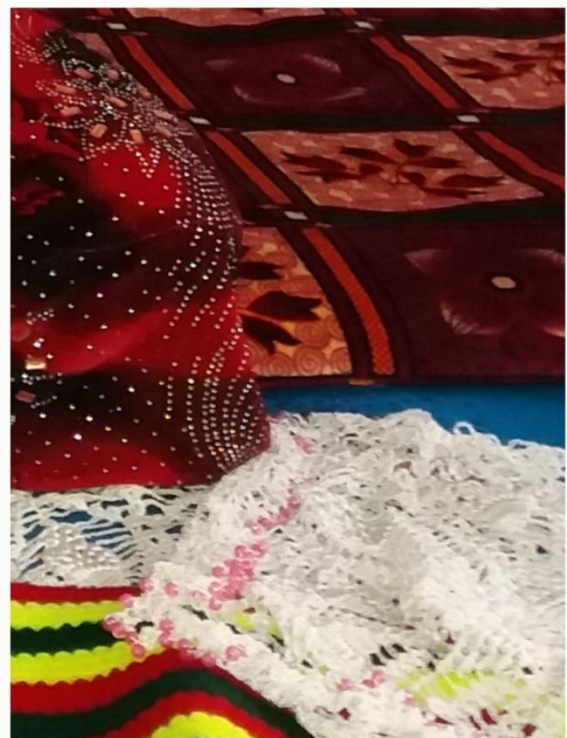




HAND IN HAND
AFGHANISTAN

MONTHLY FLASH REPORT AUG 2017



Zarnegar | Taban SHG | Balkhab District | Sarepul Province

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE MONTH

The highlights of activities taken place during August 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.
3. Village Uplift Program in Faqir Abad village of Mazar-i-Sharif, Balkh Province. This project is funded by Hand in Hand International

600 SHG MEMBERS RECEIVE MICRO FINANCE TRAINING

Self-Help Group members under “Socio economic empowerment of women and men” project in Chimtal district of Balkh province received Micro Finance training. This training was delivered to **600 (473 female)** members and following topics were covered:

1. Saving and principles of saving
2. Micro finance & Islamic lending
3. Role of micro finance in community development
4. The positive experience of women's participation in family income

This training capacitates rural entrepreneurs in efficient use of their financial resources and empowers them in order to use internal loans for business purposes. After completion of these training members are encouraged to use group savings for micro-enterprise creation and enhancement.

Nafisa member of Shaqayeq SHG said *“this training opened my eyes and now I know benefits of savings, Islamic lending and importance of my income for the family and we learnt the role of women in development of the community”*.



CAPACITY BUILDING THROUGH EXPOSURE VISIT

HiH Af facilitated exposure visits for rural entrepreneurs and SHG members in Gosfandi, Sancharak and Balkhab districts of Sarepul province.

In these exposure visits **365 (276 female)** visited well-functioning SHGs and enterprises of other villages within their respective districts. The SHG members visited poultry, tailoring, handicraft, beekeeping, and dairy enterprises.

Exposure visits are conducted in order to enable entrepreneurs understand and adapt best practices in their businesses, also members share learning from the visit with other entrepreneurs in their community.



BALKHAB VEFS RECEIVE REFRESHER TRAINING

As part of capacity building efforts, HiH Af conducted refresher training for Balkhab village enterprise facilitators (VEFs).

The training was delivered over **3** days and **21 (13 female)** persons participated including VEFs and district team.

In this training Group Management, Micro-finance, Business Development Services and Marketing & Value addition modules were discussed.

The trainers will deliver this training to all SHG members in Balkhab district of Sarepul province.



INTERNAL SAVINGS AND LOANS

This reporting period total of **AFN 964,390** has been saved by SHG members, and **AFN 1,033,630** has been internally lent to SHG members. The internal loans and enterprise startup kits have resulted in establishment of **428** micro enterprises and enhancement of **87**.

The internal loans, enterprise startup kits, formation and enhancement of micro enterprises have resulted in creation of **431 (383 female)** jobs for the community members.



SHG MEMBERS RECEIVE SKILL TRAINING

During this reporting period **390 (364 female)** Self Help Group members completed vocational skills training on livestock rearing, tailoring, handicraft and poultry.

Additionally **373 (341 female)** members who previously completed their vocational skills training received enterprise startup kits in Balkh and Sarepul provinces in order to establish or enhance their micro-enterprises.



GULNAR: INCOME ENABLES ME TO FINANCE MY SON'S HIGHER EDUCATION

Gulnar lives in Larket village of Balkhab district of Sarepul province she has two sons and one daughter, her husband is a farmer.

She says *“My husband’s income was never enough to support our son’s higher education, therefore after completing high school my son couldn’t go to city and continue education. I was always worried about future of my children and we didn’t have any saving for emergencies”*.

Gulnar joined Wafa Self Help Group after HiH Af started mobilization in her community, she attended regular group meetings, received Group Management, Microfinance and Business Development Services (BDS) training. She was very interested to have a business and generate income in order to help her family so she chose to join tailoring vocational skills training and received enterprise startup kit upon successful completion of the training.

She earns around AFN 6,000 per month and says *“now I am helping my family financially, I have*

supported my son to start his higher education in Mazar and my family is very happy with my business”.

Her main customers are neighbors and relatives, she stitches women and children clothes. She says *“my customers are increasing day by day and my business is creating more hope for a better future to my family”*.

Gulnar has also learnt the basics of reading, writing and arithmetic calculations through HiH Af’s Life skills training for entrepreneurs which helps her in recording income and expenses.

She Says *“HiH Af helps women like me so we can have a job and generate income to improve our lives and support our families”*

Gulnar is planning to send her daughter for higher education as well, and she is planning to continue her business and expand it further.



CUMULATIVE RESULTS AS OF AUGUST 2017



37,130

+0

Members Mobilized
(64 % female)



2,291

+0

SHGs Created
(63% female)



37,130

+0

Members Trained in
Group Management
(63 % female)



36,125

+600

Members Trained in
Microfinance
(65% female)



30,948

+0

Members Trained in BDS
(67% female)



25,095

+390

Members Trained in
Vocational Trainings
(58% female)



5,928

+0

Members Trained in
Life Skills
(73% female)



20,959

+373

Members Received
Enterprise Startup Kits
(78% female)



74,237,461 AFN

+964,390 AFN

Internally Saved by SHG
Members
(68% female)



51,596,029 AFN

+1,033,630 AFN

Internally Lent by
SHG Members
(68% female)



29,302

+515

Micro-Enterprises
Created/ Enhanced
(71% female)



34,475

+431

Jobs Created
(71% female)

Figures in black and blue indicate cumulative results and achievements during August 2017 respectively

PARTNERS AND SUPPORTERS





Enterprise Startup Kit Provision | Chimtal District | Balkh Province

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