



May 3, 2008

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G. Faruq Achikzad, Chairman/CEO
Raqim Foundation
1028 Lakeridge Place
San Ramon, CA 94582

Re: GPFA Final Narrative and Financial Report
Establishing Fruit Orchards, Vegetable Production, and Cash Crops

Dear Faruk,

The final narrative and financial report on the Raqim Foundation's grant of \$ 20,000 to GPFA for the above captioned project is attached. We want to thank you for your contribution, and are pleased to report that GPFA has fulfilled its obligation as well and contributed \$ 46,156 in matching funds.

You will see from the report that together - and in some cases under extreme conditions, we have far exceeded initially anticipated project results. Rather than helping 88 women farmers, we have established 829 income-generating activities (IGAs) with 783 individual women in 6 districts across 4 provinces.

The report give details on activities, including projected income from individual IGAs. Data indicates that our joint activities are having a significant impact on project participants and their families:

- Fifty-one (51) new and 28 revitalized fruit tree orchards have been assisted by the project. Family incomes are increasing by \$40+ in the first year, as much as \$200 in the second, and by \$500 or more by year 5. Intercropping adds another \$300. Seventeen (17) tree nurseries/woodlots have been established. One nursery/woodlot owner reports income of \$400 after one year.
- Three-hundred and eighty-seven (387) home vegetable gardens were established. These are improving both nutritional status and family income. They generate from \$ 160 - \$300 per year in cash - depending on location, size, and vegetable mix.

Mailing Address:

P.O. Box 1237
New York, NY 10276-1237

Office Address:

1460 Broadway, 14th Floor
New York, NY 10036
Tex 212 • 735 • 2080
Email info@gpfa.org

www.gpfa.org

Afghanistan Address:

Wazir Akbar Khan
Street 11, # 96, Kabul
Tel 0093-79-7901356
Email infokabul@gpfa.org

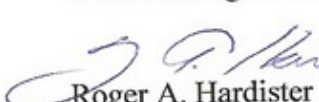
- New agro-forestry farm activities are benefitting 344 women farmers. Farms produce fuel and fodder, willow canes for weaving and shed covers in their first year. From the third year, willow trees can be harvested and sold at \$20 per tree; a poplar after 5 years brings \$ 50. Prices increase thereafter.
- Four women village extensionist were recruited and trained. The project now ended, they are all employed by GPFA and its various projects.
- Last but not least - a sign has been placed in each of the four provinces acknowledging the contribution of the Raqim Foundation.

Staff are working on a table to illustrate income increases for project participants, projected over a five year period. This will give us a clear indication of the impact our work is having on women farmers. This will be forwarded on completion. For now, we are confident that we are making a difference. I will also be sending for your review a CD of project photographs.

GPFA is now seeking ways to sustain and expand work with women, and to add an important new component, work on IGAs for rural youth. We also want to improve our approaches and methods for farmer education and training, develop and evaluate the impact of more systematic farmer learning groups, increase the efficiency and effectiveness of our Farmer Field School, add to our monitoring and evaluation capabilities, and find ways to effectively share our experience with others in Afghanistan – government, NGOs, and academic institutions.

I look forward to sharing these ideas, having your input, and working together to develop a funding package that will carry these ideas forward. If you have any questions or suggestions, please be in touch.

With best regards and appreciation for your support,


 Roger A. Hardister
 GPFA Executive Director
 Kabul



Encl (1)

cc: Dana Freyer
 Zundigul Zamani

Mailing Address:
 P.O. Box 1237
 New York, NY 10276-1237

Office Address:
 1460 Broadway, 14th Floor
 New York, NY 10036
 Tex 212 • 735 • 2080
 Email info@gpfa.org

www.gpfa.org

Afghanistan Address:
 Wazir Akbar Khan
 Street 11, # 96, Kabul
 Tel 0093-79-7901356
 Email infokabul@gpfa.org

Establishing Fruit Orchards, Vegetable Production, and Cash Crops
Training and Support for Female Heads of Household, Logar Province

FINAL PROJECT REPORT TO THE RAQIM FOUNDATION
June 2007 – March 2008

Introduction

In 2005, Global Partnership for Afghanistan (GPFA) launched a Horticultural Business Development project to reduce poverty for rural Afghan women. The project helps women to establish horticulture-related income-generating activities (IGAs). In 2005, in the Shomali Valley (Kabul Province), 26 women heads of household completed the program. In 2006, 22 women were added. Each woman received 50 one-year saplings, tools, fertilizers, supplies, training and technical support. Ninety percent of saplings transferred were apple, 10% apricot. After two years, fruits were harvested - generating on average \$ 40 per orchard. The following year, the value of sales increased to \$ 200 per orchard. In addition, women earned as much as \$ 300 each from sales of vegetables and crops planted among their trees. Production and income are expected to increase significantly over the next 5 years before leveling off.

Project Expansion

In 2006, and building on this success in the Shomali Valley, the Raqim Foundation awarded GPFA a grant of \$20,000 to expand project coverage to Logar Province. The new project targeted the establishment of 93 new horticulture-related IGAs for women heads of household. IGAs were divided into two types: (a) orchard business development and (b) other activities that help women boost cash and food supplies. The project also supported recruitment and training of 5 women village extensionist.

Project Objective

Reduce poverty for rural Afghan women by creating income-generating opportunities in horticulture.

Project Activities and Results

A summary of project achievements is provided on page 7. Activities reported by province reflect 783 individual women participants. (Forty-six (46) participants in Guldara overlap for two activities – see Kabul section below.)

A. Logar Province (Puli Alam and Mohamed Agha)

1. **Orchard Business Development.** (Project Target: new horticulture businesses for 8 women heads of household.)

Fruit Tree Orchards – In 2006, 5 women in Puli Alam were helped to establish fruit tree production orchards. Loans were provided in-kind to support their activities. Of these, one was destroyed as a result of cold winter temperatures. The four remaining women are up-to-date on loan repayments. (GPFA will replace damaged trees in the fifth orchard at no cost during the upcoming season.)

Orchard Revitalization – In 2007, GPFA assisted one woman in Puli Alam to revitalize her existing fruit tree orchard. She received training in pruning, disease control, post harvest, and handling. GPFA also provided pruning equipment on loan together with technical support.

Fruit Tree Nursery – In early 2008, GPFA assisted one woman in Puli Alam to establish a fruit tree production nursery. She received stone (apricot and almond) and pom fruit seed, agro-chemical fertilizer, planting materials (a shovel, measuring tape, string, and wheel borrow). Training was provided in nursery layout, land preparation, seed plantation, and irrigation. Additional follow-up training will be provided in pest and disease control and prevention.

2. **Helping Women Boost Cash and Food Supplies.** (Project Target: 80 participants double their income from cash and vegetable crops, with over \$500 in profit per half acre)

Vegetable Gardens - In Puli Alam, 18 women farmers received vegetable seeds (bean, onion, okra, squash, cucumber, leek, and sunflower). For the 2007 season, GPFA extensionists distributed 140 grams of seeds per farmer, consisting of 20 grams squash, 20 grams cucumber, 50 grams okra, and 50 grams radish. These women combined planted from 250-350 m², which now generates between \$160 and \$250 per farmer, depending on the crop mix and the amount of vegetables held back for home consumption.

Agro-forestry – In 2007, GPFA worked with 13 women in Puli Alam to establish agro-forestry farms. In 2008, 3 additional farms were added in Puli Alam and 4 in Mohamed Agha. Farmers planted their land with hybrid poplar and willow trees. Participating women received cuttings, training, and technical support from GPFA. It is too early to see the financial impact these farms will have on the women and their families.

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GPFA Horticultural Business Development**

Poplar Nurseries/Woodlots – 2 hybrid poplar nurseries/woodlots were established with women in Puli Alam in 2008. These nurseries/woodlots are still too new to generate income for their owners.

Problems in Logar – Project implementation in Logar was plagued by continuing security problems. The security situation in Logar began to deteriorate in early 2007, making it difficult to work in targeted districts. The project was plagued by difficulties in scheduling, fear on the part of the local population, increasing demands on GPFA vehicles and drivers, difficulties in recruiting women village extensionists, and problems in outreach and extension from the Gardez office given the above.

Shift in Project Focus - Following discussion with the Raqim Foundation, it was agreed that targeting Logar Province was less important than improving the lives of women and their families. While continuing in Logar Province, the project expanded its outreach into the adjacent provinces of Kabul, Paktya, and Wardak where conditions were more favorable. In 2008, GPFA was able to return more of its focus to Logar as conditions there have improved somewhat.

Total IGA Activities for Women in Logar – 49

B. Paktya Province (Gardez)

1. Orchard Business Development

Fruit Tree Production Nursery - In December 2007, GPFA established a fruit tree production nursery with a woman in Gardez. She received from GPFA, at no cost, stone (Apricot and Almond) and pom fruit seed, agro-chemical fertilizer, planting material such as shovel, measuring tape, string, and wheel borrow. GPFA also provided training in nursery layout, land preparation, seed plantation, and irrigation.

Orchard Revitalization – In 2008, 25 women from Gardez were selected and received training from GPFA in pruning, disease control, post harvest, and handling. GPFA provided pruning equipment on loan. Further training will be provided in pest and disease control and prevention.

2. Helping Women Boost Cash and Food Supplies

Vegetable Gardens - In 2007, GPFA worked with 15 women in Gardez to establish vegetable gardens to increase income and food supplies. Each woman received 560 grams of vegetable seeds to plant on average 400 m² of land. Gardez was selected due to its population and related vegetable markets. Estimated earnings from vegetable products are \$200-\$300 per year per woman. In 2008, GPFA distributed vegetable seeds to an additional 203 women for vegetable production. No equipment was distributed with these due to budget

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constraints. Women participating in this latest distribution will continue to require follow-up and technical assistance for the coming year.

Poplar Nurseries/Woodlots - One poplar nursery/woodlot for cutting production was established in 2007. GPFA provided 1,000 hybrid poplar cuttings, barbed wire for fencing, fence posts, pruning shears, a shovel, wheelbarrow, and fertilizer to a woman in Gardez. By the spring of 2008, the nursery owner reported earnings of 20,000 Afas (\$400) from sale of 4,000 hybrid poplar cuttings. These were sold both to GPFA and private farmers in Paktya. In 2008, GPFA helped 6 additional women establish poplar nurseries/woodlots. These will begin to generate profits in 2009. (GPFA's flexible design can vary from year to year – poplar nursery vs. woodlot, depending on owner preferences.)

Agro-forestry Farms - In 2007, 67 women received hybrid poplar cuttings for agro-forestry farms. Cuttings were planted on land near homes, alongside fields and irrigation channels. Unlike larger woodlots, these trees were planted in rows nearby homes and alongside farms, roads, and irrigation canals. From these plantings women can begin to harvest leaves and firewood from young poplars and after one year, wands from willows for use in weaving baskets and constructing shed covers. After 3 years, willows can be cut for timber; after 7 years, poplar. A single willow tree at three years will bring \$20 per tree, a poplar up to \$50.

In 2008, GPFA distributed hybrid poplars and willows to 86 additional women for farm-forestry projects.

Total IGA Activities for Women in Paktya – 404

C. Kabul Province (Guldara/Farza)

GPFA conducted a survey in Guldara and Farza to determine women's interest and to identify those most in need. Final selection of participants was carried out in consultation with the local Shura Council and *Malek* (village elder).

1. Orchard Business Development

Small Enterprise Orchards – In 2005 and 2006, GPFA worked with 46 women in Guldara to establish small enterprise orchards. . Of the total, 30 participants are widows. The balance represents either very poor families with both husband and wife or families where husbands are either absent or unable to work due to age or some form of physical incapacity.

Each woman received an in-kind loan from GPFA to cover the cost of saplings, tools, fencing, and fence posts. When GPFA began in 2005, this loan was \$100 but by 2006, the value of the loan increased to \$130 - due to a 30% rise in the

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cost of tools provided. In addition, these same 46 women received seeds for intercropping of vegetables within their orchards.

2. Helping Women Boost Cash and Food Supplies

Agro-forestry Farms - GPFA worked with 56 women in Farza (11 in 2007 and 45 in 2008) and 65 in Guldara (Jan-March 2008) to establish agro-forestry farms growing hybrid poplar and willows. Cuttings and tools were distributed free to women who also received training and support services from GPFA extensionists. Unlike larger woodlots, agro-forestry trees are planted in rows nearby homes and farms, and alongside roads and irrigation canals. Women begin to harvest leaves and firewood from young poplars and after one year, wands from willows for use in weaving baskets and constructing shed covers. After 3 years, willows can be cut for timber; poplars after 7 years. A single willow tree at three years will bring \$20 per tree, a poplar up to \$50.

Vegetable Gardens - In 2007/08, GPFA identified, trained, and supplied 80 women (40 each in Guldara and Farza – 30 in 2007 and 50 in 2008) to establish vegetable gardens. For the 2007 season, GPFA extensionists distributed 140 grams of seeds per farmer, consisting of 20 grams squash, 20 grams cucumber, 50 grams okra, and 50 grams radish. These women combined planted from 250-350 m², which now generates between \$160 and \$250 per farmer, depending on the crop mix and the amount of vegetables held back for home consumption.

Poplar Nurseries/Woodlots – In 2007, GPFA established a hybrid poplar woodlot with one woman from Farza. In 2008, 5 additional nursery/woodlots were established in the same area. Income from these activities is yet to be calculated.

GPFA Technical Support – Sosan, GPFA's village woman extensionist working in Guldara, and her counterpart in Guldara, work closely with participants. GPFA's Provincial Women's Extension Officer visits Guldara and Farza each twice weekly.

*Total IGA Activities for Women in Kabul – 299
Total Women Participants in Paktya - 253*

D. Wardak (Sayd Abad)

Kitchen Vegetable Gardens - In 2007, GPFA established kitchen vegetable gardens with 25 women in the Sayd Abad district of Wardak. Each woman received 140 grams of seeds per farmer, consisting of 20 grams squash, 20 grams cucumber, 50 grams okra, and 50 grams radish. These women combined planted from 250-350 m², which now generates between \$160 and

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\$250 per farmer, depending on the crop mix and the amount of vegetables held back for home consumption.

Agro-forestry Farms – GPFA worked with 25 other women in 2007 in Wardak to establish agro-forestry farms. GPFA distributed hybrid poplar and willow cuttings, and provided training and technical support. In 2008, 25 women received hybrid poplar and willow cuttings for agro-forestry.

Nurseries/Woodlots - Spring 2008, GPFA assisted two women from Sayd Abad to establish their own poplar nursery/woodlot.

Total IGA Activities for Women in Wardak – 77

E. Jobs and Training for Women (Project Target: 5 trained paraprofessionals)

GPFA found difficulties in recruiting woman village extensionists in Logar. Conditions in the province limited the ability of young women to come forward. It was also difficult to supervise them given transportation difficulties and travel restrictions. Eventually, one woman village extensionist, Rehma, was recruited under the supervision of Fatima, the GPFA Provincial Women's Extension Officer in Gardez. Unfortunately she soon became pregnant and her duties had to be taken over by the Gardez Extension Officer. Rehma has recently returned to GPFA to resume her functions in Logar.

Recruitment and Training of Village Extensionists - Two women village extensions were recruited and trained for Kabul (Guldara/Farza) and one for Paktya (Gardez). Women extensionists received basic training and on-going technical support from colleagues and external consultants. They were trained in how to solicit applications, recruit, follow-up, and train farmers, and to identify and report problems and needs to GPFA women provincial extensionists. Through on-going monitoring and evaluation, these women were able to assume their roles in participating villages and assist local women in establishing horticulture-related IGAs.

During the fall season and through early winter, GPFA arranged special training of women extension agents in data collection, identification and treatment of diseases, integrated pest management (IPM), and harvesting. Skills acquired by GPFA extensionists were later transferred to participating women farmers through weekly extension visits and farmer field days.

Many women with adjacent land work together, sharing their experience and learning with one another, thus helping to disseminate new information and skills among themselves.

All women village extensionists recruited and trained by GPFA for this project will remain with GPFA and have been reassigned to other GPFA projects. Each one

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now earns \$150 per month and will hopefully be able to move up within the GPFA organizational structure, or to later become an employee of the producer associations GPFA is helping to establish.

**Summary, GPFA Work with Women Farmers, 2005-2008
(Kabul, Logar, Wardak, and Paktya Provinces)**

Year	Project	Province/District and Number						Total
		Kabul Guldara	Farza	Logar Puli Alam	Moh. Agha	Wardak Sayd Abad	Paktya Gardez	
2005 Completed	Orchard Establishment	26	0	0	0	0	0	26
2006 Completed	Orchard Establishment	20						20
2006 Completed	Vegetable Production	46						46
2006 Completed	Orchard Establishment/ Revitalization			5 1				5 1
2007 Completed	Vegetable Production	10	20	18	0	25	15	88
2007 Completed	Poplar Nursery/ Woodlot		1				1	2
2007 Completed	Agroforestry		11	13	0	25	67	116
2008 Completed	Poplar Nursery/ Woodlot		5	2	0	2	6	15
2008 Completed	Agroforestry	65	45	3	4	25	86	228
Started Mar 08**	Orchard Revitalization			2			25	27
Started Mar 08**	Fruit Nursery			1			1	2
Started Mar 08**	Vegetable Production	30	20				203	253
Total		197	102	45	4	77	404	*829

* This represents 829 IGAs for 783 individual women. (During 2006, 46 women in Guldara who had established orchards in 2005-06 also received seeds for vegetable gardens.)

** These represent March 2008 activity startups that will need additional inputs and follow-up for the remainder of 2008 and 2009.

ATTACHMENT 1 - Ragim Project Case Study - "Ziagul"

Ziagul, age 60, lives with her daughter-in-law and two young grandchildren in a small recently reconstructed house in Guldara, Kabul Province. The family was forced from their home in 1997, fleeing to Kabul where they lived for six months with relatives, returning to the village only to care for their house and tend their orchard. Prior to fleeing Guldara, the Taliban burned their home and destroyed their orchard. Ziagul has three sons - one lives and works as a carpenter in Kabul, another as a construction laborer in Iran. One son - age 26, was killed by Taliban forces. He was the husband of Kamela, another widow participating in the GPFA small farmer program. Even with two working sons, the money they manage to send home is barely enough to make ends meet. The family has one jerib (2,000 m²) of land and access to scarce but reliable water.

Ziagul rebuilt her home with help from an international NGO. She is appreciative of their assistance; but, having a home to live in was only the beginning. She has to provide for her family, to supplement the money her sons send home. Ziagul had land. She wanted to reestablish her orchard but lacked the resources. Then she met GPFA.

In 2006, Ziagul applied to GPFA for 50 apple trees (the maximum she can plant on one jerib of land), training and basic supplies for establishing her new orchard. GPFA extensionists encouraged her to introduce intercropping to provide immediate income and later supplement income from her trees. Sosan, GPFA's woman village extensionist, visits Ziagul twice weekly and has helped her with early identification of diseases, introduction of preventive and curative measures. She also helped her to improve her irrigation system and to introduce the drying of tomatoes and onions. Belqis, GPFA's Provincial Woman Extensionist, visits the area twice a week to advise and consult with both Ziagul and Susan. Ziagul also participated in one of Belqis' farmer field days where she visited with other women farmers from Said Khil and Deharaba villages in Guldara.. There, they learned best practices for planting and managing small orchards, basin irrigation, integrated pest management, and intercropping.

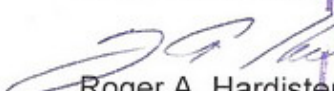
This will be Ziagul's third year participating in the GPFA program. Her monthly expenses have been reduced by the vegetables she grows for her family while her income has increased by \$300 from the vegetables she grows and sells. Her crops mature late in the season and bring better prices. Ziagul is looking forward to the coming year when her trees will begin to bear fruit. She estimates she will earn about \$ 40 for her fruit produce. Next year, she hopes to earn as much as \$200 and more thereafter. For Ziagul and her family the future is looking brighter. Her grandchildren are now in school. The family is looking forward to the day Ziagul's sons and the children's father will be able to return home and help them to build on their own accomplishments.

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ATTACHMENT 2 – Project Financial Report, June 1, 2007 - March 31, 2008
 Raqim Foundation Project for Reducing Poverty for Rural Afghan Women

	<i>Description</i>	<i>Raqim Budget</i>	<i>Raqim Expenses</i>	<i>Raqim Balance</i>	<i>GPFA Match</i>	<i>Total Expenses</i>
#	A	B	C	D	E	F
1	Orchard Bus. Development	12,000	9,340	2,660	17,800	27,140
2	Helping Women Boost Cash and Food Supplies	5,500	7,125	-1,625	18,300	25,425
3	Jobs/Training For Women	2,500	3,535	-1,035	3,500	7,035
4.	Administrative Support Costs (11%)				6,556	6,556
<i>TOTALS</i>		<i>20,000</i>	<i>20,000</i>	<i>.00</i>	<i>46,156</i>	<i>66,156</i>

Certified and Approved


 Roger A. Hardister
 GPFA Executive Director
 Kabul



May 1, 2008