

Stronger communities equipped to deal with new challenges



Twenty years ago Mr. Shir Agha, one of the residents of Safian of informal settlement area, relocated from Marja District that is far from the city of Lashkar Gah, to seek for more employment opportunities. In his neighbouring area, threat of eviction or destruction of houses had been received by a local authority several times. Under such threat, he had not felt comfortable to spend time with his family and neighbours over the past 20 years.



UN-Habitat approached the municipality to encourage the harmonization of relationship with this community through improving its policy for the informal settlement area and settlement upgrading approach. Such intervention made it possible that a community's living condition was much secured with threats no longer took place.



Empowered community members came together to identify and prioritize their need the most that was provision of sufficient and safer electric power for all. Wrongly wired electric cables often caused an electric shock to the residents at home. With technical support of UN-Habitat neighbouring communities were encouraged to form together for making a change. In financial support of DFID 20 power poles were given by the Electricity Department in Lashkar Gah city, which helped improve a electricity system with provision of 20,000-watt, covering the entire area of the city.



The construction of the power supply lines improved the quality of life of the urban population, but more importantly linking people among communities and with local government authorities sustains their bonds more strongly and increase ownership and trust among all.