

Fish Farming and Food-For-Work Afghanistan



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Project Goal:

To improve the livelihoods opportunities of extremely vulnerable individuals through vocational training and Cash-for-Work or Food-for-Work programs.

LOCATION

Basawar village,
Mohmandara district,
Nangarhar Province,
Afghanistan

DURATION

September – December
2008

IMPLEMENTING PARTNER

National Consultancy and
Relief Association (NCRA)

BUDGET

US\$40,858

OVERVIEW

Basawar is a high return village located in Mohmandara district of Nangarhar province. Around 990 families / 6,570 individuals have returned to the village in 2007 and 2008 alone. One of the major reintegration challenges faced by returnees is the lack of any livelihoods opportunities. The situation is even more difficult in the case of families/individuals who are extremely vulnerable such as widows and female heads of households. During the needs assessment in 2007, the Basawar community raised awareness of the need to provide community-based vocational training and income generating activities to best benefit most vulnerable members of the community.

Following discussions with the community, the fish farm project was developed because the village has suitable land and climate for fish farming. Several capable villagers have already started home-based fish farms and confirmed that the activity has been beneficial to their households. The elders of the village have agreed to provide communal land for the project so that community-based fish farms can be established for the most vulnerable community members.

AIM OF PROJECT

This project is expected to bring a positive impact on the livelihood of the community in both short and long terms. In addition to the income/food obtained from the construction work, the project will help the beneficiaries to obtain decent incomes through the sale of fish. It will also improve nutrition intake through fish consumption at home. The project is supported by WFP and its Food-for-Work programme.

- Provide fish farming skills and basic marketing knowledge to returnees
- Establish group-based fish farms with start-up materials for extremely vulnerable returnees
- Provide cash-for-work/food-for-work opportunities to returnees for construction of fish ponds

PROJECT OUTPUTS / RESULTS

- Fish Farming training is provided six (6) days a week for 4 hours per day to 100 vulnerable returnees (2 months)
- Construction of six fish ponds with the size of 20m X 25m X 1.5m with necessary equipment
- Practical training on fish production and fish farm management for 15 selected trainees in three groups (2 months)
- Provision of start-up materials for the three group-based fish farms including fish fries (fingerlings) and feed
- Provide follow up and guidance by the IP including marketing skills and contacts

IMPACTS

- 100 vulnerable returnees (80 men and 20 women) acquired basic skills on fish farming and marketing
- 15 most vulnerable female trainees earn income from the three group-based fish farms (5 persons per group, each group with two ponds). Target net-income to be generated during full production capacity is \$750 per month per group or \$150 per participant.
- 12,651 men/days unskilled labors (about 600 labors per day) receive food and wage (\$1.5/day) from the construction work.

This project has helped to improve the livelihoods of many people in the Nangarhar province of Afghanistan. Not only have the beneficiaries learned to support themselves, they have also become less vulnerable. The fish farming skills they have learned will stay with them for their entire lives, and consequently they should be able to keep using these skills to generate an income.