

EIIP Afghanistan News Brief



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Special Trust Fund for Afghanistan

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Welcome to our sixth edition of Employment Intensive Investment Programme (EIIP) Afghanistan News Brief, published to share news and information on 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 an interesting story of Monisa Karimi, who has benefited from the project and has now opened a tailoring business that sustains her livelihood. We would appreciate your feedback as we hope you enjoy this issue.

Project Update...

Following completion of EIIP's four projects in Mazar city, the programme is continuing with implementation of eight infrastructure projects in Shortepa district in Balkh province and Mardyan and Mangajik districts in Jawzjan province. Activities by 4 contractors on the challenging 3.6 km Shortepa road project that winds along the Amu River continue, together with spot improvement and maintenance of a 8 km road are ongoing. Four other contractors are commencing a 3.3 km long road in Mardyan district and 13.7 km routine maintenance/spot improvement projects in Mangajik district. The progress of activities has been delayed owing to registration requirements by local authorities.

The long-awaited National Examination Board in Occupational Safety and Health (NEBOSH) accredited course in Occupational Health and Safety (OSH) is to commence in the third week of October 2023. The course which seeks to facilitate OSH in the workplace will be attended by 10 participants from the ILO, Moore, ACCI and contractors.

Collaboration between EIIP and its sister ILO Roads to Decent Jobs for All Afghans (R2DJ4ALL) project to train women beneficiaries continues with more than 300 women trained to date.. The training which targets women beneficiaries linked to the EIIP projects, empowers them in entrepreneurial skills, and links them to enterprises that will provide them with either self or other employment opportunities for livelihood. The project has also produced an EIIP Documentation Report on HDPN¹. The major findings and lessons learnt of the documentation include an inherent need to promote International Labour Standards (ILS) and Decent Work within the United Nations Agencies, Funds and Programmes (UNAFPs).



Figure 1: Excavation of selected material from quarry using labour for road levelling work on Shortepa district road rehabilitation project, Rabat village in Shortepa.



Figure 2: Community Engagement during discussions of implementation arrangements for the Road Routine Maintenance and Spot Improvement of road in Bazar-e Qor chand Ghoin location, Mangajik district, Jawzjan

¹Documentation Report - The Case of EIIP Afghanistan - How Employment Intensive Investment Programme (EIIP) Approaches, Experiences and Lessons, contribute to the Humanitarian Development and Peace Nexus (HDPN) in Afghanistan; -Emerging Good Practices and Recommendations

► Human Interest Story

A Crucial Livelihood Lifeline Sustains Ms. Monisa in Struggling Times



Figure 3: Monisa Karimi (right) at her tailoring mart with some of the students that she is now coaching at her tailoring mart, Rawza Alsafa Area.

“The EIIP project was a crucial lifeline in providing me with a livelihood during a very precarious time in my life”, said, Ms. Monisa Karimi. Similar to many Afghan women, Monisa who graduated from Education School of Balkh University in 2014 unfortunately lost her teaching job from a private school following the recent ban on the employment of women and restriction on girl’s education. The teaching job initially enabled Monisa to provide for her family of four, including her husband Sebgatullah who is unemployed, and their two daughters, Asla 4 and Asra 2 years old.

Having lost my job following the ban, I faced many financial problems. It was a great relief to me when the EIIP program started in Rawza Alsafa area , as I was struggling to find an earning opportunity. I was thus very happy, when I was hired as an unskilled worker on the road for a period of one month.

“As I knew this was a short-term opportunity, I set aside some of the money from the daily wage, as a saving and bought a sewing machine to sew dresses for women and support my family’s income”, Monisa said. “I am grateful that I now have a good income, and even have three trainees that I train to sew.”

Previously I did not know anything about marketing and business, but I am now better able to run my business after attending a one week-long Get Ahead and one-week Financial Literacy training for aspiring entrepreneurs implemented by ILO its joint EIIP and Enterprises Development training funded by STFA.

Monisa expresses her appreciation to the ILO, STFA and EIIP program for seeking to uplift their livelihoods within Rawza Alsafa community and Mazar city. The road infrastructure constructed, income support provided, training and capacity building provided, and efforts made in seeking empowerment of women more livelihood for women beneficiaries are to be commended.

“I do hope that the ILO/EIIP program can continue providing its activities for our society, especially for Afghan women”, Monisa suggests. “Further, I look forward to further assistance and support from EIIP to be able to provide more sewing machines and equipment to develop this business, where I can also use the opportunity to also provide training to the local community.”



Figure 4: Marisa Karimi busy at work at her tailoring mart.



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