic Empowerment Rural Development Program (WEE-RDP) of Ministry of Rural Rehabilitation and Development (MRRD) convened a grand exhibition under the name of "Humdili" in Ghor province. Ghor Deputy Governor, PRRD director, heads of government departments, civil society members and delegates from the press attended the opening ceremony of the exhibition. The exhibition was held in Wasim Ghor Hotel in Firoz Koh city of Ghor province. Fifteen women entrepreneurs showcased and sold their handmade products; embroidery cloths, rugs and wool felt. The exhibition had more than 2,000 visitors in just one day. It is noteworthy that this was the first-ever exhibition convened by the program in this province & it's planning to organize more alike events in the future.

SELF HELP GROUPS FORMED IN SAMANGAN PROVINCE



Women Economic Empowerment Rural Development Program (WEE-RDP) of the Ministry of Rural Rehabilitation and Development (MRRD) formed 42 Self Help Groups (SHGs) in Hazrat Sultan and Aybak district of Samangan province. These groups include 446 members which have received initial membership training as well.

In the meantime, the team distributed stationery packages to 18 SHGs in the Hazrat Sultan district of Samangan province.

DOMESTIC PRODUCTS EXHIBITION HELD IN KANDAHAR PROVINCE



Ten beneficiaries of Women Economic Empowerment Rural Development Program (WEE-RDP) of Ministry of Rural Rehabilitation and Development (MRRD) participated in a grand exhibition organized by Afghanistan Chamber of Commerce and Industry (ACCI) in Kandahar province to promote the use of domestic products.

The three days exhibition was held in Shahi Salon area of Kandahar to appreciate and support domestic products, as well as, provided the opportunity for 50 Enterprise Groups (EGs) to sell their local products.

The program beneficiaries showcased and sold local dresses, handicraft, embroidery, children's clothes, decorative items, food and other rural products.



VILLAGE CHAMPION

Shamila joined the Mozhdah Saving Group in the village of Hussainabad eight months ago. For the first time, she borrowed 1,500 AFN and bought wood for her husband's (Enayatullah) carpentry shop. Later, her husband built cabinets and generated an income of 5,000 AFN. Enayatullah says, "I and my wife work in the carpentry shop daily; we borrow money from Mozhdan Saving Group to buy wood and repay the debt when I sell the final products."

Shamila Omari, resident of Hussainabad village, Dehdadi district, & Balkh province.



Women Economic Empowerment Rural Development Program (WEE-RDP) of the Ministry of Rural Rehabilitation and Development (MRRD) held the 2020 end-year review meeting in Herat Province Rural Rehabilitation and Development Directorate (PRRD). The meeting was attended by the Deputy Minister of MRRD for Program, Deputy Minister of Ministry of Women Affairs (MoWA), high-ranking officials of Herat Governor Office, Deputy Governor of Herat for Cultural Affairs, and employees.

At the beginning of the meeting, MRRD Deputy Minister for Programs, Mr. Popal Habibi presented information about the achievements of the ministry and its programs. He specifically talked about Relief Effort for Afghan Communities and Households (REACH) Project, locally known as Dastar Khan – e – Mili which will cover 95% of the population of the country and is expected to start its activities soon. He added: "I would like to request Herat Governor to monitor and keep track of the project's activities because it will provide the basic needs of our fellow citizens. I hope, as a result of continuous scrutiny, the Herat Governor's office will assure the public about the transparency and effective outcome of the process."

The MRRD Deputy Minister for Programs stated about WEE-RDP that "I am pleased to be here in the WEE-RDP's 2020 end-year review meeting. WEE-RDP which was launched in five provinces by MRRD in 2009, now operates in 34 provinces. The Ministry of Rural Rehabilitation and Development is committed to making all villages throughout the country economically persistent and institutionalize stable development. However, the program has been shifted to the Ministry of Women's Affairs (MoWA), henceforward, it will operate under their supervision. On behalf of MRRD, I assure the program personnel that MRRD will always be a partner in the remote areas and we will constantly cooperate. He further added that the program is extremely sensitive, and MoWA must consider rural areas sensitive issues during the execution of their activities. In the meantime, MoWA should work for the extension of the program to the second phase before the completion of the first phase which is due in June 2023.

Furthermore, MoWA's Deputy Minister, Ms. Nazira Rahman said that the transition of this program to MoWA is based on the President's decree, to modify MoWA from a policy-making ministry to an executive ministry. More importantly, "I promise that we will have coordination with this program, and we will never interfere in WEE-RDP's internal affairs, except for supervision which is an organizational principle." In the first stage, the main office of the program has to move to the MoWA compound and later the provincial offices. Women's Economic Empowerment National Priority Program (WEE-NPP) will also be shifted to MoWA. Said Ms. Rahman.

Ms. Latifa Majidi, WEE-RDP's Executive Director in her remarks said that WEE-RDP covered 3,791 Community Development Councils (CDCs), and formed 20,700 Self Help Groups, as well as reached 139,299 rural women in 34 provinces during 2020. The program has also injected about 100 million AFN as seed grants into these SHGs.

In addition to the program's assistance as a seed grant, the beneficiaries of the Returnees Enterprise Development (RED) project were able to weave 8,170 square meters of carpet worth more than 21 million AFN and supplied it to market for sale. Moreover, the Promoting Integrated Bamboo Based Enterprise Development Project (PIBBED) also operates under WEE-RDP which has established two Community Facilitation Centers (CFCs) in Nangarhar and Kandahar provinces for the production, and process of Bamboo products. Many artisans in the rural areas of the mentioned province are working in these CFCs. It is noteworthy that the end-year review meeting concluded in three days.



INITIAL MEMBERSHIP TRAINING CONDUCTED IN URZGAN PROVINCE



Women Economic Empowerment Rural Development Program (WEERDP) of Ministry of Rural Rehabilitation and Development (MRRD), this time held initial membership training for 112 members of Self Help Groups (SHGs) in Trinkot city of Urzgan province. In the training sessions, program's objective, savings methods, savings value and loan repayment were the topics discussed with the participants.

PROGRAM'S OPERATION STATUS IN THE NORTHEAST ZONE OF THE COUN-



Women Economic Empowerment Rural Development Program (WEE-RDP) of the Ministry of Rural Rehabilitation and Development (MRRD) monitored the program's activities in Baghlan and Takhar provinces of the Northeast zone of the country. During the monitoring process, in addition to giving some instruction to beneficiaries on how to receive loans and start-up small businesses; the team also established some Village Savings and Loan Associations (VSLAs) in the mentioned provinces.

INITIAL MEMBERSHIP TRAINING CONDUCTED IN HELMAND PROVINCE



Women Economic Empowerment Rural Development Program (WEERDP) of Ministry of Rural Rehabilitation and Development (MRRD) held a 2-day training on initial membership for 220 members of 15 Self Help Groups (SHGs) in Helmand province.

Program's objective, savings methods and its value, loan issuance and its repayment were the main points discussed in the training session with the participants.

PROGRAM'S OPERATION STATUS IN SOUTHWEST ZONE



Women Economic Empowerment Rural Development Program (WEE-RDP) of Ministry of Rural Rehabilitation and Development (MRRD) monitored the bookkeeping and savings process of Self Help Groups (SHGs) in Nimroz and Helmand provinces in southwest zone. The loan process for SHG members in Chaharburjak and Zarang districts of Nimroz province, as well as, the training sessions in Lashkargah, the center of Helmand province were monitored by the program team. At the sideline of this monitoring process, 205 savings boxes were also distributed to SHGs in 32 villages.



Women Economic Empowerment Rural Development Program (WEE-RDP) of the Ministry of Rural Rehabilitation and Development (MRRD) conducted a training entitled Leadership and Accounting in Kunar and Laghman provinces of the eastern zone.

More than 209 male and female Self Help Groups (SHGs) with 600 members partook in this training session.

It's worthwhile to mention that in addition to the training, SHGs activities were also monitored during this training workshop.



Women Economic Empowerment Rural Development Program (WEERDP) of Ministry of Rural Rehabilitation and Development (MRRD) this time held a 2-day initial membership training for the residents of 3 villages of Bamyan province.

The 250 members of 20 Self Help Groups (SHGs), most of whom were women learned about topics such as the structure of SHGs, value of savings, stage of SHG promotion to VSLA, and responsibilities of SHG's key members.

WEE-RDP/MRRD ACTIVITIES PROGRESS IN BALKH PROVINCE

INITIAL MEMBERSHIP TRAINING CONDUCTED IN BAGHLAN PROVINCE

SELF HELP GROUPS FORMED BY WE-ERDP IN BADAKHSHAN PROVINCE

PROGRAM'S PROGRESS STATUS IN LAGHMAN PROVINCE



Women Economic Empowerment Rural Development Program (WEE-RDP) of Ministry of Rural Rehabilitation and Development (MRRD) established one Village Savings and Loan Association (VSLA) and 4 Enterprise Groups (EGs) in Balkh district of Balkh province.

In the meantime, the program field staff oversaw the activities of 100 FSHGs & SHGs. They also provided some technical information for the improvement of the group affairs.

Women Economic Empowerment Rural Development Program (WEERDP) of Ministry of Rural Rehabilitation and Development (MRRD) held various training workshop on initial membership, Islamic Banking and Leadership for Self Help Groups (FSHGs & SHGs) members in Pul-e-Khumri district of Baghlan province.

As well as, the activities of Village Saving and Loan Associations (VSLAs) were also monitored in this district.

Women Economic Empowerment Rural Development Program (WEE-RDP) of the Ministry of Rural Rehabilitation and Development (MRRD) formed 14 Self Help Groups (SHGs) with 125 members in Faiz Abad city of Badakhshan province.

It is noteworthy that these beneficiaries have already completed the initial membership training and training on leadership, Islamic banking, savings, loans and repayment will be soon organized for them.

Women Economic Empowerment Rural Development Program (WEE-RDP) of Ministry of Rural Rehabilitation and Development (MRRD) monitored its activities process in Mehtarlam district of Laghman province.

In this session, the process of loan and repayment, bookkeeping and savings boxes were monitored and a series of technical recommendations were provided by program's team to improve groups' tasks.

It is noteworthy that, the members of these groups have been able to save nearly three million AFN as a result of regular and weekly meetings.



Returnees Enterprise Development (RED) project of Women Economic Empowerment Rural Development Program (WEE-RDP) of Ministry of Rural Rehabilitation and Development (MRRD) facilitated an exposure visit for 20 beneficiaries (carpet weavers) in Guzara district of Herat province.

On the first day of the exposure visit, beneficiaries met with carpet weavers in Imam Razi village of Karukh district and discussed the activities of the project as well as talked about improved ways of carpet productions and access to markets.

On the second day, the beneficiaries visited Herat Industrial Parks, where they observed numerous processing steps of carpet weaving. In the meantime, The Representatives of the Producers and Export Union of West Zone elucidated the value chain of carpets, varieties, and their price in the market.

At the end of the exposure visit, participants expressed their satisfaction and asked for the continuation of these kinds of programs in their villages as well. It is noteworthy that RED/WEE-RDP has facilitated exposure visits for 125 beneficiaries in eight provinces so far, the majority of which were women.

SHGs & FORMED IN SAMANGAN AND SAR-E-PUL PROVINCES



Women Economic Empowerment Rural Development Program (WEE-RDP) of the Ministry of Rural Rehabilitation and Development (MRRD) formed 90 Self Help Groups (FSHGs & SHGs) with 935 members and 2 Village Savings and Loan Associations (VSLAs) with 30 members in Samangan and Sar-e-Pul provinces.

In the meantime, these groups received saving boxes, accounting books, and stationary packages from the program. As well as, the group members were briefed about the overall objective of the program.

PROGRAM'S OPERATION STATUS IN SAR-E-PUL AND JOZJAN PROVINCES



Women Economic Empowerment Rural Development Program (WEE-RDP) of Ministry of Rural Rehabilitation and Development (MRRD) monitored the mobilization process of 14 Self Help Groups (SHGs) with 182 participants in the center of Sar-e-Pul province.

In addition to monitoring the groups, the team distributed saving boxes and stationary packages to 40 newly established SHGs in this province.

TRAINING ON INITIAL MEMBERSHIP COMMENCED IN PAKTIA PROVINCE



Women Economic Empowerment Rural Development Program (WEE-RDP) of the Ministry of Rural Rehabilitation and Development (MRRD) delivered a 2-day training on initial membership for 233 members of 24 Self Help Groups (SHGs) in Gardiz city, and Ahmad Aba village of Paktia province.

In the training, topics such as Self Help Groups (SHGs) membership, program objective, effective methods of saving, startup of small businesses, Qardul Hassan, and some other related issues were discussed and explained to the participants.

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