



*Promoting Afghanistan's Development Finance Sector*



### AMA and ACE II Partnership

Afghanistan Microfinance Association (AMA) signed a one-year grant agreement with Agriculture Credit Enhancement (ACE II) on January 17, 2016. The grant supports a series of programmatic activities aimed at increasing awareness and access to agricultural credit in rural communities.



The proposed activities assist in building capacity at Microfinance Institutions (MFIs) interested in supporting the agriculture sector through provision of agriculture credit, while also establishing a better understanding and commitment at board and management levels. The target beneficiaries are farmers, agribusiness owners, members of District Development Assemblies (DDAs) and Community Development Councils (CDCs), Department of Agriculture, Irrigation and Livestock (DAIL), and MFIs.

### Access to Finance Matchmaking Roundtables

To connect and aware potential businesses/clients, with financial institutions, that are in need of some types of loans, and the financial institutions to develop some better understanding of businesses/clients' financing needs; AMA organized two Access to Finance Matchmaking Roundtables in Kabul and Herat provinces. 28 businesses in addition to the representatives from MFIs, AMA, and Promote/WIE participated in these workshops.



The MFIs representatives presented their products and services to the businesses and responded to their queries. Roundtable sessions were also organized at the end of the workshops providing the opportunity for the businesses to interact directly with the MFIs representatives to know more about their loans products, its terms and conditions. The roundtables, financially supported by Women In Economy (WIE) project of Development Alternatives, Inc. (DAI) funded by USAID under its larger project of "Promote". AMA plans to organize such workshops in Balkh and Nangarhar provinces too during the coming months.





### **OXUS Afghanistan Signs Agreement with Etisalat mHawala**

Etisalat mHawala and OXUS Afghanistan, an affiliate of OXUS Development Network, signed a partnership agreement for further enhancement of OXUS lending and loan collection process using mHawala services. The partnership will allow OXUS customers to disburse their loan installments via Etisalat mHawala at any mHawala agent across the country from the comfort of their homes and without having to travel or spend time in long ques.

In addition to paying for goods and services, mHawala customers can now pay their loans from their mobile phones. This helps reduce the need for physical cash and allow customers settle their loans at any time and place.

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### **Exchangerzone Launches its Operations**

Exchangerzone, Inc., a duly registered private company in Afghanistan, officially launched its operations in a ceremony held in January 2017 in Kabul. The launch was officiated by Mr. Azarakhsh Hafizi - a renowned economist. Managers and Directors of Banks, MFIs, Universities, Development Organizations, and Members of Parliament attended the ceremony that graced by more than 450 participants.

Dr. Zarif Aminyar, the CEO of Exchangerzone, outlined a broad range of financial products and services that the company will offer in their four divisions; Microfinance, Financial Services, Investment and Financial Consulting.

The company has secured partnership with MoneyGram for international money transfers and with the Microfinance Association of UK for Certified Microfinance courses. Mr. Aminyar announced that the company would have more than 20 branches in Afghanistan this year and operating offices in Dubai, Pakistan, India, Turkey and China.

Exchangerzone, Inc. is a member of InvestOne Corps, Inc. (ICI) group of companies and is a registered member of Afghanistan Microfinance Association. The company has ISO 9001:2008 certification for Quality Management Systems.



## The First Cashless Shop of OXUS Afghanistan



The first cashless shop of OXUS Afghanistan inaugurated on January 17, 2017 in the main city of Kabul. The CEO of OXUS Afghanistan formally inaugurated the branch in Cinema Pamir area of Kabul city along with OXUS senior management.

OXUS Afghanistan plans to introduce new and innovative technologies for its valued clients in order to enable them to get their loan and repay back via their mobile phones at comfort of their homes and business.

This cashless shop will enable OXUS Afghanistan's customer to have access to financial services electronically and repay their loans without visiting OXUS Afghanistan branches, which is more secure, free of charge, fast, accessible everywhere, and hence reduce the cost.

### AMA Donors:



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