

# ▶ EIIP Afghanistan News Brief



International  
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▶ **Welcome** to the ninth edition of Employment Intensive Investment Programme (EIIP) Afghanistan News Brief. The purpose of this publication is to disseminate news and updates concerning the ongoing activities of the EIIP Afghanistan project. Its primary goal is to keep the audience informed and engaged by providing relevant information and insights into the project's progress and initiatives.

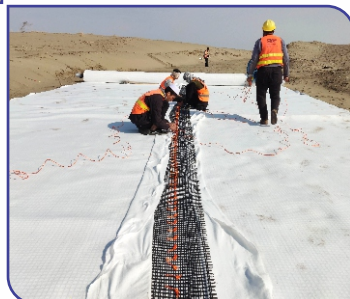
The Special Trust Fund for Afghanistan (STFA) is funding this project and ILO is implementing it as an intervention for Promoting Employment and Decent Work through the Humanitarian-Development-Peace Nexus.

We will also provide you with a brief on our interventions to address the humanitarian crisis through the project, 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. While updating you on developments, this edition continues on a series of human interest stories that promote inclusivity with another touching story of Sherin from Shortepa, who is proud that she is now also a breadwinner for the family.



Figure 1: Existing Subgrade of Loose fine sand on the Shortepa District Road.

Figure 2: Stabilization and strengthening of existing sub grade using Geo-Composite Material on the Shortepa District Road.



## ▶ Project Update...

With the EIIP project for the Northern region expected to be completed by 31 March 2024, the project has been primarily involved in seeking to complete activities during the interim period. Works on the 3.6 km Shortepa district road are in full swing as illustrated in the Cover Photo, with arrival of the long-awaited Geo-Composite material used to stabilize the sandy soil layer. All together 4 projects are being implemented within the Shortepa district road in Shortepa in Balkh province. Besides work on the scenic, but challenging district road that winds along the Amu river with harsh weather elements, routine maintenance and spot-improvement works of an adjoining 8 km road have also been substantially completed. The project is also working tirelessly to complete 4 other projects in Mardyan and Mangajik districts in Jawzjan province. These include the rehabilitation of a 3.3 km long road in Mardyan district and a 13.7 km routine maintenance/ spot improvement works in Mangajik district, all of which are expected to be completed before 31 March 2024. Works were affected during the implementation period owing to the heavy snow which affected the Northern region during the month of February 2024.

As part of collaborative activities, the project is currently developing a Guidance Note on Employment and Decent Work Social Safeguards under Humanitarian Development Peace Nexus (HDPN). The development of the Guidance Note which also involves other UNAFPs and is to be disseminated to the UNCT, aims to support staff, consultants and partners and contribute towards enhanced capacity to identify, deliver and monitor employment-based and cash-for-work plus approaches to create more and better decent work across the HDP Nexus. Preliminary results from the Tracer Study to assess the jobs created from the Joint EIIP and Enterprises Development intervention to train 500 women beneficiaries linked to the EIIP projects, indicates positive results with jobs resulting from the training and linkages from those who have been empowered with entrepreneurship and financial literacy skills to enterprises that will provide them with either self or other employment opportunities for livelihood. During the month of February 2024, the project also conducted a First Aid training that targeted 14 Contractors and Field Officers.

## ► Human Interest Story

*Empowered and thriving: Sherin's Journey From Dependency to Breadwinner Success.*



Sherin, one of the female workers on the Shortepa district road project has 3 children with her husband who is disabled. She lives in an area where cultural norms restrict women from working outside their homes, following which she has faced the challenge of supporting her family, especially with a disabled husband. This has forced Sherin to be compelled to work so as to support herself and her family. As she says "I live in an area that does not allow women to work outside the house, or attend school, and hence I couldn't study. When I got married and my husband unfortunately had an accident, which led him to be disabled, I was helpless as it was very hard for me to support my family".

When the EIIP project, funded by the Special Trust Fund for Afghanistan (STFA) and implemented by the International Labour Organization (ILO) commenced its activities in Shortepa, Sherin seized the opportunity after she figured out the project's pro-active promotion of women's employment. The Community Liaison Officer (CLO), Jeena Ahmadi narrates.... 'One evening she came to my house with a girl who knew Farsi as she speaks Turkman, expressing her challenges and inquiring about recruitment of women in the project. I then informed her of the project's procedures including gender inclusiveness, and encouraged her to return to the office on the next day with her identification card'.

'Despite societal norms, the next day Sherin came to the office, overcoming obstacles and breaking stereotypes, and was able to join the project as an unskilled worker at the site camp as the local authorities did not allow women to work at the project site', Jeena remembers. On her part, Sherin narrates that "When the CLO informed me of the procedures and recruited me at the site camp, I was happy to start work as I then had means to support my family, feed my children, repair the damaged roof of my house to survive the winter". Through her hard work, she not only supported her family but also became a beacon of change in the community. Sherin's success served as a catalyst, inspiring other women in the area to seek employment and contribute to their families. Her journey reflects the transformative impact of the EIIP project, which not only provides decent jobs through infrastructure projects but also empowers women to recognize their rights and contribute as breadwinners.

In parting she expresses her appreciation "I'm thankful to the EIIP project that helped me support my family, particularly understanding my rights, where I can now work like men and be a breadwinner to the family." Sherin also reflects on her pioneering role within the community, as she says, "Now other women in this area want to work like me to support their families, where I have become a role model to them". Sherin's gratitude echoes the broader positive ripple effect, as she proudly became a role model for other women in her community, setting the stage for positive change and empowerment. The EIIP project, provides decent jobs through the rehabilitation and maintenance of priority public infrastructure while providing employment and income opportunities for both women and men.