

▶ EIIIP Afghanistan News Brief



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▶ **Welcome** to our second 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 & ILO is implementing it as an intervention for Promoting Employment & 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 & 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 such as this issues story of Juma Khan who is thankful for the project, which enabled him to establish a shop which provides livelihood. We would like to welcome your feedback. Hoping you enjoy this issue.

▶ Project Update...

The month of May has been busy, with the project pre-qualifying a total of 37 contractors, who will be eligible to participate in six packages of rehabilitation and maintenance works that are to be implemented soon in Balkh and Jawzjan provinces. Some other good news to Shortepa community, is that the long-awaited construction works of the critical section that has cut-off Shortepa district with other parts of the district, is to commence on 1 June 2023 following the completion of procurement of the first section. Works on the road with tricky sandy dunes and terrain, and an encroaching river have presented an interesting challenge, and which will involve use of geo-composite soil stabilization solution. Women employment is also to be promoted through their involvement in producing construction material at home.



In the spirit of collaboration, a joint site visit was made by members of the Northern Region Cash for Work Plus Working Group (NR CfW+ WG) including UNDP, UNOPS and ILO on 10 May 2023 to completed and ongoing works of the EIIIP project in Mazar, and which provided a valuable opportunity for experience and knowledge sharing on implementation aspects and solutions to common challenges.

Meanwhile, the EIIIP project is looking forward to collaboration with its sister project, the Roads to Decent Jobs for All Afghans (R2DJ4All) under STFA funding, which will seek to bridge the short-term employment opportunities which provide income support to its workers to longer term enterprise and entrepreneurial activities of women beneficiaries through skilling and market systems development targeted at women beneficiaries from the workers households. Watch this space for more news of this wonderful initiative.



► Human Interest History



“I really thank EIIP project that made me establish my own shop business...” says Juma Khan

Many people along Adina Masjid area, Panjshir ha village, PD #1 in Mazar-e-Sharif live below the poverty line. Prior to the implementation of the STFA funded and ILO implemented EIIP project, only two small local shops were active. People needed to travel some distance to purchase their necessities. However, there are now 3 shops following completion of the road.

Juma Khan is a 35-year-old man who lives in a typical large Afghan family with 15 members. He was previously buying and selling animals in the leather industry. “I was tired of taking care of animals for long and then selling them. The business involved a lot of time, and I did not seem to make much money”, Juma says.

“When I realized that a construction project was being implemented in the Adina Masjid area, with workers and engineers needing food, but with no shop nearby, I realized an opportunity to serve them and the society and began preparatory works to establish a shop. I was lucky to find a small room by the roadside, which was not being used by the owner of the house.”

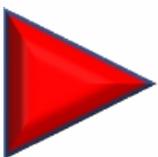
This then became the starting point for his small business. Juma reflects “Of course renting a place for my shop was not so simple and easy, but I did so and completed the refurbishment of the room to a shop in 2 weeks.”

Juma Khan managed to open his own shop in March 2023, which was during Ramadan of Islamic calendar.

The shop helped the workers and community, with the workers' families, children and community members buying provisions from the shop, with the shop also benefiting from income when workers were paid by the contractor implementing the project. Without the road being built, the opportunity would not have arisen. Now Juma Khan has one of the most successful shops in the community with many clients.

The EIIP approach provides direct and indirect benefits to the community, including those like Juma Khan. “While the EIIP project provides beneficiaries with short term employment, I have been able to benefit with a more longer time livelihood”, says Juma Khan. He is appreciative saying, “I really thank EIIP project that made me establish my own shop business and provided me with an alternative livelihood”.

The EIIP project, funded by the Special Trust Fund for Afghanistan (STFA) and implemented by the International Labour Organization in Mazar-e-Sharif, Afghanistan provides decent jobs through the rehabilitation and maintenance of priority public infrastructure while providing employment and income opportunities for both women and men, including persons with disabilities (PWD), host communities, IDPs etc.



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