

# Microfinance Investment Support Facility for Afghanistan



June 2014



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**– Mr. Ruzi Khan Zurmati,**  
Government Relations Manager  
MISFA

## MISFA and partner MFIs bring aid to flood victims

MISFA distributed humanitarian aid to microfinance clients, who were victims of the flash floods and landslide in Jawzjan and Sar-e-Pul provinces last spring.

Rainfall is usually good news for Afghan farmers, who had suffered through drought in past years. But the unusually abundant rain showers led to flooding and landslides that killed hundreds of Afghans, particularly in the Northern provinces. Hundreds more were displaced, losing their homes, farmlands, livestock, shops, and other assets.

MISFA deployed a team to the field to conduct a situational analysis, investigate the depth of the crisis and identify the basic and urgent needs of the victims.

“You became microfinance clients because you were not being reached by public and financial services,” said Mr. Ruzi Khan Zurmati, MISFA’s Government Relations Manager. “We are here to make sure you are not left out again; not from emergency assistance, and not from financial services that you will need now more than ever to get back on your feet.”

The package of assistance distributed to each microfinance client consisted of 24 kilograms of rice, 10 kg of sugar, 20 liters of food oil, 50 kg of wheat flour, and one 12m<sup>2</sup> carpet.

“Yesterday, we were in need of microcredit; today we need food and shelter—you have supported us during both times of need,” said Abdul Samad, a microfinance client whose house and shop were totally damaged in the flash floods.



Mr. Zurmati distributing relief goods to a flood victim.

## Badakhshan officials and influentials call for TUP scale-up

Local government officials and other influential members of the community called for the scale-up of a MISFA program for the poorest in Badakhshan, a province in the northeast of Afghanistan where poverty is prevalent.

“On behalf of the people of Badakhshan, I am calling for the scale up of the (Targeting the Ultra-Poor/TUP) project,” said, Ghulam Muhammad Khadem, Head of the District Development Association (DDA) in Faizabad.

Mr. Khadem spoke at the recent TUP project performance awareness event hosted by MISFA and its implementing partner CoAR in Faizabad, the provincial capital, to report on the project’s achievements since TUP was first implemented in the province in mid-2012.

A total of 800 women, who were in the bottom of the poverty scale, were provided a package of inputs, including livestock, animal husbandry training, subsistence support, and basic health and hygiene care. The aim of the two-year intervention is

to graduate ultra poor households out of the safety net program and into income earning activities, such as micro enterprises. In addition, the program also endeavors to link TUP graduates and their families to social services, such as schools, clinics/hospitals, and financial institutions.

An influential member of the community, Mr. Mehrabuddin, praised the success of the program, citing the story of a TUP participant, “A woman once begging for a bit of butter to feed her newborn, is now in the business of dairy production.”

Still, given that poverty rate remain high in the province; Mr. Mehrabuddin urged the government, donors, and all TUP stakeholders to scale up TUP in other key areas in Badakhshan, starting with the Khash district.

“We believe that only through TUP, we can put an end to the poverty in Badakhshan”. Badakhshan is a mountainous province with relatively less farming land, but suitable for livestock rearing.

### TUP BADAKHSHAN PROJECT ACHIEVEMENTS

(since start date in mid-2012, to date)

- No. of livestock assets distributed has increased from **1,944** to **3,935**.
- Total savings by TUP participants have exceeded **AFN 3.2 million**; and their purchasing power has increased, with **AFN 4 million** spent on home appliances.
- As a result of encouragement and advise of project staff, **266 children** of beneficiaries are enrolled in schools.
- TUP participants, mostly women in rural areas with low levels of literacy, have increased awareness of hygienic and healthy practices, human and women’s rights, and other socio-political issues.



*Nasima, a TUP participant, speaking at the project awareness event: “We were in the bottom poor and my children were subjected to domestic violence out of my family’s despair. Now, we know about livestock rearing, hygiene; we have enough to eat, we even have savings, and our children are going to school.”*

*This is MISFA’s quarterly newsletter. MISFA is a Limited Liability Company (LLC) established in 2003 as a vehicle through which the Afghan government and international donors could channel technical assistance and funding to build and strengthen Afghanistan’s microfinance sector.*

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