

▶ EIIP Afghanistan News Brief



International
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Special Trust Fund for Afghanistan

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▶ **Welcome** to the seventh edition of Employment Intensive Investment Programme (EIIP) Afghanistan News Brief. This publication seeks to share news and information about the activities of the EIIP 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. 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. In this issue, we have a touching and stimulating story of Abdul Satar, a person living with disability who has managed to get an opportunity to work within the Shortepa district, and which has really been helpful to meeting livelihood needs. We would appreciate your feedback as we hope you enjoy this issue.



Figure 1: Road formation activity at a section of the Shortepa District Road Rehabilitation, (Ch. 1+100-2+100), in Balkh district.

▶ Project Update...

The ongoing collaboration between EIIP and its sister Enterprises Development project which is to train women beneficiaries who are linked to the EIIP projects continued during this month for the Mazar sites. The training has managed to empower 350 women to date. The training besides empowering entrepreneurship and financial literacy skills has also managed to create jobs, and links them to enterprises that will provide them with either self or other employment opportunities for livelihood.

The project is currently carrying out eight infrastructure projects in Shortepa district in Balkh province, as well as in Mardyan and Mangajik districts in Jawzjan province. Among these projects, three rehabilitation initiatives are in progress including the 3.6 km Shortepa road project running along the Amu River together with spot improvement and maintenance of a 8 km road. In Mardyan district, four contractors are working on a 3.3 km long road, while in Mangajik district, one contractor is overseeing a 13.7 km routine maintenance and spot improvement project. However, the progress of these activities has been hindered by delays stemming from registration.

The long-awaited National Examination Board in Occupational Safety and Health (NEBOSH) accredited course in Occupational Health and Safety (OSH) commenced with 10 participants from the ILO, Moore, ACCI and contractors and is set to facilitate OSH in the workplace.

Meanwhile, the project sympathizes with all those affected by the earthquake which unfortunately occurred in the Western region.



Figure 2: Preparation of the subgrade on the Bazar Jangal Ariq to Jangal Ariq Watani road, Ch 1+360 - 2+520, Jawzjan district

► Human Interest Story

Man with Disability Considers His Livelihood Opportunity As a Golden Break



The EIIP project continues to bring changes to the lives of people in Shortepa, a remote district in Balkh province where poverty is widespread. The project seeks to promote employment and decent work through the humanitarian assistance that is provided to the most vulnerable when delivering critical and essential infrastructure. The income support provided through employment during delivery of the essential infrastructure is impacting the vulnerable as it seeks to improve livelihoods.

When the implementation of the STFA-funded and ILO-implemented EIIP project began, all the surrounding villages were informed about the programme, for which many people were interested to join the programme. Amongst those who were interested was Abdul Satar, a person living with a left arm disability and who is the sole breadwinner for his family comprising of two wives and six children. Unfortunately, added to his responsibilities is that both his mother and wife are ill and unable to work, hence adding to the challenge of providing as there is need to purchase essential medicines.

Abdul relates, "When I learned about the project's initiative to employ disabled individuals, I was initially skeptical but decided to inquire about the hiring process". He then approached the ILO Community Liaison Officer (CLO) Jeena Ahmadi who explained to him all the procedures for recruiting workers. This included guidance on the selection criteria, contract, safety and health aspects, environmental safeguards, wages, activities that can be implemented by people with disabilities and how to fill the form. He notes, "After meeting with the CLO and learning about the various aspects, I felt a sense of hope as I live in an area where job opportunities, especially for disabled individuals, are scarce. He continues, "Following the opportunity provided to work on the project as an unskilled laborer, I have been able to support my family, take my wife to the doctor, provide for my children, and purchase necessary medicine for my mother." "Despite my disability, my working on this project has provided a golden opportunity for me and livelihood for the family", says Abdul.

For Abdul Satar, this project has been a lifeline, offering a chance to improve his family's well-being. The EIIP project has not only provided job opportunities for the local community but is also contributing to the improvement of the road infrastructure, which benefits the entire community. In closing, Abdul Satar extends his heartfelt appreciation to the EIIP project as he narrates, "From the bottom of my heart, I am thankful to the EIIP project for providing decent jobs to disabled people and acknowledge the positive impact that it has had on disabled individuals like myself and the broader community. I do sincerely hope that the project will continue in the area, addressing not only the provision of essential infrastructure, but also the future livelihoods for a better future".