

FLASH REPORT MONTHLY FEB 2017



HAND IN HAND
AFGHANISTAN



Sangima | Prasto SHG | Sancharak District | Sarepul Province

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE MONTH

The highlights of activities taken place during January 2017 in Balkh and Sarepul Provinces under below mentioned projects:

1. Reducing Poverty and Gender Inequality in Sarepul province of Afghanistan by Improving Household Income and Financial Resilience for Rural Women through Enterprise and Job Creation. The project is implemented in Sancharak, Gosfandi and Balkhab districts of Sarepul province and funded by DFID and Hand in Hand International.
2. Socio-Economic Empowerment of Women and Men in Chimtal District of Balkh Province. The project is funded by CAFOD and Hand in Hand International.

OFFICIAL LAUNCH OF SOCIO-ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT OF WOMEN AND MEN

HiH Af officially launched a new project *"Socio-Economic Empowerment of Women and Men in Chimtal District of Balkh Province"*. This is co-funded by CAFOD and HiH International to mobilize, train and support 600 poor women and men to start their micro-enterprises and create job opportunity for other community members over a period of two years.

In this event government officials including, Governor of Chimtal District, Director of Balkh Economy Department, Director of Balkh Labor, Social Affairs, Martyrs and Disabled Department, Representative from Balkh Women Affairs Department, Community Elders, Project staff and beneficiaries from Chimtal District participated.

Mr. Abdul Rahim Nasry the CEO of HiH Af, welcomed the participants and briefly spoke about the event which was followed by presentation on the organization's mission, vision, background and current activities with a focus on

the project's goal and objectives, by Ahmad Kamran Hekmati, the program manager.

Officials from different governmental departments also spoke about HiH Af and how lives were improved and family incomes were increased as a result of previously implemented projects that they have witnessed in the other districts. They thanked HiH Af for its unique approach of reducing poverty through job creation considering the current situation in the country where many youths are migrating to neighboring countries and Europe in search of job.

The event concluded with a questions and answers session, where Dr. Hekmati answered participant's questions and noted the recommendations of participants. At the end Mr. Nasry thanked the participants for their active participation, continued support and cooperation.



CAPACITY BUILDING ON ASSOCIATIONS FORMATION

30 district office staff including 18 female VEFs received training on association formation in Gosfandi and Sancharak districts of Sarepul province under DFID funded project.

This training enables the participants to form rural entrepreneur associations and train the association members on the following topics:

- Association Management and Administration
- Accounting and Book Keeping
- Marketing and Value Addition
- Basics of Supply Chain Management
- Associations' Social Responsibilities



Association Training | Gosfandi District

MEMBERS EQUIPPED WITH SKILLS AND ASSETS

HiH Af as part of its capacity building in order to create sustainable enterprises and jobs, conducts vocational skills training for members of SHGs.

During this month totally **612** SHG members successfully completed vocational skills training in bakery, handicraft, livestock, agriculture and poultry in Sancharak, Gosfandi and Balkhab districts of Sarepul province.

Moreover, **117** SHG members received enterprise startup kits in order to establish their micro-enterprises.



Vocational Skills Training | Sancharak District

INITIATIVE TOWARD CLIMATE CHANGE

HiH Af organized tree planting campaign for Self Help Group members in Chimtal district of Balkh province. Totally 470 female and 136 male SHG members planted a tree each and they committed to take care of it.

The campaign began with dissemination of awareness about the environment protection, climate change adaptation and benefits of plants in our lives with the aim to promote culture of planting trees and green environment.

The campaign was organized in close collaboration with the Agriculture Department and Community Development Councils.



Tree Planting Campaign | Chimtal District

SHG MONTHLY SAVINGS AND LOAN SUMMARY

A total of **AFN 831,970** has been saved by SHG members and **AFN 547,800** have been internally lent to SHG members.

The internal loans and enterprise startup kits have resulted in establishment of **137** microenterprises and enhancement of **52**.

Both the formation and enhancement of microenterprises have resulted in creation of **361 jobs** for the community members.



SHG Group Meeting | Chimtal District

GOLSOM'S STORY

Golsom is 35 years old and mother of four kids. She lives in Khalar village of Balkhab district of Sarepul province and her husband is a farmer. She says *"like majority of other women in my village, I was not able to attend school. I always wanted to help my family to overcome financial challenges, my husband was sick, but since we didn't have any other source of income, therefore all of his income was spent for family needs and we could never afford proper treatment."*

Golsom joined Moqadas Self Help Group and attended regular group meetings, received Group Management, Microfinance and Business Development Services (BDS) training. She had some background in livestock rearing therefore she received further training to enhance her skills. After completing the training, she received an enterprise startup kit from HiH Af and borrowed AFN 10,000 from the SHG saving and started her dairy farm enterprise.

Now she gets around 8 liters of milk every day, selling each liter for AFN 20, and is able to contribute in her family expenses. She paid for her husband's treatment and has fully repaid her first loan. She has also taken a second loan from the SHG by which she has bought 20 layer chickens and now gets around 10 eggs in a day, selling each for AFN 6.

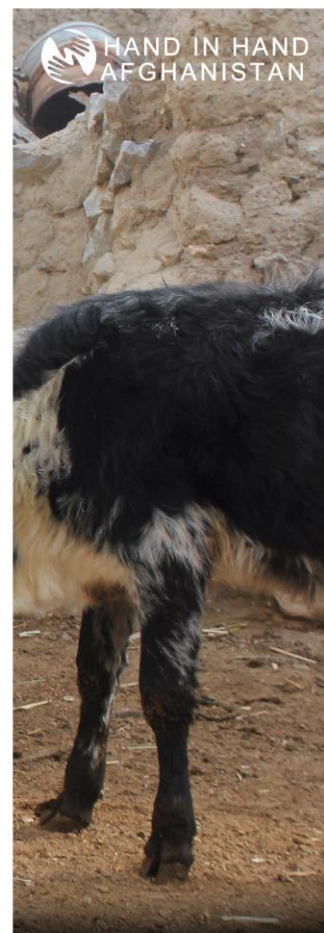
She Says *"I am very thankful to HiH Af for the support and training. HiH Af helps women like me who can now generate income and help their families. Women are economically empowered."*

Golsom has learnt the basics of reading, writing and arithmetic calculations through HiH Af's Life skills training for entrepreneurs. She says *"I notice positive changes in my life and it makes me feel confident and I encourage other women of my community to start a business and bring income to their families."*

She is planning to buy another cow within next year to expand her enterprise.



Golsom | Moqadas SHG | Khalar Village | Balkhab District | Sarepul Province



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CUMULATIVE RESULTS AS OF FEBRUARY 2017



37,113

+623

Members Mobilized
(64 % Female)



2,290

+39

SHGs/CIGs Created
(63% Female)



36,507

+0

Members Trained in
Group Management
(63 % Female)



35,525

+0

Members Trained in
Microfinance
(65% Female)



30,346

+0

Members Trained in BDS
(67% Female)



23,886

+612

Members Trained in
Vocational Trainings
(57% Female)



5,830

+0

Members Trained in
Life Skills
(73% Female)



19,463

+117

Members Received
Enterprise Startup Kits
(79% Female)



AFN 68,385,774

+831,970

Internally Saved by SHG
Members
(67% Female)



AFN 45,960,560

+547,800

Internally Lent by
SHG Members
(67% Female)



27,069

+189

Micro-Enterprises
Created/ Enhanced
(71% Female)



31,897

+361

Jobs Created
(71% Female)

PARTNERS AND SUPPORTERS

CURRENT



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INTERNATIONAL

PAST



USAID
FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE



Johnson & Johnson
**CORPORATE
CITIZENSHIP
TRUST**



EUROPEAN UNION



SHG Group Meeting | Chimtal District

HAND IN HAND AFGHANISTAN

Head Office:

House P-860, Street 10,
Taimani, Kabul Afghanistan
Tel: +93 202 230 791
Mob: +93 780 059 891

Regional Office:

Guzar Marmul, Behind Sultan Razia High School,
Mazar-e-Sharif, Afghanistan
Tel: +93 799 108 196
Mob: +93 795 225 141

Email: info@handinhand.org.af
Website: www.handinhand.org.af