

# EIIP Afghanistan News Brief



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**Welcome** to our fifth 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 uplifting story of Wahida Nemati, a widow who has benefited from the Joint Enterprise Development–EIIP Afghanistan Programme which seeks to capacitate and link women beneficiaries associated to workers who worked in the EIIP projects to longer term livelihood opportunities. We would appreciate your feedback as we hope you enjoy this issue.



Figure 1: Excavation and disposal works using labour at the Road rehabilitation of Shortepa road

## Project Update...

The project has been involved in the procurement and implementation of eight infrastructure projects in Shortepa district in Balkh province and Mardyan and Mangajik districts in Jawzjan province. Works on the challenging 3.6 km Shortepa road project that winds along the Amu River continue, with 1 rehabilitation project ongoing and 2 rehabilitation sections and a 10 km routine maintenance/ spot improvement project in finalization stages of procurement for commencement in September 2023. Preparations are also on way for 3 other rehabilitation projects on a 3.3 km long road in Mardyan district and 13.7 km routine maintenance/ spot improvement works in Mangajik district within Jawzjan province.

The commencement of the long-awaited National Examination Board in Occupational Safety and Health (NEBOSH) accredited course in Occupational Health and Safety (OSH) to facilitate OSH in the workplace has been agreed to take place in October 2023.

A collaboration meeting of the Northern Region Cash for Work Plus Working Group was held on 23 August 2023 and attended by the ILO, IOM, UNDP, UNOPS and WFP, and which explored mutual areas of collaboration, challenges, and solutions.

The collaboration between EIIP and its sister ILO Roads to Decent Jobs for All Afghans (R2DJ4ALL) project to train women beneficiaries linked to the EIIP projects in entrepreneurial skills, and linkages to enterprises that will provide them with either self or other employment opportunities for livelihood has commenced, with training already provided to 200 beneficiaries. You can read about one of the beneficiaries in the Human-Interest Story below...



Figure 2: Joint Enterprise Development – EIIP Afghanistan GET AHEAD training conducted at the Amparatory Baran Hotel in Mazar-e-Sharif



## ► Human Interest Story

### “Wahida seeks to establish a larger handicraft business following skills training...”

Wahida Nemati is a 37-year-old woman who is a mother of two girls and five boys living within the Khalid bin Walid area for which a recent ILO implemented and STFA funded project was implemented. She has not had an easy life as she says, "I married a man who was 25 years older than me and lived a very difficult life with him in Saudi Arabia, far from my own family." She adds, "He divorced me, but I didn't accept it."

While she was married and living in Saudi Arabia, she learned beadwork from her sisters-in-law, Wahida explains. Unfortunately, her husband passed away three years ago, so Wahida is now a widow. She had no means to continue with her family life "When I lost my husband, I was worried about how to cover the living expenses." Two years ago, she established her own small sewing centre to support herself and her children. Having been fortunate to have attended a six month-long tailoring training, she now operates a small handicraft centre where she and her daughters work together, specializing in beadwork and sewing women's dresses.

Owing to being associated to a relative who worked on the rehabilitation of the Khalid bin Walid road as she lives along the area, she was selected to be among the beneficiaries of the Joint EIIP Afghanistan – Entrepreneurship Development Training Programme. EIIP Afghanistan has linked with its sister project, the Roads to Decent Jobs for All Afghans (R2DJ4All) under STFA funding, seeking to leverage its existing networks, knowledge, and successes in bridging the short-term employment opportunities to longer-term enterprise and entrepreneurial activities of women beneficiaries through skilling and market systems development targeted at women beneficiaries from the workers' households that initially benefited from the EIIP work component. Through this model that is being piloted, and which will be rolled out as the programme expands, various training components and other interventions are integrated including: Entrepreneurship training for women with skill, who can start a small business; business coaching and mentoring services for women-owned micro enterprises to scale up innovative proven business models and financial services through small in-kind Grants to entrepreneurs submitting good business proposals.

Wahida thus took part in the Entrepreneurship Training Program for Potential & Existing Entrepreneurs funded by STFA intended for beneficiaries from Khalid bin Walid project area. She expresses her gratitude, saying, "The training was very interesting and helpful for my small business. I learned about marketing and market analysis, which will be beneficial for me. She plans to establish a larger handicraft complex centre with the funding she hopes to receive. She explains, "I have the skills in tailoring and beadwork, and my daughters are skilled in beadwork, but I need a little financial support to expand my centre." In appreciation, she notes, "I would like to thank EIIP and Enterprises Development Programme and the donor for providing such excellent programs for Afghan women."



Figure 3: Wahida Nemati (right) receiving a GET AHEAD training certificate from the trainer (left) and inset one of the handicraft products she produces.

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.