

Rebuilding Afghanistan

Bringing the Shahidan Market Back to Life

At the request of the Bamiyan Business Association, USAID provided a \$36,000 grant that breathed new life into the Shahidan bazaar through the provision of materials and labor for rebuilding. Just a few months later, the debris was cleared from the sidewalks and streets, while new blue doors mark each business stall. The president of the business association reports that 50 stalls were opened, and he believes that more merchants will return in the spring of 2003.

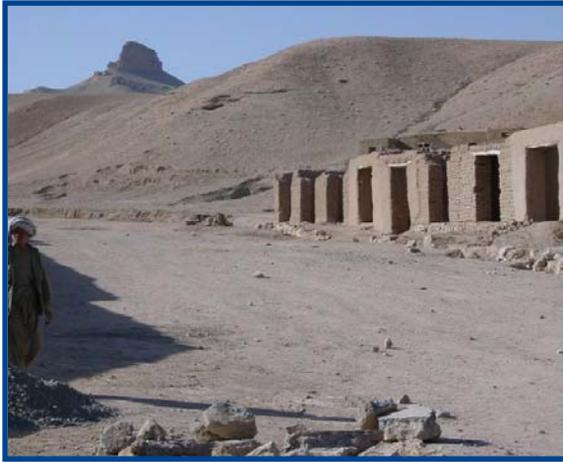


Photo by USAID – D. Alexander

Before

The Shahidan Market, which sits in a valley in the west of Bamiyan Province, was razed by the Taliban as they fled the region in late 2001. The only thing that remained were rows of burned-out business stalls.

After

The market is again filled with people and shops. One of these is a small flour mill where people stand in line to have their wheat ground, paying with a portion of the flour. The shop owner expressed pride in his small enterprise and thanked the United States "...for helping to finish the Taliban." He said, "I no longer have to keep my doors closed and the sun now shines in my shop."

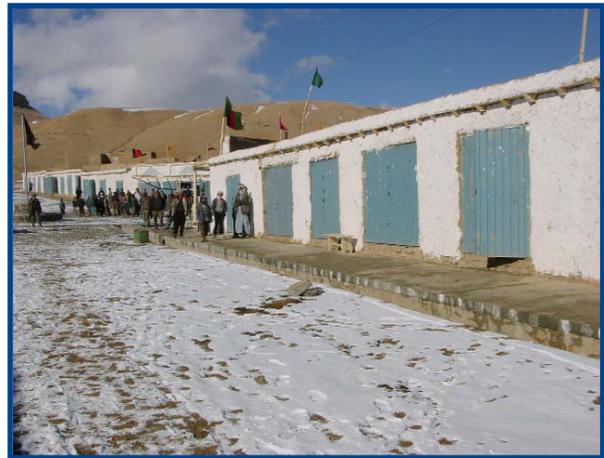


Photo by USAID – D. Alexander

Website: www.usaid.gov/afghanistan

Press Office: 202-712-4320

USAID

United States Agency for International Development



Before & After