



Happy  
Women's  
Day!

March, 2020

Zardozi celebrated the International Women Day on March 8, 2020

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## Happy International Women's Day!

In the midst of COVID 19 (Coronavirus) crisis when people are seeking isolation and distance from one another, Zardozi's Kabul staff members came together for a tea-talk on International Women Day to share the joy of this special occasion.

Zardozi celebrated March 8 to remember the day of those who are despised and undermined every day and to acknowledge all the mothers, sisters, wives and daughters who are not recognized for working day and night in raising their children to become great men and women.

The male staff members in Zardozi appreciated each woman working in the organization as an employee and client. They spoke about the women's bravery and the daily challenges they face to achieve their basic rights. They also made a cake, and gifted flowers and pens as sign of gratitude and respect.

This International Women's Day, we share stories of the progress of the women in rural areas who started their businesses from nothing while some others who have gone out in secret to learn skills that would change their life for good.

# Women work with men to build their community

As the common saying goes by, “men and women are two wings of a country. Just like a bird cannot fly with one wing, a country cannot develop without men and women working together.”

Zardozi Kadar are trained and empowered to educate other women about their social and legal rights. They raise awareness about the significance of women’s participation in solving community’s problems that strangle them equally.

Recently, our clients in districts of Mini Baba Yadgaris, Baba Ali Shir and Choghdak gathered to consult with Kadars to solve their problem with public transportation and cleanliness of roads and streets. Issues that were ignored by the men, women were now taking the lead to bring government’s attention to develop their areas.

## **Facilitating trade and transportation**

On the outskirts of Mazar-e-Sharif, Mini Baba Yadgaris is a small village with little access to urban life advantages. When Zardozi clients and Kadars met on a usual Manbeh (Community Business Center) meeting day, they brought up the lack of public transportation which was affecting their access to market and businesses.

In addition, the people of the area commute several hours on feet to reach to the bus station to get to their destinations. Robbery, physical and verbal harassment are some of the biggest problems that the villagers face. What is more worrisome is that the women are harassed in the bus station which is normally packed with more men. Most of the times, the drivers don’t allow women on their buses because the male travelers do not sit next to them due to religious and cultural restrictions.

During the Manbeh meeting with Kadar, the women prepared a petition and submitted it to respective elders and council of the community for approval and further suggestion. The petition was also to make a request for women-only-transportation into the area.

The elders of the community assured that the government will first construct the roads followed by a proper public transportation system for men and women of the community. The government started the implementation of this project at the beginning of 2020.

## **Garbage Collection**

In Choghdak village of Mazar-e-Sharif, 21 clients of Zardozi continuously insisted on the request for garbage collection from community elders until they themselves approached the municipality to provide them a garbage collection truck.

Zardozi Kadars and Executive Committee Members of this Manbah wrote an application to Clean and Green Cities Directorate of Mazar-e-Sharif's Municipality to solve their problem. When the community leaders learned about this, they also felt obliged to support the women and to connect them with a relevant Directorate in the district.

After several visits to the Directorate and follow up of the issue with elders of the village, the women were able to receive a garbage collection truck in their areas. Currently, the truck removes waste from their neighborhoods on daily basis and each home pays a small fee in return.

The ECMs of Zardozi say, "People pray for us every day for making this happen. It feels very good to be appreciated."



**Zardozi wishes a very happy International Women Day to all the women in Afghanistan and around the world. Zardozi will serve under its vision to see Afghanistan free from poverty where gender equality exists at all levels of society and government. We will spare no effort and continue empowering poor Afghan women to improve their livelihood situation through businesses**

# About Zardozi

**ZARDOZI** is a local non-government and non-profit organization aiming to provide economic and social services to around 6,000 Afghan women in four provinces such as Herat, Mazar-e-Sharif, Jalalabad and Kapisa with its main office in Kabul, Afghanistan.

Zardozi's objective is to support and empower Afghan women living in the urban and rural areas through its business skills development programs to engage them in the market economy. To achieve this goal, Zardozi has established NisfeJahan as an independent membership-based civil society organization which also runs local Community Business Center where women gather to receive business startup loans; and technical, advisory, business and marketing skills trainings.

## FOR MORE INFORMATION

For more information, please contact:

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**Your donations can help us  
improve the lives of women.**

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