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STRENGTHENING COMMUNITIES: EMPOWERING PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES THROUGH EMPLOYMENT PROJECT (SC-EPDE)

SEPTEMBER 2013 - FEBRUARY 2015

\$300,000

OVERVIEW

People with Disabilities (PwDs) are among Afghanistan's most vulnerable. One out of every five households has a disabled family member. PwDs generally have less access than others to education, health services, and sustainable livelihoods. Seventy-four percent of children with disabilities lack access to education. Of working-aged persons with disabilities, 90 percent are unemployed, compared to the national average of

40 percent (National Disability Survey of Afghanistan 2005, Handicap International).

USAID's Strengthening Communities: Empowering People with Disabilities through Employment (SC-EPDE) project worked to increase employment and economic opportunities for PwDs in Kabul province through vocational, literacy, computer and English language training. The \$300,000 project also managed public awareness sessions to reduce social barriers and negative views of PwDs and enhance their rights. SC-EPDE began in September 2013 and was completed in February 2015.

ACTIVITIES

- Conducted vocational training, job placement, and basic education and public awareness sessions.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- Identified and assessed the socio-economic situation of 256 PwDs
- Enrolled 87 PwDs in vocational trainings, 20 of whom graduated and received small grants to establish businesses
- Integrated 46 PwDs into basic education courses teaching computer skills, English language and standard school subjects
- Conducted awareness sessions for 88 family members of PwDs and 1,163 community members (566 male and 597 female)

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