

# ▶ EIIIP Afghanistan News Brief



International  
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Special Trust Fund for Afghanistan

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▶ **Welcome** to our third edition of Employment Intensive Investment Programme (EIIIP) Afghanistan News Brief, published to share news and information on EIIIP Afghanistan project's activities.

The Special Trust Fund for Afghanistan (STFA) is funding this project and ILO is implementing it as an intervention for Promoting Employment and Decent Work through the Humanitarian-Development-Peace Nexus.

We will provide you with a brief on our interventions to address the humanitarian crisis through the project, and particularly the efforts being made at promoting employment and decent work through employment intensive investment programmes. The EIIIP seeks at providing much needed employment to vulnerable groups including host communities, internally displaced people, refugees, women, people with disabilities and other vulnerable groups through rehabilitation and maintenance of critical community infrastructure. It will also address the other complimentary programmes including use of local contractors, their training, resulting impact on improved infrastructure, decent employment, improved livelihoods, skills development, and community empowerment. Our aim is to inform how the project is being implemented together with the people and for the people and will also include human interest stories. This issue has an article that portrays inclusiveness with the story of Shah Wali, a person with disability, who managed to get livelihood from the project. We would appreciate your feedback. Hoping you enjoy this issue.

## ▶ Project Update...

As we finish the first half of the year, the month of June was an interesting period for the project. One additional community infrastructure project, the rehabilitation of Adina Masjid Road in Mazar was completed. The long-awaited rehabilitation of 3.6 km Shortepa road, that was destroyed by the encroaching Amu river, is now ongoing with the commencement of 1.5 kms of the road, which was awarded to a contractor. This is to be a challenging project which will involve three other projects that are under procurement (2 rehabilitations and 1 maintenance). The Shortepa project is a tricky and interesting project owing to the sandy dunes and terrain, high water table and encroaching river, which involves use of geo-composite soil stabilization solution. The project also seeks to enhance inclusiveness through women producing construction material at home and entrepreneurship linkages.

Meanwhile, the project is further expanding to the rural areas, as pre-qualified contractors are also in the process of bidding for 4 other rehabilitation and spot improvement works in Jawzjan province. Contractors were also trained in regard to decent work principles and practices and bidding procedures. Arrangements are also being made for the implementation of a National Examination Board in Occupational Safety and Health (NEBOSH) accredited course in Occupational Health and Safety (OSH) to facilitate OSH in the work place.

To enable us work effectively and inform accordingly, the project is developing a website and internal performance tracking tool that will facilitate an effective monitoring web-based system to allow project to track the project deliverables and also avail the information to stakeholders in real time. Continue to watch this space....



## ► Human Interest History



### **“Inclusiveness was a life-saving opportunity for me” – Shah Wali**

“Inclusiveness was a lifesaving opportunity for me”, said Shah Wali a person living with disability and who has suffered from extreme poverty. He is married with the responsibility of taking care of a household with seven family members, where he is the sole bread earner. Shah describes how difficult it is for disabled Afghans to find jobs or any source of income. “I was worried of the cold winter since we don’t have any source of income” Shah reflects, “I thought that I will lose my children during winter, and this job was a life-saving opportunity, as we did not have any income. Shah concedes that he has great responsibility, saying “Being a father is hard, and being a disabled father is even harder. While the weather was getting cold, I was thinking about how I will manage through the winter, and it was the time that the Employment Intensive Investment Programme (EIIP) project helped me as a guardian angel”.

Owing to the inclusive, transparent and vulnerable targeting selection criteria that is being used by the EIIP project, Shah approached the Contractor and ILO Community Liaison Officer, who guided him on the process, following which he applied and was selected amongst the vulnerable people. “I am thankful of the Community Development Committee alerting me of a construction project which was implemented by UN-ILO in the area”. Shah who is disabled on his arm, says that “When I went to the project site, I did not expect that I will be recruited as a construction worker, because of my serious disability”. He continues, “Now I am working in the project and earning some money, I wish if I could work in similar projects in the future”.

The ILO Community Liaison Officer (CLO), Maryam Mohammadi remembers Shah approaching her and says, “When I explained the procedure and gave information about worker’s wages, insurance, payments, occupational health and safety, environmental safeguards and the type of activities to be done by female workers and clarified that he will be assigned work that is commensurate with his ability, he was about to cry. “. “ Before my explanation, he thought that he could not be able to work because of his disability” the CLO says. “I felt his pain and how our project can make a great change to their life. This is because they do not only make money through the project, but also gain their dignity, self-confidence and self-esteem.” CLO says.

As an EIIP project, all workers are being paid in return of successful achievement of a certain task. The adoption of such approach promotes the decent work agenda that ILO is promoting and allows for assets creations. This further distinguishes EIIP from cash for works projects where injection of cash is the main priority.

As a part of the capacity development, awareness session has been provided to workers on their rights and responsibilities. Further measures have been put to ensure equal pay for disabled workers including wages distribution to be witnessed by ILO Field Officers and the provision of effective grievance mechanism.

In parting, Shah expresses his appreciation. “Finally, I am thankful of ILO-EIIP, Special Trust Fund for Afghanistan (STFA) and the parties involved in the project implementation for giving me a chance to work. I am very happy to say that EIIP has brought me hope and given me confidence. I lost myself but I found myself again through the EIIP project. I want you to continue with these kinds of projects, particularly providing opportunities to disabled workers”.