



From
the People of Japan

Making a Lifelong Change in a Village



Photo: UN-HABITAT

**Shah Mohammad,
making a window frame**

“Besides reading, writing and counting skills, I learned a new system of how to save money through established Self Help Groups. I have been trained by Abdul Mobin in carpentry skill and I am now almost able to do my job by myself. I make doors, windows, chairs, desks and the like,” says Shah Mohammad.

Mullah Shah Mohammad, 38 years old with 5 children, is living in Taipusht-e-Mohammad Jaan village in Kohistan district of Kapisa. When he was 12 years old, he lost his mother and became responsible for his family after his father became too old to support the family. Despite his interest in learning, he was not able to go to school because of his poor economic situation.

When he had heard from a head of his community that UN-HABITAT’s literacy programme established a learning center in the village, he enrolled himself immediately and started learning how to read, write and count numbers.

Later on he joined an apprenticeship program, carpentry skill, supported by the Japan-funded project, *Peace-Building in Afghanistan through Consolidation of Community Solidarity*. Now he is working at a carpentry shop where he has benefited in learning more advanced skills and earning money to solve his poor economic problems.

In good time, with support of the same project, a community banking system was established in the village, where community members have access to loan for their small business. Shah Mohammad is thinking to get loan so that he could start his own business and support his family.

Shah Mohammad says, *“I very much thank the Government of Japan and UN-HABITAT for their making changes in our lives for better. We would have not been able to learn these skills without financial support of the Government of Japan.”*