

Press release

For immediate release

04 March 2026

New funding pledged to expand support for jobs, livelihoods, and basic service delivery in communities across Afghanistan

The Afghanistan Community Resilience and Livelihoods Project (CRLP), funded by The World Bank and ARTF, will provide jobs and livelihoods opportunities to vulnerable Afghans and strengthen community resilience to risks posed by climate change and forced displacement.

- Since project inception in 2022, the CRLP has provided jobs to over 1.3 million vulnerable households, including direct employment for 80,000 women, and improved access to basic services for 15.6 million people (half of them women).
- The new financing, \$95 million approved by the World Bank Board of Directors and the additional \$48 million approved by the Afghanistan Resilience Trust Fund (ARTF) Steering Committee, will expand the project's community-driven delivery model, which targets scarce resources to poor and vulnerable Afghans, including women and recent returnees, to all 34 provinces of Afghanistan.
- Building on a localized approach that sources goods and services from Afghan small businesses, the CRLP will engage new private sector partners in project delivery.

Since its inception in April 2022, the CRLP has delivered results at scale by working with and through community institutions to drive inclusive aid delivery. The project has generated nearly 32 million days of paid work for communities to rehabilitate or construct more than 11,500 local assets. These investments, channeled through the UN and outside of the De facto Authorities, have improved access to healthcare, education, markets and other essential services for nearly 15.2 million people across Afghanistan.

Through this financing grant CRLP will be enabled to reach an additional 1.8 million households with short-term jobs, provide around 18.1 million Afghans with basic services and help preserve community productive assets, and benefit women in around 11,000

communities with actions to expand their participation in decision-making at a time when Afghanistan continues to face severe economic pressures, climate shocks, and an influx of returnees from neighboring countries.

“CRLP has demonstrated that even in a restrictive and complex environment, it is possible to deliver at scale by working through communities,” said **Katy Webley, UNOPS Country Director in Afghanistan**. “This additional funding allows us to build on what works—strengthening local capacity, prioritizing inclusion, and ensuring assistance reaches those who need it most, particularly women.”

With additional funding secured, UNOPS will further expand the implementation of social grants to families unable to participate in cash-for-work activities, ensuring continued support for the most vulnerable. Building on assistance already provided to more than 182,000 households—over half of them headed by women—the project will scale up home-based activities for women, strengthening food security, nutrition and household incomes within existing social constraints.

“Beyond direct assistance, UNOPS is contributing to local economies,” said **Joyce Dalglish, Programme Director for CRLP**. “By promoting local procurement and engaging Afghan contractors and suppliers, the project creates ripple effects that benefit small businesses and communities alike.”

CRLP builds on and strengthens the capacity of community institutions to carry out activities related to project planning, implementation, monitoring and facilitating women and vulnerable groups to play an active role in decision-making, thereby ensuring they gain access to services, including health, nutrition, and jobs and livelihoods opportunities.

By combining livelihoods support, social assistance and climate-resilient community infrastructure, CRLP will continue to provide a critical platform to address Afghanistan's socio-economic challenges—including the pressing needs of returnees—laying the foundations for medium-term recovery and resilience.

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About the Afghanistan Community Resilience and Livelihoods Project

The Afghanistan Community Resilience and Livelihoods Project (CRLP), managed by UNOPS, is a \$562m initiative funded by the Afghanistan Resilience Trust Fund and World Bank International Development Association (IDA) to promote livelihood opportunities and improve access to essential services and productive assets for the people of Afghanistan, in particular women, in rural and urban areas across all 34 provinces through:

- Livelihoods Support and Climate Resilient Productive Assets in Rural Areas
- Livelihoods Support and Services in Urban Areas
- Livelihood Support for Women and the Most Vulnerable in Rural and Urban Areas
- Strengthening Community Institutions for Resilient and Inclusive Service Delivery, especially for Women

Launched in April 2022, with an end date of December 2027, CRLP uses a principled, community-driven approach which delivers basic services at scale, preserving key economic and social institutions, and enabling women, the poor, and vulnerable groups (including IDPs/returnees) to participate in and benefit from the project activities. CRLP provides assistance to build the capacity of community institutions to carry out activities related to inclusive project planning, implementation and monitoring. This has proven to be an effective approach in targeting resources to the poor, and promoting transparency, accountability and sustainability. Read more www.acrlp.org