



Hamasa charges each bride a minimum of AFN 5,000 for manicuring, Hairdressing and makeup.



The Microfinance Investment Support Facility for Afghanistan (MISFA) was set up in 2003 at the invitation of the Afghan government — to get donor coordination right from the start and avoid the counter-productive efforts that have emerged from conflicting donor objectives in other post-conflict situations. It was established as a vehicle through which the Afghan Government and international donors could channel technical assistance and funding to build microfinance in Afghanistan.

In March 2006, MISFA was registered as a limited liability non-profit company whose sole shareholder is the Ministry of Finance of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan. MISFA Ltd is an independent apex organization with a select group of implementing partners on the ground.

A Microfinance Client Story

Sewing her way to her dream

Like many young Afghans, who grew up amidst a history of conflict, Hamasa, 20, years old aspired for a better future through education. She was keen on her studies, finishing high school in ten years, two years short of the normal 12 years.

Right after high school graduation, Hamasa matriculated in a community college and completed her academic studies in obstetrics hoping to be an obstetrician someday. But without the financial means to pursue it any further, Hamasa had to make a tough choice.

“I still dream of continuing my higher studies someday,” said Hamasa. “But financial self-sustainability is a prerequisite.”

With her family also needing support, she knew she had to find a means to earn some income. Having acquired tailoring skills from her father, Hamasa knew this was her starting point, although she was aware she will need some capital to put up a shop.



Mutahid Development Finance Institution was established in 2011. Its creation facilitated the smooth consolidation of the best clients, staff, and resources of microfinance institutions, which exited the sector. As such, it is well placed to incorporate best practices and lessons learned from the past. MISFA provides significant support to Mutahid and believes that with its strong management and core principles of ethics, ideas and hard work, it could be a sustainable, model entity, contributing to the growth of development finance in Afghanistan.

The products which Hamasa uses for her customers.

After meeting with Mariam, a marketing officer of Mutahid DFI, Hamasa applied for her first loan worth AFN 20,000. She used the money to rent a space for her tailoring shop and to purchase a sewing machine.

To augment her income, Hamasa applied for a second loan worth AFN 50,000 to expand to another line of business, a beauty parlor, in partnership with a friend.

Today, both businesses have an average monthly return of AFN 20,000. Hamasa manages to contribute to family expenses and save money aside for her studies in the future.

With a thriving business and a steady income, the young Afghan entrepreneur is grateful to the presence of microfinance service providers,

particularly Mutahid, which helped her become a successful entrepreneur.

Hamasa now has more opportunities than ever before. Someday, she hopes to translate her success in business to her dream of continuing her higher studies.

“I still dream of continuing my higher studies someday”

- Hamasa