

RESILIENT AGRICULTURE AND LIVELIHOODS INITIATIVE FOR SOCIO-ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT

REFLECT Circle, Afghanistan

Strengthening community resilience through increasing economic security and government engagement

Project overview:

Resilient Agriculture and Livelihoods Initiative for Socio-economic Empowerment (REALISE) is a project implemented by ActionAid Australia, ActionAid Afghanistan and 4 local partners under the Australian Government's Australian Afghanistan Community Engagement Scheme.

In its first phase, REALISE strengthened community resilience among vulnerable households. This was undertaken in 97 communities in 3 provinces and 6 districts, improving food and nutritional security, increasing their economic security, and developing their capacity to engage with government and others on issues related to service provision and policies at the village, district, provincial and national level. In phase two, REALISE will continue to focus on the empowerment of rural women with low levels of literacy and people with disabilities in 78 communities in 2 provinces and 4 districts, working with 2 partners. It will also increase efforts to reach internally displaced persons.

Through this program, ActionAid has been working with groups identified as the most vulnerable and marginalised, including women-headed households, people with disabilities, landless women and men, sharecroppers, and those with small areas of mostly rain-fed land.

Some of the key project activities and outputs:

This project is supporting women and men in Afghanistan to raise their voices, and raise awareness on how agriculture and livelihoods can strengthen community resilience to hazards such as floods and droughts, through:

- Engaging rural communities in Jawzjan (phase 1), Balkh and Bamyan provinces in Afghanistan to develop their resilience to shocks and seasonal fluctuations in food and livelihood security;
- Supporting women to grow their savings, improve social protection and have access to small amounts of capital to improve their income generation;
- Training 3,292 women in literacy and numeracy; which is also deepening their understanding of women's rights;
- Developing capacity to sustain production increases over the longer term through activities such as seed production, food/grain banks and farmer field schools.

Project duration:

Phase 1: 2014 - 2018

Phase 2: 2018 - 2020

Supported by:

The Australian Government through the Australian Afghanistan Community Resilience Scheme (AACRS)

In partnership with:

ActionAid Afghanistan and 2 local NGOs

Location:

Bamyan, Jawzjan and Balkh, Afghanistan

Project objectives:

Strengthen community resilience among vulnerable households by:

- Improving food and nutritional security;
- Increasing their economic asset base;
- Strengthening their engagement with government.

Impact:

In its first phase, this project directly supported 12,269 households across 97 communities. It has addressed the challenges of low agricultural productivity, low capacity to generate income, and weak community participation, particularly of women. In phase 2, the REALISE project will continue to support communities with livestock and agricultural training, nutrition training, business development training and market entry, small infrastructure, food security training, human rights training and more.

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