



# STORIES OF CHANGE IN AFGHANISTAN

## HUMANITARIAN ACTION

# FOREWORD

I am happy to present this collection of stories of change from Cordaid Afghanistan. The stories highlight the impacts and achievements of the communities we serve and continue to serve across Afghanistan.

Despite the persistent challenges people in vulnerable positions face, these stories demonstrate how our targeted humanitarian assistance can create lasting change in the lives of the population we serve. Behind each story is an individual who has overcome hardship and moved toward success and self-reliance.

Building community resilience truly relies on the trust of the communities and participation, as well as the dedication of our staff and partners, with the generous support of our donors. Together, we have provided critical assistance to people in need.

As you read the stories, I believe they remind us that every intervention has the potential to transform lives and build community resilience. While much work remains to be done, some examples portrayed in this booklet inspire us to continue our principled work to support the people of Afghanistan with the highest integrity, compassion, and accountability, and to help heal despair.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank our donors for their continued support and contributions.

Sayed Latif Bashardost  
Country Director, Cordaid Afghanistan

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## CORDAID AFGHANISTAN'S HUMANITARIAN PROGRAMME

Cordaid Afghanistan delivers multi-sector humanitarian and early recovery assistance to some of the country's most vulnerable people; those affected by conflict, natural disaster, or both.

Operating through a well-established humanitarian unit and a strong network of local partners, Cordaid provides water and sanitation services, emergency shelter, non-food items, and helps improve people's food security and livelihoods. The team is equipped to respond to acute crises within 48 hours.

Underpinning this work is a firm commitment to localisation. Cordaid Afghanistan is moving away from a traditional project-based partnership model towards genuine strategic alliances with local partners, sharing risks and rewards, and building the long-term relationships needed to create lasting social change.

As a member of the [Dutch Relief Alliance](#), we lead a joint emergency response in the provinces of Herat, Kandahar and Nangarhar. The response addresses people's needs by providing cash, food, water, sanitation and access to health care. The partners aim to reach more than 170,000 Afghans through their activities.



Photo: SAW Afghanistan

> Farmland in Mohmandara.

## AGRICULTURAL SUPPORT

**Abdul Hai is a 34-year-old farmer who lives in Ambarkhana village, Batikot district, Nangarhar province. He has only 0.2 hectares of land and feeds four members of his household through wheat farming.**

Last year, things got tough. With little land and no way to obtain good-quality seeds or the right tools, Abdul Hai simply couldn't grow enough wheat. He ended up selling off household items just to buy seeds, fertiliser, and basic tools.

'A lot of us here struggle the same way,' he says. 'We can't pay for good seeds, and most of us don't know up-to-date farming methods.'

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*"It brought back my confidence in farming."*

### Abdul Hai

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After an initial screening, he received support through the agricultural input initiative, which aimed to help families in vulnerable positions in his community rebuild their livelihoods.

He received a package containing 25 kg of improved wheat seed, 50 kg of Urea fertiliser (solid nitrogen), 25 kg of Diammonium phosphate (DAP fertiliser), a sickle and shovel, and access to a shared hand push seeder with three other farmers.

That seeder machine changed everything. He's expecting a much better harvest in the coming years.

Abdul Hai: 'This machine allows me to sow my wheat in organised rows, which significantly reduces seed wastage and improves crop yields.'

Most people in the village have always done things the traditional way. In training sessions, Abdul Hai and others are equipped with new skills and tools, such as controlling weeds, using Integrated Pest Management, rotating their crops, irrigating more effectively, and harvesting wheat properly. They learned about chemical, mechanical, and biological pest control, too.

With this new knowledge, Abdul Hai, together with the other farmers, started making smarter choices in the fields. He is happy he doesn't have to sell off household goods or livestock for farming, and he is saving money for seeds and fertiliser. His wheat production looks set to rise, and most importantly, his family finally has enough to eat.

'This support brought back my confidence in farming. I'm sure this year's crop will feed my family and help us live better,' he says. 'It has not only helped me grow more wheat; it has helped me cultivate hope. And I wish more farmers got this kind of support, so they can build stronger livelihoods too'



> Distribution of cash in Mohmandara, Nangarhar province, Afghanistan.

## CASH FOR WORK

**Job opportunities in Garbawa village, Batikot District, are very limited. Most families, like Habib Rahman's, are experiencing difficult times. Habib is 38 years old, a father of eight, and the only breadwinner in the family. Not long ago, he was unemployed; he didn't know how he'd feed his kids or pay off his debts.**

'It was impossible to find a job. There just aren't any around here. I couldn't take care of my family or buy their most basic needs,' he says.

*"The opportunity to work provided me with more than just an income."*

**Habib Rahman**



> Habib Rahman received Cash for Work through repairing and cleaning the canal in Garbawa village, which provided him with a work opportunity and income.

Habib caught a break when he was selected to join the 'Cash for Work' programme. He worked on cleaning and reconstructing the Grabawa canal, a lifeline for local farmers. Habib worked 20 days, earning a total of 6,000 Afghani (80 euros), a small amount that makes a world of difference to Habib.

Habib: 'This money let me buy food, take care of urgent needs at home, and even pay off some debts. Honestly, it helped us get through a very tough time.'

'The opportunity to work provided me with more than just an income,' he adds. 'It enhanced my confidence, resilience and a hope for future work opportunities. Through this experience, I've seen how change is possible not just for me but for my entire family, village, and community. Thanks to my work, farmers can grow more crops, and our whole village benefits.'



> Solar-powered water supply in Mohmandara, Nangarhar province, Afghanistan.

## ACCESS TO SAFE WATER

**39-year-old Halim Khan lives in Abdulkhail village in the Nangarhar province. He takes care of his seven family members, and now he doesn't have to worry about access to the most fundamental human necessity: clean water.**

Only a short while ago, life looked very different. The whole village relied on distant, unsafe water sources. Every day, women and children had to walk long distances to collect a few buckets of water. The collected water would often make the children sick.

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*"We don't have to spend our days searching for water anymore."*

**Halim Khan**

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'Before the intervention, it was tough, especially for women and small children,' Halim Khan says. 'During the dry season, it got worse. I was always worried about my children's health.'

In November 2025, a solar-powered water supply system was installed in the village.

Halim Khan: 'Now, we have a solar-powered pipe network, with a storage tank that holds 20,000 litres. Thanks to this, we finally have safe water all the time. Waterborne diseases and diarrhoea have declined significantly. We don't have to spend our days searching for water anymore. Children are back in class, and families have more time for household work and other important things. Our lives and our hygiene have improved so much. We feel more dignified, and we have a sense of hope and security.'

The project brought clean water to people's homes, with 34 stand taps serving 151 households, ensuring everyone in the village has a steady supply of safe water.



> Boys are collecting water from the water supply of Mohmandara.

# SOLUTIONS FOR INCOME GENERATION

**Mohammad Aimal lives in Chahardi village in the Batikot district of Nangarhar province. He is the head of an eight-member household, comprising four men and four women. For years, like so many others in his area, his family lived under prolonged financial strain. Mohammad fought to provide for his family.**

'I used to work as an apprentice tailor, earning about 100 to 120 Afghani (1,5 euros) a day,' Mohammad says. 'That wasn't enough for us to get by. I had the skills, but I lacked the tools and materials to start my own business.'

*"It makes me proud to own a shop and have a regular income."*

**Mohammad Aimal**

After he was selected for a livelihoods and economic recovery programme, he received support through so-called income-generating activity (IGA) kits. These essential materials helped him build steady sources of income.



> Mohammad Aimal at work in his tailoring shop in Chahardi village, Nangarhar province, using the materials from kits he received from the project.

Mohammad's family was among the 302 families who received this assistance. He received a tailor's IGA kit, along with other necessities, to open his own shop. He also received two rolls of high-quality men's fabric, a clothes iron, a 5-kg gas cylinder, and a range of essential tailoring materials. Mohammad: 'With these tools and materials, I could finally start my business.'

His income gradually increased, enabling him to cover his family's needs with confidence and without worry.

'It changed everything for me,' he says. 'I don't depend on a very unstable daily income anymore. It makes me proud to own a shop and have a regular income. And my family is doing so much better.'

'I have big plans,' he adds, 'I want to expand my shop and better equip it with more raw materials, to serve more people, and maybe even create job opportunities for others in my community.'



> Distribution of cash by Rural Rehabilitation Association for Afghanistan in BatiKot district, Nangarhar province.

## MULTI-PURPOSE CASH ASSISTANCE

Zahida lives in Kaei village, in the Achin district of Nangarhar province. Zahida and her family are struggling to survive. Whenever there is work for him, her husband works as a handcart labourer, but it's usually impossible to find a job in the area. Most days, he comes home empty-handed.

*"This support is more than just financial. It restored my hope."*

Zahida

There were times when Zahida could only put dry bread and water on the table. She spent her nights worrying about how she'd keep her children safe and fed.

Things got even tougher when one of her daughters was diagnosed with a heart condition. The family couldn't afford the treatment.

Change came when Zahida was selected for the Multi-Purpose Cash Assistance programme. She received 12,600 Afghani (almost 170 euros) to address her most urgent needs. She could buy health food, clothes for her children, and essential medication for her daughter.

'This support is more than just financial,' she says. 'It restored my hope and significantly alleviated the stress that weighed on us every day. It helped us survive in a very difficult period.'



> Zahida and her children received multi-purpose cash assistance.

# ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

This booklet features stories that reflect the strength and resilience of the individuals, families and communities we work for. It is a testament to successful local partnerships that drive positive change in these communities.

We would like to express our sincere gratitude to those who were willing to share their experiences, challenges, and the impact the programme had on their lives.

Cordaid Afghanistan acknowledges the hard work of the field team and implementing partners, who work tirelessly to deliver assistance to people in need.

We also wish to express our heartfelt appreciation to our donors for their continued support. Their generous contributions enable us to reach people in difficult circumstances and provide life-changing assistance.

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## ABOUT CORDAID

Cordaid Afghanistan remains committed to providing humanitarian assistance and fostering long-term recovery in Afghanistan, focusing on creating inclusive, sustainable solutions that uplift all members of society.

Cordaid Afghanistan also has a strong commitment to the localization agenda. Moving away from a traditional project-based partnership mindset toward a real culture of strategic partnership with the local partners.

Cordaid Afghanistan create long-term alliance where we share both the risks and the rewards. It's about more than just technical cooperation - it's about creating lasting change and social impact that simply couldn't achieve on our own.

## CONTACT

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