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WADAN: ON THE GROUND

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE WELFARE ASSOCIATION FOR THE
DEVELOPMENT OF AFGHANISTAN



A family in Nangarhar receives their dairy cow through the TUP program.

THE PEOPLE WE SERVE

WADAN has aided thousands of impoverished Afghans through the Targeting the Ultra Poor (TUP) program. TUP is a World Bank project that WADAN carried out in various Afghan provinces and is currently underway in Nangarhar. The program is funded by the Microfinance Investment Support Facility for Afghanistan (MISFA) whose vision is to develop a sustainable, efficient, and commercialized development sector stimulating economic growth in Afghanistan. The TUP programs hope to enable the ultra-poor graduation approach worldwide, wherein a locale's most in-need families are aided with resources to generate sustainable income. WADAN is currently implementing the program in Surkhroad, Behsood, and Kama districts, where 3,600 families that fall in the ultra-poor category are receiving aid. The families receive animals and veterinary care in an effort to generate agricultural microenterprises- and assistance packages that contain necessary household supplies. The program also offers financial literacy lessons, as well as social, health, and hygiene training including extensive instruction about managing Covid-19. WADAN works on a grassroots level to improve livelihoods, encourage literacy, generate food security, improve nutrition, and enable access to healthcare and education in the hope to minimize the number of Afghans in the ultra-poor class.

MARZIA'S STORY

Marzia is a widow with four children who live in her brother-in-law's house in the village of Walayathi in Behsood District. Her husband was murdered in 2017, after which Marzia's children began labor work in the Behsood bazaar. When a WADAN field team member spoke with Marzia, she said, "We have suffered a lot. Instead of going to school, my children went to work to earn food for us. To keep our kitchen running, I ended up selling our household items. We sold our television set, which had been our only source of entertainment."

In January, Marzia's family was enrolled in the TUP program. At the end of March, WADAN gave Marzia's family a dairy cow and this cow helped change their lives. On a field visit in September, Marzia told a staff member, "I learned how to get the most out of the milk this cow produces. I cover most of our expenses from selling dairy products. My children can go to school now." She added, "I bought a new television set, solar panel, and battery. Now my children need not go to our neighbor's houses for electricity and entertainment. I am planning to save the money I earn to replace all the items I had to sell."



Marzia takes home her dairy cow that she received through the TUP program.

"I COVER MOST OF OUR EXPENSES FROM SELLING DAIRY PRODUCTS. MY CHILDREN CAN GO TO SCHOOL NOW."



Marzia milks the cow she received in order to sell dairy and earn a livelihood.

COVID-19 RESPONSE

WADAN has been proactive in initiating measures that help prevent the spread of Covid-19 by organizing awareness activities and delivering messages to TUP beneficiaries during daily visits. We teach evidence-based prevention measures such as practicing social distancing, washing hands, wearing masks, and heeding the guidance of health officials. Additionally, we encourage reporting Covid-19 symptoms to available healthcare personnel. A hotline system is in effect for TUP beneficiaries to respond to beneficiaries' questions and provide them with useful instructions on Covid-19 prevention and management. TUP health sector program organizers are in close contact with the available healthcare services for referral and treatment. The WADAN health team pays regular visits to all households twice a month to ensure health and safety.



A TUP health worker visits a family to teach about Covid-19.



Staff hand out hygiene kits at a community based school.

In our community based education areas in Nangarhar, we are following the standards of the Education Cannot Wait (ECW) Covid-19 First Emergency Response. WADAN is working to provide clean water facilities to 40 hub-schools in five districts: Kot, Batikot, Lalpura, Muhmandara, and Ghanikhil. WADAN will provide wells, water storage tanks, and solar-powered water extraction systems.

Our community based education classes in Jowzjan Province have been temporarily closed since November 22, 2020 due to the novel coronavirus and cold weather. Therefore, we suggested that the students continue their studies at home and have urged their parents to cooperate with this until classes reopen. The study materials are distributed to all students once every two weeks. The teachers are in regular contact with families to remain updated about the children's health and academic progress.

In addition to the awareness activities, WADAN distributed hygiene kits to all TUP beneficiaries, community based education students and all patients who are under treatment at WADAN's drug treatment centers.

EMPLOYEE SPOTLIGHT

MOHAMMAD MASROOR MOHAMMADI, M.D.



Mohammad Masroor Mohammadi is a medical doctor by profession who graduated from Kabul Medical University in 2006. He has worked for national and international organizations since then and currently serves as our Health Program Coordinator and has an active role in Monitoring and Evaluation in other projects. He has a strong passion for public health and promotes quality healthcare.

Dr. Masroor said, "Those who are in extreme poverty and have limited access to healthcare, healthy food, clean water, a steady income, and public services need urgent support in the current evolving circumstances of Covid-19. WADAN's health department has taken initiatives to support the ultra-poor with hygiene kits, safety face masks, hand sanitizers, and hand soap as precautionary steps to prevent the spread of Covid-19 and other communicable diseases. Staying healthy leads to a socially and economically productive life." He believes that good health is a person's most prized possession. Dr. Mohammadi added, "Good health is not only the absence of disease in the body, but a healthy individual has physical, mental, social, and spiritual wellbeing. Health is wealth and one must take care of it."

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"HEALTH IS WEALTH AND ONE MUST TAKE CARE OF IT."