

*Volume 1*

**LCEP**

*September 14, 2006*

# ***Voices of the Community Newsletter***

The Literacy and Community Empowerment Program (LCEP), a USAID-funded community development initiative, is implemented by the Education Development Center (EDC) and UN-Habitat.

## **Welcome to the LCEP "Voice of the Community" Newsletter!**

Welcome to the first edition of the Literacy and Community Empowerment Program (LCEP) "Voices of the Community" newsletter!

LCEP is a USAID-funded community development initiative working in more than 170 villages across five provinces of Afghanistan: Parwan, Hirat, Bamiyan, Farah and Kandahar. LCEP is a unique and dynamic initiative in which the themes of Governance, Economic Development, and Literacy are interwoven in all activities, thereby consolidating knowledge and emphasizing the multiple dimensions of sustainable development.

The Literacy Component of LCEP comprises more than 370 Learning Centers for men, women and youth across the country. The students learn reading and writing, numeracy and basic mathematics, and life skills such as governance, savings and investment principles, and business development.



Students in Bamiyan attend an LCEP literacy class.

This "Voices of the Community" newsletter will feature various aspects of the Literacy Component. Future editions will introduce the LCEP Village Teachers, students, learning materials and environment. You will also hear from the teachers and students themselves, as this newsletter will provide a forum for their stories of challenges and successes.

We encourage and welcome your input for this newsletter: the stories you want to

## From Our Classes:

Female class in Parwan



Male class in Parwan



Village Teacher and student in Bamiyan



hear, and the questions you have. Please see the contact information below to reach us, so that this newsletter can best respond to your needs.

## LCEP Literacy News:

- To date, 3,000 literacy students have been assessed and awarded *Grade 3* certificates
- 370 Village Teachers have been trained in active, student centered methodologies and classroom management
- More than 6,000 literacy students continue to attend class and will be certified in the coming months

### Did You Know?

In Afghanistan:

- Rural poverty rate: 53%
- Female adult literacy rate: 4 - 10%
- Female gross primary enrollment rate: 56%

Source: LCEP Project Document, January 2005

For more information, please see LCEP's website at <http://lcep.edc.org>

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