### Project Summary

#### Project Background
With the provision of electricity in Yarkhun and Laspoor valleys of the Chitral District, opportunities are available for using the available natural resources for more productive purposes to uplift the lives of the people in the regions. The availability of electricity and communication via mobile phones has opened new horizons for business development in the region. The Aga Khan Rural Support Program is implementing the 2nd Phase of the project “Water & Energy Security through Micro-hydelds (WES)” to stimulate local/regional business ideas while keeping in view the protection of natural resources.

#### Project Objectives
- Stimulate private and public investments that will consume the hydro-energy generated by the new micro-hydel and mobilize more employment,
- Upgrade and extend the local transmission and distribution networks in order to offer electricity to more villages and prepare for regional grids, and
- Develop integrated water governance strategy and linked actions on ecological use of the resources in the catchment areas in the region.

#### Tasks:
Baseline survey and critical analysis of the potential for small scale business development in the Yarkhun and Laspur valleys of the Chitral District.

#### Project Results
- Production of a detailed and complete survey report
- Proposals on necessary reforms of rules and regulations
- Preparation of guidelines for incentives schemes to promote business
- Preparation of 6 indicative detailed business plans on possible ventures
- Production of database of potential experts and partners for enhancing local entrepreneurship
- Preparation of information material, presentations, brochures, etc. to be distributed to relevant stakeholders.

#### Services Provided
- Review of relevant studies of institutions other than AKRSP and AKDN-agencies
- Statistical surveys and SWOT-analysis on business development
- Consultations with the public authorities on latest government strategies, action plans or schemes of business development in KP and more precisely in Chitral
- Conduct feasibility studies of potential business ventures
- Small business planning and financial modelling
- Institutional analysis and assessment
- Establishing regional business development plans
- Market research and value chain analysis
- Organization of a workshop in Chitral and a power-point-presentation to share the findings of the study with the project’s stakeholders and other institutions that operate in Chitral,
- Preparation of indicative guidelines of incentive schemes
- Production of summary leaflet about the findings and conclusions of the survey/study for distribution to relevant stakeholders.
- Enhance the institutional capacities of the public service providers to facilitate new business development.