

M4P (Market for Poor) training in Mazar-e-Sharif

Road to Job project conducted a training on M4P approach for UN agencies, INGOs and BDS companies in Mazar-e-Sharif Balkh Province on 30th Jan to 1st Feb 2018



About R2J

Road to Jobs (R2J) project is an ILO-Sida funded project aiming to unleash the economic potential of the expanding rural road network in Afghanistan. The project works with selected competitive rural and urban value chains connected by the network through multi-faceted interventions in Samangan and Balkh Northern Provinces.

R2J targets rural population through a market development approach with locally owned strategies that builds on the incentives and capacities of public and private sectors. Our key partners are the employers, (private sector) workers associations, local and international NGOs and the government.

R2J is working in the following sectors:

- Agriculture
- cotton
- grape and raisin
- fruit and nuts
- dairy products
- goat and sheep
- poultry
- Women Economic Empowerment

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From 30th January to 1st February 2018, Road to Jobs project (R2J) conducted a M4P approach introductory training in ILO office, UNAMA Compound.

The training goal was to build participants' knowledge of and skills in the market systems development approach, its application and use in the R2J project.

By the end of the program, participants were able to demonstrate gained knowledge and application of the rationale and principles of the market systems development approach. They had a much better understanding of how R2J project works and why the project never gives handouts to project participants.

The participants were drawn from UNHCR, ACTED, Hand in Hand, Balkh Chamber of Commerce and Industries (BCCI), Guhar Mehran BDS (Business development services), Tanin BDS and ILO R2J project.

The training was conducted by Mr. Tonderai Manoto the R2J project Acting Chief Technical Advisor (CTA).

During the training Mr. Tonderai Manoto covered the topics such as Selection, Diagnosis of problems, Understanding and assessing market systems, Design of Interventions and their management, Monitoring and Results measurement and Sustainability and exit strategies.

The training included lectures, a case study and group exercises. This helped participants to team up and comprehensively analyze root causes of problems.

Another group exercise was on how to develop a vision for a market system in M4P approach and how to design strategies to achieve the vision.

The participants who participated in the training found it very interesting and mentioned they would like to participate in the more in-depth training to be held by R2J project in July 2018.

Mr. Jan Mohammad Dosti head of Guhar Mehran BDS service said, "The training was very interesting and M4P approach was very new for me. Through this training I learned how to implement sustainable projects. Even though it was an introduction to M4P approach, it increased my knowledge to much extend.

Ms. Razia Qateh Senior Protection Associate in UNHCR said, "This is the first time I have heard of M4P approach and the training was very interesting. Through this approach we will be able to reach more poor and support them to have a stable life."

The training ended by distribution of certificates to participants and Mr. Manoto mentioned that it was just an introductory training and that there will be two-week intensive training in the month of July on M4P approaches.

