

City forging ahead on its path to urban economy



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Paving Footpaths of Cereal Market (Top & middle: in progress; bottom: completion)

In the past years the Lashkar Gah city has experienced large scale development with new markets, roads and residential areas. The city enjoys its strong trade links with rural districts and neighboring provinces, in particular known as an area for marketing agricultural products such as cereal crop, and cement and clay.

The Cereal Market, centrally located in the city, had a major problem that fragile basic infrastructure put damages on the selling products when it rained, because access to the market and its inside footpaths were easily covered with mud. As there was simply no functional drainage system, rain water continued being overflowed in the entire market. This vulnerable and inaccessible condition not only kept consumers away from the market but also hastened putrefaction of the products and decomposition of the chemical properties. This had negatively impacted on decrease in income of the shopkeepers.



UN-HABITAT decided to revive the Cereal Market with funding support from the DFID. In an effort to lift the sluggish economy in the city, the market has undergone a big change in improvements of drainage system, paved footpaths and road-graveling with employed community contractors. The provision of these basic infrastructures was one of the key elements necessary to provide re-building up the functional market itself, opening fresh opportunities for its economic growth and increasing in employment and accelerated agricultural productivity.

The residents now enjoy the benefits brought about improved access to the market and profits gained from recently-enlivened economic activities. The Cereal Market, creating a positive economic impact, has been well recognized by the municipality and very much appreciated by the neighboring communities.