

Date: 04 Dec, 2024

Success Story

Description:

A 67-year-old man with 6 family members lived in Showz village of the Koh-i-Zoor District of Herat Province in a deprived situation because of poverty and food-insecurity



Success Story

Mohammad Sarwar is a 67 years old man who has been living in Shawz village of the Koh-e-Zor district of Herat province all his life. He has a family of 7 members including his wife and five children (2 sons and 3 daughters). Mohammad Sarwar is a former farmer owned one Hectare of agriculture land in his village and for decades, agriculture was the main source of his livelihood. Unfortunately, like majority of other Afghan citizens, Mohammad Sarwar's life was ruined as a result of years of conflict, poverty and natural disaster. Years of drought negatively impacted agriculture sector in the province and like other his fellow villagers, Mohammad Sarwar lost his source of income. He had to gradually sell his lands just to get some money and provide the livelihood of his family.

As the time was passing, Mohammad Sarwar's children were growing up and parallel to that the cost of living were also increasing. Mohammad Sarwar was getting older and weaker and physically and financially unable to afford the excessive costs of live. When he sold out all of his lands and had no land to sell nor money to provide food for his family, he had to turn to negative coping strategy. For some times he was borrowing from his relatives and close friends but since he was unable to pay them back then nobody would further lend him money.

In 2022 Mohammad Sarwar had to force his 9 years old daughter to marry a 35-year-old man who had already another wife and 4 children in exchange for 300,000.00 Afs, assuming he would get money and re-organize his life. From that money, Mohammad Sarwar paid back some of his debts and bought food for his family. Again in 2023 hanger and poverty plagued him and his family. His wife was diagnosed with cancer and this added another burden on him and however, Mohammad Sarwar's relatives collected money for him to treat his wife but still his family were suffering from hunger.

At the time Mohammad Sarwar was about to force his second daughter to marry at the age of 11 in Jul, 2023 CRDSA's intervention reached him and his family. Mohammad Sarwar was introduced to CRDSA's beneficiary verification team by the local CFAC and after passing the verification process he met CRDSA's eligibility criteria and became CRDSA's beneficiary for our food security assistances. Mohammad Sarwar is the only provider of his family while his older son is only 8 years of old. Since Jul, 2023, Mohammad Sawar has been receiving monthly food packages consisted of (50kg flour, 5 liter of cooking oil, 6.25 lentils and 0.5kg salt) from CRDSA.

During a Post Distribution Monitoring mission to the area in early Dec, 2024, CRDSA's program staff visited Mohammad Sarwar's house and faced with a cheerful and smiling face of Mohammad Sarwar and his children. They seemed happy and joyful, the children were playing and Mohammad Sarwar was nursing his sick wife. The family had food to eat and the second daughter was saved from forced marriage. The two sons of the family were going to school and the two daughters were playing in the yard of their house. A hope came back to the family and they do not have to borrow and/or practice negative coping mechanism.

CRDSA's program team will proudly use their utmost efforts to link Mohammad Sarwar with other humanitarian actors in the area who are providing education, health and protection assistance to ensure long-term and sustainable assistances for his family while closely monitoring the family's food security conditions.