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Program Title: Winterization Program in Afghanistan	USAID/OFDA Grant No: DFD-G-00-04-00032-00
Country: Afghanistan	Type of Disaster: Complex Emergency
Time Period Covered: From: January 1, 2004	To: June 30, 2004

I. Overview:

The winterization program was launched on January 1, 2004 to reduce winter related vulnerability among the poorest, and increase income of the targeted population through Cash for Work (CFW) activities. The program was designed to support 13,430 vulnerable families in 12 districts of central and eastern Afghanistan. Due to a two month extension the number of direct beneficiaries was increased to 38,015, over 250% more than the actual target. The population of the twelve target districts expressed their great satisfaction during a visit to project sites by IMC, USAID and Government representatives.

By the end of June 2004, 100% of the clothes and quilts had been distributed in twelve districts. Some 'in kind donations' including warm clothes, mattresses, child kits etc. are yet to be received from the United States. These will be distributed as soon as they are received. Male CFW activities such as road rehabilitation, culvert construction, bridge rehabilitation, wash flow construction etc. were completed in May. All CFW payments were done by the end of June 2004.

All the infrastructure projects were designed as CFW. In order to ensure durability and sustainability, IMC used heavy equipment for rehabilitating some of the important roads to give the target beneficiaries a longer-term benefit from the implemented projects.

II. Program Performance

Objective 1: To decrease the vulnerability to winter related illness of 94,010 individuals (13,430 families).

Indicators:

- Number of families receiving quilts
- Number of families receiving warm clothes

Quilt Distribution: 2,518 vulnerable women were selected to make a total of 12500 quilts. By the end of the project, 12,585 quilts had been produced. Following the completion of the hand-sewn quilts, IMC distributed one quilt each to 12,585 vulnerable families (including 2,518 quilt makers) in twelve target districts in the central and eastern region. Quilt distribution was successfully completed in the following twelve districts i.e. Shakardara, Guldara, Istalif, Musai, Khakijabar, Kama, Darinoor, Lalpoor, Alingar, Qarghai, Kamdish and Bargimatal. Due to increasing security problems in Nooristan, distribution was delayed. However, IMC staff were able to complete the distribution in Nooristan before the end of the project. The distribution process was coordinated with local government (LG) bodies and Shura members. The details of quilt distribution are as follows:

Quilts distribution detail in Central & Eastern Region

Phase 1					Phase II			
S/N	District	Date of distribution	No of Quilts distributed	No of Beneficiaries	Date of distribution	No of Quilts distributed	No of Beneficiaries	Total No quilts distributed
1	Shakar Dara	21-03-04	832	832				
2	Gul Dara	24-03-04	832	832				
3	Istalif	25-03-04	832	832				
4	Khaki Jabar	29-03-04	832	832				
5	Musai	28-03-04	832	832	10-06-04	50	50	882
6	Alingar	04-06-04	832	832				
7	Qarghee	15-04-04	832	832				
8	Dar-i-nor	10-04-04	832	832				
9	Kama	31-03-04	832	832		35	35	867
10	Lalpur	13-04-04	832	832				
11	Kamdish	26-05-04	840	840				
12	Barigi Matal	22-05-04	840	840				
Grand Total			10000	10000		85	85	10085

Note: Table does not include the 2500 quilts received by the initial group of quilt makers. In the second phase 18 additional women made 85 quilts using the left-over material.

Warm Clothes Distribution: 400 sewing trainees, 30 knitting trainees and 700 skilled hand knitters completed a total of **44,741** sets of warm clothes, which included long shirts and loose pants for girls and boys; a cardigan, socks and cap for children younger than two; and pullover sweaters for older children. These clothes were distributed to **21,099** vulnerable families in the twelve selected districts: Shakardara, Guldara, Istalif, Musai, Khakijabar, Kama, Darinoor, Lalpur, Alingar, Qarghai, Kamdich and Bargimatal. The achievement was over 100% more than the original target of 10,000 families. Distribution was supervised at all the sites by senior IMC ID staff, jointly with 'Shuras', LG and village elders.

Clothes distribution detail in Central & Eastern Region

Phase I					Phase II			
S/N	District	Date of distribution	No of Clothes distributed	No of Beneficiaries	Date of distribution	No of Clothes distributed	No of Beneficiaries	Total No clothes distributed
1	Shakar Dara	21-04-04	1650	825	20-05-04	2000	1000	3650
2	Gul Dara	21-04-04	1650	550	17-05-04	2312	765	3962
3	Istalif	19-04-04	1650	825	02-06-04	1650	825	3300
4	Khaki Jabar	26-04-04	1650	825	24-05-04	1657	828	3307
5	Musai	20-04-04	1650	675	03-05-04	835	412	2485
6	Alingar	01-04-04	1650	825	10-04-04	1838	919	3488
7	Qarghee	25-04-04	1650	825	01-05-04	1184	592	2834
8	Dar-i-nor	26-04-04	1650	825	26-05-04	1136	568	2786
9	Kama	22-04-04	1650	825	22-05-04	1751	875	3401
10	Lalpur	28-04-04	1650	825	18-05-04	1273	636	2923
11	Kamdish	26-05-04	1750	875	05-06-04	995	496	2745
12	Barigi Matal	22-05-04	1750	875	25-05-04	1310	655	3060
Sub-total			20000	9575		17941	8571	37941
Sweaters (hand made and machine made)							2,953	6,800
Grand Total								44,741

Objective- 2: To increase household income of up to 3,430 vulnerable families

- Number of women and men participating in CFW activities
- Number of quilts made and distributed
- Number of women trained in sewing and knitting centers
- Number kilometers of snow cleared

Cash For Work (CFW):

Female CFW

A total of 3,648 vulnerable women benefited from female CFW activities (2,518 from quilt making, 400 from sewing, 30 from machine knitting and 700 from hand knitting). The duration of CFW was extended from 4 months to five months to assist these 3,648 women further. Payments for work were made to all 3,648 women, including those in Nooristan. Payment of workers was accomplished in coordination with 'Shuras', district administrations and local elders.

Cash Payments for Work in Central & Eastern Region for Quilt making (Female CFW)

Phase I					Phase II			
S/N	District	Date of Payment	No of People received	Wages	Date of Payment	No of People received	Wages	Grand Total
1	Shakar Dara	27-03-04	208	2496 \$	N/A			
2	Gul Dara	22-03-04	208	2496 \$	N/A			
3	Istalif	25-03-04	208	2496 \$	N/A			
4	Khaki Jabar	04-04-04	208	2496 \$	N/A			
5	Musai	29-03-04	208	2496 \$	11-05-04	11	132 \$	2628
6	Alingar	04-05-04	208	2496 \$	N/A			
7	Qarghee	04-21-04	208	2496 \$	N/A			
8	Dar-i-nor	04-08-04	208	2496 \$	N/A			
9	Kama	04-01-04	208	2496 \$	Will be done soon	7	84 \$	2580
10	Lalpur	04-11-04	208	2496 \$	N/A			
11	Kamdish	04-29-04	210	2520 \$	N/A			
12	Barigi Matal	04-29-02	210	2520 \$	N/A			
Grand Total			2500	30000 \$	N/A	18	216 \$	30216 \$

Sewing and Knitting: A total of 1,130 women benefited from the sewing/knitting CFW program. Of these 400 women received training in sewing clothes and 30 women received training in machine knitting. An additional 700 skilled hand knitters also participated in CFW activities by producing warm clothes for distribution. As many as **44,741** items of clothes (including 6800 sweaters) were produced, and distributed among 21,099 vulnerable families.

IMC staff, together with local Shuras, selected all the beneficiaries, including those who received training in both sewing and knitting centers.

Knitting Center

The knitting center was established in the Ahmad Shah Baba Mena area of Kabul inside a government owned building. IMC is working with the knitters in the community to make the knitting center a self-sustainable small business for which, a plan has been drafted. A proposal has been submitted to Bobby Sager Foundation for capacity building of the center. If the proposal is approved, the Foundation will support operation and maintenance costs of the center till December 2004. It is expected that, after six months, the knitting center staff will be able to manage the center independently as a small business, and make it self-sustainable. Details of the knitting center activities are as follows:

Knitting Center CFW Distribution and Payments

S/N	Province	District	Date of sweaters distribution	Number of Sweaters distributed	CFW Amount Paid	Date of payment	Number of Beneficiaries
1	Kabul	Ahmad Shah Mena	10/04/04	1650	6185 \$	09/05/04	594
2	Kabul	Chilston	20/04/04	1000	1700 \$	29/05/04	300
3	Kabul	Qali Wazir	17/04/04	650	N/A	N/A	250
4	Kabul	Karti Now	11/05/04	1000	4072 \$	11/05/05	309
5	Kabul	Paktia Kot	13/05/04	2500	N/A	N/A	1500
	Total			6800	11957 \$		2953

Sewing Machine Maintenance:

To ensure effective maintenance of the sewing machines, training in machine maintenance was planned and completed in the twelve-targeted districts. Sixty persons received the maintenance training. All participants received a free tool kit from IMC on completion of the training, which will give them the means with which to fix the machines used in the community, and generate an income for themselves using their skills. Also this maintenance training will ensure the future maintenance of the machines given by IMC. Three sewing maintenance trainers (one for central region and two for eastern region) were hired to conduct the training. Detail of the basic maintenance training schedule is as follows:

NO	District Name	Date of Starting	Date of completion	Start date of refresher training	Completion date of refresher training
1	Istalif	15/4/04	19/5/04	13/6/04	14/6/04
2	Gul Dara	20/5/04	25/5/04	15/6/04	16/6/04
3	Shakar Dara	26/5/04	31/5/04	17/6/04	19/6/04
4	Khake Jabar	01/6/04	06/6/04	20/6/04	21/6/04
5	Mosayee	07/6/04	12/6/04	22/6/04	23/6/04
6	Qarghai	18/5/04	23/5/04	19/6/04	20/6/04
7	Alingar	18/5/04	23/5/04	19/6/04	20/6/04
8	Lalpur	25/5/04	30/6/04	21/6/04	22/6/04
9	Kama	25/5/04	30/6/04	21/6/04	22/6/04

NO	District Name	Date of Starting	Date of completion	Start date of refresher training	Completion date of refresher training
10	Darinur	13/6/04	17/6/04	23/6/04	24/6/04
11	Kamdish	1/6/04	10/6/04		
12	Bargimatal	1/6/04	10/6/04		

Although a refresher training workshop was planned for districts in Nooristan, the duration of the initial training in Nuristan was extended to 10 days due to security concerns.

The knitting center manager herself is well experienced in maintenance, and is mentoring two maintenance persons from among her trainees.

Sewing Machine distribution

700 sewing machines, along with tables, scissors, iron etc, were distributed among 700 vulnerable women in 12 districts, and will give them the means with which to sew their own clothes as well as earn some money by sewing clothes for others in their communities. These included the 400 women who were trained and were involved in CFW production activities, and 300 vulnerable women, who already knew how to sew, and did not need to be trained.

Male Cash For Work (CFW):

Male CFW activities began in Shakardara, Istalif, Khakijabar and Guldara districts of Kabul province on January 16, 2004. To date, 3123 skilled and unskilled laborers have benefited from CFW activities, which included rehabilitation and improvement of the condition of more than 100 km of roads damaged by snow (over 100% more than the original target). A total of USD 93,398 was paid to the laborers for their services. Beneficiaries were selected in consultation with the local Shuras along with district administration. Each individual was eligible to work for 10 days, making two USD per day.

An extension of CFW for men was planned and launched in the first week of April. Roads, culverts, and wash flows were rehabilitated in nine districts i.e. Shakardara, Guldara, Istalif, Khakijabar, Darinoor, Jalalabad, Kamdish and Qarghai.

Community Center

Considering the need of the target communities, and responding to requests from the Shura and district administration of Istalif for community meeting spaces, IMC constructed four 'Community Centers': three in three villages of Istalif district, and one in Shakardara on land donated by the district administration. These community centers will be used by the community and IMC for future skills development training, consciousness raising, Shura meetings etc. *The facilities will be handed over to the local governing bodies when IMC closes down its operations in the area.*

III. Constraints:

The immense need presented itself as a constraint. The majority of people within the communities were vulnerable. As a result, it was difficult for IMC staff to choose the most vulnerable beneficiaries from among them. Additionally, the government presented numerous requests to improve the infrastructure of their respective areas. ID senior staff had to intervene on

these issues and resolve the crisis in an effective way. Procuring items for the project was also delayed as a number of suppliers provided material later than promised.

The duration of the project was also a constraint. Due to the short duration of the project, it was difficult for the IMC staff to complete all activities in twelve districts. Despite this, the ID department completed all CFW projects on time.

The security situation got worse in May, which affected the speedy implementation of the program. Nevertheless, IMC staff successfully distributed all distribution items and wages among the beneficiaries. IMC staff in Nooristan in particular, faced serious problems implementing the program due to deteriorating security conditions and potential danger for NGO workers in the area.

IV. Success Stories

IMC project staff visited many sites after the completion of the project, to assess the impact of the project on the lives of people of the target districts. In all cases, a visible positive impact was observed. The following stories are some examples of how thousands of people have been impacted.

Story 1.

Mohammad Saeed in Sliman village, participated in the road rehabilitation Cash for Work (CFW) project in Shakardara project in the winter, when most of the places were covered with snow. Saeed told IMC project staff that he had no job at that time and it was really difficult for him to survive. Then he heard about IMC's plan to start CFW in Shakardara and contacted the 'Shura' (recognized village council). He requested the Shura to include his name in the beneficiary list. Saeed was very happy to have been fortunate enough to get some paid work in the winter, and seeing the outcome of his efforts in the form of the rehabilitated roads in Shakardara. He requested IMC to continue the CFW program for an extended period and rehabilitate all the roads, culverts, bridges and wash flows in Shakardara. Saeed and others in his community rehabilitated 20 km of road and constructed a 'Community Center' in Shakardara with IMC's assistance. The community will be able to use this center to meet and organize workshops, training, seminars etc.

Story 2.

Zia Jan is a very poor woman, living in Aqa Ali Shekho village of Shakardara district. She had no opportunity to earn money. Then she heard that IMC was going to start the quilt making project for the vulnerable women. She became interested in this income generation opportunity as she could work from her home. She immediately contacted the Shura and was listed among beneficiaries. Zia Jan made ten quilts and returned nine to IMC for distribution and received one for herself. In addition to this she received USD 12.00 as wages from IMC. It was the first time she had earned money as she is not allowed to leave her home like many other Afghan women.

Story 3.

Azima comes from a village in Kapisa and lives in Ahmad Shah Mina district of Kabul. She repatriated from Pakistan along with her family, after six years, and had been struggling for survival ever since.

When she heard that there would be a knitting center for women near her home where women could knit to earn money, she became very hopeful and contacted the Knitting Center Manager.

She was selected to work at the knitting center and in the first month, received training in the use of a knitting machine. Then she started knitting sweaters and was able to earn USD 132.00 in wages. Azima hopes that IMC or other organizations will start similar projects in other areas of Kabul, to help the many vulnerable women in and around Kabul.

V. Conclusion

IMC's ID department successfully completed implementation of the Winterization program by 30 June 2004. IMC received several applications from communities to start similar programs in other areas. Due to funding limitations however, this was not possible. Still, with the allocated budget an extended period of implementation IMC was able to reach three times more than the targeted number of beneficiaries. In light of the timing of this project, IMC expects that the beneficiaries of the quilts and warm clothing will experience a greater impact during the coming winter season. Communities and District Administrations were very happy with IMC's work, and expect that IMC will continue implementation of similar programs in future.

Summary Table of Beneficiaries of the OFDA Winterization Project

S.N.	Description of Beneficiaries	Direct Individual Beneficiaries	Indirect Beneficiaries (Family Members)
1	Vulnerable families receive quilts	10,085	70,595
2	Quilt makers receive quilts+ cash	2518	17,626
3	Poor families receive warm clothes	18,146	127,022
4	Poor families receive knitted items	2953	20,671
5	Machine knitting trainees (CFW)	30	210
6	Hand knitting CFW beneficiaries	700	4,900
7	Sewing trainees (CFW)	400	2,800
8	Poor women receive sewing machines	300	2,100
9	Sewing machine maintenance trainees	60	420
10	Male CFW beneficiaries	3123	21,861
TOTAL # OF BENEFICIARIES		38,015	268,205