

Getting over the threat of eviction



Photo: UN-HABITAT

Leveling Community Roads in Safian



Photo: UN-HABITAT

*Construction of Drainages in Safian
(Above: in progress; bottom: completion)*



Photo: UN-HABITAT

Having experienced in threats of eviction and losing jobs, he has not yet lost his hope to make a change in his life. His name is Ghazi Muhammad, presently residing in the Safian informal settlement area in Lashkar Gah city. Since he had little chance to make a living for his family, he and his family decided to relocate to Lashkar Gah city from Greshk District to seek for more opportunities to work and to settle his life with economic stabilization.

Though he worked at a tire-repair shop, he was able to earn too little to pay the rent for the house. Besides his skill in repairing tires was not well appraised and had to leave the job. To make a living for the family, he sold his house in Greshk District and bought a house in the Safian informal settlement area without proper plans. Then he was quite at a loss as to what to do from now.

Good news suddenly came to tell him that UN-HABITAT would support for the people residing in the informal settlement through establishing and enabling community groups to identify, plan, implement and manage infrastructure development projects. With great financial support from the DFID, new 6 community groups were registered with the Lashkar Gah Municipality. Identified priorities by the community members brought in changes of improving drainages, culverts and community roads so that people could smoothly walk on streets, particularly children could go to school with clean clothes, even when it rained.

Mr. Ghazi has been encouraged to be a facilitator to mobilize community members for the gatherings with a participation rate of 90%. He now smiles towards results from the community development projects which have solved people's inconveniency and increased job opportunities. These improved community infrastructures further introduced to the people not only better living environments and income generation, but also how to strengthen community governance linked to the municipality. Increased ownership among the people will make a positive change in a long-term.