

EIIP Afghanistan News Brief



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Welcome

Welcome to our first edition of Employment Intensive Investment Programme (EIIP) Afghanistan News Brief. We are publishing the News Brief 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. The programmes seek 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 issues that impact us every day. We would like to welcome your feedback. Hoping you enjoy this issue.

Project Update

The EIIP Afghanistan project is currently implementing 4 projects in Mazar e – Sharraf, with advanced plans for implementation of a project in Shortepa, and others in Jawjzan and Sar-e-pul.

The project has applied employment intensive, local resource-based approaches to rehabilitate and build 4 Nos. critical infrastructure (3 road projects and 1 flood protection structure) which impacted on 10,500 people. 2 projects have been completed and 2 are ongoing which have resulted in improvement of community roads with access to basic services, economic activities together with a flood protection structure that has provided protection to communities against floods and provided resilience.

The project has also facilitated access to decent employment through employment intensive public works which created immediate short-term employment opportunities, decent jobs, and increased household income for 1,374 beneficiaries (including 74 women and 16 people with disabilities and which realized 15,684 worker days. Skills and capacity for employability of 118 companies (1 female owned) and 505 people (including 66 women) were improved, including contractors, workers, implementing partners and local officials through 27 training courses. The courses related to application of decent work principles, employment intensive methods, occupational health and safety, and gender awareness.



Human Interest Story:

“I Wish that all Afghan Women Can Benefit”, says Shamim

Few months ago, Shamim Noori joined Khalid bin Waleed Road rehabilitation project as an unskilled worker, and which was her first decent job opportunity that enabled her to earn a fair income. She is a wife and a mother of 7. The income support has enabled Shamim and some other female workers to cover some living expenses.

Funded by the Special Trust Fund for Afghanistan (STFA), the Employment Intensive Investment Programme (EIIP) in Afghanistan has been able to provide employment opportunities that are decent, and productive with income paid on time, to 74 women up to March 2023.

Women workers are being paid the same wage as other men, which is a daily wage of 500 AfN on a monthly and biweekly basis. Shamim, was pleased to find herself selected to work on the project and within vicinity of her home. This was after having worked as an informal domestic worker who was underpaid and worked for long working hours.

“I did not expect that, as a female, I will be able to work on a construction site to earn money” Shamim said. “I and other female are doing appropriate activities; we are happy that a female supervisor is always around to help and guide us”

Social and environmental measures have been taken that safeguard access to worksite for women. This includes minimum quotas of women to be employed by the contractors with proper and suitable activities to be carried out by them. Females also enjoy proper OSH and work-related injury insurance as other workers on the site. This likely demonstrates that women can work along their male counterparts even in the areas that traditionally are not deemed suitable for women in the communities. This resilience is reflected by Shamim as she said, “I wish that all Afghan women can benefit”. Further Shamim revealed that, “The good treatment we receive from the community leader encouraged me to work, now I support the family and can buy fuel and food”

Engagement at the local level through project partners has proven effective in ensuring women participation. It is also worth noting that job opportunities (accounting for around 35% of the investment) are being offered through the programme which also aims to rehabilitate and maintain priority infrastructure that ensures access to basic facilities such as roads and environmental protection interventions.

Source: Employment Intensive Investment Programme (EIIP) in Afghanistan which is a component of the STFA funded and ILO implemented Promoting Employment and Decent Work within the Humanitarian-Development-Peace Nexus.



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