





## HIGHLIGHTS OF THE MONTH

The highlights of activities taken place during January 2018 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 Chintal District of Balkh Province. The project is funded by CAFOD and Hand in Hand International.
3. Village Uplift Programs in Faqir Abad village of Mazar-i-Sharif and Shah Raheem Village of Khulm district, Balkh Province. This project is funded by Hand in Hand International.
4. Creating Future Economic Prospects for Reintegration of Refugees and IDPs in Balkh, Samangan and Baghlan Provinces of Afghanistan through the Layer Poultry Value Chain. This project is funded by Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH.

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### WOMEN RECEIVE BUSINESS TRAINING

Under Village uplift program in Shahrak Ulia village of Mazar e Sharif, 110 women completed Business Development Services Training that covered topics on Unlocking Entrepreneurial Strengths, Basics of Enterprise Development, Selection of Sample Enterprise, Basics of Marketing, Demand and Supply Management, Market Survey, Seasonal Calendar and Financial Statement.

Freshta the Village Enterprise Facilitator says "the training has improved knowledge of

members on business and now they are more confident to establish their microenterprises."

Zohra one of the trainees said "Now I know how to conduct market survey and how to select a business, I am sure to have a successful business in the future and will be able to contribute to my household expenses".

Going forward, these members will receive Microfinance and vocational skills trainings.



## GOSFANDI DISTRICT TEAM RECEIVE TRAINING

Project team and vocational trainers at Gosfandi district “Reducing Poverty and Gender Inequality” project received refresher training in Livestock, Poultry and Beekeeping.

In this training 24 (5 female) participated and the training focused on seasonal changes and precautions needed for entrepreneurs covering topics on diseases, vaccination and feeding.

These trainers will further train 1,913 SHG members on above topics to ensure capacity of entrepreneurs are built in running their relevant business.



Refresher Training | Gosfandi District

## CAPACITY BUILDING FOR TRAINERS

Poultry trainers of the “Building Future Economic Prospect for Reintegration of Refugees and IDPs” Project received training in layer poultry farming skills.

The training included topics on types of chicken, diseases and vaccination, feeding, hygiene and precautions needed to avoid diseases.

In this training 5 vocational trainer participated and these trainers will be training returnees and IDPs in order to capacitate them on running poultry farms.



Vocational Trainers | HiH Af Regional Office

## MEMBERS RECEIVE SKILLS TRAINING

During this reporting period 323 (289 female) Self Help Group members completed vocational skills training on tailoring, handicraft, poultry and livestock rearing in Balkhab district of Sarepul province and Chimtal and Nahr i Shahi districts of Balkh province.

Additionally, another 12 (3 female) members who previously completed their vocational skills training received enterprise startup kits in Balkhab, Gosfandi and Sancharak districts of Sarepul province in order to establish or enhance their micro-enterprises.



Vocational Training | Chimtal District

## INTERNAL SAVINGS AND LOANS

This reporting period total of AFN 1,008,090 has been saved, and AFN 1,064,800 has been internally lent by the SHG members. The internal loans and enterprise startup kits have resulted in establishment of 17 (11 female) micro enterprises and enhancement of 66 (62 female) existing ones.

The internal loans, enterprise startup kits, formation and enhancement of micro enterprises have resulted in creation of 23 (11 female) jobs for the community members



SHG Group Meeting | Sancharak District



## MEET ZARNEGAR, A PROUD AND HAPPY ENTREPRENEUR

Zarnegar, mother of 3 kids is 34 years old and lives with her husband's parents in Elderaz village of Balkhab district, Sarepul province.

She says "5 years ago my husband was paralyzed due to some disease and is not able to work. He used to be an agriculture farmer, working on leased lands to earn living for our family. After he fell sick, I had to sell most of our assets to feed the family".

Zarnegar has lived a very difficult live and explains the past with sorrow. She has experienced tough jobs such as doing laundry and washing dishes for neighbors, she says" I was not lucky enough to find a job every day, when I found a work to do, I was worried about the kids at home".

Zarnegar joined Taban 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 handicraft vocational skills training and received enterprise startup kit upon successful completion of the training.

She earns around AFN 4,000 per month and says "I am very proud and happy to be able to help my family. I am running my business from home which enables me to take care of my husband and children".

She added "My customers are mostly neighbors and relatives but I also have customers coming from other villages which encourages me to do better work and creates confident for brighter future."

Zarnegar knits children and women dresses based on customers' orders and requests.

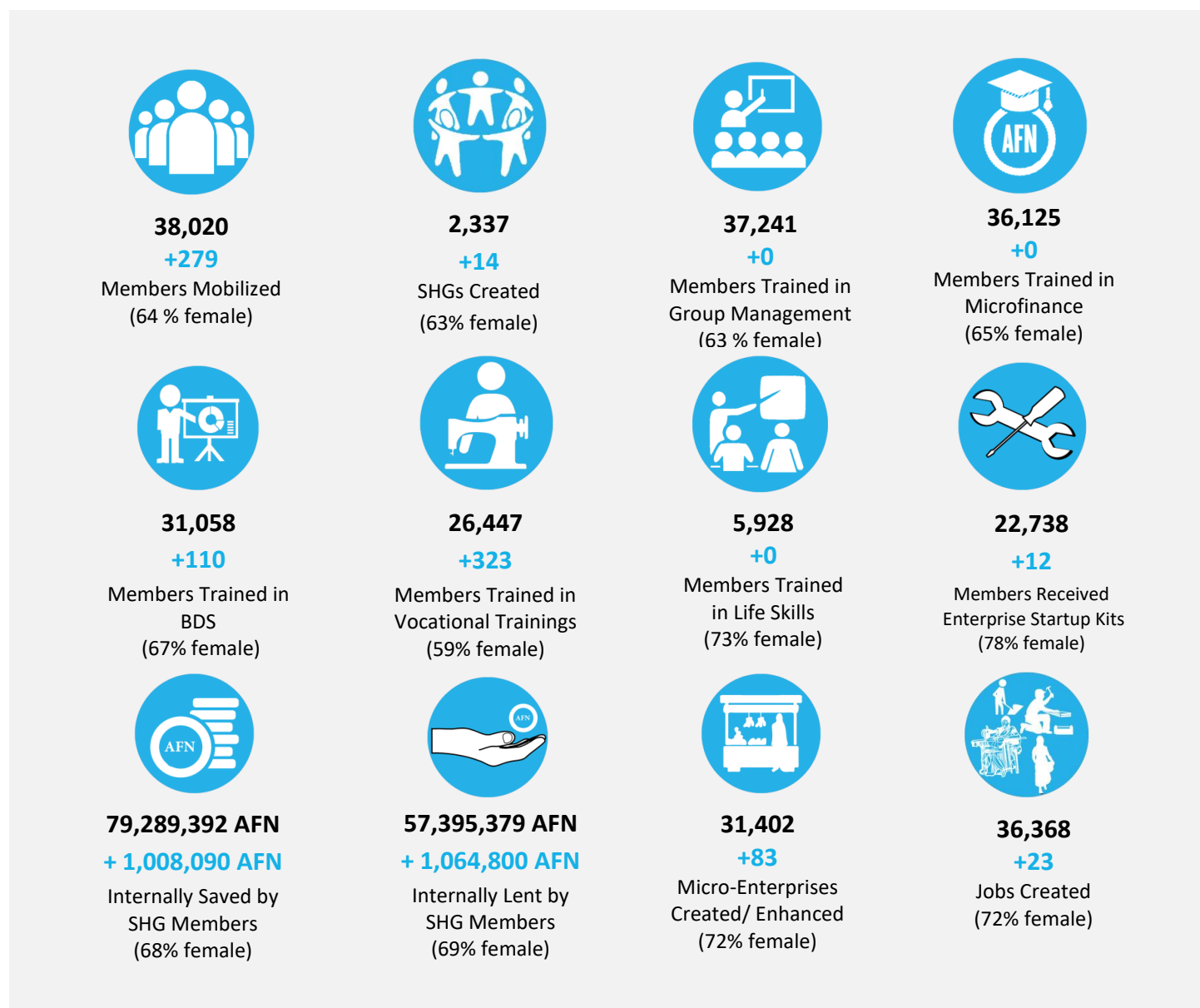
Zarnegar has also attended Life Skill Training for Entrepreneurs conducted by HiH Af. Through this training she has learnt the basics of reading, writing and arithmetic calculations.

She Says "*HiH Af has built my skills and supported with tools which enabled me to generate decent income and have a job*".

Zarnegar has saved AFN 12,000 so far and plans to save more money for her husband's treatment. She also plans to expand her enterprise and attract more customers from other villages for her products.



## CUMULATIVE RESULTS AS OF JANUARY 2018



Figures in black and blue indicate cumulative results and achievements during January 2018 respectively

## PARTNERS AND SUPPORTERS







Poultry Training | Vocational Trainers | HiH Af Regional Office



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