

# Microfinance Investment Support Facility for Afghanistan



MISFA's Managing Director, Bahram Barzin and CoAR's Director, Naem Salimi, signing the implementing partnership agreement.

## MISFA scaled up TUP

MISFA started the multi-province scale-up of its landmark Targeting the Ultra-Poor (TUP) project. TUP has been piloted successfully in succession—first in Bamyan then in Badakhshan, and this year marks the beginning of its simultaneous replication in five provinces across Afghanistan. The TUP expansion aims to target 6,725 households to benefit more than 47,000 Afghans across the five provinces.

The project will be implemented by Non-governmental Organizations (NGOs) selected through a competitive process and approved by the National Procurement Commission (NPC) headed by the president H.E. Mohammad Ashraf Ghani. The

NGOs selected are: Coordination of Afghan Relief (CoAR), Wadan and Coordination of Humanitarian Assistance (CHA). CoAR will implement the project in the provinces of Herat and Takhar; Wadan in Kunar and Laghman provinces; and CHA in Balkh.

TUP is a grant based, comprehensive two-year intervention tailor-made to facilitate the escape of ultra-poor households from poverty by providing them a package of inputs, including livestock, animal husbandry training, subsistence support, and basic health and hygiene care and access to finance.

The main objective of the project is to support the beneficiaries escape abject poverty sustainably and link them to financial service providers such as

Microfinance Institutions (MFIs), Community Savings Promoting Institutions (CSPIs), Cooperatives, Self Help Groups (SHG) etc. to further expand their businesses and enterprises.

With Funding from IFAD, TUP was first piloted in Bamyan and then replicated in Badakhshan, targeting a total of 1,200 female-headed households suffering from abject poverty. Calls from government officials and community leaders in Badakhshan led to extension of the project supporting an additional 560 ultra-poor families.

The successful implementation of the TUP project has encouraged donors to support the program scale-up as a viable path to poverty reduction and national economic recovery in Afghanistan. The project will soon cover 2,500 eligible households in Kabul and Kandahar.

The TUP expansion to Kabul, Takhar, Kandahar, Balkh, Laghman, and Kunar provinces is funded by the IDA/World Bank, while the expansion in Herat is supported by the Italian Development Cooperation Office.



*This is MISFA's bi-monthly e-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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