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Women's Entrepreneurship for Empowerment Project Tajikistan

ANNUAL REPORT:

October 1, 2017 – September 30, 2018

Fiscal year 4

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Women's Entrepreneurship for Empowerment

TAJIKISTAN

ANNUAL REPORT: **October 1, 2017 – September 30, 2018**

Activity Title: **Women's Entrepreneurship for Empowerment, Tajikistan**

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Contractor: **NABWT (National Association of Business Women of Tajikistan)**

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THE AUTHORS' VIEWS EXPRESSED IN THIS PUBLICATION DO NOT NECESSARILY REFLECT THE VIEWS OF THE UNITED STATES AGENCY FOR INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT OR THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

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Abbreviations

USAID – United States Agency for International Development
AOR – Agreement Officer Representative
NABWT – National Association of Business Women of Tajikistan
AMEP – Activity Monitoring and Evaluation Plan
PM – Project Manager
M&E – Monitoring and Evaluation
VC – Value Chain
VCT – Value Chain Team
FTF – Feed the Future

Definitions

Economically Active Women: Women who are conducting their own business and have ongoing sales and income. The project assumes and confirms through ongoing research that Economic empowerment combats discrimination and disadvantage. Economically active women are more likely to participate in decision-making and be advocates for their rights.

Economically Non-Active Women: Women who have not started any business or have any ongoing sales.

Dekhkan Farm – Literally “peasant farm” - A commercial farm subject to the agricultural single tax to where the members of the farm own non-land assets defined by the farm’s charter. Types include individual, family, and collective. *(source: USAID Tajikistan FAST Project documents published in 2014)*

Project Zone of Influence – Map of where the Project works



SECTION I: OVERALL PROGRESS OF THE WOMEN ENTREPRENEURSHIP FOR EMPOWERMENT PROJECT

Executive Summary

Project's key achievements in year four:

116 women started new businesses, and it is 116% of the project goal (PG) for Year 4 and 121% of the goal for the Life of the Project (LOP).

20 trainings were provided by vocational training centers, that is 100% of the project goal for Year 4.

2 training centers, fruits drying and mobile training centers established in accordance with project's annual work plan for year 4.

1280 women attended business and vocational trainings organized by the project in year 4, that is 107% of project goal for Year 4 and LOP.

180 women improved their existing businesses through increased profits, improved products, or increased hiring. This was 100% of the goal for Year 4, and 95% of the LOP.

16 women who are the project beneficiaries officially registered their businesses during the year four, which is 80% of the target.

67 women tested and 35 business women applied new technologies in strawberry and seedling production.

2041 people attended totally 34 events and networking on support of women's entrepreneurship held by the project support in Year 4.

191 women invested in their own businesses, which was 98% of the project goal for Year 4 and the 90% of LOP.

34 new role models developed via Farah 2018 and shared with target women.

Totally, 2060 households were able to receive US government assistance, which is 114% of the Project goal for Year 4 and 101% of the LOP.

SECTION II: ACTIVITIES AND PROGRESS YEAR 4 ACTIVITIES AND PROGRESSES

Objective 1: To empower women who are currently economically inactive to start microenterprises, through understanding the reasons why they are not participating, and then working to overcome these barriers.

1.1 Conducting trainings on business startup, agriculture, vocational trainings, and legal trainings

1.1.1 Organize women into groups for conducting training activities: delivery of 90 vocational courses and business trainings, including 32 trainings on starting business and legal issues, 35 vocational trainings, and 23 agricultural trainings

During the reporting period, WEEP continued its broad set of training activities to help build women's business and vocational skills. WEEP initiated all trainings in cooperation with regional and district governments, which drew support from local government officials.

WEEP organized 22 trainings in agricultural theme covering the topics on compost and substrate preparation, modern technology in strawberry production, and vegetable seedlings production for 330 women engaged in agriculture production.

WEEP provided 39 vocational trainings to both women who owned businesses and women who wanted to start businesses in "master classes". Overall, 585 women were trained in "master classes" and in "new skills" to start businesses. The trainings were conducted on following topics: adras weaving, sewing, patchwork, catering and baking, and traditional weaving.

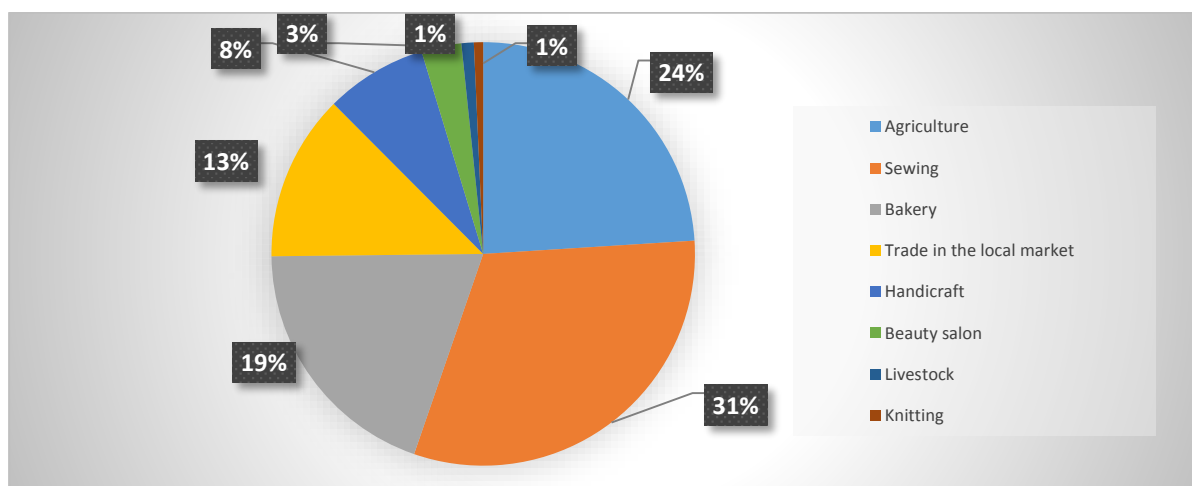
WEEP provided 36 business trainings to 540 women, 495 without businesses and 45 with existing businesses. Topics included financial knowledge, business planning, marketing, record keeping, how to begin own business, how to sell more, and pricing and taxation in agriculture.

WEEP provided sustainable scheme for training centers via facilitating chargeable trainings for 28 women in sewing training centers in J.Balkhi and Qubodiyon districts.

Based on the results of the conducted researches, the project compiled and provided 97 training courses with participation of 1437 women to address women business barriers and to make women interested in starting business and improving their business.

Due to the activities implemented within the given objective, via understanding and contribution of barriers to women starting microenterprises, economically inactive women increasingly became more interested in developing microenterprises and in starting new microenterprises. As a result, the women who are 90% of the project's target started 116 new enterprises.

Diagram 1. Women started their business by sectors



1.1.2 Establish and equip at least 2 vocational training centers through partnership with existing businesses.

Based on market analyses and identified needs of women for knowledge and skills the project has decided to establish three training centers in Zol through partnership with existing businesses:

1. Bakery Educational Center;
2. Fruits Drying Educational Center;
3. Mobile Training Center.

Establishment of a Bakery Educational Center

The project has established Bakery Educational Center in Vakhsh district in cooperation with an existing bakery of Ms Inobat Rajabova. The project jointly with a hired relevant specialist identified the needs of the bakery to be capable to conduct trainings on bakery. After signing of an agreement with Ms Inobat, the project has provided additional equipment and established a Bakery Educational Center.

Ms Inobat Rajabova had more than 30 year experience in bakery. She started with small oven in her house baking cakes for weddings and local markets. She spent several years in this business to become popular in Vakhsh district. Later, she has decided to rent a room in local cafeteria and bought equipment to function as bakery. Now, she owns a building in the center of the district that was renovated by her with the purpose to establish a modern bakery.



Photo 1. Bakery Training Center in Vakhsh district

Establishment of a Fruits Drying Educational Center.

The project has established a “Fruit Drying Training Center” in Vakhsh District. The technology introduced for drying fruit is affordable to local people, as it consists of inexpensive, accessible and available materials. It is also mobile.

The proposed technology is widely used by local communities in north part of Tajikistan, in Sughd Oblast. Therefore, the project decided to involve qualified experts from Sughd Oblast, to conduct 3-day trainings with 15 women from Vakhsh district.



Photo 2. Fruits drying Training Center in Vakhsh district

The training center was established in cooperation with Mrs Bozorgul Shirinova, an entrepreneur from Vakhsh district. Following the decision of the project’s selection committee, she now uses and manages the training center. During the training, she has improved her skills and knowledge on drying technologies. Now she is ready to share this knowledge with other women in the area. Mrs Bozorgul Shirinova aims to conduct of 2-3 fruit drying trainings in this district with the support of the project team.

Establishment of a Mobile Training Center

In accordance with the project’s annual work plan, the project should establish a “mobile training center”. The purpose of establishing this mobile training center is to have technical possibilities to organize business and vocational trainings in remote areas, with a center that is small size, has lightweight equipment and is transportable.

During the third quarter, the project has purchased all necessary equipment for the Mobile Training Center. Currently this equipment is located in the NABWT offices in Bokhtar and Khujand cities.

1.2 Make women interested via basic business skills/vocational trainings compiled based on results of the research

1.2.1 Conduct five meetings with existing financial institutions in order to facilitate credit support to the project’s beneficiaries in all project districts

The project had 7 meetings with representatives of IMON, Eshata Bank and First Microfinance Bank, and received information concerning their services. During the meetings the possibilities of providing credit to artisans was discussed, as in accordance with the new Government Decree, handicraft activities are exempt from taxation and registration, which brings additional barriers for the business in this sector. The credit organization now looking for any solution on documentation requirements in this stage.

1.2.2 Assist to 100 women in preparation of business plans and applying for loan

During the Year 4, the project assisted 72 women in business plan preparation, that 39 women out of that took loans in total amount of \$36, 577 USD to improve their existing business or start business.

The project also assisted a group comprised of 4 women to prepare their business plans and participate at the «Start-up Choikhona IV" competition organized by UNDP, that held in Qhurchonteppa city on October 11, 2017.

1.2.3 Provide technical and legal advice to woman and ensure registration of 20 businesses

As an effect of regular technical and legal advice provided by the project during trainings and individual meetings with beneficiaries, 16 women registered their business. The following legal issues were most interesting to women: legalization of the beginning of a business; legal side of business documentation; start up and registration procedures; effects and opportunities of educational center; taxation, dues and fees; difference of patent and certificate; essence of business; and the government policy on support of entrepreneurship.

1.3 Public awareness through the local newspapers, local TV etc.

1.3.1 Develop regular articles, success stories, and video materials on project activities, legal issues of businesses, and general information on entrepreneurship

The project has prepared 4 success stories of project beneficiaries, one video material of opening ceremony of Winter Camp "Young Economists" in Guliston city of Sughd Province, and an article "Land provided Azizmo with a house and good livelihood".

One of the effective awareness-raising instruments that stimulates involvement of people into business is informational billboards. The project has prepared such billboards with women's photos in successful businesses along with the slogan: "I build my future with entrepreneurship". These kind of big billboards the project installed in the main roads of Jomi, Jayhun, Balkhi, and Shahrituz districts.

1.3.2 Publishing those articles in newspapers, distribution of materials, and broadcasting video materials through local or national TV

Reportage from opening ceremony of bakery educational center in Vakhsh district was broadcasted through TV Tojikiston, TV Jahonnamo, TV Khatlon, and TV Qurghonteppa. Reporting of the adras weaving training conducted in Bokhtar city, the open field day held in Khushoniyon district and a meeting held with tax committee representatives was broadcasted through national and local TV channels.

Another video reportage from planting of new varieties of strawberry transplants in the project demonstration plot in Jayhun district, shown 5 times in Jahonnamo channel in Tajik, Russian and English languages.

A video material from Winter Camp held in Guliston city of Sughd Province was broadcasted through local and republican television channels: "Televisioni Tojikiston" and "TV CM-1", 4 times.

Round table on Farah 2018 held in Bokhtar city on March 14, 2018, broadcasted through local and republican channels "TV Jahonnamo" and "TV Qurghonteppa", 6 times in Tajik, Russian and English languages.

An article “Land provided Azizmo with a house and good livelihood published in newspaper “Khatlon, on March 6, 2018, #6.

Objective 2: To assist economically active women with existing businesses to expand their businesses and occupy higher levels of value chains

2.1 To facilitate greater access to higher value areas of the value chain via training, inquiry workshops, networking support – connecting start-up companies with experienced mentors via meetings, individual consultations, study tours between districts

2.1.1 Establish of at least 25 demo plots for strawberry and seedling production

WEE Project has imported 63,611 strawberry transplants of “Festival”, “Albion”, “Fortuna”, and “E22” varieties from California, USA, during October 21 through November 4, 2017. These varieties of strawberry are suitable for the climate of Khatlon and provide women opportunities for an early harvest with a potential for high profit.

WEE Project used these transplants to establish five demonstration plots in Tajikistan demonstrating modern strawberry production techniques including the use of modern plant stock, modern raised beds, plastic mulching, and drip irrigation.

Table 1. Strawberry Demo plots

#	Partners	Area, ha	Festival	Albion	Fortuna	E-22	Sum
1	Farmer B. Gafurov	0.1		3500		1500	5000
2	Training Farm of Ag. University	0.04	641	578	632	572	2423
3	Farmer Yovon	0.3	1600	10268	2800	1500	16168
4	Farmer Jaihun Qurbonova Gulnoza	0.3	5500	4000	4000	2000	15500
5	Farmer Bokhtar	0.05	500	500	1500	500	3000
6	63 beneficiaries from Vakhsh	0.42	21420				21420
7	Dehkon farm Rahmonjon in Dangara district		100				100
Total		1.21					63611

2.1.2 Establishment of at least one nursery for strawberry production

Two demonstration nurseries for production of high quality transplants in Jayhun and Kushoniyon districts has established during spring months of the year. The technology of planting is unique as it was established independently by the project staff and without involving relevant specialists into the physical process. Imported from California, USA, 4000 units of strawberry mother plants were planted with use of perlite and coconut substrates. The following number and varieties were planted: 1000 plants of Sensation, 1500 plants of Florida

Fortuna, 1500 plants of Ruby Gem. The purpose of the nursery is to provide virus clean and high-quality seedlings to local farmers on time.



Photo 3-4. Nurseries in Jayhun (left) and Kushoniyon (right) districts

2.1.3 Organize open field days providing trainings and exposure opportunities for farmers focused on the strawberry and vegetable seedling value chains

20 open field days organized for producers of strawberry and seedlings in different districts of ZoI, with the aim to introduce with advanced technologies and approaches in strawberry and seedlings production, to acquaint with input providers for drip irrigation systems, mulches, water sprays, net shades, seeds, fertilizers, and potential sellers and buyers of inputs, services and products.

A regional open field day, a seminar devoted to strawberry value chain was organized in Jayhun district, on August 29, 2018, with participation of authorities from all 25 districts of Khatlon Province. This event was initiated by the government of Khatlon Province due to immense potential of strawberry production in the region and for country exporting.

2.1.4 At least 50 meetings and individual consultations with beneficiaries

More than 130 meetings and individual consultation provided to project beneficiaries on strawberry and seedling production.

2.1.5 Prepare of 20 video materials and broadcasting it through local and national TV channel

The project has distributed copies of video learning materials to the project beneficiaries and partners on “Modern strawberry production” 160 copies, “Modern vegetable seedling and strawberry transplants production” 60 copies, and Manual “Principles of strawberry production” 120 copies. Moreover, video materials of strawberry nursery in Jayhun district, strawberry producers in Kushoniyon, Jayhun and Vakhsh districts, were prepared and broadcasted in Republican TVs, TV Jahonamo and TV Safina.

2.2 Assist with access to new markets

2.2.1 Assist strawberry growers to sell to new markets inside Tajikistan

The Project assisted strawberry growers to sell their products in local market of Qurghonteppa and Dushanbe cities. Totally, 740kg of “festival” varieties was produced by 4 project beneficiaries and sold in the markets for total amount of 15140TJS, from October to December, 2017, and from April to July, 2018, 2026kg for totally 26714TJS.

In partnership with USAID Competitiveness, Trade and Jobs in Central Asia (CTJ) project, 8 project beneficiaries have participated in trade mission from Sughd to Khatlon, on May 7, held in Bokhtar city. During this event, two project beneficiaries have signed a memorandum on supplying of agricultural products to Sughd Province.

2.2.2 Find out about trade fairs and inform women entrepreneurs about upcoming trade fairs

Time to time the project's relevant staff informing women about upcoming trade fairs. Based on that:

Three beneficiaries participated and sold their products in Christmas trade fair held in Dushanbe on December 2018;

Four beneficiaries of the Project applied and participated at the National Spring Handicraft Fair which held in Ismaili Center, in Dushanbe on March 03-04, 2018;

Two artisans participated in Handicraft Fair held at the US Embassy on May 8, 2018;

Three artisans and three strawberry producers participated in CTJ's Khatlon Horticulture Trade Forum, held on August 08, 2018, in Khuroson district of Khatlon Province.

2.3 Exchange visits of women entrepreneurs

2.3.1 Exchange visits inside Khatlon province – 3 exchange trips focused on building mentoring and business networks

Ms. Manzura Gafforova, who is finalist of Farah-2016, visited Kurgantyube in March 2018, and met with entrepreneurs of Khatlon Province. Over 30 women entrepreneurs from various sectors took part in this meeting. Ms. Manzura Gafforova as a mentor told about her business, difficulties and progresses her business. Such events inspire women in business.

The project also organized 2 study tours to Bokhtar (Strawberry Nursery) and Vakhsh (Bakery shop) for 16 women from nine districts.

2.3.2 International exchange trip to Turkey for strawberry value chain technology introduction

A study tour to Turkey was organized 9 people: 5 strawberry growers, 1 representative from Hukumat of Khatlon Province and 3 WEE project staff. The visit took place on May 17-22, 2018.

During the tour the group visited YALEX and Yaltir Tarim companies. The group were acquainted with advanced strawberry production technologies in open field and under high tunnels conditions. They familiarized with the modern technology of production of strawberries, blackberries and blueberries on substrates. The visitors were acquainted with the production technology used in the nursery for the growing of plug transplants and the technology of storing frigo transplants in refrigerators. Visited the logistics center of SBR Company and were acquainted with the full process of accepting products from the field, sorting, packing, premature cooling, and dispatch of goods to supermarkets, and exporting.

In addition, the group visited agro shops, which sell components for the irrigation systems. The project expects that techniques used by Turkish companies in this sector will soon be accept and adopted by Tajik farmers and entrepreneurs.



Photo 5-6. Study tour in Turkey, May 17-22, 2018

Objective 3: To positively influence attitudes to and knowledge about women's microenterprise in the society, including youth and state bodies

3.1 Establishing partnerships with governmental departments and lobbying on project results via meetings, round tables, youth camp, presentations of analyses results etc.

3.1.1 Participation in the work of Taskforce on support of women's entrepreneurship in Tajikistan led by State committee on investment and state property management of RT

The relevant project staff have participated in Taskforce on support of entrepreneurship led by the Hukumat of Khatlon province. This platform used for exchange of information and plan strategies for development of the businesses in the region.

The project relevant staff have participated in 9th meeting on December 2018, and 10th meeting on September 2018, of council for business development at Governor of Khatlon province.

During the meeting, reports of key staff of the council have presented and advised to shorten frequency of meetings with broader participation of partners in Khatlon Province. In addition, head of the council instructed to strengthen the monitoring system of the implementation of the decisions made.

3.1.2 Conduct at least 3 working meetings with local authorities to lobby project and beneficiaries interests, and conduction of roundtables

Several working meetings with local authorities held to lobby project and beneficiaries interests. In particular:

To extend the project activity to one year the project signed an agreement with Hukumat of Khatlon Oblast and 12 covered districts, including new districts - Khuroson, Dusti, Sarband, Nosiri Khisrav and Yovon. Three meetings held with hukumat of each districts to finalize and sign the agreements. 10 meetings conducted to introduce the project and plans in new covered districts before signing of the agreement. As the result, 17 jamoats from new districts were included into project zone. An address and telephone number of chairperson of each jamoat has received for further contacting and cooperation;

The WEEP team met with the staff of Tax Division of Qubodiyon District and discussed the tax issues raised with the Sewing Training Center in Qubodiyon.

7 times meetings with the officials of the city of Kurgan-Tyube on the issue of the prolongation of the Adras Weaving Educational Center. The contract extended for one year;

2 meetings with representatives of the Tax Committee of the Republic of Tajikistan on registration of 2 project beneficiaries;

Meeting with the Head of the Khatlon Education Department and one meeting with the education manager of Balkhi district in preparation, organizing and conducting the Youth League for Youth. From the 12 districts and districts, the young people participated in the contest of the economy, 35 people took part in the camp;

2 meetings with the Khatlon government officials on a round table on the theme "Farah 2018. Head of the Department of Women and Family Affairs of Khatlon Province has participated in the round table and had a speech;

Meeting with the Head of State Committee on Investments and State Property Management of Khatlon Region on issue of participation of Deputy Minister of Education Begova Z. at the round table and present on the topic of women's policy on women;

One round table organized to achieve the positive attitude of the next generation to women's business.

3.1.3 Organize winter camp for 20 students

A Winter Camp was organized for 35 students from Khatlon Province in Sughd Province, Guliston city on January 23-29, 2018. The main aim of the camp was to:

- Increase knowledge of youth;
- Create favorable conditions for entrepreneurship development;
- Analyze and improve youth entrepreneurship skills;
- Learn business planning;
- Effective use of the credit and positive attitude of youth towards women's entrepreneurship

The camp participants – schoolchildren of the upper grades were selected through contest conducted on 17.01.2018, where 69 applied young students from 12 districts of ZoI took part in written test in Bokhtar city.

The selection committee comprised of a representative from Khatlon Province Hukumat's Educational Department, Mr Abdukonov K., the project trainer Mrs Natalieva Z., WEE project representative Mr F.Toirov, a representative of the school №1 of Bokhtar city, Olimova Z. 33 students was selected from 11 grade students, 16 girls, and 17 boys, based on the test results. During the winter camp following trainings was organized for participants:

- Social- economy (32 hours);
- Business and legal forms (32 hours);
- Business planning (32 hours);
- Financial trainings and microfinance management (32 hours)

Students had met with representatives from Tax Committee and registration department during a round table on youth attitudes toward women's entrepreneurship. In addition, "Best Business Plan" contest was organized in which young people actively participated and nine business plans and four business-oriented individual schemes developed and presented to the Commission.

3.2 Farah-2018, best woman entrepreneur of the year competition

3.2.1 PR campaign, including advertising 20 informational meetings and roundtables with participation of 1500 people; 1 announcement video film broadcasting through 10 national TV channels; 5000 printed and distributed informational booklets

Farah 2018 was announced through following mass media:

- Local newspaper "Khatlon" - #8, on March 6, 2018
- Republican newspaper "Oila" - #10, on March 7, 2018
- Local newspaper "Khatlon", #10, on March 13, 2018
- Local television channel Khatlon, during 10 days (March 1 - 10) through news ticker, 100 times
- Local television "Qurghonteppa" during 30 days (from February 19 to March 19, 2018)
- In Khatlon Hukumat website on March 13, 2018 www.khatlon.tj
- In Facebook, 15 times
- National newspaper Asia Plus (during 2 months)
- Aisa Plus official web site (2 months)
- NAWBT Official web site (flesh banner) (until May 1)
- "Boju khiroj" weekly newspaper (3 months)
- "Sohibkor" newspaper (March)

3.2.2 13 roundtables and other networking events will especially be promoted in the five new FTF districts

Three round tables devoted to Farah 2018 held in Bokhtar, Khujand and Dushanbe cities with participation of totally 132 women entrepreneurs. NABWT management made a presentation of the Farah 2018, condition of the competition, including rules on filling an application and submission of supporting materials within applied documents. At the end, women became familiar with all participating procedures and shared with their experiences in entrepreneurship and participation in similar competitions including Farah in the past.

In order to inform the rural women to participate in the Farah 2018 contest from ZoI, as well as to distribute the application forms among those women wishing to participate, information meetings held with the heads of government departments for working with women, women entrepreneurs and project mobilizers in all 13 FTF districts. One meeting held in Kulob city with participation of entrepreneurs from Eastern Khatlon As a result, 230 applications distributed among women entrepreneurs and 220 applications received.

3.2.3 3TV discussions using talk show format focused on promotion women's entrepreneurship to a nationwide audience

TV discussions is organized. In addition, live interviews held with 34 semifinalists via Radio Asia Plus and Shahri man.

3.2.4 2 orientation trainings for 50 shortlisted participants

Two orientation trainings for shortlisted participants conducted. 7 Trainings on ICT conducted for the Farah participants, where participated 150 women.

3.2.5 6 video films about 30 semifinalists of the competition on 6 nominations

Six video films about semifinalist prepared and broadcasted through republican TV channels.

3.2.6 Organization of a conference “Learn, innovate and inspire” and award ceremony with participation of 300 people

Award ceremony organized in Hyatt Regency Hotel in Dushanbe on August 22-23, 2018, with participation of 250 people. An exhibition of craftswomen’s products was held, as well as a the “I am a woman” training session and master class for semifinalists, the meeting of the Expert Commission to identify the competition winners, and the final ceremony for the presentation of awards.

SECTION III: MONITORING AND EVALUATION (M&E)

M&E team Accomplishments

The focus group discussion was conducted between 108 economically active and inactive women in 5 new districts of the project zone (Yovon, Sarband, N. Khusrav, Khuroson and Dusti) to identify barriers and challenges which women are facing in due starting or improve their existing business.

A database in Microsoft Excel for the tracking beneficiaries was developed and continuously updated. All beneficiaries who attended to the project activities have been entered into the data base. The same information on beneficiaries was entered into the online NABWT database.

In order to collect good quality information several data collection tools were developed, including surveys and interview sheets. The M&E team uses these tools to collect information on beneficiaries, for post training evaluations and telephone interviews with women who have attended trainings and events.

Telephone interviews with women who attended trainings were conducted to follow up on their progress after the training. For this reporting period telephone interviews with Buiness training, Agro training participants and Vocational training participants were conducted during reporting period in order to collect information on indicators. In total 805 women were interviewed and based on results, 313 out of them answered, 492 did not respond. Out of this 313 women 116 started their activities. These women who started their business they start in different sectors like to starting to sell in the market and agricultural production, handicraft, bakery and etc. And 180108 entrepreneur women could improve their business after participating in the trainings and events of the project.

During reporting period 39 women took loan in amount of \$36, 577 USD to improve their existing business or start business.

The Activity Monitoring and Evaluation Plan were revised based on project requirement and was submited to USAID during this reporting period.

Report on Trainings to TraiNet System. – periodically by the end of each quarter data on training which is more than 16 hours (2 days) entered to the TraiNet system. (Annex II. The list of trainings)

Table 2. Indicators status for Year 4

	Type of indicator					Year 4: 2017-2018						
Indicator #	Old number	New number	Indicator Title	Unit of Measure	Disaggregation	Target for 2018	Quarter 1	Quarter 2	Quarter 3	Quarter 4	Actual	Target achievement in %
Objective 1: To empower women who are currently economically inactive to start microenterprises, through understanding the reasons why they are not participating, and then working to overcome these barriers												
1	FtF-4.5. (2)/ Outcome	EG. 3-9 Outcome	# new enterprises started by women (reported by 8 districts, both unregistered and registered)	number	Location, duration and sex,	100	33	36	28	19	116	116%
			Urban				7	4	3			
			Rural				26	32	25			
			New				33	36	28			
			Continuing					33	69			
			Women				33	36	28			
2	NEW: Outcome	PPR/ Outcome	Number of vocational and business trainings provided by training centers	Number	Location, type of training	20	4	8	6	2	20	100%
3	NEW: Output	PPR/ Output	Number of training centers established and function by WEEP support	Number	Location	2			2		2	100%
4	NEW: 4.5.2. (7): Output	PPR/ Output	Number of women trained as a result of USG assistance	Number	Location, type of training	1200	267	534	375	104	1280	107%
Objective 2: To assist economically active women with existing businesses to expand their businesses and occupy higher levels of value chains												
5	FtF 4.5.2-43 Outcome	EG. 3.2.-21 Outcome	# existing enterprises that have improved their work, increased profitability, started working at higher levels of value chains	number	type of entity/ business	180	40	49	69	22	180	100%
			Firm									
			CSO									

6	FtF-4.5. (2)/ Outcom e	EG. 3-9 Outcom e	# of unregistered existing business that have been registered	number	Location, duration and sex, Type of business	20	2	10	2	2	16	80%
			New				2	10				
			Continuing					2				
			Location									
			Women					12				
7	NEW: FTF 4.5.2-5 Outcom e	PPR/ Outcom e	Number of women enterprises applied new technologies or management practices as a result of USG assistance	Number	type of entity	30	6	10	7	12	35	117%
8	PPR/ Outcom e	PPR/ Outcom e	# women invested own money in their businesses	Number	Type of business/ funds	195	42	59	65	25	191	98%
9	NEW: Output	PPR/ Output	Number of technologies or management practices under field testing as a result of USG assistance (demo plots)	Number	Type of business/ sector activity	25	65		2		67	268%
Objective 3: To positively influence attitudes and knowledge about women's microenterprise in society, including youth and state bodies												
10	NEW: Output indicato r	PPR/ Output	Number of events and networking on support of women's entrepreneurship held by WEEP support	Number	by type: advocacy meeting, roundtable, youth economic camp, competition, exchange visits, etc	32	1	5	18	10	34	106%

11	NEW: Output indicator	PPR/ Output	Number of attendees at the events on support of women's entrepreneurship held in USG assistance	Number	by type: advocacy meeting, roundtable, youth economic camp, competition, exchange visits, etc	2000	40	223	1178	600	2041	102%
12	PPR/ Output	PPR/ Output	# new role models developed via Farah and shared with target women	number	type/ topic	30				34	34	113%
Additional indicators related to all objectives												
13	FtF4.5.2-7, FtF 4.5.2-13 Output	E.G. 3.2-1 Output	# households receiving USG assistance	Number	Duration, gendered household type	1800	293	754	789	224	2060	114%
			New									
			Continuing									
			Urban									
			Rural									
			Women									
14	FtF 4.5.2-29 Outcome	E.G.3.2-6 Outcome	\$ value of loans received (FtF indicator)	USD	Type of business	30000	12 932	5 606	9 270	8749	3655 7	122%
			Loans-Producer									
			Loans-processor/wholesaler									
			Loans- trader/assembler									

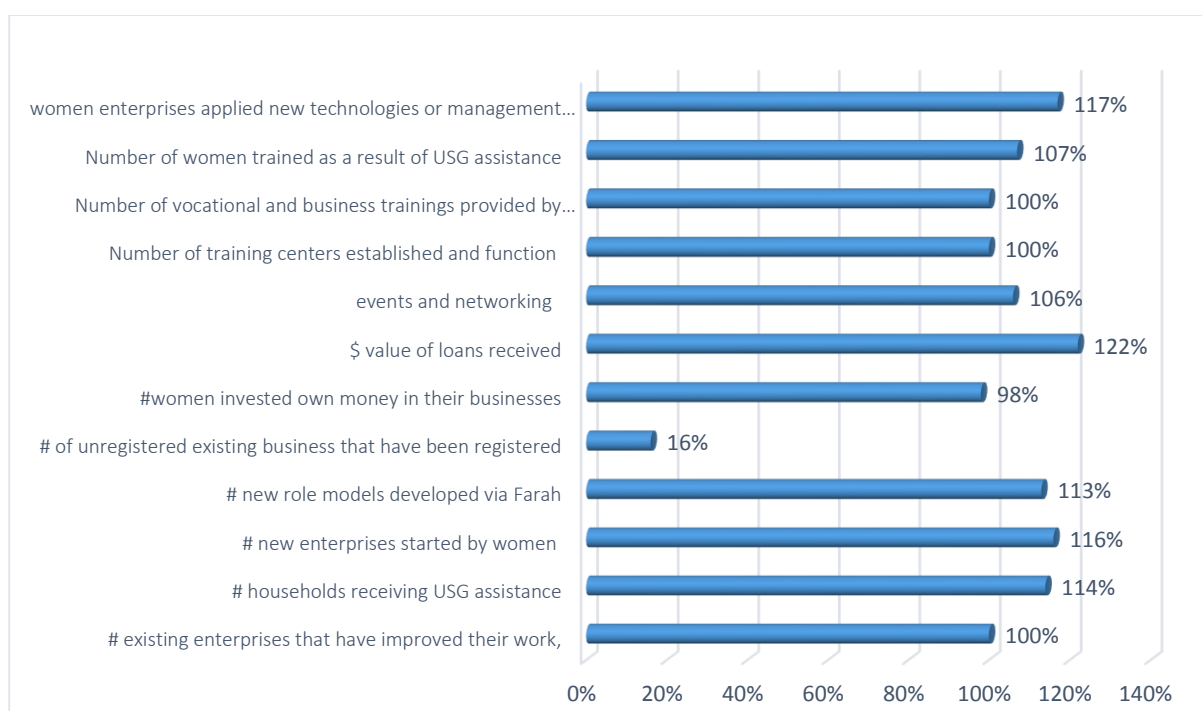


Diagram 2. The achievement level of indicators' target for Y4 by %

As the result of monitoring it shows, that project achieved some of the indicators. Almost every family declared to be in some form of crisis, reducing consumer confidence in spending, and also reducing entrepreneurial confidence in the face of reduced income, high loan defaults, and in general an economic conditions that discourage risk taking. This most certainly has caused a decrease in the number of new businesses registered by women (indicator #6) in the target districts (only 16 business registered out of 20 Total Planned). 2018 was announced the year of development of tourism and handicraft. Moreover, 104 type of business were free of tax and mostly these related to handicraft. Women are doing business at home like a making hand embroidery, sewing at home, baking and other works, which they can make income. Women mentioned that they do not need a registration.

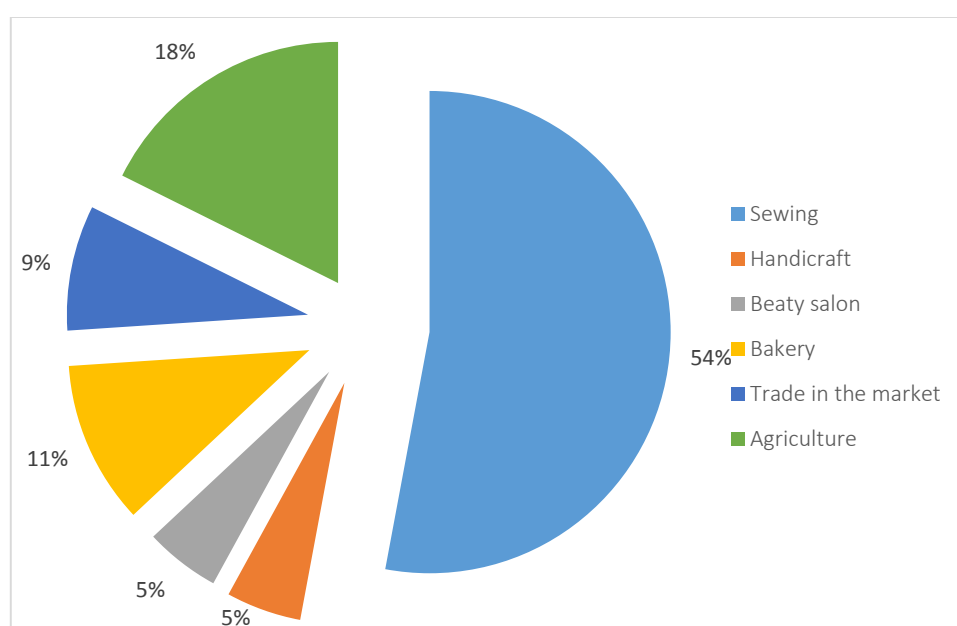


Diagram 3. Women started own business in FY4

The result of analyze showing that 54% of women 63 women started business on sewing in fiscal year 2018. This type of business is actual for women and they can do this business at home and they family will support

them on that. The other type of business which is 18% its agriculture. Khatlon region is agricultural region and mostly people have their own land or presidential land and women decided to use this land to have income. In FY 2018 mostly request for training was for sewing and designing for women in rural area.

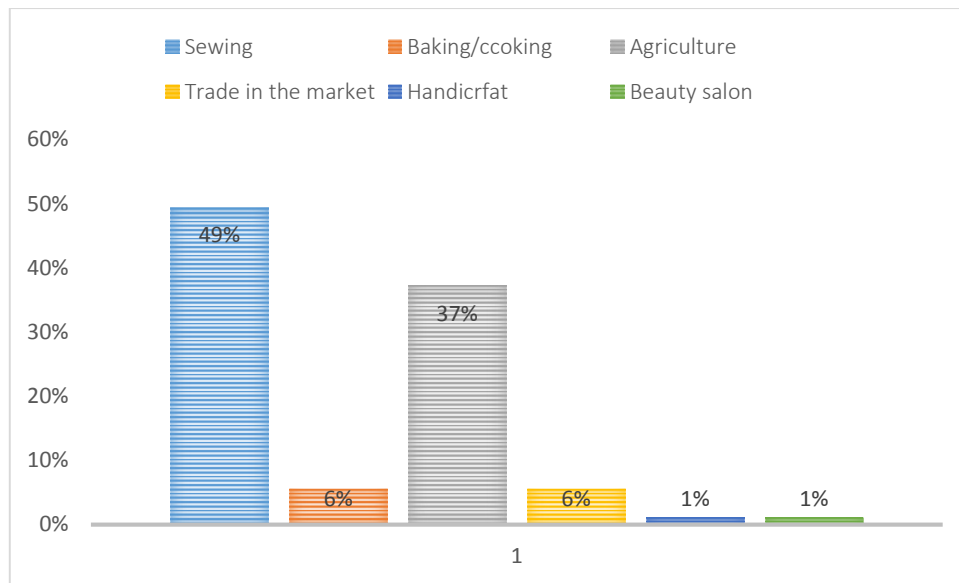


Diagram 4. Women improved their business in FY4, by %

In the project zones, mostly entrepreneur women requested training such as sewing, handicraft, and for agriculture. As we see here, mostly women improved their business in sewing by 49 % in FY 2018. They could improve their business by rising their capacity building, increasing their profit, to increase the number of clients and improving the quality of their products. In addition, women took loan to expend their business. They bought machine embroidery, sewing machine and or just to update their sewing shop. In agriculture, sector women are increasing their business through using new technology or improve their knowledge on agriculture. The beauty salon is showing just 1 %. In rural area, this business is not so active.

Table 3. Indicator tacking table for LOP

#	Type of indicators		Indicator Title	Unit of Measure	Disaggregation	2015	2015			2016			2017			2018			LOP		
	Old number	New number				BL	Target	Actual	Target achieved %	Target	Actual	Target achieved %	Target	Actual	Target achieved %	Target	Actual	Target achieved %	Target	Actual	Target achieved %
Objective 1: To empower women who are currently economically inactive to start microenterprises, through understanding the reasons why they are not participating, and then working to overcome these barriers																					
1	FtF-4.5.(2)/Outcome	EG. 3-9	# new enterprises started by women (both unregistered and registered)	number	Location, duration and sex, legal status	0	25	10	40 %	100	187	187%	125	112	90%	100	116	116%	350	425	121%
2	NEW: Outcome	PPR/Outcome	Number of vocational and business trainings provided by training centers	Number	Location, type of training	0										20	20	100%	20	20	100%
3	NEW: Output	PPR/Output	Number of training centers established and function by WEEP support	Number	Location	0										2	2		5	5	100%
4	NEW: 4.5.2.(7): Output	PPR/Output	Number of women trained as a result of USG assistance	Number	Location, type of training	0										1200	1280	107%	1200	1280	107%
Objective 2: To assist economically active women with existing businesses to expand their businesses and occupy higher levels of value chains																					
5	FtF 4.5.2-43 Outcome	EG. 3.2.-21	# existing enterprises that have improved their work, increased profitability, started working at higher levels of value chains	number	type of entity/business	0	20	2	10 %	200	189	95%	200	198	99%	180	180	100%	600	569	95%

6	FtF-4.5.(2)/Outcome	EG. 3-9	# of unregistered existing business that have been registered	number	Location, duration and sex, Type of business	0	0	0		60	18	30%	40	13	33%	20	16	16%	120	47	39%
7	NEW: FTF 4.5.2-5 Outcome	PPR/Outcome	Number of women enterprises applied new technologies or management practices as a result of USG assistance	Number	type of entity											30	35	117%	30	35	117%
8	PPR/Outcome	PPR/Outcome	# women invested own money in their businesses	Number	Type of business/funds	0	30	0	0%	210	210	100%	215	186	87%	195	191	98%	650	587	90%
9	NEW: Output	PPR/Output	Number of technologies or management practices under field testing as a result of USG assistance (demo plots)	Number	Type of business/sector activity											25	67		25	67	268%
Objective 3: To positively influence attitudes and knowledge about women's microenterprise in society, including youth and state bodies																					
10	NEW: Output indicator	PPR/Output	Number of events and networking on support of women's entrepreneurship held by WEEP support	Number	by type: advocacy meeting, roundtable, youth economic camp, competition, exchange visits, etc	0										32	34	106%	32	34	106%

11	NEW: Output indicator	PPR/ Output	Number of attendees at the events on support of women's entrepreneurship held in USG assistance	Number	by type: advocacy meeting, roundtable , youth economic camp, competition, exchange visits, etc	0										2000	2041	102%	2000	2041	102%
12	PPR/ Output	PPR/ Output	# new role models developed via Farah and shared with target women	number	type/ topic	0	0	0		30	0	0%	0	39	130%	30	34	113%	60	73	122%
Additional indicators related to all objectives																					
13	FtF4.5 .2-7, FtF 4.5.2- 13 Output	E.G. 3.2-1	# households receiving USG assistance	Number	Duration, gendered household type	0	123 0	376	31 %	210 3	270 7	129%	1813	1853	102 %	1800	2060	114%	6946	699 6	101%
14	FtF 4.5.2- 29 Outcome	E.G.3. 2-6	\$ value of loans received	USD	Type of business	0	7 500	5 564	74 %	45 000	59 849	133%	55 000	55 173	100 %	30 000	3655 7	122%	137 500	157 143	114%

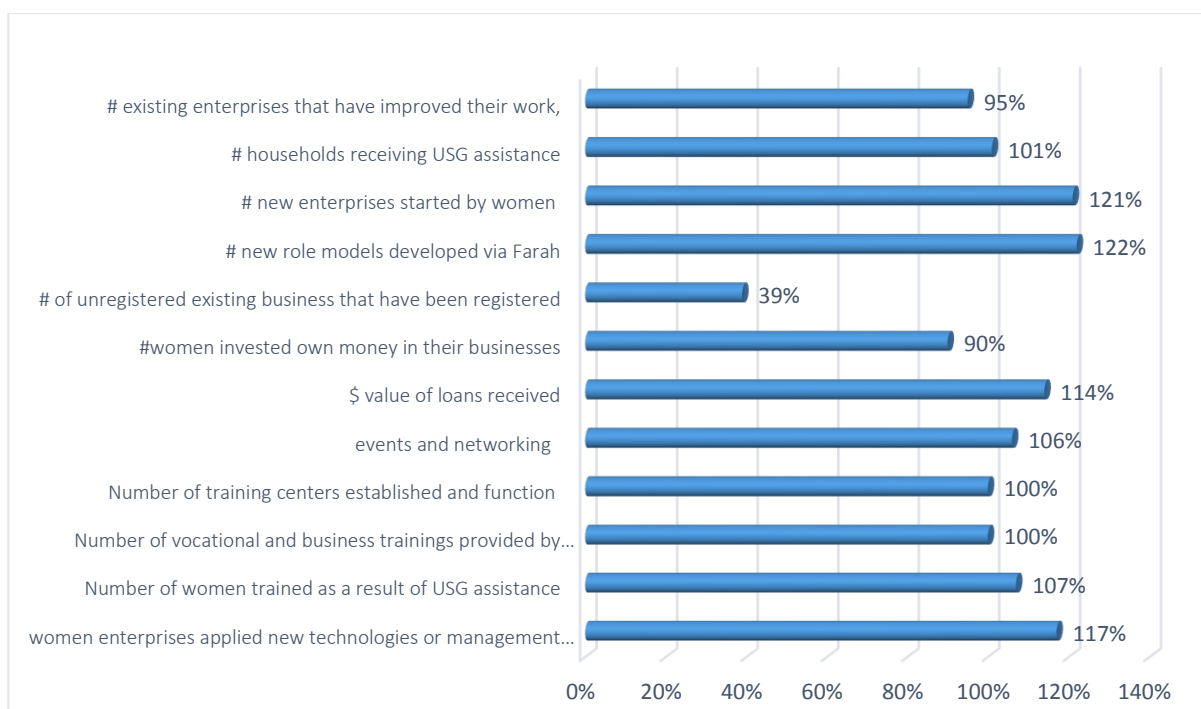


Diagram 5. Achievement of indicators for LOP

By result of the activities project achieved the indicators and some of them were over achieved such as # new enterprises started by women, New role model via Farrah, \$ value of loans received by women. The indicator registered business achieved just 39% in LOP and the crisis condition and women in rural area mostly doing business at home.

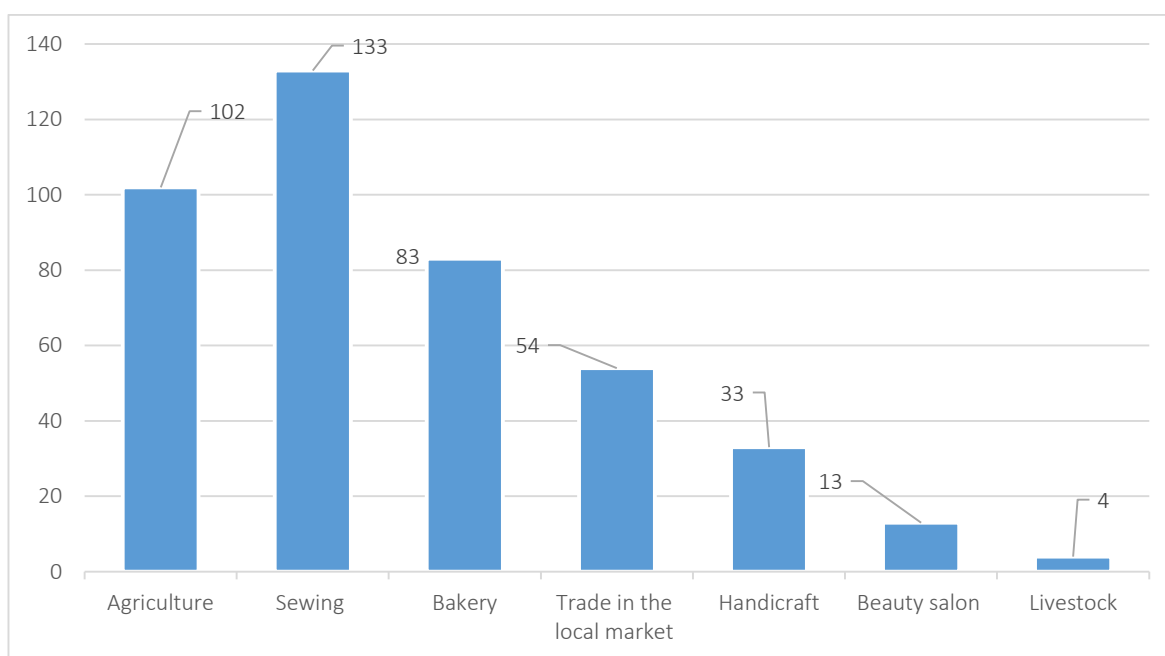
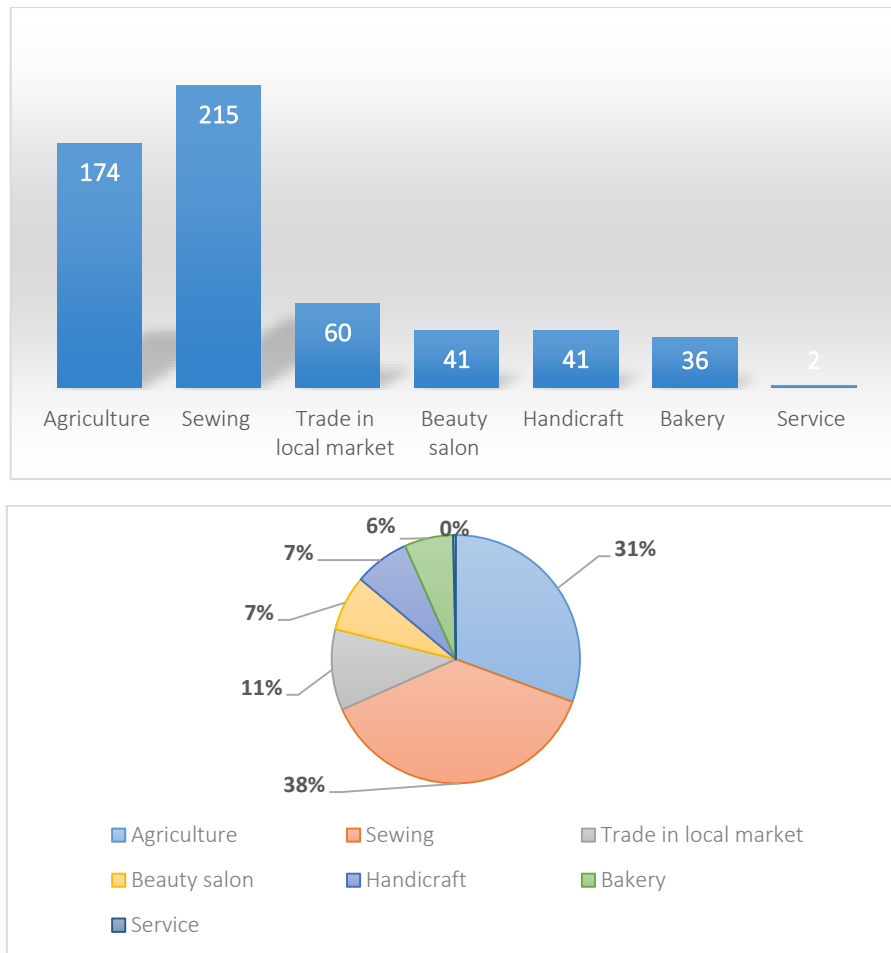


Diagram 6. Number of started business for LOP

Diagrams 6-7. Improved existing business for LOP by # and %



Lesson learned

Study tours could help women to exchange their experience and build networks among the entrepreneurs within and outside the country. Trainings for women in business and vocational skills has proven to have immediate results in helping women start and expand their businesses.

Training is not enough, however, women need assistance too with the legal tangle of registration and tax payments, and support when gender issues come up, like permission from husbands to leave the home. Open fields on seedling production and strawberry production could help farmers to use new technology in agriculture sector.

SECTION IV: OTHER PROJECT RELATED ACTIVITIES/ISSUES (STAFFING, ETC.)

1 Key Staffing Changes

Agriculture Specialist left the project on January 14, 2018 due to family reason.

2 Official Communications Received from USAID

The project is closely collaborated with Mr Mukhiddindzhon Nurmatov, USAID Agreement Officer's Representative (AOR). The following official communications received from USAID during the Year 4:

A Work Plan for Year 4, a revised AMEP, a Project Annual Report for Year 3 and a Project Briefer was approved by USAID/AOR during the October- December 2017; Approval for purchasing of coconut pit and mineral perlite for establishing of strawberry nursery; Information on visit of Marea Papas to ZoI to observe FTF activities on June 8, 2018; Appointment of meeting with Liam Gorvey, Grant Thornton, and USAID in Bokhtar; Request to provide information for USAID report on "Latofat success story" April 2; Information about USAID high profile visitors' visit to FTF ZoI on June 6, 2018; Expression of gratitude to project for organizing study tour to Turkey, which took place from May 17 to May 21; Message to NABWT on the fulfillment of "Special Conditions" under Cooperative Agreement; Request for preparation of project's closeout plan; Comments concerning the Quarter 3 report.

SECTION V: CHALLENGES ENCOUNTERED /PROPOSED SOLUTIONS

No challenges encountered during year 4 of the project implementation.