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AFGHANISTAN SMALL AND MEDIUM ENTERPRISE DEVELOPMENT (ASMED)

MONTHLY REPORT: May 2011

May2011

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AFGHANISTAN SMALL AND MEDIUM ENTERPRISE DEVELOPMENT (ASMED)

MONTHLY REPORT APRIL 2011

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ABBREVIATIONS

ABA	Afghan Builder's Association
AIB	Afghan International Bank
AISA	Afghanistan Investment Support Agency
ACCI	Afghanistan Chamber of Commerce and Industries
ASMED	Afghanistan Small and Medium Enterprise Development
ASTM	American Society for Testing and Material
ATVI	Afghanistan Technical and Vocational Institute
BDC	Business Development Center
BDS	Business Development Services
BDSP	Business Development Services Provider
CTTC	Champion Technical Training Center
EDG	Economic Development Grant
EPAA	Export Promotion Agency of Afghanistan
GDA	Global Development Alliance
KTD	Key Terrain Districts
MDG	Marketplace Development Grant
MOU	Memorandum of Understanding
NGO	Non-governmental Organization
PMP	Performance Monitoring Plan
PRT	Provincial Reconstruction Team
SME	Small and Medium Enterprise
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization
RHL	Remote Hydro-Light

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The ASMED team continues in implementation mode, preparing a large volume of procurements and technical assistance packages to implement activities. During this reporting period, ASMED closed three grants totaling \$70,411 and one GDA totaling \$201,701. ASMED approved eight grants totaling \$496,559 and two GDAs totaling \$426,500.

A promising GDA approved during this reporting period is the establishment of a leather tannery which will purchase raw skins and process them so that they are marketable for export. The total cost of the investment is \$1,854,500, with an ASMED contribution of \$326,500. Afghanistan Animal By-Products Co., LTD will build the tannery to international specifications for an environmentally friendly way of bringing Afghan skins to the world. The Chesht-e Marble Processing Plant, capable of producing export quality tile, slabs and cladding is nearly complete. It will put 140-150 Afghans to work – including 20-30 women.

As ASMED prepares for closedown, a lasting contribution to the economic growth of Afghanistan could be future economic development leaders who have honed their skills as employees here. Twenty of ASMED's mid-level management staff successfully graduated from the second Leadership Training course in ASMED's staff capacity building program during this reporting period. Many of the participants from this and the previous course started with ASMED during its infancy, and have grown with the project, dedicated to helping their country improve.

Technical performance challenges during this month included developing technically appropriate equipment specifications for grantees and GDA partners and accomplishing the large volume of procurement that remains to be done in order to complete activities on time.

May HIGHLIGHTS:

CENTRAL HIGHLIGHTS

Leadership Training Graduation

Twenty of ASMED's mid-level management staff successfully graduated from the Leadership Training course May 30. The seven-month training was conducted by Silk Road Solutions (SRS). Participants were chosen from various departments and committed to attending two days of training a month, in addition to an hour of one-on-one coaching held with a certified SRS Trainer. The training began Oct. 31, 2010 and concluded May 30. The training helped staff develop their leadership and management skills, create measurable and challenging visions and action plans, build trust and promote teamwork, delegate authority and responsibility, manage time and improve communications.



Leadership training graduates
USAID/ASMED

EASTERN HIGHLIGHTS

Juice Machine Arrives in Nangarhar

ASMED is supporting the Ibrahim Malikzai Foods & Beverages Company (IMFBC) through a Value Chain Improvement Grant (\$134,450) in Nangarhar Province. Through this grant the company will expand its product line to produce juice from fruit grown in Afghanistan. This supports rural employment, allowing farmers to sell their products through a separate market channel. The juice-filling line machine arrived in Nangarhar on May 29.



Arrival of Juice Filling Line Machine to IMFBC, Nangarhar
USAID/ASMED

NORTHERN HIGHLIGHTS

Mazar-i-Sharif Dry Fruits Processing Association Warehouse Inauguration

ASMED supported the Mazar-i-Sharif Dried Fruit Processing Association, in constructing a warehouse and providing training on sorting, grading, and packaging. An opening ceremony to inaugurate the Mazar-i Sharif Dry Fruits Processing Association Warehouse was held on May 19. The Deputy Director of Economy, the Economic Development Manager of Balkh Province, Ahmad Wali Sangar, and USAID Agriculture Advisor Coleman Wallace Carson were in attendance. Sangar spoke about the importance of the warehouses and said he appreciated ASMED's technical and financial support. All components of the grant were designed to support members to increase sales and produce a higher quality product.



Ahmad Wali Sangar Economic Development Manager of Balkh Province
USAID/ASMED

WESTERN HIGHLIGHTS

Opening Ceremony of the Chesht-e Marble Processing Plant

ASMED, through a Global Development Alliance (\$400,000), supported the Chesht-e Marble Processing Plant to establish a plant capable of producing export quality tile, slabs and cladding in the Guzara District. ASMED purchased machinery from Gaspari Menotti, which has already been installed at the project site. This GDA enables Chesht-e Marble to employ 140-150 workers (20-30 women), all who will be trained on site. An opening ceremony was held as part of the 2011 Marble Conference on May 25.

SOUTHERN HIGHLIGHTS

Obaidullah Fishing Production Farm (OFPF)

ASMED is supporting OFPF through a Value Chain Improvement Grant (\$27,000). Three types of fish (24,000 total) arrived at the farm May 25. And 26,000 fingerlings will be imported on June 10, which will contain three other types of fish. ASMED is providing the Solar Water Pumps, which will provide clean water for pools used to nourish the fish. This is the first fish farm in the area. Previously, fish were imported from neighboring countries. This project enables fresh fish to be made available in local markets. In the future, fish can be bred here, opening fish breeding opportunities for locals.



Obaidullah Fishing Production Farm
USAID/ASMED

GRANTS & GDAs UPDATES

During this reporting period, ASMED closed three grants totaling \$70,411 and one GDA totaling \$201,701. ASMED approved eight grants totaling \$496,559 and two GDAs totaling \$426,500.

CENTRAL REGION

KABUL PROVINCE

Primavera Software Training Commenced in Kabul

Under an ASMED stipend program to build capacity in sector-specific skills, 37 young engineers (two women) from qualified construction companies have begun training on Primavera software. Primavera is a project management software package with engineering scheduling and materials calculation features that is of particular use in the management of construction projects. Delivered by a private computer skills training company, the training is held at Kabul University's Engineering Department. Training began May 15 and should be completed by mid June.

VetServ Establishes New Brand

ASMED supports VetServ through a GDA (\$300,000) to enable them, with a local partner, to institutionalize the Dutch Committee of Afghanistan (DCA) program to sell international-standard products to livestock owners through the Veterinary Field Unit (VFU) system. ASMED's support assists VetServ to establish itself as a private, for-profit entity and to increase outreach and reliability. VetServ has finished creating a strong new branding design for products it distributes to help increase sales. Currently, DCA activities are supported and subsidized by the USAID-funded ASAP program. As ASAP will be coming to an end, DCA has formed VetServ to sustainably continue its vaccine and medicine distribution services. This will make it independent of donor and NGO support and ensure that VFUs will continue to reliably obtain quality vaccines and medicines at competitive prices through the private sector, long after the ASAP project ends.

KTD Business Development

ASMED, through subcontractor Silk Road Solutions (SRS), conducted a two-day training for 17 SMEs, May 24-25 in Puli Khumri, Baghlan Province, on the registration process for Joint Contingency Contracting System. Registration is required for SMEs to receive contracts with the RCCs. SMEs also were shown additional websites to track available tenders and solicitations.

Leadership Training Graduation

Twenty of ASMED's mid-level management staff successfully graduated from the Leadership Training course May 30. The seven-month training was conducted by Silk Road Solutions (SRS). Participants were chosen from various departments and committed to attending two days of training a month, in addition to an hour of one-on-one coaching held with a certified SRS Trainer. The training began Oct. 31, 2010 and concluded May 30. The training helped staff develop their leadership and management skills, create measurable and challenging visions and action plans, build trust and promote teamwork, delegate authority and responsibility, manage time and improve communications.



EASTERN REGION

NANGARHAR PROVINCE

Jalalabad Pathology Lab

As part of the Pathology Lab GDA (\$84,000) ASMED provided support for Dr. Arturo Mendoza, medical director of SHARP Mary Birch Pathology laboratory based in San Diego, and his colleagues to visit the pathology lab in Jalalabad, to ensure the successful operation of the lab and the lab equipment. Dr. Mendoza's team followed up on the installation and maintenance of the equipment and continued training the hystotechnologist. During the team's visit, the lab successfully conducted Primavera Training which prepares diagnostic slides and can accurately diagnose five patients. They also successfully field-tested the tele-pathology component of the program using internet-based communications to get assistance from a pathologist in San Diego in assessing a tissue biopsy from a remote site.

Alishang Market Upgrade Opening Ceremony

ASMED, through a Marketplace Development Grant (\$16,332) for the Shirzad Bilal Construction Company successfully completed the construction of five toilets, a well and water pump on April 27 in Qala-e-Nagil Bazaar, Alishang District. Construction will improve commerce by allowing residents to stay longer at the bazaar and providing a healthier environment for food products kept in the Qala-e-Nagil Bazaar. The opening ceremony was held on May 2. Due to security concerns, ASMED did not attend the ceremony.

Generator in Transit to the Afghan Rice Mill

ASMED is supporting the Afghan Rice Mill through a Value Chain Improvement Grant (\$196,000). The grantee signed a contract with the Falcon Power Engineering Company on May 12, in Lahore, Pakistan to provide a 292 KW generator to enable the plant to operate more efficiently. The facility strengthens market linkages with other food manufacturing firms, increases market value of goods and reduces the need to import rice.

Quarry Machinery Arrives at Sahil Tora Bora Marble Processing Plant Facility

ASMED is supporting the Sahil Tora Bora Marble Processing Plant through a Value Chain Improvement Grant (\$81,000). The quarry machinery arrived in Jalalabad on May 29. This grant enables the Sahil Marble Factory to extract marble in clean blocks free of fractures. It also enables the company to have the capability of producing up to 500 tons daily from its mine and will process 100 tons daily while selling 400 tons to the three other marble processors in the region, creating job opportunities in Nangarhar.

Juice Machine Arrives in Nangarhar

ASMED is supporting the Ibrahim Malikzai Foods & Beverages Company (IMFBC) through a Value Chain Improvement Grant (\$134,450) in Nangarhar Province. Through this grant the company will expand its product line to produce juice from fruit grown in Afghanistan. This supports rural employment, allowing farmers to sell their products through a separate market channel. The juice-filling line machine arrived in Nangarhar on May 29.



Arrival of Juice Filling Line Machinery to IMFBC, Nangarhar
USAID/ASMED

KTDs

NANGARHAR PROVINCE

Food Preparation Industry Small Businesses Receive Pest Management Training

ASMED contracted a local pest management specialist to train small businesses in the food preparation industry in Shinwar and Kuz Kunar Districts. The objective of this activity is to provide training and recommendations to food processing firms to prevent the introduction and spread of pests. To achieve this, the Pest Management Training in the Food Industry will provide guidelines and recommendations specifically tailored to the needs of small- and medium-scale food producers in those areas of Afghanistan. Training began May 1 and ends July 31.

Haji Maidan Box-Making Company

ASMED is supporting the Haji Maidan Box-Making Company through a Value Chain Improvement Grant (\$37,500) in Shinwar District, Nangarhar signed on May 1. Under this grant, ASMED will procure steel manufacturing equipment and provide technical training to help the company produce different size boxes and other high-quality iron products. The company also plans to extend its network by establishing new distribution offices in different provinces, launching new products and promotes new skills for its employees.

Gul Khitab Hayat Global Press Company receive Equipment

ASMED is supporting Gul Khitab Hayat Global Press Company through a Value Chain Improvement Grant (\$240,000) in Surkh Rod District, Nangarhar signed on May 1. The grant procures industrial scale steel working machinery for Gul Khitab Hayat Global and enables Gul Khitab Hayat Global Press to improve the quality of their steel products, increase its market share, and create 40 jobs.

NORTHERN REGION

Implementation of Marketing Strategy Plan for the Pamir Belawr Salt Refinery Company

ASMED is supporting the Pamir Belawr Salt Refinery Company through a GDA (\$150,200) to implement a marketing campaign. ASMED is providing technical guidance and support during implementation of the plan. The advertising company produced a video clip and sample banners on May 9. The video clip will be used for television commercials, and the banners will be installed in nine targeted provinces of Northern Afghanistan.

Consultancy Services for TWARA

ASMED is supporting TWARA through a Value Chain Improvement Grant (\$16,600). ASMED contracted Balkh BDS on May 10 to provide business consultancy services for TWARA association members. The consultancy began May 14 for a period of two weeks to help the association improve production and expand its market. The project focused on supply chain analysis, production efficiencies, and product design.

Inauguration of Mazar-i-Sharif Dry Fruits Processing Association Warehouse

ASMED supported the Mazar-i-Sharif Dried Fruit Processing Association, in constructing a warehouse and to provide training on sorting, grading, and packaging. An opening ceremony to inaugurate the Mazar-i-Sharif Dry Fruits Processing Association Warehouse was held on May 19. The Deputy Director of Economy, the Economic Development Manager of Balkh Province, Ahmad Wali Sangar, and USAID Agriculture Advisor Coleman Wallace Carson were in attendance. Sangar spoke about the importance of the warehouses and said he appreciated ASMED technical and financial support. All components of the grant were designed to support members to increase sales and produce a higher quality product.



Ahmad Wali Sangar Economic Development
Manager of Balkh Province
USAID/ASMED

WESTERN REGION

HERAT PROVINCE

Herat Business Directory (Farday-e-Sabz)

ASMED through an Economic Development Grant (\$14 129) is supporting the Farday E Sabz (Green Tomorrow) Business Magazine to establish the first business directory in Herat City. ASMED contracted the Farday-e-Sabz business magazine to collect the data beginning May 3. The directory will provide information for more than 400 active businesses in the region, allowing them to get new customers and to facilitate business connections, creating six direct jobs.

Construction Company, Electronic Services Providers Receive Training

ASMED, with support of Silk Road Solutions, sponsored a four-day professional capacity building training course for 18 members of Heart-based construction companies and electronic services providers on how to navigate websites to find contract information and online registration April 30 to May 2. Participants were trained to become familiar with the donor websites to set up or expand businesses.

Industrial Park Companies Receive Business Training

ASMED subcontractor, Silk Road Solutions, conducted a three-day capacity building training May 8-10 for 15 business owners from Herat's Industrial Park. The aim of the training was to provide effective marketing approaches and how to identify and attract more vendors in an effort to expand businesses.

Habibi Brothers Begin New Construction

ASMED is supporting the Habibi Brothers Mushroom Company through a Value Chain Improvement Grant (\$48,119.05) to increase its production capacity. Construction of the new foundation was completed on May 10 and the steel frames of the buildings have been erected. Production equipment is in the process of being manufactured by the selected vendor in India.



Badghis Youth Association Receives Carpet-Cutting Equipment

ASMED supported the Badghis Carpet Traders Association (BCTA) through a Value Chain Improvement Grant (\$3,500) to install carpet-cutting equipment. However, because the BCTA did not provide its contribution of a generator and rental costs, the grant was cancelled.

The carpet-cutting service is not available in Badghis, so ASMED sought an alternative beneficiary. The Badghis Youth Association (BYA) was chosen as they will provide the electricity and facilities required to operate the equipment. ASMED handed over the equipment to the BYA on May 15.

Food Safety, Quality Assurance Training for Super Cola, Zalal Mowafaq Factories

ASMED provided technical training May 17-18 to support the Super Cola Factory and the Zalal Mowafaq Factory, who are seeking to supply water and soft drinks to ISAF/DLA via their contracted supplier, Supreme Food Service. The training addressed issues identified in the preliminary audit regarding safety, sanitation and Hazard Analysis and Critical Control Point (HACCP) programs.

Heart-based Construction Companies Receive Basic Business Development Training

ASMED subcontractor, Silk Road Solutions, conducted a three-day capacity building training May 23-25 for 10 representatives of Heart-based construction companies. The training familiarized them with new company profiles and how to prepare a winning proposal to set up or expand businesses.

Heart City SMEs Receive Proposal Writing Training

ASMED, through Silk Road Solutions, conducted a three-day proposal writing workshop May 23-25, for 15 SMEs in Herat City. The training taught SMEs how to write a professional proposal.

3rd Annual Afghanistan International Marble Conference

The 3rd Annual Afghanistan International Marble Conference was held May 24-27 in Herat Province. The conference brought together marble producers, processors, businesses, international investors and government officials to highlight Afghanistan's marble industry, identify challenges, and learn about possible Marble Sector opportunities.

“Expanding the marble industry in Afghanistan has the potential to create thousands of jobs, stabilize a struggling economy and generate a significant amount of revenue for both the Afghan private sector and the Afghan government,” said U.S. Ambassador Karl W. Eikenberry during the ribbon-cutting ceremony.

The conference featured presentations from the Ministry of Mines, the Afghanistan Investment Support Agency (AISA), the Afghanistan Chamber of Commerce & Industry, and the Export Promotion Agency of Afghanistan. Current marble exports are estimated at \$15 million per year. With improved extraction, processing, infrastructure and investment, the industry has the potential to grow into a \$450 million per year business. This year's conference was organized as a strategic partnership between the Afghanistan Marble Industry Association, AISA and the government of Afghanistan. USAID and the Italian Embassy offered support in this effort, working closely with the Ministry of Mines, international donors, marble industry associations, and the private sector in an effort to maximize the industry's potential to generate employment, attract greater investment and increase industry profits.



Youth Entrepreneurship Training

ASMED subcontracted the Fazilat Consulting Company through a GDA (\$300,000) to conduct Youth Entrepreneurship Training in Tajerin Jawanan District, Herat Province beginning May 29. Under the same GDA, this training has already been conducted in Kabul and Jalalabad, and will be implemented in Mazar-i-Sharif Province in early summer.

Ayubi Poultry Company Industrial

ASMED, through a Global Development Alliance (\$253,390) supports one of the largest poultry farming/processing facilities in the Western Region in becoming a supplier of poultry farming inputs (chicks and feed) to the regional market. Ayubi Poultry is located in Injil District, Herat. The construction for a new mother stock facility and hatchery was completed, facilities were connected to utilities, and the hatchery machinery is installed. The mother stock equipment is en route from India. ASMED signed a

KTDS

HERAT PROVINCE

Internet Facility in Zinda Jan District, Herat

ASMED, through an Economic Development Grant (\$10,389) supports local businesses to provide information technology facilities via a Copy Shop in Zinda Jan District, Herat province. This center provides IT services for existing businesses in Zinda Jan District. ASMED started collecting quotations for procurement of six computers, black and white printer, color printer, scanner, copy machine and power stabilizer May 23.

Internet Facility in Qala-e-Naw City, Badghis

Through an Economic Development Grant (\$10,389), ASMED supports the local businesses to provide Information Technology facilities via a Copy Shop in Qala-e-Naw, Badghis Province. This center provides IT services for existing businesses in Qala-e-Naw. ASMED started collecting quotations May 23 for the procurement of six computers, black and white printer, color printer, scanner, copy machine and power stabilizer.

Herat Industrial Slaughterhouse Update

Through a Global Development Alliance (\$1,133,000), ASMED is supporting a local import/export company to establish Afghanistan's first international standard slaughtering facility in Injil District, Herat Province. ASMED contracted Green Tec Designing Company to design the waste water treatment plant May 22. This ensures the appropriate environmental and food safety standards are achieved. ASMED is also in the process of contracting technical assistance for the design, procurement and commissioning of HISL's equipment lines, development of a HACCP plan and procedures, and training of slaughterhouse employees.

Chesht-e Marble Processing Plant (CMP) Opening Ceremony

ASMED, through a Global Development Alliance (\$400,000) supported the Chesht-e Marble Processing Plant (CMP) to establish a plant capable of producing export quality tile, slabs and cladding in the Guzara District. ASMED purchased machinery from Gaspari Menotti, which has already been installed at the project site. This project employs 140-150 workers (20-30 women), all of whom will be trained on site. An opening ceremony was held as part of the 2011 Marble Conference on May 25.

Chesht-e-Sharif Marble Factory Installs Marble Crane

Through a Value Chain Improvement Grant (\$35,000), ASMED is supporting the Chesht-e-Sharif Marble Factory in Guzara District, Herat Province to install a new marble crane. This grant allows the company to increase production volume, support marble businesses in the Western Region to enable competition with neighboring countries, create employment for locals, facilitate exports to neighboring countries and facilitate the export of more products. The vendor procured the remaining parts (joints, rails and motors), and as of May 29, has completed 85 percent of the crane construction.



SOUTHERN REGION

KANDAHAR PROVINCE

Purchase Order Signed with AISA for Computers, Furniture

ASMED is supporting the Afghanistan Investment Support Agency (AISA) through a Purchase Order (\$5,570) signed on May 17 in Kandahar Province. ASMED will provide computers, internet, a projector, furniture and bookshelves for the AISA library. This PO provides access to a library that will assist traders to create and manage their business in a professional manner.

New Packaging Machinery Arrives at Mushkani Paper Process Production Company

ASMED, through a GDA (\$85,000), supported the Mushkani Paper Process Production Company. They received new machinery May 18 that ensures its products are packed in a professional way so they can charge higher prices and attract more customers. The machinery enables dried and fresh fruit products to be packaged in Afghanistan rather than in Pakistan and India. In Afghanistan, there are no trained engineers able to install the new machinery. ASMED is recruiting for an engineer to support commissioning of the equipment.

Obaidullah Fishing Production Farm (OFFP)

ASMED is supporting OFFP through a Value Chain Improvement Grant (\$27,000). Three types of fish (24,000 total) arrived at the farm May 25. And 26,000 fingerlings will be imported on June 10, which will contain three other types of fish. ASMED is providing the Solar Water Pumps, which will provide clean water for pools used to nourish the fish. This is the first fish farm in the area. Previously, fish were imported from neighboring countries. This project enables fresh fish to be made available in local markets. In the future, fish can be bred here, opening fish breeding opportunities for locals.



GLOBAL DEVELOPMENT ALLIANCES (GDA) & GRANTS

Total Disbursed January 2011

Description	Grants	GDA
Total Number Approved	8	2
Total Number Closed	3	1
Total Amount Approved	\$496,559	\$426,500
Total Amount Closed	\$70,411	\$201,701
Total Disbursed	\$306,442	\$382,655

Approved GDAs

Afghanistan Animal By-Products Co.

Afghanistan Animal By-Products Co., LTD (AABC) is a hide and skin trading and tanning company based in Kabul. ASMED awarded a GDA concept (\$326,500) to the company to establish a leather tannery May 15, which will purchase raw skins and process so that it is marketable for export. The company is registered with AISA and is established and owned by Michael Sultan, a New York-based leather hides and skins importer/exporter. AABC purchases raw material available in territorial Afghanistan. AABC currently processes these skins in Afghanistan to the extent necessary to allow for legal offering into international hides and skins markets. This processing is done through sub-contracting work given to various Afghan and non-Afghan tanneries. AABC wants to establish a leather tannery in Jalalabad Bihsud, Nangarhar Province, which will purchase raw skins and hides locally and process these items so they are marketable for export. AABC will build the tannery to international specifications for an environmentally friendly goal of bringing Afghan skins to the world. The total cost of the proposed GDA is \$1,854,500. Site assessments were completed May 1. Machinery was ordered May 25. Engineering and plans are scheduled to be completed on or about June 10. Machinery is scheduled to arrive July 15. Construction is slated for July 1 through Aug. 3. Technical installation begins Aug. 1, and local staff training begins Aug. 20. Production is scheduled to begin Aug. 20.

Frotan Auto Gas

ASMED is supporting Frotan Auto Gas Company through a Global Development Alliance (\$100,000) in Jalalabad, Nangarhar signed on May 26. Through this GDA, ASMED enables Frotan Auto Gas to expand its operation in the Eastern Region and will establish a conversion workshop and two pilot fueling stations in Jalalabad City. Established in 2008, Frotan Auto Gas converts automobiles to use Liquid Petroleum Gas (LPG), providing the converted fuel at several fueling stations. LPG is a clean, safe, cost-effective alternative to fossil fuels, improving the environment, living conditions and accelerating economic growth by lowering the cost of transportation for businesses and consumers. The workshop and filling stations will spur private sector growth by creating skilled jobs and lowering the costs of local transportation.

Closed GDAs

Completion of Paiman Atlas Group Carpet Cut-and-Wash

As part of a \$1,012,730 total investment, ASMED successfully completed GDA (ASMED contribution \$201,793), awarded to Paiman Atlas Group Carpet Cut and Wash Company May 30. The GDA contributed to providing equipment used to create the largest top quality carpet cut-and-wash, finishing and repair facility in Afghanistan. Carpets are now exported with “Made in Afghanistan” labels. The facility has a processing capacity of more than 615 square meters per day.



Completion of Paiman Atlas Carpet Cut and Wash
USAID/ASMED

Approved Grants

American Nuristani Imports International LLC

ASMED awarded a Value Chain Improvement Grant (\$97,250) to American Nuristani Imports International LCC May 7. The center is located in Jalalabad City, Nangarhar Province. ASMED contribution was used to purchase a gemstone workshop complete set of equipment, stone setting items, soldering items, casting items, marketing materials and transportation. This was a unique initiative as a number of professionals will be hired initially from outside the country. The project will expand the company’s current business operation and create 39 new jobs. The grant will be completed on Aug. 31.

Rahmat Insaf Fish Hatchery Grant Signed May 10

ASMED signed a Value Chain Improvement Grant (\$59,657) with the Rahmat Insaf Hatchery and Fish Farming in Surkh Rod District, Nangarhar on May 10. The grant provides infrastructure improvements so the existing hatchery can operate at full capacity. ASMED is also providing technical assistance for the hatchery staff. ASMED mobilized aquaculture expert Dr. John Hargreaves to provide hands-on training during this year’s spawning season. A major restraint on the growth of fish farms is the availability of cheap, high-quality fingerlings, due to the high cost of transportation of fingerlings from Pakistan and the high rate of loss during transportation. By improving the volume of locally available fingerlings, this project will indirectly benefit the 128 active fish farms in the Eastern Region.



Dr. John Hargreaves, aquaculture expert makes his initial assessment of the Rahmat Insaf Fish Hatchery
(USAID/ASMED)

Rahmani Arian Cola and Non-Alcoholic Beverage Production Factory

ASMED awarded a Value Chain Improvement Grant (\$88,112) May 29 to Rahmani Arian Cola and Non-Alcoholic Beverage Production Factory located in Haji Abad Village, Laghman Province. ASMED contribution will be used for the Sheenstar Carbonated Beverage Production line, transportation and shipment cost of the equipment, business training, branding and marketing support. This will help the factory increase production and create more job opportunities. The grant will be completed on Aug. 31. A total of 29 new jobs will be created - six for women.

Karim Wood Molding Factory

ASMED awarded a Value Chain Improvement Grant (\$8,400) to Karim Wood Molding Factory May 29. The factory is located in Khogaini District, Nangarhar Province. The grant will purchase wood working equipment, enabling the firm to make unique, high-quality decorative wood molding used for doors, windows, glass, tables and chairs. This grant helps the firm expand its production and marketing in the Eastern Region, creating 15 jobs. ASMED will also provide business training to help improve business management.

Zaheerullah Waterproof Powder Production Company

ASMED is supporting Zaheerullah Waterproof Powder Production Company, located in Surkh Rod District, Nangarhar Province, through a Value Chain Improvement Grant (\$36,200) which was approved May 29. Under this grant, ASMED will procure talc grinding and processing equipment and provide business training. This grant enables the firm to improve its product, which is used in many common construction materials, and creates eight permanent jobs.

Shams Rubber Equipment Production Factory

ASMED is supporting the Shams Rubber Equipment Production Factory, located in Qarghai District, Laghman Province, through a Value Chain Improvement Grant (\$57,200) which was approved May 29. Under this grant, ASMED will procure rubber production equipment that allows the company to make new products and increase the volume of production, creating 40 new jobs. Additionally, ASMED will provide technical training to the administrative staff to help the company improve its business management.

Samangan Copy Shop

ASMED awarded an Economic Development Grant (\$24,740) May 29 to the Federation of Afghanistan Craftsmen and Traders for a Copy Shop Center located in Ayback City, Samangan Province. ASMED contribution will be used to provide IT facilities to the area. This project supports the local business and will grant residents access to internet and computers. The district contains mainly literate people who require access to IT equipment to increase their knowledge by accessing computers, internet, printers, scanners and copiers. Overall, 200 SME's will be supported.

Afghanistan Gemstone Traders Association

ASMED awarded an Association Development Grant (\$125,000) to Afghanistan Gemstone Traders Association. The Center is located on Chicken Street in Kabul, where many of the gemstone dealers, jewelers, and cutters are located. The purpose of the grant is to establish a gemstone training center in Kabul, which will include both cutting and polishing of jewelry design and to be a production learning center. This will allow easy access to the center and also makes it easier for the association to ensure the raw materials are being used for its intended purpose. Overall, 30 men and 10 women will benefit from this project. The grant was approved on May 29, and will be completed on July 15.

Closed Grants

Alishang Toilet Facilities

Through an ASMED Marketplace Development Grant (\$16,332), construction of toilet facilities has been successfully completed. ASMED contribution paid for the construction of five toilets, a deep well and sanitation system water pump, which will be used by a large number of business people in the Qala-e-Nagil Bazar, Jalalabad Province. During implementation, 10 laborers were employed. Local government will permanently hire two people for facility maintenance. The grant was approved in June 2008 and completed on May 15.

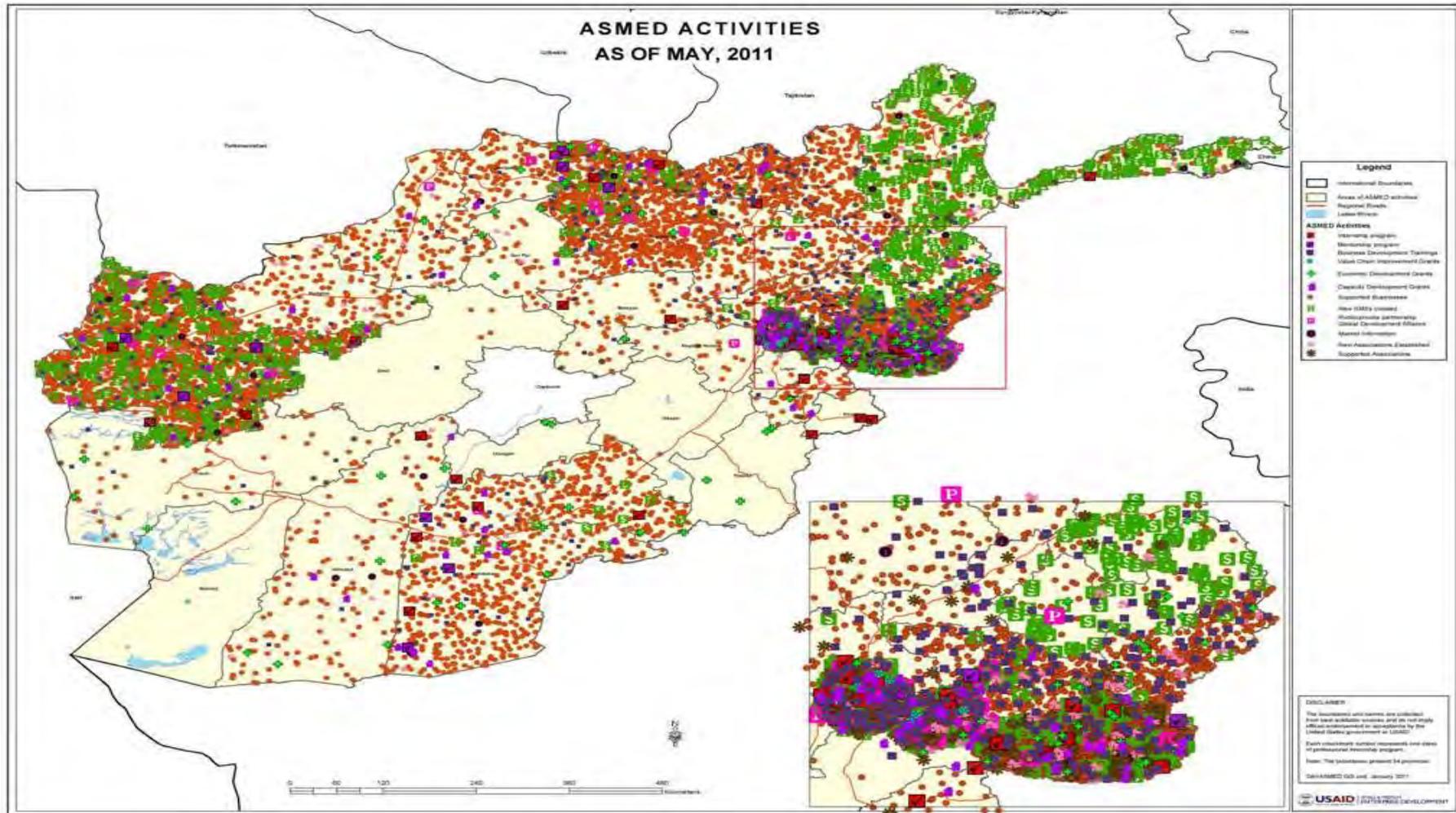
Construction of Drainage and Pavement System

Through an ASMED Economic Development Grant (\$14,079), construction of a drainage and pavement system in Spin Boldak District was successfully completed. The project constructed a 350M drainage and pavement system. It was completed on May 26. The project immediately created nine SME's and 20 sustainable jobs. The grant was approved on Dec. 28, 2008.

New Sardar Afghan

New Sardar Afghan Import-Export Company grant (\$40,000) was successfully completed May 26. The company is located in Kandahar City. The grant was used to purchase machinery for cleaning, separating and packing, installing processed plastic in cartons, and installation belts for cartons. Implementation of this project provided packed products in a modern and most professional way, to attract the attention of fruit traders.

ANNEX I PROJECT ACTIVITIES MAP MAY 2011



**AFGHANISTAN SMALL AND MEDIUM ENTERPRISE
DEVELOPMENT
DARULAMAN ROAD, KABUL
AFGHANISTAN
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