

Microfinance Investment Support Facility for Afghanistan



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Mr. Hashmat Mohmand, MISFA's KM&L Specialist facilitating a knowledge management session

MISFA sets up new unit for knowledge management and learning

MISFA established a Knowledge Management and Learning (KM&L) unit to support the creation, capture, storage and sharing of knowledge within the sector. The department will build a strong knowledge base to facilitate analysis and solution finding about what works in the microfinance sector, in order to increase learning and add value to results achieved by MISFA and its partners. KM&L is a relatively new concept in Afghanistan, but has been adopted as an approach by international development organisations, particularly for gathering success stories, lessons learned, and good practices from the field. Over the past ten years, MISFA and its partners have been undertaking some KM&L related functions, such as research, communications, training, and market development,

albeit not in a systematic way.

MISFA has taken stock of past and existing KM&L activities delivered by the organisation and its partners following a KM&L Assessment. The Assessment findings and recommendations have identified ways of improving the performance and sustainability of MISFA and its partner organisations. These findings and recommendations have now been incorporated into the KM&L strategy. The KM&L unit will ensure that both explicit and implicit knowledge of the microfinance sector will be documented and used to increase the effectiveness and efficiency of delivering microfinance products and services to the unbanked target population.

MISFA to scale up TUP project in Herat

MISFA will implement the Targeting the Ultra-Poor (TUP) project in Herat supporting 1725 number of households suffering from abject poverty. Based on an agreement signed between the Italian Cooperation Development Fund and Ministry of Finance (MoF), GoIRA, the agency will provide US\$ 3.4 million to MISFA to implement the project in four districts of Herat province.

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 project was first piloted in Bamyán province in 2010 targeting 400 households. It was then replicated in Badakhshan province in 2012, doubling the number of beneficiaries. Calls for TUP scale up by Badakhshan officials and influential people led to the extension of project covering an additional 560 ultra-poor households in 2014. The pilot in Bamyán and scale-up in Badakhshan were both funded by the International Fund for Agriculture Development (IFAD).



MISFA's successful implementation of the TUP project in these two provinces has attracted donor attention and has paved the way for further scale up of the project with funding from the IDA/World Bank in six additional provinces.

The scale-up aims to cover 7,500 households (representing an estimated 52,000 household members) in Balkh, Kunar, Kandahar, Takhar, Kabul and Laghman provinces.



An ultra-poor household selected as TUP beneficiary in Badakhshan.

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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