



## The power of technology for women's empowerment - Visions of UNOPS Female Civil Engineer in Afghanistan

Ms. ---- used to repair the electrical and home appliances in her family. When she was a young girl, she was curious, innovative and eager to bring changes to the world. She was inspired by technological innovation and she dreamed of taking part in the development and reconstruction of her country using the new tools and instruments. She achieved the dream of becoming a civil engineer and bringing positive changes to the world.

Ms. ---- currently works as a civil engineer with the UNOPS Afghanistan Country Office, in a World Bank-funded Community Resilience and Livelihood Project (CRL). She says; *"I am passionate about helping vulnerable people, especially Afghan women, ensuring their access to transportation infrastructure in the rural areas. Seeing a smile on their faces after completion of each project motivates me to work even harder for the development of my country."*

Thanks to the technology, she can freely talk with engineers, architects, clients, construction contractors and most importantly with the beneficiaries, especially women, using different online and offline networks and channels. She also added, *"using engineering softwares has enabled me to design, manage, and define the risk for our projects which benefits millions of Afghan people. I take full advantage of the benefits offered by the digital space for connecting with women and advocating for their inclusion. I am happy to share that the women in Afghanistan are using technology too, to reach out to me, and I am available on my whatsapp at all times to listen to their concerns. Through the digital platform, I can stay connected with the beneficiaries in the field."*

Despite all the ups and downs, all the fears and pressures, Afghan women remain resilient and committed to work harder and support each other and their communities. The rural and urban women are actively participating in the selection of CRL projects and benefiting equally from the project activities. She added, *"being a female engineer in the field is a tough and challenging job. When I visit the project sites as a civil engineer, I carefully engage in interactive communication with the stakeholders . Despite all challenges, I am determined to do my job to the best of my abilities. I will continue to break stereotypes and become a role model for other women in my community."*

To mark International Women's Day 2023, the United Nations recognizes and celebrates women and girls who are championing the advancement of innovation & technology reaching women beneficiaries in the field.