



*Catalyzing Transformational Development*

*...equipping the nations*

# Joint Development Associates International Success Stories

## Creative Talents Renewed

### Initiative

In an effort to alleviate poverty in a severely impoverished community of Muynak, Karakalpakstan, JDA started a micro credit program. Mirzabai became a member of a solidarity group and took his first credit of \$40.00 and started a business in commerce. He continually paid back his credit and took larger loans to expand his business as he became a trusted client.

### Challenge

Mirzabai finished training in an art college years ago, and never had the opportunity, nor the finances to use his training, skills and talents as an artist. Unemployment of greater than 70%, the severe ecological devastation of the region, and the complete loss of the fishing industry left Mirzabai and hundreds of other families like him completely destitute. It seemed that he would never be able to fulfill his dream and again provide the basic food and clothing needs for his large family.



**“Without JDA’s credit, their training and their trust in me, I would not be able to use my skills and talents to help my family, and now there is a great demand for my work.”**

### Results

After five successful cycles of four months each, Mirzabai’s profit increased and his business experience and confidence grew. This gave him the opportunity and courage to take a risk to start the business that he always wanted. Today, he has the only engraving and memorial art business in Muynak. He has been able to purchase engraving tools, and materials for his painting and monuments. The community now has a new service that provides their need to honor those they love.