

The Central Highlands Program

The Central Highlands Program (CHP) started in March 2014. The overall objective is to increase the living standards and quality of life of rural mountainous populations by promoting balanced rural development and preservation of natural resources. The program is implemented by a consortium of 3 INGOs: GERES, Solidarites International and MADERA, and funded by the French Development Agency. The program aims to promote sustainable development by impacting the agricultural and livestock sector, disseminating energy saving solutions, preserving natural resources and promoting institutional dialogue. For better implementation and coordination with local government, two MoUs have been signed with MRRD and MAIL. In addition, the programme aims to support Bamyan University (BU) in collaboration with the Afghanistan Center at Kabul University (ACKU).



Safe Drinking Water



In Yakawlang district, most of the remote areas face a similar problem: a lack of access to safe drinking water. Since 2014, in order to partially solve this issue, SI teams have supported the construction of 9 infrastructures, such as water networks, spring protections or wells, in 8 villages. These latter allow 257 households to have an improved access to drinking water. Some additional infrastructures will be build in 2016.



Irrigation Management



Madera successfully completed the construction of 7 infrastructure projects to provide sufficient irrigation water and to protect natural resources in both districts of Behsud I & II, such as the extension of an irrigation canal, a micro dam, reservoirs, super passages and protection walls. In all mentioned projects communities contributed 30% of cost in kind and took charge of the maintenance.



Energy Saving Solutions



In order to reduce the economic and environmental burden of energy for households, Component 2 are supporting the promotion of more efficient and comfortable energy technologies throughout the Central Highlands. So far 7 technologies have been introduced, leading to more than 1300 disseminations by trained craftsmen.

Knowledge sharing and institutional dialogue



CHP has been working closely with DRRD, DMAIL and DoEc in Bamyan and Maidan Wardak. Organizing workshops, seminars, trainings and field visits for local government are part of component 4 activities. For knowledge sharing CHP has worked more closely with the University of Bamyan, managing to create an Afghanistan Centre at Kabul University (ACKU) station in Bamyan.

Our latest achievements in the Central Highlands!

44% of targeted beneficiaries are equipped with energy saving solutions in 1st and 2nd year of the project. There are package of solutions developed by GERES team in order to reduce energy consumption of the rural populations.

1350 households has been received energy saving solutions in their houses under dissemination policy, through subsidies and based on market support mechanism.

7 greenhouses were build in Yakawlang district.

407 students from 10 schools of Yakawlang district participated in school gardens. In 2015.

804 families in Behsud 1 and 2 benefited from 7 irrigation infrastructure projects, a total of 1463 Jerib land came under irrigation and 450 Jerib were protected from erosion. The project established 36 pasture groups and has already been brought under community based pasture management. CHP has succeed to re-seed 114.2 ha of pasture land by sowing 2,609 kilograms of fodder seeds.

88% of the 33,000 saplings planted in Saighan district in 2014 and 2015 were still alive in Dec. 2015. The main objective of this activity is to reduce the soil erosion and therefore, floods and landslides.



Sayed Mohammad from Yakawlang, has been using his veranda for one year, he now says “we only use fuel during the night, no longer during the day. We can now reduce our heating fuels by half! It also serves as an extra room for our daily activities “



Najibullah is a mason and carpenter, he has been working with GERES since 2014. He says « I feel real changes on my business and life, before I worked 6 months per year and now I work almost 11 months per year. In my own house, I use 2 ESS (Improved Digidan and Veranda)”

Next steps

Support communities with large scale dissemination of EES

More irrigation and agriculture projects for beneficiaries

support local communities on livestock and irrigation infrastructures

